

Tuesday, 17 February 2026

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(10.00 am)
LADY SMITH: Good morning, and welcome back to Phase 10 of our case study hearings in which we're investigating the provision of residential care for children in places which were local authority institutions or places used by them.

Now, today, we move, I think, to a children's home which I've heard pronounced 'Griff' or 'Gryffe', I'm sure either will do, but maybe, Mr Peoples, you can correct me.

MR PEOPLES: Well, I think the next witness will call it 'Gryffe' and that's what I was proposing to call it. But I think we'll just see how we get on.

LADY SMITH: Let's call it Gryffe then. Very well.

MR PEOPLES: So, the first witness, my Lady, this morning, has anonymity and has chosen the pseudonym 'Bernard'.

LADY SMITH: Thank you.

'Bernard' (via video link)

MR PEOPLES: I'm hoping that 'Bernard' can bring on the screen, that he did, shortly. 'Bernard'?

A. Hello Jim, I can hear you but I'm yet to appear on the screen. It automatically went to mute and telling me I couldn't unmute myself. Since Lady Smith came in the court -- in the room there, it allowed me to unmute

1 myself, but I remain as a blank screen with 'Bernard' on
2 it.

3 Q. Can you click the video camera if there's a button,
4 please?

5 A. 'Start video'. Yep, that's me. I can see myself.

6 MR PEOPLES: Good. I'll perhaps ask Lady Smith first to
7 introduce --

8 LADY SMITH: Thank you. 'Bernard', good morning. Thank you
9 for joining us over the videolink this morning. It's
10 very good to see you.

11 'Bernard' (affirmed)

12 LADY SMITH: 'Bernard', thank you for that.

13 Now, one or two things I want to say to you before
14 we begin your evidence, apart from, as I've already
15 done, express my gratitude for you providing your
16 evidence this way today.

17 I do understand that what we're going to ask you
18 about is very personal to you. It's going back a long
19 way in your life to a time in your childhood which
20 I know from reading your written evidence was not
21 exactly a good period, in so many ways.

22 People are often taken by surprise themselves at how
23 emotional it can feel and distressing. If you need
24 a break at any time you must let me know, whether it's
25 just pausing or switching off the link and coming back.

1 It's very important to me that you're as comfortable as
2 you can be giving your evidence, so that you can give
3 the best evidence that's possible, to help us with the
4 work that we're doing here at the Inquiry and to help me
5 understand what life was like for you all these years
6 ago, together with your thoughts about, now, how things
7 have been in your adult life and the future.

8 Now, apart from that, I've mentioned already your
9 written evidence and I think you have a copy of your
10 written statement in front of you, do you?

11 A. I do.

12 LADY SMITH: You might find it helpful to have that with
13 you. We're not going to take you through every part of
14 it paragraph by paragraph. As I've explained already,
15 it's already evidence before me, which has been really
16 helpful to have, but there are some specific parts of it
17 that we'd like to focus on today.

18 Other than that, if you've got any questions at any
19 time, you must speak up and tell me. And separately,
20 there's just one thing I want to check with Mr Peoples.
21 Give me a moment.

22 I do have to warn 'Bernard', do I, or not? Sorry,
23 no, I don't, thank you. That's fine.

24 The only other thing I want to say is if you've got
25 any questions, do speak up. If you don't understand why

1 we're asking you or anything, or what we're asking you,
2 it's our fault, we're not being clear enough, not you.
3 So you just tell us, all right?

4 A. Yes, your Ladyship. Just to say to you that, I don't
5 know, just to inform you that from my end at the moment.
6 I see myself on the screen and I actually see Jim
7 just -- he's actually frozen on the screen but I have no
8 sight of yourself --

9 LADY SMITH: You can't see me?

10 A. I can't see you, no.

11 LADY SMITH: Oh, I'm sorry about that, but it probably
12 doesn't matter.

13 A. No. I can hear you but --

14 LADY SMITH: Does it bother you that you can't see me?

15 A. No, no, no, it doesn't. I just wanted to let you know
16 that I wasn't -- I'm not able to see you.

17 LADY SMITH: I'll just check. (Pause)

18 It's working on our end. It may be your camera is
19 not picking up. But I will make sure that you can hear
20 me, 'Bernard', and you must tell me if you can't; all
21 right?

22 A. I can hear you fine, thank you.

23 LADY SMITH: Thank you.

24 Mr Peoples.

25 Questions from Mr Peoples

1 MR PEOPLES: Good morning, 'Bernard'.

2 A. Oh, good morning, Jim.

3 Q. Can I ask you to first of all look at the statement, the
4 written statement you have in front of you and could you
5 maybe turn initially to the final page of the statement
6 and -- no, you don't need to hold it up for me. No, you
7 keep it. I've got a copy here. It's all right.

8 Can you just confirm that you do see that -- you
9 have signed that statement and dated it?

10 A. I have signed it and I've dated it 18 April 2018.

11 Q. Yes. And you also say in the final paragraph you have
12 no objection to your witness statement being published
13 as part of the evidence to this Inquiry and that
14 you believe the facts stated in your witness statement
15 are true?

16 A. That's correct.

17 Q. Okay. Now, what I propose to do is to look at parts of
18 the statement today, but as her Ladyship has said, all
19 parts are evidence and they've all been considered and
20 will be considered as part of the evidence to the
21 Inquiry.

22 Before I start asking any questions, I'll give the
23 reference for your statement for the purposes of the
24 record. You don't need to worry about this. The
25 reference is WIT.001.001.7995.

1 Now, 'Bernard', you tell us that you were born in
2 1953, I don't need the exact date; is that correct?
3 A. That's correct.
4 Q. Now, what I propose to do, you have a section about life
5 before going into care and I'm going to summarise that
6 just now and if I get anything badly wrong, you'll no
7 doubt correct me. But you were born in Glasgow, is that
8 correct?
9 A. I was, that's correct.
10 Q. And you were the youngest of eight children. You had
11 four older sisters and three older brothers?
12 A. Correct.
13 Q. And I think just to be clear, they have now all passed
14 away; is that correct?
15 A. That's correct.
16 Q. And you tell us in that section that you had really no
17 contact with your sisters as a child. I think you saw
18 one sister on one occasion -- when you were -- before
19 you went into care, and I think you saw another sister
20 perhaps once when you were in care; is that really the
21 sum total of your contact?
22 A. That's correct.
23 Q. And you say that you and two older brothers were living
24 at home, but that your mum was very rarely at home?
25 A. That's correct.

1 Q. And you say that your dad was, when he was not working,
2 was spending a lot of time in the pub?

3 A. That's correct.

4 Q. And you lived in fairly cramped conditions. I think
5 a kitchen -- room and kitchen in a tenement, is that
6 right?

7 A. That's correct.

8 Q. And then, broadly speaking, what you tell us is that you
9 were effectively neglected by your parents. There was
10 very little food in the house and you had to resort to
11 stealing food from shops and you spent a lot of time on
12 the streets and when you were at home, you were often on
13 your own; is that the broad picture?

14 A. That's the correct broad picture, Jim, yes.

15 Q. And I think at that time you were skipping school as
16 well?

17 A. That's correct.

18 Sorry, Jim, somebody's outside the house. The dogs
19 are just getting a little bit excited.

20 Q. Okay. Not to worry.

21 And I think after you went into care, and we'll come
22 to that in a moment, you never saw your mum again, is
23 that right, because she died from, I think you tell us,
24 a drugs and alcohol -- from drugs and alcohol in about
25 1965?

1 A. That's correct, yes.

2 Q. And I think you tell us she had some mental health
3 problems, you learned about that, is that right?

4 A. Yes. I learned about that later on through, er, the
5 redacted statement given to me by children's services
6 later in life, yeah.

7 Q. Okay. Now, can I move on then just to deal with your
8 transition from home life to care and if I could move on
9 to a section that's headed 'Castlemilk Children's Home'
10 in Glasgow.

11 A. Yes.

12 Q. It's paragraph 18 of your statement, if you want to have
13 that before you.

14 Now, I'm not wanting to take this at too much
15 length, but what you tell us I think is that you had
16 been at school and you came home and there were two men
17 in the house, who were quite official, I think, wearing
18 trilby hats, is that right?

19 A. That's correct.

20 Q. And they took you to the social services office in
21 Glasgow in John Street?

22 A. That's correct.

23 Q. And when you got there, the two brothers that you were
24 living at home with were already there?

25 A. That's correct.

1 Q. And then you tell us at paragraph 20 of your statement,
2 'Bernard', that the men put you into a green transit van
3 and you were driven to Castlemilk Children's Home?

4 A. That's correct.

5 Q. Now, what you tell us is that when you got there, you
6 and one of your brothers were dropped off and you were
7 told that your other brother was to stay in the van
8 because he had some shopping to do, is that right?

9 A. That's correct.

10 Q. And you say that from that point, you didn't see him
11 again, he just didn't come back, so you were separated
12 from him at that point?

13 A. That's correct.

14 Q. And then you've a section about Castlemilk, which is not
15 one of the places we're looking at today and I'm not
16 going to go through that, **Secondary Institutions - to be published later**

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

18
19
20 Q. And you thought you were maybe there a few months.
21 I think I can probably help you, that you were probably
22 there about six weeks, according to records that
23 I've seen that give some dates. And then you tell us
24 that you were taken from Castlemilk to Gryffe Children's
25 Home in Bridge of Weir, is that right?

1 A. That's correct.

2 Q. And you tell us at paragraph 25 that you really didn't
3 have any preparation for this move to Gryffe. You
4 weren't told where you were going, why you were going,
5 you were just told you were going somewhere new and you
6 had no other explanations; is that the way it was done?

7 A. That's how it was done, that's correct.

8 Q. Now, you think you were 6 when you went there, but can
9 I give you some dates that we have managed to find from
10 records, and I think you're aware, I think I've already
11 alerted you to this, that there were certain dates that
12 we've been able to find which indicate that you moved to
13 Gryffe on [REDACTED] 1960, when you would be aged 7?

14 A. That's correct.

15 Q. And maybe I can just take some dates at this point to
16 get them on the record. On [REDACTED] 1963, when you
17 were aged 10, you were taken to a foster care placement
18 in the Isle of [REDACTED], is that right?

19 A. That's correct.

20 Q. And you were there for about nine months I think. You
21 were there until about [REDACTED] 1964, when you were aged
22 11, according to the records?

23 A. Can I just say, Jim, I'm not sure whether it was known
24 as a foster care placement or whether it was under the
25 boarding-out rules, regulations at the time. Yes, that

1 was correct.

2 LADY SMITH: Yes, I see why you raise that, 'Bernard',
3 because placements on the islands were often through the
4 boarding-out scheme, weren't they?

5 A. That's correct, my Lady.

6 MR PEOPLES: I mean, I think it was an early terminology for
7 a form of foster care rather than institutional care,
8 'boarding-out'?

9 A. Yes, it was in a family setting, that scale of things,
10 rather than a larger institution.

11 Q. And I think at that time, certainly, local authorities,
12 such as Glasgow Corporation, were in the habit of
13 sending children from the city to islands in the west of
14 Scotland, is that right, in the Highlands?

15 A. Yes, that's correct.

16 Q. That was the sort of practice, it was a common practice
17 at that time?

18 A. It was. In actual fact, just to quickly say, when
19 I joined my regiment, my adult regiment in the military,
20 there was one lad who was in a home with me, who was
21 actually also boarded out in [REDACTED] as well, that I later
22 found out, though I didn't meet him in [REDACTED] at the
23 time. He may have been boarded out at a separate period
24 of time from me, yeah.

25 Q. I think you can take it that we have heard quite a lot

1 of evidence about this practice and so we are familiar
2 with what was done in those days. And can I just say,
3 as I say, you were there until [REDACTED] 1964, according
4 to the records, and after a short period in another
5 home, I think you had a short stay in Castlemilk perhaps
6 again?

7 A. That's right. That's correct.

8 Q. And you were readmitted to Gryffe on [REDACTED] 1964,
9 is that --

10 A. That's correct.

11 Q. And then you stayed at Gryffe until [REDACTED],
12 according to the records, in 1967, when you would be
13 aged 14?

14 A. That's correct.

15 Q. And then you went, as we'll see from your statement, you
16 went then to live with one of your sisters in Ireland
17 for a time?

18 A. That's correct.

19 Q. And just again to get some dates just now, so that we
20 understand some of what was going on, you had one older
21 brother in Gryffe initially and that brother left Gryffe
22 when he was aged 15, is that right? I don't need his
23 name.

24 A. That's correct, yes. He was some six years-plus older
25 than myself.

1 Q. Yeah. I think I can tell you that he would have been --
2 you were aged about 7, he was aged 12 or so when you
3 both went to Gryffe. I think I've got some dates that
4 say that was the age difference.

5 A. I think he was born in 1947, I think it was.

6 Q. Yeah. I think you're correct, yes. And that brother
7 left Gryffe, according to records, on [REDACTED] 1962,
8 which would be before you went to [REDACTED]. He had left
9 Gryffe. I don't know if you can recall that, but that's
10 the dates we have.

11 A. Yes. I wouldn't be able to recall the exact date, but
12 that was around about that time. I know that the
13 process was that once you reached the age of 15, you
14 were moved on from Gryffe. You were effectively
15 discharged. And I know that many, many young people
16 found themselves perhaps in accommodation in a hostel as
17 an example and were able to get some work, such as
18 delivery boys, et cetera, post the care experience.

19 Q. And I think you found out possibly later on that at
20 least some of your older sisters were also in care and
21 I think one place you mentioned was Nazareth House, that
22 some of your sisters were in care there? I think that's
23 something you learnt later on?

24 A. I did, I learnt that through [REDACTED], my brother.

25 Q. And did you ever discover what happened to the brother

1 that was going shopping?

2 A. No, I was never informed, neither myself, nor my
3 brother, where ██████ had gone and we had no contact at
4 all, either by telephone, letter, face-to-face or
5 otherwise with ██████, once at that point in Castlemilk
6 when he was -- we were told he was going to do some
7 shopping, we had no more contact with him.

8 Q. Okay. Can I move on in your statement to a section
9 which is dealing with staff at Gryffe. It starts at
10 paragraph 29 on page 7. And you give us some names, and
11 I'm not going to go through them today but I will ask
12 you about two names in particular in due course. But
13 can I ask you about a third name that you mention there,
14 at paragraph 31, and you talk about this individual at
15 31 and 32 of your statement. This is a member of staff
16 that you refer to as a Mr ██████ RFN ██████, but I think from
17 discussions, you now understand or believe that his name
18 was Mr ██████ RFN ██████, is that right?

19 A. That's correct.

20 Q. And you say he was a really nice man, that's your
21 recollection of him?

22 A. That's correct. That's the right recollection. He was
23 a nice man. He showed a lot of caring towards all of us
24 and presented as being generally interested in our
25 welfare, yeah.

1 Q. But you say at paragraph 31 that he wasn't at Gryffe for
2 very long and that -- but what you do remember is, one
3 thing about him was that he enjoyed photography; is
4 that --

5 A. Yes, that's correct.

6 Q. But you say, and you say it with some sadness, that this
7 individual, Mr RFN , was sacked by SNR
8 SNR , a Mr MKS , is that right?

9 A. That's correct.

10 Q. And you say that the -- you've said you felt he was one
11 of the good staff who was genuinely interested and cared
12 for residents, as opposed to a number of staff who you
13 describe as predisposed to abuse children, and I think
14 we're going to hear a bit more about that. So he was a
15 contrast, was he, to some other members of staff that
16 you recall?

17 A. Yes, he was very much a contrast between good and bad,
18 effectively.

19 Q. Indeed, I think maybe looking back, you now believe that
20 perhaps he was seen by, if I can call them, the 'bad'
21 lot, he was seen as a threat to them and that they might
22 be exposed for what they were doing and that you feel
23 that there was a deliberate attempt to get rid of him,
24 is that right?

25 A. That's what I felt, particularly as an adult upon

1 introspection and reflection, I believe that was
2 possibly the case.

3 Q. Because I think the reason that he was dismissed was
4 that you tell us that he clipped a boy on the side of
5 the head, but not hard. And I think that's something
6 you learned of. I don't think you witnessed it, is that
7 right?

8 A. That's correct, yes.

9 Q. But you say that Mr MKS, the man SNR, made
10 a song and dance and said something along the lines of
11 'How dare he hit any of the children', and that Mr RFN
12 was sacked in front of all the boys, is that right?

13 A. That's correct, yes.

14 Q. Now, can I move on again, 'Bernard', to -- you've got
15 a section on the sort of routine at Gryffe and we can
16 read quite a lot of that for ourselves, but can I take
17 you to paragraph 38 on page 9, when you tell us about
18 bedtime.

19 A. Yes.

20 Q. And you say that the younger boys went to bed at
21 7 o'clock every evening, summer and winter?

22 A. That's correct.

23 Q. And you say that the older boys from about age 12 would
24 go to bed around 8.30 in the evening, is that right?

25 A. That's also correct, yes.

1 Q. And you say that Mr MKS had his own private
2 apartments on the same level as the dormitory that you
3 were in, is that right?

4 A. That's correct.

5 Q. And you tell us that he would come out of his flat and
6 listen to hear if anyone was talking. He would creep
7 around in his slippers and you heard this because you
8 could hear the creak of the door and that if you were
9 caught talking, what would he do?

10 A. If he caught you talking, he would give you the belt and
11 he would tell you to face the wall for a number of
12 hours. It varied, but it would be something like two or
13 three hours, after having the belt. And then he would
14 come back either himself or on occasions, the night
15 nurse, who was a staff member doing waking nights, would
16 come along and tell you to go to bed after that.

17 LADY SMITH: So 'Bernard', this would be a time that you
18 would normally be asleep, that you'd be having to stand
19 up facing the wall after having been beaten, is that
20 right?

21 A. That's correct, yes.

22 LADY SMITH: Mm.

23 MR PEOPLES: I'll just stick with Mr MKS at the moment,
24 because he's one of the two staff members that perhaps
25 stand out in your statement, and we'll come to the other

1 one shortly, but if we go on to see some of the other
2 behaviour and conduct of Mr MKS that you can recall.

3 Can I ask you to move to page 10, to paragraph 42,
4 'Bernard', where you talk about meal times and you --
5 you recall a familiar saying from Mr MKS: you should
6 always leave the table hungry.

7 A. Yes, that's correct, yes.

8 Q. And indeed you say you did leave the table hungry and
9 that you feel that -- you say this:

10 'Food was used as an opportunity to groom and
11 exploit children.'

12 Can you just explain your thinking on that one?

13 A. Erm, yes. In terms of the food situation, the -- it was
14 very much an institutionalised experience. You could
15 look at your plate any day of the week and whatever was
16 on your plate, for instance, which stuck in my mind,
17 stewed sausages, would also -- always be served up on
18 a Tuesday as an example. But because we were always
19 hungry, there was a rule that you couldn't put your
20 hands up for any extras that may be going until you
21 finished what was on your plate, and this -- once we
22 said grace and were given the okay to start to eat,
23 there was just a cacophony of knives and forks banging
24 off the plates, effectively scraping the plates as we
25 quickly ate our food, because we knew that we couldn't

1 put our hands up for any extras that might be on
2 offering until we cleared our plate. And then my
3 recollection was that there were certainly boys with
4 certain members of staff who seemed to always be the
5 first ones to be approached and given extra food.

6 And the other thing about the food was it was used
7 as a sanction, as a punishment, so that if we had
8 misbehaved, like running away as an example, one of the
9 punishments was that we had to stand behind a chair to
10 eat our food and we'd only get half the amount we'd
11 normally get. And that was part of the punishment for
12 running away as an example, yeah.

13 Q. Okay. Well, I'll come to you running away as well
14 because I think other things did happen, but I'll come
15 to deal with that. But it ties in with some of the
16 things you've told us already.

17 Can I just ask you very briefly about one matter
18 under your section on washing and bathing at
19 paragraph 46, on page 10. You say that when you were
20 an older boy, you would shower once a week on
21 a Saturday, but you tell us that effectively there was
22 what appears to be -- you're describing something that
23 would represent a pants inspection of boys, to see
24 whether they had soiled them --

25 A. That's correct. Yes, that's correct.

1 Q. And you'd have to show them and if they were soiled, you
2 were sent to the toilet to wash them under a tap. You
3 had to come back and show the staff member their state
4 before they were put into a laundry pile; is that what
5 was happening?

6 A. That's correct, yes.

7 Q. Did you have any thoughts about that at the time?

8 A. No, I was just accepting that that was what was required
9 of us, as part of the routine, if you like, in the
10 children's home.

11 Q. But looking at it now, would you see that as
12 a humiliating practice?

13 A. I would. As an adult, I would say it was very
14 humiliating. I mean, I would never, certainly in my
15 career as a child protection social worker later in
16 life, would require any child to go through that
17 experience, yeah.

18 Q. Now, just moving on again in your statement, to the
19 section under 'Schooling' on page 11, I just want to
20 pick up some of the things you tell us about there,
21 'Bernard'. You tell us that you initially went to
22 a primary school, I think, and then you went to
23 a secondary school in Linwood, is that right?

24 A. That's correct.

25 Q. And that you were known at school as 'Gryffies', is that

1 right?

2 A. That's right, that's correct.

3 Q. And you say sometimes in a derogatory way, is that
4 correct?

5 A. Yes, it is. I mean, as lots of children do, they can be
6 a little bit cruel to one another in childhood, you
7 know, even in adolescence, and that was the case. It
8 was an identity that we were given and it was something
9 that effectively served to discriminate against us as
10 being different.

11 Q. And I think there was another difference of treatment
12 you tell us about, on the part of the headmaster who had
13 the responsibility for appointing prefects, that you
14 raised with him on one occasion the fact that he was
15 never appointing anyone from Gryffe as a prefect, is
16 that right?

17 A. Yeah, that's right. That's exactly what happened.
18 I went to see Mr McGaffney, the headmaster, and I don't
19 know why, but I just felt that it was wrong that nobody
20 from Gryffe was ever considered to be able or worthy
21 enough or otherwise to be considered to be a prefect or
22 otherwise. And to be fair, he listened to what I had to
23 say and he made me a milk monitor, responsible for
24 taking milk down to the primary school, where the infant
25 school was, yeah.

1 Q. Well, no doubt that's commendable to an extent, but it's
2 not exactly dealing with the problem of appointing
3 prefects, is it? Milk monitors weren't prefects?
4 A. No.
5 Q. No. Because I think you do say you still felt some
6 injustice even after he did that?
7 A. Yeah, I did, yes. I thought I was short-changed
8 effectively, you know, but I was -- I recognised that in
9 actual fact he had done something. He had actively
10 listened to me, I guess, was my thoughts, and I was
11 given some semblance of responsibility.
12 LADY SMITH: 'Bernard', what did the job of being milk
13 monitor involve?
14 A. Your Lady, what it involved was that I had
15 a responsibility to collect the milk in the school
16 grounds for the infant school and take it down in
17 a trolley to the infant section and give it to the
18 teachers to distribute to the infants.
19 LADY SMITH: And the milk, was that in the small one-third
20 pint glass bottles?
21 A. Yeah, it was, it's when we -- at the time before
22 Margaret Thatcher ended that provision for children at
23 school. It was the statutory milk, if you like,
24 allocation, given to all schools, yeah.
25 LADY SMITH: So I suppose you were being trusted not to

1 steal the milk, not to break the bottles and to get it
2 there in time; was that involved?

3 A. That's correct. Yeah, that's actually what it involved,
4 yes.

5 LADY SMITH: Did you do it alone?

6 A. Yeah, I did, yes. I was left to do it alone.

7 LADY SMITH: Thank you.

8 MR PEOPLES: Now, just on the subject of schooling and
9 education, you tell us that, so far as Gryffe itself was
10 concerned, there was no one to help you with homework
11 and staff never helped in that regard and you were just
12 left to your own devices; was that the way it was?

13 A. Yeah, that's correct, Jim, yes.

14 Q. Because I think you have, as a general comment about
15 impact, is that you felt that your education, when you
16 were in care, suffered quite a lot. I know it had
17 suffered before that because you were skipping school,
18 but I think you felt that that continued after you were
19 in care, is that right?

20 A. Yes, I think certainly -- I believe that it was
21 a combination of things in actual fact. I think, set
22 aside the lack of supervision and input from adults, in
23 terms of the staff members, to help you with perhaps
24 your homework and give you some assistance if you
25 require some help to understand things or tasks set.

1 I also believe, upon reflection, later as an adult and
2 as a qualified child protection social worker, that
3 given the regime, the punitive regime that we all lived
4 under and were subject to, which engendered high levels
5 of anxiety and uncertainty and a sense of insecurity,
6 that also impacted on your ability to focus and
7 concentrate, yeah.

8 Q. Okay. Just moving on then, you've got a section dealing
9 with free time or leisure time and you say that you
10 would change into play clothes after school, which would
11 be shorts and sandals, but you say that you weren't
12 allowed out of the boundaries of the home. You weren't
13 allowed to invite any friends into Gryffe to spend time.
14 You weren't allowed to go and spend time with them in
15 the village itself or at their homes. And you would be
16 disciplined if you broke any of these sort of rules, is
17 that right?

18 A. That's correct. I mean, if we were found to go outside
19 the main gate into the village area, then we were
20 disciplined. We were given the belt or cold baths for
21 transgressing the boundary. And intermittently, when we
22 were out on free time in the home grounds, a bell would
23 be rung and it would be rung by either a member of staff
24 or a nominated child and the routine was that when we
25 heard the bell, whatever we were doing in terms of

1 playing outside, climbing trees or otherwise, playing in
2 the sandpit, we had to make our way to the recreation
3 hall where there was benches, which was designated to
4 dormitories in the home, and we had to sit there and the
5 staff members, including Mr MKS on occasion, would
6 do a headcount to check that everybody was present, that
7 no one had run away.

