

Wednesday, 18 February 2026

1

2 (10.00 am)

3 LADY SMITH: Good morning. Now, as we indicated yesterday  
4 afternoon, we're going to start with some read-ins this  
5 morning, still, I think, looking at Gryffe at the  
6 moment; is that right, Ms Forbes?

7 MS FORBES: That's correct, my Lady, and the first read-in  
8 we have is from an applicant who's anonymous and is  
9 known as 'Harry'.

10 LADY SMITH: Thank you.

11 MS FORBES: The reference for 'Harry's' statement is  
12 WIT-1-000000257.

13 LADY SMITH: Thank you.

14 'Harry' (read in)

15 MS FORBES: My Lady, 'Harry' was born in 1965 and talks  
16 about his life before going into care between  
17 paragraphs 2 and 25 of his statement. He tells us that  
18 his mother was unmarried when he was born and he was  
19 later told by one of his aunties the name of his father,  
20 and he says that his mother died when she was only 48.

21 And he says that shortly after he was born, his  
22 mother married another man, who he essentially had as  
23 his surname growing up. They went on then to have his  
24 half-brother and then, about five years after that, they  
25 had his half-sister.

1           But he tells us that they were always moving from  
2 place to place. They would stay somewhere for three or  
3 four months and then go somewhere else and he thinks his  
4 stepfather was a bad debtor.

5           And he tells us at paragraph 5 that his stepfather  
6 worked as a [REDACTED] for the Territorial Army, but was  
7 a drinker and every weekend used to -- his words --  
8 'batter my mother'.

9           He says that after that would happen, they would go  
10 and stay with somebody. He'd come and say it wouldn't  
11 happen again and they'd go back to wherever it was they  
12 were living at the time, and 'Harry' says he remembers  
13 feeling like a gypsy and always being on the move.

14           He says they stayed in Pollock and then moved to  
15 Partick -- sorry, they stayed in Pollock before they  
16 moved to Partick and then to the Gorbals and then to  
17 Castlemilk and back to the Gorbals again, and then  
18 around the Gorbals area.

19           His stepfather's violence, he says, was regular and  
20 was directed at both his mother and him, and he was in  
21 and out of hospitals regularly, and they would often be  
22 in women's refuges. And he remembers one refuge, at  
23 paragraph 8, where he says people used to throw petrol  
24 bombs at the door and he remembers the police being  
25 there regularly.

1           To summarise his childhood, at paragraph 9 he says  
2           the word he would use is 'unloved'.

3           And he describes them living at one time in  
4           a single-end, just one big room with him, his brother  
5           and his mother and stepfather. And he says that someone  
6           had left a bottle of sherry on the table and he picked  
7           it up and drunk it. He remembers being taken to  
8           hospital after that.

9           He remembers going to primary school in the Gorbals  
10          and being registered with his stepfather's name and then  
11          years later getting his National Insurance card which  
12          had his birth name on it, and he said he had no idea  
13          about that name, because he'd always thought his name  
14          was his stepfather's surname.

15          Growing up, he says he thought school was okay, but  
16          he says he's seen his records and he was described as  
17          an unruly child and hyperactive, and thinks that now  
18          he'd be classed as having ADHD.

19          He doesn't have a recollection of social work being  
20          involved and doesn't remember going to Children's  
21          Panels, but apparently he was known to social services  
22          from his records as early as 1970.

23          He also used to go to child psychologists but  
24          doesn't know why.

25          He says the police were involved to a certain

1 degree, talking to his mother and taking them away to  
2 safety, and that his stepfather was charged a few times  
3 and certainly went to jail a few times for assaulting  
4 his mother.

5 At paragraph 16, 'Harry' says that when he was 12  
6 his mother and stepfather separated. She moved in with  
7 another man. She took his brother and sister with her,  
8 but his stepfather kept him. He says he didn't know it  
9 at the time, but the man his mother set up home with  
10 didn't want him.

11 He says that his stepfather's dad, who he knew as  
12 his granddad, lived close to them and he used to spend  
13 a lot of time with him.

14 He went on to start secondary school and there was  
15 a lot of truancies. He says there was no structure in  
16 his life and that his stepfather would just let him lie  
17 in bed and not go school. He remembers empty wine  
18 bottles lying about the house, that his stepfather would  
19 get drunk and hit him, and at paragraph 20 he says:

20 'One weekend in 1978 just before I turned 13 years  
21 old, he gave me such a severe beating that I knew I had  
22 to get away.'

23 He says he went to the priest, being Catholic, and  
24 the priest told him that God would find a way and he  
25 would be okay, and he then went back to his stepfather

1 and got another beating.

2 He says the next night while his stepfather was  
3 sleeping, he kicked him a couple of times, ran out the  
4 house and went to the police station in the Gorbals and  
5 told the police sergeant he couldn't live there any more  
6 because of the beatings.

7 The police sergeant, he says, could see he was  
8 covered in bruises, so he was put into Haggbows  
9 Children's Home in Glasgow for about three days, and he  
10 says that he thinks he should have been put into care  
11 earlier, looking back now.

12 Going a little bit further on then, he says that he  
13 told the police quite a lot of what had been happening  
14 and the social worker told him that he shouldn't be in  
15 that environment. He can't remember anything about  
16 Haggbows Children's Home, and after he had been there  
17 a few days, he was taken to Gryffe.

18 He then tells us about Gryffe from paragraph 26. My  
19 Lady, we know from his records that he was received into  
20 care on [REDACTED] 1979, so he would have been aged  
21 13 years, I think, at that time.

22 'Harry' says:

23 'Gryffe Children's Home was run by Glasgow District  
24 Council. As you turned in the gate off Kilmacolm Road  
25 in Bridge of Weir, there was a wee house, like

1 a gardener's house or something, and a drive leading up  
2 through the grounds. Just outside the grounds were  
3 another two houses, one where the head of the home  
4 stayed with his family and another where another member  
5 of staff stayed.

6 'As you went up the drive, you came to a T-junction  
7 and if you went to the left, you came to the building  
8 itself. The building was like an old castle with  
9 massive bay windows to the front. The one on the left  
10 was one of the common rooms and the one on the right was  
11 a dormitory for children that were about 8 or 9,  
12 I think. I remember there were about six beds in it,  
13 but only about two kids. Later on that dormitory became  
14 a staffroom.

15 'When you went in the front door, there was a big  
16 reception hallway with doors leading to the common room  
17 and the dormitory at the front and stairs leading up to  
18 the other dormitories. There were also doors to the  
19 kitchen and another hallway that led to a wee room,  
20 which was always locked. The door to the kitchen was  
21 always locked as well, because we weren't allowed to go  
22 in there either. Further down the hall was a staffroom,  
23 which I think was the head's office, another room and  
24 a swing door that led to a set of stairs up to the  
25 adolescent unit.

1            'In the adolescent unit, there was one room with two  
2            beds in it, another room with four beds and another room  
3            with a single bed. There was also another hall that led  
4            to another swing door and into another dormitory, which  
5            was much bigger. There must have been about 16 beds in  
6            this other dormitory. Further on, there was another  
7            room with four beds in it and another dormitory with  
8            another bay window.

9            'On the ground floor at the back was what they  
10           called a gymnasium, which was like a games hall. Off  
11           the corridor towards the gymnasium, there was a laundry  
12           room and a shower room. I don't know who used to do the  
13           laundry, but our beds were changed once a week.

14           'As well as the common room at the front, there were  
15           other common rooms for different age groups. In each  
16           common room, there was a TV and a couple of couches and  
17           a table where each group of kids ate their meals. The  
18           adolescent unit had its own wee kitchen as well as  
19           a common room and in that there was a kettle and  
20           a fridge.

21           'When I first went to Gryffe, I would say there were  
22           between 40 and 50 beds there and a range of ages of  
23           children. I think the youngest would have been about  
24           3 years old, but there were also adolescents who were  
25           aged from 15 up. The younger ones and the adolescents

1           were kept in different parts of the building and both  
2           groups had their own dormitories and common rooms.

3           'There were some families at Gryffe, groups of four  
4           or five kids, and although they were in the same home,  
5           they slept in different units depending on their age.  
6           Amongst them, there were wee children and others who  
7           were 16. The age gaps were big.'

8           And then he says that he doesn't remember all the  
9           names but he remembers some and he gives us some names.

10          He goes on at paragraph 34:

11          'I think there would be around 30 boys and  
12          girls at Gryffe at any one time, but I don't think there  
13          was a high turnover of children, quite a lot of them  
14          stayed for years. Sometimes there would be new faces,  
15          but most kids stayed for years. Some that had been  
16          there when I arrived were still there when I left.

17          'Children were allowed to mix freely. An adolescent  
18          could go into the younger ones' part, and the younger  
19          children could go into the adolescent unit. Just  
20          because a child was a certain age didn't mean they were  
21          restricted to that part of the unit. Most kids seemed  
22          to keep to their own peer group though.

23          'The person in charge of Gryffe when I got there was  
24          a guy called Hogarth. I think his first name was Adam.  
25          He was a decent guy. His office was off the corridor

1 past the kitchen. Hogarth left after I'd been at Gryffe  
2 for about a year and a guy called Ralph Anderson took  
3 over. He was a decent guy as well and he was there for  
4 the rest of the time I was. I never saw much of either  
5 of them.

6 'SNR [REDACTED] was a guy called MWN [REDACTED] who had  
7 [REDACTED]. I don't know his first name, but we all  
8 used to take the mickey out of him. There was also  
9 an assistant head called Geoff Bamber.

10 'Quite a lot of the staff were good and most of  
11 their positions were as houseparents in charge of the  
12 different age groups. RJG [REDACTED], for example,  
13 was the houseparent in charge of the adolescent unit  
14 when I was in there. She was an evil cow. Amongst the  
15 rest of the houseparents was a guy called REU [REDACTED],  
16 who was decent, Alex Campbell, and PBS [REDACTED], who  
17 was also a decent guy. There was also a husband and  
18 wife called RKA [REDACTED] and [REDACTED], but I can't remember their  
19 second name.

20 'RKA [REDACTED] was one of the designated minibus drivers and  
21 I didn't have much dealings with either of them,  
22 although RKA [REDACTED] was a bit handy, like Geoff Bamber and  
23 RJG [REDACTED]. RKA [REDACTED] always used to [REDACTED]. I don't know  
24 if he maybe had [REDACTED] disease.

25 'There were also a couple of night staff and a cook

1 in the kitchen, but I don't remember their names.

2 I always thought it was strange that the night staff  
3 were two old women, rather than a man and a woman.

4 'I was taken to Gryffe in an old green and  
5 yellow --'

6 LADY SMITH: Of course, his perception of age may not be  
7 accurate.

8 MS FORBES: Yes.

9 'Harry' goes on to say:

10 'I was taken to Gryffe in an old green and yellow  
11 minibus that I think had "Strathclyde District Council"  
12 on the side. Nobody told me why I was going or where  
13 I was being taken. I'd never heard of the place before  
14 and as far as I was concerned, it was like it was  
15 a thousand miles away from Glasgow.'

16 LADY SMITH: Now, this is 1979, it would be Strathclyde  
17 Regional Council, I think, just to be technical, by  
18 then, following the 1975 local government  
19 reorganisation.

20 MS FORBES: Yes.

21 LADY SMITH: But I don't think it matters that he's wrong  
22 about that.

23 Thank you.

24 MS FORBES: He says:

25 'I remember there was a man driving the minibus and

1           somebody else sitting up the front, with me sitting on  
2           my own in the back. I don't know who they were.

3           'I felt a bit apprehensive and unsafe because  
4           I didn't know where I was going. I didn't know if they  
5           were taking me back to my stepfather's house or where we  
6           were going. It felt like I was in the bus for hours as  
7           we drove along the windy roads to Bridge of Weir.

8           'It all felt a bit alien to me because I always felt  
9           that my grandad loved me, and I thought I'd be able to  
10          go and stay with him or my aunties.

11          'When I arrived, I thought that the building was  
12          like Buckingham Palace. I don't remember what the  
13          welcome was like or getting shown around the place, but  
14          I do remember being in my bedroom and another boy being  
15          there.'

16          He then says he discovered that boy's name later and  
17          he names him:

18          'The first question he asked me was if I smoked and  
19          if I had any cigarettes. After that I was left to my  
20          own devices.

21          'I was put in one of the rooms upstairs above one of  
22          the bay windows when I arrived. There were four beds in  
23          it and my bed was the one next to the window. I was  
24          moved to other rooms during my time at Gryffe, including  
25          a room on my own for a while, before I was put into the

1           adolescent unit when I was 15.

2           'Even in the adolescent unit, we always had to be in  
3           our beds before 10 o'clock at night if we had school the  
4           next day. The two women night staff would come round  
5           every hour and do checks on us as we slept and they  
6           would wake us up about 7 o'clock in the morning before  
7           they went off duty.

8           'After we were woken, we were left to our own  
9           devices to get washed and dressed. It was up to us if  
10          we wanted to get a wash. While we did, the houseparents  
11          would come in, open the window and fold all of our  
12          quilts back.

13          'Once we were dressed, we'd go down for breakfast  
14          and then go off to school. We got out of school at five  
15          to four, I think, got the bus back and I think we'd be  
16          back at Gryffe for about half-four. When we got back we  
17          got our dinner straightaway and then we could just do  
18          what we wanted.

19          'It was just like being in your own house, except  
20          nobody showed any interest in us. Nobody would ask how  
21          our day had been or how we were. We were just left to  
22          do whatever we wanted. As far as I was concerned, the  
23          staff were called houseparents but they didn't do  
24          anything a parent would. They just sat there doing  
25          nothing or watching the telly.

1           'When I was a bit older and went into the adolescent  
2 unit, I was given a room with two beds in it.'

3           And then he says that he was in -- another boy ended  
4 up sharing the room with him who had the same birthday  
5 as him and he tells us his first name:

6           'There was no dining room. We all ate in our  
7 different common rooms. The houseparents would get our  
8 meals from the kitchen on a trolley and bring it into  
9 the different common rooms where everybody would be  
10 sitting. We had to set the table with knives and forks  
11 and whatever, and sit down and eat with the houseparent.

12          'Breakfast was things like toast and cereal. It was  
13 basic and nothing fancy, but it was okay. School  
14 dinners were brilliant by comparison. I loved them.  
15 Everybody got the same food and there were two choices:  
16 you could take it or you could leave it. If someone  
17 didn't like what they were given and didn't eat it, the  
18 houseparent would take it away.

19          'About 8 o'clock in the evening there was also  
20 a thing called supper, which I'd never heard of before.  
21 At supper there would be juice and toast or a wee cake  
22 or something like that.

23          'If you hadn't eaten your dinner, whichever  
24 houseparent was on duty would bring it back to you at  
25 supper. I think they must have thought that if you

1 weren't hungry at dinner, you would be hungry at supper.  
2 You'd be given the same food again and you wouldn't get  
3 any toast. There was no other punishment for not eating  
4 your food, but if you didn't eat it when it was served  
5 back to you, you would go to bed hungry.

6 'The worst one for serving it up again was RJG  
7 RJG. She was a big part of my life at Gryffe and  
8 she was a big part of me not liking certain foods even  
9 now.

10 'There was no specific time for washing. You washed  
11 when you wanted to wash, nobody told you when. There  
12 was no shower in the bathroom, just a bath with a shower  
13 head attached to the taps, but you could go in there and  
14 lock the door. You could be safe in there.

15 'The only showers were those that were next to the  
16 gymnasium, which were further away from the rest of the  
17 building. There was a row of three or four showers in  
18 an area off the corridor leading to the gymnasium with  
19 just a wall for privacy and no door. Nobody went down  
20 to use them if they were just going for a wash.

21 'After I'd been at Gryffe for about a week, I was  
22 taken by Geoff Bamber, the assistant head, to get my  
23 school uniform from a place in Renfrew. The shop was  
24 like an Army and Navy Store and over the years we were  
25 taken back there to get whatever clothes we might need.

1            '[The] first time I got my uniform, which was  
2            a long-sleeved shirt, tie, brogue shoes and a blazer.  
3            Later on we would go with a member of staff who would  
4            tell the shopkeeper what we needed. It was all new, but  
5            we never got a choice. The shopkeeper would pull things  
6            off the rack and just make sure it was the right size.

7            'I can't remember how often our clothes were washed.  
8            I think different kids' clothes were probably washed on  
9            different days and left on our beds for us to put away.

10           'There were two common rooms with TVs in them and  
11           a few plastic chairs with cushions on them. There was  
12           also a pool table and an old record player in both,  
13           because there were children of different ages in there,  
14           but I don't think there were any books to read, even if  
15           we'd wanted. In the gymnasium, we could play football  
16           or table tennis and there was grass outside to play  
17           football on as well.

18           'After I'd been at Gryffe for about a year,  
19           I started going to cadets and boxing at clubs in  
20           Johnstone. I got the bus there along with another lad  
21           who went to a different cadet group. I think the boxing  
22           was 50 pence a week and my grandad used to give me the  
23           money. If he hadn't, I wouldn't have been able to go,  
24           none of the other kids went.

25           'We were taken away once a year or so. I remember

1 we went to Anstruther twice and stayed in a cabin there.  
2 Another time they took us to Islay and we also went to  
3 Dornoch. A minibus of six or seven kids and maybe four  
4 houseparents would all be taken for a few nights or  
5 a long weekend. I don't remember much about those trips  
6 but they weren't very good.

7 'I first went to school in [REDACTED] 1979, not long  
8 after I arrived. I was sent to Linwood Primary at first  
9 and then, when I became old enough, I went to  
10 St Brendan's. Part of the rules at St Brendan's was  
11 that you could take your blazer off, but you had to keep  
12 your tie on and the sleeves of your shirt down.

13 'We went to school on the school bus. We would all  
14 walk down to the Main Street in Bridge of Weir and get  
15 picked up with the other local kids. They wouldn't know  
16 we were from the home unless we got talking to them and  
17 told them.

18 'It was quite embarrassing at lunchtime because,  
19 unlike the rest of the kids who had a ticket for lunch,  
20 we had to say to the woman serving that we were from  
21 Gryffe. She would write it down and everybody would  
22 then know. It was just something else to make us stand  
23 out.

24 'School was all right. It was like a haven for me.  
25 It was a place where I could hide, and although I wasn't

1 very good academically, I was good with the physical  
2 stuff and I played football for the school team. For  
3 a while I very rarely missed a day at school because  
4 I wanted to be away from Gryffe.

5 'There were times that the school bus didn't turn up  
6 and I walked the four miles there. I was determined to  
7 get to school somehow.

8 'Later on, if I didn't want to go to school one day  
9 because I couldn't be bothered, I would just refuse and  
10 go and hide in the bushes. They couldn't get me because  
11 sometimes I would climb a tree and sit up in it for four  
12 or five hours. The only way they could get me down was  
13 if I decided to come down.

14 'We went to the dentist or the doctor in Bridge of  
15 Weir if we ever needed to. If you had an appointment,  
16 a member of staff would take you, and if you had any  
17 problem you could go.

