

Thursday, 9 November 2023

1

2 (10.00 am)

3 LADY SMITH: Good morning. The final decision as to the
4 progress for today is that we start with an oral
5 witness, I think, Mr Peoples; is that right?

6 MR PEOPLES: Yes, I think I perhaps gave the wrong
7 information at the end of a long day yesterday. So,
8 yes, the plan is to start with a live witness and then,
9 I think, the intention is to have some read-ins once
10 that witness has given his evidence.

11 LADY SMITH: That's fine.

12 MR PEOPLES: Either this morning or in the afternoon, just
13 depending on progress.

14 LADY SMITH: Shall we invite him in?

15 MR PEOPLES: Yes.

16 The next witness is 'Jim'.

17 'Jim' (affirmed)

18 LADY SMITH: 'Jim', you'll see there is a red folder there.
19 That has a copy of your written statement in it and
20 you'll probably be referred to that in a minute or two.

21 We'll also bring your statement up on the screen.
22 You might find it helpful to have it there to refer to
23 from time to time.

24 Otherwise, 'Jim', please let me know if you have any
25 questions or if you need a break. I will take a break

1 hopefully you can confirm that you did sign that
2 statement?

3 A. Yes.

4 Q. Can you also confirm that you have no objection to your
5 witness statement being published as part of the
6 evidence to the Inquiry and that you believe the facts
7 stated in your witness statement are true?

8 A. Yes, I agree.

9 Q. I don't know if you want to work with the statement.
10 I'm going to take you through some parts of it.

11 A. That's okay. I don't need it.

12 Q. I propose to take you to some parts of it and ask you
13 some questions about various matters you have covered in
14 your statement.

15 Can I begin by dealing, first of all, with just
16 a little bit of background information about life before
17 you went into various care establishments.

18 In your statement, you tell us that to begin with
19 you had a comfortable life. I think you say that in
20 paragraph 5, on page 2. But, in the late 1960s, in
21 Aberdeen, there was a trawler strike?

22 A. That's correct.

23 Q. As you put it in paragraph 6, everything changed for
24 your family when that strike took place?

25 A. That's correct.

1 Q. And that your father, who had been a fisherman, a
2 trawlerman, was obviously affected by the strike?

3 A. Correct.

4 Q. I think that the result of the strike was that he wasn't
5 getting paid his normal wages and that had an impact on
6 the family and there was really no money?

7 A. Correct.

8 Q. You tell us that the lights went out, you had no coal
9 and you had no gas, and you had to go to school in
10 sandals in winter because you didn't have money for
11 proper winter shoes?

12 A. That's correct.

13 Q. Indeed, it ended with the family getting evicted from
14 their home?

15 A. Well, no. Now --

16 Q. Sorry, I was just picking up something you said in the
17 statement.

18 A. Aye. What actually happened was my mother and father
19 obviously had huge fights and he beat her up badly. And
20 in those days, the police didn't get involved in
21 domestics, so nothing happened to him. But she finally
22 left of her own accord and left us with her mother. Her
23 mother stayed there, the grandmother.

24 My father finally got back to sea and she looked
25 after us, but she turned blind.

1 Q. Your granny?

2 A. Yes. So there was nobody to look after us. So I came
3 home from school one day and there was a yellow bus
4 there: you're going to go to a children's home.

5 And one of the neighbours took the oldest brother,
6 but the four of us were put into a home, into care. So
7 that's what actually -- the way it went down. The house
8 got locked up after it.

9 Q. I think, at paragraph 8, what you've told us, I think
10 that following this strike at least your mother and
11 father split up?

12 A. Yes.

13 Q. You told us that. I think you told us about an occasion
14 when he did give your mum a beating?

15 A. A bad one. We had to get the police down. My brother
16 jumped out the window and went to the police station.
17 And phoned the police. Or was it me? I can't remember.

18 Q. We have the detail of that in your statement, at
19 paragraph 8.

20 You have told us about your granny and how,
21 increasingly, because of going blind she wasn't really
22 able to give you the care that you needed?

23 A. Yes.

24 Q. I think you were about -- as you tell us in
25 paragraph 10, on page 3 -- 11 or 12 years old?

1 A. That's correct.

2 Q. When you went to the first care home?

3 A. That's correct.

4 Q. That was Aberlour children's home, in
5 Rubieslaw Den North, in Aberdeen?

6 A. Yes, that's correct.

7 Q. I'm not really going to ask you a lot about that place
8 because what you tell us, in paragraph 10, there wasn't
9 really any cruelty in that place?

10 A. No, nice place.

11 Q. If I can pass on in the statement to page 4, and just
12 take one point from you, at paragraph 12. There was one
13 development that we have to bear in mind, when you went
14 to this home with your brothers, you started to wet the
15 bed; was that the first time that was happening?

16 A. Yes. I'd never done it before. But what happened was
17 we packed a carrier bag with our clothes, and when we
18 went to the home we had to call all them in charge
19 "auntie" this, Auntie Mary, that was the rules. But
20 they took my clothes in front of them, the other kids,
21 and put them in a bucket. But I thought they could have
22 done it better, you know? It was embarrassing. But
23 they gave us new clothes.

24 Q. But you felt they could have handled that situation
25 better?

1 A. Aye. But I didn't like it.

2 Q. If we go on to page 5, you reckon you were in Aberlour,
3 at paragraph 17, for probably a few months?

4 A. It wasn't long.

5 Q. Not long. Okay. You say that because you and your
6 brother -- or one of your brothers, you were both
7 running away from Aberlour, and that you were then moved
8 to Craigielea home, in Aberdeen?

9 A. Correct.

10 Q. Another children's home?

11 A. Yes.

12 Q. You think you were probably around about 12 years of age
13 when you first went to Craigielea; is that right?

14 A. Yes.

15 Q. Secondary Institutions - to be published later
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17 A.
18 Q.
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1 A. Secondary Institutions - to be published later
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8 Q.
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1 A. Secondary Institutions - to be published later
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22 Q.
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25 Q.

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4 Q.

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6 Q.

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9 Q.

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11 Q.

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14 A.

15 Q.

16 A.

17 Q. You tell us how you came to end up in the next place,
18 Kaimhill remand home. We have some information about
19 that on page 9. I'll just ask a few questions about
20 that.

21 Secondary Institutions - to be published later

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25 A.

1 Q. And you stole milk and rolls?

2 A. I did, yes.

3 Q. That led to you being taken to the juvenile court, in
4 Aberdeen?


5 A. Yes.


6 Q. When you appeared in the court, you were sent to
7 Kaimhill remand home?


8 A. That's correct.


9 Q. Just to take this from you at this stage, I think you
10 say that you were back and forth between Kaimhill remand
11 home and Craiggielea a few times at that time?


12 A. A lot of times.


13 Q.  Secondary Institutions - to be published later


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22 Q.
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Secondary Institutions - to be published later

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Secondary Institutions - to be published later

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5 Q.

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1 A. Secondary Institutions - to be published later

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8 Q. You tell us about how you ended up in another place in
9 your first Approved School, Oakbank?

10 A. Oakbank.

11 Q. I'll just -- you tell us at paragraph 57, on page 14,
12 that there was an occasion when you ran way from
13 Craigielea home and you had met up with a couple of boys
14 and together you went to a garage where they had cars
15 for sale?

16 A. That's correct.

17 Q. In those days, as you tell us -- and no doubt they don't
18 do it these days -- they left the keys in the car?

19 A. Yes.

20 Q. You tell us that you and your pals started the cars up
21 and were playing dodgems?

22 A. Correct.

23 Q. So you weren't getting into a car and driving it off?

24 A. No. It was fenced in. You couldn't get out. It was
25 a forecourt.

1 Q. In the forecourt?

2 A. Yes.

3 Q. You tell us that a police officer came along and he
4 certainly caught you and another boy that you've named
5 in the statement?

6 A. That's correct.

7 Q. You tell us that up to that point neither of you had
8 been in any trouble?

9 A. No, apart from stealing the rolls.

10 Q. This playing dodgems with cars in the garage resulted in
11 you getting taken to the juvenile court?

12 A. That's correct.

13 Q. You tell us, at paragraph 58, which is on page 14, going
14 on to 15, about what happened in court. Looking at your
15 situation, I think you say no one turned up in court to
16 represent you?

17 A. That's correct.

18 Q. But the other boy's mother and father were there, along
19 with his siblings?

20 A. Yes.

21 Q. I think you describe that you were wearing cords with
22 a hole in the knee because you had nothing else to wear?

23 A. That was it.

24 Q. Your social worker, you tell us, was there, but you say
25 he wasn't really interested?

1 A. No. It was a man. He was --

2 Q. Did he speak up for you?

3 A. No.

4 Q. And did you have a real understanding of what was
5 happening?

6 A. Not really.

7 Q. Because you had never been in the situation --

8 A. Never been in court, never.

9 Q. The upshot was that the other boy got two years'
10 probation and you got two years in Oakbank Approved
11 School --

12 A. That's right.

13 Q. -- in Aberdeen.

14 At paragraph 59, you tell us that you were about
15 13 years old when you went to Oakbank.

16 I can tell you, we have managed to get hold of
17 a record which indicates you were committed to Oakbank
18 on [REDACTED] 1971?

19 A. Okay.

20 Q. If I can give you another date just now because you'll
21 tell us about Kerelaw. According to the records, you
22 were transferred to Kerelaw on [REDACTED] 1971. So,
23 according to the records, it was quite a short period
24 you were in Oakbank?

25 A. That's right.

1 Q. I appreciate that you are relying on your memory, so
2 sometimes you might think it was longer or it might have
3 seemed longer?

4 A. I knew I was there.

5 Q. Yes, you were there, and probably it did seem like
6 a long time.

7 A. It was a long time ago.

8 Q. I'll just ask you a little about Oakbank, although you
9 were there a relatively short time.

10 First of all, it was quite a big place?

11 A. Yeah, it was a big, old-fashioned building. Been there
12 for hundreds of years.

13 Q. This was your first time in an Approved School?

14 A. Yes.

15 Q. So you are a new boy to the Approved School system?

16 A. It was a change, but -- because I went back later. But
17 down there -- it was like 100-odd beds in one room. It
18 was a dorm. Boys of 16 to 12 were in the same rooms.

19 Q. There were big dormitories and there were boys between
20 12 and 16, you estimate?

21 A. Yes.

22 Q. An age range?

23 A. There were older kids definitely.

24 Q. I think the reason maybe that's relevant for us is that
25 you tell us that you ran away when you were in Oakbank?

1 A. Yes, I did.

2 Q. But you tell us, at paragraph 61, that there was a lot
3 of bullying going on?

4 A. Yes, in every Approved School there's bullying.

5 Q. Who was doing the bullying?

6 A. Well --

7 Q. I don't mean names. Was it boys of the same age or
8 older boys?

9 A. Older boys, obviously, and staff.

10 Q. Bullying by staff?

11 A. They wouldn't mess about with you.

12 Q. You were still wetting the bed?

13 A. Yes.

14 Q. And how did the other children who didn't wet the bed
15 treat you?

16 A. As I say, you were starting when you were 13/14 years
17 old, so you would get pretty well abused, horrible names
18 called at you. The staff were terrible with you. They
19 were still -- if they noticed you wet the bed -- you
20 were afraid to tell them. Sometimes you didn't, you
21 slept in the wet sheets because it was so embarrassing.

22 Q. Who was calling you names?

23 A. Well, the staff when you had to tell them. If they
24 discovered the wet bed, they would scream at you, abuse
25 you. Then they would do it in front of the kids and

1 that would be worse.

2 Q. What about the boys, the kids who saw you?

3 A. The kids are 15 or 16 and you have no chance with them.

4 Q. Did they call you names?

5 A. Yes.

6 Q. How did you feel about all this at that stage?

7 A. It was embarrassing. So I would open the window and

8 jump out and away.

9 Q. You tell us about an occasion -- at paragraph 62, on

10 page 16 -- that there was one occasion when you ran away

11 from Oakbank and, on this occasion, you took a car?

12 A. Yes. Couldn't even drive.

13 Q. You said you didn't really know how to get out of first

14 gear; you weren't going very fast?

15 A. No, I jumped out in front of a police car. It was

16 an old panda car.

17 Q. You tell us the police chased you on that occasion and

18 caught up with you; what did they do when they caught

19 up?

20 A. They got me out the car and they were excited. You've

21 seen the TV, they rush on and grab the driver. Then

22 they started punching at my stomach. There was

23 a policewoman there, who I think who said: that's only

24 a kid, that.

25 Q. At least another officer had said that you were only

1 a kid?

2 A. That's what she said.

3 Q. But what you remember of that, and you say in your
4 statement at 62, is that was the start of police
5 brutality towards me:

6 "I was wrong doing what I did, but I was only 12 or
7 13 years of age."

8 A. That was the start of it.

9 Q. But was it also the start of you trying to become a bit
10 tougher, to look after yourself?

11 A. I think you had to be, especially when you went down to
12 this area, by the central belt.

13 Q. I'll come to that as well. But you were starting to
14 feel you have to look after yourself?

15 A. You had to. They would just take everything from you.

16 Q. I think when you ran away, you tell us at paragraph 64,
17 what happened when you got back to Oakbank, was you were
18 belted by SNR [REDACTED] ?

19 A. That's right, in the office.

20 Q. You were belted on the backside?

21 A. Mm hmm.

22 Q. Over your trousers, though?

23 A. Yes.

24 Q. And you think you were struck perhaps, usually, four or
25 six times if you were being punished in this way?

1 A. Mm hmm.

2 Q. You might also be belted if you were cheeky?

3 A. Yes.

4 Q. That sort of thing. You also said that you would
5 sometimes get a bang on the lug, the ear?

6 A. Mm hmm.

7 Q. So that was happening there?

8 A. If you were in the road.

9 Q. You tell us that in those days you thought that was
10 normal and it was just the way it was?

11 A. Mm hmm. It was.

12 Q. Well, it was the way it was.

13 A. (Indistinguishable) a kid.

14 Q. But you didn't treat it as anything abnormal; that was
15 just something that happened?

16 A. We knew it was going to happen. That's it. Couldn't
17 tell nobody.

18 Q. Just before I move on to Kerelaw, I will go to page 17,
19 paragraph 65. You tell us a bit about what happened at
20 night, in the big dorms at Oakbank, where there was
21 a large number of boys together of different ages; can
22 you tell us what you remember hearing or seeing?

23 A. You couldn't see, but you heard kids crying and they
24 were either being beaten up or assaulted in different
25 ways.

1 Q. When you say "assaulted in different ways"; do you mean
2 sexually assaulted?

3 A. I think so. Forced to do things that they don't want.

4 Q. One way or another whether --

5 A. It was horrible to listen to. I was waiting for my
6 turn. I was always waiting for it for me, but it never
7 came in there.

8 Q. What you're saying is what you did hear was people --
9 you tell us in paragraph 65, you would hear boys
10 greeting in their bed and younger boys living in fear?

11 A. It was terrible.

12 Q. You were a younger boy then?

13 A. I was waiting for my turn, but whether my bed was too
14 far away or I was lucky, I don't know.

15 Q. What you're saying is either they were getting assaulted
16 or sexually assaulted?

17 A. They were definitely being assaulted.

18 Q. It could have been sexual?

19 A. I think it was.

20 Q. Did any of the other boys ever tell you what happened to
21 them?

22 A. No. Because the next day they were in a bad state, kind
23 of thing.

24 Q. We mentioned you were in Oakbank for a relatively short
25 period of time. Then there is quite a change because

1 you were moved on to Kerelaw?

2 A. Yes.

3 Q. Kerelaw Approved School, in Ayrshire?

4 A. That's right. Drove down in a minibus.

5 Q. I think we know from records, as I mentioned earlier,

6 that you were admitted to Kerelaw on [REDACTED] 1971,

7 when you would be age 13?

8 A. That's correct.

9 Q. That was the transfer from Oakbank by the minibus,

10 you've told us?

11 A. Mm hmm.

12 Q. I'll ask a few things about Kerelaw. I think it was

13 a mixture of good and bad at Kerelaw, was it?

14 A. It was a modern -- brand new school. Every other place

15 I was in was old granite buildings, hundreds, full of

16 mice; ken? To be down to a modern building, I don't

17 ken, it was like a time warp.

18 Q. That was a good first impression?

19 A. Yes.

20 Q. I think you tell us that there was a number of units in

21 Kerelaw with Scottish names?

22 A. That's right.

23 Q. One of which was Baird and another was Fleming, another

24 was Stevenston, and another one was Millerston?

25 A. Millerston, that's correct, aye.

1 Q. You were in Baird unit?

2 A. I was in Baird unit. And the name of your bedrooms was
3 Skye and other Hebridean islands. That's was the names
4 of --

5 Q. So the unit was called Baird, but your rooms would have
6 names?

7 A. Mine was Skye. He said, "You're up high in the Skye, so
8 you can't get out".

9 Q. The rooms had names as well?

10 A. They were nice. As I say, brand new. I think it had
11 just opened. I'm pretty sure it couldn't have long been
12 opened.

13 Q. Was it in its own grounds?

14 A. Yes, it had its own grounds, and Stevenston, in Ayrshire
15 it was.

16 Q. Was it on one level or several levels?

17 A. Two levels. Each unit had two levels. Then there was
18 obviously the school, the laundry, a big, long corridor
19 for the headmaster's office, I think it was.

20 Q. What you tell us, at paragraph 67 -- and I'll just pick
21 this up -- is that things started to change for you at
22 Kerelaw and it opened your eyes. You said it's more
23 modern. You say that some of the teachers were really
24 good, and 90 per cent of the staff were good and there
25 were lots of things to do and you started to make

1 friends. You were getting older and bigger, so you were
2 able to look after yourself a bit better.

3 Things were getting better in that sense?

4 A. Yes. I was still a kid, 16-year, in year 12/13. Again,
5 it's so young.

6 Q. You remember who was in charge of the unit that you were
7 in Baird?

8 A. Mr [REDACTED].

9 Q. You had a nickname for him?

10 A. [REDACTED] because he would go mental. He was okay.

11 Q. You say he had an awful temper?

12 A. The Glasgow kids called him "Radio Rental". I didn't
13 know what it was about.

14 Q. Rhyming slang.

15 A. Aye, that's what they call him.

16 Q. We get the idea. You tell us that although he went
17 mental in terms of screaming and shouting, you don't
18 recall him physically touching anyone?

19 A. No, never seen it. No, he was okay.

20 Q. He just used his voice?

21 A. Aye.

22 Q. Following that on, in terms of the good things at
23 Kerelaw, you tell us quite a lot about that, starting at
24 paragraph 71, under "Leisure time".

25 I'll just take this from you, I think you had

1 a particular -- you particularly enjoyed playing
2 football?
3 A. Yes, I loved football.
4 Q. At one point, [REDACTED]
5 [REDACTED]?
6 A. That's right.
7 Q. I think you found that a good experience?
8 A. Yes. Aye, it was.
9 Q. You tell us a bit about the other boys at Kerelaw. If I
10 just move to page 20, paragraph 79, they were mainly
11 Glasgow boys?
12 A. 90 per cent. Edinburgh, Glasgow.
13 Q. Some Edinburgh boys as well?
14 A. Oh, aye.
15 Q. And the Glasgow boys; would they come from different
16 parts of the city?
17 A. Well --
18 Q. I don't know how much you knew about Glasgow or know.
19 But what I'm trying to get at --
20 A. I think it was the Gorbals -- I think the Gorbals were
21 being knocked down, so there were a lot of the kids from
22 there.
23 Q. From the Gorbals?
24 A. And all over Glasgow, though.
25 Q. If I can go back to the football side of things; would

1 there be boys in there who were Celtic and Rangers
2 supporters?

3 A. Oh, aye.

4 Q. If they were supporting these different teams in
5 Glasgow; would the Rangers boys stick together and
6 Celtic boys stick together?

7 A. I never seen much trouble there, though.

8 Q. I'm not asking -- I just want to see who the --

9 A. (Overspeaking) I'm from Aberdeen.

10 Q. As you tell us in paragraph 79, you tell us two things;
11 they were a lot more streetwise than you were?

12 A. Oh, aye.

13 Q. And some of them were a bit older than you?

14 A. A bit older, a bit.

15 Q. But the one thing that you all had in common, you say,
16 was the football?

17 A. Yes, we became great friends through the football. It's
18 an equalizer; ken?

19 Q. Do you think because you liked football and they liked
20 football in some way that made your life at Kerelaw
21 easier?

22 A. It did.

23 Q. With the boys?

24 A. 100 per cent. And later in life as well, it would help.

25 Q. You made friends with some of them?

1 A. Yes, I did.

2 Q. If you hadn't liked football and you had come from the
3 far north; do you think it would have been quite as easy
4 for you?

5 A. No. Aberdeen was treated like the middle of nowhere. I
6 told you --

7 Q. Yes. Can you tell us about what the Kerelaw -- the
8 Glasgow boys knew about Aberdeen?

9 A. When I first went into school, the Glasgow boy came up
10 to me and said what they say in every place, "Where do
11 you come from? And what you in for?" and I said
12 Aberdeen, and the boy said, "Is that in Scotland?" I
13 thought -- I thought he was being cheeky, but the
14 teacher says, "You're the only guy in this school that
15 can read and write". None of the boys from Glasgow
16 could read and write. They had never heard of Aberdeen.
17 So the one wasn't being cheeky, it was just ignorance,
18 and that's quite sad, isn't it?