8 Q. And these rules, whose rules were they?

9 A. My understanding was it was a rule formulated by
10 Mr MKS required of all the staff as part of the
11 regime in the children's home.

12 Q. It sounds as if he was very much SNR ?

13 A. He was. He was. He directed staff. On occasions, he
14 would come into the recreation hall and pass the staff's
15 payments of their earnings to them in an envelope et
16 cetera so -- and he would direct them to do X, Y and Z
17 in terms of tasks with us. Yeah, so he was clearly the
18 man SNR in the children's home.

19 Q. I can tell you, I think, from other records that
20 Mr MKS, we understand, became SNR at
21 Gryffe on about 22 March 1960, which was before
22 you actually went there. I don't know if that
23 was something you were aware of?

24 A. No, I wasn't aware. I just knew that he was the man
25 SNR of the children's home.

1 Q. And did you know anything about his background?

2 A. The only thing I was aware of, and I don't know, I think
3 he actually said, was that at some time, I think it was
4 probably maybe during the war period, he was in the
5 Royal Air Force and occasionally he would demonstrate
6 how to salute, for whatever reason, yeah. So that's as
7 much as I knew about him and any military service, yeah.

8 Q. Okay. Now, you have a section headed 'Chores' that
9 starts on page 14 at paragraph 63. And I'd just like to
10 just pick up on something that you say there, that you
11 say at weekends, on a Saturday, you got up and you had
12 to do housework and you described the sort of things you
13 were asked to do. You would polish -- you would put
14 polish down on lino floors on your hands and knees, and
15 with heavy big bumpers, you would bump the floors. This
16 is something everyone did. And you say when you got
17 older, chores also included scrubbing out the showers,
18 toilets and urinals, and you had to scrub tiles with
19 a hard brush, carbolic soap and Vim, and then clean them
20 down with cloths. So is that something that was
21 a regular --

22 A. Yes, that was a regular, weekly experience for us, that
23 we had to do these chores.

24 Q. And this was something everyone did, though, they all
25 had to take a turn, the older boys?

1 A. It was. Yes, it was. We could express a wish to do
2 a specific chore. I mean, one of the popular
3 activities, particularly in the summer, was to go in the
4 gardens that -- we had a professional gardener, who
5 looked after the gardens in the grounds and grew
6 raspberries and strawberries and gooseberries and also
7 potatoes, et cetera. And that was an activity, a chore,
8 if you like, that we would like to participate. It gave
9 us a chance to actually have some free strawberries and
10 gooseberries, et cetera, when he wasn't looking, yeah.
11 We'd nick them and swallow them and quickly eat them,
12 you know.

13 Q. Can I ask you this: in your time at Gryffe, did they
14 have any animals?

15 A. The only animal that I was aware of was that
16 Mr MKS had a dog, erm, a little terrier it was, that
17 used to follow him around when he was out, outside his
18 office and on the school grounds, making his rounds,
19 yeah.

20 Q. Because I think we'll hear evidence that maybe at
21 a later period there were other animals like goats and
22 a donkey and other sorts --

23 A. There was. Well, I don't know about -- there was
24 horses. His daughter had a horse. He had an interest
25 in sheep and I remember one year where he was shearing

1 the sheep that was on school grounds, and we helped him
2 to wrap up the wool and he took it somewhere, I think,
3 to sell it or otherwise, yeah.

4 But yes, there was certainly a horse belonging to
5 his daughter and there were sheep that he had
6 an interest in on the school grounds, along with some
7 cows, which I don't believe was his, but I think perhaps
8 a farmer used the school grounds, outer side of them, to
9 graze his animals, yeah.

10 Q. Because there were quite extensive grounds, were there
11 not, with woods and things like that?

12 A. Yes, there were immediate woods surrounding the home, up
13 until the storm -- we had a really bad storm. I can't
14 quite remember the year, but a lot of the trees blew
15 down. But outside of the Mettick Woods there was what
16 we called the Scarlet Woods which seemed to be woods
17 which were separate from the children's home but we were
18 allowed to walk in and to do treasure hunts and --
19 further out from the perimeter of the home, yeah.

20 Q. I'll come to something that happened there shortly,
21 but -- so -- but you've given us a general idea of the
22 layout and you tell us a bit about that in detail in
23 your statement.

24 Now, just going on to a section on birthdays and
25 Christmas. You tell us that you did get a cake on

1 birthdays and you got a box of fudge and a birthday
2 card. But you also say that Mr RFN went a bit further,
3 that he would give a box of chocolates, over and above
4 the standard box of fudge, is that right? Is that
5 something you remember he did?

6 A. Yes, he did. He would give you a box of chocolates and
7 a card, from him, yeah.

8 Q. So the card was more from him, not from the staff --

9 A. It was from him. The chocolates and the card were from
10 him. He'd say 'Happy birthday' to you, yeah.

11 Q. While you describe the present at Christmas as fairly
12 minimal, you did get a present at Christmas, that
13 was the practice that you -- is that right?

14 A. That's right, correct. We did get a present every
15 Christmas, yes.

16 Q. Now, going on to page 16, 'Bernard', you have a section
17 with contact with parents and siblings, and I think we
18 know really what you're saying here is that really the
19 only sibling you had any contact with at this time was
20 your older brother who was with you, and that was only
21 until he left, aged 15, is that right?

22 A. That's correct.

23 Q. But you say that at least when he was there, that was
24 a comfort to you because he was able to, to some extent,
25 protect you and comfort you when you were maybe upset

1 or, you say you sometimes had nightmares and would wake
2 up crying and he would comfort you and reassure you; is
3 that right?

4 A. That's correct.

5 Q. But of course he left when you were maybe 9 or 10 years
6 of age, so you weren't very old when he left and moved
7 on?

8 A. That's correct, yes.

9 Q. And you say you had no other contact with the other
10 brother who disappeared when you arrived at Gryffe; you
11 never saw him again?

12 A. That's correct, I didn't see him again, no.

13 Q. And you say that you only saw one of your sisters,
14 I think she was the youngest of the sisters, on one
15 occasion when your brother, one of your brothers on
16 leave from the army brought her to see you, is that
17 right? You saw her once?

18 A. That's right, yeah, that's right. He brought [REDACTED],
19 the younger sister, along with a friend of his when we
20 were in the community before we were taken into care,
21 a chap called [REDACTED]. He brought [REDACTED] and our
22 [REDACTED] up to see me on that particular day, yeah.

23 Q. And of course you tell us that there was no contact with
24 your mum and dad, the people that had basically
25 abandoned you?

1 A. No, we had no contact, no visits, no telephone contact,
2 no letter contact, no contact at all.

3 Q. And just in terms of more official visitors, you say
4 that you never saw a social worker or a childcare
5 officer, is that right? Apart from maybe once?

6 A. No -- yeah, well, in terms of -- when I went to [REDACTED],
7 there was an adult male who accompanied me in the
8 aircraft from Glasgow Airport, I believe it was, over to
9 [REDACTED]. He never introduced himself as a social worker,
10 but he accompanied me there and seen me off the plane,
11 handed me into the care of Mr JDP [REDACTED], my foster
12 carer, then went back on the plane and returned,
13 I assume, to Glasgow. But he was the person, the adult
14 who had responsibility to supervise me going from A to
15 B, but he never actually identified himself as a social
16 worker, yeah.

17 Q. So you weren't getting regular visits from effectively
18 someone that would be these days termed a social worker;
19 you weren't getting that sort of visit?

20 A. No.

21 Q. No.

22 A. No.

23 Q. And indeed the point you make at paragraph 75 is that:
24 'There was nobody we could complain to to say we
25 were unhappy.'

1 So there was no one you could turn to, no adult?

2 A. No, there was no -- we knew that if we complained, we
3 were subject to corporal punishment, yeah, so we did
4 very little complaining. We had nobody to complain to,
5 effectively.

6 Q. Now, if I can move on to page 17, to a section headed
7 'Running away'. You've already told us a little bit
8 about running away and what happened but I'll just ask
9 you a little bit more about that, because this is
10 I think more about Mr MKS and how he responded to
11 people who absconded, is that right?

12 A. That's correct, yes. I know on the one occasion, when
13 I was very young, I ran away and I was away for two
14 days. On these two days it just constantly rained.
15 I didn't know where I was running to. I just knew I had
16 to get away. And I slept in -- the first night in
17 a field somewhere, I think somewhere around about
18 Bishopbriggs area, not that I knew it before that time.
19 I built myself a little shelter with some straw bales
20 but of course the rain still seeped through there and
21 the ground was jagged with the cuttings of the hay. And
22 the following day, I was walking early in the morning
23 when the police noticed me. I don't know, it must have
24 been something like 1.00 or 2.00 in the morning.
25 I didn't have a watch, I wasn't aware of the time, but I

1 knew it was very late. And they gave chase to me and
2 arrested me and took me into the police station, yeah.

3 LADY SMITH: 'Bernard', you said you knew you had to get
4 away. Why did you know you had to get away? Why did
5 you feel like that?

6 (Pause)

7 Just take your time.

8 (Pause)

9 A. I -- I -- I just knew that the treatment I was
10 undergoing, and other children, was wrong. It wasn't
11 right. And, er, I was just running away because I was
12 frightened. I was fearful. I had no control over what
13 happened to me and the ongoing corporal punishments and
14 cold baths and sleep deprivation. Sleep deprivation.

15 LADY SMITH: Well, I wondered about that, thinking back to
16 the nighttime punishments, at a stage when you were
17 still growing children, needing your sleep.

18 MR PEOPLES: Was it also a bit more than that? Because
19 we're going to come on to Mr Gilmour. Things were
20 happening with him, were they not?

21 A. Yes, Mr -- yes, okay.

22 LADY SMITH: Yes. We'll come to that in a moment, but --
23 and I don't want to put words in your mouth, but from
24 what you've said, and what I know I've read in your
25 statement, I suppose you wouldn't have felt, when you

1 were in the home, that there was any hiding place,
2 anywhere you could get peace from the bad things that
3 were happening to you, or the bad things you saw
4 happening to other children; have I got that right?

5 A. That's correct, my Lady, yes.

6 LADY SMITH: Yes. Thank you, 'Bernard'.

7 Mr Peoples.

8 MR PEOPLES: 'Bernard', you told us about the police picking
9 you up and what I want to do is to find out what
10 happened when Mr MKS -- he turned up to take you
11 back to Gryffe, is that right?

12 A. Yes, he turned up. I'd been in the police station, in
13 the police cells. In actual fact, my experience with
14 the police then was positive. They didn't close the
15 cell door on me. They left it open and one of the
16 female police officers offered if I would like fish and
17 chips, which I said 'yes', 'cause I was hungry
18 of course, and she brought back fish and chips for me,
19 which I duly ate, with real gusto. And then
20 Mr MKS came to pick me up some hours later.

21 Q. And you tell us about what -- how Mr MKS responded.
22 It would appear that he took a very dim view of boys who
23 ran away; would that be fair to say, before we look at
24 the detail?

25 A. Yeah. We knew -- I knew that when I returned to the

1 home that I was going to be subject to discipline, so
2 I --

3 Q. And you tell us that you were, and in fact he took you
4 from his car to the office and started to give you the
5 belt and you tell us that you pulled your hands away
6 because it was sore?

7 A. Yeah.

8 Q. And at that point you tell us that Mrs LYQ
9 intervened, what did she do?

10 A. Erm, she intervened and got a hold of me and wrestled me
11 to the floor and grabbed my legs and pulled my trousers
12 down and pants down from my bottom, and Mr MKS
13 whipped me on the backside and on the legs with the
14 belt, yeah.

15 Q. Okay. And then you say, and I think this is basically
16 Mr MKS's way of dealing with things, he didn't just
17 give boys one punishment, he gave them a series of
18 punishments; is that correct?

19 A. Yes. He took me from there into the bath upstairs,
20 where we bathed once a week, and filled the bath with
21 cold water and had me go in the bath in the cold water.
22 I don't know how long I was there. It must have been at
23 least a good hour, and he would occasionally run the
24 cold water again to make sure it remained cold for me,
25 yeah.

1 Q. And then when that was done, he went further, you say
2 that you were put into pyjamas and shorts and then you
3 had a week of standing facing the wall in your pyjamas
4 throughout the day while other boys were at school?
5 A. Yes. Throughout the day and throughout the night when
6 they went to bed, I stood and had hours, I don't know,
7 until the wee hours really, standing and facing the
8 wall.
9 Q. And you tell us that you ran away a second time when you
10 were a bit older, you were in secondary school,
11 'Bernard', and --
12 A. Yes.
13 Q. -- you say again when you were brought back, you were
14 put into a cold bath when you got back, is that correct?
15 A. That's correct, yes. I was put --
16 Q. You were also given the belt -- sorry, my fault.
17 A. Yeah, I was put into a cold bath and then I was made to
18 put, erm, old rugby boots on, which the leather was
19 really rough, it hadn't been treated. There were wooden
20 studs. I had no socks on. They deliberately removed my
21 socks, Mr MKS did, and ordered me to run round in
22 a courtyard where we had a swing and a roundabout, it
23 was a play area, because the children's home used to
24 be -- used to have stables, horse stables, attached to
25 it. It was a big family home.

1 And I was ordered to run round the yard with my feet
2 in these rugby boots and no laces, and the skin on my
3 heels was taken off. I was then brought into the
4 recreation hall, where we all sat in our dormitories, on
5 benches, and ordered to hop up and down on one leg. And
6 of course, if I put my other leg down, which I did
7 because I was in pain, because the skin --

8 (Pause)

9 Because -- because the skin was off my heels, he
10 would whip me with the belt again across my legs.

11 Q. And I think, 'Bernard', that wasn't the end of things,
12 because for the following two weeks, you say that you
13 were given no pocket money. You talk about food
14 deprivation, which I think is the getting half-rations,
15 as it were, is that right?

16 A. That's correct, yes.

17 Q. And sleep deprivation, and that's because you were put
18 to bed later than normal and later than the other boys,
19 is that correct?

20 A. That's correct, yes.

21 Q. And you also didn't go to school for that period either,
22 is that right?

23 A. That's correct, yes.

24 Q. And you say that you -- one of the reasons you think
25 that happened is that as a result of what had happened

1 with the way that Mr MKS had punished you, that you
2 had bruises and that if you went to school, there was
3 a possibility that they would see these marks and
4 bruises, is that right? Is that what you now think?

5 A. That's what I now think, as an adult, I do, yes.

6 It was -- the occasion where I was so badly bruised
7 up, along with many other boys, I'm sure it was
8 a strategy to keep the abuse away from the prying eyes
9 of any concerning adults in a school setting or
10 otherwise, yes. They would notice the bruises.

11 Q. Now, 'Bernard', I want to move from Mr MKS to
12 another member of staff, a Mr Gilmour. Now, you were
13 quite young, I think, when you first encountered
14 Mr Gilmour, is that right?

15 A. That's correct.

16 Q. He was quite a young man as well at that time, was he?

17 A. I think he was young in terms of, you know, from my own
18 perspective now as a much older person, but he was
19 about, something like 24, that age, 23/24, I would have
20 thought, yeah.

21 Q. Well, I can tell you that the Mr Gilmour we're talking
22 about was born in 1939, so that will perhaps give us
23 an idea that you are not that far away from what you've
24 said. He may have been a bit younger than 24 or 25, but
25 you're in the right area, I think. It's always

1 difficult as a young person to put an age on an adult,
2 as I think we all know.

3 Now, you say that -- and I think you told us about
4 this earlier, 'Bernard' -- that there would be organised
5 play activities in the woods, including treasure hunts,
6 is that right?

7 A. That's correct, yes.

8 Q. And Mr Gilmour was an organiser of these activities?

9 A. That's correct.

10 Q. And you say what he would do would be to hide sweets
11 around trees and bushes and so forth and he would get
12 children to go and hunt for them to see if they could
13 find a sweet. Is that how it started?

14 A. Yeah, that's -- that was the activity.

15 Q. And then you say that you recall a particular occasion
16 when Mr Gilmour asked you to stay back with him in the
17 woods, when the other boys had gone away, is that right?

18 A. That's correct, yes.

19 Q. And you tell us that he asked you to lie back on the
20 ground?

21 A. Correct.

22 Q. And you recall him saying something along the lines of
23 that, 'I think you're a really nice little boy'?

24 A. That's -- yes.

25 Q. And then something else happened, did it not, that he

1 put his hand inside your shorts and near your private
2 parts, is that right?

3 A. That's correct, yes.

4 Q. And you tell us that you stood up and ran away and --

5 A. That's correct.

6 Q. -- at that time, you didn't actually think too much
7 about it, is that right?

8 A. No, I just stood up and ran, 'cause I was frightened,
9 and joined the other lads in the woods, looking for
10 sweets, yeah.

11 Q. And you then say that shortly afterwards, when
12 Mr Gilmour was on night duty, he came into your -- the
13 room that you were sleeping in, is that right?

14 A. That's correct.

15 Q. And you say that he came in on a pretext of taking you
16 to the toilet?

17 A. That's correct.

18 Q. And you say when you got to the toilet he started to
19 feel you down below. Is that similar to what he'd done
20 in the woods?

21 A. That's correct, yes.

22 Q. And you were saying 'no'?

23 A. That's correct.

24 Q. And you say he got his penis out, which was by then
25 erect, and he placed your hand on his penis; is that the

1 way it was?

2 A. That's correct, yes.

3 Q. He tried to get you to pull your hand back and forward

4 on his penis?

5 A. Yes, that's correct.

6 Q. And you say you started to cry and continued to say

7 'no', he stopped and then let you go back to your bed?

8 A. That's correct.

9 Q. And just, at this point you do mention at paragraph 93,

10 'Bernard', that the members of staff who were abusers

11 would prioritise the kids they were abusing when food

12 was being given out, when the extras were being given

13 out, and you now see that as a form of perhaps grooming,

14 is that right?

15 A. That's right. At the time, I wouldn't have described it

16 as grooming, of course, as a young person. I wasn't

17 au fait with the nature of that kind of behaviour,

18 described as that. But certainly upon reflection and

19 introspection, particularly, erm, as a trained child

20 protection social worker, I would say it was definitely

21 a grooming process, yes.

22 Q. I think you say you on one occasion can recall getting

23 extra food before he tried to abuse you as you've

24 described, is that right?

25 A. That's right.

1 Q. Now, I'm not going to dwell on what you say about
2 another member of staff, Mr MKU, but I think there
3 was certainly talk that he was perhaps someone that was
4 a bit strange, is that right?

5 A. That's correct. He was overfamiliar with boys and some
6 boys were saying that he was a bit weird and you needed
7 to keep an eye on him effectively, yeah. He would, and
8 I've said in my statement, be dressed in a tracksuit and
9 he would very regularly stand in the recreation hall as
10 we were sat on the benches and he would clearly have
11 an erection, yeah. We used to giggle as kids.

12 Q. But he didn't do anything of a similar kind to you to
13 what --

14 A. He didn't do --

15 Q. -- Mr Gilmour did?

16 A. No, he didn't, no.

17 Q. You've told us about Mr MKS's range of punishments
18 before, so I'm not going to go over that again. You've
19 mentioned cold baths and standing facing walls for long
20 periods, being punished with a belt, standing behind
21 your chairs at meal times and getting half-rations and
22 so forth, so I'm not going to go through that. But you
23 do tell us that Mr MKS was in the habit of carrying
24 two belts, like school belts, is that right?

25 A. That's right. He had what he called 'Brown Bess', which

1 was a wide but malleable piece of leather strap that he
2 rolled up and had it in his jacket pocket every time he
3 was about on the ground amongst us, and he would readily
4 pull it out and discipline a child for whatever reason.
5 And he also had what he called 'Black Bess', which was
6 a thicker, a much thicker leather belt that was more
7 rigid, and he had a bit of a party piece of splaying the
8 end part of the belt, which had a cut in between the
9 middle, as if it was legs, and stand the belt upright.
10 But he used that as the more -- I suppose it was a belt
11 that felt much harder in terms of the pain it inflicted
12 on you when he used it, yeah.

13 Q. And you say that certainly he would use one of these
14 belts sometimes to whack boys on the legs?

15 A. Yes.

16 Q. You've already said that happened to you?

17 A. Yes, I mean, boys like myself who perhaps when we put
18 our hands out to get the belt and then would draw them
19 away, pull them apart and he'd miss because we did that,
20 he would then use the belt to whip our legs and our
21 backsides if we did that, yeah.

22 Q. And you say that was quite a regular occurrence?

23 A. It was, yeah.

24 Q. And he was quite happy to do this in front of other
25 boys, not just --

1 A. Yes.

2 Q. -- in the privacy of his office?

3 A. Yes, he did and I think, you know, as an adult later in
4 life, my supposition was that it was a warning to anyone
5 else, a demonstration of discipline, his discipline, and
6 a warning to any other boys that if they misbehaved,
7 gave cheek or otherwise broke any rules, that there
8 would be consequences like this, yeah.

9 Q. And I think you've also got a memory that some staff
10 would ask a boy to take off his sandal and smack the boy
11 on the backside. You say it wasn't regular, but you had
12 that experience a few times, is that right?

13 A. That's right, yeah. We'd be told to bend over and we
14 would have the sandal strike our backside a couple of
15 times.

16 Q. Was that over clothing though?

17 A. Over clothing, yeah.

18 Q. Okay. And you say that boys who were on punishment
19 didn't go to school and I think you've told us about
20 some occasions when that happened to you, is that right?

21 A. That's right, yes.

22 Q. And you think that, looking back, that one reason would
23 be that there was -- there would be bruising and marks
24 which could be perhaps noticed if the boy attended
25 school?

1 A. Yes, and in particular in the primary school when we
2 wore short trousers, that would be very obvious, that
3 there was bruises on our arms and on our legs, yeah.
4 And of course, one of the other punishments that
5 Mr MKS gave was for the older boys, he would put you
6 in short trousers after the discipline, once the
7 bruising had gone away, as part of a punishment, to
8 I suppose humiliate you going back to school.

9 Q. So you would go back to school wearing short trousers
10 when maybe other boys of the same age at the school
11 would be wearing long trousers?

12 A. Yes, that's right, yeah.

13 Q. Presumably that did cause a bit of ridicule from some of
14 the older boys in the school?

15 A. It did, yes, absolutely, yeah.

16 Q. And you say there was other sanctions like not being
17 allowed to watch TV, not to go to the swimming baths,
18 not to get pocket money and in some cases not to get
19 visits?

20 A. That's right.

21 Q. Boys wouldn't get visits from parents, if there were
22 parents who were visiting?

23 A. Yeah, visits that were arranged for boys and they were
24 expecting and looking forward to them, who had parents
25 who wanted to keep in touch with their children, these

1 would be sanctioned effectively and stopped if the boy
2 involved, looking for the visit, gave cheek to the staff
3 or presented with any kind of challenging behaviours.

4 That was a sanction they used.

5 Q. But it seems in his case that he didn't just choose one
6 from a range of sanctions. When someone misbehaved or
7 did something that he didn't like, he carried out
8 a range of punishments for the same offence, if you
9 like?

10 A. Yes. I mean, and also, I distinctly remember, and
11 I know it may be deemed as hearsay, but one of the lads
12 who was in the home with me later in life had shared
13 with me that Mr MKS had gone to my school, which was
14 his school, and had requested that Mr McGaffney, the
15 headteacher, inform him whenever any of us from the
16 children's home were subject to any discipline by the
17 tawse, the belt again, which was used legally in school,
18 that he wanted to know and he would punish us again when
19 we got home to the home. And apparently Mr McGaffney
20 said that once they were subject to punishment here, he
21 wouldn't be looking for them -- us to be punished again
22 in the children's home. He refused to participate in
23 that, yeah.

24 Q. But that was Mr MKS's idea?

25 A. That was Mr MKS's idea, yes.

1 Q. Now, just moving on then towards the end of your time in
2 Gryffe, you have a recollection of what you describe as
3 a big expos when three former -- well, you think
4 a number of former residents who had just left, had gone
5 to the newspapers about the regime, and you say there
6 was an inquiry in response to that and someone from
7 Glasgow Children's Services came to talk to the boys, is
8 that right?

9 A. That's correct, yeah.

10 Q. I can tell you, you're maybe a little bit out on your
11 dates, but don't worry about that. But I can tell you
12 that on 10 September 1967, the Sunday Mail published
13 a piece about excessive corporal punishment and other
14 irregular practices at Gryffe, based largely on accounts
15 from former residents who had left the home, although
16 they, I think, did speak to other people, including
17 former staff, some former staff. So you're correct in
18 this and it did occur, I think, on the dates [REDACTED]
19 before you actually left Gryffe.

20 And what you recall, at least, is that you have
21 a memory of boys being brought into the front office,
22 which I think you describe as generally was hallowed
23 territory, so it wasn't a place you were in very often,
24 is that right?

25 A. No, the only time you went to the front office was to be

1 disciplined, effectively.

2 Q. But on this occasion, your memory is that you were sat
3 down in front of a nice blazing fire and given cups of
4 tea and biscuits, and that an individual, who was not
5 a member of staff, when Mr MKS was still in
6 attendance, was asking you were you happy, or asking the
7 boys were they happy. And you say that I think
8 basically they -- everyone was saying yes, you were
9 happy and had no complaints, because you were too
10 frightened to say anything else?