18 'The only religious instruction was on a Tuesday  
19 when there was a Bible class in the wee room on the  
20 ground floor that was usually kept locked. Only about  
21 two or three people went to Bible class, which was taken  
22 by a man and his daughter, who came in from outside.  
23 They weren't part of the staff. They would ask you  
24 questions and if you got them right they would give you  
25 sweets.

1           'As a Catholic, I was sort of interested and did go,  
2           but after a while, and after everything that happened to  
3           me, I decided there was no God.

4           'Even though it was called the adolescent unit,  
5           there was no preparation for outside life. We weren't  
6           taught anything or given any chores to do, either in the  
7           adolescent unit or at any time. We had our own kitchen  
8           and we had to do all our own dishes and put them away,  
9           but that was it. The only thing I did was make my own  
10          tea, there was no food to make a meal with.

11          'I think they spent £7 on us for our birthday and at  
12          Christmas. One of the staff would buy something like  
13          a pair of socks to the value of £7 and that was it.  
14          I remember for my 16th birthday, I got a card and  
15          a Twix. Apparently two of the staff chipped in to get  
16          me the Twix.

17          'At Christmas I think there was a big tree when you  
18          went in the main door, but that was the only tree.  
19          There weren't any trees in the common rooms or elsewhere  
20          and I can't recall there being decorations. I don't  
21          think anyone went home for Christmas and I think we  
22          maybe got a special meal like chicken or turkey on the  
23          day. It doesn't stick in my memory.

24          'My mother never came to visit, but my grandad did.  
25          I used to go down to the train station and meet him and

1 we'd walk back up to the home. Most of the time we  
2 would stay outside because I didn't like taking him in,  
3 but he did come in with me occasionally. We were able  
4 to spend the time on our own without any staff there.

5 'Records I've since seen from the home say that  
6 I tried to distance myself from my family. I think the  
7 reason was because I didn't know my family. The records  
8 say my grandad used to come to visit on a Saturday every  
9 week, but I don't think it was that often. I can  
10 remember him coming sporadically, but not every week.

11 'Although I have no recollection of social work  
12 being involved with me before I went to Gryffe, all of  
13 a sudden when I got there, a guy used to come and see me  
14 every couple of weeks. His name was Steven Baird and  
15 I think he worked at Townhead in Glasgow. He got killed  
16 in a car accident when I was 16.

17 'Steven used to come for reviews and I've since seen  
18 in my records that there is mention of Children's  
19 Panels, but I never went to any. I was never told why  
20 a review panel might have been taking place or what the  
21 result was. I never got any feedback.

22 'I would see Steven every two or three months, but  
23 he would only spend about five minutes with me whenever  
24 he came. The rest of the time he was talking to the  
25 staff.

1           'After Steven died, somebody else took over for him  
2 but I don't know who that was. I think it was a woman  
3 and I may have met her once, but I don't recall her  
4 name. She certainly never came to see me as often as  
5 Steven had.

6           'We all had a tiny cabinet beside our beds and  
7 a wardrobe with two doors, but I don't remember anybody  
8 having any personal possessions like photographs or  
9 anything. I had nothing in my bedside cabinet. We  
10 never got any pocket money from the home so I couldn't  
11 buy anything anyway. My grandad would give me 50 pence  
12 when he came to see me, but that was the only money  
13 I ever got.

14           'I used to run away every week with my pal [and he  
15 names him], sometimes even more often. There were  
16 places in the building where we knew we could hide and  
17 they wouldn't find us. There were times when we hid  
18 above the staffroom for four or five days and they never  
19 found us. We would take food with us and listen to them  
20 talking and only come down when we'd no food left and we  
21 were hungry.

22           'Sometimes I would hide up a tree in the woods and  
23 be there for hours. When I ran further away, I would go  
24 everywhere and often got as far as Glasgow before  
25 I would be brought back by the police. I often went to

1 a so-called friend of the family's place and stayed  
2 there. She would phone the police and they would come  
3 and get me.

4 'There was never any punishment or consequence for  
5 running away. They never seemed to care. I was doing  
6 it for attention, but I never got it. I also set the  
7 fire alarms off to get attention. Sometimes I set the  
8 fire alarms off at 4 o'clock in the morning, but I did  
9 that because I wanted the day off school. I knew that  
10 we wouldn't have to go after getting up at that time.

11 'Nobody ever asked me why I was running away. If  
12 the police had come to try and get me down from the  
13 tree, they would just leave and tell the staff I would  
14 come down when I was ready. They never came back to ask  
15 why I had been up there.

16 'Nobody ever told me anything about what was allowed  
17 and what wasn't, or what discipline code there might  
18 have been. The staff referred to us by our names or by  
19 nicknames and we called the staff by their names. Most  
20 of the kids had nicknames.'

21 And he says that he used to be known by a particular  
22 nickname and would answer to that.

23 He then says:

24 'Some of the staff, I don't remember who, would call  
25 me "cunt", but I wouldn't answer to that.

1           'One of the lads I shared a room with at first was  
2 a constant bed-wetter.'

3           And then he says he might have been called -- and he  
4 gives us the full name of that boy, and he says he was  
5 about 11 years old. He goes on to say:

6           'He had a rubber sheet on his bed and in the  
7 morning, when whichever houseparent that was on duty  
8 pulled back his quilt and saw it, they would just leave  
9 it. They wouldn't turn the mattress or change the  
10 sheets and the boy would have to sleep in the same bed  
11 the following night. It could have been any of the  
12 houseparents, it just depended on their shift pattern,  
13 but it was usually Geoff Bamber, RJK or one  
14 of the married couple, RKA or .

15           'I can't remember what the houseparents' reactions  
16 were, but the boy would be stinking of urine through his  
17 clothes because he wouldn't get washed and the  
18 houseparents would just leave him. It wasn't right.'

19           He says:

20           '[That] boy was often punished for wetting the bed,  
21 which could be a daily occurrence over the two or three  
22 months I shared a room with him. I regularly saw Geoff  
23 Bamber and RJK give him what I would call  
24 a Chinese burn on the bare skin of his arm, and if  
25 I never saw it, he would tell me.

1           'He would be put on the floor and they used to sit  
2           on top of him and twist the skin on his arm between  
3           their hands. If he refused to go on the floor, I saw  
4           Geoff Bamber slap him on the back of the head and make  
5           him go down. It would leave marks, but we wore  
6           long-sleeved shirts to school and that hid them.'

7           'Harry' then talks about abuse at Gryffe from  
8           paragraph 93:

9           'Geoff Bamber and RJG [REDACTED] gave me Chinese  
10          burns as well. In the beginning it was maybe a weekly  
11          occurrence. If I refused to go down onto the floor,  
12          Bamber would slap me on the back of the head to make me.  
13          Once I was on the floor, he would sit on my back or on  
14          my chest and either he or RJG [REDACTED] would give me  
15          a Chinese burn.

16          'I think with me, it was because he said I was  
17          insubordinate and disrespectful to the adults. It could  
18          have been anything that might have caused him to think  
19          it. I might have told him to "fuck off" or something  
20          like that. To me, a child might tell their parents that  
21          and run away or whatever, and that's what I was doing.  
22          I was just being a child. It was my automatic reaction  
23          to somebody trying to enforce their will on me.

24          'Two or three times during the night, people used to  
25          come in the dormitory and try and disorientate us. They

1 would switch the lights off and while we couldn't see,  
2 somebody would sit on you and pin you down, while the  
3 other gave you a Chinese burn, or sometimes they'd  
4 headbutt you. Sometimes a couple of them would pee on  
5 you.

6 'I thought it must have been RJG [REDACTED] and  
7 Geoff Bamber and I couldn't understand how it could be  
8 happening, because it should only have been the night  
9 staff that were on duty. Then I found out it was some  
10 of the older boys who were 16 or 17 that were doing it.  
11 I don't know their names.

12 'I think they were doing it to us because it had  
13 been happening to them and because they thought it was  
14 funny. I think they would pee on you to get you into  
15 trouble in the morning when the staff came round to  
16 check if anyone had wet their bed. I heard other boys  
17 talk of being bullied as well, but I never saw what  
18 might have been happening.

19 'In the first three months of me being at Gryffe,  
20 I was accused of fire-raising. I was downstairs and  
21 when I went up to the dorm, I found the curtains were on  
22 fire. I went back down and told one of the  
23 houseparents, who went up, set the fire alarm off and  
24 the fire was put out. Nobody was hurt and there wasn't  
25 much damage.

1           'Within about half an hour, I was taken into the  
2           staffroom downstairs where there were two men with one  
3           or two of the staff members, maybe Hogarth the head,  
4           I'm not sure. The two men were in suits and they told  
5           me they were police officers. They were trying to force  
6           me to say that I did it and one of the officers slapped  
7           me a couple of times across the face, although it wasn't  
8           a full, hard slap.

9           'I was in there for three or four hours, but  
10          I didn't do it so I wasn't going to admit to it. In the  
11          end, I was told to go away and I never heard any more  
12          about it. I'd seen other people who had been in Gryffe  
13          and had done things [to] get [I think that should be "to  
14          get put"] to List D schools ...'

15       LADY SMITH: Yes.

16       MS FORBES: '... and I'd thought that's what would happen to  
17          me, but they never even came back to me.

18          'After I'd been at Gryffe for about a couple of  
19          months, I started to hear other boys say things about  
20          Geoff Bamber doing different things. They would say  
21          that Bamber used to take two or three boys down to the  
22          shower room next to the gymnasium and stand and watch  
23          them as they showered and, as they did, Bamber would  
24          masturbate himself.

25          'I used to question this, because I thought that

1       surely he would do that to somebody on their own if he  
2       was going to, not with a group of boys. It was only  
3       after I'd been there for about six months that I became  
4       aware that it was true and it was probably happening two  
5       or three times a week.

6           'I used to go down to the gymnasium with other boys  
7       to play table tennis and football. One time Bamber  
8       found us playing table tennis and told us to go for a  
9       shower because we were all sweaty. We didn't even have  
10       towels with us, but he told us we didn't need one.

11           'Among the other boys that were there were ...'

12           And he names the boy he named earlier who had the  
13       problem with bed-wetting, and he names another boy and  
14       gives us his full name:

15           '... but I can't remember who the others were.  
16       I think the others were a wee bit older, maybe 14 going  
17       on 15. We all did what we were told, got our clothes  
18       off and went under the showers. Bamber followed us in  
19       and because of the layout of the shower area, there was  
20       no privacy from each other or from him. We were in full  
21       view of him and he was in full view of us.

22           'As we washed, Bamber lent against the wall,  
23       unzipped his trousers, took his penis out and started  
24       openly masturbating himself in front of us. He never  
25       touched us, he just touched himself. I don't remember

1 him asking any boy to touch him either.

2 'He told us to make sure we soaped each other  
3 properly and to touch each other's penises and to make  
4 sure they were properly clean. He told us to make sure  
5 we got soap up each other's bums and I think he asked  
6 a boy to give the other boy's penis a kiss and to suck  
7 another boy's penis as well. I didn't know what was  
8 happening. I'd never experienced this sort of thing  
9 before. I'm not sure, but I think the boy did kiss the  
10 other boy's penis.

11 'This happened regularly with me there. It was  
12 maybe a weekly occurrence. There might be six boys in  
13 the gymnasium playing table tennis or football and  
14 Bamber would appear. He was the only member of staff  
15 that came down to the gymnasium, none of the others did.

16 'It was always the same when Bamber appeared. He  
17 would tell us all to go and get a shower. Sometimes he  
18 would take his trousers down, sometimes he would just  
19 unzip himself. You could hear anyone coming because of  
20 the floor outside and the fire doors, so if he did hear  
21 someone coming, he could get his zip up.

22 'Nine times out of ten, Bamber would ejaculate and  
23 when he was finished, he would tell us to get ourselves  
24 tidied up and go back to our rooms. We didn't have  
25 towels with us so we would just have to dry ourselves as

1 best we could with a T-shirt or something like that.

2 'On one occasion, I was about 13-and-a-half ...'

3 And then he says, he names the boy who had the  
4 bed-wetting problem. He says:

5 'The boy who used to wet his bed ran away. He got as  
6 far as Dumfries and Galloway and I had to go with Bamber  
7 to [pick] him up. I just did what I was told. I was  
8 only a wee boy. I think he knew [the boy] wouldn't have  
9 gone with him if I wasn't there.

10 'Bamber was driving a wee van that had a long bench  
11 seat behind the front seats. We went to pick [the boy]  
12 up and he told both of us to sit in the back on the  
13 bench seat and cuddle into each other. While we were  
14 lying in the back I could see through to the front and  
15 saw Bamber touching himself while he was driving.

16 '[The boy] and I were fully clothed and he told us  
17 to cuddle in and rub up against each other. He could  
18 see me behind him in his mirror and he told me to pull  
19 [him] close to him [the boy close to him]. I could see  
20 quite clearly that Bamber had one hand on the steering  
21 wheel and the other was rubbing his penis through his  
22 trousers. I don't know if he ejaculated or not.

23 'Bamber used to torture us mentally as well. He  
24 would say that if we told anybody, nobody would believe  
25 us, because he was a fine, upstanding member of the

1 community and we were just daft wee boys. He told us  
2 nobody cared about us and that is why we were in Gryffe.  
3 He said we could die tomorrow and nobody would bother.  
4 I had a family, but I believed him. I believed that  
5 they didn't care.

6 'Bamber had been a Scoutmaster before Gryffe and he  
7 also used to take a few boys in a tent into the woods  
8 out the back of Gryffe. There was a very dense wooded  
9 area about 500 yards away and he would maybe take six or  
10 eight boys there at a time. Once the tent was up,  
11 everyone went in and he would tell all of them to start  
12 masturbating.

13 'I went once with a few other boys when I was nearly  
14 14. I'm not sure who the other boys were, but there  
15 would be one of the ...'

16 And he names a particular family and says one of  
17 those boys, and then another two boys that he's named  
18 before already:

19 'I think the youngest boy would have been about 11  
20 and the oldest about 16 or 17. When we went in the  
21 tent, Bamber came in as well and sat near the opening so  
22 nobody could get out. He told all of us to take our  
23 trousers and pants off and said, "We're going to play  
24 a game of bingo, the first one to come wins the game".

25 'All the boys did what they were told and took their

1 trousers and pants down and started masturbating. As we  
2 did, Bamber sat and played with himself as well. He  
3 took his penis out of his pants and masturbated until he  
4 ejaculated. When everybody had finished he told us all  
5 to get dressed, packed up the tent and we all went back  
6 to the home.

7 'He also used to take different boys away from time  
8 to time. I don't know where they went and he never took  
9 me. The boys would never say what had happened, but  
10 I think we all knew. I think pride would play a part  
11 and those boys felt like they couldn't speak about it.

12 'All my sexual abuse stopped when I turned 14  
13 because by that time I was really rebelling. I'd joined  
14 the cadets and the boxing club and I could fight. I was  
15 left alone because I could defend myself. I stopped  
16 going down to the gymnasium and instead played football  
17 on the grass outside at the front. I was never in the  
18 showers with Bamber or sexually abused by him again.

19 'I used to beat myself up because I wanted to help  
20 the other boys. I used to try and fight him and punch  
21 him and sometimes it worked. I took the beatings for  
22 the other boys, the boys who couldn't take it. If  
23 I knew that a boy was going to get a beating, I would  
24 stand in front of him and tell Bamber to leave him.

25 'Sometimes I would be put on the floor and sat on by

1 Bamber or the other member of staff called RKA. While  
2 I was pinned down by one, the other would kick and punch  
3 me. I would take it just to stop the other boy getting  
4 a beating. Bamber used to like me getting a beating.  
5 He knew he couldn't get to me sexually and he wanted to  
6 see me suffer.

7 'These beatings from Bamber and RKA probably went on  
8 for a year-and-a-half and were pretty regular. After  
9 that time I moved up to the adolescent unit, where my  
10 houseparent was RJG. I think I saw RJG  
11 every single day and I think she gave me Chinese burns  
12 every single day. I used to let her, because a girl  
13 that was also in the adolescent unit [and he names her]  
14 couldn't take it. I felt obliged to take it for her.

15 'It was the same routine with RJG. She clearly  
16 thought she had to control us by giving us those Chinese  
17 burns on the arms. She would tell us that she had been  
18 in the community for years and nobody would believe us  
19 if we spoke about it.

20 'When I was at school, I always used to roll the  
21 sleeves of my shirt up to show the marks from the  
22 Chinese burns, but none of the teachers ever asked where  
23 the marks came from.

24 'The only teacher who did ask was a guy called  
25 Arthur Bell, who was the PE teacher and saw the marks on

1 my arms a few times. Whenever he asked, I just told him  
2 I'd fallen or that someone had grabbed me. To me it was  
3 less grief, because I didn't want anyone to think I was  
4 a grass.

5 'When I was taken back to Gryffe by the police after  
6 I had run away, I would say I wasn't getting cared for  
7 and I think told them on three occasions that I was  
8 being abused. I never specifically mentioned the sexual  
9 abuse. To me that was enough, but they never asked for  
10 more detail, they never even wrote anything down and  
11 still I was taken back.

12 'As an adult now, I wonder why that was happening  
13 when I was telling the police the reason. Surely it  
14 should have occurred to them that there must have been  
15 something wrong with Gryffe if I kept running away. It  
16 was a cry for help and nobody was listening.

17 'I approached other members of staff at Gryffe and  
18 tried to tell them about Bamber, but they just used to  
19 tell me not to be stupid and to go away. I can't  
20 remember who they were, some of the houseparents.  
21 I always used to tell a group of them at the same time,  
22 but even then, nobody believed me. They made it clear  
23 they thought I was telling lies. I'm not sure whether  
24 those other staff were aware of what Bamber was doing,  
25 but they certainly weren't prepared to listen to me.

1           'I also told Steven Baird, my social worker,  
2           a couple of times what was going on. I don't know if he  
3           was in on it though, because nothing ever happened.  
4           I told him about Bamber masturbating himself and  
5           I've since seen in my records that there is mention of  
6           allegations being made, but there was nothing more  
7           specific and Bamber's behaviour continued.

8           'I was never told that my allegations were being  
9           looked into, but the records I've since obtained say  
10          that I came forward on a number of occasions. They say  
11          that the home looked into the allegations but nothing  
12          was found. I don't know what that means. I wonder now  
13          how it can be that it's recorded that I came forward  
14          consistently but nothing was done. It doesn't make  
15          sense.

16          'Although I saw my grandad every week, all he was  
17          interested in was football and he never talked about  
18          anything else. He thought his job was to come and see  
19          me and give me some pocket money, and when I tried to  
20          tell him things, I don't think he listened. I tried to  
21          tell him twice, but I gave up because he wouldn't  
22          listen.

23          'Nobody told me that I was coming up to leaving  
24          Gryffe, but I was expecting it. I thought that once you  
25          were 18, that was it and you were put out. I'd been

1           wanting to leave, but I was uncertain where I was going  
2           or what I would do.

3           'One night, about 11.30, I was talking to two of the  
4           girls in the adolescent unit in their bedroom, when one  
5           of the staff came in. I don't remember who it was, but  
6           they told me I wasn't supposed to be there and within  
7           two days I had left Gryffe. I don't know if there was  
8           a connection.