19 Q. On page 21, you tell us that boys in the Approved
20 School, certainly at Kerelaw, would get home leave?

21 A. That's correct.

22 Q. Presumably, if they were good?

23 A. Yes, they'd go home to their parents and they got
24 visits.

25 Q. Had visits as well?

1 A. Yes, yes.

2 Q. But you tell us that you never went home because you had
3 no home to go to?

4 A. No. That's true.

5 Q. But you do recall a Christmas when you were told that
6 you could go back to Aberdeen?

7 A. That's correct.

8 Q. Did they know that you would be going back to Oakbank?

9 A. Yes, that I was about to go to an Approved School. They
10 wanted everyone out, so they could close the school.

11 Q. They didn't want to keep you in the school; they wanted
12 to put you back to Aberdeen?

13 A. They did.

14 Q. And they did. You say "one Christmas", I'm just
15 wondering, if you went to Kerelaw [REDACTED] in 1971;
16 could it probably have been [REDACTED] 1971?

17 A. It must have been.

18 Q. You would be about 14 years of age at that stage?

19 A. Aye.

20 Q. You tell us, in paragraph 83, that you were told you
21 could go home to Oakbank and that you tell us they took
22 you to Kilwinning train station, gave you your tickets,
23 you got off at Central station in Glasgow?

24 A. Right.

25 Q. You say you were only 13. Probably 14?

1 A. 14, aye.

2 Q. You said you had to find your way to Queen Street
3 station by yourself and you got the train then to
4 Aberdeen, which took, in those days, I think five or six
5 hours.

6 A. It was six hours, and always broke down.

7 LADY SMITH: Nothing changes.

8 MR PEOPLES: Yes, nothing changes.

9 You say when you got to Aberdeen -- well, Oakbank is
10 in Mid Stocket Road --

11 A. That's right.

12 Q. It's a bit away from the station.

13 A. About three miles.

14 Q. It's quite a walk from the station.

15 A. It's uphill.

16 Q. You walked because you had no bus fares?

17 A. Mm hmm.

18 Q. That was your Christmas?

19 A. That was my holidays. Back to school.

20 Q. At that stage, when you made that journey and you had to
21 go through Glasgow and get your way from one station,
22 Central, to another, Queen Street; did you know much
23 about Glasgow?

24 A. No, never been to Glasgow in my life. Never been on
25 a train until I was --

1 Q. No one thought of taking you beyond Kilwinning train
2 station?

3 A. No, just left.

4 Q. Was it a member of staff that took you to that station?

5 A. They drove me to Kilwinning station and just said: just
6 get a train there. You'll be okay.

7 I had to come back from Aberdeen to repeat the
8 journey as well.

9 Q. So you did the same journey going back?

10 A. Yes.

11 Q. Did you have to walk from Oakbank to the station?

12 A. Yes.

13 Q. If I go on to page 22 of your statement, and there is
14 a section headed "Running away."
15 You ran away from Kerelaw?

16 A. Yes, I did.

17 Q. As well as the other places you have told us about. You
18 give us an illustration of the risks of a young person
19 running way from an Approved School, because you tell us
20 about an occasion when you were about to be belted at
21 Kerelaw and you jumped up off a table and ran out --

22 A. I jumped out the window.

23 Q. You went to Glasgow, or you found your way to Glasgow
24 and that you thumbed a lift?

25 A. I thumbed a lift as much times as I could.

1 Q. You were outside Perth and you say you thumbed a lift to
2 Dundee?

3 A. That's right.

4 Q. You were heading north, towards Aberdeen?

5 A. Yes.

6 Q. You tell us that you were in Dundee in the Kingsway?

7 A. That's correct.

8 Q. And were walking when a car stopped and offered you
9 a lift?

10 A. An older man.

11 Q. Tell us what happened.

12 A. I got in the car, I was chuffed, but he was obviously
13 wanting -- he offered me money -- he tried to give me
14 money. It was £5 or something. He wanted me to do
15 things to him.

16 Q. What happened?

17 A. The things he was saying to me was horrible. So he
18 pulled on the side. I got out the car and run away.
19 Thumbing lifts -- you see it in America, don't you?
20 It's a dangerous thing.

21 Q. You would have been about 14 then?

22 A. 14.

23 Q. The other matter I want to deal with about Kerelaw,
24 I think you deal with this at page 23, under the heading
25 of "Abuse."

1 You tell us a bit about SNR ██████████ of Kerelaw,
2 who was at that stage a Mr MTT ██████████ ?
3 A. Aye.
4 Q. He had quite a lot to do with the football team, didn't
5 he?
6 A. He ran the football team and he did physiotherapy in
7 year nine, so he said.
8 Q. You tell us that he ran the football team and, as you
9 put it in paragraph 89, he was into massaging boys'
10 legs?
11 A. He like -- he would -- he said he was a physiotherapist,
12 and he liked to get boys in his room and he would
13 massage their legs.
14 Q. Did he do this in the company of other boys?
15 A. No, he would take you in one at a time.
16 Q. Did he do that with you?
17 A. Yes.
18 Q. You tell us he liked to rub you down?
19 A. Yes.
20 Q. When he was in a room alone with you?
21 A. Yes, but he would come to your bedroom at night when you
22 were sleeping.
23 Q. I was going to come to that. But, in terms of the
24 football team, he might take you to a room and massage
25 you individually?

1 A. Yes.

2 Q. And rub your leg?

3 A. We used to all say: he's getting off on it.

4 We knew --

5 Q. He was getting some gratification?

6 A. He was sweating and everything.

7 Q. You also say it wasn't just football times that he --

8 you tell us he took you to his house to watch football?

9 A. Yes. He had a house in the grounds, a lot of the staff

10 did. Right up at the back. He would invite the boys up

11 and give you cakes and tea to watch the football. But

12 he was always putting his hands on the boys, getting at

13 their shoulders and arms and legs. He was always

14 touchy.

15 Q. I think you described how you felt at the time?

16 A. Well, it was -- you were getting older now and you knew

17 what was going on.

18 Q. You say you felt uncomfortable?

19 A. I felt -- I felt -- I just didn't like it.

20 Q. You tell us that he would come to boys' bedrooms at

21 night?

22 A. When you were in your bed at night, you hear the feet

23 and the shiver went down you. He would come in and sit

24 beside your bed, and I always remember his hands were

25 like ice. And he would massage your legs to the top and

1 he was touching your ... Right?

2 Q. Your private parts?

3 A. He was saying it was an accident. And it wasn't.

4 Then he would do your back. He was SNR .

5 You were -- feared. He was doing it to other kids,

6 because the kids all spoke about it. "MTT" they

7 called him.

8 Q. You also say that you used to call him MTT ?

9 A. That's it. MTT , MTT .

10 Q. You say how you felt or how you -- what you felt at the

11 time, you were terrified?

12 A. Well, when we heard him coming, that's when the running

13 away really started again.

14 Q. I suppose --

15 A. Then it affected you again.

16 Q. I suppose while maybe boys can have their legs massaged

17 as a group before a football match, there wasn't any

18 particular reason why he should be trying to massage

19 your legs at night in the bedroom?

20 A. Well, everybody -- the teachers knew that he was doing

21 it, but he paled around the football team, he paled

22 around the staff.

23 I was -- in the units, two teachers slept at each

24 end of the corridors. They had their own room.

25 Mr IV had his room and Mr Warnock -- he was all

1 right -- he had his own room. But, at a certain time,
2 once lights went out, they went back to their house and
3 watched their TV or whatever they did.

4 Q. But Mr MTT, who had a house in the grounds --
5 A. He wandered down.

6 Q. He would come down to where the boys' dorms were?
7 A. All the dorms.

8 Q. And would come in and do what you described?
9 A. Yes.

10 Q. As I was saying earlier on, and I'm not sure that you
11 responded to the question: he didn't have any legitimate
12 reason to be massaging boys' legs --
13 A. No, we were asleep.

14 Q. -- at night? There is no football?
15 A. No, he was just a creep.

16 Q. You tell us about another person, who is described as --
17 I think you remember him as Dr HJF?
18 A. Yes, I'm sure he was a doctor.

19 Q. Was he a person that was a member of the staff or was he
20 a visitor?
21 A. I think he was a member of the staff. I didn't have
22 a lot of dealings with him, but he would issue
23 punishment.

24 Q. You tell us at paragraph 91 about Dr HJF. You say he
25 would put you over the table and belt you?

1 A. That's right. In shorts. You had shorts on and he put
2 you over the table, and sometimes he would tell you to
3 take them down, and I refused; ken?

4 Q. You say in your statement he liked you to take your
5 trousers down before he belted you?

6 A. That's right.

7 Q. You would go in wearing trousers, but you had to take
8 them off?

9 A. Take them down to your ankles and bend over the table.

10 Q. Then he would belt you?

11 A. Yes.

12 Q. You tell us he seemed to enjoy doing this?

13 A. Yes, he did.

14 Q. You tell us, at 92, about another teacher, a female
15 teacher, who was in her early 20s, and she, I think, saw
16 the evidence of the beltings?

17 A. Well, all the boys -- it was quite a modern school with
18 showers, and after playing football we would be all in
19 the showers, individual showers. And she came in --
20 I had a crush on her, she was beautiful -- and she --
21 but see when you get belted on your buttocks, it leaves
22 you black and blue, you are black and blue. And you
23 didn't -- it was a mess, the tops of your legs or your
24 back, but it was horrible black and blues. But every
25 boy hid it, and she was, "What's that?" When we told

1 her, everything kind of changed.

2 Q. You say, on page 24, in paragraph 92, that she did ask
3 how you came by these marks and bruises, and you told
4 her it was what you got when you were misbehaving?

5 A. Aye.

6 Q. You tell us she was horrified. You didn't know what she
7 actually did, but as you have, I think, just said, you
8 stopped getting the belt after that?

9 A. Everything stopped.

10 Q. It appears she must have done something to perhaps bring
11 this about?

12 A. I think it was the start of the women becoming social
13 workers, and it made a big difference.

14 Q. It was a woman member of staff it took to bring
15 an end --

16 A. To the violence.

17 Q. -- to these beltings?

18 A. He still came round the rooms at night because she
19 wasn't there.

20 Q. Mr MTT did?

21 A. She stayed in Stevenston. She had a room in Stevenston
22 house.

23 Q. Although the beltings stopped, Mr MTT night-time
24 activities didn't stop?

25 A. No. He was powerful. Power.

1 Q. He was SNR [REDACTED] ?

2 A. He was SNR [REDACTED] and in charge of the football
3 team.

4 Q. He had licence to go anywhere?

5 A. If you said anything, he would probably -- you wouldn't
6 have got a game of football, you would finish with
7 the -- he would have devastated you.

8 Q. Did you ever get any sense of what relationship he had
9 with his own staff and how they treated him and he
10 treated them?

11 A. Again, I wouldn't like to say. They all got on alright,
12 I think.

13 Q. Was it a relationship of equals or was it him at the top
14 and very much in control?

15 A. I think he was in charge. That was it.

16 Q. It appeared that way to you?

17 A. Aye.

18 Q. Now, you tell us that after you left Kerelaw -- this is
19 on page 24 -- you went back to your dad's house and
20 stayed with him for a time with your sister?

21 A. [REDACTED], aye.

22 Q. And then you tell us that you went back to a local
23 school?

24 A. That's correct.

25 Q. The secondary school; yes?

1 A. Summerhill.

2 Q. I think you were disappointed because I think the school
3 was in a cup final, but because you had a panel,
4 a hearing, you didn't get --

5 A. No, what happened was we reached a huge final, it was
6 getting played at Pittodrie and I scored in every game.
7 And before the final -- I was so looking forward to
8 it -- I had missed a meeting with my social worker, so
9 I think I was one of the first (indistinguishable). It
10 was at Golden Square, Aberdeen. And I remember going
11 there and I seen a police car sitting outside the door,
12 and they told us, "This car'll be for you. The panel
13 has to make its decision before anything happens."

14 So it was very funny. I went in -- because I didn't
15 go to one meeting because I had football training. They
16 decided within 20 minutes, back to Kaimhill remand home
17 and I went into that same police car that was sitting
18 outside. So they were already waiting for me.

19 Q. You effectively were told what was going to happen at
20 the panel meeting -- what was going to happen to you?

21 A. I knew as soon as I see the police car. The police had
22 been phoned to take me way.

23 Q. If it was a panel meeting, I think we can take it that
24 this must have happened -- if you are 14 or 15, around
25 1972, because we know the panels didn't start until

1 1 April 1971. So it would be after that date?

2 A. No, I think it was the third panel before that.

3 Q. It could be --

4 A. It could be --

5 LADY SMITH: It could have been the juvenile court, perhaps,

6 'Jim'.

7 A. Juvenile first. Then it went on to panels. I remember

8 being in them.

9 MR PEOPLES: Don't worry. They both had powers to send you

10 to places and both did, it would appear.

11 A. Yes.

12 Q. The upshot of this panel meeting that you recall, in

13 Golden Square, was that it seemed your social worker on

14 that occasion was saying to the panel that you were

15 effectively out of control?

16 A. Yes.

17 Q. That's how you recall it. Although you hadn't committed

18 any crime --

19 A. I hadn't committed any crime at all.

20 Q. -- at that point, that would justify sending you to --

21 A. Back to Kaimhill.

22 Q. The upshot was that the panel decided to send you to

23 Kaimhill then. That was what --

24 A. Yes.

25 Q. -- you were told was going to happen before you went

1 in?

2 A. No. What I said, I saw the police car. I said to
3 myself: why is the police car there?

4 They said: don't worry, they haven't come to their
5 decision yet.

6 When they did come to it, I went into the same
7 police car.

8 Q. That's my fault. What you are saying is the presence of
9 the police car alerted you to the fact they weren't
10 there for no reason?

11 A. Yes.

12 Q. They were there to take you somewhere?

13 A. Yes. I knew.

14 Q. It wasn't that they told you what was going to happen?

15 A. No.

16 Q. It was that you knew what was going to happen --

17 A. Because I saw the police car.

18 Q. That was my fault.

19 A. That's okay.

20 LADY SMITH: When you say you hadn't committed any crime; am
21 I right in thinking that the last time you had been in
22 trouble was when you stole the car yourself, about two
23 years before that?

24 A. I think so, aye. Because I was in Kaimhill at the time.

25 LADY SMITH: So there was no new trouble that they had to

1 take account of?

2 A. No.

3 LADY SMITH: Thank you.

4 MR PEOPLES: By all accounts, from what you say, you had
5 done quite well in Kerelaw and --

6 A. I got released -- I think I was out -- I could be wrong,
7 15 months/16 months. I got told one day: you're going
8 home.

9 Q. If we go back to Kaimhill, you had been there before,
10 but you tell us about this occasion when you were in
11 Kaimhill, on page 25, starting at paragraph 97.

Secondary Inst

Secondary Institutions - to be published later

12

13

14

15 A.

16 Q.

17

18 A.

19 Q.

20

21 A.

22 Q.

23

24 A.

25 Q.

1 A. Secondary Institutions - to be published later

2 Q.

3 A.

4 Q.

5 A.

6

7

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10

11

12

13

14 Q.

15

16 A.

17

18

19

20

21 Q. You were taken to Lodge Walk police station?

22 A. Yes.

23 Q. You think it was towards the end of the week, so you
24 were kept before you went to court on the Monday, in
25 police custody?

1 A. Yes.

2 Q. When you did get to the courts, you tell us, at
3 paragraph 98, something that the turnkeys at the court
4 told you?

5 A. They're meant to lock you up at night. But were saying:
6 you're only a kid. You are going to Craiginches.
7 You'll go to prison. You will get raped, you'll get
8 this.

9 So, when the team went in front of Sheriff Russell,
10 Sheriff Muir Russell -- I remember his name -- and I
11 stood there and they says, you will be -- under
12 section-section 58(a), you are going to Craiginches
13 prison. So there was a policeman next to me -- I was a
14 very fit man at this time and very, very strong. I
15 pushed the policeman out the road, jumped over the
16 counter, run through the court, run down the stairs,
17 dived through court windows, somebody tried to hold me,
18 and run. It was five mile. It wasn't far to go. I
19 went straight home to (indistinguishable) and the police
20 caught me there.

21 Q. You tell us in your statement that after what you had
22 been told about what you could expect, you were
23 terrified at that time?

24 A. Mm hmm. I thought -- I believed it.

25 Q. You tell us, at paragraph 99, that you went to

1 Craiginchies prison; is that in the Torry area?

2 A. Who?

3 Q. Torry, Aberdeen.

4 A. Aye, it's knocked down now.

5 Q. Yes, it's no longer there, but it was there. That was

6 an adult prison?

7 A. Yes, it was two or three hundred years old.

8 Q. You say you went there in 1973 and were put in the

9 remand section.

10 You mentioned the section 58. I think, probably,

11 this may have been something like an unruly certificate?

12 A. 58(a), I think it was. It's stuck in here (indicating).

13 Q. Whatever the precise section, there was a power at one

14 stage to put what were called -- sort of children out of

15 control, who couldn't be kept elsewhere, they could be

16 put in a prison?

17 A. That was right.

18 Q. It was called colloquially an "unruly certificate"?

19 A. Yes.

20 Q. I think that's what happened to you?

21 A. Yes.

22 Q. Because you were under 16 --

23 A. Yes.

24 Q. -- when you went to Craiginchies prison. You didn't go

25 to a young offenders institution at that stage?

1 A. That's right.

2 Q. You went to an adult prison.

3 I think you tell us, on page 26, paragraph 99, you
4 think it was section 58(a) of the Criminal Justice Act,
5 or one of the Criminal Justice Acts that was the power
6 which gave Sheriff Muir Russell the opportunity to sent
7 you to Craiginches?

8 A. Mm hmm.

9 Q. You say, in that paragraph, because of your age you
10 couldn't mix with the other prisoners, they were adults,
11 so they put you in with the paedophiles and you watched
12 one of them being beaten up?

13 A. What happened was -- Craiginches was a tiny jail
14 compared to Barlinnie and Saughton. There were two
15 wings, A and B wing. A wing is for the convicted
16 prisoners. B wing was for the inmates untried. So if
17 you pled not guilty, you got remanded.

18 So everybody was in there. But they didn't want to
19 put -- well, they were called The Beasts. They would
20 interfere with kids. So they were in the bottom flat.
21 Well, I was in the bottom flat. So when I got out to
22 exercise -- once a day, you get out for an hour to walk
23 around the grounds -- everybody was, like, whistling at
24 me and screaming and shouting over and I'm: why are they
25 shouting at me?

1 It was when the officers turned round to me and
2 says: they think you're one of them.

3 The paedophile wasn't mentioned in those days, it
4 was a stoat-the-baw. That was the name for a paedophile
5 then. I wasn't (indistinguishable) for that.
6 Mortified.

7 Then I got a visit -- first time in my life -- and
8 ██████████ and (indistinguishable), in Torry, she wanted to
9 see me. And I mind going through B wing to A wing, and
10 I lost her, disappeared, and I noticed the gate was open
11 and I went: what? What's happening here?

12 There was this boy, he looked like
13 Engelbert Humperdinck, long hair, tall, good looking,
14 blue suit. The next minute, they set about him badly.
15 They nearly killed him.

16 Q. So what you're saying --

17 A. He was standing, I think. He never looked at me, but
18 they near killed this boy.

19 Q. You tell us about this between paragraphs 100 and 104,
20 that you were in a wing on the bottom flat, with people
21 who were there for their own protection, because they
22 had committed sex offences, adults?

23 A. Yes.

24 Q. You witnessed one of these individuals being set upon by
25 another group of prisoners and badly beaten up, stabbed,

1 jaw broken and so forth, and you saw that?

2 A. I saw him being beaten up. I don't know about stabbed.

3 I'd make sure if he was stabbed.

4 Q. Well, I think you said stabbed, but maybe --

5 A. There was blood.

6 Q. It was a bad beating?

7 A. Very bad.

8 Q. This was when the officers had disappeared from the

9 scene?

10 A. That's what they did that day. They went down the end

11 and disappeared.

12 Q. I suppose as you put it, at paragraph 102, about this

13 experience in Craiginches --

14 A. It was shocking.

15 Q. You were a wee boy in an adult prison?

16 A. I've seen people fighting obviously, a bust nose here or

17 there, but I had never seen anything like that.

18 Q. You were also saying you were a wee boy, you were 15?

19 A. I was -- I was panicking for a day, a good day.

20 Q. You tell us, in 103, you did have a visit from your

21 mother when you were in Craiginches, when she brought

22 you a radio, and you can remember what was on the radio

23 at that time and it was Gary Glitter?

24 A. Aye. Hello, Hello.

25 Q. I can tell you, since I tried to do my homework on this,

1 the record was released in April 1973, which would
2 coincide with your --

3 A. I mind the music in every place I was in. I don't know
4 why, but it just --

5 Q. You relate things to events like music or football
6 games.

7 A. It's a mental damage --

8 Q. It's sometimes a very good way of remembering where you
9 were?

10 LADY SMITH: It tells us you were still 15 then.

11 A. Yes.

12 LADY SMITH: You were three months off your 16th birthday.

13 MR PEOPLES: If I can pass on from Craiginches and move on
14 to another place that you spent time in. I think this
15 was a happier experience.

16 You were in Craiginches, you estimate, for perhaps
17 four or six weeks, and from there you were taken to
18 Brimmond, a place in Bucksburn, Aberdeen, which was
19 another new place, a bit like Kerelaw, that you had been
20 in before?

21 A. Yes.

22 Q. It's quite close to Dyce, the airport?

23 A. That's right. The choppers was starting to come in.

24 Q. You tell us a bit about Brimmond. You tell us that
25 there were perhaps 20 boys and five girls --

1 A. That's right.

2 Q. -- at that time. But you were one of the first boys to
3 go to Brimmond, you think?

4 A. Aye.

5 Q. You say that Mr GJO [REDACTED], who had been a member of
6 staff at Kaimhill, was SNR [REDACTED]?

7 A. He was SNR [REDACTED] with his wife.

8 Q. With his wife?

9 A. That's right.

10 Q. I think you sum up your experience at Brimmond, at
11 paragraph 107, in the final sentence:

12 "I couldn't find anything wrong with Brimmond. To
13 me, it was like a holiday camp."