11 A. That's correct, yes.

12 Q. Can I just check one thing with you, because we know
13 from other things that there were actually reports about
14 investigations into the allegations that were published,
15 and we know that there was a visit by the Children's
16 Officer and the Convener of the Children's Committee on
17 Saturday, 9 September 1967, which was the day before the
18 article was published and they spent a number of hours
19 at Gryffe, and you would still be there.

20 And then we're told in another report that
21 a subcommittee of the Children's Committee undertook
22 an investigation and a number of boys at Gryffe were
23 interviewed on 8 October 1967, and I think again with
24 the dates, you would probably still be there.

25 Can I just ask you this: were you formally

1 interviewed by anyone from Glasgow that you can recall?

2 A. I can't recall being formally interviewed by anyone, no.

3 Q. Okay. You don't need to worry too much about this. We
4 have these reports and we can see and to some extent I
5 think they echo some of the things you've told us about
6 today, including Mr MKS's punishments. But you
7 don't need to concern yourself too much. I just wanted
8 to check on that.

9 Now, if I could move on, LYJ, I'm not going to
10 cover your time in [REDACTED], but you tell us about it and
11 we can read that for ourselves. And you tell us on
12 page 25 that you left Gryffe when you were 14 in 1967 to
13 stay with your sister for a time. And then you have
14 a section on life after care and again, I largely think
15 we can read that for ourselves. But basically you did,
16 after leaving, join what you call the Boys' Soldiers and
17 then you went into a regiment and you were in the
18 services for around seven years and you've told us about
19 that; that's broadly what happened after you left
20 Gryffe?

21 A. That's correct, yes.

22 Q. And you say you got married while you were still in the
23 services, but I think your marriage ended when you were
24 in Scotland and you had come out of the services. And
25 then you went various places, I think, after that

1 happened and then you ended up I think in London for
2 a time, is that correct?

3 A. That's correct, yes.

4 Q. And you, while you were there, you did some courses to
5 get qualifications; that was the start of your progress
6 towards becoming a social worker, is that right?

7 A. That's correct, yes.

8 Q. And then I think you went to Edinburgh for a time where
9 you were homeless for a period and you tell us about
10 that in your statement, and that you did some coursework
11 there through the Open University, is that right?

12 A. That's correct, yes.

13 Q. And then you worked with your brother for a time and you
14 also had a job working in residential care south of the
15 border -- I'm sorry, south of the border from where I am
16 today, in England, and you then worked in residential
17 care in Wales; is that right?

18 A. That's correct, yes.

19 Q. And you married again in around 2000, I think, and
20 settled in Wales, is that right?

21 A. That's correct.

22 Q. Yeah. And while you were there, you put yourself
23 through university and qualified as a social worker in
24 2002?

25 A. That's correct.

1 Q. And you retired in 2016?

2 A. Yes, that's correct.

3 Q. So you came late in the day to being a qualified social
4 worker, but then you spent the rest of your working life
5 as a social worker, is that correct?

6 A. That's correct, yes.

7 Q. Now, you have a section called 'Impact' starting on
8 page 28, and I'll just take one or two points from that,
9 from you, if I may.

10 First of all, you say when you went into care, you
11 really had nothing to compare your life in care to,
12 because you -- all you knew up to that point was neglect
13 and poverty. So you weren't in a position of someone
14 that came from a happy home who could say: 'This isn't
15 the way I was treated at home'?

16 A. Yes. I mean, I was born into poverty and neglect. As
17 you say, Jim, it's all I knew. I had no reference point
18 to compare and contrast with and it wasn't until I was
19 taken into care that I realised that there was such
20 a thing as regular food on a daily basis, so --

21 Q. But your experiences in care, although you got the
22 regular food, the basics if you like, which was
23 something you weren't used to, you say that Gryffe
24 itself, in paragraph 131, lacked warmth, it lacked
25 fairness and it lacked justice, children were there to

1 be seen but not heard. The needs of the institution had
2 to be met rather than the needs of the individual
3 children. It was all about keeping order, the need to
4 be in control, and indeed also, because of your
5 experiences at the hands of the staff, you learned not
6 to get close to adults, particularly males. Is that
7 correct?

8 A. That's absolutely correct, yes.

9 Q. And you tell us that you didn't do particularly well at
10 school, although clearly you did educate yourself later
11 in life and so you had the potential, but you didn't
12 really get the opportunity to realise it, is that right?

13 A. That's correct, yes.

14 Q. And you didn't, on leaving care, you tell us, have any
15 social skills to navigate life, to make safe attachments
16 and connections to people, and I think you tell us that
17 that has affected your relationships in adult life very
18 much?

19 A. That's correct, yes.

20 Q. And indeed, you tell us on page 29, at paragraph 135,
21 that you -- for a large part of the time when you were
22 in the services, you concealed the fact that you were
23 from a care background, is that right?

24 A. That's correct, yes.

25 Q. But when your brother explained that you had been in

1 care, I think towards the end of your time, things
2 changed and it was realised that -- where you had been
3 as a child, and you feel that the officers or some of
4 them dealt with you in a much more sympathetic and
5 understanding way, is that right?

6 A. Yeah, that's right. When I was in the Boys' Soldiers,
7 you know, again in terms of introspection and
8 reflection, erm, because of the abuse of authority and
9 the misuse of corporal punishment et cetera, that
10 I learned not to trust adults and I was sensitised to
11 injustice and, fortunately or unfortunately, in the
12 military they would get you to do things that perhaps
13 you think weren't quite right, that you should question
14 it, but they encouraged you to do as you were told and
15 ask questions later. And I believe, because of the
16 trauma and abusive experiences I went through as
17 a child, I overreacted to that kind of treatment and
18 behaviour and I quickly fought back and struck out to
19 anyone who was guilty, if you like, of that kind of
20 abusive behaviour towards me.

21 So I was seen, as a consequence, as being a bit
22 problematic and they were considering at the time to
23 discharge me out of the military, but once they had
24 a conversation with my brother, who was at the time
25 a serving Royal Engineer, and they were informed about

1 my care background, and were told clearly by him that,
2 'The harder you come at LYJ, the harder he'll come back
3 at you, so you need to change your strategy', which they
4 did, and whereas they were less punitive towards me.
5 I put myself in close arrest whenever I was
6 transgressing any rules and the Provost Sergeant would
7 say to me, 'Pick your cell, LYJ, make a cup of tea and
8 let's have a chat'. So I'd still be subject to close
9 arrest, I'd still be subject to a custodial sentence
10 once I was disciplined, like 28 days' detention, and
11 subject to no pay, et cetera. But they eased off on the
12 punitive approach they used by me, yeah.

13 Q. Okay. But what you do say at paragraph 141, that you
14 like to think of yourself as a survivor who has
15 surmounted their disadvantages and you've qualified at
16 university and you worked for the last part of your
17 professional -- your working life as a professional in
18 social work. So you've achieved, despite all of these
19 hardships and disadvantages, and you like to think that
20 that is something that you should take credit for.

21 I hope you do.

22 A. I do, Jim, yes. I mean, it was a tough challenge, but
23 I've always been determined, and that would be
24 demonstrable in when I volunteered to go and do my
25 [REDACTED] selection and joined the [REDACTED] regiment

1 after selection, passing the first time. And my
2 intention then was to have a go at [REDACTED]
3 selection, but my wife at the time couldn't cope with
4 the anxiety and the worry about tours in Ireland and
5 losing friends and me subject to injury, and gave me an
6 ultimatum that I needed to get out. If I was to go
7 [REDACTED], that our relationship would be
8 ended. So I came out then, yeah.

9 Q. Now, can I move to something later on in your statement
10 towards the end, I just want to try and pick this up
11 with you. At page 32, you have a section headed
12 'Reporting of abuse'.

13 And taking this short, you tell us that when you
14 were still in the Boys' Soldiers, when you were fairly
15 young, a police officer attended your barracks to give
16 you -- you call it a subpoena, we'd probably call it
17 a witness citation, but don't worry about the
18 terminology, and that you in response to that went to
19 Paisley Sheriff Court where you saw Andrew Gilmour.

20 You say that you didn't speak to him. You gave
21 evidence in a case against him. You say that you told
22 the court he abused you and how he did it and so forth,
23 and then you left and went back to barracks and you
24 don't know what the outcome of that proceeding was. And
25 you've tried to get records to see if you can find out

1 but you've been not successful; is that correct?

2 A. That's correct, yes.

3 Q. But I can tell you, and I think you know this, that
4 Mr Gilmour, Andrew Gilmour, was convicted in 2016 of
5 offences against children. He was a BB leader, who
6 sexually abused boys in his company and he was convicted
7 in 2016. And we also know that he was tried again in
8 2018 in a sheriff and jury case in Glasgow, but it
9 appears from -- the information we do have is that the
10 jury on that occasion returned a majority 'not proven'
11 verdict for similar types of offences to the ones he had
12 been convicted of two years before.

13 So I think you know some of that, is that correct?

14 A. That's correct. I have to say it wasn't -- if it hadn't
15 been for the endeavours of my good wife, [REDACTED], she was
16 determined, because up to a certain point when, post the
17 Glasgow Sheriff Court experience, the police took the
18 view that unless I was able to, say -- give them
19 a Christian name, there was nothing that they could do
20 for me in terms of any allegations of abuse against me
21 by Gilmour. And my good wife made it her business to
22 try and -- she searched all the papers online and came
23 across an article in a paper, I can't remember the date
24 of it, where Andrew Gilmour had been convicted of these
25 offences against these two boys, and I confirmed to

1 ██████ that that was indeed the member of staff that
2 looked after me in Gryffe, yeah.

3 Q. Lastly, because I'm conscious of the time, that you have
4 a section 'Lessons to be learned'. And can I just try
5 and capture just the essence of what you're saying
6 there.

7 You faced the dilemma I think, against the backdrop
8 of a social worker in modern practice, of dealing with
9 the mantra that: to keep yourself safe, you should avoid
10 physical contact with kids. But you do say that you've
11 had difficulty with that, because of your own experience
12 of the absence of contact and how important it is, when
13 it's healthy contact with children. So that's always
14 been a bit of a problem for you, is that right,
15 professionally?

16 A. That's right, it is correct. I feel quite strongly that
17 as long as you make an appropriate and balanced
18 assessment of an individual and allow them to take the
19 initiative, to be inviting you into their world in
20 a safe way, that they should experience some form of
21 tactile comfort and human experience.

22 I mean, I remember on one occasion when I was
23 a family support worker, working for the local
24 authority, before I went to do my social work training
25 at university, that I put in my recording that

1 I comforted a little boy who was being rejected by his
2 peers in the playground when I was taking him to school.
3 It was a high-profile family case that I was involved
4 with. And I was called into the office by the manager
5 and told quite clearly I should never put my arms around
6 a child and show that kind of comfort, 'You're putting
7 yourself at risk, so don't do it again', yeah.

8 Q. Okay. And the other thing I want to just bring out
9 lastly, and it's a theme that we can see from your
10 statement, is that you clearly feel, because of your own
11 experience of being separated from your siblings for
12 much of your childhood, that local authorities should do
13 much more to promote sibling groups and to keep them, to
14 some extent, in contact, even if they're not always in
15 the same place. And you feel in your case, that was not
16 something that happened and it had fairly devastating
17 consequences for your relationships with your own
18 siblings; is that correct?

19 A. That's right. I didn't know where my siblings were when
20 I came out of care. They didn't know where I was when
21 they came out of care. I spent some considerable time
22 in the military during my leaves trying to find one in
23 particular, [REDACTED], my younger sister.

24 And eventually I went to the police in Manchester in
25 one of my leave breaks, looking for [REDACTED]. They

1 confirmed that they knew about [REDACTED] because at the
2 time they were involved with [REDACTED] who was involved
3 in Class A drug misuse. But they said that unless she
4 was willing to meet with me and willing to talk to me,
5 that they couldn't give me any information, that was it.

6 It was shortly after that that the orderly officer
7 came to my address, outside of the barracks by that
8 time -- I was in a relationship with my first wife --
9 and informed me that [REDACTED] was found deceased, dead,
10 in Camden Town, in a flat because of a drug overdose,
11 yes.

12 Q. Now, these are all --

13 LADY SMITH: 'Bernard', as you have otherwise told me, you
14 had the possibility of relationships with and support
15 from a large number of siblings, but you were denied it
16 because of the contact having been broken when you were
17 very young, is that right?

18 A. That's right. We had no contact with one another,
19 your Ladyship, which I -- I wasn't aware that I was
20 entitled to any contact. I just accepted my lot as it
21 was dished out to me as a child, a vulnerable child, and
22 did as I was directed and told by authority, yeah.

23 MR PEOPLES: 'Bernard', these are all the questions that
24 I have for you today and I can only just thank you for
25 making yourself available today and telling us about

1 your experiences, however difficult that is, and I think
2 we know it's been difficult. But I thank you very much
3 and I just wish you all the best for the future and just
4 to perhaps have a more relaxing day from now on.

5 Thank you very much.

6 A. Thank you.

7 LADY SMITH: 'Bernard', can I add my thanks. I'm really
8 grateful to you for coping with everything we've been
9 asking you for quite a long time now. I said at the
10 beginning I understood how difficult and emotional it
11 can be and it's entirely understandable, having heard
12 what you have to tell us, just how hard it will have
13 been, and exhausting.

14 But let me assure you it's been enormously valuable
15 to hear you and to hear your account of Gryffe. You are
16 the first oral witness to speak to me about Gryffe, so
17 it's very important that I was able to have such
18 a clear, thoughtful and articulate account. I'm so
19 grateful to you for that.

20 Now, as Mr Peoples says, go and rest. I think
21 you'll need it. Thank you.

22 A. Thank you, your Ladyship. Thank you very much. Thank
23 you.

24 (The witness withdrew)

25 LADY SMITH: We will have the morning break now but before

1 I rise, there are some names I need to mention, names of
2 people who are not to be identified as referred to in
3 our evidence outside this room, because they're
4 protected by my General Restriction Order. And they're
5 a Mr MKU [REDACTED], a Mrs RHI [REDACTED] -- I'm sorry. Mr MKU [REDACTED],
6 Mr MKS [REDACTED] and Mrs LYQ [REDACTED], a Mr RFN [REDACTED] but in fact we
7 think his name is RFN [REDACTED] and the witness agreed that was
8 probably right, and the witness's sister, [REDACTED] and
9 his wife [REDACTED].

10 Now, let me check.

11 MR PEOPLES: I think there was quite a number of brothers
12 whose names may have been --

13 LADY SMITH: Were there other brothers that were mentioned
14 in passing?

15 MR PEOPLES: [REDACTED] and [REDACTED], and I think actually
16 before you came in, my Lady, I mentioned our witness's
17 first name, so just for the avoidance of doubt in case
18 anyone --

19 LADY SMITH: LYJ [REDACTED].

20 MR PEOPLES: Yes.

21 LADY SMITH: Yes, that's not to be repeated.

22 MR PEOPLES: Not to be repeated outwith this room.

23 LADY SMITH: Thank you very much.

24 MR PEOPLES: So, I think that's hopefully all.

25 LADY SMITH: That's it. Thank you. We'll stop now for the

1 morning break.

2 (11.37 am)

3 (A short break)

4 (11.54 am)

5 LADY SMITH: Ms Forbes, good morning.

6 MS FORBES: Good morning, my Lady.

7 LADY SMITH: The next witness?

8 MS FORBES: Yes, the next witness, my Lady, is an applicant

9 who has waived his anonymity and his name is

10 Eugene Docherty.

11 LADY SMITH: Thank you.

12 Eugene Docherty (sworn)

13 LADY SMITH: Do sit down and make yourself comfortable. Now,

14 I hope my first question for you is an easy one: how

15 would you like me to address you, by your first name or

16 your second name? I'm happy to use either.

17 A. First name is fine.

18 LADY SMITH: Well, thank you for that, Eugene.

19 But moreover, thank you for coming here today to

20 help us with your evidence. I do already have your

21 written evidence in front of me and it's been really

22 helpful to have that in advance, but, if it's all right,

23 we'd like to explore some specific aspects of it today.

24 We're not going to go through it word for word or

25 paragraph by paragraph, don't worry about that. But it

1 is in the red folder that's in front of you, which will
2 be available for you to use if you want to do so, and we
3 will also be bringing sections of it up on the screen in
4 front of you, which some people find is helpful.

5 Now, Eugene, first of all, please understand that
6 I know we're taking you back a long time in your memory
7 and that's not easy, and that some of what we will want
8 to talk to you about, you may find very difficult.
9 Please don't worry about that. I am well used, in this
10 role, in this Inquiry, to just how distressing it can be
11 to take people back decades ago to what was happening in
12 their lives.

13 If you want a break, that's not a problem. If you
14 want a pause, that's not a problem. If we're not making
15 sense, if we're asking questions badly, that's our
16 fault, not yours, so don't hesitate to tell us.

17 My hope is that we'll be finished your evidence
18 around 1 o'clock, but don't feel under any pressure if
19 you do need to take time anywhere during your evidence.
20 Just say. Is that all right?

21 A. That's fine, yep.

22 LADY SMITH: If you're ready, I'll hand over to Ms Forbes
23 and she'll take it from there. Thank you.

24 Questions from Ms Forbes

25 MS FORBES: Thank you, my Lady.

1 Good morning, Eugene.

2 A. Morning.

3 Q. You'll see in front of you the folder with your
4 statement. If I can ask you just to have a look at the
5 statement and turn to the very last page for me. That's
6 page 24.

7 Now, you'll see at paragraph 121, Eugene, that
8 there's a declaration there and it says:

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

13 And then you've signed the statement and you've
14 dated it 8 August 2018; is that right?

15 A. That's correct.

16 Q. Is that still the position?

17 A. Yes, uh-huh.

18 Q. Now, Eugene, you can go back to the beginning of your
19 statement or put it to one side, it's up to you,
20 whatever's easiest, and it's there in front of you on
21 the screen as well.

22 For our records, Eugene, we give your statement
23 a reference number, so for the transcript, I'm just
24 going to read that out but it's nothing for you to worry
25 about. It's WIT.001.002.0630.

1 Now, Eugene, you tell us you were born in 1959, is
2 that right?

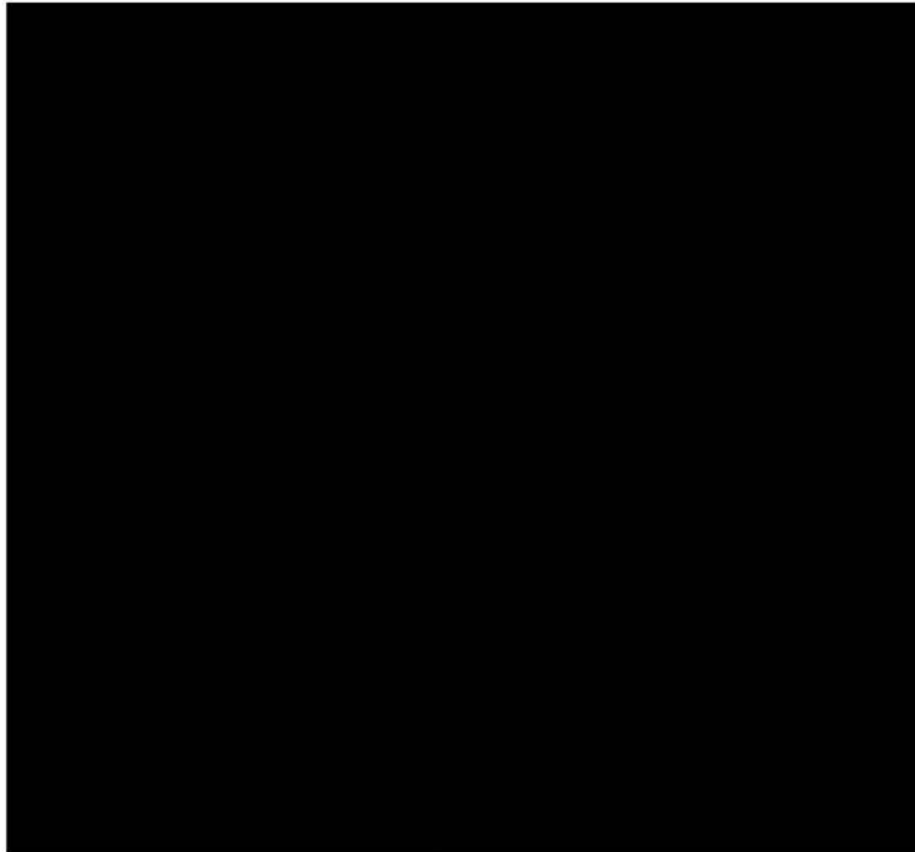
3 A. That's correct.

4 Q. And then you go on to tell us about your life before you
5 went into care from paragraph 2 in your statement, and
6 I'm just going to talk about that with you briefly just
7 now, if that's okay.

8 I think you tell us you lived in Garnethill in
9 Glasgow with your mum and your dad, is that right?

10 A. That's correct, yeah.

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1 Q. Eugene, you go on to talk about your life when you were
2 younger and you tell us that unfortunately your dad was
3 an alcoholic and he had worked in a whisky distillery
4 and you think that's probably where that came from?

5 A. Yeah.

6 Q. But he was also [REDACTED].
7 And you tell us that your mum then had a breakdown and
8 left the family home when you were about 10?

9 A. Mm-hmm.

10 Q. And she went to stay in Dollar and you were then staying
11 still with your father, is that right?

12 A. That's correct, yeah.

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16 Q. But you tell us, Eugene, that during that time your dad
17 wasn't working, he wasn't paying the rent and you were
18 moving house a lot together. And you also explain that
19 he would be out all day and then lock you [REDACTED]
20 [REDACTED] out of the house, is that right?

21 A. That's correct, yeah.

22 Q. And you explain that essentially you were then [REDACTED]
23 [REDACTED] looking after [REDACTED] and you'd be out
24 basically walking the streets of Glasgow during the day
25 until nighttime, is that right?

1 A. That's correct, yes.

2 Q. And I think at paragraph 4 you tell us, Eugene, that
3 there was no food at home and you were always hungry and
4 you'd be eating fruit that had been thrown out into the
5 alleyways?

6 A. Yeah, [REDACTED] did that sometimes, yeah.

7 Q. And sleeping arrangements, you say at night you slept in
8 a cupboard on a mattress. Was that in the house?

9 A. That was in the house, yeah.

10 Q. But you would often wake up to find strangers in the
11 house?

12 A. Yeah. Drunk.

13 Q. And I think you explain there would be women that your
14 father had brought home?

15 A. Other women or men or his friends.

16 Q. And you describe your existence at that time of you [REDACTED]
17 [REDACTED] as being like a Dickens novel?

18 A. Yeah, when you look back on things, it seems like that.

19 Q. And your father would come back home drunk, [REDACTED]
20 [REDACTED]
21 [REDACTED]

22 A. Yeah.

23 Q. And the police would be called on occasions. I think
24 you say that they took your father away, and you [REDACTED]
25 [REDACTED] were sent away overnight and in particular

1 you [REDACTED] were sent to what you
2 describe as a borstal called Larchgrove?
3 A. Larchgrove.
4 Q. You remember its name?
5 A. Mm-hmm.
6 Q. And you say that was somewhere in Glasgow [REDACTED]
7 [REDACTED] so it was
8 [REDACTED] you [REDACTED] in
9 Larchgrove overnight.
10 I think you say that you had to share a room there
11 overnight with other people, and the other children
12 there were teenagers?
13 A. Yeah. It was a kinda dormitory.
14 Q. And you make the point that you don't think that was the
15 right place to send you [REDACTED] and you would
16 rather have stayed at the police station?
17 A. Mm-hmm.
18 Q. And, Eugene, you go on to say then that one Saturday --
19 this is at paragraph 6 -- your dad told you that you
20 were [REDACTED] going out, but in fact he took you [REDACTED]
21 [REDACTED] to the social work office?
22 A. In John Street, yeah.
23 Q. And essentially asked them just to take you?
24 A. Mm-hmm.
25 Q. And then you went away for breakfast with him and then

1 back to the social work office, and that's when you [REDACTED]
2 [REDACTED] were taken in a taxi to a children's home?

3 A. Yeah.

4 Q. You tell us then, Eugene, about that children's home,
5 it's Mossbank Children's Home, in Stepps, from
6 paragraphs 7 to 16 of your statement. And I'm not going
7 to go through that in detail, we have it there in your
8 statement, but just to summarise, I think you say you
9 were about 10 or 11 at the time, just to give an age to
10 that.

11 You say that [REDACTED]
12 [REDACTED] crying on the way there. You didn't have a clue
13 what was happening and you hadn't been told what was
14 going on, is that right?

15 A. That's correct, yeah.

16 Q. But then when you arrived there, you were given food,
17 you were given a shower or a bath, you were given
18 clothes, and I think you describe the staff there as
19 being nice and they treated you well?

20 A. Yeah, it was a nice place, yeah.

21 Q. And you tell us a little bit about your routine there
22 and you tell us that the staff were all female and were
23 nice to you and that the food was better than what you'd
24 had before you went into care?

25 A. Yeah.

1 Q. Which I suppose, given what you've told us, wouldn't say
2 much really, but --

3 A. Bit hard.

4 LADY SMITH: But you had food.

5 A. Yeah.

6 LADY SMITH: You didn't have to go out into the alleyways.

7 A. Nice food there, yeah.

8 MS FORBES: And there was no discipline or punishment there.
9 It was just a nice place that you remember.

10 I think you say though that you and [REDACTED] one
11 day went out for a walk with other children and when you
12 got back, you asked where [REDACTED] [REDACTED] were
13 and you were told they were gone?