9           'There was no preparation for me leaving. I can't  
10          remember anyone sitting me down and talking to me about  
11          it. Nobody told me to pack a bag. All I knew was I was  
12          going somewhere in Glasgow. I never even saw anyone  
13          from the social work.

14          'I left Gryffe in [REDACTED] when I was still 17 and  
15          I felt even more lost. I didn't have an identity.  
16          I felt as if I'd done something wrong again and was  
17          being discarded like a piece of rubbish. Despite all  
18          the abuse I'd suffered, Gryffe was where the only family  
19          I had was and that was being taken away.'

20          My Lady, from 'Harry's' records, we know that he was  
21          still in Gryffe at the beginning of [REDACTED] 1982, aged  
22          16, but at some point thereafter he was admitted to  
23          Ardoch Children's Home.

24   LADY SMITH: Oh yes. He thought he'd reached 17 by the time  
25          he left Gryffe, didn't he?

1 MS FORBES: I think so, yes. And we know that he was  
2 discharged from Ardoch on [REDACTED] 1983 when he would  
3 have been 17, by that time.

4 'Harry' says:

5 'I thought I was going to my grandad's, but I was  
6 driven by one of the staff from Gryffe to another home  
7 called Ardoch in Pollokshields. I was only there for  
8 about a month and the records that I've since obtained  
9 say that it was supposedly for some sort of transitional  
10 period.'

11 [REDACTED]  
12 [REDACTED]

13 He says after that he went to his grandfather's. He  
14 started looking for a job and tried to join the police  
15 but failed the medical because he was too small and his  
16 grandad suggested the army, but 'Harry' says the Marines  
17 looked more appealing, so he applied and got in. He was  
18 only with his grandad for about five weeks before he  
19 went down south to start training.

20 He then tells us about life after being in care from  
21 paragraph 139 and he says that legally he had to start  
22 using his birth name when he started applying for jobs  
23 and he had trouble explaining where his stepfather's  
24 surname that he'd be using up until then came from.

25 He signed up to the Marines, he says, for 25 years

1 and went to Plymouth to train. He says he remembers  
2 a guy who was training him saying, paragraph 140, he  
3 says the guy told him:

4 "You must be psychotic to want to join the  
5 Marines", and I thought he was probably right.'

6 He says after Plymouth he was posted to Devon and  
7 then posted to various places over the years, including  
8 the Middle East, he was in Belfast and Bosnia,  
9 Afghanistan, Iraq and Kuwait.

10 He says that the guys he worked beside in the  
11 Marines were like family to him. He met a woman and  
12 started a relationship with her, and although they split  
13 up eventually, they had two daughters together and he  
14 says he also has a son.

15 He was in the Marines for 19 years but was  
16 discharged due to psychological problems because he hit  
17 an officer.

18 At paragraph 143, 'Harry' says:

19 'I was told it was down to battle fatigue, but  
20 I don't know why I did it.'

21 He says he didn't know what to do when he came out  
22 because all he knew was being surrounded by a group of  
23 people. He says that after the relationship with his  
24 daughters' mother broke down, he went back to Scotland.  
25 He spoke to a policeman at Waverley Station and told him

1 he had nowhere to go and then he was put into housing  
2 for veterans and after a few weeks he got a flat in  
3 Edinburgh through a veterans' charity.

4 He knew he had to retrain, so went on an eight-week  
5 course working with children and he says he was doing  
6 that because he felt he could help after his own  
7 experiences as a child.

8 At paragraph 147, he says at about 38 years old, he  
9 got a job with the YMCA working with children, and then  
10 he also got another job working with children with  
11 special needs, and then a mentoring job with children.

12 He also got a job as a care assistant in  
13 a children's home, mainly doing nightshifts, and he said  
14 he had a lot of empathy with the children and he says he  
15 maybe did that for about four years.

16 He talks about his mentoring job at paragraph 149  
17 and he says he worked with children as young as 9 and as  
18 old as 16. But he says that he didn't think he got  
19 enough time with the children because it was only two  
20 hours a week with each child and that wasn't enough time  
21 to have proper influence.

22 He says he stopped the mentoring job about four  
23 years ago and started working with homeless people as  
24 a support worker, and then, because of the fact he  
25 receives personal independence payment, he's had to take

1 that down to only one day a week, because he's not  
2 allowed to work and receive that income.

3 He says he met his partner while he was working in  
4 the children's home and he's been with her now longer  
5 than with anyone else, and at the time of this statement  
6 they'd been together six years. He says his daughters  
7 are in the Lake District and he's a grandad to  
8 a granddaughter.

9 In relation to impact, 'Harry' tells us about that  
10 from paragraph 153 and says his relationship with his  
11 son's quite good but he doesn't have a relationship with  
12 his daughters, which he believes is as a result of his  
13 time in care. And he says when they were growing up, he  
14 was coming and going all the time and there was a period  
15 of about 10 or 12 years when they weren't in contact at  
16 all.

17 At paragraph 155, he talks about his sister getting  
18 back in touch with him after years of not seeing her.  
19 Somebody had told her that he was dead. And he says  
20 that he shared a mother with his brother and sister but  
21 that was all and they have nothing else in common, and  
22 that he's not spoken to his brother since his mother's  
23 funeral, 23 years ago at the time of this statement.

24 But he says at paragraph 155:

25 'I think our relationship would have been different

1 if we had all been brought up in the same house.'

2 He says he's not cried in 40-odd years because it's  
3 a sign of weakness, and he's learned not to let people  
4 see that he's weak. He's learned to stand up for  
5 himself.

6 And he says at paragraph 156:

7 'Even to this day I still feel as if I am the wee  
8 boy that I was in care. I still feel vulnerable at  
9 times and I can't let people get too close. I don't  
10 want to get hurt again because if I get hurt, it brings  
11 it all back.'

12 He says he reacts badly to any criticism and that  
13 he's never been married, he's unable to trust people.  
14 He has problems eating with other people and he says at  
15 paragraph 159:

16 'I'll eat when I want to eat. I don't want somebody  
17 else telling me when to eat. It's the same with  
18 washing. I'll wash when I want to wash, not when  
19 somebody else thinks I should be. It's because of this  
20 need to control and because I don't want to ask anybody  
21 that I sometimes get stressed out.'

22 He says he's scared to sleep and he's worried about  
23 people coming to hurt him if he falls asleep. In the  
24 Marines he says that calmed down because there were  
25 others around him, but when he left, that inability to

1 sleep came back. And he says -- at the time of this  
2 statement, he says it was 'horrendous'.

3 He says at paragraph 162:

4 'I think about my time in care every day. There are  
5 quite a lot of things that can trigger memories. It  
6 could be something on the telly, something that  
7 I've read or something someone says. While I was in the  
8 Marines, I'd been bottling things up for many years and  
9 it came to a head when I punched an officer. I was  
10 medically discharged after I was told I wasn't in the  
11 right place to continue.

12 'I keep wondering if the abuse was my fault, whether  
13 there was something I did wrong to deserve it. I think  
14 I must have been a horrible kid for my own mother not to  
15 want me, and then to leave me with a guy who used to  
16 batter me every day. I was just a wee boy doing what  
17 wee boys do and I was sent away. I didn't know where  
18 I was at Gryffe. I might as well have been hundreds of  
19 miles away from the people I knew, people that were  
20 supposed to have loved me.'

21 He says he went back to Bridge of Weir with his  
22 partner once and he stopped outside and parked across  
23 the road from the gates, but they didn't go any further.  
24 And at paragraph 164 he says:

25 'I wanted to get out with a sledgehammer and knock

1 the gates down. I know that the people responsible for  
2 what happened aren't there physically anymore, but  
3 I wanted to smash the gates and kill the memory.

4 'I think it was about three years ago that I first  
5 heard that Geoff Bamber had died. My first reaction was  
6 that I didn't believe it, but I hope that he is dead.  
7 If I could dig him up and make sure he was dead, I would  
8 do it.'

9 He says that he's ended up with a criminal record  
10 because of his temper and he says that he ended up in  
11 court due to making a homophobic comment, and that's  
12 limited his job opportunities. And that the only thing  
13 he's ever craved was a family.

14 He says he also wants other people to be happy, but  
15 he doesn't think he deserves to be. And he tells us  
16 he's been seeing doctors and psychiatrists since he was  
17 at a very young age and he tells us from paragraph 169  
18 about his experiences with that. He tells us he was put  
19 on medication for depression and has had sessions with  
20 a consultant clinical psychologist and also a community  
21 psychiatric nurse. He's been diagnosed with complex  
22 post-traumatic stress disorder, and he says his GP  
23 recognised he wasn't able to continue with everyday work  
24 patterns and advised him to apply for PIP.

25 He says that he has a letter from his doctor which

1 was written for the PIP application, and at  
2 paragraph 174, he says:

3 'In his letter, he recognised that I suffer severe  
4 and debilitating anxiety and depression, each of which  
5 is of a long-standing nature. He says that my mental  
6 health difficulties can be attributed to early  
7 development characterised by extreme adversity in the  
8 form of neglect and abuse.'

9 He says he's also been seeing another psychologist  
10 attached to the River Centre in Edinburgh and is due to  
11 attend an eight-week course of group counselling, at the  
12 time of this statement, the next year.

13 At paragraph 176, he talks about contacting the  
14 police in 2006 and giving them a statement about what  
15 happened to him at Gryffe. He says at paragraph 176:

16 'I read a story about Geoff Bamber in the Scottish  
17 Sunday Mail after he'd been convicted of raping  
18 a 6-year-old boy, served time and was about to be  
19 released. I think he was only out for about a day  
20 before he was arrested again.'

21 He says he spoke to two detectives and he told them  
22 that Geoff Bamber was the man he'd come forward about in  
23 1982 when he was being taken back to Gryffe for running  
24 away, but that the police then didn't believe him.

25 And he says that during that police interview, one

1 of the officers suddenly held up a photo of Geoff Bamber  
2 and asked him who it was, and he told him, and the  
3 police officer said that Bamber was in police custody,  
4 and he says that he stopped the interview because of the  
5 way the two detectives behaved.

6 He says at paragraph 178:

7 'They accused me of just reporting it so that  
8 I could get compensation. I was so annoyed, I didn't  
9 get as far as telling them everything Bamber did.'

10 And he says he went back to one of the police  
11 officers in 2007 and she said there was one other person  
12 who'd corroborated his story, and he says he thought  
13 that would have been enough, but she said their  
14 inquiries were ongoing, and went away and he never heard  
15 from her again.

16 He says that about three years ago at the time of  
17 this statement, he was going to take a private action  
18 out against Bamber and spoke to a solicitor, but he was  
19 told that Bamber had died in custody, that he'd been due  
20 to appear at court but he'd died before doing so.

21 And at paragraph 181, he says:

22 'Eventually I stopped the civil action because  
23 I realised money wasn't the answer. If I had received  
24 compensation, it would be as if it was Bamber's money  
25 and I don't want anything to do with him.'

1           He said he applied for his social work records from  
2 Glasgow District Council and received 20 pages which  
3 were heavily redacted, and he says that some of the  
4 records were useful for putting a timeframe to things,  
5 but he was very angry when he first read them. And he  
6 talks then about what they'd said in the records about  
7 his stepfather. And also there was a comment about his  
8 mother showing no interest in him as well.

9           In relation to lessons to be learned, 'Harry' tells  
10 us from paragraph 188:

11           'I know that there have been massive changes in the  
12 care of looked-after children, but I know that bad  
13 people still slip through the net. The disclosure  
14 checks that are now required are really good and some of  
15 the bad people will be weeded out, but you can never  
16 know for sure that someone won't slip through.

17           'I know there's only so much that can be done, but  
18 rigorous vetting is needed. It doesn't matter whether  
19 abuse is mental, physical or sexual, it's still abuse  
20 and it shouldn't be allowed to happen.

21           'There were good people on the staff at Gryffe, but  
22 there were bad people too and it's the bad people that  
23 you always remember.

24           'I don't think that there were the same kind of  
25 checks then as there are now. It came out after

1 Bamber's death that he had been moved from Quarriers to  
2 Gryffe because he had been abusing boys at Quarriers.  
3 At that time it seemed that staff could move freely from  
4 job to job.

5 'If a child is repeatedly doing something like  
6 running away, there must be more than just one person  
7 reviewing that child's care. If the good members of  
8 staff have a suspicion a child is not being treated  
9 right, there should be a mechanism for them to report  
10 it.

11 'Training in life skills is necessary and I know  
12 that now kids in homes are put into furnished flats when  
13 it's coming up time for them to leave. When I left  
14 Gryffe there was nothing like that, you were just thrown  
15 out.

16 'I actually got an apology from the guy who had been  
17 the head of Gryffe when I left, Ralph Anderson. I met  
18 him by chance about six months after I left and he told  
19 me he was sorry that I had been put out as I was. He  
20 recognised that I hadn't been taught any life skills and  
21 had just been forgotten about.

22 'What I can't get over is people not believing me  
23 when I tried to report what was happening. I tried  
24 repeatedly, but no one would listen.'

25 'Harry' has made the usual declaration and he's

1 signed his statement dated 27 January 2020.

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

3 MS FORBES: My Lady, the next statement is from an applicant  
4 who has waived their anonymity and his name is Chris  
5 Daly.

6 Chris Daly (read in)

7 MS FORBES: The reference for Chris's statement is  
8 WIT.001.001.4375.

9 My Lady, Chris has previously given live evidence to  
10 the Inquiry --

11 LADY SMITH: Of course.

12 MS FORBES: -- on two separate occasions, the first was on  
13 6 July 2017, which was Day 19, and that was about  
14 a statement he gave relating to petitions he was  
15 involved in to the Scottish Parliament and his  
16 involvement with INCAS. The reference for the  
17 transcript is TRN.001.001.5688.

18 And then subsequently he gave live evidence on 1 May  
19 2018, which was Day 51 of the Inquiry, and that was in  
20 relation to Nazareth House, and the reference for that  
21 is TRN.001.003.0617.

22 So because of that, my Lady, there are parts of his  
23 statement that have already been dealt with, so in  
24 relation to those matters I will just summarise.

25 Chris was born in --

1 LADY SMITH: He's also referred to in a number of places in  
2 the Scottish Government findings after the section on  
3 the Scottish Government and the run-up, the long run-up  
4 to the establishment of this Inquiry. Thank you.

5 MS FORBES: Chris was born in 1964 and tells us about his  
6 life before going into care between paragraphs 1 and 4.

7

8

9 He says that his family moved home when his mum was  
10 expecting him, from a slum in Glasgow during the slum  
11 clearances, and they were moved to a new council home in  
12 Drumchapel, a new-build.

13 But he says that the gas and electric were not  
14 connected because there had been an issue about the  
15 meter being tampered with previously, at the previous  
16 address, and so there was no gas or electric in the new  
17 home.

18 He says there was social work involvement from when  
19 he was first born and he says within three months he was  
20 placed into foster care with a woman in Strathaven, and  
21 he says he was only three months old at that time.

22 My Lady, we do have his records. They are sometimes  
23 not easy to make sense of and they're not complete, but  
24 we do have records that show that he was in foster care,  
25 back and forward, and between different foster parents

1 as well, and then going back to his mother. And this  
2 was between 10 December 1965, all the way up to when he  
3 went to Winton Lodge in 1972, in July 1972, but it's  
4 clear, I think, although the records don't tell us  
5 everything, that he was in and out of foster care from  
6 a very young age and back and forward between homes.

7 He tells us that his parents had mental health  
8 issues, and we do see that in the records as well. They  
9 were always being admitted to hospital and he says his  
10 father was a long-term patient at a mental hospital.

11 Then, from about the age of 4 or 5, he was put into  
12 residential children's homes and if we go to  
13 paragraph 11, he says that there was kinship care  
14 provided by his mother's side of the family when her  
15 sister [REDACTED], and that his granny  
16 looked after him sometimes. But he says the places that  
17 he has a clear memory of are Gryffe Children's Home in  
18 the Bridge of Weir and Nazareth House.

19 However, he talks first of all about Dunclutha  
20 Children's Home and I don't think we know from the  
21 records, my Lady, when he was admitted to Dunclutha, but  
22 it would have been sometime after [REDACTED] 1972, which  
23 was the last time at that time that he'd been returned  
24 to his mother.

25 So he says that between 6 and 8 years old he was in

1 Dunclutha and he was with [REDACTED], and he  
2 just has vague memories of being there. And he says the  
3 only memory he has is of [REDACTED] getting  
4 kicked by a staff member.

5 He then says he was back at home and tells us about  
6 that from paragraph 16, but he tells us about the  
7 problems with his parents and in particular his father  
8 being back out of the mental hospital. He says his  
9 father smashed the mirrors in the house and glass and  
10 wrecked the place and then the police became involved.  
11 He says then he was taken away.

12 We know then that he was with a family in Islay from  
13 September 1972. He returned to his mother in  
14 October 1972. He was then in McKeith Lodge in Dunoon in  
15 February 1974.

16 Then he was admitted to Gryffe on [REDACTED] 1974, for  
17 the first time, aged 9 years old. And he was in Gryffe,  
18 according to his records, until [REDACTED] 1974, so it was  
19 a period of about three-and-a-half months.

20 In relation to Gryffe, my Lady, he talks about that  
21 from paragraph 18 and he says:

22 'That was the point where [REDACTED] taken into care  
23 again. This was just constant. They should have  
24 realised that when [REDACTED] taken back home, everything  
25 broke down. Therefore, they should have looked at

1 a long-term care placement [REDACTED].

2 'I was between 8 and 9 years old when I was in  
3 Gryffe.'

4 He says he was there with [REDACTED] and that  
5 it was a huge estate on the Bridge of Weir and it was an  
6 all-boys' place and government-run.

7 At paragraph 20, he says:

8 'There wasn't really a routine as much. We were  
9 given chores such as doing the dishes. I remember  
10 drying them, but because [REDACTED] not at school, [REDACTED]  
11 routine was different.

12 'All the staff were men apart from a female matron.  
13 I think she could have been the wife of the home  
14 superintendent. We did not have many dealings with her.

15 'We just wore our own clothes. There was no  
16 uniform, although we were given shorts, sweaters and  
17 tank tops to wear.

18 'In Gryffe, we slept in dormitories. I don't  
19 remember much about them, apart from all the ages were  
20 mixed.

21 'There was breakfast, lunch and tea. Breakfast was  
22 really salty porridge. The main meal was in the middle  
23 of the day. In the evening we got buns with jam or  
24 cream in the middle and hot chocolate. We were never  
25 force-fed. We all ate together. We were often hungry

1 so we would break into the pantry and steal food.

2 'We stole potatoes, made a fire and wrapped the  
3 potatoes in tinfoil, heated them on the fire and then  
4 ate them.

5 '██████████'t enrolled in any school. This was to do  
6 with the fact that ██████████ in and out of care and they  
7 decided not to enrol ██████████ in a school. I think that  
8 was the norm then. ██████████ left to play about the  
9 estate.

10 'There was some organised activity. I remember  
11 an Easter egg hunt, but no sports. We had no access to  
12 books and I don't remember a TV or us having access to  
13 toys.