14 A. It was.

15 Q. One thing you point out, and it's something you
16 mentioned earlier, apart from being modern, at
17 paragraph 109, you say there were more women coming into
18 places like Brimmond?

19 A. Yes.

20 Q. You say:

21 "Things changed when women came in to workplaces
22 like Brimmond. They weren't as hard as men and they
23 weren't as cruel?"

24 A. That's correct.

25 Q. That was -- you felt that was something that was

1 happening?

2 A. I think the whole world changed when women started
3 coming into the scenes.

4 Q. One of the reasons you think this may have been the case
5 is that they probably had children of their own and had
6 mothering instincts?

7 A. Aye.

8 Q. Indeed, you tell us there were female cleaners in
9 Brimmond and they were fine to deal with?

10 A. Aye, they were brilliant.

11 Q. Of course, there would be another factor as well that
12 you tell us about at 110, that by the time you got to
13 Brimmond you weren't getting bullied. You were a big,
14 strong lad and you weren't afraid anymore?

15 A. That's right.

16 Q. That was two things that were perhaps coming together to
17 maybe make it an easier or better experience for you.
18 You were bigger --

19 A. I was becoming an athlete then. I was a champion
20 swimmer, runner. So, with that exercise, you were
21 starting to get quite broad, and no reason to box. I
22 was starting to be (indistinguishable) to people. By
23 then (indistinguishable) age

24 Q. However good it was, it wasn't perfect, because you tell
25 us, at 110, that there was incident of assault at

1 Brimmond and that involved a --

2 A. Teacher. One of the teachers.

3 Q. Can you tell us what happened?

4 A. He was a little, fat man. Only -- again, he started

5 bullying me. I can't remember exactly what happened.

6 He went to hit me and I hit him.

7 Q. The way you put it in your statement is that your

8 recollection was he came in and punched you in the

9 stomach for no reason?

10 A. That's right.

11 Q. You think you had been playing football and perhaps you

12 had beaten him?

13 A. I think that might have been it.

14 Q. You say in response to this you reacted and headbutted

15 him?

16 A. That's correct.

17 Q. And broke his nose?

18 A. Yes, I did.

19 Q. The police were called on that occasion?

20 A. And I was taken to Bucksburn police station and he said

21 it happened for no reason.

22 Q. Yes, he said you had hit him for no reason?

23 A. That's what he said. People saw it, but nobody came

24 forward. So I was locked up in Bucksburn police station

25 the whole weekend. Then I was put -- drove to Lodge

1 Walk, the main police station, I think on the Monday,
2 and was remanded back to Craiginches prison.

3 Q. I can go on to page 29 just to look at this. You tell
4 us there that, yes, you were taken to Bucksburn police
5 station and you were held until the Monday. Your
6 recollection, according to the statement, was you were
7 charged with assault based on this incident that you
8 have told us about.

9 You think you went to either the Sheriff Court or
10 children's panel, but you say you were sent back to
11 Brimmond at that point, but you're not sure. You do say
12 you're not exactly sure.

13 A. No, but when I assaulted a boy I think I got put back to
14 Craiginches. I think I was in Craiginches twice before
15 I was 16.

16 Q. Yes. You do tell us a little -- you think at that stage
17 at least this incident led --

18 A. I went back to Brimmond after that, again.

19 Q. Let's not worry too much about it.

20 The other thing that happened to you around this
21 time, you tell us on 111, is that you were allocated
22 a new social worker, Mrs Thompson, and you tell us:

23 "My whole life changed when she became involved with
24 me."

25 That was a big turning point.

1 A. One of the -- nicest person I ever met in my life. She
2 was good. She came to visit you, stay with you for your
3 supper. She was good.

4 Q. We'll hear more about Mrs Thompson because you tell us
5 a bit about your time at Rossie Farm?

6 A. I went back to Brimmond and on [REDACTED] -- I got put back
7 from Craiginches back to Brimmond. Then, the [REDACTED],
8 Mrs Thompson came for me and drove me to Rossie Farm
9 school. I got put to Rossie for assault. That was in
10 Montrose, just outside --

11 Q. You can take it we know where it is. It is Rossie Farm
12 school near Montrose?

13 A. It has been rebuilt. This was the old school. It was
14 a fantastic old building. Full of mice, like.

15 Q. At your time it was an old Victorian building, but --

16 A. Quite beautiful, white building and there was a secure
17 unit next to it, the MacDonald wing. There is still
18 part of it there. But it was a -- so there's a big
19 fence around here, so the boys who continued to run away
20 didn't get out.

21 But I was lucky enough to get on the farm and so you
22 got to work on the farm.

23 Q. You were in the open part of Rossie?

24 A. You got to work in the fields.

25 Q. I'll take a little from you, but just to get the time.

1 You say you were 15. You tell us, in paragraph 114,
2 that you went there on [REDACTED] 1973 and you would be aged
3 15 then?

4 A. Aye, I remember it.

5 Q. Mrs Thompson took you there?

6 A. Drove me down in a blue Mini.

7 Q. Okay. So far as Rossie is concerned, I can take this
8 relatively short with you, you tell us in paragraph 116,
9 on page 30, that you behaved yourself when you were in
10 Rossie?

11 A. I did.

12 Q. And kept your head down and got on with the work you
13 were given?

14 A. I was getting too big and strong to be pushed about.
15 Other boys wouldn't look at me.

16 Q. You weren't getting in trouble anyway.

17 A. Nobody bothered me, so I didn't bother them.

18 Q. What you did in terms of work was -- I think this was
19 the purpose of Rossie to some extent -- you were given
20 work to do on the farm?

21 A. I loved it.

22 Q. You loved it?

23 A. Outside for the first time.

24 Q. It was hard work, but you liked it?

25 A. Liked it. Learnt to scythe, cut grass, drive a tractor.

1 It was good. First time in my life.

2 Q. You tell us about that at 116. I think you got paid for
3 some of the work you did?

4 A. Took us to Grouse beating. They'd come and pick us up
5 and take us, but they paid you.

6 Q. At Rossie, on Saturdays, you could go into town?

7 A. But you got to walk in. So it's seven mile. You walked
8 into town, spent the day, and you need to be back by
9 six.

10 Q. I think you remember that Wizard was number one at that
11 stage, and that would coincide with your dates?

12 A. That's right.

13 Q. Doing my homework before today. You tell us a bit more
14 about Mrs Thompson, at 118, and you are very
15 complimentary of her, saying that she was someone that
16 had children of her own, quite a lot of them actually.
17 You said:

18 "She was the best thing that ever happened to me."
19 She became your social worker and continued to stick
20 up for you going forward?

21 A. Even later in life she helped us out.

22 Q. You had this person that took an interest in you and she
23 continued to be your social worker and that made a huge
24 difference?

25 A. She did it with the rest of the family as well, because

1 they were in a bit of trouble, and she was just
2 fantastic for everybody. Her door was never shut. If
3 you need help, ask.

4 LADY SMITH: 'Jim', would this be the first adult who was
5 there for you since your gran had dropped out of your
6 daily life?

7 A. Yes. First person that was -- spoke to me nice, treated
8 me half decent. She was a wonderful woman. A lot of
9 respect for her.

10 LADY SMITH: You'd had the best part of four or five years
11 with no adult there for you?

12 A. Mm hmm, no freedom.

13 LADY SMITH: Thank you. Mr Peoples.

14 MR PEOPLES: I think you tell us a little bit more about
15 Mrs Thompson at paragraph 119, on page 31 and indeed you
16 say she was like a mother to you.

17 A. She was.

18 Q. When she came to Rossie to visit, she could take you out
19 to Montrose, take you to a restaurant to have fish and
20 chips and that was something you hadn't experienced
21 before?

22 A. I had never been in a restaurant in my life. I never
23 ate fish and chips. It was so fine.

24 Q. You say it doesn't sound like much, but it was a hand
25 across the water?

1 A. Aye.

2 Q. And that you felt that you could tell her things that
3 were troubling you and that she wouldn't betray your
4 confidence?

5 A. Probation officers are men. If you tell them something,
6 they would go and tell the police or tell the staff.

7 Unless it was serious, you could tell her minor
8 things and she wouldn't betray you. Or she would say,
9 "I'm going to have to report that". She was fair.

10 Q. She was fair?

11 A. Aye.

12 Q. She knew her job?

13 A. Yes.

14 Q. Sometimes she might have to say something, but you
15 accepted that?

16 A. Mm hmm.

17 Q. You say that if there were things troubling you, you
18 felt she was able to do things about them and you could
19 trust her?

20 A. Yeah.

21 Q. You give us an example, even when you were no longer
22 under social work supervision. In later life, you had
23 some difficulties with your rent and you had a young
24 family and your landlord was trying to evict you, and
25 you say that you spoke to her and explained the

1 situation and she said she would sort it out, and
2 I think she did?

3 A. It was all -- I was trying to -- we missed a couple of
4 payments, and in that days you got letters until you
5 were getting evicted. To threaten a family with
6 eviction -- I had three kids at the time. So I went
7 down to see her and she was in charge of the rent rebate
8 board in that days and she says: you'll not go anywhere,
9 boy. Make a payment every month, you'll be fine.

10 Q. So she sorted it out?

11 A. Brilliant. See the worry that took off me. That would
12 probably have put me back to prison.

13 Q. You have a section about abuse at Rossie, and it starts
14 at 122. You tell us it wasn't as bad as what you had
15 previously been through because you were getting too big
16 to be pushed around and beaten up. You have told us
17 that.

18 You say that you were as big as the staff there and
19 probably twice the build?

20 A. It's all the sport.

21 Q. You were getting tough. You had done boxing and been
22 interested in athletics, you played football, so you had
23 all that to build on.

24 You tell us you never had a fight at Rossie because
25 people were too afraid of you. That was perhaps the

1 reason why you didn't get into problems.

2 You tell us about -- a bit about SNR

3 Mr LLY ?

4 A. Yes, he was an ex -- I think he was a colonel in the
5 Army. He stayed in a huge house and he was right old
6 fashioned. A white moustache. He was just regimental.

7 Q. Right. You also tell us that he would hit boys with his
8 walking stick?

9 A. He was a bully. Old school bully.

10 Q. Did he use a walking stick?

11 A. Sometimes. Or he just took it to give you a clat.

12 Q. Are you talking about a walking stick or a military
13 baton?

14 A. I think it was a stick.

15 Q. He would walk about with a stick and hit boys with it?

16 A. Aye. He would hit you on the back.

17 Q. Did he have any reason for doing that?

18 A. Depends what the kids had done. Kids are kids. They
19 are mischief; do you know what I mean?

20 But he was old school. He expected: yes, sir. No,
21 sir. Three bags full, sir.

22 If you spoke to him, you had to stand straight and
23 say "sir". You had to call him sir and everything.

24 Q. Did he ever hit you with a stick?

25 A. I don't think he ever hit me. We had a confrontation

1 once because he was like -- we were getting our supper
2 and we were sitting at the table. It was 100-odd guys
3 and we moved a pot to one side because
4 (indistinguishable) The was getting in my soup. He
5 seen it and he slammed it down on the table and all the
6 (indistinguishable) went into my dinner and we'd to eat
7 it. It was just unreal.

8 Q. Did you see him hit other boys?

9 A. Aye, I seen him.

10 Q. So far as Rossie is concerned, you tell us at page 124,
11 page 32 -- and I think Mr LLY [REDACTED] appeared before
12 a panel and it would be a review of your case at that
13 stage. You say that he did stand up for you and said
14 you had worked hard and that you had been of good
15 character at Rossie and he was willing to release you to
16 take up an apprenticeship?

17 A. No, what happened, my brother, older brother didn't go
18 into homes. He got a job as a -- well, he was an
19 apprentice rigger and oil was coming to Aberdeen and it
20 was a huge job at the time. He says, "We can give you
21 a start as an apprentice rigger because you're 16 in
22 [REDACTED]. I spoke to a member of staff and they said: go to
23 Mr LLY [REDACTED], ask permission to speak to him, army like,
24 and he'll be all right.

25 So I asked if I could have a word with him. I was

1 cutting the grass one day and he stopped. "Doing a good
2 job".

3 "Excuse me, sir, could I have a word with you?"

4 "Come to my office at 4 o'clock."

5 And I did. I explained the situation about work.

6 When he heard "work", "It's a chance for me to get an

7 apprenticeship", he said, "I'll go and speak for you".

8 Because I wouldn't have got out, but I did.

9 Q. So he spoke up for you?

10 A. He did.

11 Q. And you got out. You tell us, at 124, you were 15 when
12 you were released?

13 A. That's right.

14 Q. That would be, therefore, some time before [REDACTED] 1973 or
15 thereabouts if you were still 15.

16 A. I was 16, [REDACTED] 1973, born in 1957.

17 Q. Don't worry, we can work that one out. I'm trying to
18 get the dates. You hadn't turned 16?

19 A. No, I was 15, going on 16.

20 Q. Moving on from Rossie, you recall how you got back into
21 Craiginches prison at this point, on page 32. You say
22 when you were around 16 or 17 your brother was drunk on
23 an occasion and was getting beaten up by another man and
24 you knocked the man out?

25 A. That's true.

1 Q. You and your brother were lifted and charged with
2 assault, and the two of you were remanded to Craiginches
3 prison?
4 A. That's correct, on bail.
5 Q. We'll come to that. You were remanded, but you were
6 granted bail, and if you paid the money you would have
7 been released?
8 A. That's correct.
9 Q. Or if someone paid the money for you?
10 A. And you got it back if you appeared.
11 Q. Yes. Bail money was set for both of you?
12 A. That's right.
13 Q. What you tell us in your statement is that what happened
14 was that your mother came in and paid your brother's
15 bail money, but didn't pay yours. So you were left
16 stuck in Craiginches?
17 A. Aye, for six to eight weeks, I think.
18 Q. That seems to be something that you say was a thing that
19 hurt you the most when you were growing up; that your
20 mother didn't pay the money?
21 A. Yes. It just -- it is what it is. It worked out for me
22 in the end.
23 Q. That was an -- she did it for your brother, but didn't
24 do it for you and that hurt you?
25 A. Mind you, my bail was £10.

1 Q. His was 20, you said?

2 A. But mine was 10 because I was younger. So the boys in
3 the jail says to me: write to the High Court and they'll
4 reduce your bail.

5 I did. I got it reduced to a fiver and nobody paid
6 it either.

7 Q. You still didn't get out?

8 A. Yeah.

9 Q. That's what you tell us in paragraph 127. The upshot
10 was that you -- at paragraph 128, you tell us you spent
11 eight to ten weeks in Craiginches prison essentially for
12 helping your brother, who was involved in a fight with
13 another man?

14 A. That was life.

15 Q. During that spell, your recollection was you were locked
16 up for most of the day?

17 A. 23 hours a day. That is what happened on remand,
18 23 hours a day. One hour for exercise, no rec --

19 Q. When you finally appeared before the sheriff in relation
20 to the assault, you -- this was all explained about the
21 background, about bail, and you were fined for the
22 assault. But, because you couldn't pay it, you were
23 sent to Friarton for 60 days for non-payment of the
24 fine?

25 A. I couldn't pay the bail --

1 Q. You had an alternative of either pay the fine or 60 days
2 at Friarton?

3 A. So it was 60 days. I just decided to do 60 days.

4 Q. That is how you ended up in Friarton.

5 I see it's 11.30 and maybe we'll break there?

6 LADY SMITH: 'Jim', if it's all right with you, we'll take
7 the morning break just now and give you a breather, and
8 I'll sit again in about quarter of an hour. Thank you.

9 (11.31 am)

10 (A short break)

11 (11.45 am)

12 LADY SMITH: 'Jim', I hope the break helped. Is it okay if
13 we carry on now?

14 A. Yeah, perfect, aye.

15 LADY SMITH: Mr Peoples.

16 MR PEOPLES: My Lady.

17 'Jim', your journey, we were discussing this
18 morning, had reached the point were you were sent to
19 Friarton Young Offenders Institution and we heard about
20 that just before the break.

21 You deal with that in your statement, at page 33,
22 starting at page 130. You say you were probably around
23 16 or 17 when you went there, which would be 1973 or
24 1974 that you went to Friarton, which was a Young
25 Offenders Institution, in Perth.

1 On page 34, you say that you were there for a time,
2 at paragraph 131, and you got into trouble again after
3 you were released and you were sentenced to a further
4 six months?

5 A. That's right.

6 Q. It got you back into the same place?

7 A. That's right.

8 Q. What you tell us about Friarton, though, is nothing
9 really bothered you there and you could handle yourself.
10 So there wasn't really anything that sticks out at that
11 point?

12 A. The thing that I think is important, in young offenders
13 in those days you had to be fit. You had to run a mile,
14 do the 100 metres, you had to do it. So there is
15 a story later on, you'll understand fitness --

16 Q. It was important?

17 A. Aye.

18 Q. I'll ask you some questions about that at Glenochil.
19 But, so far as Friarton is concerned, you don't really
20 have much to tell us about that that we need to know?

21 A. No. I knew lots of boys from the approved schools.

22 Q. You were seeing the same faces doing the same journey?

23 A. Same faces, mm hmm.

24 Q. You say that after your six months, you got into trouble
25 again. You were remanded in Craiginches for reports for

1 two or three weeks. Then you were sentenced to three
2 months detention at Glenochil Detention Centre in Alloa,
3 Clackmannanshire.

4 At paragraph 132, you say you were pleased that you
5 had that rather than Polmont because Polmont was
6 a borstal and you could get up to two years and you
7 would have to serve, usually, eight or nine months there
8 and you didn't want to do that. You knew that Glenochil
9 was tougher, but it was shorter?

10 A. Mm hmm.

11 Q. I suppose you probably felt that by that stage, because
12 you were fit and bigger, you could handle the situation?

13 A. Mm hmm.

14 Q. Did Glenochil have a reputation before you went there?

15 A. Yes. It was a place where a short, sharp shock.

16 Q. It was for some boys, I suspect?

17 A. If you weren't half decently fit, it would have been
18 hell on earth.

19 Q. I'll maybe ask you about that then.

20 You were in Glenochil and you say you were sent
21 there in 1974, when you had just turned 17. Again,
22 using memorable events, you say that you know that
23 because you watched George Foreman fight Muhammad Ali
24 when you were in Glenochil. Again, doing my homework --
25 although I do remember this, the Rumble in the Jungle --

1 I think the date of that match, boxing match, was
2 30 October 1974?

3 A. Mm hmm.

4 MR PEOPLES: So you --

5 LADY SMITH: You are absolutely right. You were certainly
6 17 by then.

7 MR PEOPLES: You tell us about Glenochil, starting at
8 paragraph 133, on page 34. You tell us a bit about the
9 staff and, at 133, you tell us that the officers were
10 all ex-servicemen, they didn't wear a uniform, they wore
11 checked jackets and they were brutal.

12 A. Very brutal.

13 Q. That sums it up?

14 A. Very brutal.

15 Q. Then you go on to tell us about the routine. We start
16 with the first day, at paragraph 134. What was your
17 introduction to Glenochil then? You tell us about it
18 there?

19 A. When you get sentenced through court, you are taken in a
20 police car immediately. You don't go back to
21 Craigen(?). It was straight down, and you arrive at
22 Glenochil, there was a green gate. The door opened and
23 you got a punch in the face.

24 Q. You tell us about that, and I think you said you were
25 also pulled by the hair?

1 A. Pulled by the hair, slapped, punched, kicked. Left,
2 right, march, march; right? My nose is bleeding. Goes
3 into reception and I can still remember my number, [REDACTED],
4 don't forget. I can mind it to this day, sir. It was
5 just brutal. Brutality to the end.

6 Q. Although you were fit and big by then, I take it that
7 you hadn't had any kind of military or boot camp
8 training?

9 A. No, nothing at all.

10 Q. As soon as you arrived in the door you were told to
11 march, stand?

12 A. I don't know about march, but they were telling you to
13 do that. But they did show you how to march, which
14 I can do now. You got boots and gaiters. You had to do
15 full military training.

16 Q. When you were in there, for the period you were in, it
17 did involve -- and I'll ask you a little about that --
18 a military-style regime?

19 A. Yes.

20 Q. Marching, standing to attention, bed blocks?

21 A. Bed blocks.

22 Q. Inspections?

23 A. They used to check your room with a white glove. If
24 they found one bit of dust, you're done in.

25 Q. At paragraph 134, page 35, I think you describe the

1 place as absolutely brutal; would that be a fair
2 description?

3 A. Yes.

4 Q. You tell us a bit about what would happen and, indeed,
5 you tell us that when you went to your -- at 136, when
6 you went to your room, you couldn't just walk in, you
7 were required to stand by the door?

8 A. You stood by your door. Then you got an order, you
9 stepped in on a one and then they shut the door. When
10 you're coming out, was the same thing.

11 Q. You've told us about -- you would have to make bed
12 blocks; how did you get on with that? Were you okay
13 with that?

14 A. I was reasonable. I wasn't -- you had to be square.
15 You had two sticks, your sheets. This is every day.
16 You'd get up and you had make the bed block, and they
17 inspect it.

18 Then, your clothes, you had two shirts. One was,
19 like, brand new and you'd button it up, fold it on your
20 bed, your PT kit. Everything had to have a crease and
21 that's just before you go for your work.

22 When you go for your breakfast, you come back in,
23 you would get changed and refold everything, you got ten
24 minutes. You get dressed. Stand by your doors and that
25 was you away to work.