14 A. We were told that they had left and we had to go and
15 pack, pack a bag 'cause we were going. [REDACTED]
16 [REDACTED]

17 Q. And I think at the time you -- were you told that they'd
18 taken them to Nazareth House?

19 A. Someone mentioned that, yeah.

20 Q. But I think you make the point that that didn't mean
21 anything to you?

22 A. But that never meant anything, yeah.

23 Q. And you and [REDACTED] packed your things up and then
24 a taxi came, [REDACTED]
25 [REDACTED]; is that right?

1 A. That's correct. We ended up at Gryffe.

2 Q. And you say at the time, Eugene, that you and [REDACTED]

3 [REDACTED] felt lost, [REDACTED] had gone [REDACTED]

4 [REDACTED].

5 A. When I'm thinking about it now, it was like,

6 Nazareth House was mixed, it was boys and girls, whereas

7 they [REDACTED].

8 Q. Yes.

9 LADY SMITH: So is your point, Eugene, that surely they

10 could have kept you [REDACTED]?

11 A. Yeah.

12 LADY SMITH: In Nazareth House, for example?

13 A. Because -- yeah, [REDACTED] Nazareth House was

14 big and it had lots of boys in it as well, but for some

15 reason --

16 LADY SMITH: They didn't.

17 A. -- they didn't.

18 LADY SMITH: Was it the Nazareth House in Kilmarnock?

19 A. Kilmarnock, yeah.

20 MS FORBES: I know it might be difficult now to remember,

21 but do you know how long you were at that first

22 children's home for [REDACTED]?

23 A. I think it was over [REDACTED], yeah, it must have been

24 over [REDACTED], 'cause I don't remember us going to

25 school.

1 Q. But then as you tell us, Eugene, you and [REDACTED]
2 [REDACTED] were taken to Gryffe and you start to tell us
3 about that from paragraph 17 of your statement.
4 So I'm just going to go now and talk about Gryffe.
5 You think it was about 1970 or 1971 that you were there?
6 A. Yeah.
7 Q. And you would have been about 11 or 12?
8 A. 11, 12, yeah.
9 Q. And [REDACTED] would have been a couple of years
10 younger?
11 A. A couple of -- yeah.
12 (Pause)
13 LADY SMITH: It gets very difficult --
14 A. Yeah.
15 LADY SMITH: -- for the stenographers if people are speaking
16 at the same time. We all do it. Thank you.
17 MS FORBES: You say, Eugene, that when you and [REDACTED]
18 arrived at Gryffe it was a big shock to you. Is that
19 right?
20 A. That's correct, yeah.
21 Q. And you describe Gryffe as a massive, horrible white
22 building, standing alone in its own grounds. So is that
23 how it seemed to you, a horrible building, or is this
24 you looking back now, given your experience there?
25 A. It just seemed a big -- big, big house, white. And even

1 now, even though it's private apartments and stuff, it's
2 still white, it's still the same, same building.

3 Q. You tell us, Eugene, that at that time it housed 30 to
4 40 boys and you give the ages of the boys as being about
5 between 3 and 15, is that what you remember?

6 A. That's correct, yeah.

7 Q. You say there was two floors, a ground floor and a first
8 floor, with dormitories being on the first floor, so the
9 upper floor.

10 And then you go on, Eugene, to tell us about some of
11 the staff there, at paragraph 19. So, first of all, you
12 say there was a Mr MKS who was SNR with his
13 wife, who you called 'Matron', so that was Mr and
14 Mrs MKS-LYQ, so you recall them?

15 A. Yeah, we always had to address them as Mr MKS and
16 his wife was always known as 'Matron'.

17 Q. And you say though that you only saw Mr MKS about
18 once a week, and Mrs LYQ, you'd see her a couple of
19 times a year, is that right?

20 A. Yeah, when you had to go up -- at Christmastime, you had
21 to go up to the front of the house and they would hand
22 a Christmas present to you.

23 Q. So whilst you knew that Mr MKS was SNR, with
24 his wife, from what you say, they weren't there in the
25 home obvious to you on a daily basis?

1 A. They lived in the home but up the front, which we were
2 never allowed to go to, and every night we had to say
3 a prayer and thank Mr MKS and Matron.

4 LADY SMITH: When you say 'up the front', where was that?

5 A. At the front of the house. The only time we went up
6 there was, there was a dining room, and that's the only
7 time we could be seen up the front of the big house.

8 LADY SMITH: I see. Thank you.

9 MS FORBES: You explain, Eugene, that the only time you
10 actually went in the front door was the first time you
11 arrived at Gryffe?

12 A. That's correct.

13 Q. Because children weren't allowed at the front of the
14 house, that was the rule?

15 A. Yeah.

16 Q. And you also say that once you were inside the grounds
17 of Gryffe, you weren't allowed outside; you couldn't
18 just take yourself off for a walk down to
19 Bridge of Weir, for example?

20 A. No, no.

21 LADY SMITH: Could you take yourself out into the grounds?

22 A. Yeah. We had big grounds, so everybody was out in the
23 grounds playing, but you couldn't actually leave the
24 home itself. So if you had friends you met at school,
25 come summer, you would never see them again till you

1 went back to school.

2 LADY SMITH: When, in the meantime, they may have seen other

3 children from the school who didn't live in the home but

4 lived in their own homes?

5 A. Yeah.

6 LADY SMITH: Thank you.

7 MS FORBES: You describe the treatment in Gryffe as being

8 more like being in borstal; is that how you saw it?

9 A. It was. There was -- I don't think the people that were

10 there were actually, when you look back, qualified to

11 deal with children. They were local people from

12 Bridge of Weir or Kilmacolm.

13 Q. I think you say, Eugene, that there were around 12

14 members of staff and I think you say they were mostly

15 men, you explain?

16 A. Mm-hmm.

17 Q. But there would be some trainees who would come in the

18 summer to work there, but the staff that were usually

19 there seemed to be there all the time?

20 A. All the time.

21 Q. So these would be the people that you would be seeing on

22 a daily basis, as opposed to Mr and Mrs **MKS-LYQ** who you

23 would just see on occasion?

24 A. That's correct, yeah.

25 Q. You tell us a little bit, Eugene, about the boys there.

1 You say there was a range. There were some there
2 because they had no family, and others because they had
3 shoplifted or committed some offence. So it was
4 different types of backgrounds all mixed together, is
5 that what you saw?

6 A. Yeah, I mean, there was a brother -- two brothers, and
7 I think their parents had both died, so they were in
8 Gryffe as well.

9 Q. Another member of staff you mention is a Mr MWN .
10 You say he was somebody who had a [REDACTED] and lived
11 in Kilmacolm and was in the Scout movement and he had
12 a nickname. What was the nickname?

13 A. 'MWN' .

14 Q. But you say he was abusive and he would beat the
15 children?

16 A. He used to grab the boys by the hair and then use his
17 sort of [REDACTED] to kick, which was pretty painful,
18 kind of -- sometimes he'd be wearing his Scoutmaster's
19 uniform, because we're going off to Kilmacolm, so being
20 all nice, no doubt.

21 Q. So if he would kick, it would be with the [REDACTED] ?

22 A. Uh-huh.

23 Q. And is that something that happened to you?

24 A. Yes, uh-huh.

25 Q. And did you see that --

1 A. I think it happened to quite a few others.

2 Q. You also talk about a Mr and Mrs MWD-SPO . And they

3 both worked at Gryffe, is that right? Mrs ██████ was

4 called Nurse ██████ and she was a night nurse there?

5 A. She was a night nurse. All the female staff were called

6 'Nurse'.

7 Q. You say that she was really nice to all the boys though.

8 But you describe Mr MWD ██████, who you say was in his

9 40s -- again he had a nickname, what was that?

10 A. 'MWD ██████' or something like that.

11 Q. I think in your statement you say 'MWD ██████', something

12 like that, was it?

13 A. Yeah.

14 Q. And you say he and his wife lived in Bridge of Weir and

15 had two children who came to the home to play football

16 in the summer, and you go on to tell us a bit more about

17 Mr MWD ██████ in the next paragraph. But before you do

18 that, this is at paragraph 24, you mention someone

19 called Mr REE ██████?

20 A. Mm-hmm.

21 Q. So he was someone who also worked in the home?

22 A. He worked in the home as well, yeah.

23 Q. Did you know what the titles of these men were who

24 worked in the home, were they housefathers or --

25 A. No, we just called them 'Mister'.

1 Q. You describe Mr REE as being about 30 or 40 years
2 old. Then you say Mr MWD and Mr REE beat
3 the children. So they were both physically abusive?
4 A. Yes, uh-huh.
5 Q. And then you say Mr MWD and Mr REE sexually
6 abused you?
7 A. That's correct.
8 Q. And we're going to talk about that a little bit later in
9 your statement if that's okay, Eugene.
10 So you go on, Eugene, to talk about a Mr MWM who
11 was really good, and again his wife was one of the
12 nurses. There was also a Mr Beattie, who everyone
13 liked, and he was someone that didn't hit you, so he was
14 a good member of staff?
15 A. He was. I think he was a bit taken aback sometimes by
16 watching us getting beat.
17 Q. So he would sometimes be there when the --
18 A. When it was -- yeah.
19 Q. -- assaults were happening. But did he ever intervene?
20 A. No.
21 Q. Just going over then to the next page, Eugene, this is
22 where you start to talk about the routine and you tell
23 us when you first arrived, you and met
24 Mr MKS and the female staff, who you called 'Nurse',
25 and you say your stuff was taken away and you were given

1 a uniform of a tracksuit and khaki shorts.

2 So did that mean that whilst you were in Gryffe, you
3 had to wear the clothing that they provided for you?

4 A. Yeah, we all wore the same.

5 Q. And this was this tracksuit and khaki shorts that you
6 would have to wear?

7 A. All the time.

8 Q. You talk about being taken into the recreation room,
9 which had wooden benches around the side and a wooden
10 floor, and you comment that there just seemed to be so
11 many people. So this is your first arrival, you and
12 [REDACTED], at Gryffe, is that right?

13 A. Yeah, I remember the noise and the recreation room, it
14 was all sort of stuff.

15 Q. You were shown then to your dormitory and you tell us
16 that you and [REDACTED] shared a dormitory together,
17 so that was a good thing?

18 A. Yeah, yeah.

19 Q. And you had a locker and a locker number for your shoes,
20 but you were taken back down to the recreation room
21 after that and you, just shortly after, saw a boy being
22 beaten up and this was by Mr MWN [REDACTED]?

23 A. Uh-huh.

24 Q. MWN [REDACTED]. And you tell us what he did. This is at
25 paragraph 27. You say Mr MWN [REDACTED] grabbed the boy, who

1 was younger than you and [REDACTED], grabbed him by
2 the hair and pulled him. What did you think when you
3 saw that?

4 A. I was scared. And I think [REDACTED] was scared as
5 well, like.

6 Q. This was your first experience of seeing that happen
7 then in the home?

8 A. Yeah.

9 Q. You tell us then, Eugene, that that night you went to
10 bed in the dorm and some people tried to speak to you.
11 Was that other boys in the dorm?

12 A. Yes, uh-huh.

13 Q. I think you tell us there were six or seven dormitories
14 with about eight children in each one, and the younger
15 children slept downstairs but, as we've talked about,
16 [REDACTED], even though he was two years younger, he
17 still got to stay with you?

18 A. We stayed up, yeah.

19 Q. And you'd be woken up at about 7.00 am by a member of
20 staff who would switch the light on and shout for
21 everyone to get up.

22 In relation to bedtime, Eugene, you tell us that the
23 younger children went to bed earlier, they were in bed
24 about 7.30 pm or 8.00 pm, and you went to bed at 9.00 pm
25 and you were allowed to keep the lights on for about

1 half an hour after that?

2 A. That's right, yeah.

3 Q. And it would be a male member of staff who was on duty

4 who would put the lights out, and this is when you say

5 that this prayer had to be said, thanking --

6 A. Yeah, each dorm had to say the same prayer and also

7 thank Mr **MKS** and Matron.

8 Q. So was this something that after you arrived you

9 learned, that this prayer was something that had to be

10 said?

11 A. Yeah, I think everybody learned it.

12 Q. And how was it said? Was it in some sort of unison

13 together or did one person --

14 A. One person had to say it.

15 Q. So I think you point out that a staff member would point

16 to the child who was to say the prayer that night.

17 But there was no particular person in charge of the

18 dormitory you were in, it would rotate?

19 A. It would rotate, yeah.

20 Q. And there was a room down from the dormitory where the

21 staff member on late shift would sleep?

22 A. That's correct.

23 Q. And was that a male member of staff?

24 A. The male, yeah.

25 Q. Because you've mentioned the female members of staff

1 were nurses and we've talked about a night nurse; did
2 they also have female members of staff on at night as
3 well?

4 A. Just the night nurse. And her job basically was to come
5 around. There was a lot of bed-wetting, so she'd come
6 to people during the night to wake them up to take them
7 to the toilet, and if you did wet the bed, she would run
8 a bath and change the bed, give you clean pyjamas. But
9 then she'd have to write that in a book and then once
10 the male member of staff came on in the morning, he
11 would know who had wet the bed. So everybody who had
12 wet the bed had to turn their mattress up. So
13 everybody -- so you could walk by the dorm and see quite
14 a few mattresses turned up.

15 Q. And if a mattress was turned up, then everyone knew that
16 you'd wet the bed?

17 A. That you'd wet the bed, yeah.

18 Q. I think you also say, Eugene, that if any children were
19 talking in the dorms at night, the staff would shout and
20 you would hear staff going into the dorms and hitting
21 children?

22 A. Yeah.

23 Q. And did that happen in your dorm as well?

24 A. Yeah, I think it happened in all the dorms.

25 Q. And who would be the member of staff that was doing

1 that?

2 A. Either Mr MWD , REE or MWN .

3 Q. So the male member of staff who was on duty at night,
4 was this the late shift?

5 A. They'd be on late afternoon and then wait till the
6 lights went out.

7 Q. And was it on some kind of rota, so it might be a
8 different person but it could be one of those --

9 A. Yeah.

10 Q. -- that you've mentioned.

11 Eugene, you talk about the food in Gryffe from
12 paragraph 32 and you say that there were different
13 dining rooms for different ages of children, the very
14 young children were in one room and the older ones in
15 another.

16 And you describe it as a female member of staff
17 serving up the food, but a male member of staff would be
18 in the dining room too whilst it was going on?

19 A. Yeah.

20 Q. And you tell us about the types of things you had;
21 porridge for breakfast with tea or cocoa, and at the
22 weekend, cereal, and you say you ate the food because
23 you were hungry?

24 A. Yeah, I think everybody did or was trying to ask for
25 more.

1 Q. And then after school, you would be back to Gryffe,
2 changed out of your school uniform, play outside for
3 an hour before dinner, which would be about 6.00 pm, and
4 then it would be things like potatoes and mince?
5 A. Yeah.
6 Q. So from what you say, there doesn't seem to be any
7 issues about food in Gryffe?
8 A. No, there was food.
9 Q. And if you didn't eat what was put down, what happened?
10 A. Er, you would starve.
11 Q. But there was no punishment for not eating it?
12 A. You'd probably get your hair pulled or told to be
13 grateful, that there was nobody else giving it to you.
14 Q. You tell us about the set-up for washing and bathing
15 there and you say there was a bathroom on the second
16 floor with baths and sinks, and there was also a shower
17 on the lower ground floor and at night you had to shower
18 there before bed, but they were communal showers?
19 A. Mm.
20 Q. With maybe about seven showers. So were these open then
21 and everyone got in together?
22 A. Open shower, yeah.
23 Q. And a male member of staff, you say, would stand and
24 make sure everybody washed. But the way you describe
25 it, Eugene, is that people would be called forward, six

1 at a time, to have a shower and everyone would rush in
2 to get in and get out. But if they carried on, they
3 would get a beating from the male members of staff.

4 What was that like then, having to shower communally
5 with the other children?

6 A. We never really thought about it, we just went in. That
7 was just part of the routine.

8 Q. In respect of chores, Eugene, you say that you did have
9 chores to do at Gryffe and there were nights where you
10 had to clean the whole place?

11 A. Yeah. We had -- after dinner, one table was selected to
12 send people into the kitchen and do the washing up, and
13 then another table would do the hoovering and clean the
14 dining room. And then at weekends, we all had given
15 chores to clean everything, before any TV was wheeled
16 out.

17 Q. And you tell us that you took on a job of going for the
18 morning papers, so you'd be up early at 6.00 am, walk to
19 the other end of the village to get the papers and take
20 them back to Gryffe?

21 A. That's correct.

22 Q. And was that a job that you volunteered to do or were
23 you told to do it?

24 A. There was somebody doing it, but I think he left, and
25 then I was picked.

1 Q. But from what you describe, you say the man in the paper
2 shop knew you were from Gryffe and he would tell you to
3 take a comic or something for yourself?

4 A. That's correct, because I'd go down, it would be for the
5 staff papers for the staff dining room.

6 Q. So was that a little bit of a treat?

7 A. It was.

8 Q. You explain the situation about going to school from
9 paragraph 38 and you say at first when you went there it
10 was primary school in Houston, you were there for about
11 a year, and then you went to St Brendan's High School in
12 Linwood. And to do that, you would have to get the bus
13 from Bridge of Weir because it was about 5 miles away,
14 and there was 12 of you going to St Brendan's, but the
15 majority of the boys went to Linwood High School?

16 A. That's correct.

17 Q. Do you know why there was a difference in who went to
18 which high school?

19 A. St Brendan's was the Catholic school and Linwood High
20 was the Protestant school.

21 Q. So that was the split?

22 A. So that was the split.

23 Q. But you say, Eugene, that you hated school because of
24 where you came from. By that, do you mean from Gryffe?

25 A. Yeah.

1 Q. And you say that you were bullied from the minute you
2 got on the school bus because of being from the home?

3 A. That's correct, yeah.

4 Q. And some of the boys who went to the school wore their
5 own clothes, but you had to wear school uniform, so that
6 set you apart from them; is that right?

7 A. Yeah, everybody from Gryffe had the school uniform.

8 Q. And also another thing that set you apart is that you
9 got free school meals, and you say that the boys from
10 Gryffe, you all sat together at lunch and the other
11 children would pick on you saying things like you'd
12 never seen food, or you didn't have knives and forks?

13 A. Yeah, 'You don't know how to use a knife and fork', and
14 things.

15 Q. Because of that, you say it got to the point that you
16 never went for lunch at the school and you would walk
17 into Linwood, is that right?

18 A. That's correct, yeah.

19 Q. And if you had some pocket money you'd maybe buy some
20 sweets, and you say that even once or twice you didn't
21 even go into school, you just went walking?

22 A. A couple of times I did that. I just wandered off.

23 Q. And was that because of the bullying?

24 A. Yeah.

25 Q. And you say you did that, though, even though you knew

1 that when you went back, the staff at Gryffe would know
2 that you hadn't been at school and you would get
3 a beating?

4 A. The school would phone to say that we hadn't turned up.

5 Q. But you didn't tell anyone about the bullying at the
6 school, back at Gryffe, is that right?

7 A. No.

8 LADY SMITH: Well, do you think they'd have done anything
9 about it if you had?

10 A. No, because even after school, nobody sat down and said
11 you have to do homework or anything. There was
12 nothing -- nobody was helping you to do homework, so.

13 LADY SMITH: Did anybody show any interest in what was
14 happening at school?

15 A. Not that I can remember, they didn't.

16 LADY SMITH: Or how you were getting on?

17 A. No one asked how you were getting on. It was just
18 change out your uniform and carry on. But I know the
19 school people could stay on after and do more exams,
20 whereas when we reached a certain age, we were just put
21 out.

22 LADY SMITH: Okay.

23 A. So there was no social skills for anyone.

24 LADY SMITH: And if you had done well at something in
25 school, there was nobody to take your success back to

1 and talk to about it, is that right?

2 A. No, I can't even remember when we had report cards that
3 we were told, oh, you were good at that or good at this.
4 I don't know whether they went to Mr MKS and Matron,
5 but -- I don't know.

6 LADY SMITH: Yes.

7 MS FORBES: But from your experience, there didn't seem to
8 be any encouragement to do well at school?

9 A. There wasn't, no.

10 Q. You tell us, Eugene, you did become friends with
11 a couple of boys at school and you tell us their names
12 in your statement, and you say that one of the boys'
13 parents ran a [REDACTED] club and the boy would sometimes go
14 up there for his lunch and you would go with him and get
15 something to eat then.

16 But as you pointed out earlier, when the school
17 finished for the summer, you weren't allowed to leave
18 Gryffe, so you didn't see any of your friends over the
19 summer holidays?

20 A. You never saw anyone, yeah.

21 Q. And you wouldn't see them again till you went back for
22 the next school year?

23 A. That's correct.

24 Q. And you tell us, Eugene, that you can't remember
25 learning things at school or sitting exams and even, we

1 know, you say you didn't want to go on the school bus
2 because of the bullying that went on, and sometimes that
3 meant you wouldn't get the bus and you would just walk
4 the 4 miles back to Gryffe instead?

5 A. I preferred walking back. It was -- that's when it was
6 all kinda country roads.

7 Q. You tell us, Eugene, that you did have friends at Gryffe
8 and you name two boys in particular and you say
9 eventually they left. Did they leave while you were
10 there?

11 A. Yes, uh-huh.

12 Q. And you tell us some of the things you did with them.
13 You'd play outside in the grounds, build a den, play
14 football, and you talk about the staff in the summer
15 organising a treasure hunt in the grounds.

16 So were those types of activities something nice
17 that you did whilst you were there?

18 A. That was mainly the trainee -- I think they must be
19 trainees who would come in and they would organise games
20 and treasure hunts. And then there was a big garden and
21 we would go in and pick gooseberries or something and
22 they'd go back to the kitchen.

23 Q. And you mention a TV that was put on sometimes. Was
24 that in a particular room?

25 A. In the big room where the benches were, on the wooden

1 floor. It would be wheeled out on a trolley, on
2 a Saturday.

3 Q. So it wasn't very frequent then, it wasn't a daily
4 occurrence?

5 A. No, it was just a Saturday, Saturday and Sunday.

6 Q. You tell us about pocket money and you say you would get
7 pocket money on a Saturday and that the ice-cream van
8 would come up on a Saturday and you could spend some of
9 it there. But you could also earn extra pocket money by
10 washing staff's cars. So that was a way to get
11 a little bit of money?

12 A. Yeah, that was mainly Mr MKS 's car.

13 Q. You mention the boys from Quarriers Children's Home and
14 the fact that they used to come to Gryffe to play
15 football, because that home was only three miles down
16 the road?

17 A. That's correct.

18 Q. But you say that the boys in Gryffe thought the
19 Quarriers boys were snobby and I think you say they
20 seemed to have better things than you did?

21 A. They did, and at Christmas we sort of, Christmas Day
22 morning when the TV was out, we had to watch 'Christmas
23 from Quarriers'. So, that put it into our minds that
24 they were better.

25 Q. I think you say later in your statement, Eugene, that

1 you all thought you would like to be in Quarriers
2 instead of Gryffe?

3 A. We thought that, but one of my best friends, he was in
4 Quarriers and we still hang around together now, and he
5 was like: no, it was just the same.

6 Q. But it looked maybe better to you on the screen back
7 then?

8 A. It did, yeah.

9 Q. I think you say that some of the Gryffe boys would steal
10 some things in the changing rooms from the Quarriers
11 boys?

12 A. Quarriers boys, yeah.

13 Q. In relation to trips and holidays, Eugene, you say that
14 every summer there was a trip for two weeks to a big
15 house in Garlieston near Newton Stewart, but that would
16 be the only time you'd be out of Gryffe in the summer?

17 A. That's correct.

18 Q. So you didn't go home to stay with relatives or
19 anything?

20 A. No, we just went to Garlieston.

21 Q. And the routine there you say was the same: you had your
22 chores to do, but you describe it as being nice?

23 A. It was nice and the staff who were based there, as well
24 as the Gryffe staff, their staff, they were really nice.

25 Q. And when you went there, was it because you noticed the

1 contrast between what was happening at Gryffe and how it
2 was there?

3 A. We did, and the food was much better.

4 Q. I think you mentioned cakes in the afternoon --

5 A. Yeah.

6 Q. -- there. I think you also got new clothes when you
7 were there as well?

8 A. Yeah, every summer we'd all be given new khakis and new
9 T-shirts and a new tracksuit, and that was for our
10 summer holiday.

11 Q. You also mention, Eugene, the trip to the Kelvin Hall in
12 Glasgow and to Paisley to go swimming, but really that
13 was it as far as any organised activities went?

14 A. That's correct. Thursday night, we'd be -- we were
15 taken to Paisley swimming baths. And Christmas, when
16 Kelvin Hall was on, we'd be taken there.

17 Q. So the Kelvin Hall was once a year?

18 A. Yes.

19 Q. You say at Christmas there would be a Christmas tree and
20 a special meal, like turkey, and you've already
21 mentioned that this would be the time that you -- one of
22 the rare times you would see Mr MKS and Matron and
23 you would queue up to get a present from them.