14 'We went on a summer holiday, a transfer to  
15 Castle Craig in Peebles for a couple of weeks. We  
16 couldn't leave the grounds, you'd get into serious  
17 trouble.'

18 He says ██████████ used to sneak down and steal  
19 from the local shops.

20 He says religion didn't play a part there, he  
21 doesn't remember going to church, doesn't remember  
22 visits from family or social work or inspections and  
23 doesn't recall Christmas or birthdays there.

24 Chris then talks about abuse at Gryffe from  
25 paragraph 33 and says:

1           'There was humiliation by the other boys there.  
2           They would take our trousers down and tell us to rub  
3           ourselves on the grass. I was fearful of them. I don't  
4           think that the staff were aware of this. There was  
5           a particular family there [and then he names the  
6           family]. They were nasty and pretty much ran the place.

7           'The staff were cruel too. The humiliation from  
8           them was constant. They would beat, punch and kick me.'

9           And he says [REDACTED] and him decided to run away  
10          because of this:

11          'We ran away and got lost, so we went to the police,  
12          who were nice to us. One of the staff from Gryffe came  
13          to pick us up. The police said to him that it was  
14          a shame for us and he replied, "Yes, it's a shame for  
15          the wee bastards, isn't it".

16          'We were taken back to Gryffe and we went through  
17          this thing that was humiliating. We were put naked in  
18          the same shower with three male staff standing watching  
19          us. The head then came in. I don't remember his name.  
20          He was an older guy with glasses. He said that they  
21          didn't allow boys in the same shower. There was  
22          something just not right about it.

23          'If we did anything wrong, like run away or steal  
24          food, [he says [REDACTED] and him] were punched and  
25          kicked by the staff. We stole food because we were

1 hungry. I don't remember any of the staff names. These  
2 beatings were not as often as in Nazareth House. There  
3 weren't any specific staff that I remember that were  
4 violent, it was just the one that picked us up from the  
5 police station. I think that he may have been SNR  
6 SNR. He was the only specific one that  
7 I remember. He was the worst towards me. But it still  
8 wasn't as bad as the bullying by the other boys.  
9 I never saw any other boys getting punched and kicked by  
10 staff.

11 'There was a nice staff member there, though. His  
12 name was 'MWN' or "MWN" or something like that. He  
13 would bring in orange juice and things like that for us.

14 'If you wet the bed, you were humiliated. It didn't  
15 affect me.'

16 Then he says when [REDACTED] and other boys wet the  
17 bed, staff would wrap the wet bedsheet around them in  
18 front of the other boys, it was humiliating and this  
19 happened to [REDACTED] regularly. He was the youngest  
20 and he says he was heartbroken being away from [REDACTED]  
21 mum.

22 He thinks that he was in Gryffe for a good six to  
23 eight months, but we know from his records it was only  
24 three-and-a-half.

25 LADY SMITH: Yes.

1 MS FORBES: He says that the second time he went to Gryffe  
2 was in 1974 and [REDACTED] just there for a weekend  
3 because things had broken down at home.

4 Then he says [REDACTED] made a protest at the  
5 social work department because they were going to put  
6 [REDACTED] back into Gryffe because there was nowhere else for  
7 [REDACTED] to go, and [REDACTED] escaped from the social work  
8 building down the drainpipe and ran away. And then [REDACTED]  
9 [REDACTED] and him were left and they decided to  
10 take [REDACTED] to Gryffe and they said it was just for the  
11 weekend. They then found [REDACTED] and brought  
12 him to Gryffe [REDACTED].

13 Then he says [REDACTED] went to Nazareth House directly  
14 from Gryffe, and this was just because of the short  
15 weekend, the fact that [REDACTED] had protested about staying  
16 there.

17 My Lady, we know that he was admitted to  
18 Nazareth House aged 9 on [REDACTED] 1974 and then  
19 returned home to his mother in 1978, although we don't  
20 have the exact date, so he would have been about 13 or  
21 14. And again he's given live evidence about that and  
22 I've given the reference already.

23 He tells us about Nazareth House between  
24 paragraph 44 and paragraph 103 of his statement, but he  
25 says [REDACTED] happy to go to Nazareth House because

1 [REDACTED] not going to be in Gryffe anymore.

2 My Lady, he obviously has given live evidence about  
3 that, but in summary he talks about abuse there, about  
4 punishments for bed-wetting, isolation in dark rooms and  
5 in a mortuary-type room with dead bodies or caskets, and  
6 he talks about emotional abuse and physical abuse.

7 LADY SMITH: Yes.

8 MS FORBES: My Lady, he says that he left Nazareth House in  
9 [REDACTED] 1978 and he was back home with his mum,  
10 and he says he spent the next year back at home before  
11 he ended up going into residential care again. And he  
12 talks about suffering from anxiety, dizziness and  
13 sickness and having migraines, and he would play truant  
14 from school, smash things up in the house and argue with  
15 his mum, and so he ended up going to Gilshochill in  
16 Glasgow, which was an assessment centre, and he says it  
17 was a Children's Panel hearing that was held for that  
18 move. But he says he has good memories of that  
19 placement, and some of the relationships he formed with  
20 the boys and staff there lasted for years.

21 He then tells us about life after being in care from  
22 paragraph 110 and, again, he has given live evidence so  
23 I won't go through that in great detail, my Lady. But  
24 he does say that he still suffered -- sorry, he suffers  
25 from panic attacks, migraines and became agoraphobic.

1           He went to stay with his mum's sister after falling  
2 out with his mum and got a job working as a printer.

3           He tells us about the reporting of abuse at  
4 Nazareth House from paragraph 112 and he then tells us  
5 about impact from paragraph 122 and talks about having  
6 a serious alcohol problem and being an alcoholic by the  
7 age of 21 and using that to self-medicate.

8           He tells us about his psychiatric problems and  
9 residential stays for that, but tells us that for the  
10 last ten years at the time of this statement, he's not  
11 had a drink and he went through alcohol aversion  
12 therapy, but still has anxiety, depression and dark  
13 moods. And he says -- he tells us about medication he's  
14 on for depression, migraines, anxiety and nerve pain.

15           He talks about realising he had symptoms of  
16 post-traumatic stress disorder, he realised that whilst  
17 he was studying social care in Glasgow and he was told  
18 by a doctor who diagnosed him that it related to  
19 childhood trauma, and he tells us about some of his  
20 symptoms: flashbacks, palpitations, nightmares, not  
21 sleeping, sleepwalking, shouting and swearing in his  
22 sleep.

23           He says there's been an impact on his relationships,  
24 the breakdown of his marriage and he's now divorced, but  
25 he has two boys from a previous relationship.

1           He thinks about what happened to him as a child  
2           a lot and again tells us about his experiences being  
3           sectioned, and dealings with psychologists and  
4           psychiatrists.

5           But he tells us at the time of this statement, which  
6           was quite a long time ago, he was going to be  
7           a full-time student from September 2017 doing a degree  
8           in social policy and sociology, and that he volunteers  
9           at the Citizens Advice Bureau and that he's resettled to  
10          a small village. And that's helped him because it's  
11          quiet and peaceful and he finds it very -- he just says  
12          he enjoys walking and finds it very therapeutic.

13          And Chris tells us it was a support fund from  
14          Future Pathways that's helped him, especially with  
15          university studies, getting a laptop and books, and that  
16          his studies have been part of his therapeutic process.  
17          It helped him move on from the handicap of not being  
18          educated and that he's now with other people with the  
19          same goal.

20          He then tells us some more information about  
21          Nazareth House. And the lessons for the future, again,  
22          my Lady, have been gone over before.

23          So just at paragraph 145, I'll go to that, where he  
24          makes the usual declaration, and then he's signed it and  
25          it's dated 24 August 2017.

1 LADY SMITH: Thank you very much.

2 MS FORBES: My Lady, do you want me to start, or take the  
3 break early?

4 LADY SMITH: I think we can take the morning break now and  
5 then get to more reading in after that.

6 That leaves us with, the plan is for another?

7 MS FORBES: There's two more.

8 LADY SMITH: Two more. Yes. Well, let's take the break  
9 just now and then move on to those.

10 Before I rise, some names from this morning, because  
11 of course with the first long read-in, we've moved to  
12 a different period in time as compared to the time  
13 periods we were looking at yesterday for Gryffe. So  
14 there's a change in the names of people -- most of the  
15 people who were working at Gryffe then. And names were  
16 used this morning of a man called [REDACTED] RKA,  
17 REU [REDACTED], RJG [REDACTED], somebody MWN [REDACTED] --  
18 I think we settled on MWN [REDACTED] rather than MWN [REDACTED],  
19 hadn't we -- and PBS [REDACTED], both of whom were, of  
20 course, mentioned yesterday.

21 These are people whose identities are protected by  
22 my General Restriction Order and they are not to be  
23 identified as referred to in our evidence outwith this  
24 room.

25 So, with that, I'll now rise for the break and then

1 we'll get back to some more reading in. Thank you.

2 (11.22 am)

3 (A short break)

4 (11.41 am)

5 LADY SMITH: Ms Forbes, whenever you're ready.

6 MS FORBES: My Lady, the next statement is from an applicant  
7 who is anonymous and known as 'Kevin'.

8 LADY SMITH: Thank you.

9 'Kevin' (read in)

10 MS FORBES: The reference for 'Kevin's' statement is

11 WIT-1-000000970.

12 My Lady, 'Kevin's' statement isn't signed. Sadly,  
13 'Kevin' died in [REDACTED] 2022 aged only 50 years old,  
14 having met with members of the Inquiry in January and  
15 February of 2022 to provide his statement. So he died  
16 before he was able to sign it, but a provenance  
17 statement has been provided and that reference is at  
18 WIT-1-000000972.

19 LADY SMITH: Thank you.

20 MS FORBES: I don't intend to go to the provenance

21 statement, my Lady, but that's where it is and his  
22 evidence has been read in twice --

23 LADY SMITH: Just for the transcript, that's signed by those  
24 who took his statement?

25 MS FORBES: Yes, my Lady.

1 LADY SMITH: Thank you.

2 MS FORBES: His evidence has been read in twice already, the  
3 first during the Foster Care Study on 12 July 2022.  
4 That was Day 307 and the reference for that is  
5 TRN-10-000000043. And then the second time it was read  
6 in was during Phase 8, and that was on 26 March 2024,  
7 Day 429, and the reference for that is TRN-12-000000061.  
8 And that time it was read in in relation to Larchgrove.

9 So because of that, my Lady, again, large parts of  
10 the statement have already been read in, so I'm only  
11 going to read in the parts that seem to be appropriate  
12 for this establishment.

13 LADY SMITH: Thank you.

14 MS FORBES: 'Kevin' was born in 1972 and tells us about his  
15 life before going into care between paragraphs 2 and 8.  
16 Initially he was brought up in the Easterhouse area of  
17 Glasgow, with his parents and four siblings.

18 However, his dad died and then his mother met  
19 someone else, and this was a man who became his  
20 stepfather, and he says he would have been about 6 years  
21 old when that happened and this was somebody who had  
22 just served a term in prison.

23 'Kevin' talks about abuse from his stepfather. It  
24 was physical abuse, never sexual. He talks about  
25 receiving a broken leg and having black eyes and that he

1           tried to drown him in the bath.

2           He says he began wetting the bed because of the fear  
3           he felt living with him and he was being threatened  
4           during the night, saying that he would get him up during  
5           night and saying to him: 'Make sure you don't pee the  
6           bed'.

7           He says there was a social worker called Anne Marie  
8           who was involved with the family and she was involved  
9           with him from when he was about 4 right up until he was  
10          about 21.

11          She essentially would check on him in all the places  
12          he went to in his childhood when he ended up in care,  
13          and even when he left care, she helped him get a flat  
14          and organise his benefits. He says she was always there  
15          and he just needed to phone and she would be at the  
16          place the next day.

17          He tells us that the first time he was placed into  
18          care was for some respite for his mother just after his  
19          dad died, and he says he was sent to Dunclutha. He says  
20          that was supposed to be just for a few weeks. It was  
21          him and his two sisters and he says he was about 4 or 5  
22          when he went there.

23   LADY SMITH: Is he right about that?

24   MS FORBES: My Lady, so the first time he was in Dunclutha  
25          he was aged 5, so he is right. He was admitted on

1 [REDACTED] 1977, just for a few weeks, and he went home on  
2 [REDACTED] 1977. But he was there again a second time at  
3 the age of 6 and that time was longer. So he was there  
4 between [REDACTED] 1978 to [REDACTED] 1979.

5 LADY SMITH: Thank you.

6 MS FORBES: My Lady, just by way of background, we know from  
7 'Kevin's' records that the first time he was in care, he  
8 was only 3 weeks old. His father died when he was aged  
9 2-and-a-half from cancer, and that, according to the  
10 records, meant they referred to his mother being widowed  
11 in her mid-20s at that time, with three children under  
12 school age and was expecting another baby. So that  
13 was the background that led to him ending up in care and  
14 her relationship with his stepfather.

15 He tells us about Dunclutha from paragraph 9 and  
16 talks about Mr and Mrs FGG-SPO SNR [REDACTED] the home and he  
17 tells us a little bit about the routine there and says  
18 it was a great place to stay. And he says at  
19 paragraph 23 there was never any abuse when he stayed at  
20 Dunclutha and:

21 'In all the places I stayed in, Dunclutha felt to me  
22 as being the safest place I ever stayed in.'

23 He tells us then about going back in between the  
24 times at Dunclutha to live with his parents -- well, his  
25 mother and his stepfather -- and again he says things

1 were not good at the house, social work were involved  
2 and he was placed into care. He was sent to Inver House  
3 Children's Home in Glasgow, and he tells us about that  
4 between paragraphs 27 and 34. He was aged 7 when he was  
5 placed there, essentially transferred there from the  
6 second time in Dunclutha, on [REDACTED] 1979. Secondary Institutions

7 Secondary Institutions - to be published later  
8 [REDACTED]  
9 [REDACTED]

10 He then returned home on [REDACTED] 1980, according to  
11 his records, he was back with his mum at the house. And  
12 again, he tells us about the circumstances of that  
13 period back at home at paragraph 36 to 39. And  
14 essentially this led to an alleged attack, it's referred  
15 to in his records, by his mother's cohabitee, or he  
16 calls his stepfather. And this took place according to  
17 the records on [REDACTED] 1980 and he was actually  
18 placed on the non-accidental injury register on  
19 [REDACTED] 1980.

20 So this all led to him being placed in care one more  
21 time and he was sent -- sorry, once again, and he was  
22 sent to Gryffe. And we know from his records he was  
23 admitted there on [REDACTED] 1981.

24 He tells us about Gryffe from paragraph 40. He says  
25 that it used to be known as Gryffe Castle but the name

1 was changed after allegations of abuse and a rebrand.  
2 And he describes it as being a building that was like  
3 a castle with turrets, with woods around the entire  
4 grounds.

5 At paragraph 42, he says:

6 'I can remember some of the people that were at  
7 Gryffe House. There was **PBS**, a teacher who  
8 had lost his partner after a car accident. There was  
9 Geoff Bamber, who was another teacher. Bamber was  
10 always dressed smart, wearing a collared shirt and tie,  
11 where other staff might be dressed in their casual  
12 clothes, including jeans.'

13 There was an older boy, , he says '',  
14 his nickname, and his girlfriend, who he names, and that  
15 this girlfriend also had a brother who was a resident at  
16 the home at the same time she was there.

17 At paragraph 44, he says:

18 'I think there must have been about 30 kids in  
19 Gryffe. The age of the kids ranged between 5 and  
20 16 years old. I was about 8 or 9 years old when I was  
21 at Gryffe. The girls were usually in their own dorm.  
22 My dorm was a mixed age group and the last dorm  
23 contained the older boys. They also had their own  
24 kitchen. They were being helped there to train for  
25 leaving the care system.

1           'The boys had separate dormitories from the girls  
2 but they were on the same floor. Sometimes there were  
3 occasions when some of the older girls might have been  
4 in the same dormitory as the youngest boys. I think the  
5 reason for this was the staff felt that both sides would  
6 be safe. Obviously they could not have older girls in  
7 the same dorm as older boys, as that would just be  
8 asking for trouble.

9           'In the unit I was in, there were three or four  
10 bedrooms. There was a corridor at the back which led to  
11 the girls' area. They had three bedrooms with  
12 an average of five girls in each.'

13           He says:

14           'That was where I was later taken by [REDACTED].

15           'At night, the staff who were supposed to be  
16 supervising would be seated in the corridor on the first  
17 floor between the two dormitories. On the ground floor,  
18 you could see the doorway was really old and still had  
19 the tall pillars. There was a staff office there and  
20 a large bay window. That was where a lot of people sat  
21 waiting for visitors to arrive or waiting for transport  
22 when they might be going out. There were also a couple  
23 of cupboards in the hallway.

24           'I seem to remember on the day I arrived at Gryffe  
25 that I was ["shown", that should say] around the home by

1 one of the older residents. He took us around, pointing  
2 out the dormitories, staff rooms, dining room and where  
3 classwork was completed.

4 'I think it was a normal thing in the morning with  
5 being woken by staff, getting a wash and having  
6 breakfast. If Mr Bamber was on duty, he always made you  
7 put your school uniform on before breakfast and go back  
8 and brush your teeth again after eating your breakfast.  
9 If the other staff were on duty, you could go down in  
10 your pyjamas from breakfast.'

11 I think that should say 'for breakfast':

12 'We all sat at the tables for our meals. The  
13 problem was sometimes, if there were five at the table,  
14 there was only ever four pieces of toast. We would have  
15 cereal and milk but you had to be quick in the queue.  
16 The food was generally okay but the portions were always  
17 quite small.

18 'When it came to lunchtime, there were usually two  
19 choices. If you did not like either options then you  
20 did without. There was no force-feeding or anything  
21 like that. When you were not on home leave and still  
22 hungry between meal times, you could ask the chef if  
23 there was any way he could make you something. He was  
24 usually quite good with us and made you something to  
25 eat.

1           'Whenever Geoff Bamber was on duty he was very  
2 strict. You were not allowed to make any noise when you  
3 ate your food, which included keeping your mouth closed  
4 while you chewed. If he caught you eating with your  
5 mouth open, he would slap the table to give you  
6 a fright.

7           'You also had to ensure you used the knife and fork  
8 correctly to cut your food, and when a knife was not  
9 being used, it was to be laid on the table. If you  
10 broke any of these rules, you would be sent to your room  
11 for a couple of hours and your meal was left on the  
12 table. After the couple of hours, you would be returned  
13 to the dining room where you were told to finish your  
14 meal.

15           'Outwith the issues with Mr Bamber, if there were  
16 other times you missed your meal for some reason, then  
17 the chef was sometimes helpful and would cook you  
18 something.

19           'All the baths at Gryffe were on the first floor and  
20 it was usually on a Sunday and one other day during the  
21 week. Staff, both males and females, washed us in the  
22 bath, but they did not use any sponges or cloths. They  
23 would use soap and their hands. When drying us, they  
24 wrapped a towel round us. They would use the towel to  
25 rub us down. They would tell us to raise our hands and

1 have us open our legs to dry us down below.