1 Q. You weren't just doing this once? You were doing it
2 twice. When you came back --

3 A. At night, when you came in for supper, you had to change
4 in. This happened all the time.

5 Q. Whenever you were changing clothes and went to your
6 room, you had to do the bed blocking procedure?

7 A. Not the bed block, the folding of the clothes. All the
8 clothes.

9 Q. They had to be folded with precision?

10 A. Perfect, yes.

11 Q. Just to be clear: what did happen if you didn't get it
12 right?

13 A. You would get punched, slapped, kicked. Two or three
14 would come in and just beat you up.

15 Q. Did that happen to you?

16 A. Yes.

17 Q. Did it happen to others?

18 A. Yes.

19 Q. You tell us as well, at 137, on your first morning you
20 had to march to the bathroom to wash and shave. You
21 told the officer you didn't shave and he said.
22 "You do now'. I had to shave."
23 And you cut yourself?

24 A. After you did it, your razor, you had to clean it, hold
25 it up to his face and he inspected it and if it isn't

1 cleaned right, that was just little things. I had to
2 shave and I didn't even shave.

3 Q. You tell us, at 138, in the morning, the routine --
4 a bell would go off around 5.45 am?

5 A. Correct.

6 Q. If you weren't up when they opened the cell doors, then
7 you were badly beaten up?

8 A. Aye. And your bed block had to be made.

9 Q. And your bed block had to be made. Would you have
10 slopping out as well --

11 A. Yes.

12 Q. -- at that time?

13 A. You had a pot, yes.

14 Q. At Glenochil, were you in a single cell?

15 A. Everybody's in a single cell.

16 Q. You tell us a little bit, at page 36, about meal times
17 and you say that it was pretty militaristic there as
18 well. You had to all -- you sat down in a sort of
19 military way and you had to have your feet together?

20 A. What you did is, you didn't just walk to your table and
21 sit down. You just stood; right? Then you all sat.
22 And you couldn't scrape your chairs, you had to lift
23 your chairs. Then you would sit. He would say, "You".
24 Say the hatch was there, you went all the way round
25 there -- left, right, left, right -- and you picked up

1 your meal and there was nobody there and you said,
2 "Thank you, sir". And if you passed an officer, you had
3 to say, "Excuse me, sir". Even though they was 50-mile
4 away, you still had to say, "Excuse me, sir".

5 Then you sat down, same routine, and this went on,
6 breakfast, dinner, supper.

7 Q. It sounds as though every time that you were allowed to
8 speak, the final word of the sentence was "sir"?

9 A. Everything had to be "sir". Aye.

10 Q. You tell us, at 141, about the type of work you were
11 engaged with and I think the work you had was stripping
12 phones?

13 A. Old phones. Must have been taking the copper out of
14 the, whatever, and we stripped them down.

15 Q. At some point in the morning, I think the boys in the
16 detention centre were taken to the gym. You tell us,
17 and I think we understand why, it was all right for you,
18 but for some boys it was brutal?

19 A. Well, some people were overweight, underfit. As I say,
20 because had been in other places, I was very fit. So
21 the training wasn't as hard for me as it was for the
22 other kids. Only because I was used to it, but it was
23 a circuit and it was brutal.

24 Q. You tell us about circuit training. I think, even for
25 you -- you were a fit person, you had done athletics and

1 football and running and so forth, and you had done
2 circuit training, but you say that there was a system
3 where you always had to better your previous
4 performance?

5 A. When you first went down and, being naive, the guy says
6 to me: right, you, 30 press-ups in 30 seconds. How much
7 can you do?

8 I would do 30. Wrist rolls, every exercise. I did
9 the best I could. I enjoyed it. Next day, you had to
10 do it twice, and next day three times, and they timed
11 you. 17 minutes or whatever.

12 See next day, you had to beat that 17 minutes.
13 Every day after that you had to beat or match it.

14 Q. If you didn't beat or match it --

15 A. You were malingering, that is what they called you. Or
16 cheating. If you didn't, you would get beat up or you
17 would be taken in front of the governor and probably get
18 a time add-on.

19 Q. Time added on --

20 A. Three days --

21 Q. Loss of privilege or --

22 A. Everything.

23 Q. Additional time?

24 A. Additional time.

25 Q. Before release.

1 You say, at 145, on page 37, you can recall some
2 boys or kids collapsing?

3 A. The first time you had to run a mile, run a mile fast.
4 You had to do it under six minutes. Now, that was okay
5 for me. My first time was 4.30, but I was lapping kids
6 because they were overweight. It was a shame. And they
7 were being beaten, chased with a stick. See them
8 collapsing. I felt sorry for them.

9 Q. At 146, you tell us that really, in your opinion, there
10 was no way that some of the boys, the ones that were
11 particularly overweight or unfit, could do the sort of
12 training that was expected of them?

13 A. They had to do it. You seen them being sick. You seen
14 them -- they just weren't up for it. I think if they'd
15 got trained before it they could have. Because you had
16 to be 16 to 21 in there, up to that age.

17 Q. You mention, on page 38 -- and this is a separate
18 matter -- that there was a grading system. We can
19 understand this for ourselves, that you got different
20 grades, and if you had a certain grade, you got certain
21 privileges.

22 One of the things that came with the award of
23 a yellow grade for you was a job in the kitchen, at
24 paragraph 149, page 38?

25 A. That's right.

1 Q. You do say that the cook in the kitchen had a ladle and
2 he would hit you in the back of the head when giving out
3 his orders?

4 A. What he would do is, he would get up about 4.00 am in
5 the morning, obviously, because they are getting up to
6 make the breakfast. He'd line you up and he would
7 say -- say he was making the bread, he would hit you on
8 the back of the head with the ladle: bread, dishes,
9 trays.

10 And he nearly split your skull.

11 Q. I think you say -- you are perhaps rather charitable,
12 because you say:

13 "I don't think he meant to hurt us, but it was
14 sore."

15 A. It was.

16 Q. You tell us about the system of inspections, at 151.
17 You say there would be an inspection and that if your
18 boots weren't shiny enough or you hadn't shaved properly
19 you would get a punch in the face?

20 A. Aye, you would get -- everything had to be ironed. You
21 had to stand to attention. Your room was checked with
22 a white glove. If they found a bit of dust on the white
23 glove, you heard the screams.

24 Q. When you say perhaps you heard screams or people getting
25 punched in the face; was this in the presence of the

1 governor?

2 A. No.

3 Q. They would wait?

4 A. The governor wasn't there. No, no.

5 Q. If the governor saw something that wasn't right, they
6 would wait until he was away?

7 A. He would probably turn a blind eye, because that was the
8 idea of the place. It was a short, sharp shock, and
9 seemingly they had a good success rate. A lot of kids
10 never got in trouble again. They were terrified.

11 Q. What you're saying is: although he wasn't there, you
12 believed he would know exactly what was going to happen?

13 A. Oh, aye. He would have known.

14 Q. You say that you might also be asked to clean the gym
15 with a toothbrush?

16 A. That's right.

17 Q. It could be any punishment that the staff dreamed up?

18 A. And if -- say it was my turn, they would walk past and
19 kick the bucket of water clean out your hands and
20 everything, they would pour polish down to there and you
21 had to see your face in the floor, and you would scrub
22 like anything. But you can't put down too much polish,
23 see when you're rubbing it in, it's really hard, and
24 they would just come in and pour it. There was so much.
25 And you had to have it done by a time. So you were up

1 all night, you never got into your bed, because if in
2 the morning that wasn't shining, you were getting it.
3 So it wasn't nice.

4 Q. You have a section that's headed:

5 "Abuse at Glenochil."

6 I think you have told us about it at 153, on
7 page 39, that obviously you had to say "sir" if
8 an officer was in the vicinity or you would be battered,
9 punched in the face or slapped, and that was the sort of
10 brutality that was meted out.

11 You also say you weren't called by your own name.

12 You were called by your number?

13 A. Number. [REDACTED].

14 Q. What you do say -- and it's a point at 153 -- perhaps
15 the worst brutality lasted for the first two weeks. It
16 was perhaps not quite as bad as that because there were
17 new boys coming in and the officers would target them?

18 A. They couldn't spend -- you were already trained. When
19 you first come in is the time to hit you, that's when
20 you can't. But you would still get a bang on the lug if
21 you stepped out of line.

22 LADY SMITH: So you are telling me you had literally been
23 knocked into shape in a few weeks?

24 A. Yes. Newcomers had to get done.

25 MR PEOPLES: You tell us about a particular officer who,

1 I think as you describe, was a bully and the most hated
2 man in the place, and it's a man called KFL .

3 A. KFL aye.

4 Q. You tell us he battered many boys?

5 A. He was a little, stocky man.

6 Q. Did you see him batter other boys?

7 A. Yes. He hit me.

8 Q. He battered you?

9 A. I punched him. I punched him in the face. It was too
10 much.

11 Q. You say that you could -- at night he, and I think some
12 of his fellow officers would come in to cells and punch
13 the lights out of people?

14 A. If they found the floor hadn't been done, anything like
15 that.

16 Q. The reason you can tell us that; is it because you heard
17 screams from people at night?

18 A. You could hear next door. The cells are joined on. You
19 knew somebody getting a doing.

20 Q. It wasn't difficult to work out who it was?

21 A. He was on shift. That's when it happened.

22 Q. What about when he and other people went to the cell;
23 how did they get there? Did they come from somewhere
24 else?

25 A. No, there was never more than -- it was A wing, B wing,

1 C wing, so you had maybe six or seven officers on the
2 flat. Everybody was locked up, so they could pick
3 a door.

4 Q. If the screams were coming at night, they weren't coming
5 from a fight between --

6 A. It was a single cell. I wasn't fighting myself.

7 Q. You tell us that happened to you on one occasion and you
8 describe how the officer, **KFL**, and you think about
9 four other officers, came in to your cell and you rolled
10 up in a ball, tried to cover yourself as best you could
11 and that was it?

12 A. You get used to it.

13 Q. I think you tried to capture, at 157, on page 40, the
14 atmosphere at Glenochil in the time that you were there
15 was one of terror. It was grown men against young boys.
16 The officers were all ex-navy or ex-Royal Marines?

17 A. Mm hmm.

18 Q. At 159, there is a section called:
19 "Reporting."
20 You say:
21 "I would have had injuries when I was beaten in my
22 cell."
23 But you couldn't tell anyone?

24 A. No.

25 Q. You say the governor would have laughed at you if you

1 had raised the matter?

2 A. You wouldn't do it.

3 Q. If you had raised it, you would get another hiding?

4 A. You had to go through them to report it, so you

5 wouldn't. It wouldn't happen.

6 Q. If I can pass on, you left Glenochil. I don't know

7 whether you served the full-time or you got --

8 A. No, I got -- eight weeks and a break. I got eight weeks

9 and five days.

10 Q. A break.

11 A. A snap. It's a breakfast snap.

12 Q. We have heard this before from another witness, so we

13 understand what you mean by that.

14 You were out of Glenochil.

15 I'm going to move on. You have a section "Life

16 after leaving care". We have that, and we have read it.

17 But there are a couple of things I would like to pick

18 out.

19 The first is that you did get into trouble as

20 an adult in your 20s?

21 A. Yes.

22 Q. But you tell us 1983 was the last time you were in

23 prison?

24 A. Yes. I met somebody, aye.

25 Q. You got a job and you settled down?

1 A. Mm hmm.

2 Q. Maybe I should have asked about this earlier. 166,
3 page 42, it's to do with Craiginches. You said there
4 was -- you recall an occasion when you were sharing some
5 sort of room with three other prisoners. You said:
6 "We had a pot. We were locked up all weekend. If
7 we wanted to go to the toilet, we had to do it in the
8 pot."
9 Are you telling me there was one pot for three
10 people?

11 A. No, one each. It was embarrassing doing that in the
12 tiny little cells.

13 Q. You had no privacy?

14 A. No. And the smell would have been horrendous, trust me.

15 Q. It was horrendous?

16 A. It was horrendous, aye.

17 Q. On 43, at 168, you tell us you have not reported these
18 things to the police. I think you have told us what you
19 think about the police, because of your past
20 experiences?

21 A. No. I've got a different opinion of them now.

22 Q. The police?

23 A. Yes. They're career people now. It was brutal back
24 then, the first lot.

25 Q. In terms of impact, I think you feel that your education

1 was held back because of the places you were placed in.
2 You didn't really get the education you feel you
3 deserved?

4 A. No.

5 Q. Of course, you make a point, and this is something that
6 you have told us about earlier, at 170, that you were
7 put into a home, the original one, initially, through no
8 fault of your own and you hadn't committed a crime, but
9 that set you on a journey, that you have told us about
10 today?

11 A. Yes.

12 Q. If I move to page 44, paragraph 172, you are talking
13 about how people regarded you when you were on the
14 outside as an adult; they thought you were tough because
15 you'd been in prison. You go on to say:

16 "However, if a man goes to prison for a crime it
17 doesn't make him tough, it makes him stupid."

18 Is that what you came to realise?

19 A. There are a lot of stupid people in prison.

20 Q. At 173 -- and this echoes something you told us earlier
21 today -- the care places were environments of fear, so
22 you were trying to look out for yourself all the time?

23 A. Yes.

24 Q. At 174, on page 45, you say that these experiences in
25 care did affect you, to the point that you cannot stand

1 bullying. You are not proud of it, but you became
2 a fighter because of the way you were brought up. You
3 hated bullies because of what happened to them and, when
4 you got older, you got yourself into trouble fighting
5 because of your childhood experiences?

6 A. I did, yes.

7 Q. And seeing this bullying and being bullied?

8 A. It's a horrible thing, bullying.

9 Q. You answered this earlier, a question asked by the
10 Chair. You say when you grew up you never forgot what
11 happened to you as a child. You didn't have nightmares,
12 but you have the memories. You have told us about your
13 memories today. But the one thing you do say is:

14 "I never got a hug growing up."

15 A. No.

16 Q. You tell us at 177, you think your mental health has
17 been affected by your time in care. You get some
18 flashbacks, and a film could trigger a flashback if you
19 see something that perhaps brings back an experience you
20 had in childhood.

21 What you say is that things that went on then have
22 stayed with you for the rest of your life and you go on,
23 at 177, to say:

24 "Boys of 15/16 were doing things to boys of 12.

25 I would hear those boys greeting for their mums. I can

1 remember lying there and hearing boys greeting all
2 night. It wasn't right."
3 A. It was horrible. You remember that film Scum?
4 Q. Yes.
5 A. Well, very similar to that.
6 Q. One of the legacies of that childhood experience,
7 I think, is that you don't find it easy to trust anyone
8 these days?
9 A. Well --
10 Q. Or very many people?
11 A. The world's changed, you know? That was a long time
12 ago. People are more intelligent now.
13 Q. If I could go to page 47, "Lessons to be learned". You
14 make a number of points, including that children
15 shouldn't be put into care unless they really have to,
16 and that care institutions should be run by caring and
17 loving people. But you also say this, at 183:
18 "If a child is coming from a broken home, he's going
19 to be hurt, he's going to be challenging, and he'll need
20 support. They didn't deal with the mental side of
21 things when I was younger. If a kid does something
22 wrong, then beating him up is not the answer."
23 A. Yes, that's what I think.
24 Q. 'Jim', these are all the questions I have for you. I
25 just want to thank you for being patient with me and

1 perhaps do a quick swap.

2 LADY SMITH: Absolutely.

3 MR PEOPLES: I might excuse myself for a couple of minutes
4 and come back. I'll try not to interrupt the
5 proceedings.

6 LADY SMITH: While the swap-over is going, let me issue my
7 usual reminder that people may have noticed a lot of
8 names were used in 'Jim's' evidence regarding people who
9 were alleged to have perpetrated abuse, and they range
10 from Secondary Institutions - to be published, HJD, GQF,
11 MTT, Dr HJF, Mr LLY and a prison
12 officer called KFL. They're all people whose
13 identities are protected by my General Restriction Order
14 and cannot be disclosed outside this room, along with
15 any I have missed. I may have missed one or two. Thank
16 you.

17 Ms Forbes, when you are ready.

18 MS FORBES: Yes, my Lady.

19 The next statement is from an applicant who is
20 anonymous. His pseudonym is 'John' and the reference
21 for his statement is WIT.001.001.3388.

22 'John' (read)

23 MS FORBES: While 'John' was later in Scottish Prison
24 Service establishments, he was also in other
25 institutions which are part of this case study. The

1 intention today is to read in his experiences in all
2 those establishments to get an idea of his entire
3 journey through the care system and the various
4 institutions.

5 I'm just waiting for that to come up on the screen.

6 (Pause)

7 'John' was born in 1958. He tells us that there are
8 eight establishments he wants to talk about, and he
9 lists those in paragraph 1.

10 They are Larchgrove and, from the dates, he would
11 have been about 13 at that time. There is Cardross
12 remand centre. He would be about 14 then. Balrossie,
13 in Kilmalcolm, about 14 years old. Dr Guthrie's in
14 Edinburgh, about 13 or 14 years old. Barlinnie prison
15 when he was 14 years old. Polmont when he was 14 or
16 15 years old, Glenochil when he was 15 and Longriggend
17 when he was 15.

18 At paragraph 2, he tells us about his background.
19 He states that he's a health and safety manager now and
20 is married. He has one daughter. His parents are both
21 deceased and he has three sisters and two brothers.

22 At paragraph 3, he starts telling us about his life
23 before care. I'll start from paragraph 3:

24 "I was born in Dennistoun, in Glasgow, in 1958 and
25 was the eldest of six children. We stayed in [REDACTED]

1 █████ in a tenement building. The conditions were
2 pretty poor. We stayed there until I was nine or ten.
3 Then we moved to the south side of Glasgow. That was
4 probably where it all went wrong.

5 "A few years into primary school I started skipping
6 school. Ms McCormick was a probation officer, a lovely
7 woman. I used to go to meetings with her, but ended up
8 in Glasgow Sheriff Court. There they said I was out of
9 parental control, but it was basically for truancy.
10 I was sent to Larchgrove. I don't recall if I had
11 a solicitor, but my mum was begging the sheriff not to
12 send me away."

13 He then talks about his time at Larchgrove
14 assessment centre, from paragraph 5:

15 "Larchgrove was a horrible place. It was a place
16 you went to be assessed until they decided what to do
17 with you. You wore corduroy shorts and a blue shirt.
18 You ate in small booths and the food was awful. We were
19 kept in a gym most of the time and the brutality was
20 horrendous.

21 "I was taken there by a police officer and
22 a probation officer. On arrival, I was taken into
23 an office, where I got asked questions, then told to
24 strip. All my stuff was put in a bag, then I was
25 measured and they brought me a uniform. I was scared,

1 but I remember that I wouldn't let them see me cry.
2 I was then given a bed block, which consisted of sheets,
3 blankets and pillows and I was taken to my dorm.

4 "It was a secure-type unit and there would be staff
5 on patrol with torches at night. I recall there were
6 six dorms off our corridor, each with six to eight boys
7 therein. The boys were aged between 9 and 16 years of
8 age I was one of the youngest.

9 "You would get up in the morning at 7.30, wash and
10 get a breakfast of toast and cornflakes. You then went
11 to the gym and spent most of your day playing cards or
12 five stones. There was no football or outdoor games,
13 although there was a radio. Staff didn't wear a uniform
14 and I can't remember their names. All I recall is that
15 one carried a radio. I would say there would be about
16 100 boys in the gym with about 12 staff overseeing us.

17 "There was a morning roll call where, if you didn't
18 feel well, you went to see the matron. A member of
19 staff took you, although I don't recall if they came
20 into the matron's room or not. Other than that, you
21 would be in the gym all day and then we would have tea.
22 After that there was TV to watch, but it was only one
23 wee TV in a big hall.

24 "Bedtime was at 8.00 pm, then a buzzer would go and
25 it would be lights out. Every day was the same. There

1 was no PE and you weren't allowed outdoors, unless you
2 were a trustee who might get out to pick up the leaves.
3 There were no chores or anything to keep you mentally
4 stimulated.

5 "On a Sunday, there would be religious services when
6 a Church of Scotland minister or a Catholic priest would
7 come in. The services were held in the gym.

8 "I will eat anything, but the food was awful. Beans
9 and black pudding with bread and margarine is what I
10 recall.

11 "There was no schooling whatsoever. You spent the
12 whole day in the gym.

13 "There were no holidays during the short time I was
14 there.

15 "I didn't spend my birthday or Christmas there.

16 "My mum and gran came to see me once a week,
17 although I didn't worry them with what was happening.
18 You weren't allowed to touch your visitors. A social
19 worker also came up a few times to let me know how my
20 assessment was going. I didn't think there was much
21 point in telling her what was going on.

22 "There were also meetings that a member of staff and
23 a social worker would have with me during which notes
24 were taken. This was to assess where I would be going
25 after Larchgrove. I remember that Protestants couldn't

1 go to certain places and that there were only certain
2 places that Catholics could go to. One of the problems
3 with that is Catholics tended to wait longer to get
4 a vacancy due to lack of places for them.

5 "The only medical care I recall was seeing the
6 matron if you felt unwell. Other than that, there was
7 no interaction between her and the children. She didn't
8 do rounds or anything like that."

9 He then talks about abuse at Larchgrove from
10 paragraph 19:

11 "There were systemic beatings and a favourite trick
12 by the staff was to throw a heavy set of keys which
13 would hit you in the face or head and cut you. I
14 remember I was walking along talking to somebody one day
15 when I got hit on the back of my head with a set of
16 keys. I still have the scar to this day. I didn't get
17 any treatment for it but dealt with it myself with
18 carbolic soap and toilet paper.

19 "Getting hit with the keys was the only assault I
20 received but I saw others being assaulted. One boy had
21 a cup of hot tea thrown over him, though I'm not sure if
22 that was done by staff or by one of the other boys.