24 And you tell us at paragraph 49 that each child
25 would go in to Mr MKS's room and be given a present

1 and he would make it seem like the present was from him
2 and the matron, but actually they were getting money --
3 I think you point out they were getting money from
4 Glasgow Corporation --

5 A. That's correct.

6 Q. -- to give you the present. But you point out, you had
7 to be grateful for the present?

8 A. Yeah, we had to show we were grateful, yeah.

9 Q. And then you talk about watching the Quarriers children
10 on the TV.

11 You say as well that at birthdays you'd get a small
12 cake and people would sing 'Happy Birthday'. This cake,
13 though, wasn't enough for all the children, obviously,
14 in the place, so you had to decide who you were going to
15 give a piece to?

16 A. Exactly. There were some bullies, so you knew you had
17 to give them some of it.

18 Q. I think you tell us, Eugene, if you didn't give certain
19 children a piece, you'd be beaten up?

20 A. That's correct.

21 Q. So they had to get their share before anyone else.

22 But you don't remember there being any birthday
23 presents?

24 A. No, it was just a cake.

25 Q. You go on, Eugene, to talk about contact and visits and

1 you talk about the fact that you [REDACTED] could
2 write to [REDACTED] [REDACTED] and receive letters from
3 them, and you were also taken to see them at
4 [REDACTED] by a social worker, but these visits
5 weren't very often. They were every few months?

6 A. Every few months.

7 Q. And those visits would last about an hour [REDACTED]

8 [REDACTED]
9 [REDACTED]
10 [REDACTED]
11 [REDACTED]
12 [REDACTED]

13 Q. You talk about your dad visiting you [REDACTED] at
14 Gryffe but not very often and that he also took you to
15 see [REDACTED] a few times, and that your mum would
16 visit now and again and bring sweets and she'd come
17 along with [REDACTED], and they would give you
18 [REDACTED] money. And I think you make the point
19 that [REDACTED] told you to hide the money because he
20 knew it would be taken away from you?

21 A. Yeah, it would be taken away and put in a -- you had
22 a savings book, or if anyone else knew you had money
23 they would come and get it.

24 Q. So when you say 'come and get it', does that mean other
25 boys would steal it?

1 A. Take it from you.

2 Q. You also say that your social worker visited but you
3 describe her as being a young girl and she didn't ask
4 you what was happening in the home. You got the
5 impression that everything was rosy to her and that she
6 was just in awe of the big house and grounds at Gryffe,
7 is that right?

8 A. That's right. I remember when people had a social
9 worker come in, for some reason they would try and hide
10 so that they didn't have to go into a room and speak
11 with her. But [REDACTED], she never asked
12 how we were doing or -- it was, 'Nice house, nice
13 grounds'.

14 Q. And she was the same social worker who would go and see
15 [REDACTED]?

16 A. Yeah.

17 Q. And she would tell you how they were doing and say they
18 were doing well and that they were liking
19 [REDACTED], but I think you found out later in life
20 that that was the opposite of what was happening to
21 them?

22 A. Yeah, the opposite.

23 Q. So she really didn't know anything about what was going
24 on.

25 You talk about going to chapel on a Sunday in

1 Houston and you say that six boys would walk to chapel
2 from Gryffe, and there was a Mr MWM and his wife who
3 lived in Houston. Was Mr MWM someone who worked at
4 Gryffe?

5 A. Mr MWM was one of the male staff and Mrs [REDACTED] was one
6 of the night nurse.

7 Q. And they would tell you to come to their house for some
8 juice and biscuits after Mass?

9 A. That's correct.

10 Q. So was that something to look forward to?

11 A. Yeah, they were really nice and they would say, like,
12 about -- they couldn't understand why the beatings were
13 happening and they -- but they were -- I think they were
14 quite elderly.

15 Q. So was that something that boys talked about with them?

16 A. I think they would coax it out of them, some of the
17 boys.

18 Q. But even though that was something that they seemed to
19 be aware of, did they do anything about that?

20 A. Nothing, nothing was done, no.

21 Q. You go on then to talk about bed-wetting, Eugene, and
22 you've told us what would happen if you wet the bed
23 already, and you say that that was something that
24 started happening to you at Gryffe and it wasn't
25 something that you'd had a problem with before you were

1 there?

2 A. Not before, no.

3 Q. And you say that it continued there for a while.

4 I think you say [REDACTED] as well had a problem with

5 that as well?

6 A. Mm-hmm.

7 Q. You say that the toilet was further down the corridor,

8 because the house was such a big house and maybe you

9 were too scared to get up, but that's certainly

10 something you didn't have a problem with before you

11 went --

12 A. Before I went in.

13 Q. -- into Gryffe.

14 A. No.

15 Q. You describe this putting up of the -- of the mattress

16 being turned up as being degrading; is that how you

17 remember it?

18 A. Yeah. Even though the night nurse would come, change

19 your bed, give you a bath, give you clean pyjamas, so

20 your bed was dry, in the morning it would still get

21 turned up.

22 Q. So was there any point to the turning up of the

23 mattress, other than just pointing out that you were

24 someone who wet the bed?

25 A. I think it was set as a punishment and to let everyone

1 know that you'd done it.

2 Q. Because as you point out, Eugene, by that time the
3 bedsheets had been changed, so fresh sheets were on, it
4 wasn't being put up to dry them or anything?

5 A. No, it was just put up to show that you had wet the bed.

6 Q. And you say that other children then would call you 'Pee
7 the Bed' and other names.

8 But more than that, you tell us, Eugene, that
9 sometimes you'd be hit for wetting the bed. What
10 members of staff would do that?

11 A. The male members of staff again.

12 Q. And this, you say, could be a slap in the face. You say
13 there was also other punishments for wetting the bed or
14 answering back to staff. So money could be docked from
15 your pocket money for wetting the bed?

16 A. Yes.

17 Q. You could be given extra chores to do as well. And
18 you've explained that some of the chores were setting
19 the tables up for dinner or washing the dishes, so if
20 you'd wet the bed, you might have to do that?

21 A. If you'd wet the bed, when the male member of staff
22 would come on and he would pull your blankets back, and
23 that's when you'd get hit.

24 Q. You tell us, Eugene, that a couple of boys ran away from
25 Gryffe and when they came back they were given

1 a beating. Again, was that the male members of staff
2 that would do that?

3 A. Yeah, uh-huh.

4 Q. But also there was no pocket money for a couple of
5 weeks.

6 You describe at paragraph 64, Eugene, you say that
7 the discipline was 'vicious'. Is that how you see it?

8 A. Oh, yeah, very much so, yeah.

9 Q. There's a part of your statement now, Eugene, where you
10 go on to talk about particular instances of abuse at
11 Gryffe. So I'm just going to move on to that now. This
12 is from paragraph 65.

13 You tell us that you weren't at Gryffe for long,
14 maybe about six months, when the abuse from Mr MWD
15 started. I think you tell us that this was at night
16 when you'd be sleeping in bed and the lights were out?

17 A. That's correct.

18 Q. And you say that you woke up and you could feel someone
19 breathing, and what was Mr MWD doing?

20 A. His hands were under the -- my sheet and touching me.

21 Q. And was that inside your pyjamas?

22 A. Yes.

23 Q. And so he was touching your private parts? And you say
24 this happened a lot?

25 A. Frequently.

1 Q. It was at nighttime?

2 A. Mainly at night.

3 Q. You say, Eugene, that you would think at nighttime:

4 'I hope Mr MWD 's not on duty'. So that was a fear

5 you had before you went to bed?

6 A. Then you could have a good night's sleep. ██████████

7 did say one morning that he saw Mr MWD over at my

8 bed, what was happening? I just said, 'We can't say

9 anything because we'll get into more trouble'. So we

10 just left it like that.

11 Q. You also say, Eugene, that you walked home from school

12 because you knew if you got in after everyone else,

13 later, that you could try to sneak up to your dorm and

14 change, because if Mr MWD saw you coming in, he

15 would follow you upstairs?

16 A. Come up to the dormitory.

17 Q. And when he followed you upstairs, what would he be

18 doing?

19 A. He would tell you to get changed, and then once you had

20 taken your uniform, start touching you and telling you

21 to touch him.

22 Q. And you say that that's something that would happen

23 regularly as well?

24 A. Yeah.

25 Q. And whilst this was going on, you say everyone else

1 would be downstairs, is that right?

2 A. That's correct.

3 Q. And Mr MWD would tell you that if you said anything

4 about what he was doing, would get

5 into trouble?

6 A. And I thought that he meant that he would do the same to

7 .

8 Q. So you were worried about him doing that to --

9 A. Yeah.

10 Q. -- ?

11 You mention this trip to Garlieston on holiday, that

12 Mr MWD would do the same thing. You say he would

13 tell you to go to a room for something and then he would

14 appear in the room. And then you talk about the fact he

15 would take your shorts down. And I think you go on to

16 tell us then, Eugene, that he would masturbate you and

17 he would make you perform oral sex on him and touch him?

18 A. That's correct.

19 LADY SMITH: How old do you think you were when he started

20 these practices on you?

21 A. Er, maybe 12, about 12.

22 LADY SMITH: Thank you.

23 A. But I used to think, why was it me? But looking back

24 I'm sure there was other boys having the same, but

25 nobody mentioned anything.

1 LADY SMITH: Well, who would they mention it to, if they
2 were going to mention it?

3 A. Exactly. If you did, I'm sure you'd have been called
4 'troublemaker' or 'liar' and you'd get an even worse
5 beating.

6 MS FORBES: Eugene, did you feel like there was anyone you
7 could tell at the time about what was going on?

8 A. Nobody at all. I kept that to myself till after 2002,
9 after my mum passed away. I hadn't told anyone. And
10 I told my best friend.

11 Q. So it took a long time?

12 A. Quite a few years, yeah. And [REDACTED], he had said
13 that something -- it looks like something's happened to
14 me. But we'd never discuss.

15 Q. Was this [REDACTED]?

16 A. [REDACTED].

17 Q. And was this [REDACTED], I think you tell us in your
18 statement that he had been in care at one point, in
19 Fife?

20 A. At St Ninian's, yeah.

21 Q. So he thought something had happened.

22 LADY SMITH: Which St Ninian's was he at?

23 A. Falkland.

24 LADY SMITH: The one in Fife? The Christian Brothers'
25 place?

1 A. That's correct.

2 MS FORBES: You make the point, Eugene, that you think the
3 abuse from Mr MWD was one reason why you wet the
4 bed; you think you were maybe scared to get up if
5 Mr MWD was around?

6 A. I was scared, yeah.

7 Q. But you point out that sometimes he would be -- could be
8 really nice to everybody, but the next time he would
9 just turn. And you say he would kick and punch the
10 boys, he would throw things a lot, and this would be for
11 stupid things?

12 A. It would just be for anything, but he would never do it
13 in front of his wife.

14 Q. So he wasn't just sexually abusive, he was physically
15 abusive --

16 A. Physically abusive.

17 Q. And did that happen to you as well?

18 A. Oh, yes, uh-huh.

19 Q. You go on then, Eugene, to talk about another member of
20 staff who we've already mentioned, who you say smelled
21 of alcohol, Mr REE, and you say he was -- he also
22 abused you, and you say this would happen when he was
23 staying overnight in the staffroom. This is the
24 staffroom along the corridor from the dorms?

25 A. At the end of the corridor, where they would stay

1 overnight.

2 Q. But you describe the way he did it was different. He

3 would call you to go to his room, he'd make up some

4 excuse to get you to go there, and when you were in

5 there, he would then abuse you?

6 A. Yeah.

7 Q. And you tell us, Eugene, that he made you masturbate him

8 and put his penis in your mouth and, again, he told you

9 not to say anything to anyone as well and warned you

10 that ██████████ would be punished?

11 A. Yeah, it was always the threat of ██████████.

12 Q. You say that ██████████ asked you once what you were

13 doing in that room, but you said nothing and just

14 brushed it off?

15 A. Yeah, I just walked away and carried on playing with the

16 others.

17 Q. This abuse would happen, you say, a lot in the summer

18 and you describe, this is when you're not at school and

19 you're in the grounds all the time, and you say if you

20 were out in the woods and the staff were out, abuse

21 would happen there too?

22 A. Yeah, Mr MWD ██████████ would be down in the woods.

23 Q. And you also mention, I think, Mr REE ██████████; would he

24 also be someone who would try and get you in the woods

25 as well?

1 A. If he was walking around and he saw, I'm sure certain
2 boys, he would go down.

3 Q. Would this be similar types of abuse to what you've
4 already described?

5 A. Just the same.

6 Q. You say, Eugene, that that abuse went on until you left
7 Gryffe in 1975 when you were 16?

8 A. That's correct.

9 Q. And I think earlier you talked about the fact that
10 Mr MWD's visits to you started about six months
11 after you arrived?

12 A. After I arrived.

13 Q. So it was quite a significant period that this went on
14 for.

15 You've told us about Mr MWN, MWN, and you
16 have said that he was somebody who kicked the children
17 with a but he would also pull them by the
18 hair, and this was something that would happen to you
19 quite a lot?

20 A. There was, yeah, quite a few beatings. Pulling the
21 children by the hair was quite a normal thing.

22 Q. You say a normal thing, was that amongst all the male
23 staff?

24 A. The male -- yeah.

25 Q. And you say that it could happen because you didn't move

1 quickly enough, or your cleaning of the building wasn't
2 up to scratch, so for those types of things?

3 A. Or if some boys started answering back or tried to stop
4 themselves getting beaten, they would get it even
5 harder.

6 Q. And you say that this was painful and Mr MWN would
7 hold you and kick you, and again this was with his
8 [REDACTED]?

9 A. [REDACTED].

10 Q. And if you had a child down on the floor he would kick
11 them, and you say you saw him do that every day. And it
12 wasn't just physical abuse from Mr MWN, he was --
13 he would also call the children names?

14 A. Yeah, he would say, 'Nobody wants you, that's why you're
15 here, your parents don't want you'.

16 Q. In relation to Mr MKS, if you did something that he
17 thought was bad, you would be taken to his -- is this
18 his room at the front of the house?

19 A. I think it's his study or his room.

20 Q. And he would give you what you've described as 'six of
21 the best'?

22 A. So, he'd get his belt out and belt you across the hand.

23 Q. You say that's something that you got a couple of times,
24 because you spoke back to one of the staff?

25 A. If we spoke back, or if a dorm was noisy at night, it

1 was a punishment.

2 Q. There was also an incident in the showers that you tell
3 us about, Eugene, where you say that you were hit by
4 a member of staff. There was also a few times you say
5 you had your hair pulled after the shower because you'd
6 done something.

7 The way you describe it is it wasn't just pulling;
8 the member of staff was really going for it. And as
9 you've said, Mr MWN did that quite a lot to the
10 children.

11 But you say the staff also punched boys and that
12 would be if boys didn't clean their shoes properly --
13 sorry, if boys didn't clean their shoes properly, their
14 shoes would be thrown at them.

15 And you point out that sometimes other staff and the
16 nurses would be present when boys were beaten and nobody
17 intervened?

18 A. Nobody intervened. And I don't remember a doctor coming
19 from the village any time, 'cause I'm sure if he had, he
20 would have seen bruises on the boys, so I never remember
21 a doctor coming out.

22 Q. Would you have injuries from these things happening to
23 you?

24 A. Probably sore leg and sore arms.

25 Q. You talk about a boy, who you name, this is at

1 paragraph 78, who was in Gryffe and you say that he was
2 somebody who used to go away to Glasgow with
3 Mr REE every few weekends and he'd be away all
4 day and come back with sweets and things. He never said
5 what he'd done in Glasgow or what had happened there;
6 but did you find that odd?

7 A. I think we were more jealous that he had sweets and
8 things like -- but nobody ever said, 'Where did you go
9 to?'. And I'm sure Mr REE had said to him, 'Keep
10 it all quiet'.

11 Q. You point out, Eugene, that some of the families that
12 were at Gryffe together had been there for a long time
13 and there was -- there would be bullying from those
14 families, and you name a particular family who were
15 there and were horrible. And these were boys if you got
16 on the wrong side of them, they would take your pocket
17 money, they'd get other boys to go and steal from [sic]
18 them, and you say though that when the oldest one of
19 that family left, the whole dynamics changed and then
20 the bullying happened to --

21 A. The bullying, yeah, the bullying stopped with them.

22 Q. So apart from the staff, there was this problem from
23 some of the other boys in big group families?

24 A. Yeah, it was sort of feral at times. I think it was the
25 only way some of them could survive.

1 Q. You've mentioned already, Eugene, that when you turned
2 16. You couldn't stay on really at Gryffe and you had to
3 leave, and you tell us you were sent to a halfway house
4 and this was just off the [REDACTED] in Glasgow. There
5 were four of you went together, is that right?

6 A. That's correct.

7 Q. You had been friends at Gryffe, so I suppose that was
8 a good thing, in one respect?

9 A. It was, but we never knew what was going to happen to
10 us, and we had no social skills outside.

11 Q. You point out there was no preparation for you leaving
12 to go to live together on your own?

13 A. No, we were just told we were leaving.

14 Q. And you've pointed out there was no follow-up visits
15 from the social work department to see how you were
16 getting on?

17 A. None at all. None that I can remember.

18 Q. You go on then, Eugene, to talk about life after being
19 in care, from paragraph 81, and it starts off in the
20 halfway house and I think all four of the boys, of you
21 boys together were in one room.

22 And you'd be put out during the day and expected
23 just to fend for yourselves until back at night?

24 A. I think they told us to go and find a job and be back at
25 a certain time for dinner.

1 Q. And you point out that you did go around asking for work
2 and you went to, I think, a paper shop and you were told
3 by the shopkeeper, once he found out you were from
4 Gryffe, just to go away?

5 A. We kept saying to people: 'We've just come out of
6 children's home and we're looking for a job'.

7 Q. At this time, you've said you didn't have any
8 qualifications from school and obviously no work
9 experience?

10 A. We didn't know how to act.

11 Q. But you say eventually two of you did get a job in
12 a shop, but you were given all the tasks that no one
13 else wanted to do and treated like skivvies essentially.
14 Do you think that was because of where you'd come from?

15 A. Er, yes, because there'd be no comeback on it. We had
16 nobody to talk to, so.

17 Q. You say you were in that halfway house for about four or
18 five months and [REDACTED] knew you were
19 struggling there, and he came with your mum and you went
20 to stay with her for a month and then joined the Royal
21 Air Force. And I think you point out that you'd filled
22 in the forms to join the Royal Air Force before you left
23 Gryffe, is that right?

24 A. Yeah, [REDACTED] -- [REDACTED] was already in
25 the Air Force and he was -- I think he told [REDACTED]

1 that he should get me to join.

2 Q. And you say then whilst you were with your mum, [REDACTED]

3 [REDACTED] was still in Gryffe, he was only 14

4 then?

5 A. That's correct.

6 Q. You went back to Gryffe to see him on your leave from

7 the Air Force and you say there were girls at Gryffe by

8 then, so by that time it was mixed?

9 A. It was mixed then.

10 Q. And there was some new staff, so not the same -- all the

11 same staff?

12 A. No, I never saw Mr MWD [REDACTED].

13 Q. You tell us then, Eugene, that you joined the Royal Air

14 Force in November 1975 at 16-and-a-half and you did your

15 training, and you tell us about that in the next few

16 paragraphs, and some of the places you were sent, posted

17 to. You tell us you did communications there, working

18 as a telephonist, a teleprinter, and you found that to

19 be good fun and the people you worked with you say were

20 a good bunch of lads; is that --

21 A. Yeah, it was all good fun.

22 Q. And you were in the Air Force for eight years and you

23 kept in touch with [REDACTED] whilst you were

24 there, wrote them letters and sent money?

25 A. Sent money to them.

1 Q. And you came out the Air Force when you were 24, went
2 back to stay at your mum's, but I think you say you felt
3 lost, because before that your life had been disciplined
4 and structured. So was this quite a big shock?

5 A. It was. I think because of Gryffe, and then the Air
6 Force had structure, and then coming out, there was no
7 structure.

8 Q. And after being in Gryffe, did being in the Air Force
9 feel like something that was a little bit familiar or
10 not?

11 A. It was similar. We were all there together. We stayed
12 on base. But I never told anyone where I'd come from.

13 Q. You tell us, Eugene, that once you came out the Air
14 Force, you got a job at Gleneagles Hotel, you were
15 working there and again you had to stay in staff
16 accommodation though there. You were doing reception
17 and then you moved to Glasgow and worked in hospitality
18 in two different hotels there, is that right?

19 A. That's correct.

20 Q. Then you went down to London and had some experience
21 working in a hotel there, and again that was a live-in
22 post. So I think you say that you worked in the
23 hospitality sector for about eight years?

24 A. Between eight and ten years.

25 Q. Then after that you went to work for the Royal Family.

1 You tell us about that. You say you were there between
2 1990 and 1999, is that right? You say that was as
3 a Royal telephonist?

4 A. That's correct.

5 Q. And so this was on the Royal Family's private line for
6 the Queen and other senior Royals that came through you
7 and your colleagues?

8 A. And we connected.

9 Q. You would travel with the Royal Family. I think you say
10 you got to know them a bit as well?

11 A. They would get to know you. If you travelled Balmoral,
12 the Queen would be out walking the grounds. If you were
13 out walking, she would stop and chat to you. Then you'd
14 get invited to the Queen's Dance at Buckingham Palace,
15 which I took my mum to. Yeah, it was good, it was
16 like --

17 Q. I think you say, Eugene, that Prince Charles was very
18 good -- was that the Prince of Wales or was this the
19 Queen's husband?

20 A. The Prince of Wales.

21 Q. That he referred to you as the 'voice of the Royals'?

22 A. Yeah, he put his hand round me at the Queen's Dance and
23 just said to my mum, 'Eugene's the voice of the Royals'.

24 Q. So that must have been a nice thing?

25 A. Chuffed. She was chuffed.

1 Q. Was that a nice thing for you as well?

2 A. Yeah, 'cause we'd spoken to them daily, all of the
3 members.

4 Q. So it seems like that was a good period in your life?

5 A. Yeah, we did travelling to Sandringham and Balmoral,
6 Windsor.

7 Q. You explain, Eugene, that essentially you were sort of
8 headhunted from there to go and work at the Prince's
9 Trust?

10 A. Yeah, so Tom Shebeare, who was a very good friend of the
11 Prince of Wales, had asked me to go over to the Prince's
12 Trust and set up reception there. But I was quite happy
13 at the palace. And then the following year, I went over
14 to the Prince's Trust and I ended up setting up
15 reception there. And that's where I first became
16 an executive assistant.

17 Q. I think you say that you took on a role after that at
18 Battersea Dogs Home and then as an executive assistant
19 at Kantar; is that a big marketing --

20 A. Kantar is a marketing and I've been there now 19 years.

21 Q. So quite -- some interesting jobs that you've had over
22 the years then, Eugene?

23 A. Yeah, I used to think, coming from Gryffe and ended up
24 at Buckingham Palace, it was like --

25 Q. But I think you point out, this is maybe later in your

1 statement, Eugene, that you have had and still have
2 a good career, but that was you coming out with no
3 qualifications and you think that you could have done
4 a lot better if you were given a chance --

5 A. I'm sure I could have, yeah.

6 Q. -- at education.

7 Looking at the impact then, Eugene, you talk about
8 that from paragraph 93 and you say that you [REDACTED]
9 [REDACTED] talk about Mossbank and say that that was the
10 best place that you were in, and you were looked after
11 and it was a shame that you weren't there [REDACTED]
12 longer.

13 I think you go on to tell us that sadly [REDACTED]
14 [REDACTED], died when he was only 18 in an accident?

15 A. Yeah, two years after leaving Gryffe.

16 Q. So he wasn't long out of care before that happened?

17 A. Two years.

18 Q. And you've mentioned already that it took you a very
19 long time to talk about what happened to you when you
20 were younger, and you mentioned talking to your best
21 friend, Fraser, and he's your supporter today; is that
22 right?

23 A. That's correct.

24 Q. And he suggested, I think, going to the police, I think,
25 about Mr MWD [REDACTED]. You said you didn't -- you felt

1 sorry for his wife and you didn't want to --

2 A. Yeah, I felt sorry for his wife and children.

3 Q. I think you say you can talk to [REDACTED] now about
4 what happened, but back at the time they didn't know
5 anything about what was going on.

6 You say that when you were in Gryffe you thought the
7 abuse was only happening to you and you thought it
8 happened to you because you were really shy and didn't
9 say anything, and you felt over time it was eating away
10 at you and you blamed yourself for the abuse.

11 I think you say you had nightmares in Gryffe while
12 you were there and you say that you still have
13 nightmares if someone comes into the room. You wake up
14 and you start screaming?

15 A. I do. I tend to have the bedroom door closed, because
16 at Gryffe the door was open and you could see a shadow.

17 Q. We've talked about, you know, the Quarriers boys and how
18 you felt their life was different, but as we've said,
19 you know now that that might not have been what it
20 appeared to be, but that's certainly the way you felt
21 when you were in Gryffe.

22 Then when you went to the halfway house in Glasgow,
23 you felt just lost and abandoned, you tell us; is that
24 right?

25 A. That's correct.

1 Q. There was no preparation for life outside and you say
2 that you and the other boys there were really shy in the
3 halfway house and you were actually wishing you were
4 back in Gryffe?

5 A. Sadly, yes.

6 Q. And we've talked about your life in the Air Force and
7 you say that that was -- you found that easier than most
8 because you were used to the discipline and you could
9 make your bed and polish your shoes; you say that's
10 something that you knew from Gryffe?

11 A. Yeah, that's what we did in Gryffe, and then in the Air
12 Force, if you were having an inspection, you could help
13 somebody else who wasn't as good at polishing shoes or
14 doing some other stuff.