2 'We would be give ["given", I think that should say]  
3 a grant for new clothes twice a year by the social work.  
4 It was usually about £100 each time. My key worker  
5 would take me to the shops. All the old clothes were  
6 kept for the new kids who arrived with nothing.

7 'In the grounds, there was a treehouse which had  
8 been built by the handyman. It was in one of the trees  
9 at the back of the woods.

10 'On the first floor near the laundry room was this  
11 big old wooden unit. That was where the staff stored  
12 the bed linen and towels et cetera. It had been there  
13 for many years and it was so dusty on the top of the  
14 unit. Sometimes we played hide and seek in the home.  
15 If I went up there and was not found, the others would  
16 then say they knew where I had been hiding because I was  
17 covered in the dust.

18 'On a Friday, we would be given our pocket money.  
19 We were allowed to spend it at the local shop. The  
20 woman in one of the shops was really nice and sometimes  
21 she give us a little extra for our money.

22 'We weretaken out for some activities, such as  
23 going to the local swimming pool.

24 'When I was at Gryffe, there was no school there and  
25 I would go to school in Quarriers. At that school,

1           there were kids who were suffering from fits. There  
2           were also some severely handicapped children there, some  
3           were in wheelchairs.

4           'The standard I was receiving was just remedial  
5           work. It was very basic reading and arithmetic.

6           'One time I had health issues at Gryffe was when  
7           I was suffering from tonsillitis. By that time, I was  
8           feeling sick and dizzy. I remember seeing the nurse and  
9           she might have given me some medication, but I did not  
10          attend the hospital.

11          'I can also remember being taken to the local  
12          dentist for checkups and I'm sure I had to have some  
13          fillings.

14          'There were no chores to be dished out at Gryffe.  
15          There was a cleaner who came to tidy up and keep the  
16          place spotless.

17          'At Christmas the staff got us a present. We were  
18          all given a little extra present, which was £25 to spend  
19          on whatever we wanted. Sometimes we wanted to buy water  
20          pistols, but the staff had to stop that as they were  
21          forever having to change us out of wet clothes.

22          'Most of the kids would be home for Christmas, but  
23          the ones that were left were treated really special by  
24          the staff. All the children left at the home from the  
25          different units would all be together. The staff would

1 put on some videos during the holiday. The kids who  
2 were with their families were usually back in the home  
3 for 6 January, or thereabouts.

4 'At birthday time, the staff might give me a present  
5 and a card. My social worker Anne Marie would come to  
6 the home and take me out for a meal. She might also  
7 hand over £20 as an extra gift. She treated me like  
8 a mother would treat her child. She was really good to  
9 me.

10 'My social worker Anne Marie did call at the home to  
11 check on me. She would have meetings with the staff at  
12 Gryffe and sometimes I might get to have some time with  
13 her. The problem was, as soon as she left, the  
14 atmosphere went back to being really scary. She came to  
15 see me once a fortnight. On those visits, she would  
16 take me to the shops and buy me a pie from the shops.  
17 She would sit and talk to me for a while before I was  
18 taken back to the home.

19 'As far as any official inspections when I was at  
20 Gryffe, there was none.

21 'Most of the kids at Gryffe were allowed home to be  
22 with their family at weekends. I think there ["were",  
23 I think that should probably say] probably six of us  
24 kids who were not able to go home and had to stay in  
25 Gryffe for the weekend. It seemed to be a coincidence

1           that the kids who were allowed home leave were not being  
2           abused, but the ones who were not able to go home were  
3           abused. I think they must have been afraid the ones  
4           going home might have told their parents what was  
5           happening.

6           'I would get to speak to mum on the phone but it  
7           would only be for a few minutes before she would pass  
8           the phone over to my brother. I would ask her if  
9           I could go home for weekend leave. When she was on the  
10          phone, she would say "yes". Ten minutes after hanging  
11          up I would get a phone call from Anne Marie, my social  
12          worker, and she would tell me that I could not get home  
13          leave as it was not allowed. She would tell me that my  
14          mum did not want to say "no" to me. She took the  
15          coward's way out, making Anne Marie tell me.

16          'When I was at Gryffe, me and another boy would run  
17          away and sometimes we would take the bikes. Some of the  
18          time we were away for a couple of days at a time. There  
19          were other times I would hitch a lift in passing cars so  
20          I could get to mum's a lot quicker.

21          'If I did get as far as mum's, I would only be there  
22          for about five minutes before there was a knock at the  
23          door and the police were standing there, soon followed  
24          by Anne Marie.

25          'Other times if I ran away with someone who was

1 visiting their parents, I would be allowed to stay with  
2 them overnight. The next day, the mother usually phoned  
3 the police and then I'd be taken back. The police never  
4 asked why I was running away. They were only interested  
5 in dumping me back in the home.

6 'Whenever I was returned to the home, there was  
7 never any bother. It was just a case of me getting  
8 ready for bed. They too were never interested in why  
9 I was running away.

10 'When the abuse started, I also started having  
11 problems with bed-wetting. If the staff found out, they  
12 would make me remove the sheets. One night I woke and  
13 found that I had wet the bed. I was not sure what  
14 I should do. I left my bed and went looking for the  
15 night staff. I went to where they normally were between  
16 the dormitories. There is a laundry room there and when  
17 I went to find them, I saw they had put chairs together  
18 and they were both sleeping. I had to wake them to get  
19 them to help me. That was how easy it was for other  
20 people to abuse you. They just had to wait for the  
21 night staff to fall asleep.

22 'When it became a habit, they issued me with  
23 a plastic sheet. The others boys would know and they  
24 would be calling ["me" I think that should say] "Pee the  
25 bed". They also refused to sleep in the lower bunk if

1 I was in the top bunk.

2 'The sheets were put into one of the two large  
3 industrial washing machines. Sometimes they were so  
4 stuffed that they would not wash the clothes or sheets  
5 properly. Sometimes one of the boys might have done  
6 a number two, and when the sheets came back they were  
7 still marked. Only later in my life did I learn from my  
8 daughter that you had to put less in to make sure  
9 everything was cleaned properly.

10 'One of the ways the staff would impose discipline  
11 on the children in their care was they would use  
12 restraints. It was usually the younger members of staff  
13 who used the restraints the most. When we were being  
14 restrained, you would have members of staff sitting on  
15 top of you and possibly one other holding on to your  
16 legs. Sometimes you would be getting slapped in the  
17 face and on other times you would be getting punched  
18 with their knuckles into your chest.

19 'There was a lot of violence in Gryffe House. Some  
20 of the older boys were always coming up to me and for no  
21 reason would punch me in the face. One of them grabbed  
22 me by the hair and asked how hard a punch I could take.  
23 He then punched me as hard as he could in the face.  
24 I don't know his name, but he left the home a short time  
25 after this incident.

1           'There was an incident during my time there that  
2           **PBS**, a teacher, had been in a female  
3           resident's room. Her name [and he gives it]. When he  
4           was in her room, **PBS** touched her breast. I think it  
5           was all reported and he lost his job there. Up until he  
6           lost his partner, he was a good member of staff. When  
7           I later went to Southannan Children's Home, I was asked  
8           by the staff there if I was aware of the incident  
9           involving **PBS** and [the girl], and I told them what  
10          I had heard.

11          Then he names the girl and says:

12          '[She] went on to have a relationship with another  
13          of the older boys in the home [who he names and had  
14          a nickname]. [She] fell pregnant and the staff arranged  
15          for them to be moved into a separate unit of their own  
16          within the grounds of Gryffe House. Previously this  
17          place was used by staff that either had nowhere to stay  
18          or were on a sleepover. I think it was also used as  
19          a halfway house for the older kids, teaching them some  
20          of the things they would need on their own home when  
21          they left social work care.

22          'There was one day I was outside in the grounds when  
23          one of the other boys told my pal that [the boy with the  
24          nickname] wanted to see him. When he was going to see  
25          [him], he told me to go with him. I went to his room

1 and as soon as we were in the room, the boy took his  
2 trousers off and lay down on [the boy with the  
3 nickname's] bed. He spat between the boy's legs and  
4 then had sex with him, without having full penetration.  
5 When he had finished with the boy, he handed him a towel  
6 to clean himself up. He then turned to me and asked if  
7 I wanted a go. I was so young and thought it was  
8 a game. I pulled my pants down and he tried to insert  
9 himself inside me, but it was too sore. He then just  
10 rubbed himself against my legs until he finished.

11 'Before the night staff did the rounds to wake the  
12 bed-wetters up for a pee, it became a regular thing at  
13 night for [the boy with the nickname] to tell me to come  
14 to his room where he would carry out different sex acts  
15 with me. He had a big Beatles music collection and he  
16 knew I liked them.

17 'There was one time [and he names the girl] came  
18 into my room and told me to follow her to her room. She  
19 was about 16 at the time and still seeing [the boy with  
20 the nickname]. I would have been about 8 or 9. She  
21 took my hand and pushed it under her underwear and made  
22 me touch her privates, which I did, and she then started  
23 touching me as well. I told [her] brother, who was also  
24 in the home, but he thought I was being stupid, saying  
25 his sister would not be interested in me.

1           'One of the members of staff at Gryffe was Geoff  
2           Bamber. He had a boat that he based at Greenock. When  
3           we went with him, he was the only member of staff who  
4           was on the boat. Nowadays it is usually two members of  
5           staff on trips.

6           'In the summer, he would take a group of boys,  
7           usually four or five, onto the boat and we would sail  
8           offshore. When we were on the boat he would encourage  
9           us to go swimming in the sea. The problem at that time  
10          was none of us had any swimming trunks with us. He told  
11          us not to worry and told us all to go skinny-dipping.

12          'At night when we were on the boat, Bamber would  
13          come into the cabins where we slept. He would pull the  
14          blanket off our beds and sexually abuse us. He would  
15          touch us and then make us touch him and sometimes have  
16          oral sex with him. On other times he would climb into  
17          a boy's bed and have intercourse with that boy. I could  
18          hear the kids in the next bunk screaming in pain.

19          'You could not get to sleep at night because you  
20          were so scared that Bamber would come to your bunk and  
21          abuse you.

22          'In the home, if Bamber was supervising you at your  
23          room and you were not getting your clothes changed  
24          quickly enough, then he would step in and help to take  
25          your clothes off. He always preferred the younger boys

1 in the school.

2 'When we were in the home, Bamber would frequently  
3 punch, kick and pull you by the hair. All this for him  
4 being upset at something he deemed you had done wrong.  
5 Some of those assaults were carried out in front of  
6 other children and sometimes other members of staff.  
7 Those indiscretions could be so minor, things like your  
8 shoelaces being untied or not dressed properly. He  
9 was the most vicious man that I ever had to deal with in  
10 any of the places I was ever in.

11 'He would shout at us, telling us that he was  
12 teaching us what the real world was like. He would  
13 usually pick on some of the boys who were not so  
14 streetwise as some of the older boys.

15 'He was supposed to be there to change us from being  
16 on the wrong path and show us how to get onto the right  
17 path. Instead, he used the boys to have sex with.

18 'He moved from Gryffe, I think, because the staff  
19 knew of his violence, and transferred to Newfield  
20 List D School before I left. Later in my life, I was  
21 aware that he was arrested and convicted when several  
22 boys came forward and were able to tell their  
23 experiences of being abused by him. From the  
24 newspapers, I know he was sentenced to time in jail.  
25 There will be many more boys like myself who were

1 sexually abused by him, but which he has never been  
2 reported for.'

3 LADY SMITH: Do we have a date for that, the newspaper?

4 MS FORBES: Yes, there was a case at Greenock, I think it  
5 was a summary case though, in 1991.

6 LADY SMITH: 1991, thank you.

7 MS FORBES: We don't know what the outcome of the case was  
8 and we're not sure he received any imprisonment.

9 LADY SMITH: Right. Okay. But it does seem clear that  
10 there was a prosecution that resulted in a conviction at  
11 summary level.

12 MS FORBES: There is a conviction.

13 LADY SMITH: Yes.

14 MS FORBES: It relates to boys in the community.

15 LADY SMITH: Yes, I see that, yes.

16 Yes, we had the evidence from the other witness that  
17 you read, that Mr Peoples read earlier, that he learnt  
18 that he'd died.

19 MS FORBES: He died and, my Lady, the information we  
20 received from the Crown, and I think it was mentioned in  
21 one of the statements I read earlier today as well, that  
22 he was put on petition in 2017 and appeared in relation  
23 to that petition, but died before he was able to be  
24 prosecuted.

25 LADY SMITH: Yes. Thank you.

1 MS FORBES: 'Kevin' goes on to say at paragraph 97:

2 'I can never understand how someone like Bamber  
3 could have been allowed to be employed in looking after  
4 children and have the freedom to abuse those children.'

5 He says then that he had to leave Gryffe after he  
6 got into trouble at Gryffe Academy, and he was told that  
7 he was to go to Larchgrove for an assessment and then  
8 would be moved to another home. And we know from his  
9 records, my Lady, that he was admitted to Larchgrove on  
10 [REDACTED] 1983.

11 He tells us about that between paragraphs 99 and 111  
12 and he spent three weeks there before being moved to  
13 Southannan Children's Home, run by Quarriers. He says  
14 he would have been around 11.

15 The evidence in relation to Larchgrove was read in,  
16 as I've said, my Lady, during Phase 8, and I think  
17 during that he tells us about sexual abuse by older boys  
18 whilst he was there.

19 LADY SMITH: Yes.

20 MS FORBES: He then tells us about leaving Larchgrove and we  
21 know that he was admitted to Southannan on [REDACTED] 1983  
22 and stayed there until [REDACTED] 1986. And he tells us  
23 about Southannan between paragraphs 140 and 148 and he  
24 talks about sexual abuse by an older boy, physical abuse  
25 by staff, sexual abuse by a member of staff, and he

1 heard of sexual abuse of another boy by other members of  
2 staff.

3 Going forward then, my Lady, to paragraph 151. This  
4 is where he tells us about his move into foster care  
5 from Southannan, and this evidence was read in during  
6 the Foster Care study and I've given that reference  
7 earlier, my Lady.

8 He tells us about the two homes between  
9 paragraphs 151 and 178. The first home, we know from  
10 his records, he was admitted to in [REDACTED] 1986 and he  
11 stayed there until [REDACTED] 1987 and he tells us he was  
12 bullied by his foster brother physically. And the  
13 second foster home he moved to from that first home in  
14 [REDACTED] 1987 and he was there until [REDACTED] 1987. And  
15 he talks about an assault by his foster father and his  
16 foster brother.

17 Going forward then to paragraph 178 of 'Kevin's'  
18 statement, he then tells us about going to Dunclutha  
19 again and we know from his records that he was admitted  
20 there on [REDACTED] 1987 and he seems to have stayed  
21 there until [REDACTED] 1988, where he was discharged to  
22 temporary accommodation in Dunoon, and I think that was  
23 for not following the rules of Dunclutha.

24 Again, he tells us again that Dunclutha was a great  
25 place to stay and that the staff were really good to him

1           whilst he was there.

2           He tells us about the fact that there was never any  
3           abuse either of the times that he stayed in Dunclutha.

4           At paragraph 189, 'Kevin' says he left Dunclutha,  
5           got himself into trouble with the police and ended up  
6           being sent to prison. He was in Longriggend and Polmont  
7           and he tells us that he was sentenced to six months in  
8           prison and spent the first two-and-a-half months on  
9           remand within Longriggend, and then was moved to  
10          Polmont.

11          He says there was no issues with any abuse whilst he  
12          was in prison.

13          'Kevin' then talks about life after being in care  
14          from paragraph 193 and, again, a lot of this has already  
15          been read in previously, my Lady. But in summary he  
16          says after he left the prison system, he moved in with  
17          his aunt. His social worker then helped him get his own  
18          flat and get grants for furniture and clothes.

19          He says at paragraph 195 that he visited Gryffe  
20          later in life and when he was there, the boy with the  
21          nickname was still living there with the girl that  
22          I mentioned. And he says:

23                 'With what I knew about what they had done to me,  
24                 was the kid they had safe?'

25                 Because they had a child together.

1           He says he'd also visited Southannan Children's Home  
2 with his daughter and his brother to see what the place  
3 was like now.

4           He tells us about being referred for a drug  
5 treatment order and that that was somewhere he found to  
6 be a safe place where he could talk to females who were  
7 involved in that order. He built a good relationship  
8 and was relaxed enough to tell them about some of his  
9 experiences as a child. They made him feel safe and he  
10 says that he knows that that has helped him get over his  
11 issues with drugs.

12           He says at the time of this statement, he was taking  
13 anti-depressants for depression, and pregabalin for  
14 nerve damage and was on a drug rehabilitation programme.

15           He tells us that he'd been in a relationship and his  
16 first daughter was born in 1995 and then he had another  
17 daughter, and had two lovely grandchildren that he, at  
18 that time, saw quite often.

19           He then talks about impact from paragraph 202 to 205  
20 and again that's been read in before, but some of the  
21 same things that we've heard about: feeling  
22 institutionalised, lack of education, and not having any  
23 formal qualifications.

24           He says that he'd been in contact with the police  
25 about Southannan and he gave them a statement in 2021.

1           Again, lessons to be learned, from paragraph 209,  
2           this has all been read in again so I won't do that.

3           But at paragraph 213, he said at the time of his  
4           statement that he was hoping that when he got started  
5           with Future Pathways, he might be able to get some  
6           additional counselling on top of what the drug treatment  
7           team were doing, and he says at paragraph 214:

8           'I am hoping that by coming to the Inquiry, that  
9           people can learn from my experiences and the abuse that  
10          happened. Hopefully, it will stop someone from being  
11          abused at the hands of a carer.'

12       LADY SMITH: Thank you very much.

13       MS FORBES: My Lady, the last statement we have from  
14          an applicant in relation to Gryffe to be read in then is  
15          from 'Sean', an applicant who is anonymous, and the  
16          reference for his statement is WIT-1-000000855.

17                               'Sean' (read in)

18       MS FORBES: Again, 'Sean' has a very lengthy statement,  
19          my Lady, but his statement has been read in twice before  
20          as well. It was read in on 11 October 2024, which was  
21          Day 485, and the reference for the transcript is  
22          TRN-12-000000118 and that was in relation to Balrossie.  
23          And then he was read in in Phase 9 on 6 June 2025,  
24          Day 540, and the reference for the transcript is  
25          TRN-13-000000018. So again, even though it's a lengthy

1 statement, my Lady, most of it has already been read in  
2 previously.

3 But 'Sean' tells us that he was born in 1983. He  
4 talks about life before going into care from  
5 paragraph 2, and he says he found out his father's name  
6 from his gran later on, and he says that his mum had had  
7 a lot of men and they were told that every one of them  
8 was now their dad, and that's what they were to call  
9 them. But he says he lived in Paisley and that's where  
10 his memories begin. He has a half-brother who was three  
11 years older and two sisters, one a year older and one  
12 about three years younger.

13 He tells us in detail about his life growing up and  
14 what he describes, the scheme where they stayed, and  
15 that these schemes were places of violence, full of  
16 houses with alcoholics. There wasn't so much drugs back  
17 then, but alcohol, and he says it was normal for them to  
18 be struggling for food. They were undernourished.  
19 Getting battered and hurt came to mean nothing. His mum  
20 was never there and she drank a lot.