23 I remember seeing some boys pulled out of their
24 dorms at night and they would return crying, though
25 I don't actually know what happened to them. This

1 happened almost every night and they would be away for
2 an hour or two. My recollection is that staff said they
3 were taking the boys out to deal with nits they might
4 have had in their hair, but I don't see why that would
5 cause them to cry.

6 "As far as the abuse was concerned, I can say for
7 definite that there was physical and emotional abuse
8 every day but I can't say that I saw any evidence of
9 sexual abuse.

10 "Children react differently to how they're being
11 treated and some would get hysterical and take tantrums.
12 Those who did would be subdued and be put in the cooler.

13 "Sectarianism, though it was called religion in
14 those days, was a big thing. There were a lot of gangs
15 that were split by either being Catholic or Protestant.
16 Being in a gang, and they were mainly from the east end
17 of Glasgow, offered a sort of protection. However, I,
18 I was from the south side and wasn't part of a gang.

19 "The tawse was used by staff in public as a form of
20 chastisement and I got given it a few times. It was
21 given on the hand and it was always three strokes at
22 a time. However, they sometimes missed your hand and
23 hit your arm. If you had sense you didn't cry, because
24 that showed you were weak and that led to bullying.

25 "The downside of not crying was that the staff

1 member using the tawse on you would get annoyed that you
2 weren't hurting and would change their technique to
3 cause you more pain.

4 "If you wet the bed you were humiliated. It was
5 something I had a problem with, but there was one guy
6 who used to be called Pee the Bed. Staff would go round
7 and check your bed. If you had wet it, then you got
8 a slap. Your bed would be stripped, your pyjamas taken
9 off you and you would be left to stand there naked.

10 "There was no process of complaint that I was aware
11 of. I suppose I could have asked my dad to write
12 a letter or something, but I didn't want to worry him.

13 "After two or three weeks in Larchgrove, I was sent
14 to Cardross and was taken there by a male member of
15 staff and my social worker, Ms McCormack in a car."

16 He then talks about his time at Cardross remand
17 centre at paragraph 30:

18 "I was in Cardross for about 20 days. It was also
19 an assessment centre and I think I was sent there
20 because of overcrowding at Larchgrove. It was a large
21 sandstone building with a big drive. I don't know who
22 decided that I had to go there. When I arrived I was
23 taken into an office and I recall a file being handed
24 over. I then got a medical, well, my hair got checked
25 for nits.

1 The age range was between eight and 14 or 15 years
2 of age and was boys only. Maybe about 20 in total. We
3 were in dorms of six to eight in each dorm. There was
4 one boy there that was in simply because his parents had
5 died. He hadn't done anything wrong. The doors in the
6 place were locked though the windows were open.

7 "There was a female member of staff who was the
8 matron. There were also three or four day staff and at
9 least two night staff. I don't know who was in charge.
10 The place was spotless and the food was good.

11 "You got up at 7.30 on 8.00 am, got washed then had
12 breakfast. If you had been good you might get out in
13 the fresh air. Your day was spent reading comics or
14 listening to the radio. There were no sports, not even
15 football. There was also a record player and a black
16 and white TV. There were no trips out to the cinema or
17 anything like that. In the evening it was tea, TV, then
18 bed about 8.00 pm.

19 "I got a few visits from my mum and gran, and gran
20 would bring comics, which were allowed. Visits were on
21 a Sunday. I didn't see my social worker, Ms McCormack,
22 when I was in Cardross. In fact I don't think I ever
23 saw her again."

24 At paragraph 35 he talks about abuse at Cardross:

25 "I must have been doing well because I was made

1 a trustee, which meant I was allowed outside. However,
2 I decided to run away but was caught within 24 hours.
3 I was taken into an office where there were two members
4 of staff. One of them smacked me across the face with a
5 big, black torch which burst my nose, cut my mouth and
6 broke my teeth. He was about 35 years old and had
7 a moustache. He was the night watchman. I was taken to
8 see the matron and she put butterfly stitches on my lip.
9 She didn't ask me what had happened.

10 "I was stripped to my underpants and put in a cell
11 for three days. In the cell there was a blanket and
12 a chamber pot which I had to empty. Food was brought
13 in. The only person who came to see me was the matron
14 to check on my stitches. I don't recall seeing others
15 people in the cell, but I'm sure it must have happened.
16 I think I was 11 years old at the time.

17 "After three days, I was then put back into
18 mainstream. Maybe a couple of days later I saw the guy
19 who had hit me with the torch so I hit him with a chair.
20 I was grabbed, punched and kicked and stripped to my
21 underpants. I was put back in the cell after three
22 days, they came to let me out. I was taken to the dorm
23 to get clothes and then taken to see a guy who had loads
24 of pens. I remember he was writing things down. After
25 I got out of the cell the second time, I didn't see the

1 guy who had originally hit me with his torch. I wasn't
2 allowed outside again.

3 "The night watchmen were probably the most brutal.
4 They would use their fists on you if you annoyed them.
5 If there was conflict between the boys, the staff would
6 organise the boys in question to be stripped to the
7 waist and fight outside. This was a common occurrence
8 that the staff seemed to encourage.

9 "There is nothing good to say about Cardross. There
10 was no belt and no structure to discipline. You were
11 often slapped on the head, which could be for any
12 trivial offence. The staff didn't like being challenged
13 or spoken at. I don't recall the names of any of the
14 staff.

15 "There was nothing in the way of education.

16 "Bed wetting was treated better at Cardross than it
17 was at Larchgrove. They didn't ridicule you and the
18 staff were on hand to do the laundry.

19 "I got told by a member of staff that my vacancy had
20 come up and that I was going to a List D school in
21 Balrossie in Kilmacolm."

22 From paragraph 43 he talked about his time at
23 Balrossie school:

24 "Balrossie was the worst place imaginable and was
25 ██████████ Mr GJF ██████████ who was the PE teacher and Mr GKF ██████████ who

1 was SNR [REDACTED]. A member of staff from Balrossie
2 came to Cardross and he and a member of staff from
3 Cardross took me to Balrossie. I was there for six to
4 eight months. I was still under the original that had
5 sent me to Larchgrove.

6 "Balrossie was like a big, old Baronial castle,
7 probably run by Glasgow Corporation. It was all boys,
8 over 100 who were aged between eight and 14. I would
9 say there were about 30 staff. I think some were there
10 simply because there was nowhere else for them to go.
11 When I arrived I was taken to see matron, then met with
12 Mr GKF [REDACTED] briefly before being shown my dorm and supplied
13 with clothes.

14 "From Monday to Friday you would get up at 7.30 am,
15 get washed, then have breakfast, before going to your
16 chosen class, which would be woodwork or painting,
17 though some boys went out on the bus to agricultural
18 class.

19 "You did get taught some vocational skills like
20 painting and woodwork but there was no academic work.
21 There would be a break at 11.00 am then lunch would be
22 at 12.30. It would then be back to class which finished
23 at about 4.00 pm. You would then get washed and get
24 ready for tea. After that you would go swimming or play
25 football, both of which were supervised. In winter you

1 would watch telly or listen to old records. Lights out
2 was at 8 pm and you weren't allowed to talk after that.

3 "Weekends were all about sports and on Sundays
4 church and Mass were available, but you only went if you
5 wanted to. Showers were always available as were books.

6 "The food was all right.

7 "You did get day trips out now and again, maybe
8 every couple of weeks. I recall going to Largs once.

9 "Mum, gran and sometimes my dad would visit me every
10 Sunday. I didn't see any of my brothers or sisters for
11 years while I was in the various homes. I didn't see
12 any social workers when I was at Balrossie. If there
13 were any official visitors then I wasn't aware of them.

14 "On Christmas Day we had dinner and got a couple of
15 wee presents. Your parents were allowed to visit you on
16 Boxing Day. Birthdays weren't celebrated."

17 He then talks about abuse at Balrossie from
18 paragraph 52:

19 "There was a big problem with glue sniffing and kids
20 sniffing petrol in Balrossie. I never did it and
21 I think staff turned a blind eye to it.

22 "There was a guy who worked there called
23 Archie Leitch and he was very supportive. He was
24 a reasonable guy. There were other members of staff who
25 were good people. But there was a sprinkling of bad

1 ones, especially Mr GKF and Mr GJF.

2 "Belt on the hand was their chosen sort of
3 punishment or lying for eight hours on the floor
4 polishing. That could simply be for cheek or answering
5 back. Any member of staff handed out punishment and I
6 got it once or twice a week. Staff would slap you every
7 day.

8 "I remember I ran away at Christmas but got caught.
9 However, the only real punishment I got was losing
10 a Christmas present and having my shoes removed. It was
11 nothing like Cardross, where they seemed to take running
12 away personally.

13 "Mr GJF, the PE teacher, especially picked on
14 the more obese kids and when they were out running he
15 was always kicking and slapping them. He had
16 a reputation for touching boys under their pyjamas and
17 was nicknamed GJF.

18 "Another thing that happened is that boys were
19 removed from the dorm at night. This happened all the
20 time, though what actually happened to them I can't say.
21 All I know is that it was one of the night watchmen who
22 would remove them.

23 "If you wet the bed you would get smacked on the
24 head or on the bare arse. You then had to strip the bed
25 and carry the wet bed clothes and put them down the

1 chute while naked. This happened most mornings. I was
2 lucky that it wasn't a problem I ever had.

3 "When I had done my time, I left Balrossie and went
4 home. Before leaving, I picked the clothes I wanted
5 from a catalogue and these were given to me the morning
6 I left. My dad came to collect me and we went home on
7 the bus. There were no good buys or anything like that
8 and I don't recall any forms being signed.

9 "About four weeks later I broke into an ice-cream
10 van to steal sweets and got caught. I was taken back to
11 court and sent back to Larchgrove. I was devastated to
12 be going back, though at least this time I knew what to
13 expect. I was taken there by a prison officer, but as
14 it turned out I was only there for a week before I was
15 sent to Dr Guthrie's in Edinburgh."

16 He talks about Dr Guthrie's from paragraph 61:

17 "I got taken to Dr Guthrie's by a member of staff
18 from there. It was a big, old Victorian place in
19 Lasswade Road. It was a lovely place. It had swimming
20 pools and football pitches. SNR was
21 a Mr GFC who was ex-military and a fantastic man.
22 There was a heavy emphasis on sport and it was great.
23 I was made captain and was given a new
24 strip, boots and training shoes. I thought that was
25 brilliant.

1 "There was a lot of academics and a lot of
2 hillwalking and outdoor pursuits. It was so good it was
3 almost a privilege to be there. The place was spotless
4 and the food was good. Mr GVI [REDACTED] was the head of our
5 wing and was also a great guy.

6 "I suppose I was there so I would stay out of
7 trouble. In that sense, I failed the place. It didn't
8 fail me.

9 "It was all boys aged from eight to 16. I was 13 or
10 14 when I went there. I was there for eight to nine
11 months. Would say there were about 100 boys there. It
12 was completely open and run almost militarily, but there
13 was no bullying. There was boxing but it was organised.

14 "The place was open and honest and I think it was
15 all down to Mr GFC [REDACTED], who to me was almost
16 a visionary. He would sit you down and explain things.
17 There was a strong duty of care and I think in a way
18 I was inspired to be like Mr GFC [REDACTED]. I'm sure all the
19 other boys were of the same opinion.

20 "You would get up at 6.00 am and then my job was to
21 go check the cook house. Then it would be breakfast,
22 followed by assembly, then classes. Tea would be at
23 5.00 pm. In the winter, we would be shown films or play
24 indoor five aside football or go swimming. At 8.00 pm
25 it was a slice of cake and a cup of tea then bed.

1 "We slept in big Victorian-like dorms with about
2 30 boys in each one. Everybody went to church on
3 a Sunday, or Mass if you were a Catholic, even though it
4 was voluntary. You wore casual clothes, unless you were
5 going to church when you would put on a shirt and tie.

6 "You cleaned your dorms, which would be checked by
7 Mr GFC . I became [REDACTED] of the wing after about
8 two months. That certainly helped my self-esteem. Mr
9 GFC also encouraged us to grow things. You weren't
10 locked in and you could go to the local shops.

11 "There was a Mr GBD , who had a big beard and wore
12 glasses who ran a nearby home. We would sometimes go
13 and talk to him. The staff spent a lot of time with me
14 on reading and writing. Teaching staff came from
15 outside and were very good to us.

16 "My family only visited me on sports day, but even
17 then a bus would be sent to the train station to pick
18 them up. As far as social workers were concerned,
19 I would say Mr GBD filled that role.

20 "The residential staff were also good to us and
21 would take us out on camping trips to Dunbar, Glencoe
22 and the like. They would also have sports days when my
23 mum and gran would come through.

24 "At Christmas you got a pass to go home. You earned
25 money for potato picking in autumn and the staff gave

1 you the money you'd earned before Christmas, so you
2 could buy presents for your family. They would then put
3 you on the train in Edinburgh and you went home for
4 Christmas."

5 In a section that relates to any abuse at
6 Dr Guthrie's, it starts at paragraph 73:

7 "The only discipline I recall is that you were
8 grounded, like told you weren't going camping. Physical
9 punishments simply didn't happen. I have nothing but
10 good things to say about Dr Guthrie's. I think it had
11 a lot to do with the structure. There was always a lot
12 of things to do. They even had the odd disco when girls
13 from another home would come in. I went back in 1982
14 and a few times after that to see Mr GFC, who I only
15 have good memories of.

16 "I'm not aware of bed wetting being a problem with
17 anyone at Dr Guthrie's.

18 "When my time was up, I went home. It was so
19 different from Dr Guthrie's. I ended up back in court
20 in front of Sheriff Irvine Smith. The Children and
21 Young Persons Act had started and I got told I was being
22 sent under, I think, section 26 and 32, which took me
23 out of the childcare system into the adult mainstream.

24 "I was only 14 years of age and that still upsets
25 me. The sheriff said I was moving to the mainstream

1 prison. I was taken to Barlinnie prison in Glasgow on
2 remand until my trial."

3 He then talks about Barlinnie prison, from
4 paragraph 77:

5 "When I first arrived, they asked me how old I was.
6 They refused to believe me when I said I was only 14.
7 They said I shouldn't be there. There were lots of
8 phone calls and talking about it, when somebody shouted,
9 'We can't keep him here. He's only 14', to which
10 somebody shouted, "He's Children and Young Persons Act".
11 It was only then I realised I was under something new.
12 I was in Barlinnie for eight weeks.

13 "I had to slop out every morning with all the other
14 prisoners and I would get a shower once a week, when
15 I would have to shower with the other prisoners. This
16 was supervised by two or three guards. There was
17 a library, but it didn't cater for 14-year-olds.

18 "I had to wear a prison uniform. I think I just
19 shut down and probably just read all the time. The cell
20 was built for four, but I was left to myself.

21 "The food was awful and delivered to me three times
22 a day.

23 "My dad visited me in Barlinnie. He was very angry
24 that I was even in that place and most of the guards
25 agreed with him.

1 "I recall seeing a solicitor, but -- and I want to
2 emphasise this -- I am still not clear what it was all
3 about and why they put me in that place at that age. I
4 actually thought a mistake had been made.

5 "A medical officer would ask me every morning if
6 I was okay."

7 He then talks about abuse at Barlinnie, from
8 paragraph 84:

9 "I was put in a shared cell with a 40-year-old who
10 had a lot of tattoos and no teeth. After two or three
11 days he tried to punch me, but I got a punch in first.
12 I reported it to the warden, but all that happened was
13 that he was removed from the cell.

14 "The guy trying to punch me was probably the only
15 abuse I suffered there, other than being in the cell 23
16 out of 24 hours a day. I think some of the other
17 prisoners and even some of the staff were protective
18 towards me.

19 "I probably just shut myself down when I was in
20 there. I suppose I was in shock more than anything and
21 couldn't understand why I was in such a place. I don't
22 think anybody my age had been in there before. There
23 didn't seem to be any structure in place to deal with
24 somebody my age.

25 "I went back to Glasgow Sheriff Court for my trial.

1 I was convicted and sent to Polmont Young Offenders
2 Institution for ten months. However, after the trial,
3 I was sent back to Barlinnie for maybe six weeks. It
4 continued to be a horrible place and I was again locked
5 up 23 hours a day. I spent my time reading. I probably
6 survived by going into an almost state of hibernation."

7 He then talks about Polmont young offenders
8 institution, from paragraph 88:

9 "I was then moved to Polmont, which I knew was
10 a borstal. I was sure if I behaved myself I could be
11 out in eight or nine months and a week. However, I
12 recall a guy in civilian clothes took an almost sadistic
13 delight saying I would be doing the full two years. I
14 didn't think I could go to borstal at 14. I thought you
15 had to be at least 16.

16 "I was put into C hall, which was a massive
17 structure with cells all around it. There were also
18 safety nets between floors to stop suicides.

19 "C hall was a place you went to for 12 weeks for
20 further assessment. The wing was run with a rod of
21 iron. I was the youngest there, at 14. The rest being
22 between 16 and 21. You were assessed as to which wing
23 you got sent to, north, south, east or west. I think
24 the tests were psychological and I seem to recall I was
25 quite cheeky to them.

1 "I maybe didn't understand the questions, which were
2 maybe aimed at 21-year-olds, rather than the likes of
3 me, who was only 14. I was probably a bit confused,
4 both about being there and what the tests were about.

5 "The place was run in a military fashion with
6 inspections every morning at 7.00 am. I rebelled and
7 was taken from a two-man cell to a single cell on
8 a higher level. I think it was for people who were
9 higher risk because of the crimes they had committed.

10 "I didn't want to be associated with them and was
11 again rebelling. I was refusing to eat and things like
12 that. I was in the cell 23 hours a day. For about 45
13 minutes a day I would walk around a cage. I went to the
14 toilet in a pot and had to slop out every day.

15 "The cell was about 12-foot by 12-foot with a small
16 barred window up high. The light was on 24 hours a day.
17 A warden would check on you every hour. There was
18 a bunk bed, a small desk, a plastic chair, a pot and
19 a beaker that you got your food in. The only book in
20 the cell was a Bible. There was a library that you
21 could access, but it had nothing aimed at my age.

22 "The place wasn't prepared for a 14-year-old. Some
23 of the warders were all right, but others were
24 diabolical. It was a shocking place to be in.

25 "Near the end of the 12 weeks I was taken down to

1 see the nurse, though I can't recall why. I got into
2 a fracas with an older boy. He punched me and I punched
3 him back. This was outside the medical room. I got
4 charged and put into solitary confinement for two weeks.

5 "The solitary confinement cell was down in the
6 basement and was called the digger. It had a concrete
7 bed and you were given a blanket. There was no window.
8 The light was on 24 hours a day. The warden would come
9 to see you every morning.

10 "Being in the digger was shocking. That was
11 probably the biggest psychological effect on me until
12 I was in my 20s. It was horrible. There was no attempt
13 at education and you got a shower and change of clothing
14 once a week.

15 "I recall it was cold and you were sleeping on
16 concrete. Being in the digger was a punishment, nothing
17 more and nothing less. You could only survive it by,
18 again, going into almost a state of hibernation.

19 "The food was brought to you and it was awful. The
20 other thing was that you didn't know what else had been
21 done to the food before it was brought to you.

22 "I didn't get visitors for the first three months.

23 "The wardens wore full uniforms with keys on a big
24 chain. A favourite thing for them to do was to hit you
25 with these keys. For example, they would open the door

1 in the morning and say hello and, as they went to go
2 back out, they would whack you with the keys, then go
3 out the door closing it behind them. I think it was
4 done just to wind us up.

5 "After my 14 days in the digger, I was taken back to
6 C hall and, after a couple of weeks, I was went to west
7 wing. It was certainly more modern and I had a cell to
8 myself. For the first few weeks, I was in the cell
9 23 hours a day.

10 "After a while they tried to give me some education.
11 I think they had started to realise how young I was.
12 Also there was another boy about the same age as me.
13 You still saw all the fights and arguments and people
14 going into psychological meltdown. I recall working in
15 the kitchen and saw two guys who were from opposite
16 sides of the city. One guy lifted a knife and stabbed
17 the other guy in the stomach. That was awful for me, as
18 a 14-year-old, to see.

19 "You were able to write letters, but they were
20 censored. My gran used to send me books, but one of the
21 wardens used to rip pages out of them. That really
22 annoyed me, because it would have cost my gran a lot of
23 money to buy those books.

24 "You would get up at 7.00 am and go into the
25 communal area for breakfast, which was normally porridge

1 and a slice of toast. You wore a uniform. Each wing
2 had different coloured dungarees. You could get
3 a shower every day and your clothes were changed once
4 a week. After breakfast you would be taken into a big
5 room with benches where you would be given old
6 telephones to smash and get various bits of metal out of
7 them. You would do that from 9.00 am to 12.30 pm, when
8 you would get a lunch of soup and semolina. After that
9 it was back to the hall and smashing the telephones.

10 "You got a small allowance for smashing the
11 telephones, about 70 pence a week, which you could spend
12 in the canteen.

13 "You would head back to your room at 4.30 pm. Then
14 it would be tea at 5.30 pm. After that, you went to
15 a TV room until about 8.00 pm, although the TV itself
16 was tiny. After that, it would be lights out. After
17 lights out, you could hear people screaming and going
18 into psychological and emotional breakdown. You just
19 tried to blank it out.

20 "I did get into the odd fight, but my height meant
21 that I wasn't seen as an easy option.

22 "Prior to leaving Polmont, there was a training for
23 freedom scheme. Part of it was looking in a catalogue
24 of clothes. The training for freedom wasn't much use to
25 me as I was only 14 years old and it was aimed at older

1 boys.