15 Q. Just going further in your statement to paragraph 105,
16 Eugene, you say that your experiences at Gryffe have
17 affected your relationships and it's meant that you've
18 found it difficult to give and receive affection or to
19 have intimacy with another person.

20 Do you feel that that's because of your time in
21 care?

22 A. I think so, because I always think in the back of my
23 mind that I'm going to have to explain to someone and
24 bring it all up again, so I prefer to try and keep it to
25 myself.

1 Q. You point out that you actually would make up stories
2 about where you were brought up because you were
3 embarrassed and ashamed of being in care?

4 A. Yeah, I even said my parents were dead and I was living
5 with an aunt.

6 LADY SMITH: I suppose that felt easier than explaining, did
7 it?

8 A. Yeah, rather than explain that my parents had put [REDACTED] in
9 somewhere, it was easier just to say they were dead and
10 hopefully nobody would ask any more questions.

11 MS FORBES: You also tell us, Eugene, that you have had
12 feelings of low self-esteem, of feeling unworthy, you've
13 had panic attacks, anxiety and flashbacks to the
14 episodes of abuse, and you've felt anger and fear and
15 sadness that you didn't have the same normal childhood
16 experiences that others had?

17 A. I think most survivors will still feel the same way
18 after all the years, it's always there in the back of
19 your mind.

20 Q. You talk about having stomach ulcers, Eugene, at
21 paragraph 108, and you say that you developed those as
22 a young adult, and you think that they're apparently due
23 to this constant worry about anyone finding out about
24 the abuse. And I think one of the things you pointed
25 out is that when [REDACTED]

1 died, he -- you felt that he knew about it and with him
2 dying that that was it, no one else knew?

3 A. I actually thought that would be it, gone.

4 Q. You say you felt a guilt about that?

5 A. Mm-hmm.

6 Q. Because it was mixed feelings. But I think you tell us
7 that you ended up having a very loving relationship with
8 your mother. She's passed away, you have told us about
9 that, and you understand the difficulties of her being
10 [REDACTED] with your father. And
11 you also say you don't hold any ill-feelings for your
12 father or blame him for anything, and you say he was
13 a young man looking after [REDACTED],
14 unemployed and struggling with alcoholism in difficult
15 circumstances?

16 A. Yeah. Looking back, I think my father would be younger
17 than I am now. Must have been difficult at that time.

18 Q. [REDACTED] you say
19 that you're in touch with [REDACTED] and you speak to
20 each other every couple of days and you meet one of them
21 down in London, because she's down there as well?

22 A. She's down there, yeah.

23 Q. But you tell us sadly [REDACTED] passed away
24 within six months of each other, two of them, but
25 I think you're still in touch with one of them; is that

1 right?

2 A. Yes, [REDACTED], is still left.

3 Q. I think you tell us that you've thought a lot about
4 Gryffe and you still think about it and you say there's
5 not a week that goes by when you don't think about it.
6 And you say, though, that now when you think about it,
7 you try to think about the good times and you can blot
8 out the other parts?

9 A. Yeah, that's what you try and do and I think it's helped
10 that I served with other survivors on the Interaction
11 Review Group, so I did that for about ten years and
12 I got to hear their stories. And we work with some good
13 people.

14 Q. I think this is at paragraph 118 onwards, Eugene, you
15 talk about being involved with the In Care Survivors
16 Group and you say you find it easier to cope with your
17 experiences now, because when you listen to other people
18 you think: mine wasn't as bad at that. So is that --
19 what made you think about that?

20 A. It is, and I'm still good friends with my friend [REDACTED]
21 from Quarriers and we meet up quite regular.

22 Q. You point out, you say:
23 'I think I've come through it better than some.'
24 But you also say you think you can put on a front?

25 A. I do. You can try and act like it's in the third

1 person, but then when I did the interaction and the NCF,
2 I got to know survivors who were not weighing as well.
3 They're finding it a harder time.

4 LADY SMITH: When you say NCF, you mean the National
5 Confidential Forum, do you?

6 A. Yeah, my friend [REDACTED] put me forward for that and
7 Dr Rachel Harper was the Chair, and my job was basically
8 on the panel, interview panel, looking for new panel
9 members, and I was the survivor representative on it.

10 LADY SMITH: I think that might have been Rachel Happer,
11 wasn't it?

12 A. Happer.

13 MS FORBES: You also mention, I think you've touched on it,
14 the Interaction Action Plan Review Group, which is run
15 by the Centre for Excellence for Looked After Children
16 in Scotland, so CELCIS.

17 A. CELCIS.

18 Q. And I think, was this at that time, the review group
19 were working on, at the time you gave your statement,
20 a redress system? Yes.

21 I think you point out though, Eugene, you say:

22 'At the forum you announce yourself by saying that
23 you're a survivor.'

24 But you point out that you hate saying that, but
25 everyone seems to say it?

1 A. Everyone says it, rather than say 'victim', so.

2 Q. You tell us, Eugene, about lessons to be learned, that
3 staff should be well trained, so that they can see signs
4 of anyone being abused. But I think from what you've
5 told us back then, there were staff members who knew
6 about the abuse, but didn't do anything about it?

7 A. Ideally I think there should be more checks now,
8 children in care, and provide them, before they go out
9 to the -- leave care, go to the community, let them know
10 about life outside.

11 Q. So better preparation?

12 A. Mm-hmm. Because at school no one asked -- none of the
13 teachers asked at school how we were getting on or --
14 like, we were just left to it.

15 Q. So there was no check at school --

16 A. None at all.

17 Q. -- about how things were.

18 You point out, Eugene, at paragraph 119 that there
19 was a report done into abuse at Gryffe in the 1960s but
20 the abuse was allowed to continue without anything being
21 done about it. And you say:

22 'I think Glasgow Corporation has got a lot to answer
23 for.'

24 And you say:

25 'I would like everything to come out into the open

1 so I don't have to hang on to it anymore.'

2 The report in Gryffe, that's not something you were
3 aware of when you were there at the time, is it?

4 A. No, this is just something, when I joined the
5 Interaction Review Group, there had been reports in the
6 Scottish press about Gryffe back in 1960s and early
7 1970s and nothing had been done about it.

8 Q. You were there after that?

9 A. Yeah.

10 Q. How did you feel when you found out about that?

11 A. I don't know. I don't know if I had any feeling about
12 it.

13 Q. But that point we have touched on there, that everything
14 coming out in the open so that you don't have to hang on
15 to it anymore, and do you feel that that -- coming to
16 the Inquiry and giving a statement to talk about this
17 has helped?

18 A. I think it's helped a lot, yeah, and I'm glad I've done
19 it.

20 MS FORBES: Well, thank you, Eugene, for answering all my
21 questions today. I don't have any more questions for
22 you, but is there anything that you want to say that
23 I haven't asked you about, you haven't had a chance?

24 A. No, I'd just say that one of my achievements, I think,
25 was the Interaction Review Group and we were set up to

1 set up Redress and we achieved that a couple of years
2 ago.

3 Q. Is that something you feel quite proud of being part of?

4 A. It is, after -- we had a long time doing it, many
5 disagreements with other survivors and members of the
6 government, but I think we got there in the end. It
7 could have been better, but we got there.

8 Q. Not an easy task, but worthwhile?

9 A. It was worth the while, yeah.

10 MS FORBES: Thank you very much, Eugene.

11 A. Thank you.

12 LADY SMITH: Eugene, could I add my thanks for you being
13 here and giving us so much in terms of learning from
14 your oral evidence in addition to your written evidence.
15 It's been tremendous to hear you and to hear you deliver
16 in such an articulate and thoughtful way what you wanted
17 to share of your memories of Gryffe. Not good, I have
18 heard that loud and clear. But as you've said at the
19 end of your statement, one of the reasons you want to do
20 this is so that you can leave it behind you. Please try
21 to do that. We have it now. We're taking your evidence
22 forward with other similar evidence to hopefully make
23 people learn and not let this happen again.

24 A. Thank you.

25 LADY SMITH: I hope that helps.

1 MR PEOPLES: My Lady, we're now going on to some read-ins in
2 relation to Gryffe.

3 LADY SMITH: Yes.

4 MR PEOPLES: The first read-in this afternoon is from
5 a statement provided by an applicant who is anonymous
6 and will be known as 'Tom'.

7 LADY SMITH: Thank you.

8 MR PEOPLES: I can say that quite a large part of his
9 evidence has already been read in during the List D case
10 study on the -- and his -- and that was done on 7 August
11 of last year, by Ms MacLeod. The transcript reference
12 is TRN-12-000000098. That was Day 465 and I think it
13 was in the context of Larchgrove and St John Bosco's
14 that that evidence was read in.

15 LADY SMITH: Thank you.

16 MR PEOPLES: So I'm hoping that I can focus very much on the
17 evidence about Gryffe, because I don't think that was
18 read in at the time.

19 LADY SMITH: I don't think so.

20 'Tom' (read in)

21 MR PEOPLES: So the statement is WIT-1-000000166.
22 'Tom' was born in 1951. He tells us about life
23 before care, and that has been dealt with. He went to
24 Gryffe, he thinks, around 1962, when he was aged 10.
25 That's at paragraph 6. And we have some records, which

1 show that -- and indicate he was admitted to Gryffe on
2 [REDACTED] 1962 at the age of 10 after, I think, pleading
3 guilty to a charge of theft by housebreaking.

4 And just to deal with the dates at this point, he
5 was subsequently discharged on [REDACTED] 1963 to his
6 parents for a trial period under -- still under
7 supervision. He was then readmitted to Gryffe on
8 [REDACTED] 1964, when he was aged 12, and between [REDACTED]
9 1964 and [REDACTED] 1964, which was about four-and-a-half
10 months after readmission, he absconded and ended up in
11 Larchgrove Remand Home and was subsequently committed to
12 St John Bosco's Approved School on [REDACTED] 1964.

13 So I think that gives us the context and the
14 timeframe.

15 LADY SMITH: Yes, thank you.

16 MR PEOPLES: So if I just look at the statement. I'm not
17 going to deal with all aspects of the statement. He has
18 a description of Gryffe which is very much along the
19 lines of what we've already heard, at paragraph 8 of his
20 statement.

21 He tells us it was just boys at that time, in
22 paragraph 9. He thinks that there was a couple of dozen
23 boys at least in separate dorms, and there was more than
24 one dormitory. And he talks about dorms being on both
25 the ground floor and the first floor of the building.

1 He said there was both male and female staff in the
2 home. He says the cook and matron were both female, at
3 paragraph 11. The rest of the staff were male.

4 He remembers a Mr GTC and a Mr Gilmour, so that
5 would tie in with the Mr Gilmour we've already heard
6 some evidence about.

7 LADY SMITH: Yes.

8 MR PEOPLES: And he then says -- gives some description of
9 Mr GTC, saying he was older and he thought he was in
10 his 40s or 50s. He had big jowls, he says, he can still
11 picture him. And then he says at paragraph 12:

12 'There were other staff members and I can't recall
13 their names. However [he says], there was one man who
14 had a [REDACTED]. I can only remember that he sounded like
15 he was English. I didn't have any problems with him.'

16 Then he says:

17 'SNR [REDACTED] of the home was called Mr MKS [REDACTED],
18 and he lived in the main house at Gryffe.'

19 I think that probably means within the building but
20 no doubt we can stand corrected if I'm wrong. So he has
21 a memory of that. So I think we can work out who the
22 man with the [REDACTED] is.

23 LADY SMITH: Yes, we've already referred to him.

24 MR PEOPLES: Yes. There might be a difference of surname
25 between MWN [REDACTED] and MWN [REDACTED].

1 LADY SMITH: Ah, right.

2 MR PEOPLES: I just warn that we might hear different names,
3 but I think it's the same person; I don't think there
4 was two people.

5 LADY SMITH: The timescale would fit, wouldn't it.

6 MR PEOPLES: It would, yes, 1960 -- 1962 to 1964.

7 LADY SMITH: 1962 to 1964.

8 MR PEOPLES: It works, yes, it does work, for Mr Gilmour and
9 for Mr MWN or MWN.

10 LADY SMITH: And when I say 'fit', it would fit what we
11 heard from the evidence before lunch.

12 MR PEOPLES: Yes, absolutely, yes.

13 And he says of his first day at paragraph 13, he
14 didn't recall much about his first day, he was feeling
15 frightened on the way, 'as I didn't know what to expect
16 when I got there'. I think that's again a familiar
17 theme from the evidence we've heard so far.

18 He says he was taken into SNR's office,
19 introduced to some staff members, shown round the house
20 and shown which dormitory he would be staying in.

21 He said:

22 'I must have also been told about the house rules.'

23 He then says at paragraph 14 he was in a dorm room
24 and he thinks there were around five or six boys in that
25 room. And I'm not going to read all the detail of that;

1 I think it's in line with what we've heard already.

2 He said that he went to bed around 7.00 pm, at
3 paragraph 16. He said:

4 'We went to bed earlier in winter. We might have
5 gone to bed later in summer but I can't remember. When
6 we went to bed in the evening the staff turned the main
7 lights off and I think they left a red light on. There
8 would be someone on duty who would sort out any
9 trouble.'

10 And I think that would have been by verbal threats.

11 And then he talks about meal times and said there
12 was one dining room for all the boys to eat in. He
13 can't remember the detail of where they sat, but he does
14 recall one occasion when he couldn't eat the soup that
15 was served up to him, at paragraph 18. And he says:

16 'No one was allowed to leave the dining room until
17 I ate it. Eventually a staff member pushed my head in
18 it. I think that must have been Mr GTC. He was
19 quite sadistic.'

20 And then, moving on, he talks about washing and
21 bathing at paragraph 19 and having a shower once a week,
22 probably on a Sunday, he thought. The showers were
23 communal. No privacy. He says they were supervised by
24 a staff member and he adds:

25 'I don't think we had any privacy to get undressed

1 or dressed. I didn't think there was anything wrong at
2 the time.'

3 Well, I think that's maybe in line with what the
4 thinking was at the time, whatever might be thought now.

5 LADY SMITH: Indeed, yes. Yes.

6 MR PEOPLES: And then he goes on to deal with schooling and
7 he says that 10 or 12 boys went to the same school as
8 him and that was to the Catholic school. And he says in
9 his case there were no problems at school for him and he
10 says he wasn't treated any differently from the local
11 children at the same school. He said:

12 'After school we walked back to the home with
13 a member of staff and then we changed into casual
14 clothes and had our tea.'

15 At paragraph 23, he has no recollection of having to
16 do chores in the home.

17 And then he talks about trips and holidays and says
18 he recalls a holiday to Campbeltown for two weeks, and
19 that seems to be in line with the practice of going away
20 for a couple of weeks.

21 LADY SMITH: Yes, a fortnight somewhere, not that far away
22 but a bit different from Gryffe.

23 MR PEOPLES: Yes, and he said all the boys and staff went on
24 this holiday and:

25 'We stayed in a place that was just like

1 a children's home. It might have been another council
2 home.'

3 And we did hear some evidence about at least the
4 place that they went to in Garlieston, that it looks as
5 if it was a large place with its own staff.

6 LADY SMITH: Yes.

7 MR PEOPLES: Then he talks about day trips to Paisley for
8 swimming, which happened every week or two weeks.

9 And he then says at paragraph 26:

10 'There was a large room that was used as a meeting
11 room and where we maybe played games together.'

12 He doesn't have a great memory of what happened or
13 what he did after school, apart from having tea, but he
14 thinks there was free time and that in the summer, the
15 boys would get out into the grounds to run around the
16 school. He doesn't remember there being any swings in
17 the grounds, and he thinks sometimes they got to see
18 a film in the home on a projector, but there was no TV
19 in the home.

20 He can't remember anything being done at Christmas,
21 and birthdays were not celebrated. That's not entirely
22 in line with I think the evidence we've heard, but
23 that's just his recollection obviously and I think we
24 can see from some of his evidence that his memory on
25 some points of detail are perhaps not as clear as some

1 of the evidence that we've already heard.

2 He said his parents came to visit him at least once
3 but they weren't able to come every week. They could
4 only come on the buses as they didn't have a car and the
5 journey might take 30 minutes in a car but would have
6 taken longer on the bus. He does say that they didn't
7 ask what was going on in the home when they came to see
8 him.

9 At paragraph 29, this is something again we have
10 heard evidence about today:

11 'No one told me how long I would be in Gryffe for
12 and I had no idea from any of the other boys.'

13 He says he got on okay with the boys generally, the
14 other boys. He said:

15 'I didn't have regular meetings with the staff about
16 how I was getting on in the home.'

17 And I think that again echoes the sort of evidence
18 we heard earlier today.

19 He's not aware of inspections taking place. He had
20 no social worker to visit him.

21 Moving on to running away, which starts at
22 paragraph 32, he says he was there for one or two weeks
23 and ran away by himself for the first time, and found
24 his way back to his parents' house but was taken back to
25 Gryffe. He says at paragraph 33:

1 'I was punished by Mr GTC when I returned and he
2 hit me with one of the sandals he was wearing. He put
3 me over his knee and smacked me on the bottom in front
4 of the other boys who were in the room at the time. It
5 happened in the big meeting room where other boys would
6 have gathered. He made sure they were able to witness
7 the punishment. He smacked me over my clothes and it
8 was painful. It didn't put me off running away.'

9 So again we have this idea that people who abscond
10 are punished in front of other children, no doubt to
11 encourage others not to do the same.

12 He says he ran away two more times. The second time
13 was when they were just back from the holiday in
14 Campbeltown where he'd suffered abuse, and we'll hear
15 a little bit about that later on. He says:

16 'I ran away with two boys who had also been abused
17 in a similar way.'

18 He said they went to Glasgow and were walking about
19 on the streets:

20 'One of the boys was from the Gorbals and knew there
21 were railway sidings where we could hide and sleep.'

22 And then he said they were found, the police were
23 called and they were taken back to Gryffe by the police:

24 'They didn't ask us why we were running away and
25 I didn't try to tell them. I was punished again by

1 Mr GTC who hit me on the backside with his sandal.'

2 He then said he ran away a third time and did

3 something similar, roaming the streets of Glasgow. And

4 fortunately, I think, a couple took him in and he stayed

5 the night with them. And the next day he said they were

6 running around again stealing food to keep going and

7 they smashed a window and waited for the police to come

8 and get them and were taken to Larchgrove, because

9 they'd smashed the window:

10 'Again, no one asked why we ran away.'

11 It may well be that that was the last occasion that

12 led to his transfer to approved school.

13 LADY SMITH: Yes.

14 MR PEOPLES: As for bed-wetting, he said he didn't think he

15 was a bed-wetter, at paragraph 37, but he did know that

16 other boys in his dorm wet the bed and he says:

17 'I think staff would have made the boy feel bad

18 about a wet bed and make a big deal out of it to

19 belittle the boy.'

20 As for discipline, he says:

21 'Mr GTC used to hit me on the top of my head with

22 his knuckles digging into my scalp. It was as painful

23 as he could make it be. This was for things like

24 talking out of turn or anything that annoyed him.

25 Mr GTC hit me with his sandal after I'd run away the

1 first two times and he hit me in the same manner on
2 other occasions too. I assume that would be for things
3 like fighting with other boys.'

4 He then goes on to say:

5 'I saw a lot of other boys being hit with a sandal
6 by Mr GTC and him knuckling them on the head too.'

7 He says:

8 'He didn't use the belt on anyone and he didn't wear
9 one on his body.

10 And then he says:

11 'I don't know if SNR, Mr MKS, had
12 a belt to use on boys as punishment. I wasn't aware of
13 him physically punishing any boy and I only saw him
14 myself about twice.

15 'There was a choir in the home, made up of boys from
16 the home. One boy was a really good singer and if he
17 ever sang out of tune or in the wrong tempo, Mr GTC
18 would lay into him with a slap on the back of the head
19 in front of everybody. I saw it happen a couple of
20 times.'

21 Then he moves on to a specific section headed 'Abuse
22 at Gryffe' and I'll just read from that, from
23 paragraph 41:

24 'We walked in pairs to school in the morning and
25 this meant we were expected to hold hands with the boy

1 next to us. There was a staff member at the back of the
2 line of boys who held hands with the boy walking next to
3 him. Then it was my turn to walk next to him and he
4 took my hand and told me it was cold and put his hand
5 and mine in his pocket to keep warm. He was rubbing his
6 hand up and down his penis. This staff member was
7 Mr Gilmour and he was a man in his 30s or 40s.'

8 I think he's got the age a bit wrong there, but
9 again, children perhaps don't always find it easy to
10 estimate age.

11 LADY SMITH: It's hard, because Gilmour is the man whose
12 date of birth we identified as 1939 and this is early
13 1960s.

14 MR PEOPLES: 1939, yes.

15 He says:

16 'He's someone I can't picture now and can't describe
17 him. I don't know if Mr Gilmour escorted us to school
18 every day. It started happening to me straightaway when
19 I was back from running away the first time. When he
20 took hold of my hand I pulled it away. I don't think
21 anything was said by him at the time.

22 'On one occasion I was unwell and stayed in my bed
23 in the home when everyone else was at school. I was in
24 the dorm at Gryffe and Mr Gilmour came in with some
25 sweets. He put his hand under the sheets and starting

1 rubbing his hand against my body. He only stopped
2 because a noise outside disturbed him.

3 'I'm not sure how long afterwards it was when we
4 were away on holiday in Campbeltown. I was unwell again
5 and stayed in my bed. Mr Gilmour came into the room
6 with sweets. Again he put his hand under the bedclothes
7 and he was rubbing my body in a sexually intimate
8 manner. On that occasion he also took my hand to rub
9 him also in a sexually intimate manner. He didn't
10 remove any of his clothes. He was disturbed this time
11 too by hearing someone outside the room. I don't know
12 what would have happened if he had not been disturbed.
13 I was frightened by his actions.'

14 He then says about reporting of abuse and perhaps
15 this is quite significant at paragraph 44:

16 'After the abuse at Campbeltown, I got talking to
17 two other boys from the home and they had experienced
18 similar abuse from the same man. We went to one of the
19 female members of staff. I don't know if it was the
20 cook or the matron or a cleaner. I can't recall her
21 response. She then took us to see SNR
22 Mr MKS in his office. We told him what happened.
23 Mr Gilmour, Mr MKS and his wife and the female
24 member of staff were there. We were told we were liars
25 and we were making up stories.'

1 It's a slightly unusual procedure for the person
2 accused to be present when a young boy is making
3 an allegation of that kind.

4 LADY SMITH: Indeed.

5 MR PEOPLES: But that's his recall and of course we do know
6 that Mr Gilmour does have one conviction and one other
7 or possibly two other trials.

8 LADY SMITH: Well, certainly other allegations that were
9 taken to trial.

10 MR PEOPLES: And other allegations as well, but there were
11 clearly -- as he recalls it, there was clearly just
12 an immediate reaction of 'They're lying', and that
13 was the end of it. So no investigation, no police
14 involvement.

15 Indeed, he goes on, at paragraph 45:

16 'If we'd been believed and the police called, it
17 would have made a difference to me. I got whacked with
18 a sandal again from Mr GTC the day after I made the
19 complaint. He didn't get any further opportunities to
20 punish me as we ran away again within a day or two.'

21 And he says the third time he ran away was with the
22 two other boys and they were picked up by the police,
23 taken to Larchgrove Remand Centre and then appeared in
24 the Sheriff Court and were committed to approved school.
25 So he didn't return to Gryffe. And he went on to

1 St John Bosco's and we do have the dates for that.

2 LADY SMITH: Yes.

3 MR PEOPLES: So that's all I propose to read from that

4 particular statement.

5 LADY SMITH: Thank you very much.

6 MR PEOPLES: If I could move on to another statement.

7 LADY SMITH: Just before we leave that statement, one name,

8 I think, to bear in mind as somebody whose identity is

9 protected by my General Restriction Order, and that was

10 Mr GTC . I think that's all.

11 MR PEOPLES: Yes, yes.

12 LADY SMITH: Thank you.

13 MR PEOPLES: If I can move on to a statement from another

14 applicant who is anonymous and has the pseudonym

15 'Henry'.

16 LADY SMITH: Thank you.

17 'Henry' (read in)

18 MR PEOPLES: His statement is WIT-1-000000288. And he is

19 again someone whose evidence was read in more recently,

20 on 13 January 2026 by Ms MacLeod on Day 569 in relation

21 to Dunclutha, and the transcript reference is

22 TRN-14-000000002.

23 LADY SMITH: Thank you.

24 MR PEOPLES: So we have that.

25 And again, it's perhaps not necessary to deal with

1 much other than the specific evidence about Gryffe,
2 because a lot of this I think --

3 LADY SMITH: Is out already.

4 MR PEOPLES: -- has been read in.

5 But 'Henry' was born in 1957 and he tells us about
6 life before care and again, I think that was read in or
7 a large part was read in.

8 And his first, I think, place of care was Dunclutha
9 between [REDACTED] 1965, aged 8, to [REDACTED] 1968, aged 11, and
10 evidence about that has been read in previously. And,
11 indeed, I think that he tells us about abuse that he
12 experienced while he was there. In his statement, he
13 tells us about that from paragraph 34 through to 38.
14 And I think he tells us at paragraph 39 that he was too
15 frightened to tell the police what had happened when he
16 was being taken back.

17 He then leaves Dunclutha and he spends a period of
18 time with his grandparents in addresses in Glasgow and,
19 again, I think some of that was read in and I'm just
20 going to leave it to be read.