21 He would be hit with belts, sticks, walking sticks,  
22 and that was his life and the life of his siblings as  
23 long as he can remember.

24 Paragraph 6, he says:

25 'I probably cannot explain how violent our life was,

1 mainly at the hands of my mum.'

2 And he says there were a lot of very serious things  
3 happening in relation to that. There was never any food  
4 in the house. She would be away for long periods of  
5 time and that they were -- one of the reasons they were  
6 taken into care was the neglect.

7 There was injuries noted on him from when he was  
8 young and he talks in particular about big strap marks  
9 being recorded across his bum, caused by a belt. This  
10 is information he's learned from his records, it's not  
11 something he remembers.

12 He tells us he was in foster care between [REDACTED]  
13 1985 and [REDACTED] 1986. They went back to stay with  
14 his mum from [REDACTED] 1986 to [REDACTED] 1989 and then he  
15 was back to foster care for a short while and then to  
16 Beech Avenue Children's Home. He thinks it was -- his  
17 siblings were put into care as well, probably for  
18 neglect, but for him it was also for physical risk  
19 because he had injuries, previous injuries.

20 He describes him and his brother and sisters going  
21 to school with black eyes and other injuries, lots of  
22 violence from his mum and her boyfriends, verbal abuse  
23 and swearing, that was part of how they spoke to them.  
24 They were all alcoholics. They were dirty, there was no  
25 affection and, again, he talks about the lack of food

1 and them being starving.

2 He also tells us about his mother telling social  
3 work that if they didn't take them away, she would kill  
4 them, and he describes in detail the circumstances that  
5 led to him going to the children's home at Chapel House  
6 for a short period until a place became available at  
7 Beech Avenue.

8 If we go then to paragraph 18, that is where he  
9 tells us about Beech Avenue and he says he was there  
10 from [REDACTED] 1989 until [REDACTED] 1989. Secondary Institutions - to be pub

11 Secondary Institutions - to be published later  
12 [REDACTED]  
13 [REDACTED]  
14 [REDACTED]

15 He tells us at paragraph 30 that after that he went  
16 back to his mum's and things were just as they were  
17 before, and his mother was demanding they be taken into  
18 care as she couldn't cope, and that's when he was taken  
19 into care and went to Gryffe.

20 And he tells us about Gryffe from paragraph 32. He  
21 says he was 7 when he went there and he stayed until he  
22 was 9. He says his records show that he was there  
23 between [REDACTED] 1991 and [REDACTED] 1993.

24 He tells us from paragraph 33 that he remembers that  
25 the building looked very intimidating. It was a big

1 white mansion, and he says that if he compares the size  
2 of the bedroom he shared with his sister at Gryffe with  
3 his bedroom at home, it was four or five times the size,  
4 it was that big.

5 He describes the long drive up to the house and  
6 describes the building and the big wooded area beside  
7 the house as well as huge fields.

8 At paragraph 35, he gives us a description of the  
9 layout, which we've heard from some of the other  
10 applicants, and he talks about there being a pool room,  
11 which was for the older boys. There was a chill-out  
12 area which had a television. There was a Sega, a  
13 Nintendo or something like that, and he talks about  
14 there being a conference room which also had a pool  
15 table, and he talks about a room that they used to call  
16 his classroom.

17 At paragraph 35, he says:

18 'It was HGF, a member of staff, who branded it as  
19 my classroom and it was a sick joke that kind of stuck.'

20 He then talks about the independent, or the  
21 adolescent unit, which was self-contained, which we've  
22 heard about as well. He says also there was a family  
23 unit, which was mainly for boys his age who had  
24 siblings, although there was a couple of boys who were  
25 there without siblings.

1           He tells us about that family centre and independent  
2 living centre from paragraph 38. He says:

3           'Although the family centre and independent living  
4 were separate, we did mix and it wasn't unusual to use  
5 their chill-out area if they didn't have a problem with  
6 you being there. I got on with the older ones so  
7 I would go there and chill and they wouldn't say  
8 anything. Usually though, the independent living and  
9 adolescent unit kept to themselves.

10          'There was all different levels of maturity. The  
11 independent living are trying to do things for  
12 themselves, and the adolescents were just the idiots.  
13 Then you would have the really young guys like me,  
14 although the family unit had all sorts of ages to try  
15 and keep families together. Once you were old enough,  
16 you would move to the adolescent unit. There was some  
17 really wee guys in Gryffe. At one time, there was a boy  
18 about 2 and also 5-year-olds. One time there was a very  
19 young baby and they didn't have a cot for it, so they  
20 pulled out a top drawer, put all sorts of sheets in it  
21 and just kept the baby in the drawer. The older boys  
22 were just about adults. I would guess there was 15 to  
23 20 kids living there, but it would change. At weekends,  
24 most people would be out on home leave and there would  
25 be next to no one there, and then there would be all

1           these new faces when new people arrived. It wasn't  
2           a particularly big home.

3           'The staff were quite cliquey, the managers and  
4           supervisors thought they were above the other care staff  
5           and they would sit in their office drinking coffee.  
6           There was a few folk who were quite high up, but as to  
7           who was in charge of the place, I don't know. The  
8           normal care staff were stuck with the weans. It seemed  
9           to me that there were wee factions between both groups  
10          of staff. In my unit, you would have two or three  
11          different sets of staff. There wasn't really a lot of  
12          staff. I think each shift there would be three or four  
13          at a time with about ten on a shift system. Sometimes  
14          you could get staff from another unit coming to help,  
15          but for the main part, staff were based in their own  
16          units. I am not so sure about the management side,  
17          which was mostly women. I didn't have much contact with  
18          them unless something happened. Any incidents of  
19          discipline or restraint were reported to them.'

20          He then tells us about having a couple of key  
21          workers but only remembering one in particular, who he  
22          names and he was a 'nice old guy'. He describes him as  
23          being in his 50s or 60s and he says at paragraph 41:

24          'I couldn't say if my key worker worked the same  
25          shifts as the care staff. They seemed to know if I had

1       been restrained, but it wasn't like they cared. It  
2       would be comments about me being restrained again, like  
3       it was just normal. In different places, the key worker  
4       would take on a more active role, but in Gryffe it  
5       seemed that this would be the person who would come to  
6       my reviews. They would also take you out to get you  
7       clothes, but there was no one-to-one sessions or  
8       anything like that.

9               'The person who caused me all my problems was called  
10       HGF . I remember her name as she is the only HGF  
11       I have ever known. She was care staff and worked in the  
12       family unit. She was probably about mid to late 20s and  
13       was quite an attractive woman, but to me she was just  
14       a cow. I had a lot of problems with her. She was the  
15       type of woman who would suit working in a beautician, as  
16       she was always filing her nails and doing her make-up.  
17       I didn't have a lot of problems with a lot of the staff,  
18       it was only certain people. It was mostly all women who  
19       were care staff. I think there were a couple with the  
20       name Ellen or Helen.

21               'I have no idea if the staff got any form of  
22       training. When I think back, I don't think so. If you  
23       saw some of them, they would never have passed any  
24       exams. Nowadays you can see people who are really good  
25       with weans and work with them. Then it was all sorts of

1 people who might have been better working in different  
2 jobs. I don't think there was training in how to deal  
3 with kids like us and I would certainly say there wasn't  
4 any training in restraint techniques, judging by the way  
5 I got treated.'

6 He then tells us about his first day from  
7 paragraph 44:

8 'We were still scared and worked up after my mum  
9 lunging for us in the social work office, but in a way  
10 I was nervous and excited, because I was getting away  
11 from her for a while. My sisters had been there before  
12 and they were telling me it was good and I would like  
13 it. The social worker drove us there and we were taken  
14 into an office where we were told we were pretty much  
15 going to be staying there for a wee while. I remember  
16 getting shown the unit. I don't remember who spoke to  
17 us, but I actually felt they were warm and friendly.  
18 HGF wasn't there at that time and I didn't meet her  
19 for another week later as she was on holiday. That week  
20 was okay, as I was just getting used to what looked like  
21 a big and intimidating place.

22 'I was there with my sisters and we shared a room.  
23 We each had a bed with a cabinet at the side. We each  
24 had a set of drawers and there were wardrobes too. We  
25 didn't have enough clothes to fill a drawer, let alone

1 a wardrobe. I could spend as much time as I wanted with  
2 them, other than when we were at school. We got up  
3 between 7.00 am and 7.30 am. The day was different for  
4 me, depending whether I was excluded from school or not.

5 'If I was at school, I would wash my face, get  
6 dressed and go for breakfast. Then it would be on the  
7 bus for school. Sometimes the staff would take the kids  
8 to school. Other times, if the Balrossie bus was  
9 passing by, they might grab kids and drop them off.  
10 Gryffe and Balrossie worked close with each other.  
11 Lunch was at school and then it would be a bus back.  
12 Sometimes it was an actual school bus we would get, but  
13 there were incidents and fights, which is why the staff  
14 started taking us to and from the school.

15 'Bedtime was early, I think it was something like  
16 8.00 pm they would try and put you to bed. I think we  
17 got a wee bit later at weekends. Sometimes it depended  
18 on the attitude of staff. As you came up the stairs to  
19 the top level and you turn right into the family unit,  
20 you have a wee square of about a metre and there was  
21 a chair there where the night watchman sat. If there  
22 was any noise, he was close enough he could come in.  
23 You could get up for a pee in the middle of the night,  
24 but the watchman would shout at you. It was expected  
25 bedtime was bedtime, it was kind of strict.

1           'There was one or maybe two cooks but I don't know  
2           if they were there together or worked at alternative  
3           times. The care staff very rarely cooked and if they  
4           had to, it would be a sandwich. I think sometimes the  
5           cooks left food and the care staff served it.

6           'Dinner was about 5.00 pm and it was pretty sharp  
7           when you came back from school after we picked everyone  
8           up from all different schools. The food was actually  
9           pretty good. Everything was good compared to what I had  
10          before, as I didn't really get food. I think it was  
11          good quality food and I couldn't complain about it. The  
12          portions were decent enough.

13          'We ate with everyone else in the family unit in one  
14          of two rooms they used for dining. Staff would eat with  
15          us as well. I think we swapped between the two, and the  
16          adolescent unit used the same rooms as we did, but not  
17          at the same time. The independent mob cooked their own  
18          stuff. If I was expelled from school and HGF was on,  
19          I would eat lunch in my classroom, and a few times she  
20          made me eat my dinner in there too.

21          'If we didn't eat our food, the staff would threaten  
22          us that we wouldn't get a pudding or we wouldn't get to  
23          watch a video. We were never forced to eat anything.  
24          It was more a case of threats to take something else  
25          away. We would also be told we would go hungry and if

1           you asked for a snack later, you might have to wait  
2           until the following day before you got something to eat.

3           'I always had a lot of trouble eating because of  
4           having gone so long without food when I was at home. At  
5           home, I could have had a lunch at school and the next  
6           time I would eat again was lunch at school the next day.  
7           If you do that long enough, when you see food you think  
8           you can demolish it, but you can't. Once you start  
9           eating it, it hits your belly and then you start feeling  
10          sick. So you are hungry, but you just can't eat. It  
11          took a while before I could eat. I could eat a wee bit  
12          and then I would feel sick and half an hour later  
13          I would be starving again. I would tell staff I was  
14          hungry but they would say I've just wasted my dinner so  
15          I'm getting nothing. I didn't talk about life at home  
16          when I was in any of the homes, but I wouldn't have  
17          thought my home life would have been a secret to the  
18          staff. I don't think these staff read the files because  
19          they didn't seem to have a clue about me.'

20          He then talks about washing and bathing and he then  
21          talks about there being no showers in the family unit  
22          but there was a bath, and bath days were Tuesdays or  
23          Thursdays, you had a bath once a week. And some staff  
24          would go in and bath kids and he always bathed himself.  
25          He didn't like anyone to touch him and he was conscious

1 of being naked in front of people.

2 He says at paragraph 53:

3 'They were told, it was either I bath alone or  
4 I'm not going in.'

5 He then talks about clothing and uniforms from  
6 paragraph 55, and he says that they had no clothes when  
7 they arrived because his mum spent the money on drink,  
8 and what they did have was scruffy and dirty, but after  
9 about two weeks they sorted out clothes. They got new  
10 clothes and they hadn't really had new clothes before  
11 because at home it was hand-me-downs.

12 He says at paragraph 55:

13 'There were some times that Gryffe was a happy  
14 place, and compared to what I had at home, it was a nice  
15 change. I spent a lot of years in care and it wasn't  
16 all doom and gloom.'

17 Then he talks about the fact that he was never at  
18 school long enough to have a uniform, but when he did it  
19 was second-hand.

20 He talks again at paragraph 57 about pool tables,  
21 a TV table and a Sega or a Nintendo and that some  
22 better-off boys had a computer and they would all play  
23 on it. There was no TV in their rooms but there was  
24 a TV in the living room and each unit had their own  
25 living room.

1 He says, at paragraph 58:

2 'After school, we could do our own thing but  
3 sometimes in the evening we might have an activity on.  
4 It was mostly at weekends, but on the odd time during  
5 the week, we would go to the video shop, grab a video  
6 and sit and watch it.

7 'We could go outside and play. There was a big open  
8 space with a wooded area, so we pretty much had the run  
9 of the place, as long as we didn't make a nuisance of  
10 ourselves.

11 'Weekends depended on what the staff wanted to do.  
12 Thinking back to it, HGF held a lot of weight,  
13 probably because a lot of the male staff were younger  
14 guys in their 20s and she was quite an attractive woman.  
15 It was quite cheesy, but they would go out of their way  
16 to please her and she would take advantage of that. She  
17 knew what she was doing. She did the same with the  
18 older boys as well, leaning in and kind of flirting.  
19 She was able to work them. I would imagine they had  
20 sexual thoughts about her, but I didn't. Apart from not  
21 liking her, I was just a young boy who wasn't thinking  
22 like that. HGF seemed to be on most weekends so if  
23 there was a film on at the cinema she wanted to see or  
24 if her daughter wanted to see something, we would go.  
25 It felt pretty much like she was taking her daughter and

1 we were just tagging along. If we weren't doing  
2 anything else, we would just go outside and play in the  
3 grounds.

4 'On a Saturday morning, they would usually take us  
5 somewhere like Johnstone, which is probably the biggest  
6 town locally between Paisley and Bridge of Weir. We  
7 would go to Woolworths to spend our pocket money. We  
8 would spend about an hour and a half there.'

9 He then talks about going to Millport on the Isle of  
10 Cumbrae and he went once with the school and about  
11 a week later he went with Gryffe, but he didn't like  
12 getting taken to lots of places because he was always  
13 getting in trouble.

14 He tells us then about schooling from paragraph 63  
15 and talks about primary school in Linwood. He had a lot  
16 of problems at school and was suspended a lot. And he  
17 says out of the family unit, he was the only one having  
18 problems at school. He would be sent to the room in the  
19 home that they called his classroom and he says that the  
20 door wouldn't be locked but he was the only person in  
21 that section of the building, other than another couple  
22 of women working in offices.

23 And he says that the window would be open and when  
24 he first was getting sent to that room, he would escape,  
25 but they clicked onto that and they got the handyman to

1 put blocks of wood in it, so it would only open a few  
2 inches, and he would be checked every hour or couple of  
3 hours.

4 He says at paragraph 64:

5 'I have no idea who made the decision that I would  
6 be sent to this room, but I could also be sent here  
7 during the school holidays. If I wasn't going home and  
8 was maybe the only one in the unit, I would be put in  
9 this room. It was only very rarely that other kids  
10 wouldn't be going to school and it would be older people  
11 from the adolescent unit. I don't know what happened to  
12 them. They must have been kept in their unit, but  
13 I never really saw them.'

14 He then tells us about schools that he went to,  
15 which were primary schools in Paisley and Linwood, and  
16 he says he was suspended or expelled. He talks about  
17 being a thief and a shoplifter and that that had started  
18 when he was at home because there was no food and he  
19 would steal out of necessity.

20 He describes him and his siblings as being disturbed  
21 children, different from the rest and that their  
22 behaviour was quite violent.

23 He says that in one of the schools it was just  
24 fighting, but later on it got more serious with knives  
25 and the fights got a lot more vicious, and that people

1 would try and bully them all the time because of how  
2 they dressed and that would cause fights.

3 He talks about having a fascination for knives at  
4 paragraph 67 and he says:

5 'Back then, hearing someone say "I'm [going to] stab  
6 the fuck out of you" or "I'm going to rip you open" was  
7 common. It was regular that I would be in fights. Once  
8 I absconded from one of my schools and just before  
9 leaving, I had said I had a knife, even though I didn't.  
10 Before I returned, I found a knife and put it down my  
11 waistband. It was just pure bad luck I went back and  
12 was hanging about the school area and the janitor saw  
13 me. I always got on well with him and he brought me  
14 back in. He took me to the headmistress's office and  
15 she asked me about threatening to rip people open and  
16 stab them. She asked me if I had a knife on me and  
17 I produced the knife I had found. I tried to explain  
18 I didn't have it until I absconded, but of course  
19 I wasn't believed. There were a lot of incidents with  
20 bringing weapons into school.'

21 Then he says he thinks he was expelled from one of  
22 the schools because he trashed the headmistress's  
23 office.

24 He says that there didn't seem to be anyone looking  
25 for ways to get him an education. Apart from looking

1 for new school placements, there was nothing. And he  
2 says that there was a psychologist who was always at his  
3 reviews, but no one took him aside and explained what  
4 they were trying to work out for him.

5 In relation to social work contact, he tells us from  
6 paragraph 69 that an official visit from social work  
7 could be in the conference room, but if not, it was  
8 a living room or bedroom. Sometimes they would take  
9 them out. That varied.

10 He saw -- at the start, he saw social workers quite  
11 regularly and he thinks it was maybe once a fortnight or  
12 once a month, and they spoke to him and his sisters,  
13 together and separately, and sometimes they would take  
14 them out.

15 He says at paragraph 71:

16 'Staff would change when social workers or other  
17 visitors would come. The care staff would walk about  
18 smoking cigarettes around us. It didn't matter what  
19 kids were about, they would sit about with their feet  
20 up, smoking and drinking coffee. If visitors would come  
21 in, they would open the windows and waft the cigarette  
22 smoke out the window and all of a sudden [we'd] be asked  
23 if we wanted to do things. It was like an attitude and  
24 personality change.'

25 He talks about the fact they used Calpol there like

1 their 'wonder drug'; if you were sick or had a sore  
2 head, you got Calpol. He says when you went to Gryffe,  
3 you would have got a medical and that you got medicals  
4 whenever you went somewhere into care.

5 In relation to chores, at paragraph 76 he says:

6 'We had to help with the dishes sometimes, like  
7 clearing up. I don't think there was a rota. It was  
8 just a case of staff picking some of us to help.  
9 Sometimes we would say that we had done it last night  
10 and they would say something along the lines of, "Right  
11 enough", and choose someone else. It was pretty much  
12 down to the staff's discretion. It was domestics who  
13 came in and did all the cleaning. They would be in  
14 during the day and do our rooms and things like that.'