2 "On a Saturday afternoon, you could play football,
3 maybe against other borstals or maybe even the wardens.
4 There was also a gym and you could play basketball,
5 which I enjoyed. I liked the sports, but detested
6 smashing the telephones and all the violence.

7 "My number was [REDACTED] Church of Scotland. You could
8 go to your chosen place of worship on a Sunday. Most
9 people went just for a change of things to do.

10 "There might have been a futile attempt to celebrate
11 Christmas, but basically Christmas and birthdays were
12 ignored. That was tough.

13 "I got a visit once a month and my mum, gran or dad
14 would come up. I don't recall any formal visitors
15 coming to see me. Though I think I did see
16 a psychologist, who would probably have assessed me.
17 There would have been official visits done, but I knew
18 nothing of them.

19 "Discipline could be lack of visits, the digger or
20 adding seven days to your sentence. If you were
21 disciplined you were taken to the assistant governor who
22 would pass sentence. If it was serious enough, then the
23 police would be called in.

24 "I had been in Polmont maybe 13 months when I was
25 put through training for freedom. Then, on a Monday,

1 I was taken into a room and given clothes, money,
2 et cetera, and taken to a train for Glasgow. I went
3 home to my mum and dad's house and there were eight of
4 us in a two-bedroom house, so it was crowded.

5 "I never did go to secondary school. I was
6 basically self-educated from the age of 21 onwards.
7 When I went back home there was no attempt to send me to
8 school. That was hard for me because every time
9 thereafter if somebody asked me what school I went to
10 I had to make it up that I had gone to Shawlands Academy
11 because that's where I stayed.

12 "I fell into something like a gang mentality and
13 ended up getting arrested again. I went to court and
14 ended up in Longriggend, after I had been on remand in
15 Barlinnie again. After being on remand, I went back to
16 court and got sentenced to three months."

17 He then talks about Longriggend young offenders
18 institution, from paragraph 124:

19 "I was sent to Longriggend, a young offenders
20 institution, which was a prison near Airdrie. I was
21 15 years old when I arrived there and, yet again, I was
22 asked my age. I told them I had about both Barlinnie
23 and in borstal. There then followed discussions about
24 how that had been possible at my age.

25 "The cells were similar to Barlinnie, but slightly

1 more modern. I was given a trustees job, I think
2 because of my age, handing out cakes and tea. During
3 the day I was kept away from the mainstream prisoners.
4 I had a cell to myself and, again, the lights were on
5 23 hours a day.

6 "The wardens there loved the boxing and arranged
7 fights with gloves every Saturday. I enjoyed that.
8 There was no school or academic learning.

9 "You would get up at 7.00 am. There was no dining
10 room. The food was brought to you. After breakfast
11 I would go out and clean the landing. The wardens would
12 sometimes give me papers to read or books.

13 "On Saturday morning it was boxing, then TV in the
14 afternoon. After that you were locked in until Monday
15 morning.

16 "You showered once a week. The standing joke was
17 you got a shower once a week whether you needed it or
18 not.

19 "Food was once again shocking. You ate it simply
20 because you were hungry. Breakfast was cornflakes and
21 a roll with margarine. Lunch was soup and a dessert.
22 Tea was bean pie with beans and potatoes.

23 "I had a massive abscess on my jaw once and it took
24 about four hours before I was seen by a warden. This
25 was on Friday night and I wasn't seen by a medic until

1 the Monday. I was in agony throughout the weekend. You
2 could be seen by a medic Monday to Friday. I recall
3 nothing in the way of dental care.

4 "There was no leisure time as Longriggend was
5 a lock-up place. You could go to religious service on
6 a Sunday if you wanted.

7 "I recall I did get visits, although they were
8 separate from everybody else. I was able to see my mum
9 and dad in an office on my own. My dad would come to
10 see me, although it was difficult as the place was
11 isolated and he didn't have a car. One of my uncles
12 would give him a lift. I had no official visits.

13 "Discipline was time in the digger, loss of
14 visitation rights or loss of privileges. Losing
15 visitation rights was hard to take. The governor made
16 the decision and there was no appeal.

17 "When I left Longriggend I was home for about
18 a month and then was sent to Glenochil. I can't recall
19 why."

20 He then talks about Glenochil detention centre from
21 paragraph 136:

22 "Glenochil was a detention centre and was set up as
23 a short, sharp shock place for 18 to 21-year-olds. If
24 a boy behaved they could be out in eight weeks, five
25 days. It was run in a military style and was a horrible

1 place.

2 "At the booking in I was asked if I had been in
3 Barlinnie, Polmont and Longriggend. They thought I must
4 have been some sort of hard man, as I had been in all
5 those places before being in Glenochil. It was usually
6 the other way round.

7 "You got up at 6.00 am in a modern cell with toilets
8 and running water. You then had to be in PE kit and
9 went on a four-mile run. Everything was timed.

10 "After the run, you would have breakfast. While
11 there you had to sit straight up with your arms folded
12 and your knees together. You didn't start eating until
13 they told you to. You would then be given three minutes
14 to finish your meal. Then it was in the gym again.
15 They were big on parades and marching. One time I stood
16 there and was told to straighten my fingers, which
17 because of an injury years before I couldn't. The
18 warden hit me with his keys which cut the back of my
19 head and I attacked him. I was taken to the warden
20 after that and I was expecting to be punished. I
21 explained to him what had happened. All he did was send
22 me back to my cell.

23 "There were no chores, but you had to do a lot of
24 physical activity and you are medically examined every
25 two weeks. I enjoyed the physical stuff. There was

1 a lot of religious study which I sort of got into.

2 "When I left I went up to relatives in Aberdeen and
3 got involved with the fishing industry. This was in
4 1974. I was working on trawlers and I loved it. I was
5 on the boats until I was about 21. I stayed with
6 an aunt an uncle who owned a hotel just outside
7 Aberdeen.

8 "While the money was poor at first, I ended up
9 making twice what my dad was earning. I also wired
10 money home to my mum and gran. My dad then got me a job
11 back in Glasgow and I've worked ever since."

12 He talks about impact from paragraphs 146:

13 "My education came from reading and from experience.
14 Later I obtained two degrees. I always regretted that I
15 never got any proper schooling.

16 "What I really want to get over to the Inquiry is
17 the fact that boys of the age that I was were put into
18 mainstream prisons under Children and Young Persons Act.
19 To do that to anybody is traumatic, but to do it to
20 a child is horrendous.

21 "It makes you suspicious of everything and
22 everybody. It makes you cynical. However, I also have
23 to add that Dr Guthrie's was one of the highlights of my
24 life, but the rest? Terrible places, and I feel that if
25 I hadn't met my wife I would be back in prison today or

1 even in my grave. I'm sure a lot of people knew how
2 these places were run, but did nothing about it.

3 "You tend to be always looking over your shoulder
4 and I'm still bitter over the lack of education. I
5 hated the way adults hit on children and I hate bullies.

6 "I don't take people at face value, but if you can
7 make a friend of me, which isn't easy, then you have
8 a friend for life.

9 "There was no support for you when you were in these
10 places or for when you came out and you can't help but
11 be bitter about that.

12 "The thing that really sticks with me is putting me
13 in Barlinnie at the age of 14.

14 "I have never told anybody about this and I've never
15 sought counselling. I still remember a lot of what
16 happened and simple things like a door slamming or the
17 smell of polish can bring it all back. Certainly, until
18 I was about 28, I thought about it every day."

19 He then states he has never tried to get his records
20 and wouldn't know how to. At paragraph 155 he states:

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

25 He has then signed that and it's dated

1 16 January 2018.

2 LADY SMITH: Thank you very much.

3 It's now just after 1 o'clock, so I'll stop for the
4 lunch break. We can sit again at 2 o'clock.

5 But, before I rise, a couple of names there.

6 Mr GKF and Mr GJF, who were alleged to have
7 perpetrated abuse, both have the protection of my
8 General Restriction Order and can't be identified
9 outside this room.

10 We'll return to some more read-ins at 2 o'clock?

11 MS FORBES: That is the plan, my Lady.

12 LADY SMITH: I look forward to that. Thank you.

13 (1.02 pm)

14 (The luncheon adjournment)

15 (2.03 pm)

16 LADY SMITH: Mr Peoples, where are we going next?

17 MR PEOPLES: My Lady, the next read-in is a witness
18 statement from 'Jimmy'. The reference for 'Jimmy's'
19 statement is WIT-1-000000703.

20 'Jimmy' (read)

21 MR PEOPLES: 'Jimmy' was born in 1954 in Glasgow. So far as
22 his life before care is concerned, I will just perhaps
23 say this: he was one of ten children living in
24 a two-bedroom house. He tells us in his section on life
25 before care, that he went to primary school, but he

1 started getting bullied at school and because of that he
2 started skipping school.

3 He spent two or three weeks in Larchgrove remand
4 home, around 1963, when he was aged ten, for stealing
5 a bar of chocolate from a shop in Argyle Street in
6 Glasgow, which --

7 LADY SMITH: Depending on the month that he was admitted to
8 Larchgrove, he may still have been nine-years old.

9 MR PEOPLES: He says he thinks he was nine.

10 LADY SMITH: He hadn't reached his 10th birthday.

11 MR PEOPLES: So far as his time in Larchgrove is concerned,
12 he tells us that he was locked in a padded room for
13 running away. He was slapped on the head by staff at
14 times. He then, from about 1963 until about 1965, was
15 in St John Bosco's, in Aberdour, Fife, being driven
16 there from Larchgrove. That was obviously an Approved
17 School.

18 He tells us that while he was there, during that
19 period, he was regularly beaten with a belt or cane for
20 such things as running away and for wetting the bed. He
21 also tells us he was slapped on the head for talking in
22 class.

23 He does say that he was never sexually abused at
24 St John Bosco's and indeed never heard of any other boy
25 being sexually abused.

1 From St John Bosco's he moved to another Approved
2 School, St Ninian's Gartmore around 1965, he estimates,
3 and left in 1967.

4 He does describe various things that happened there
5 that he considers to be abusive. Indeed, on his first
6 day, he says he was slapped on the back of the head by
7 a Brother, shortly after arrival. That's at
8 paragraph 51 of his written statement.

9 He also says that he was told that he would be in
10 trouble if he wet the bed. That's at paragraph 53. He
11 said if anyone made a noise or spoke when watching
12 television they were hit on the bed by a Brother,
13 paragraph 58.

14 He tells us that he was struck on the head in class
15 by his headmaster, another Brother, paragraph 73. He
16 also tells us that he was given electric shocks by
17 Brother Benedict, paragraph 59, and that he was beaten
18 for running away, paragraph 81.

19 He mentions a person called Mr MCK , but that
20 I think is Mr MCK , who he says really didn't sexually
21 abuse 'Jimmy'. But he tells us that another boy told
22 'Jimmy' that he had been sexually abused by Mr MCK .
23 That is paragraph 83.

24 He does say, in terms of knowledge, that all the
25 staff knew what was going on at St Ninian's, but no one

1 ever tried to stop the things that he tells us about.
2 That is paragraph 86.

3 He tells us in 1968, when he was aged nearly 14, he
4 spent a further period of two to three weeks in
5 Larchgrove and he was slapped while he was there, during
6 that period. From there he went to St Joseph's Tranent
7 from 1968 until 1969, when he came across Brother
8 Benedict again and received electric shocks. That's at
9 paragraph 126. He tells us he was abused by other
10 staff.

11 He tells us a bit about the treatment of bed wetters
12 at St Joseph's and tells us they were treated in
13 a degrading manner, at paragraph 118. He also says
14 there was a particular Brother who put his hands under
15 the bed covers at night, which 'Jimmy' believes was
16 an excuse to touch the boys inappropriately. That is at
17 119.

18 He then goes on to tell us about life after
19 St Joseph's and how he ended up within the prison
20 system.

21 He begins around paragraph 133, on page 31 of his
22 written statement, where he says that having left
23 St Joseph's he had a job, but he says when he was 16 he
24 was charged by the police with fraud, appeared at court
25 in Glasgow and, based on records, he says, on

1 [REDACTED] 1971, he was sentenced to three months'
2 detention at Glenochil detention centre and he was taken
3 from court there by the police.

4 If I can pick up what he says about Glenochil
5 detention centre at paragraph 134, page 31. If I can
6 just read some of that:

7 "Glenochil was supposed to be short, sharp
8 treatment. It was for young offenders up to the age of
9 21. The prison guards didn't wear a uniform. They just
10 wore civilian clothes. I can't remember any of their
11 names. I don't think there were enough prison officers
12 to look after the number of prisoners there. There
13 would have been somewhere between 150 and 200 young
14 offenders in Glenochil.

15 "When I arrived [this is his first day] I could hear
16 screaming and shouting, presumably prison officers at
17 the inmates as they were marching. I was frog-marched
18 into the reception area, where I was given my uniform.
19 I was given a medical examination by a Mr HEF [REDACTED].
20 I'm not sure how to spell his name. I was then taken
21 for a shower and to my cell. A prison officer opened
22 the cell door. The covers on the beds were made into
23 a perfect bed block and the lino was so shiny you could
24 see your face in it. I was told that my room had to
25 look like that every morning when my cell door was

1 opened before I was allowed out to get washed. It was a
2 single cell that contained one bed, locker, table and
3 chair, potty and a Bible. The cell door locked
4 automatically when the door closed.

5 "The next morning, first thing, we were frog-marched
6 army style to the washing area. They wanted to give me
7 a razor and I wasn't going to bother because I didn't
8 need one, but I was told just to take it and shave,
9 otherwise I was likely to get beaten.

10 "We were woken up at 6.30 am, then marched to the
11 washrooms where we got washed and then went for
12 breakfast.

13 "Through the day we had work parties where we went
14 to different parts of the complex and we either made
15 uniforms or textiles, or there was one where we made
16 doormats. We would usually do that in the morning or
17 the afternoon. The rest of the time we were made to do
18 army-style assault courses. This was hard work. Prison
19 officers supervised this. We showered afterwards. We
20 did our workshops until 4.00 pm. After that, we were
21 marched back to our cells.

22 "I can't remember much about the dining halls. The
23 food wasn't good. I wouldn't give it to a dog. It was
24 worse than any previous place I had been. It wasn't
25 properly cooked, had been preheated or had been steamed.

1 If you didn't eat it you went hungry. Our evening meal
2 was served at quarter to five.

3 "We had showers once a week or after we had done
4 sport. The showers were immaculate because the inmates
5 had the job of cleaning them.

6 "The uniform I was given was grey, and a blue and
7 white striped shirt. All young offenders wore blue and
8 white shirts. Our clothing and our bedsheets were
9 changed once a week.

10 "All inmates had to have served 30 days before they
11 were allowed to take part in recreation. Recreation
12 consisted of a pool table, table tennis or watching the
13 television. If you weren't qualified to do recreation
14 you had to sit in your locked cell at the table and
15 read. The only thing to read was the Bible. You
16 weren't allowed on your bed.

17 "I never saw the hospital wing in Glenochil when
18 I was there. The only medical room was the surgery,
19 where I got my first examination when I arrived, then
20 the jag in my backside from Mr HEF . If you were ill
21 you were reported sick in the morning and you were taken
22 to the surgery within the detention centre. I think
23 their answer to every illness was two paracetamol.

24 "If you reported that you had a sore stomach you
25 were locked in your cell all day and weren't given any

1 food. All you were given was three pints of milk, no
2 food. The medical staff were all prison staff."

3 Moving to page 34, paragraph 145:

4 "I didn't have any visitors. My family could have
5 visited, but it was too far for them to travel. I never
6 saw a probation officer or any kind of welfare officer
7 in the two months I was there. I wasn't allowed any
8 phone calls, but I could write one letter a week to send
9 home.

10 "When I first arrived, Mr **HEF**, who was some sort
11 of medical prison officer, gave me an examination. This
12 involved me dropping my trousers and him looking at my
13 private parts with a light, then my head was checked for
14 lice. He then looked in my mouth and told me I had
15 a throat infection. I told him I didn't, as I didn't
16 have any symptoms, like a sore throat or swollen glands.
17 Because I spoke back to him, he slapped me on the face
18 with an open hand. He told me that I was a 'Jack the
19 lad', and I told him he was a gangster behind the four
20 walls in the prison. He said I would be back in the
21 surgery the next morning for an injection. When I said
22 I wouldn't be going because there was nothing wrong with
23 me, he told me that they would decide what goes on
24 within the detention centre.

25 "The next morning, I was marched back to the

1 surgery. Mr HEF was there again and he told me to
2 drop my trousers. He told me it was so I could get
3 a penicillin injection. I pulled my trousers down at
4 one side and then he slapped me hard on the bare
5 backside and gave me the injection. Afterward, I told
6 him that I thought he was kinky. He grabbed me by the
7 shoulder and told me that if I said it again he would
8 put his fist through my face. Looking back, I consider
9 what he did to me was a sexual assault.

10 "We were marched everywhere within the detention
11 centre. If you went out of step or did something wrong,
12 the prison officers tripped you up. Some boys were
13 mentally stronger than others boys in there and the
14 weaker ones found it tough. I know that in the two
15 months that I was there some boys hanged themselves. I
16 knew there was nothing I could do to change anything, so
17 I just kept my mouth shut and got on with things.

18 "The boy in the cell next to me rang his bell one
19 time. All I know was that his name was [REDACTED]. When you
20 rang your bell, the prison officers were supposed to
21 come and see what we wanted. A prison officer came and
22 [REDACTED] told him that he wasn't feeling well and wasn't
23 coping with being locked up. He was told that medical
24 staff would come and see him. I don't know who, or if,
25 anyone came back to see him. The next thing I heard was

1 screaming and the following day he wasn't there.
2 Another inmate told me they had 'jagged him up' and
3 taken him to the hospital wing. I never saw him again.
4 I got the impression that '██████' was suicidal.

5 "The brutality in Glenochil was ferocious and
6 a couple of times I saw some other boys getting
7 seriously beaten up by the prison officers. You weren't
8 even allowed to talk to each other when we were in our
9 cells. The only time you could talk to any of the
10 inmates was during recreation. If you were caught
11 talking you might get put on report and go in front of
12 the governor. It was a very strict regime.

13 "On my first full day there, myself and about four
14 other boys who had arrived the day before were taken in
15 front of the governor. I can't remember his name. He
16 asked if we were being treated well. I told him I
17 wasn't. The other boys were told to leave the room and
18 the governor asked me what my problem was. I told him
19 about Mr HEF ██████ wrongly giving me an injection because
20 there was nothing wrong with me and that he had slapped
21 my bare backside. I told him that I thought Mr HEF ██████
22 was kinky. The governor just told me that I shouldn't
23 speak about prison staff like that. Nothing ever
24 happened with what I told him.

25 "I didn't have a welfare officer or a probation

1 officer. Even if I did, I wouldn't have told them
2 anything because it would just have got back to the
3 staff and they would have made it worse for me.

4 Then he says at 153:

5 "I heard, and it was published in newspaper reports
6 and on the radio in the 1970s, that Mr HEF was
7 sentenced to 18 months for sexually assaulting young
8 offenders in Glenochil."

9 Then he says:

10 "Although I was sentenced to three months, I only
11 served two months because a third was automatically
12 taken off. There was no one at Glenochil who tried to
13 help me or give me my advice on how to get a job or
14 anything like that to help me when I was released.
15 I was released on my due date."

16 Then he tells us, at page 36, at paragraph 155, that
17 when he left Glenochil he returned to his family. He
18 got a job, and he says he had been in that job for
19 a couple of months when he was stopped by plain clothed
20 police officers. He says they recognised him and asked
21 him where he had been and what he was doing. He told
22 them about where he had been working and thought nothing
23 more about it.

24 He says the next morning when he went to work his
25 employers told him that he was finished as he had

1 a criminal conviction. He tells us that the police had
2 obviously told them and this was just before he was 17.

3 In [REDACTED] 1972, when he was 17, he says he was put
4 on remand to Longriggend, after being charged with
5 assault. He says he's not sure what happened in the
6 assault, as he was very drunk.

7 But, in [REDACTED] 1972, he was convicted at court for this
8 assault and sentenced to 18 months' detention at a young
9 offenders institution, which was backdated to [REDACTED],
10 when he was placed on remand.

11 Picking up again, he deals with Longriggend between
12 paragraphs 157 to 159. I will just read what he says
13 there:

14 "Longriggend was for young offenders up to the age
15 of 21. It was horrendous. I was kept in my cell
16 23 hours in a day.

17 "Mr HEG was a prison officer. If you pressed your
18 bell and he was on duty, if it wasn't for a good reason,
19 he would kick you in. It never happened to me, but I
20 saw him punching someone young boys and kicking them in
21 the groin. I told him once that I thought he was
22 an animal and that he wouldn't do it to me on his own
23 because he was a coward. He asked me where I was from
24 and when I told him Blackhill he must have decided to
25 leave me alone. Not long after that, I heard that he

1 had been transferred to Barlinnie because of his
2 brutality.

3 "After I was sentenced, in █████ 1972, I was then sent
4 to serve the remainder of my sentence at Barlinnie
5 prison. I was transferred from Longriggend to
6 Barlinnie. There was one hall for young offenders and
7 that's where I went."

8 He then goes on to deal with his time at HMP
9 Barlinnie, starting at paragraph 160:

10 "At Barlinnie, if anyone spoke back to any of the
11 prison officers, you got dragged into a cell and they
12 would leather you. There were four prison officers in
13 particular that did this. They were Mr HEH █████, who was
14 a senior prison officer, GLH █████, the principal
15 officer, HEI █████ and Mr HEK █████. At some point,
16 HEI █████ went to work somewhere else and HEL █████
17 took his place. He was just as bad. They got called
18 The Mufty Squad. They all got involved and they used
19 their hands and their feet, kicking and stamping boys.
20 Whenever a prisoner got beaten up, the four of them were
21 there. Because it happened in a cell and they pulled
22 the door over, I didn't see it happening, but it was
23 well known that was what happened. They never touched
24 me and that was because one of them used to go to the
25 bingo and got to know my dad.