21 He does mention an unfortunate episode with the
22 death of the young boy that he was friendly with, which
23 clearly had a profound effect, but the upshot is that he
24 then goes to Gryffe Children's Home and the -- I think
25 that really arose from paragraph 47, that he says that

1 he stole some money from his granny's purse, was caught,
2 she gave him a slap across the head -- this is his
3 recall -- and out of spite he said he'd rather be in
4 a home and his gran replied: 'If that's what you want,
5 you'll get it'. So it looks as though that's how he
6 ended up in care at that point.

7 And so far as his time at Gryffe is concerned, we
8 have some records which say, I think, or indicate that
9 he went there in [REDACTED] 1969, when he was -- on
10 [REDACTED] 1969, when he was admitted aged 12, and he
11 was allowed to leave and live with his father in London
12 from [REDACTED] 1972, when he was aged 15. So we're a bit
13 further forward in time with this witness, applicant.

14 And he tells us -- he starts telling us about Gryffe
15 at paragraph 48 and I'll not read all of that because
16 it's again in line with what we've heard. However, he
17 does make the point at paragraph 48:

18 'We were only allowed to use the back door.'

19 So that seems to have been a fairly firm rule.

20 He thinks there were about 26 or 27 boys at the
21 time, ranging from 10 to about 15 years of age.

22 He says, at paragraph 49:

23 'Gryffe wasn't the best of places. It was a bit
24 better than Dunclutha but the staff weren't any better.'

25 He said that a man and his wife were [REDACTED SNR].

1 I think he later learned their surname was MKS-LYQ. He
2 says:
3 'Mr MKS dealt with the boys. His wife never got
4 involved in discipline.'
5 That's not quite in line with some of the evidence
6 we heard this morning, that she --
7 LADY SMITH: It doesn't fit.
8 MR PEOPLES: -- certainly there was one occasion when she
9 seems to have done. But he tells us about that and he
10 does tell us about some other staff, including the women
11 who were taking care of healthcare requirements and
12 laundry and they were called nurses, which I think is
13 again in line with what we've heard.
14 LADY SMITH: I don't think we've any evidence that all these
15 women were in fact qualified nurses, do we?
16 MR PEOPLES: No, I think 'nurse' was a term. I know that
17 we've had evidence in other cases where the nurse has
18 had a nursing qualification, but I don't think we're
19 clear that this was the case.
20 LADY SMITH: And we have, even just in this block of
21 evidence, had reference to people who clearly didn't
22 have any nursing qualification but were given the title
23 and the uniform.
24 MR PEOPLES: Yes, that's right.
25 LADY SMITH: So they had -- nurse.

1 MR PEOPLES: So I don't think we can read too much into that
2 other than that's what they were called. No doubt
3 people were called 'Mother' and 'Father' at times and
4 clearly they weren't.

5 LADY SMITH: Or 'Auntie'.

6 MR PEOPLES: Or 'Auntie' and 'Uncle', so yes, I think we
7 have to be careful with terminology.

8 He does mention among the staff in his time between
9 1969 and 1972 as including the -- a Mr MWM that we've
10 heard about.

11 LADY SMITH: Yes.

12 MR PEOPLES: Mr MWN . Now, I think we can assume that
13 Mr MWN and Mr MWN are one and the same.

14 LADY SMITH: It sounds like it, doesn't it.

15 MR PEOPLES: Yes, I think so. I think he may tell us, but
16 if not, I think that is the likelihood.

17 And then there's a Mr MWD who we've heard
18 about.

19 LADY SMITH: Yes.

20 MR PEOPLES: He said the boys were quite nasty -- yes,
21 I think this is, well -- they were quite nasty and they
22 had names for the staff. Mr MWD was called
23 MWD . Well, I think he was called
24 something worse than that, but -- and Mr MWN was
25 called MWN . Well, again, I think he was

1 called something different by some boys.

2 He said:

3 'The male staff looked after us. They worked shifts
4 so there were usually two staff on at a time.'

5 And he then has a section on routine starting at
6 paragraph 51 and I'm not planning to go through that in
7 detail.

8 He did say though, when he's on his first day, that
9 when he was brought in, he did go in the front door, it
10 would appear, at paragraph 51, and he was sat down and
11 given the 'dos and don'ts'. So he's some memory that
12 there were some sort of house rules, and I think we've
13 got some idea of what some of them were from earlier
14 evidence.

15 And he was told which school he would go to and then
16 it says he was shown to his -- I think it's dorm rather
17 than room.

18 LADY SMITH: It must be, yes.

19 MR PEOPLES: Which was called Ben Nevis, because I think
20 when we read on, at paragraph 52, he tells us that Ben
21 Nevis, one of the dorms, had ten beds in it. There was
22 another one called Mount Everest which had five beds.

23 LADY SMITH: Yes. I think we've also heard about
24 a Ben Cruachan, haven't we?

25 MR PEOPLES: I think so. It certainly sounds as if they've

1 had a number of names, not just Scottish mountains, it
2 would appear. But anyway, that's his recollection, that
3 these were some of the names.

4 But he was in Ben Nevis, he says, and the boys in
5 that dorm, as he said at paragraph 52, ranged from 10 in
6 age to 14 in age.

7 And he said everybody went to bed at the same time:

8 'They put us to bed around 8.00 or 8.30.'

9 He said:

10 'I never wet the bed but a few boys did. I could
11 tell because they had a big ring on their sheets in the
12 morning. They would then end up with a rubber mat on
13 their bed.'

14 So he doesn't really develop that in the sense of
15 what we've heard from some others who were in Gryffe at
16 earlier times.

17 He said:

18 'There used to be a housefather in each room.'

19 I think at first I thought that was a member of
20 staff, but if we read on I think he means that, since he
21 was appointed to that role in his third year, it means
22 perhaps the leader from one of the residents.

23 LADY SMITH: A bit like a dorm prefect.

24 MR PEOPLES: A bit like that, yes, yes. He says that the
25 job of this person was to make sure the room was clean

1 and boys were spotless and ready for the day ahead, and
2 he said he liked that because he liked to be a person
3 that was in charge.

4 And then at meal times he recalls there was a dining
5 room with four to five tables, four people at each
6 table. There was a top table for six or seven people,
7 'That's where all the do-gooders sat'. He never got
8 there, he says. He said:

9 'The food was okay. It got to the stage where you
10 just ate what they gave you or you'd starve.'

11 He thinks he had enough to eat and he got free meals
12 at school, which I think again is in line with what
13 we've previously been told:

14 'School meals were better than meals in the home.'

15 And it would appear that he managed to get some
16 extras, at least at school, if not at Gryffe.

17 He said:

18 'Because I ended up as leader of the room [this is
19 at paragraph 55], I ended up being the leader of the
20 table that I sat at. The boys from my room would sit at
21 my table. I had to make sure they ate right and that
22 they were okay.'

23 Washing and bathing. He has a recollection of bath
24 times and saying that you were given privacy when you
25 had a bath. It looks as if younger boys did get a bath

1 and older boys got a shower, and he's come to Gryffe
2 a bit later in time.

3 LADY SMITH: Yes, he's about 10, we think, is that right?

4 MR PEOPLES: Yes, but also he's come in 1969.

5 LADY SMITH: 1969.

6 MR PEOPLES: So he's a wee bit further forward in time.

7 LADY SMITH: Of course.

8 MR PEOPLES: So it may well be that things had changed
9 a little bit from the earlier times.

10 He says at paragraph 57 on clothing that they wore
11 a blazer and long trousers to school and in the home
12 wore shorts and T-shirts, which I think again is broadly
13 in line with what we've heard. And he said:

14 'We wore shirts and T-shirts all year round but it
15 was what we were used to.'

16 At paragraph 58.

17 As for chores, he says at paragraph 59:

18 'We had to buff the floors. There was a big long
19 pole with a heavy bumper. There were no carpets, but
20 the floors were lino and the rooms were big. There was
21 a rota for the chores. Some would do the buffing, some
22 would do other chores like cleaning the kitchen. The
23 ones that didn't do the buffing would do the buffing
24 next time. They had staff to deal with the cleaning but
25 I think they were trying to get us involved a bit. They

1 didn't like us sitting about, doing nothing.'

2 And as for, under the section 'School', it says:

3 'Apart from holidays, the only time we left Gryffe
4 was when we went to school.'

5 Now, that's again very much in line with what we've
6 heard already.

7 And he said he went to Linwood High School when he
8 was there and says when they got back, they had to enter
9 the home through the back door. So it would appear that
10 that rule seemed to be still in existence.

11 He says at 61 that he turned into a thief at school
12 and I think he says he turned out quite bad at that
13 stage, but felt at the time he was proud of what he was
14 doing.

15 He said:

16 'The school got in touch with Gryffe and told them
17 what we were doing.'

18 He got the belt, he was grounded, and put to bed
19 without anything to eat. Again, this is an echo of the
20 sort of things that were being done at an earlier time.
21 Mr MKS [REDACTED]'s still there.

22 The only thing that is perhaps worth noting is that
23 this is 1969 and the report on Gryffe was 1967 and

24 I think --

25 LADY SMITH: The Daily Mail article was 1969, was it?

1 MR PEOPLES: September 1967.

2 LADY SMITH: 1967.

3 MR PEOPLES: And there was an investigation in 1967.

4 LADY SMITH: Of course, yes.

5 MR PEOPLES: I think that, as we may find out when

6 Mr Trainer comes to us, that there were reports and

7 there was recommendations to make quite a few changes

8 and some conclusions about what was going on, and that

9 I think they were expecting some practices to change and

10 things to --

11 LADY SMITH: Yes. I think there were some very pointed

12 remarks about Mr MKS not being able to accept that

13 his style was not acceptable.

14 MR PEOPLES: Yes, and I think there was a clear finding that

15 while he tried to say he didn't break the rules to any

16 great extent, he did break the rules and he didn't

17 record all punishments, despite claiming that's what he

18 did, and that proved he wasn't the person that was being

19 portrayed in the press.

20 So I think that reading that, albeit that Glasgow

21 was perhaps rather more kindly on Mr MKS than

22 perhaps one might think they should have been, that's

23 the general picture. But it does appear from this

24 evidence that things were not necessarily greatly

25 improved while Mr MKS remained at the .

1 And he says at paragraph 63, on leisure time:

2 'We weren't allowed to leave the main gates unless
3 we were going to school.'

4 And I think it's fair to say that the report
5 certainly suggested that the restriction on movement
6 that Mr MKS had introduced as one of his rules
7 should have been relaxed, so that there was a bit more
8 freedom given, because that was in part perhaps some of
9 the reason for the dissent and the need to go to the
10 press, as well as the excessive punishment that was
11 alleged.

12 LADY SMITH: This wasn't a secure establishment.

13 MR PEOPLES: No, no. Although -- they said they could walk
14 out, but they were fearful of what would happen if they
15 did.

16 LADY SMITH: Because of what happened when they did.

17 MR PEOPLES: Yes. So it wasn't as if they were locked in,
18 but they were too afraid most of the time to --

19 LADY SMITH: Or when that random bell rang, that they
20 wouldn't be within earshot and they'd get into trouble.

21 MR PEOPLES: I mean, I think Mr MKS's position in 1967
22 was that he had that rule in because there had been some
23 problems in the past with Gryffe boys being given more
24 freedom and he didn't want to jeopardise relations
25 between the school and the village or tarnish the

1 reputation of the establishment. But I don't think
2 those that looked at that matter were convinced that
3 that was a particularly good explanation.

4 LADY SMITH: And remind me, was this the first employment
5 that Mr MKS had after leaving the employment of the
6 Armed Forces?

7 MR PEOPLES: I don't think that's clear from what we know.
8 We know, I think, he came in March 1960, as I think
9 I said this morning, and we know that there seems to
10 have been some military background. Whether he went
11 straight from a military position to looking after
12 children I think is less clear. But it doesn't look as
13 if he had any substantial childcare qualifications or
14 experience for the job he held, and, indeed, I think at
15 the time of the report it was suggested that he was
16 perhaps in need of some retraining but he was maybe too
17 old to get it.

18 So, what wasn't good from the point of view of a
19 resident, but clearly, even if there was talk of getting
20 him removed or transferred to somewhere less
21 challenging, that didn't happen obviously because he
22 continued in post, as we know from what's happened.

23 LADY SMITH: Yes.

24 MR PEOPLES: So if I could move on. He talks about --
25 'Henry' talks about trips and holidays. He talks about

1 going to Garlieston, which others have done, and staying
2 in a sort of hostel there; that staff from Gryffe came
3 along and would keep an eye on them to make sure they
4 didn't get up to mischief, but they would go dancing, go
5 to the seaside. He says:

6 'It wasn't very exciting, but an opportunity to
7 break away from the home. The staff's bad points never
8 happened when we were on holiday.'

9 Well, obviously we know that one person was sexually
10 abused on a holiday, and, indeed, I think this person,
11 maybe two. But I think what he's maybe saying is
12 that -- we did hear some evidence today that there were
13 staff at these places and other children, and they were
14 given new clothes to come with a certain appearance, and
15 no doubt it wasn't the easiest place to apply
16 Mr MKS's rules, if he was in the company of people
17 from other places.

18 LADY SMITH: Yes.

19 MR PEOPLES: So if he was trying to keep up appearances, it
20 was less likely he would be -- the things that were
21 happening at Gryffe would be happening during these
22 breaks, other than, obviously, opportunistic sexual
23 abuse by some members of staff.

24 And then he has a recollection, 'Henry', of getting
25 a present or presents at Christmas. He doesn't recall

1 birthdays being celebrated.

2 He says, moving forward to paragraph 68, that his
3 gran swore that she would never come to see him and so
4 I think she lived by that promise. He said:

5 'Nobody came to visit me. I didn't have any social
6 work visits. I don't think there were any inspections
7 but we didn't see a lot of visitors because we were at
8 the back end of the building.'

9 So again, I think clearly the front end was for
10 officials, visitors, but the children had to enter by
11 the back and stay at the back, it would appear, most of
12 the time. Except perhaps when Glasgow Children's
13 Services came in 1967.

14 LADY SMITH: Although we don't know what the reason for that
15 was, but it could be an innocent one, that the practical
16 way to have children come into the building with their
17 dirty feet and mess is through the back entrances,
18 rather than --

19 MR PEOPLES: You could be rather charitable, I would have
20 thought, but, yes, it's possible that they had some
21 justification. But they still remember that as if it
22 was even different perhaps to other places they'd been
23 to.

24 LADY SMITH: True.

25 MR PEOPLES: So it may be -- although Mr MKS maybe had

1 his own special rules, which might explain.

2 LADY SMITH: And it could have been his attitude to the
3 rule.

4 MR PEOPLES: Yes.

5 So if I move on, if I may, that he has a section
6 headed 'Running away' at paragraph 71 and following, and
7 he said when he went back after the holiday, the fun and
8 games started. He said:

9 'I started running away. I didn't like school and
10 I didn't like the home. I had nobody to go to.
11 I couldn't go to my family because they would just turn
12 me in. I ended up running away with a boy from the
13 home. He ran away because he was being mentally abused
14 by the boys in the home. He asked me to come with him.'

15 And then he says there were problems because the boy
16 had some issues with his toilets, toileting.

17 And then he says on the occasion he ran away with
18 this boy, at paragraph 73:

19 'We left home on Friday.'

20 And by Sunday they had stolen two bikes and were
21 caught by the police.

22 And obviously the police were wondering where they'd
23 come from. He says the police told them:

24 'You boys look like homers. Which home are you in?'

25 And he says, as we know, Quarriers and Gryffe were

1 quite close to each other, and so they made the obvious
2 conclusion when they said they weren't from Quarriers
3 that they must be from Gryffe.

4 And he says his recollection is the police took the
5 boys back to the home. Mr MKS said to the police:

6 'No problem, no problem. We'll deal with it.'

7 And as he puts it:

8 'He didn't half deal with it. We were belted for
9 running away. After we were belted, we were sent to our
10 rooms with no TV or anything.'

11 So, sort of shades of what we've heard earlier --

12 LADY SMITH: Yes.

13 MR PEOPLES: -- about the response to absconders.

14 As for discipline, at paragraph 74, 'Henry' says:

15 'Mr MWM was quite easy-going. He let you do most
16 things. Mr MWN had a [REDACTED] so he [REDACTED]
17 [REDACTED]. If you ran, that's what happened. He'd fling
18 it at you because he couldn't run. He'd do that if you
19 wound him up. Mr MKS, the man SNR of the
20 home, would belt us and send us to our room without
21 anything to eat.'

22 And then he has a specific section, 'Abuse at
23 Gryffe', and I can just read from paragraph 75 about
24 physical abuse:

25 'If you did anything wrong you got the belt. It was

1 always from the man SNR [REDACTED], Mr MKS [REDACTED]. If you spoke
2 to anybody else who went to Gryffe, I think they would
3 say the exact same thing. I ran away with another boy.
4 We were taken back to the home by the police. The man
5 SNR [REDACTED] of Gryffe told the police that he'd deal with
6 it. He took us down to a room. He told us to get over
7 a table and get our trousers down. He then gave us the
8 belt. He hit us four or five times. It was always on
9 the backside. I don't understand why. I always used to
10 think it must turn on the staff who did it. At school,
11 they would always belt us on our hands. When you were
12 in the homes, where nobody could see you, it was your
13 bare bum.'

14 And then he goes on:

15 'If you did anything wrong, Mr MWN [REDACTED] couldn't
16 catch you. We used to call him "MWN" because of his
17 [REDACTED]. We would wind him up and he never liked it.
18 We'd just be messing about calling him "MWN" and we'd
19 know when to run. We lived with him for so long, we
20 could always tell by the expression on his face. We
21 always used to run. He would throw his [REDACTED] at
22 us. He must have got used to us because he never
23 missed. Sometimes I would be injured by that. It
24 depended where it hit me.'

25 And then he says he also was bullied a lot at

1 Gryffe, at paragraph 77, and speaks about two brothers
2 who came to the home as new arrivals and it appears that
3 some of the other boys told these new arrivals that
4 'Henry' was a hard man and encouraged these new arrivals
5 to take him on. He said he had little choice but to
6 react and he said:

7 'One day we were fighting again and they beat me.
8 One of the brothers said, "You're not the hard man they
9 said you were".'

10 He said:

11 'I wasn't looking for trouble but they were throwing
12 me into it.'

13 So he's kind of saying some of them were ganging up
14 against the person identified as 'the hard man' and
15 causing him problems with new arrivals.

16 And he has another example of the same thing, where
17 other boys came in and were encouraged to take him on
18 because of comments being made. And he says he was
19 trying to stay out of trouble and it said that there was
20 a sort of pecking-order situation created by this way of
21 doing things and he says:

22 'They were telling the new boys that I was the top
23 dog but I wasn't. I just wanted to bide my time and get
24 out of there. I think they were just doing that to
25 punish me.'

1 Well, I'm not sure 'punish' is quite the word but
2 I think really it was something that they recall -- he
3 recalls happening.

4 He did become the leader of his unit, so maybe he
5 was trying to just keep his head down --

6 LADY SMITH: Could be.

7 MR PEOPLES: -- and get out. But we don't really know.

8 And then he says:

9 'There were boys who would come and take your pocket
10 money off you.'

11 Well, I think we have heard evidence of that sort of
12 thing happening as well, and he said he was threatened
13 all the time. And he says:

14 'I think the staff knew about the bullying but
15 nothing was ever done about it. I don't think any of
16 them were bothered. It was just one of those things.
17 It was an all-boys home. Someone had to be boss.'

18 And then on the issue of reporting at paragraph 80,
19 he goes on:

20 'When you stay in a place like that, you're scared
21 to tell anybody that you are being abused in case you
22 make it worse. I was being battered about in Gryffe for
23 three years. If I went to the outside world and
24 broadcasted it, what would have happened when I went
25 back to the home? I had to wait until after I left, but

1 I didn't do that either.'

2 And he then says that he left because his father got
3 in touch with the social work department and he was told
4 that his father wanted him to come to London with him.

5 And his life after that has been read in on the
6 previous occasion, so I'm not going to repeat that
7 today. And he did say, I think, that the police came to
8 see him and I think, largely speaking, they were
9 interested in Dunclutha when they saw him, but he
10 obviously spoke about his experiences at Gryffe as well.

11 But he is realistic and says at paragraph 105:

12 'The police can only do what they can do and if the
13 people were still alive then they would go for it. You
14 can't bring them up from the grave. The important thing
15 to me is that I know that my story is right, I know the
16 people who ran it, I know the layout of the building.'

17 So that was what he says on that matter.

18 And I think that's really all that I need to cover
19 today, because of what's previously been covered, and
20 he's made the usual declaration and signed his statement
21 as well.

22 So that's a further read-in.

23 LADY SMITH: That's that one.

24 MR PEOPLES: I don't know whether you want a short break now
25 or --

1 LADY SMITH: I think we could take the afternoon break just
2 now.

3 MR PEOPLES: I've got one more that I want to do, and
4 I don't know how we'll be placed once I've --

5 LADY SMITH: Let's just take the afternoon break. We may
6 just do one more after that.

7 MR PEOPLES: Possibly, yes, yes.

8 LADY SMITH: And meanwhile, a name check again: Mr and
9 Mrs MKS-LYQ again, Mr MWM, Mr MWN who may be
10 Mr MWN, and Mr MWD. But these names I think
11 I've already covered already by way of reminder that
12 they have the protection of my General Restriction
13 Order.

14 Thank you.

15 (3.10 pm)

16 (A short break)

17 (3.19 pm)

18 LADY SMITH: Mr Peoples, where next?

19 MR PEOPLES: My Lady, the next read-in is from another
20 applicant, who is anonymous and has the pseudonym
21 'Derek'. And 'Derek's' witness statement is
22 WIT.001.002.5195.

23 LADY SMITH: Thank you.

24 'Derek' (read in)

25 MR PEOPLES: 'Derek' was born in 1960. He has a section

1 about life before care, which I'll summarise. He has
2 an older brother and a younger brother. He lived with
3 his parents and it would appear that initially life was
4 good and that his father worked for a person in Ayr and
5 they were living, I think, in a pleasant part of the
6 town.

7 He says his father was a part of the temperance
8 movement and never drank at that stage, and everything
9 seems to have been fine until he started school, and he
10 says his father started drinking whilst he was in Ayr
11 and never stopped.

12 He remembers arguments between his parents and he
13 said something went drastically wrong and that they
14 ended up in Glasgow in a single-end house, this is
15 paragraph 4. His father was nowhere to be seen at times
16 and he and his older brother were messing about in the
17 area and railway yards and so forth.

18 He said that they moved to a different part of
19 Glasgow and stayed in a one-bedroom flat and it was
20 pretty cramped. It was clearly -- and there were a lot
21 of drinking and parties, his father was bringing his
22 cronies back from the pub, a lot of screaming, shouting
23 and arguments between his mother and father.

24 And basically he says he woke up one morning and --
25 to be abandoned by his parents, effectively. Neither

1 were there and he -- his older brother got the children
2 ready for school and they were in their flat, he says,
3 for several days, but it would appear that an auntie
4 called in social services and took them away.

5 Now, I think I can take the next bit fairly short.
6 Between about 1967, when he would have been aged 7,
7 according to his statement, between then and the time
8 that he went to Gryffe in 1969 or 1970, when he was aged
9 9 or 10, at paragraph 6 to 7 he tells us he was in five
10 different places for varying lengths of time.

11 It looks for all the world that they were probably
12 trying to see if the family could be put back together,
13 but clearly that didn't work out at that time. And he
14 tells us about the different places he was in, some very
15 short stays, some a bit longer. He was in one
16 particular place in Greenock for, he thinks, as much as
17 a year.

18 LADY SMITH: Is he right that he was 7 years of age, as he
19 mentions in paragraph 6? Does that fit with any other
20 evidence?

21 MR PEOPLES: We don't have records for him that would
22 confirm that age. We just have to take it from his
23 statement that that's -- and that he eventually ended up
24 in Gryffe when he says he was 13 or 14, which would be
25 between the age of 9 and 10 and between 1960 and -- 1969

1 and 1970. And if he left when he was 13 or 14, he would
2 leave in 1973 or 1974. So that's the broad timeframe
3 that we're looking at in this case.

4 LADY SMITH: Thank you.

5 MR PEOPLES: He talks about some of the places he was in
6 from before going to Gryffe. He says that one of the
7 places he went to, paragraph 9, he said he and his older
8 brother didn't know where his younger brother was.
9 Which I think is again a familiar theme, that they're
10 all scattered in different places without much
11 explanation.

12 And then when he is in this home in Dunoon, it would
13 appear, paragraph 10, he's -- it would appear that he's
14 separated from his older brother. And then he moves on
15 and he ends up in a place in Greenock, at paragraph 14,
16 when he thinks he was aged 8 or turning 9. And this is
17 one he thinks he was in for about a year. And it
18 appears that he's reunited with a younger brother.

19 So it's a very unsatisfactory way of dealing with it
20 and it's maybe making the sort of point that our first
21 witness made about siblings, even if they're separated,
22 and lack of explanation and maybe telling them things
23 that are not entirely the whole truth. But it's clearly
24 a very dysfunctional period in his life.

25 LADY SMITH: Well, it's family destruction.

1 MR PEOPLES: Yes.

2 So -- and he -- when he was in the home in Greenock,
3 I think it's redacted for present purposes, Secondary Institutio
4 Secondary Institutions - to be published later

5
6 And then he moves to Gryffe and he tells us about
7 that from paragraph 27 onwards and again, I'll deal with
8 some of that, but not necessarily everything that is set
9 out.