15 He says he had two birthdays he thinks at Gryffe,  
16 'probably got a cake or something'. Doesn't remember  
17 any gifts from his mum. And he went home for Christmas  
18 once when he was at Gryffe, and the other, he would have  
19 stayed there, but can't remember for sure.

20 He says he would maybe get a couple of selection  
21 boxes, a pair of socks and a couple of T-shirts from his  
22 mum. That was it, and it wasn't special.

23 He never had any possessions with him there. They  
24 never got toys. He says maybe one of his pals might  
25 have given him something, but it would be one of their

1 toys that was broken.

2 At paragraph 80, 'Sean' says that he thinks he got  
3 pocket money, about £3.50 or £3.60 once a week on  
4 a Saturday, in brown envelopes like a wage packet.

5 He then tells us about bed-wetting from  
6 paragraph 81:

7 'Sometimes I had to urinate in my bedroom because  
8 they wouldn't let me leave to go to the toilet. I would  
9 tell them repeatedly that I was bursting before I would  
10 do it. Most of the time I wasn't allowed out of my room  
11 as a punishment or a way to control me. Staff would  
12 then shout all sorts of abuse at me and humiliate me in  
13 front of everyone else. They would get the older boys  
14 to "rip the pish" out of me.

15 'Sometimes I actually wet the bed and it was  
16 a mistake. Staff would try and humiliate you in front  
17 of the other kids. I would need to hold the bedsheets  
18 until a member of staff told me I could put them down.  
19 I had these urinated sheets and I would just need to  
20 stand there with them. Other boys would pass me and ask  
21 why I was holding them and I would tell them it was  
22 nothing, but the care staff would jump in and tell me to  
23 tell them why. I had to say I had wet the bed. It was  
24 just a humiliation tactic, I know that now.

25 'The place was full of bullying and I got it mainly

1 because I was malnourished and really skinny. I didn't  
2 have good clothes or the best of trainers, like some of  
3 them. The bullying could be anything from name-calling  
4 to straight-up violence.

5 'There were times when other children would urinate  
6 on the clothes you had in the drawer or they would  
7 urinate over your bed. They would also take a crap in  
8 your bed, just really disgusting things.

9 'For a lot of this behaviour, I don't think the  
10 staff cared, as those who were getting bullied were  
11 pupils the staff despised. I would say a lot of the  
12 staff hated some of the kids. I don't think they  
13 understood, if you have a lot of disturbed weans, you  
14 are going to get conflict. Everywhere in life where you  
15 have people confined together, you are going to get  
16 bullies.'

17 He says about visitors at paragraph 86:

18 'I don't remember any official visitors, but you  
19 would get the Who Cares? mob coming in to talk to you.

20 'Occasionally, people had access visits in Gryffe  
21 for whatever reason. They couldn't get home. I know  
22 I certainly had them for a while. Maybe you would see  
23 other people's parents or relatives coming.

24 'I don't think I got home leave right away because  
25 there was a supervision order. [Our] mum would come to

1 see us, but most of the time she didn't show up. If it  
2 was weekend leave, she would try and change it because  
3 she didn't want to be visiting weans instead of going  
4 out drinking. She would blatantly say things like that.  
5 When she did show up, she didn't really pay any  
6 interest. To be honest, she was more up for the social  
7 worker's benefit than for ours. She had very little  
8 interaction with us. We would see her in the conference  
9 room that had the pool table in it. That was the room  
10 used for access visits. I would play pool with my  
11 sisters, or if [my brother] came up with my mum, I would  
12 play pool with him. My mum would only want to join in  
13 if one of the care staff came in. The visits were not  
14 all supervised, but some were. Even the supervised  
15 visits, she would find whoever was supervising, would  
16 disappear for ten minutes to get a cup of tea. I didn't  
17 feel safe during these visits because my mum was  
18 unpredictable. I never really felt safe ever. Not  
19 before or during care.

20 'There were efforts made to keep me, my sisters and  
21 brother in contact. Sometimes we would go to  
22 Ballikinrain or he would come to us. A lot of the time  
23 we were booked to visit him, he was already away, as he  
24 was one for running away as well. I think it was  
25 a monthly access we all got, although our visits to him

1 would be cancelled if he had absconded. When he came,  
2 we wouldn't run away, but we would disappear into the  
3 grounds so we could have our wee time together. We  
4 wouldn't talk in front of other people. My mum wasn't  
5 always involved in these visits. She got involved when  
6 it was a family visit. After I went to Gryffe, there  
7 weren't many occasions when we were actually all  
8 together. The visits were a good thing, but we didn't  
9 always come away from them feeling good. We sometimes  
10 had an argument, as maybe my brother would be going  
11 through some stuff and wouldn't be in the mood for  
12 a visit.

13 'I couldn't phone my brother as much as I wanted,  
14 but if I said to staff, they would come back maybe a few  
15 days later, having arranged a call.

16 'My mum told us we were not allowed to make any  
17 contact with any of the other members of our family  
18 during the time I was in Gryffe. I was at my mum's  
19 mercy. It was either my mum or nobody. I knew my  
20 gran's address, so me and my gran were writing to each  
21 other. I would write her a wee letter and send her  
22 pictures I had drawn. A long time later, but before  
23 I went to Woodlands, I was in my gran's house with my  
24 mum and she found out I had sent gran a letter and  
25 a picture. She said at the time that it was nice, and

1 by the time I got home I had forgotten about it. Mum  
2 battered me with a belt for talking to my gran when she  
3 had told me not to.

4 'My mum had a few altercations with staff, but her  
5 and HGF were always at each other's throats. I am  
6 not sure why it was like that. I knew what my mum was  
7 like, but I also knew what HGF was like as well. All  
8 the kids could be in the unit and these two would be  
9 heavy screaming at each other in front of everyone.  
10 I reckon this is why HGF really hated me. It was  
11 more to do with my mum.

12 'Once, when my mum was there for a visit, we were in  
13 the minibus and she was charging towards it with a house  
14 brick in one hand and a bottle of beer in the other.  
15 She tried to put a brick through the window because we  
16 were on the bus.

17 'There was quite a lot of time during my stay at  
18 Gryffe I was getting home leave, but later on that  
19 stopped. I believe it started with me getting day  
20 access to my mum's house for a while, when she was  
21 coming to Gryffe. Eventually I started to get weekends  
22 at home and I believe I was getting some overnight stays  
23 during the week. Sometimes, because of incidents that  
24 would happen at home, I would refuse to go for weeks at  
25 a time, and other times I would go home and refuse to go

1 back to Gryffe. I wouldn't talk to staff about my  
2 reasons for refusing to go home. I found it hard to  
3 talk about my home life, what I was feeling and what  
4 I was going through. The threats from my mum were real  
5 and there was a risk of anything I said being carried  
6 back to her at one of my reviews.

7 'I was going home with fresh bruises and my mum  
8 wouldn't mention it, and I was going back to Gryffe with  
9 different bruises and nobody would mention it. No one  
10 really bothered about the condition I came back in.  
11 I never showed the staff my bruises, but if I was  
12 running about playing football and it was hot, I would  
13 take my top off. My bruises were blatantly there, if  
14 anyone had bothered to check. I think they knew how  
15 much they restrained me, so were never sure if they had  
16 caused the bruises or not.

17 'During home visits I would get battered off my  
18 mother or whatever one of her boyfriends were there. It  
19 could go from walking sticks, belts, slippers, punches,  
20 open-hand hits or getting choked. I remember one of my  
21 mum's boyfriends battered me behind the bedroom door and  
22 then he kept smashing the door off me. I don't know how  
23 he done it, but he actually hung me up. [REDACTED]

24 [REDACTED]  
25 [REDACTED]

1       it was all mad stuff like that. There wasn't a single  
2       home leave that we were not getting assaulted. That was  
3       if they were there at all. I didn't know what was best,  
4       them being there or not. They would be there on the  
5       Friday for us getting there, but then go out and come  
6       back the early hours of Sunday morning, if that. There  
7       were times she didn't even come back.

8               'Sometimes she would get back late on the Saturday  
9       night or early hours of Sunday morning. I remember she  
10      would come back with a pizza, but there would be no food  
11      in the house. She would call us things like "ungrateful  
12      wee bastards" and tell us she had bought us a pizza.  
13      Bearing in mind we didn't have a microwave or anything,  
14      but that was what she expected us to eat. We didn't  
15      stay in the house much after she left. We went out and  
16      done some shoplifting for food, as we had to eat. We  
17      did what we had to do to survive.

18             'Social workers were aware of a lot of this.  
19      Sometimes she would say to them that she had left us  
20      with 16-year-old babysitters, but that wasn't happening.  
21      It would have been easy for them to check on what was  
22      actually happening at home.

23             'One of the times I was on home leave with my  
24      sisters, they were playing with matches and the curtains  
25      went on fire. The ceilings had polystyrene tiles, so

1 all of that went up in flames. The whole living room  
2 was pretty much uninhabitable. We moved into my  
3 bedroom, but we were still getting home leave after  
4 that, with the house in that state. Then the social  
5 workers told my mum that the house wasn't suitable and  
6 they told us that they were stopping all home leave  
7 until mum got new accommodation sorted out.'

8 He tells us then at paragraph 100 that running away  
9 was pretty much a daily thing. He would either stay  
10 within the grounds in the big wooded area, or otherwise  
11 go into the town. Sometimes he tried to go to Paisley  
12 and he says he would mainly mess about the town. He'd  
13 get into trouble occasionally for shoplifting, but  
14 mainly for fighting. He tells us he didn't get caught  
15 a lot for stealing because he was actually quite a good  
16 thief and had got quite clued up. The police were never  
17 really involved and he was never charged with anything  
18 at that time.

19 He says that when he came back, he'd be put into his  
20 room and his shoes would be taken from him for the rest  
21 of the night.

22 He says the only time he wouldn't run away was when  
23 he didn't have any shoes, but he would borrow someone  
24 else's or steal them and be off again. Sometimes he  
25 would run with other boys, but more often than not on

1 his own.

2 When he was struggling with mental health, he would  
3 phone his brother, and he would tell him he would come  
4 and get him, and he would come in a stolen car being  
5 driven by one of his mates, and he would toot the horn  
6 and he would escape and they'd go away in the car.

7 He then talks about his reviews from paragraph 103  
8 and there would be him, his mum, the social workers and  
9 maybe a key worker. He says he thinks these were  
10 six-monthly reviews but there would also be  
11 a Children's Panel every year for review, and he says at  
12 paragraph 104:

13 'I thought the reviews were crap. I didn't really  
14 understand what was happening and my mum was very  
15 contradictory. One minute she was threatening our  
16 lives, the next minute she was threatening the social  
17 workers, telling them they were taking us nowhere. My  
18 mum used to tell us not to do as we were told. She  
19 would tell us to kick off and set fires. She was  
20 telling us that if we talked to social workers she would  
21 kill us. She told us she would know what we said. She  
22 terrified us and she said all of this in front of the  
23 social workers. She would say that if I went away and  
24 set a fire, I would get where [my brother] was. It was  
25 all twisted stuff. I never really said much because

1 I was too intimidated by her, to be honest. I was  
2 terrified and I never felt safe, mainly because of my  
3 mum, but the children's home, and even some of the kids  
4 had their own dangers.'

5 He then talks about having a mistrust for the social  
6 workers and he didn't really talk to them much and that  
7 he would be nervous because of what his mum had been  
8 saying. He didn't know who to trust and he wouldn't  
9 open up about his home life or personal life.

10 He says at paragraph 107:

11 'At some point someone would have taken me aside and  
12 asked me what I was feeling and what I wanted, but all  
13 I can say is you would need to read my files to  
14 understand what my mum was like at these meetings. She  
15 was very explosive and very threatening towards me and  
16 towards whoever was attending. She would say I was  
17 going to get stabbed, or threaten people who were there.  
18 People were taking notes, as it was done in front of  
19 everyone. She would also say things like, "You better  
20 not be behaving yourself, you better be smashing windows  
21 or fighting with so-and-so". She didn't try to hide  
22 it.'

23 He also says that things went over his head at  
24 reviews and he didn't understand what they were saying.

25 He then says that the discipline became physical at

1 Gryffe, like slaps and chokes, and then talks about  
2 abuse from paragraph 111.

3 And he talks then about his classroom, this  
4 classroom that was meant for him in the home --

5 LADY SMITH: It wasn't a classroom.

6 MS FORBES: No.

7 LADY SMITH: It was a room that he was put in, in isolation.

8 MS FORBES: That HGF called the classroom, yes.

9 LADY SMITH: That was supposed to be a joke.

10 MS FORBES: Yes:

11 '[This had] a desk, a chair and a window, that was  
12 it.'

13 He said he would be there from about 8.30 am to  
14 9.00 am and that would be -- put him in there, sorry,  
15 from about 8.30 am to 9.00 am, and that was him until  
16 3.00 pm. There was no schooling, but sometimes they  
17 would come in with a book or a magazine and tell him to  
18 copy out a bit of writing.

19 'Sometimes', at paragraph 110, he says:

20 'Sometimes HGF would come in and she wouldn't  
21 even see if I had done the work or not. She would say  
22 it was "fucking shite" before ripping up the paper and  
23 walking out. At lunchtimes I wasn't allowed out of the  
24 room so I ate my lunch in there. HGF would come in  
25 with a sandwich or a roll and a wee juice, like the wee

1 box of juice you can get. You could always tell who had  
2 made it. If the cook had made it, it would be really  
3 nice, but if HGF had made it, you would get two bits  
4 of bread, no butter, and a cheese slice or one slice of  
5 cold meat, so it was just like dry bread and my juice.  
6 She was a pure cow. She would sometimes come in holding  
7 the plate in one hand and the juice in the other, and  
8 tip the plate up before opening the juice and taking  
9 a drink out of it. She would say something like  
10 "There's your lunch", before walking away.

11 'There was a lot of mental abuse, like psychological  
12 stuff. After months in my classroom, my mental state  
13 got bad. It would have been when I was either nearly 9  
14 or just turned 9, I would be sitting on the floor with  
15 my knees up, just rocking back and forward, and the  
16 staff would laugh at me. I wouldn't even be aware I was  
17 doing it until someone came in, and then I would be  
18 non-responsive and spaced out. Fiona, who was one of  
19 the cooks who made the cracking sandwiches, would chap  
20 the window when she was going home. I could open the  
21 window a few inches and she would pass me sweeties and  
22 lollipops. She would ask me how I was getting on, tell  
23 me to cheer up. She knew I would be in the room and she  
24 would always pop round. I think she could tell there  
25 was something wrong with me. I think that maybe she

1 questioned me being in that wee room, and I think  
2 a couple of other people did too. I think a woman  
3 called Ellen or Helen O'Neil, who was the other cook,  
4 came in as well. She tried to cheer me up. She knew  
5 some of my family members. I actually heard people  
6 swearing, asking what was going on, and to look at the  
7 nick of me. I believe she was one who raised concerns  
8 about me and I didn't see her again after that. I think  
9 it was this wee room that broke me. I would say I was  
10 a bucket of depression and I kind of gave up. I  
11 wouldn't talk to anyone and I wouldn't eat. Any chance  
12 I got, I would run away. I don't think I can fully  
13 explain just how bad I got, but I think this definitely  
14 influenced the way I behaved when I moved from Gryffe.

15 'I'm not actually sure of times, but I would be in  
16 this room a lot. Sometimes it was days at a time.  
17 Sometimes weeks or months. It depended on how long  
18 I was suspended or excluded from school. Sometimes  
19 I would be taken from this room to my bedroom with  
20 a member of staff sitting outside to make sure I didn't  
21 leave. That is how my routine was. It wasn't like the  
22 others.

23 'HGF [REDACTED] would turn other people against me, so she  
24 could get the older boys to attack me. There was a lot  
25 of that. She would tell me that she was going to get me

1 battered and it just happened, half an hour later, three  
2 boys would come to leather me. I remember a guy [and he  
3 names him] was one of her favourites. He was what you  
4 might class as the top boy, the hardest fighter, the  
5 toughest guy. He was about 14 or 15. We were all weans  
6 compared to the size and age of him. I was just  
7 a scrawny, malnourished, wee boy who got thrown about  
8 like an empty tracksuit. If I was leathered, it would  
9 be them punching me to the ground and then kicking and  
10 stamping on me. Although getting battered seemed to  
11 last ages at the time, it was a fast thing, probably 15  
12 seconds. They would laugh at me and spit on me before  
13 they went. If I had sweeties lying about, they wouldn't  
14 think twice about taking them.

15 'HGF [REDACTED] would also try and turn the whole unit  
16 against me. Just say it was a video night and the kids  
17 would be asking about it. She would tell them it wasn't  
18 happening and to blame me. It was the same if they  
19 asked to go to the park or somewhere in the minibus.  
20 She would refuse and tell them to blame me.

21 'HGF [REDACTED] would bring her daughter to the unit a lot  
22 when she was working at the weekends. Whatever her  
23 daughter wanted to do was our plans for the weekend. It  
24 was just how she spoke to me or about me. She would  
25 refer to me as a "wee prick" to her daughter and tell

1 her that if I look at her or tried to talk to her, she  
2 was to tell her mum.'

3 He then says what the daughter's name was and says:

4 'She was a stuck-up little bitch. She would speak  
5 about me like "That just tried to talk to me", and  
6 HGF would shout at me to get into my room. This went  
7 on for about two years.

8 'I think HGF tried to intimidate me and it didn't  
9 work. I know she hated that. A lot of people were  
10 scared of her. I had been through so much by that time,  
11 there was nothing she could do to me.

12 'The staff were quite rough-handed, especially the  
13 guys. It was always the same. If they saw you  
14 struggling with a woman, the guys came in all  
15 heavy-handed. Bearing in mind I was aged 7 to 9 years  
16 old, and very small for my age, HGF would make it  
17 worse by shouting things like she was scared, just to  
18 see me getting slammed and restrained. As I was being  
19 restrained, she would be digging her long nails right  
20 into my wrist, or digging her thumb into my back, trying  
21 to get me to scream. I tried never to show how sore or  
22 upset I was, but afterwards there would be tears in my  
23 room.

24 'Staff used restraining a lot. There wasn't any  
25 sort of technique, it was just grabbing and holding

1 down. Sometimes it could be your arms twisted up your  
2 back, or your arms straight out in front of you as you  
3 were face down, and other times, one arm twisted and the  
4 other not. Sometimes they would hold you down, and  
5 another time it was thumbs into pressure points. When  
6 I was being held down, the length of time I was on the  
7 ground depended on how much resistance I gave.  
8 I normally would try and fight back, because I have  
9 never liked anyone touching me. I think this is because  
10 I wasn't used to touch or affection as a wean, so I am  
11 as cuddly as a cactus. It was usually about three staff  
12 restraining me and I would be responding to them by  
13 struggling back. I would be kicking off. If you don't  
14 do anything, you're at their mercy. I know it sounds  
15 stupid, but if you struggled, it was less painful for  
16 me, because whatever training they did have would kick  
17 in. They would sit on me sometimes by straddling me.  
18 I would be face down with someone sitting over my back.  
19 Another might have one arm or maybe both arms held above  
20 my head, and sometimes someone else would be holding my  
21 face down. Sometimes I would feel I couldn't breathe,  
22 but I never passed out. I didn't feel they had  
23 a certain technique. It was just however they could  
24 grab you and the takedown was usually the worst. I was  
25 always really small, so some of them could pick me up

1 and slam me down on the floor. It knocked the wind  
2 right out of me and I would be struggling to breathe  
3 whilst feeling panic as well. It was always a scary  
4 situation. I remember all of the staff using restraint,  
5 but most of them would try and calm you down once  
6 restrained. HGF would try and wind me up, whether it  
7 was wee sly digs which were physical or verbal. Don't  
8 get me wrong, the staff were heavy-handed when  
9 restraining, but with HGF, she would try to wind me  
10 up. They used restraint if you refused to do something  
11 they told you, such as being sent to your room. They  
12 would try to drag you, but any sort of resistance and  
13 they were on you. Other kids got restrained for their  
14 own reasons. It was just part of being there.'