1 "Anyone that was ever injured or ill didn't get
2 taken to the surgery because it was run by prison
3 officers. There were two doctors and they came from
4 surgeries outside the prison. There was a Dr Carey and
5 he was really nice. The other was Dr Wilson who was
6 from a surgery in Carntyne. Both of them must have been
7 aware of what was going on if they were treating
8 injuries, but they mustn't have done anything because
9 nothing ever changed.

10 "I never told anyone, nor did I try to report any of
11 these prison officers. There would have been no point
12 because they wouldn't have listened to me and no one
13 would have believed me anyway.

14 "I was only at Barlinnie for two months. Then I was
15 transferred to Saughton prison. Barlinnie is only for
16 sentences up to a year, so that is why I was
17 transferred. I was still 17."

18 He then goes on to deal with his time at another
19 prison, HMP Edinburgh, Saughton, at paragraphs 164 to
20 165. I'll just read what he says there:

21 "The routine was much the same there as the other
22 prisons and it wasn't as bad in Saughton prison. The
23 prison officers were more approachable and you could
24 speak to them. I served the rest of my sentence in
25 Saughton. I only served a year of the 18-month

1 sentence. When I got out in ██████████ 1973, I went back
2 to Glasgow. I was 18.

3 "There was one prison officer at Saughton, HEO ██████████
4 HEO ██████████, who I know abused prisoners. He had
5 previously been at Peterhead prison. He used to get
6 young boys to fight with each other in the gym. It was
7 his way of getting boys to settle an argument. That is
8 how he ended up with the nickname HEO ██████████.
9 He was well respected by the prison executive and later
10 became SNR ██████████ of Peterhead prison."

11 He then goes on to deal with his life after care.
12 Towards the end of his statement, under the heading
13 "Other information", he does mention HEO ██████████
14 again. I'll just read what he says at paragraph 192,
15 page 44:

16 "I heard that HEO ██████████ who SNR ██████████
17 SNR ██████████ Peterhead prison, got four prison officers to hold
18 down a prisoner, ██████████. Then he slashed ██████████
19 across the face with some sort of weapon. This happened
20 in Peterhead. I think ██████████ had slashed him first.
21 ██████████ wanted the police to be called, but they agreed
22 to put him into the special unit in Barlinnie if he
23 didn't report it to the police. That's what happened.
24 ██████████ would have been in his 30s."

25 He then says that he has no objection, at paragraph

1 194, to his statement being published as part of the
2 evidence to the Inquiry and believes the facts stated in
3 his witness statement are true. He's signed his
4 statement on 25 May 2021.

5 LADY SMITH: Thank you.

6 MR PEOPLES: Can I move to another read-in, if I may?

7 The next read-in is from a signed statement provided
8 by 'David'.

9 LADY SMITH: Thank you.

10 MR PEOPLES: And the reference for 'David's' statement is
11 WIT-1-000000872.

12 'David' (read)

13 'David' was born in 1953 in Glasgow and he was one
14 of six siblings. He describes his father as a bit of
15 a brute and a tyrant, who was generally unemployed and
16 sometimes hit his mum.

17 He tells us that money was in short supply and was
18 often taken by his father to buy drink. Aged about ten,
19 to earn money, 'David' washed cars on a Saturday outside
20 Ibrox stadium. Aged 11 or 12, 'David' had two milk
21 runs, getting up at 3.30 or 4.00 am to do this before
22 school.

23 After school, he sold newspapers. He tells us that
24 his mum, who worked to support her family, always showed
25 her children lots of love and affection. Aged about

1 two-and-a-half, 'David' and two of his sisters were
2 placed in Quarriers.

3 'David' thinks that he was there about nine months.
4 On his first day, he says he was put in a locked, dark
5 cupboard where he was screaming and crying. Later the
6 same day, he and his sisters were placed in a wash house
7 which was then locked. He says his sisters were
8 screaming because they were so scared. 'David' says
9 they lived in daily fear of being sent back there. He
10 tells us that he and his sisters were separated and not
11 allowed to mix.

12 If 'David' was thought to be misbehaving, he was
13 slapped. That's paragraph 24.

14 In his dormitory, older boys bullied younger boys.
15 They would punch and slap them. They would take things
16 from younger boys using threats. If the younger boy did
17 not hand the things over, he was beaten.

18 'David' says he felt uncomfortable when being washed
19 by his house parents, as the way they washed him was
20 inappropriate. That is paragraph 26.

21 When he ran away, he says he was leathered and
22 slapped about the back of the head, his face and he was
23 kicked on the legs, paragraph 28.

24 One form of punishment was being left outside in the
25 backyard in cold weather for hours, paragraph 29. When

1 'David' wet the bed, he was dragged out of bed in the
2 morning, slapped, made to strip the sheets and take them
3 to the wash room. That is at paragraph 30.

4 'David' says he was regularly locked in a cupboard
5 under the stairs, paragraph 33.

6 When he said he wanted to go home, he was slapped on
7 the head or kicked on the legs, paragraph 34.

8 He says he was bullied on a daily basis by staff.
9 Again, paragraph 34.

10 He tells us that he was punched on the arm or upper
11 thigh, at paragraph 35.

12 He tells us he didn't report the abuse, as he says
13 he had been threatened with punishment if he told anyone
14 what was happening to him.

15 On returning home, after leaving Quarriers, he tells
16 us there was some social work involvement with the
17 family.

18 Then I should perhaps say the whole of the Quarriers
19 experiences are between paragraphs 19 and 39, I think,
20 broadly speaking.

21 LADY SMITH: Thank you.

22 MR PEOPLES: Then he says that after leaving Quarriers he
23 did go home. Then he and two of his sisters were sent
24 to a children's home in Rothesay, where he says he spent
25 about six months. He deals with that home at

1 paragraphs 45 to 51.

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He then tells us when he went home, after being in this children's home, his father was hitting his mother and that 'David' and his siblings were being beaten by his father with fists and feet. That is at paragraph 52.

In the period between about 1958 and 1965, which would be between the ages of five and 12 for 'David', he says he was placed with several foster families and in residential schools, but he tells us he has no memory of

1 ever being abused in any of these establishments. That
2 is at 54.

3 He says in periods when he was at home his father
4 was violent towards him and his siblings. He says he
5 recently has learned that his sisters were also, as he
6 put it, molested by his father, at paragraph 59.

7 He then goes on to deal with a period when -- it's
8 a section of his report that starts at paragraph 62 and
9 it deals with -- it's headed "Longriggend" and it's
10 dealt with at paragraphs 62 to 84. But can I say this:
11 I think he's referring to Larchgrove, because he says,
12 as will become evident, he's talking about a place in
13 Edinburgh Road, Glasgow, which was quite near to
14 St John's Springboig and Longriggend is about five miles
15 north-east of Airdrie, so I think we can take it that
16 while it's headed "Longriggend" we should read that as
17 Larchgrove.

18 LADY SMITH: It would also fit with where he might be sent
19 directly from the juvenile court at Govan, doesn't it,
20 for assessment?

21 MR PEOPLES: Yes. It doesn't fit in with the usual pattern.
22 So I think we should at least assume that he is actually
23 referring to a place in Edinburgh Road and the only
24 place other than St John's that this would fit would be
25 Larchgrove.

1 LADY SMITH: He says he thought he was about 13-and-a-half.

2 MR PEOPLES: I think so.

3 LADY SMITH: The dates we have are not definite anyway. We
4 have 1965 as a possible date for this, which would make
5 him just 12, not 13. That sort of age.

6 MR PEOPLES: He does go from there to St John's Springboig
7 which is around the corner or across the road. So it
8 would be the normal pattern that someone goes to
9 somewhere and then they get placed in an Approved School
10 if that is the disposal.

11 If I can just treat it on the basis that we are
12 dealing with Larchgrove, rather than Longriggend in this
13 section of his statement.

14 He does tell us that he was sent from there to
15 St John's Approved School, and he does tell us it was
16 just across the road in Edinburgh Road, and that he was
17 really in Larchgrove for an assessment period, which
18 again would fit with other parts of his statement.

19 He tells us in his statement that he was sent to
20 Larchgrove for assessment, paragraph 62.

21 He tells us that most of the staff there were very
22 domineering. When he first arrived he was put in what
23 he says is a single cell, or perhaps room, and was later
24 moved to a dormitory. That is paragraph 65.

25 He says that because he had a history of running

1 away from placements he was kept locked up a lot. He
2 thought there were around ten or 12 boys in his dorm,
3 who were of mixed ages between 11 and 12 and as old as
4 16. That is paragraph 66.

5 Perhaps I can just quote from paragraph 66, he says:

6 "Generally in each of the dormitories the older boys
7 would bully the younger boys to do whatever they
8 wanted."

9 He certainly describes, to some extent, a regime
10 there that was militaristic in some of its aspects. He
11 says in relation to that period, at paragraph 82:

12 "With all the abuse I was receiving I was living in
13 a constant state of fear and this included most of
14 night."

15 He said as a result of that he again had an issue
16 with bed wetting. In the morning, if staff found out,
17 he was beaten up:

18 "They made sure I was humiliated in front of the
19 others in the dormitory. I was allowed to have a shower
20 and then I had to strip my bed and take it to the
21 laundry."

22 He says, at paragraph 83, that life in Larchgrove
23 was under a brutal regime. Each day the staff handed
24 out slaps, punches and digs in the ribs to all inmates.

25 He does tell us, I should perhaps say, at

1 paragraph 79, about a doctor coming twice a week to
2 check on new inmates. 'David' says that he did see
3 a doctor if he had been involved in a fight or had black
4 eyes. He says, at 79:

5 "I would say I was fighting, just that I had
6 fallen."

7 From there he moved on to St John's Springboig. He
8 deals with his period there at paragraphs 85 to 98,
9 which begins on page 15. I think we can remove the
10 Longriggend from the headnote. It doesn't make sense.
11 But he's clearly describing St John's Approved School in
12 Edinburgh Road.

13 LADY SMITH: Residential home perhaps isn't --

14 MR PEOPLES: Not quite -- not at that stage, no.

15 Can he tells us about his time there and that's
16 I think where we get, at 85, the description of its
17 location relative to the previous place, which I think
18 confirms what I said earlier.

19 LADY SMITH: Mm hmm.

20 MR PEOPLES: Indeed, he says in that paragraph that when he
21 arrived in St John's and spoke with other boys, he said
22 he was made aware that some of the staff were involved
23 in the sexual abuse of residents.

24 He describes his time there and the routine there.
25 What I can perhaps say is he has a description of both

1 physical abuse and sexual abuse perpetrated by staff who
2 were Brothers. We can find a description of that abuse
3 between -- particularly between paragraphs 93 and 97.

4 I think we see the nature of the abuse there. It
5 was both physical, kicking, punching, and also what
6 would happen at night-time, when he was in bed, and that
7 involved sexual abuse of him and other boys, according
8 to his recollection.

9 Indeed, in paragraph 96 I think he gives,
10 a description of what happened to him, including being
11 raped on occasions.

12 He tells us, at 97, just before I move on, he did
13 tell the person in charge, but says his attitude was one
14 that he was telling lies and when he got back to the
15 dormitory he was beaten by one of the Brothers who had
16 been involved in some of the abuse.

17 He then moved from St John's to another school,
18 St Mary's Kenmure, in Glasgow. He deals with that and
19 covers that at paragraphs 99 to 108 of his signed
20 statement.

21 He says, at paragraph 99, that after release from
22 St John's he became involved in some petty theft, which
23 resulted in him being sent to St Mary's.

24 Perhaps I can deal with this fairly briefly. But,
25 at paragraph 100, he says for the first few days he was

1 there, and being a new boy, there were some attempts of
2 bullying from the older boys, but that soon stopped.

3 At paragraph 106, he says there was:

4 "An issue during my early time there where one of
5 the older boys was threatening me: if I did not carry
6 out sex acts on him, then he was going to beat me up.

7 "I started fighting back and he left me alone, but
8 I think he might have gone on to pick on one of the
9 other weak boys."

10 He tells us that at St Mary's, at 105, boys were
11 given a slap if they did anything wrong, or a kick if
12 they were not moving fast enough from one place to
13 another.

14 But he says, at 107, that other than what he has
15 mentioned in his statement by way of abuse, that he did
16 find St Mary's to have been a positive experience as
17 well.

18 LADY SMITH: Thank you.

19 MR PEOPLES: He has a section in his report, which I will
20 touch on, but I'm not going to go into it in detail.
21 But he has a recollection that in the year his mother
22 died, in 1968, he spent a period of time in a home on
23 the west side of Glasgow. Secondary Institutions - to be published later

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3 That seems to be part of his journey.

4 LADY SMITH: At some time in 1968?

5 MR PEOPLES: He seems to relate it to the death of his
6 mother, and at some point he was in a place. He's not
7 identifying the place, but he seems to have a memory of
8 something and he obviously tells us about what he
9 recalls happening at that point, including being taken
10 to another house Secondary Institutions - to be published later

11 Having dealt with that in his statement, he goes on
12 to tell us about his time in the prison system. He's
13 not really very clear about how he ended up in Polmont,
14 but he ended up in Polmont. He tells us about his
15 experiences there at paragraphs 120 through to 142.

16 I should say he starts with Polmont, but he will
17 then tell us a little bit about Castle Huntly, where he
18 moved to. I'll read some of that, if I may?

19 Starting at paragraph 120, page 23 'David' says:

20 "I was sent to Polmont on a three-month assessment
21 period. At the end of that period, they would decide
22 where I was to be sent to serve the remainder of my time
23 in custody. That could be any of the borstals or
24 an open or closed prison. Between my time at Polmont
25 and later at Castle Huntly it spanned about

1 two-and-a-half years."

2 Dealing with HMP Polmont Young Offenders, he says on
3 his first day -- I think it was probably a borstal then,
4 but we'll not worry too much about the terminology. But
5 he starts with his first day, at 121:

6 "When I arrived at Polmont I was initially placed in
7 the allocation unit. This was where the staff assessed
8 you for a couple of days before moving you into the main
9 units. In the main hall, they had some single cells.
10 At the end of the corridor, there were four dormitories
11 with eight beds in each. I think there were many
12 hundreds of inmates at Polmont. I think the age ranged
13 from around 13 up to 16. People in Polmont were in for
14 many different reasons, from minor crimes like a breach
15 of the peace, right up to serious assaults or murder.

16 "Whenever we had to move from one part of the prison
17 to another, we had to line up in three columns and march
18 double time. I think this came from a lot of the staff
19 being ex-military. Of all the staff, it was three or
20 four of them who carried out acts of brutality. Some of
21 the others were okay and you could approach them.

22 "The daily routine here was a repeat of the other
23 places I was in. After being woken you got washed and
24 dressed and in for breakfast. A lot of the morning was
25 taken up with cleaning duties. That might take you up

1 to lunchtime. In the afternoon, you might have a couple
2 of hours in the classroom.

3 "On the day I arrived I was issued with a prison
4 uniform for Polmont which consisted of a striped shirt,
5 trousers and training shoes.

6 "The prison operated a token system. These tokens
7 were issued so long as you had not been in trouble and
8 you could spend them at the tuck shop once a week. In
9 the allocation unit, you were not allowed to smoke, but
10 in the main hall you could get a quarter ounce of
11 tobacco. If you wanted to smoke you would have the
12 cigarette in your cell and blow the smoke out of the
13 window. Sometimes if you were in allocation, one of the
14 inmates in the main wings would pass a cigarette when
15 they passed you.

16 "I did go to the classes for lessons in the
17 afternoons, but because I had issues with my reading and
18 writing again I was often verbally abused by the
19 teachers, because I could not complete their tasks. The
20 education in Polmont was centred around a fitness
21 regime. Most of the time was concentrated on the gym,
22 boxing and swimming, with very little on helping with
23 general education, like reading and writing. I was
24 never able to read a book until I was about 20. There
25 were no classes to show any trades like electricians or

1 mechanics.

2 "I never had any occasion to have to visit the
3 matron or doctor. As far as my mental health was
4 concerned, I was just like a frightened rabbit. No one
5 recognised those of us who were suffering like that, or
6 if they did notice, then they ignored it."

7 Moving to paragraph 128, on page 25:

8 "We did have to go to church on a Sunday. I can't
9 remember the names of the people who sexually abused me,
10 described later in my statement. I did see them again
11 when we were at the church services. They would be
12 making gestures that they were going to get me again,
13 but they never did.

14 "We did have some chores to carry out when we were
15 at Polmont. The first thing we was we had to make our
16 beds in the block fashion. Along with that, we would
17 need to keep the cell clean as well. For a lot of the
18 morning, perhaps with four other inmates, we might be
19 tasked with cleaning and polishing the rest of the
20 floors on your hands and knees or using a mop and pail.
21 There was no choice in anything we did with our life at
22 Polmont. If you were tasked with doing a chore it was
23 to complete it or suffer abuse from the staff.

24 "At the time I was sent to Polmont, my brother ..."

25 He says one of his brothers had been sentence to

1 life in prison and was serving his time at Peterhead.

2 He said:

3 "While we were in jail we would send letters to each
4 other. I was still needing someone to help with my
5 letters. The prison supplied paper and pens, but the
6 staff never helped me with writing my letters. I was
7 able to get one of the other boys to help me. He went
8 on to help to start to teach me some basic writing,
9 beginning with small words and being able to put other
10 words together. We became good friends and we ended up
11 at Castle Huntly as well.

12 "The letters we sent and received were all vetted by
13 the staff. As a result of this I had to be careful what
14 I included in the letters and definitely not mention any
15 of the abuse."

16 At 133, page 26, he goes on:

17 "By the time I was in Polmont both my parents had
18 passed away."

19 Then he talks about where his siblings were based at
20 that time. He goes on, at paragraph 134, to deal with
21 discipline:

22 "The culture from most of the staff in Polmont was
23 brutal, but there were three or four who did not cause
24 any issues and were quite good officers. You were able
25 to have conversations with those three or four and they

1 treated you as human beings. The brutality from the
2 others was not hidden, but no one ever intervened. This
3 meant they had no fear when inflicting pain on us."

4 Then he goes on, at 135:

5 "On my second night in Polmont I was moved into
6 a dormitory with another two or three inmates. One of
7 them, the main bully in that dormitory, forced me to
8 carry out sex acts on him. I was so scared and
9 horrified at what was happening. The next night he and
10 his friends attempted to hold me down to have
11 intercourse with me. I was struggling and trying to
12 fight back. One of them put his penis into my mouth,
13 but this time I was able to put up a bit of a fight.
14 I had gone for the main guy who was attacking me. He
15 was a big-built boy and he was about 16 years old. His
16 friends were of a similar age and build. Officers must
17 have heard the commotion and dragged us out and we were
18 put into separate cells. During my time at Polmont,
19 I was never put into a dormitory again and remained in
20 a single cell.

21 "After this incident we were to appear in front of
22 the governor. Whilst standing outside the door, some
23 distance away from it, in the corridor, the prison
24 officers grabbed me and threw me into the room. I was
25 losing my balance and there was a rug on the floor

1 inside the room. As my feet hit the rug I slipped and
2 skidded along the floor crashing my head into the
3 radiator. When the governor ask me what had taken
4 place, I just said it was a fight. I was too scared of
5 further repercussions if I told them what had actually
6 happened. I was then taken to the floor above and given
7 a single cell.

8 "We had nicknames for some of the officers,
9 Mr GIP , Mr GIO , and Mr GIN . They would make you
10 stand to attention and hit you with their full force
11 into your solar plexus. The pain was excruciating and I
12 was doubled over in agony. They made me stand up and
13 threatened that if I did anything wrong again that was
14 what would happen to me.

15 "There was a PE teacher, and every time he was
16 carrying out any work with us he would be wearing his
17 heavy army boots with his tracksuit. Anyone deemed to
18 have done anything wrong with him in the gym would be
19 kicked by him. That could be for something minor, like
20 not running as fast as he wanted.

21 "This guy also taught boxing. One day I was in his
22 class and he asked if anyone had done any boxing before.
23 Some put their hands up. The first guy was told to get
24 into the ring with the instructor, who then proceeded to
25 beat up the prisoner. When it came to my turn, I was

1 much smaller and quicker than the first guy and avoided
2 most of what was coming. I think the instructor was
3 a bit embarrassed and, when I was out of the ring, he
4 would kick me with his boots. He kicked me on the legs
5 with his big boots and then proceeded to beat me by
6 punching me to the head and body. This became a regular
7 thing with him as there what always someone being
8 punished by him. Everybody was on high alert with him
9 and trying not to make any mistakes.

10 "Another of the officers who caused some issues was
11 one who taught swimming. He would ask if there was
12 anyone who could not swim and then asked them to line up
13 at the edge of the pool. He then walked along the line
14 and pushed them in. I was okay as I had learned as
15 a youngster to swim at a local pool and in the Clyde as
16 a youngster."

17 Going on to page 28:

18 "You could not make any complaints about any of the
19 abuse because most of it was coming from the staff and,
20 if you reported it, you would be too scared it would
21 lead to more abuse. There was no one from the staff
22 that could be trusted to help you.

23 "At the end of my three-month assessment period it
24 was decided I would be transferred to the open prison at
25 HMP Castle Huntly. I was taken into the governor's

1 office and told the news. I was glad to be getting way
2 from Polmont and also not going to a closed prison."