10 He says at paragraph 27 that:

11 'We were known as the "Gryffies" by the village
12 kids. You weren't allowed to use the front entrance.
13 You had to use the back entrance.'

14 Well, they're all saying it.

15 LADY SMITH: It's something they all remember for some
16 reason.

17 MR PEOPLES: It's something they remember, yes, and these
18 people have been in a lot of places, a lot of them. So
19 it was unusual, it would appear, or sufficiently unusual
20 to remember that as well as other things.

21 LADY SMITH: Mm-hmm.

22 MR PEOPLES: And he says that:

23 'When you went in the back entrance, there was
24 a long corridor and the small boys' dormitory was on the
25 bottom level.'

1 And I think we've heard there was a small boys'
2 dormitory and a bigger boys' dormitory.

3 And he says there were stairs to Mr MKS and his
4 wife's private apartments and on the same floor there
5 was various other rooms used for different purposes,
6 including, I think, a dining room and a recreation hall
7 as well.

8 And he tells us at paragraph 29 that the residents
9 were separated into primary school and secondary school,
10 little boys and big boys, that was the broad
11 distinction. I think that ties in with what we've heard
12 earlier: that age 12 or so was the point at which they
13 moved to the big boys' dormitory and started secondary
14 school, that they were moved to one of the dormitories
15 for the older boys.

16 He estimates there were around 30 boys in Gryffe
17 when he was there, ranging from 5 years of age right
18 through to age 16. It's quite a big span. I mean,
19 obviously we've heard about that for children's homes,
20 which is rather different to approved schools, that
21 there's clearly quite a wide age range, albeit it's not
22 necessarily to accommodate families, so.

23 And he says that staff always called boys by their
24 surname:

25 'Gryffe was austere. There was no love and no

1 kindness.'

2 At paragraph 29.

3 He said Mr MKS was SNR in his time and
4 there were some long-term staff, and he mentions some
5 staff, including names that are familiar now:

6 Mr MWD, Mr MWM, Mr MWN and two female
7 members of staff. He liked one particular female member
8 of staff who was younger and he says reminded him of his
9 mother. And he says there was a few staff who came and
10 went that he didn't get to know. So there seems to have
11 been a mixture of staff that were there for a long time
12 and some that were there for shorter periods.

13 As he's not overly complimentary about Mr MKS.

14 He says:

15 'As far as I was concerned [at paragraph 31],
16 Mr MKS was SNR in a prison, SNR.
17 The other staff were the warders. They didn't treat us
18 as anything other than inmates. There was no one to
19 stop them doing what they wanted when they wanted. The
20 staff were very clever at Gryffe. They were in
21 control.'

22 And I think that again echoes what we've heard
23 already.

24 LADY SMITH: Yes.

25 MR PEOPLES: I mean, one witness likened it to the borstal.

1 LADY SMITH: The borstal, and the key rule was to keep
2 everything under control.

3 MR PEOPLES: Yes, the control was -- rather than care and
4 warmth.

5 He says that:
6 'You saw Mr MKS most days.'
7 This is at paragraph 32:
8 'MKS wasn't taking part in the day-to-day
9 running of the care of us. He was always in the
10 background somewhere.'

11 And then he has a recollection of an incident on the
12 first day at Gryffe, at 33, and I'll just read what he
13 tells us there:
14 'I remember arriving at Gryffe because I got the
15 shock of my life. We went to the back entrance. I was
16 being taken up the long corridor. A boy [and he names
17 him] was bumping the floor with the big hand-bumpers.
18 He was putting wax down with dusters. Mr MKS was
19 walking down the corridor. Mr MKS slapped [the boy]
20 right across the face. I thought, "My God, what's he
21 done?" I found out later that [the boy] was slapped
22 because he hadn't saluted Mr MKS as he'd gone past.
23 [The boy] was of a similar age to me. I was in shock.
24 I thought, "Here we go, what's going on here?"'
25 So it's quite an introduction.

1 LADY SMITH: Managing these bumpers was tough. I first
2 heard about them in the evidence in the very first set
3 of case study hearings for the Daughters of Charity
4 provision at Smyllum. If I remember rightly, there is
5 a photograph of a bumper in the published findings on
6 Smyllum. And for children to have to handle them, it
7 wasn't easy.

8 MR PEOPLES: No. No, it may well be that teaching them some
9 household skills are acceptable, but clearly some tasks
10 are not acceptable, particularly carried out by very
11 young children.

12 LADY SMITH: No, and particularly not to expect them to stop
13 and salute a member of staff going past in the middle of
14 doing the job.

15 MR PEOPLES: That's more like an SPS establishment, because
16 I think we did have something along those lines, that if
17 someone was washing the floors or something and
18 an officer went past, they would have to stop and salute
19 and also end every sentence with the word 'sir', or
20 you'd get punished. So yes, it's --

21 So that's his first day and he says that the
22 dormitories were named after glens and mountains. There
23 were 12 or more kids in the dormitory, all boys, at
24 paragraph 34.

25 I suppose one feature which was -- was he was

1 reunited with his older brother, he says at
2 paragraph 35. So it's very -- he's seeing one, he's
3 losing one, he's reunited with another. It's all -- it
4 doesn't seem to be a very planned form of upbringing
5 away from home, even for children that have been
6 abandoned by their parents.

7 And this isn't a big family. Obviously, if you've
8 got nine, or eight or nine children, it may not be
9 possible always to have them all in one place.

10 LADY SMITH: Yes, this was just three.

11 MR PEOPLES: Three, yes.

12 He talks about routine from 36 onwards and he said:

13 'Every Sunday you were lined up to have a shower.

14 Baths were kept for special occasions.'

15 The only time he had a bath was 'when I was made to
16 take a cold bath to prove I was ill'.

17 And I think I'll come back to that when he tells us
18 a bit more about that later on:

19 'We wore shorts', he says at paragraph 38.

20 He says at paragraph 40:

21 'You weren't asked if you wanted to go to church.

22 You were marched there every Sunday morning. It was

23 forced attendance.'

24 He then says that, about meal times, there were

25 about seven tables. At paragraph 41:

1 'Wee boys sat with wee boys.'

2 He said:

3 'You were always hungry. If you wanted any more
4 food, you had to put your hand up for extras and ask.
5 Whoever was on duty that day would pick who they thought
6 was more deserving than anybody else.'

7 So clearly this routine was still being practised in
8 his time.

9 And then he says that the meals themselves, at
10 paragraph 43, he wasn't impressed with them but he said:

11 'The meat was fatty and rubbery. It was eaten
12 because you were always starving. If you didn't like
13 the food, you didn't eat it.

14 'Chores. You had to do loads of chores. You did
15 chores after school and at weekends. You had to clear
16 the tables, do the dishes, bumper all the floors. The
17 bumpers had a big wooden handle with bristles on it.
18 You would hand-wax the floor, then put the cloth on the
19 brush. You'd be polishing the floors all day. It
20 wasn't easy. You had to wash all the walls down. The
21 little boys had to do the big boys' shoes for school.
22 You'd be put down on the list for when it was your time
23 to do that.

24 'We cut the grass outside. We cut the football
25 pitch with hand mowers. If the staff wanted the

1 recreation hall painted, we painted it. The tasks were
2 given by Mr MKS or passed down the line.'

3 And then of school, he said he went to
4 primary school for a couple of years locally. At
5 paragraph 46, he said:

6 'We were picked on because we were the "Gryffies".
7 We were always fighting the local kids. We were
8 separated from local kids and treated differently. When
9 the kids at school had their birthday parties, we
10 weren't invited. When the hairstyles changed we were
11 still getting the same haircut. We were different.'

12 He says of leisure that they got an hour of TV at
13 night before bedtime. I suppose we have moved on in
14 time, so TV was perhaps more of a -- something that
15 would be seen as a form of recreation or --

16 LADY SMITH: Yes.

17 MR PEOPLES: -- for leisure time.

18 He said there were no other toys to play with or
19 books. There's not a lot of evidence of books, and
20 we've heard already about no great interest in homework
21 and education being taken. So it sounds as if things
22 didn't change dramatically in 'Derek's' time.

23 He said:

24 'You were able to play football at the home's football
25 park at weekends and there was a table tennis [at the

1 back of the home].'

2 And the ice-cream van, this must have been a
3 highlight to some extent of the week, came round and:
4 'You got a bag of sweets.'

5 And he said:

6 'Now and again staff would have a treasure hunt in
7 the grounds, they would hide Easter eggs.'

8 Well, I suppose there's a flavour of the treasure
9 hunt again, but maybe he's got a better memory of that
10 perhaps than some.

11 LADY SMITH: Mm-hmm.

12 MR PEOPLES: And as for trips, he also says that they went
13 to Garlieston, in the Borders -- oh, sorry, Wigtownshire
14 for two weeks in the summer time:

15 'You were given two new T-shirts and shorts to go
16 there. I think it was to put on a show for the rest of
17 them.'

18 So I think he wasn't in any doubt what the purpose
19 was of that, to -- but he says he loved it, so I suppose
20 that it was obviously something that he has good
21 memories of and it got him away from Gryffe and he also
22 says they did go swimming once a week to Paisley and
23 then they were back to the home. It's when you had your
24 birthday, he said, you got a card and a little box of
25 chocolates.

1 At Christmas, he said, they got some Chad Valley
2 games in which were wrapped up and you were given one:

3 'What you got was what you got. You were never
4 asked what you wanted for Christmas. Toys [were] broken
5 quite quickly. Everyone was playing with everyone's
6 things.'

7 Perhaps in a place of that size it's not terribly
8 surprising. He said he got one visit from his mother
9 and an uncle when he was about 12 years of age. He says
10 at paragraph 59 he didn't see any social workers at
11 Gryffe.

12 As for running away, he said he ran away twice. He
13 -- on one occasion, he jumped on a train to Glasgow,
14 walked to the house -- I think that's his family home at
15 that time -- and well, needless to say his mum and dad
16 weren't in when he got there and I think a neighbour at
17 least took him in and called the police and he says the
18 police took him back to Gryffe:

19 'They didn't interview me. I knew I was going to
20 get a kicking. I got battered for that by Mr MKS.'

21 He has got a section headed 'Abuse' and I'll just
22 read some of that. At paragraph 62 he starts:

23 'My experience at Gryffe was pain, suffering and
24 abuse. I was abused physically, mentally, as well as
25 sexually on one occasion. The staff never smashed your

1 face in because you had to go to school. They weren't
2 stupid. The possibility you were going to get
3 a slapping or something done to you, whether it was
4 a member or staff or another boy was the norm. Gryffe
5 was a violent place.'

6 He said:

7 'Mr MWM could turn. What you couldn't understand
8 as a kid was why he would turn. Mr MWM would punch
9 you. Mr MWM punched me once.'

10 I think he's been described as one of the better
11 ones, generally speaking. He said:

12 'Mr MWN had a . We called him "MWN"
13 because his name was MWN. He was
14 a disciplinarian. Mr MWN had a . He
15 would throw it at you for instance if you sat on the
16 radiators because you were cold. Mr MWN would
17 grab your hair at the sideburns and lift you up. He did
18 it to everybody. It was painful. That was his
19 favourite thing if he could get a grip of you.'

20 And he said:

21 'Mr MKS had a belt. He made you put your hand
22 out. If you took your hand away he would give you a few
23 punches. After I ran away, I got a kicking from
24 Mr MKS. It was in the room at the back, at the side
25 of the long corridor, where you could go to do your

1 homework. It had a table and chairs in it. I pulled my
2 hands away and Mr MKS punched me in the body. It was
3 painful.

4 'Mr MWD was something different. He was
5 a heavy-handed brute. Mr MWD didn't just give you
6 a clip round the ear. Mr MWD would knock the wind
7 out of you. He would punch you. You'd be lying there,
8 you couldn't breathe and you'd think you were dying.

9 'The first time Mr MWD hit me, I was standing
10 up on a locker. There was a bar across the ceiling. It
11 was a dare to see if you could jump off the locker, grab
12 the bar and swing on to the next one. Mr MWD
13 caught me and shouted me down. Mr MWD punched me
14 in the chest and winded me. I was built like a jockey's
15 whip then.

16 'One day I wasn't very well. I was in the upstairs
17 dormitory by this stage. I told Mr MWD I didn't
18 feel well. Mr MWD thought there was nothing wrong
19 with me. He filled up a [bath] -- a cold bath of water.
20 Mr MWD said if I was ill I could get in the cold
21 bath and then go to my bed. That was my choice. If
22 I had the cold bath, I was ill and I could get into bed.
23 If I didn't have the cold bath there was nothing wrong
24 with me and could I go to school. I decided to have the
25 cold bath.

1 'Mr MWD came into the dormitories with a torch
2 at night. You had two blankets in the winter and one in
3 the summer. There was a counterpane that was rolled
4 down. The counterpane was only to put on during the day
5 when you made your bed. There was heating in the place,
6 radiators, but you were always freezing. If you pulled
7 the counterpane up, Mr MWD would slap you.

8 'The sexual abuse happened to me once. I was 10 or
9 11 years old.'

10 That would put him around 1970 or 1971, I think, by
11 his dates:

12 'I was upstairs in the big boys' room. At night we
13 were in bed sleeping. I used to pull my sheet over my
14 head and make a wee hole. I didn't know if it was for
15 security or what. This particular night, MWD was
16 on duty. MWD came in and got me out of bed.
17 I asked him what was going on. He told me to move.
18 I got out into the corridor. I tried to turn round.
19 MWD had a torch. I asked him what was wrong.
20 MWD told me to shut up or he'd batter me. I knew
21 what he was like, so I shut [up].

22 'MWD took me along the corridor and downstairs
23 into the room where we'd do our homework. He shut the
24 door and got his penis out and told me to masturbate
25 him, which I did. MWD ejaculated. He had come

1 prepared. Before we left he said, "if you tell anybody,
2 I'll fucking kill you". MWD took me back upstairs.
3 That was it. He never did it again. I never said
4 a word to anybody. I was terrified of that man.
5 MWD should have been nowhere near children,
6 especially children who were vulnerable and bewildered.'

7 He says that at paragraph 72 in essence that when
8 boys were getting older, there was more ready to
9 challenge staff and take them on and he thinks that when
10 they became big and strong enough to take staff on to
11 an extent, that's when Gryffe started to look to get rid
12 of them. That's a possible -- because obviously the
13 disparity in size might be evened out by boys who become
14 teenagers and get a bit older and a bit stronger.

15 LADY SMITH: It's one way of exercising control, is to
16 control them out of the institution.

17 MR PEOPLES: Well, yes, yes. And he says:

18 'One of the games the older boys played when the
19 staff were on their breaks was to get two small boys to
20 fight. Everybody would sit round in the recreation
21 hall. The two small boys would stand in the middle.
22 You would have to fight. I had to fight [a particular
23 boy].'

24 He says:

25 'I didn't want to fight [him]. I was thinking, why

1 would I fight him? My older brother pushed me into
2 [this boy]. [The boy] had two brothers. My brother
3 ended up fighting with them. The staff knew the fights
4 went on because all the kids were screaming, shouting
5 and clapping. Without a shadow of a doubt, the staff
6 heard it but nothing was done.'

7 LADY SMITH: This is another aspect that's reminiscent of
8 some of what happened in the SPS institutions, isn't it?

9 MR PEOPLES: Yes, I mean, having boys fight each other, not
10 just train them to box on a voluntary basis. This seems
11 to have been quite a common thing and either staff were
12 doing it or older boys were doing it for their own
13 entertainment, it would appear.

14 So, and he gives another example of the same thing
15 happening and -- but he said that, 'Gryffe was violence
16 all the time, every day it was brutal', at paragraph 74.
17 I'm not sure -- he says at paragraph 75:

18 'We used to play a game where you went into
19 a cornfield. The other boys would stand behind
20 the fence and throw rocks up to try and hit you.'

21 That doesn't seem quite as enforced as some of the
22 practices but perhaps it's illustrative of the general
23 culture of the place.

24 And then he said that -- he tells us about leaving
25 Gryffe and it seems like he was starting to get visits

1 from his father's brother and he eventually went to live
2 with him and he says when he was 15 -- well, between the
3 ages of 15 and 17, at paragraph 77, he seems to have
4 spent time at a children's home in a young offenders'
5 institution or two -- sorry, Barlinnie Prison for
6 a short period and being placed on remand in
7 Craiginches Prison when he was aged 17. So another
8 example of being in a lot of places over a very short
9 period at the other end of his childhood.

10 He lived with his uncle, he says, after care for
11 a time. He said he went to a school where he was put in
12 the dunces' room for disruptive kids. He said at
13 paragraph 79:

14 'I just sat there. I didn't have a clue what they
15 were talking about because I'd missed so much. I was
16 disruptive at school.'

17 At paragraph 80, again, a familiar experience that
18 he went off the rails, started drinking, got into
19 trouble with the police, sleeping rough, stealing from
20 shops. He put a brick through a Co-op window and so
21 forth.

22 And he then says at paragraph 81 he's been running
23 all his life. He joined the army when he was 18. He
24 seems to have been thrown out for fighting. He then
25 spent time on oil rigs. He then had a job at an airport

1 and then he moved to the south of England, but was still
2 drinking, getting into trouble.

3 But then he seems to have turned a corner, when he
4 was about aged 40 and that he's worked for the last
5 18 years, doing quite an important job, it would appear,
6 from how he describes it.

7 LADY SMITH: Yes.

8 MR PEOPLES: As for impact, he tells us:

9 'Abandoned children in Scotland in the 1960s must
10 have been rife. Moving kids in care from place to place
11 was not discussed with the kids. Every decision was
12 taken from me, by [the] people who decided what was best
13 for me, without discussing it with me. No one asked,
14 "How would you feel if we removed you from your brother
15 to be with your other brother?". You were totally
16 bewildered by the whole thing. You were in a state of
17 shock. You didn't have a clue what was going on.

18 'The whole thing was a bad experience. I was quite
19 a sensitive kid. There was no explanation of why you
20 were in care or what had happened. No one sat you down,
21 spoke to you and said that your parents had abandoned
22 you. One minute you were here, the next minute you were
23 there, then the next minute you were here. You had to
24 get on with it. You were scared of adults so you didn't
25 ask any questions.'

1 He says that he's not speaking to any of his
2 brothers at the time of this statement. He wants just
3 to be left alone. It would appear that drink has played
4 a big part in the life of this family, the brothers. He
5 says his life has been ruined and both his brothers'
6 lives have been ruined by their experiences.

7 When he's trying to allocate blame, and one can
8 understand why he says this:

9 'I blame my parents as much as I blame the
10 institutions. If my parents had done what they were
11 meant to do, we wouldn't have ended up in care.'

12 Well, I suppose he was abandoned and the hope was
13 they'd come back, but then they didn't, in his case.

14 LADY SMITH: Yes.

15 MR PEOPLES: But that said, he says, 'There was no duty of
16 care shown to us in these places', and he said:

17 'I never understood why we couldn't go back to my
18 mother or father.'

19 I think he would have probably preferred some
20 honesty, just to tell him.

21 LADY SMITH: Yes.

22 MR PEOPLES: I mean, he wasn't so young he was incapable of
23 understanding. He clearly thinks, looking back, 'at
24 least if they'd said something more and given me a bit
25 more understanding, it might have made some difference

1 to me'. But there it is.

2 And he says towards the end at paragraph 90, that
3 the things you should look back on in life as a happy
4 time was anything but for him. He says:

5 'What happened to me in Gryffe is something I can
6 never shake off.'

7 He says at 91:

8 'That one place [that's Gryffe] dominated my
9 childhood and has been the problem for me. Gryffe had
10 such a detrimental effect that there's not a day that
11 has gone past all my adult life that something's not
12 popped into my head about that place.'

13 At paragraph 92, he echoes what he said before:

14 'Gryffe was brutal.'

15 He says at 94:

16 'MWD terrified the life out of me. I can still
17 see his face. You kept a wide berth of that man.
18 I never told anybody what Mr MWD did to me. I
19 believed what he said, that he'd kill me if I did. He
20 was a nasty piece of work. He was a violent man who got
21 his kicks from hurting kids.'

22 He said his schooling was finished the day the boys
23 ended up in care and so he didn't get the education that
24 he would have wished. And he says, at 96, the upshot
25 was that he didn't leave school -- well, he left school

1 without any qualifications and wished he'd had a proper
2 education.

3 Now that's a very familiar theme as well.

4 LADY SMITH: Indeed.

5 MR PEOPLES: And then he says that to some extent, because
6 of that, that his life has been troubled, his early part
7 of his adult life at 99, he says:

8 'When I was younger, I was disruptive to my own
9 detriment. I was full of anger, frustration, hurt and
10 pain. Part of the difficulty is that I don't know who
11 I would have been or what I would have become had this
12 not happened to me.'

13 He said at 101 he started drinking when he was
14 15 years of age. He says he's uncontrollable when he's
15 drunk and he says over the years he's had a lot of
16 dealings with the police; fighting, drinking and
17 driving, taking drugs and he's been homeless as well
18 over time.

19 But then he says at 104 what I've already said, that
20 he started a job and enjoyed it. And while I don't
21 think life is particularly happy in many ways, it's
22 given him some stability and something that at least
23 he's enjoyed and maybe gives him a purpose that it's
24 a responsible job and he does it.

25 He says his relationships have been affected.

1 Again, that's a familiar theme. He can't trust anybody.

2 He says, this is at 105:

3 'My emotional intelligence was stunted very early,
4 [he says] if a child has good emotional intelligence
5 they'll grow up well adjusted. I wasn't well-adjusted.'

6 His relationship with his children has been
7 affected. He says at 107 he's not very good at
8 relationships. He says:

9 'It wasn't that I was abusive or violent to my
10 partners, it's just that I'm hard work to live with.'

11 And he says as to authority at 108:

12 'I've had such a bad experience with authority,
13 I find authority very difficult.'

14 And he gives some examples of problems with
15 relationships, which we can read for ourselves.

16 At 114, he says he keeps himself to himself largely.
17 He sits on his own rather than with people. At 115, he
18 says:

19 'I still barricade my door before I go to sleep.'

20 And he said he's had some counselling but he doesn't
21 in his case feel it's been particularly helpful. He
22 says it's very difficult talking to people you don't
23 know, this is at 117. He said:

24 'I stopped going to counselling as it was me talking
25 about my experience rather than giving me a course of

1 action to come to terms with it.'

2 He says he's had a diagnosis of complex
3 post-traumatic stress disorder caused by his experiences
4 in care, that's at 118.

5 He said as for reporting, at 122, he says he spoke
6 to the police the year before giving this statement.
7 They got in touch -- this was down south -- they got in
8 touch with Scottish police and said that there was
9 basically -- the police were investigating.

10 LADY SMITH: So last year would have been 2018, judging by
11 the date of this statement, is that right?

12 MR PEOPLES: Yes, he signed it in 2019, so it was some time
13 ago. He said:

14 'The police have tried to track down Mr MWD and
15 can't find what's happened to him.'

16 He says:

17 'Mr MKS is dead.'

18 I presume that's the information that he's been
19 given by the police. I think he might have been easier
20 to find perhaps.

21 As for lessons to be learned, he has a section at
22 124:

23 'Staff that deal with vulnerable children need to
24 let the children know what's happened, why it's happened
25 and what the future holds.

1 'Staff should be highly trained, vetted and
2 considered appropriate to take charge of vulnerable
3 children.

4 'The places the children live in should be made the
5 way you'd expect in a family life. These places should
6 be as normal as you can make it without the children's
7 parents.

8 'The education of children in care should be closely
9 watched.'

10 He says:

11 'The person who is being reviewed should be informed
12 of what is happening and be able to talk about any
13 problems. There should be someone a child could talk
14 to. A lot of kids won't talk about bullying or abuse
15 for fear or the possibility of repercussions. Children
16 need to be protected [and] the protection must be
17 failsafe.'

18 And finally, on the last page of his statement at
19 129, he said:

20 'The council let these people work in Gryffe to do
21 what they wanted when they wanted. Were they trained?
22 I don't think so.'

23 Well, I think he's probably right, in many respects.

24 He said he found an article flagging up the regime
25 in 1969. I think that that's the Sunday Mail in 1967,

1 but it may have been repeated, I'm not sure, but
2 certainly the first article appears to have appeared in
3 September 1967.

4 And what he takes from that is that the brutality
5 was known about and there was nothing done about it:

6 'That makes it worse for me to know that.'

7 And he has the usual declaration and has signed his
8 statement, as your Ladyship said, in 2019.

9 So I think that concludes business for today.

10 LADY SMITH: Thank you very much. I think we'll stop there
11 for today. And what's the plan for tomorrow?

12 MR PEOPLES: The plan for tomorrow, I think, is we'll have
13 some read-ins during the morning and there's a live
14 witness in the afternoon. I think that's what's
15 happening tomorrow.

16 LADY SMITH: Right. That's fine.

17 Are we moving away from Gryffe tomorrow or are we
18 still in Gryffe, I can't remember?

19 MR PEOPLES: No, we're still there for tomorrow and for
20 Thursday morning. We'll have Mr Trainer back --

21 LADY SMITH: Of course.

22 MR PEOPLES: -- and then we move on to another institution.

23 LADY SMITH: Thank you.

24 Right. The names mentioned during that read-in have
25 already been mentioned several times today --

1 MR PEOPLES: Yes, I think they're familiar.

2 LADY SMITH: -- so I'm not going to go through them again.

3 Thank you very much and I'll rise now until tomorrow

4 morning.

5 (3.57 pm)

6 (The Inquiry adjourned until 10.00 am on Wednesday,

7 18 February 2026)

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