3 He goes on to deal with Castle Huntly. I think
4 I'll just deal with that, if I may, at 143 to 174. He
5 says, and this is page 28:

6 "When I was sent to Castle Huntly I was nearly 16.
7 I think it was the day after the governor told me I was
8 leaving that my transfer took place. If not the next
9 day, it was certainly within a couple of days. I was
10 taken there by staff in one of the vans. There were
11 a few of us who were transferred at the same time.

12 "When I arrived I saw the castle building itself and
13 I was taken up a winding staircase. I was then directed
14 to my dormitory. There was a window at the back of my
15 allocated bed. Also, next to my bed was the access door
16 toilet. My bed area was like a small alcove and was
17 probably the best placed bed in the dormitory. I know
18 there were other beds in the dormitory, but I am not
19 certain as to how many. Beside my bed I had a small
20 locker where I could store my toiletries, paper and
21 pencils. I was told by the member of staff to get
22 myself settled and store whatever stuff I had stored
23 away.

24 "The inmates at Castle Huntly were between 12 or 13
25 up to about 18. In each dormitory there were about 12

1 boys there, and there were several dormitories. As it
2 neared the end of my time at Castle Huntly, I had the
3 chance to move from the dormitory and into a cell by
4 myself. I never left the dormitory as I enjoyed the
5 camaraderie of the other boys.

6 "Although the day-to-day routine was very similar to
7 Polmont and Longriggend, I saw in Castle Huntly that if
8 I learned to follow what rules were asked for, then my
9 life was much more relaxed.

10 "The meals were all in the dining room. You tended
11 to find that all the people with blue shirts sat
12 together and the newer boys, with red shirts, sat in
13 a different group. It wasn't a bullying thing or
14 anything bad, it was just that as time went on you built
15 a relationship with others and graduated to sitting
16 beside them. It was just another sign of progression.

17 "When I arrived I had to remove the striped set of
18 clothes I was wearing at Polmont and was issued with
19 a uniformed red shirt and said of pyjamas. As your time
20 in Castle Huntly progressed and you neared the end of
21 your time, that shirt was changed to a blue shirt.

22 "There was a big football pitch at Castle Huntly and
23 we were able to play quite regularly. We would just
24 play against each other and most of the boys joined in.
25 Everybody liked the limited freedom as you could run

1 about.

2 "There was an older teacher at Castle Huntly that
3 was really good to me and tried to help me with my
4 writing. I was still having some issues and we thought
5 that it may have been down to a form of dyslexia. There
6 were many other inmates, nearly half of them, who were
7 in the same position as me and he would help them if he
8 could.

9 "This older guy had served during the Second World
10 War and he would often fill his class time by telling us
11 stories of his time during that period. They were much
12 more interesting than some of the lessons we had.

13 "Although I had problems with my reading and
14 writing, I did find I was good at art. Apart from that,
15 during most of the other subjects, I would just be
16 staring out of the windows.

17 "Matron was a really nice person. She would treat
18 minor injuries and cuts. She was very attentive when
19 you had to visit her.

20 "We did carry out some chores, such as cleaning, but
21 the atmosphere was much better and did you not have any
22 issue with completing the task. The cleaning duties
23 were part of the roles when you initially arrived, but
24 as more and more new inmates arrived the chores no one
25 liked transferred to them.

1 "After about six or eight months I was asked if
2 I wanted to help the local farmer out with picking
3 potatoes. I was happy to do this and when I went there
4 I was working with the big lad from the showers
5 incident, explained later in my statement. We had
6 become good friends and were from the same area. It was
7 really back-breaking work picking the potatoes.
8 Initially, there were ten of us on that first day.

9 "After lunch, most of the other boys were at the
10 matron's office with sore backs and scraped knees. As
11 a result they were tasked with carrying out cleaning
12 jobs and some other chores that others were unhappy
13 with. The big guy and myself talked about it and we
14 went back, which also surprised the farmer.

15 "The boys in the afternoon were a different crew
16 from the morning, but the farmer recognised me and my
17 mate. We did this for a few weeks and the farmer
18 allowed me to drive the tractor. The big guy would be
19 on the trailer setting the boxes.

20 "I was given five pounds by Castle Huntly for
21 working on the farm. The farmer also gave us five
22 pounds, but we did not tell Castle Huntly about that.
23 When my sister came to visit me, usually every three
24 months, I gave her the money I had saved. That might
25 have been as much as 30 or GBP 40, which was a lot in

1 those days.

2 "A few weeks into the job and I was issued with my
3 blue shirt. I was aware that this meant I was coming to
4 the end of my time at Castle Huntly. I felt this was
5 a reward for doing the hard work. The farmer
6 recommended us for more work in the November when we
7 were asked to help dig up turnips. It was really cold
8 doing that, but better than being locked up and looking
9 out of the windows. Working for that farmer made
10 a difference to my work ethic as an adult. Despite
11 being completely worn out after the first day, I knew
12 I was going back the next day. I realised that if I
13 worked hard I would be rewarded.

14 "During my time here, and at Polmont or [I think
15 it's] Larchgrove there were never any official visits to
16 check on me or how I was being treated.

17 "My sister was writing to me by the time I was in
18 Castle Huntly. She was encouraging me to keep my head
19 down and behave and everything would be okay when I got
20 out. She made an effort to visit me when she could.

21 "My friend from Polmont was helping me with letters
22 to my family. He was encouraging me to write a lot of
23 it myself and would step in more when I was finding
24 something difficult. I would write to my bother in
25 Peterhead. It was just that all was okay with me.

1 "I did have thoughts about running away, but all
2 around me were fields and open space and I had no idea
3 where I was or what direction to run in.

4 "The general atmosphere at Castle Huntly was a lot
5 more relaxed. There was no one hurrying you from one
6 unit to another part of the building.

7 "If there were occasions when two boys got into
8 a fight, then the staff would identify the aggressor and
9 he would be placed into what we called the rubber cell.
10 This was padded and they were placed there so they could
11 not harm themselves and until they calmed down. I was
12 never sent to that cell.

13 "The first night I was in Castle Huntly the oldest
14 boy there was about six foot tall. He came to me in the
15 evening and told me I was to swap beds as he wanted mine
16 because it was in a better position. Where his bed was
17 situated were some slats in the windows where staff
18 could look in. During that day, I had been warned by
19 some of the other boys that this big guy had been making
20 them do things they did not like, including taking their
21 sweets, bullying them and making them do sex acts on
22 him.

23 "That night he came to my bed and threatened if I
24 did not swap beds he was going to beat me up. I was not
25 going to be bullied anymore and when he came for me I

1 went for him. Officers must have heard the commotion
2 and came in and dragged him out. He was then put into
3 another cell for night.

4 "The next day that boy was in the showers when
5 another boy, the one I later became friends with picking
6 potatoes, who was equally as big as him, fought with
7 him. The abuser ended up with a bandage over his head.
8 At the next meal all the others were laughing at him and
9 he could not take it. He was taken back to his cell.
10 We did not see him next day and were told he was
11 transferred back to Polmont. When he left, the other in
12 the dormitory were grateful I had stood up to him and
13 went on to tell some of the bad things he had done to
14 them.

15 "I was later aware that his bed could also be seen
16 by the staff and he did not like that. I also learned
17 later that he was bullying the young boys to hand over
18 their tuck. The worst things was that he was forcing
19 the other boys to carry out sex acts on him."

20 He then says, when he left Castle Huntly near the
21 end of 1971:

22 "I never went into prison or any other institution
23 for the rest of my life. I put that down to the staff
24 at Castle Huntly, particularly the older guy who was way
25 passed his retirement age, helping me instead of

1 bullying or abusing me."

2 He says, at 172:

3 "I look back at my time at Castle Huntly as
4 a positive time. I went in as a young boy, but came out
5 a man. I had been given a structure with some skills
6 which would help me survive in the outside world. They
7 did try to help me with some form filling, but with my
8 writing ability that did not work as best as they had
9 hoped.

10 "As well as generally feeling safe at Castle Huntly,
11 I think most of the boys felt the same. Some of the
12 boys had no mothers or fathers and learned from the
13 staff how to interact with people without getting into
14 any kind of trouble.

15 "The older schoolteacher spoke to me as a human
16 being. He just wanted to help you and with his manner
17 you wanted to learn more. Working on the farm gave me
18 a sense of self-worth. I was proud of myself and how
19 I had changed."

20 He goes on to deal with his life after care.
21 I'm not going to read that out, but there are a couple
22 of things that I will just perhaps point up.

23 At paragraph 195, page 38, he does say that his life
24 in care caused him major problems with his mental
25 health. Indeed, he tells us some of the steps he took.

1 But, at 198, he does say, on page 38:

2 "I was nearly 50 before I fully understood that the
3 abuse I suffered was not my fault. Before that, I
4 always felt I was to blame."

5 If I can just go on to the section headed "Lessons
6 to be learned" at page 40, to just pick up a couple of
7 things that are said. At paragraph 207, on page 40 he
8 says:

9 "I am not sure if any of the people looking after me
10 in care were properly trained. Apart from being fully
11 trained, you must also have a caring and compassionate
12 attitude to look after children. No one in any of the
13 establishments I stayed at was trained to recognise
14 trauma, which is a necessity, because you may have
15 suffered abuse prior to arriving in their care."

16 At 208, in the final sentence, he says:

17 "There was no independent adult I could talk to or
18 organisation looking after my rights."

19 On page 41, he states:

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

24 He witness statement is signed on 9 December 2021.

25 LADY SMITH: Thank you very much, Mr Peoples.

1 MR PEOPLES: I hope that's a convenient time to have a short
2 break?

3 LADY SMITH: We'll have a short break and we'll do one more
4 statement after that?

5 MR PEOPLES: I suspect so. We'll have a little discussion.
6 There will be at least one read-in before we call it
7 a day.

8 LADY SMITH: That's been very helpful. Thank you.
9 (3.08 pm)

10 (A short break)

11 (3.18 pm)

12 LADY SMITH: Ms Rattray. Where now?

13 MS RATTRAY: Yes, my Lady. The next read-in statement is
14 from an applicant who is anonymous and has the pseudonym
15 'Callum'. His statement is at WIT.001.001.1658:
16 'Callum' (read)

17 MS RATTRAY: "My name is 'Callum'. I was born in 1954. My
18 contact details are known to the Inquiry.
19 "I have three children, two boys and a girl and
20 I have nine grandchildren.
21 "The institutions I would like to speak of are
22 St Ninian's in Fife, which was a brutal place;
23 St Joseph's Tranent, which had its problems, not as bad
24 as St Ninian's, but that was probably because I was that
25 bit older; and Polmont which was also brutal, though

1 I would say that was because it was run as a prison
2 regime.

3 "I was a bit of a thief, a bad boy. Without making
4 my mum and dad sound too bad, I was left to my own
5 devices after school. I was born in Glasgow and then we
6 moved to the Cranhill area, just before my eighth
7 birthday. I had already been in trouble with the police
8 on numerous occasions. I had been doing things that you
9 wouldn't believe a child of that age would get up to,
10 like stealing leads off the roofs and stealing purses.
11 By the age of seven or eight, I was dogging school,
12 stealing and breaking and entering.

13 "At the nine of nine I was in the police office in
14 Glasgow Central railway station and I heard the police
15 say: tell 'Callum's' mum that 'Callum' will not be
16 coming home tonight. He's had enough and he'll be going
17 to Larchgrove remand home.

18 "When we move to Cranhill I was eight years old and
19 my young brother was born. I broke into Queenslie
20 Industrial Estate with some mates and stole crisps and
21 got sent to Larchgrove. I escaped from Larchgrove, but
22 handed myself in. Because I had escaped I got sent to
23 St Ninian's."

24 From paragraph 7, 'Callum' speaks of experiences at
25 St Ninian's, Fife, where he was sent at the age of ten.

1 He suffered physical and sexual abuse and ran away five
2 times. He left St Ninian's at the end of primary school
3 and returned home, where he was to start secondary
4 school.

5 After St Ninian's, he found being at home very
6 strange. He stole money from a garage and was placed in
7 Bellfield remand home in Dumbarton. 'Callum' says that
8 there were no beatings there. The food was great and
9 the place was absolutely fine.

10 After returning to St Ninian's with friends and
11 getting caught wrecking a building site there, 'Callum'
12 appeared in court and was charged with opening locked
13 fast places. He was sent to Liberton remand centre for
14 a couple of weeks and was then sent to St Joseph's,
15 Tranent.

16 He had just turned 14 and was at St Joseph's for
17 about a year.

18 From paragraph 67 to 80, 'Callum' speaks of his time
19 at St Joseph's. He suffered physical and sexual abuse
20 there. The physical assaults got less as he got older,
21 because he was getting bigger and could look after
22 himself. He didn't run away from St Joseph's. He says
23 he enjoyed the majority of his time there and was
24 treated better than at St Ninian's.

25 Moving now to paragraph 81, on page 15:

1 "I ended up in borstal at Polmont at the age of 16.
2 I spent ten months there. I had actually been in
3 Barlinnie prison on remand just before that. That was
4 horrific. It was freezing and filthy. I think I would
5 have committed suicide there if I could have. I was
6 there because I think they were waiting for a space in
7 Polmont. Polmont was brutal, and when you got hit they
8 hit you hard because you were treated as a grown-up.

9 "I actually tried to hang myself in Polmont, but I
10 used ██████████, which wasn't very successful.
11 But it did show how low I was feeling.

12 "The regime there was so precise. For instance,
13 when you got up in the morning, all your clothing and
14 bedding had to be folded in such a precise way. Some
15 boys even used long bits of wood to ensure everything
16 was lined up perfectly. If you weren't up and ready
17 when the screws opened the door, they would whack into
18 you with a big wooden rod.

19 "After dinner you would be back in your cell. You
20 weren't allowed to lie on your bed, but inevitably you'd
21 be bored and would lie down when a screw caught you.
22 That would be another beating. To avoid this I used to
23 lie on the floor with my ear near it, so I would hear if
24 the screws were coming.

25 "In what was called the block, would you get forced

1 PE four times a day and in between it would you be
2 scrubbing a floor, a big long corridor called 'the
3 mile'. The PE instructor always carried a big wooden
4 pole and I remember seeing him breaking a guy's nose
5 with it.

6 "I was one of the youngest in Polmont, if not the
7 youngest. I had to look after myself, because everyone
8 was older and sometimes I would get picked on simply
9 because I came from the wrong part of Glasgow. There
10 was a big gang culture at the time.

11 "Borstal was hard and quite often it was the screws
12 that would instigate the trouble to get somebody
13 a kicking."

14 Now to paragraph 88:

15 "The only support I've ever had is going to chapel,
16 which I started doing when I last came out of prison
17 when I was 37. Other than that, I've never had, nor
18 sought, any sort of support.

19 "Home life wasn't great after coming out of borstal
20 and I ended up running away down to London at the age of
21 17. I was up and down between London and Glasgow until
22 my early 20s, when I eventually settled in London. It
23 was only when I stopped drinking at 37 that I came to
24 realise that I had a great family back in Glasgow.

25 "As I got older, I started to realise the effect I

1 and had two bothers. My dad was never there because he
2 was in the special forces, but life in Perth was great.

3 "I was expelled from primary school when I was in
4 primary 4 for stealing the canteen money and the biscuit
5 money and I was sent to St Ninian's school. I was
6 anti-discipline and I always did the opposite of what my
7 mother told me. Two or three afternoons a week I
8 attended a place where I was assessed because I was
9 disruptive in school.

10 "The first time I went to court was to Perth
11 Juvenile Court in 1965. I was in court for going on the
12 railway lines and for breaking into the buffet cars on
13 the trains.

14 "I was given probation. I was sent to Approved
15 School the second time appeared in court, which was in
16 late 1965 or early 1966."

17 From paragraph 4, 'Greg' speaks of experiences at
18 Balgowan Approved School, Dundee. He says Balgowan was
19 a culture shock for him at first because he was a scared
20 ten-year old. He was there for under a year and then
21 discharged. He was recalled after a period of time for
22 shoplifting and spent another seven or eight months
23 there.

24 He said that if pupils ran way they got strapped
25 with the belt six times on the bare backside. 'Greg'

1 says that he didn't run away and never had a black mark
2 against him.

3 'Greg' says that the only place he experienced
4 anything sexual was in Dumbarton remand home, which was
5 called Bellfield House. He says he was there when he
6 was ten years old and he was recalled to Balgowan.

7 A member of staff took him for a shower and started
8 to wash him down. The staff member stopped when another
9 member of staff came in. Shortly after his second
10 discharge from Balgowan, 'Greg' was caught for
11 shoplifting. He was placed in Herstane remand home in
12 Dundee before being sent to Oakbank residential school
13 in Aberdeen. He was aged 13 to 14.

14 He said the only time he got into trouble in Oakbank
15 was when some of the boys jumped over the fence to watch
16 the local football team parade through Aberdeen because
17 they had won the Scottish Cup in 1969. Staff thought
18 they had absconded. He says he wasn't put on report and
19 wasn't belted because they had banned the belt after the
20 previous man in charge had retired.

21 After Oakbank, 'Greg' returned home to Perth and his
22 mum got him a job as a fitter in 1970. He says he was
23 in and out of court and being admonished up until the
24 age of 14. 'Greg' said that he was then sent first to
25 Herstane remand home and then Rossie Farm school,

1 Montrose, for fighting at a football match.

2 From paragraphs 23 to 88, 'Greg' speaks of his
3 experiences at Rossie Farm. He says Rossie Farm was
4 where all the trouble started. He says he and other
5 boys suffered physical abuse. 'Greg's' main abuser was
6 **LLY** who was in charge of the training block
7 at Rossie Farm. 'Greg' said he ran away three times.

8 He reported the abuse to his social worker,
9 **MCF** when she visited, but she did nothing about
10 it.

11 Moving now to paragraph 89, on page 19, where 'Greg'
12 describes how he was moved from Rossie Farm to Polmont:

13 "On my 16th birthday I was in Forfar Sheriff Court
14 and I asked Henderson if he was sending me to Polmont,
15 but he told me he could keep me at Rossie Farm until
16 I was 17. It was the same judge, Cormack, who also
17 travelled to Perth and he admonished me and returned me
18 to Rossie.

19 "The last time I was taken out of the closed block
20 to go to court, Sheriff Cormack was going to admonish me
21 and return me to Rossie Farm, but another boy and I
22 kicked off in the dock and said we weren't going back.
23 This is was when Mr **GZS**, who was my team leader at
24 Rossie Farm, stood up and the sheriff asked him
25 something. The reply was that I was going back to the

1 closed block and that the other boy was going back to
2 the training school. I told Mr GZS that I would
3 barricade myself in again and the other boy said he
4 would run away. Then Mr GZS said as from that moment
5 we were no longer pupils at Rossie Farm.

6 Sheriff Cormack sent us to Polmont. That was 1971."

7 At that stage, 'Greg' would be aged 16:

8 "I went to Perth prison from the court for two
9 weeks, and I went straight to Polmont from there. I was
10 kept in the borstal dormitory in Perth prison. Boys
11 came from as far away as Aberdeen to Perth prison and
12 the bus took them from there to Polmont.

13 "As soon as you went into Polmont you were given
14 a number, and if you couldn't remember your number, you
15 got a slap. With my reputation for running away, when I
16 went to Polmont I wasn't allowed to go outside until it
17 was considered that the risk was lifted and then I was
18 put with the painters and decorators.

19 "I was in Polmont for 11 months from 1971 to 1972.
20 Although my original sentence was three years, it was
21 reduce to two years and I was out in 11 months. This
22 was down to good behaviour. I was never in trouble
23 there and I never had a bad report. Polmont was far
24 easier than Rossie Farm. You got a slap and told to get
25 something done, but you never got beaten up.

1 "You had to be in Polmont for at least a year before
2 you could be considered for release, but I had my blue
3 shirt in five months. You got a red shirt when you
4 arrived and once you got your blue shirt you could work
5 on getting out. When I was in Polmont I took part in
6 an east-to-west canoe race. This was racing the canals
7 from the east coast to the west coast and we won it.

8 "When I was getting out in 1972, I was also part of
9 the swimming team and I asked them if they would let me
10 stay another week or two to take part in a competition
11 because I was the best swimmer in Polmont.

12 "I went back home to Perth and my mother got me
13 a job on a cargo ship. I worked at sea and travelled
14 all over Europe. I went back to Rossie Farm in 1973
15 with the intention of meeting up with LLY [REDACTED], but I
16 left without seeing him. I spent seven years working in
17 Belfast as a pipe fitter, then I worked in England in
18 a power station and then for a company in London doing
19 dry risers. I am on long-term sick due to problems with
20 my shoulder. I have three children and I have a good
21 relationship with them, although I'm separated from
22 their mother.

23 "I was back in prison a couple of times in my
24 earlier days, but I haven't been inside a court for
25 40 years, except for a litter offence last year."

1 Moving to paragraph 102, on page 21:

2 "I reported my abuse when I was in Polmont to the
3 matron in east wing. She was called Mrs Knipe.
4 MCF the social worker knew about it too."

5 Now to paragraph 107, page 22:

6 "I have no objection to my witness statement being
7 published as part of the evidence to the Inquiry.
8 I believe the facts stated in this witness statement are
9 true."

10 'Greg' signed his statement on 29 March 2021.

11 My Lady, I think that completes the time we have
12 available for the read-ins we have today.

13 LADY SMITH: Let's stop there for today. Then tomorrow
14 morning; what is the plan?

15 MS RATTRAY: Tomorrow morning, we resume with an oral
16 witness.

17 LADY SMITH: Very well. Thank you very much. I will rise
18 now until 10 o'clock tomorrow morning.

19 (3.35 pm)

20 (The Inquiry adjourned until 10.00 am
21 on Friday, 10 November)

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