15 He says he doesn't know if those restraints were  
16 ever recorded. He says that maybe in Woodlands Secondary Ins  
17 Secondary and even Balrossie, they recorded restraints, and  
18 that they would sit down with him when he calmed down  
19 and go over it with him, but no one at Gryffe ever  
20 showed him what they'd recorded about the incidents.

21 Staff would terrify him with ghost stories. There  
22 was a room at the back which was a recreation room,  
23 which looked like a miniature gymnasium and HGF or  
24 the other male staff would take you there, push you in  
25 and hold the door shut.

1           'Sean' tells us at paragraph 121 that HGF [REDACTED] slapped  
2           him one time. He tells us that they were only allowed  
3           to watch channels 2 and 4, because you would get the  
4           kids' programmes on channels 1 and 3 after school. And  
5           he says that HGF [REDACTED] told him that he was only allowed to  
6           watch channels 2 and 4, and he answered her back  
7           cockily, and she slapped his face and told him he wasn't  
8           getting to watch anything.

9           HGF [REDACTED] was always verbally abusive towards him and  
10          she didn't hide that from other staff. And she seemed  
11          to carry a lot of weight in the home and it wasn't just  
12          him; she talked in a, he says, a 'crap' way to a lot of  
13          kids, called them names and gave them some verbal.

14          And 'Sean' talks about there being some kind of  
15          conflict every day, whether it was because of something  
16          at school, or with him and the staff. They were  
17          verbally abusive. He would react, and that stuff  
18          happened every day for two years.

19          He talks about a time when he was in his classroom  
20          and they were doing work on the floor of the shower area  
21          next to it for a couple of days. There were outside  
22          contractors who were already working when HGF [REDACTED] took  
23          him to his room, and one of the guys looked like he gave  
24          him a dirty look. And at paragraph 124, he says:

25          HGF [REDACTED] said to him that if I gave him any cheek, he

1           was just to hit me [I think that should say "with"] a  
2           belt, because no one will bother. She also asked him to  
3           grab me if I ran past him. He said to me that he wasn't  
4           a member of care staff and if anything happens, he would  
5           "kick my cunt in". I opened the door a few times and he  
6           would say to me if I came out, I would be getting it.'

7           He says that he was an intimidating guy and that he  
8           did open the door a few hours later, and he could hear  
9           him laughing and joking, and that it turned out that  
10          this man left his cigarettes at the far end of the  
11          bathroom in one of the sinks, and he realised he'd  
12          forgotten his cigarettes and he couldn't get it because  
13          of the fresh concrete, and it was him and another  
14          contractor laughing because of this.

15          He says that as soon as they left to let the floor  
16          dry, he went and got the -- sorry. As soon as they  
17          left, he went for the cigarettes. And 'Sean' says:

18          'I remember thinking "bingo", because of the way he  
19          had talked to me and got footprints all over the cement.  
20          I also had his cigarettes and lighter and I went into  
21          one of the cubicles to smoke them. I had a wee giggle  
22          to myself about the footprints, so I decided to get my  
23          finger and write my name in the cement as well. I went  
24          back into my room and about 15 minutes later the guys  
25          came back in a pure rage because of the footprints. It

1 was clear where I had gone. HGF was with him and he  
2 was shouting and swearing, asking what I had done with  
3 his cigarettes. I was scared, but my mouth runs like  
4 I am not scared and I swore at him. He punched me one  
5 square in the belly and I folded over and fell. He  
6 knocked the wind right out of me. This was done in  
7 front of HGF, but I don't know if the other  
8 contractor was there or not. I was struggling to  
9 breathe, but I knew not to panic. He was right in my  
10 face shouting about his fags and I put my finger up at  
11 him. He just walked off in a rage. I was just left  
12 there. I don't think I told anyone about it.'

13 'Sean' then goes on to say that he was constantly  
14 making complaints and that this became a bit of a joke  
15 with the staff. He would complain to anyone who would  
16 listen, but they never actually wrote anything down and  
17 they would tell him they would put it on file. And  
18 there was no consequence for him making any complaints  
19 and it made no difference to how he behaved, and he  
20 would still get restrained.

21 He says he told the social workers about being in  
22 the room every day, but they never done anything about  
23 it. And he told them he was getting restrained a lot,  
24 but again, never really done anything that he was aware  
25 of.

1           He says there was a children's hearing before he  
2 moved from Gryffe to Woodlands and it had already been  
3 decided, he thinks, that he was going to be moving  
4 there. He was excited because he just wanted away from  
5 Gryffe, but he says it was a bigger building than Gryffe  
6 and he thought Gryffe was intimidating. But he liked  
7 the feel of the place and he thought that compared to  
8 Gryffe, it was nice.

9           Then at Woodlands, he talks about that between  
10 paragraphs 135 and 240 and he talks about abuse,  
11 my Lady, in great detail, but I'm not going to go into  
12 that.

13           I'll go down to 240.

14 LADY SMITH: Ms Forbes, how much longer do you need for this  
15 statement?

16 MS FORBES: I think probably only five minutes, my Lady.

17 I think the witness is due to start at 2.30 pm, although  
18 it was hoped to maybe start her a little bit earlier if  
19 possible.

20 LADY SMITH: I think we should break now and finish the  
21 statement afterwards, rather than try and rush it.

22           Before Irise though, names again. There's  
23 obviously been an HGF name used in relation to this  
24 applicant. And in relation to the previous one whose  
25 evidence was read in, we had Mr FGG, PBS

1 and somebody called [REDACTED], [REDACTED], [REDACTED], who was  
2 a child in care. These are people whose identities are  
3 all protected by my General Restriction Order and  
4 they're not to be identified outside this room as having  
5 been referred to in our evidence.

6 I'll break now and we'll start again just after  
7 2 o'clock, and you say the witness is due to start at  
8 2.30 pm so that shouldn't hold that witness up.

9 Very well. Thank you.

10 (1.10 pm)

11 (The luncheon adjournment)

12 (2.10 pm)

13 LADY SMITH: Ms Forbes, when you're ready to carry on.

14 MS FORBES: Thank you, my Lady.

15 We were at, I think, paragraph 240, which is page 71  
16 of the statement, and I think I had just talked about  
17 him going to Woodlands Children's Home.

18 LADY SMITH: Yes.

19 MS FORBES: And he went from Woodlands Children's Home to  
20 Cree Lodge and he talks about that down to  
21 paragraph 252. And then he talks about the differences  
22 between them, down to paragraph 304. And then if we go  
23 to paragraph 308, he tells us about going to Balrossie.  
24 That again has already been read in and I set out the  
25 reference for that earlier, my Lady.

1           But just in summary, at Balrossie, this is from  
2 paragraph 308 to 360, he tells us about violence  
3 perpetrated by a boy and a teacher there, assaults by  
4 staff and restraint. And then, when he was 14 years  
5 old, he became a day pupil at Balrossie for a few months  
6 and was back home with his mother and then he was  
7 expelled in [REDACTED] 1997.

8           So if we can go down to paragraph 360, he then tells  
9 us about his life after being in care from paragraph 361  
10 and again, my Lady, this has been read in a few times  
11 before, so I'm just going to give a brief summary of  
12 that.

13           He went from being a day pupil at Balrossie,  
14 although there was a gap when he was just at home, to  
15 being a day pupil at Kibble. He was still at home and  
16 his life with his mum was still the same. He tells us  
17 that Kibble was better, it was in Paisley and he fitted  
18 in better with what he calls his local people.

19           He was there for about 18 months before he got  
20 expelled and then he ended up moving out from his  
21 mother's house and was sofa surfing. He tells us he got  
22 in with the wrong crowd and he was in and out of jail  
23 a few times. He found it hard to fit into normal life  
24 and it wasn't until 2009, when he was released from his  
25 last sentence, that he sorted things and he's not been

1 in trouble, he says, since then.

2 He tells us about meeting someone and having  
3 children and we know later in his statement that he had  
4 a daughter and three boys.

5 He tells us about impact from paragraph 377 and if  
6 we can go to paragraph 383 of 'Sean's' statement, I just  
7 want to read a part of that out. He says:

8 'To me, speaking to the Inquiry is like a bit of  
9 closure. It is almost like a bit of therapy. Even if  
10 a slight part of what I say corroborates someone else,  
11 that will be good. I don't want these people done or  
12 charged. I have never had an opportunity to talk to  
13 people and any time I have tried, I freeze and I cannot  
14 find the words. I probably will never speak about this  
15 again.'

16 If we go down to paragraph 401, he tells us that,  
17 speaking to the Inquiry, he says:

18 'This is the first time I've told anyone the bigger  
19 story of being in care. My Mrs knows a wee bit about  
20 it. I don't really like talking about it because a lot  
21 of people have not experienced it so they can't  
22 understand. A lot of people don't really believe the  
23 things that went on.'

24 And if we can go down to paragraph 416 from there,  
25 this is in the section 'Lessons to be learnt'. He says:

1           'Back in my day, care homes were just a warehouse  
2           for weans and I don't know what they are like now.  
3           There needs to be individual care. Each care home  
4           allowed me to prepare for the next place. Gryffe and  
5           Woodlands helped me a lot to get ready for Balrossie,  
6           and Balrossie helped me a lot to prepare for Kibble. It  
7           is like conditioning you for what's to come. My  
8           childhood was spent preparing for the next care home and  
9           not for the outside world.'

10           And I think then if we could just go to  
11           paragraph 427, my Lady, he makes the usual declaration  
12           and he has signed his statement and it's dated  
13           15 November 2021.

14   LADY SMITH: Right.

15   MS FORBES: Mr Peoples will now take the witness that's due  
16           to appear.

17   LADY SMITH: Thank you very much.

18           So I understand, she's ready, although it's not yet  
19           2.30 pm; is that right?

20   MS FORBES: That's the position, my Lady.

21   LADY SMITH: Yes, thank you.

22           Mr Peoples.

23   MR PEOPLES: My Lady, the next oral witness is Carol McCaig.

24   LADY SMITH: Thank you.

25

1 Carol McCaig (affirmed)

2 LADY SMITH: The first question I hope is an easy one. How  
3 would you like me to address you, using your first name  
4 or your second name, I'm very happy --

5 A. Carol, please.

6 LADY SMITH: Carol, is that all right?

7 A. Yes.

8 LADY SMITH: Thank you, Carol. And thank you for coming  
9 along this afternoon to help us with your evidence,  
10 particularly about a specific piece of work you did for  
11 Glasgow some years ago now. And when I say that, I do  
12 appreciate we're asking you to cast your mind back to  
13 more than a little while ago and look at detail in your  
14 memory about what happened at what I can see was, let me  
15 put it this way, a very difficult project that you were  
16 asked to undertake.

17 I know that, because I've already got your written  
18 statement, which has been a great help to me to have in  
19 advance, so thank you for engaging with us for that.

20 We're not going to go through every part of it in  
21 detail, don't worry, but it's there in front of you, if  
22 you would find it helpful, in that red folder.

23 A. Thank you.

24 LADY SMITH: And we'll also bring it up on screen at the  
25 different parts that we're looking at as we go through

1 your evidence.

2 My practice in the afternoon is I'll usually take  
3 a break shortly after 3 o'clock. If you want a break at  
4 any other time, because this is hard work, what we're  
5 asking you to do, please just say. It's not a problem.  
6 Or if you've got any questions at any time, just ask,  
7 all right?

8 A. Thank you.

9 LADY SMITH: If you're ready, I'll hand over to Mr Peoples  
10 and he'll take it from there.

11 Mr Peoples.

12 Questions from Mr Peoples

13 MR PEOPLES: Good afternoon, Carol.

14 A. Good afternoon.

15 Q. You should have a copy of your written statement in the  
16 red folder?

17 A. Yes.

18 Q. Could I ask you to turn to the final page, page 37, and  
19 can you confirm that you have signed your statement and  
20 dated it?

21 A. Yes, I have.

22 Q. And that you say in your final paragraph, 215:

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

25 I believe the facts stated in this witness statement are

1 true.'

2 So is that the position?

3 A. Yes.

4 Q. Now, I propose today to take, as her Ladyship said, just  
5 certain parts of your statement and, as I think it's  
6 been explained, that it's all evidence and it's all --  
7 it has been considered and will be considered, but today  
8 I will focus on some particular aspects this afternoon.

9 And first of all, I don't want to diminish the  
10 section on your background and history, but can I just  
11 summarise it this way, and correct me if I'm wrong: that  
12 between 1984 and 1993 you were employed by  
13 South Lanarkshire Council in various what I could  
14 broadly say are residential childcare roles; is that  
15 right?

16 A. Yes.

17 Q. And then from 1993 through to 1996, you were employed by  
18 Glasgow District Council in, again if I can summarise,  
19 unit manager roles in residential establishments?

20 A. Glasgow North-West District.

21 Q. In the Glasgow North-West District?

22 A. Yes.

23 Q. And I think these were perhaps units that had some  
24 problems that needed solving, in some cases?

25 A. In one instance, yes.

1 Q. And then in 1996, you moved to a different local  
2 authority, Renfrewshire Council, and you took up a post  
3 of Centre Manager at Newfield Assessment Centre?

4 A. Yes.

5 Q. And you were employed in that position until 2002?

6 A. Yes.

7 Q. And then from 2002 until 2020, you were employed by  
8 Glasgow City Council and you tell us about your role in  
9 paragraph 8 of your statement. But I think essentially  
10 you were involved in quite a wide-ranging practice audit  
11 role, is that right?

12 A. I was initially involved in external management, and  
13 that was overtaken by the investigations at Kerelaw and  
14 then I reverted to doing practice audit as the remainder  
15 of my working life.

16 Q. Yes, I think you've had some experience of carrying out  
17 investigations?

18 A. Yes.

19 Q. And you've mentioned one at Kerelaw. We're not going to  
20 talk about that today, by the way, so I can relieve you  
21 of that responsibility today.

22 But we are going to look at another investigation  
23 that you carried out during your time at Newfield and  
24 perhaps I can ask you about that.

25 You have a section headed 'Investigation into

1 Gryffe Castle Children's Home', which starts at  
2 paragraph 10. And you say that while you were at  
3 Newfield as Centre Manager, you were asked to carry out  
4 an investigation into Gryffe. And I can tell you from  
5 records that you were asked to do that on 21 January  
6 1998 by Joan Lafferty, who I think was then Principal  
7 Officer of Childcare, is that right?

8 A. Yes.

9 Q. And the background, I think, is that before you went to  
10 Gryffe, around that time, there had been a preliminary  
11 investigation, which had prompted Joan Lafferty to ask  
12 you to carry out a wider investigation into Gryffe and  
13 for that purpose, the existing officer in charge,  
14 Paul Creighton?

15 A. Yes.

16 Q. Had been temporarily transferred to a different  
17 position, is that right?

18 A. Yes.

19 Q. Pending the investigation that you were to carry out?

20 A. Yes.

21 Q. And broadly speaking, the task was related to a range of  
22 issues concerning the supervision and management of  
23 staff at Gryffe and related issues; would that be  
24 a broad description of --

25 A. Yes.

1 Q. It was quite a wide-ranging remit?

2 A. Yes.

3 Q. And we're talking about early 1998 and I think what we  
4 need to keep in mind is that this was really towards the  
5 final years of Gryffe's existence as a children's home;  
6 is that right?

7 A. Yes.

8 Q. And that by the time that you went to Gryffe, there was  
9 to an extent a contextual background, that it was  
10 a place where the numbers of children had been reducing  
11 and that effectively a decision had been taken by the  
12 council to, in the reasonably near future, to close  
13 Gryffe and replace it with two smaller residential  
14 units; is that right?

15 A. That's correct.

16 Q. And I think when you went there, perhaps one of them had  
17 already opened and the other one was to open shortly; is  
18 that --

19 A. That's my recollection, yeah.

20 Q. And I think that by the time you went to Gryffe at the  
21 end of January, the staff there were aware of the plans  
22 to close Gryffe; is that correct?

23 A. Yes.

24 Q. And I think that was causing a certain amount of concern  
25 to staff and uncertainty about the future?

1 A. Angry, I would say, in part.

2 Q. Angry?

3 A. Yeah. I don't think it was just concern.

4 Q. Okay. And -- because I think some of the staff that you  
5 came across there were quite long-serving, is that  
6 right?

7 A. Yes.

8 LADY SMITH: Why were they angry?

9 A. I think they had become institutionalised to being in  
10 that kind of work setting. Huge team of people round  
11 about them all the time, a lot of colleagues, a lot  
12 of -- a big house, a big grounds, and I think they had  
13 become institutionalised to that way of working.  
14 Because what was being proposed was actually  
15 significantly better. You know, the children were going  
16 to have individual bedrooms, they were going to have --

17 LADY SMITH: Indeed.

18 A. -- a bathroom that they'd only have to share with one  
19 person --

20 LADY SMITH: Yes.

21 A. -- but those didn't seem to be selling points for them.  
22 They were annoyed that they were having to leave. And  
23 the village itself was lovely. Where Gryffe House was,  
24 was, you know, very nice and it suited them. They were  
25 all local people.

1 LADY SMITH: Right. And was there any element of the anger  
2 caused by them not having been included in the planning  
3 or consulted?

4 A. I couldn't truthfully speak to that, because I don't  
5 know -- I mean, I know that there was a well-publicised  
6 action plan for children's residential care when the new  
7 director took place after government restructuring. So  
8 when Sheena Duncan became the director in Renfrewshire,  
9 I know there was a well-publicised -- she let it be  
10 known that we would have to reduce the sizes of the  
11 units and that children would have to have better living  
12 facilities. So that was absolutely well-known and it  
13 was talked about in at least one or two kinda big  
14 meetings, forums that were -- discussed that. But  
15 whether they felt they'd been consulted about it,  
16 I would suspect not, because it was going to happen.  
17 You know, the days of big units like Gryffe were over.

18 LADY SMITH: Of course. And of course it would be  
19 a different matter to think of the details that were  
20 going to be worked out for Gryffe, as opposed to the  
21 general plan across the whole extent of that local  
22 authority.

23 A. Indeed, because there were 23 children. When I first  
24 went to Renfrewshire in 1996, there were 23 children in  
25 Gryffe.

1 LADY SMITH: Yes, right. Thank you.

2 MR PEOPLES: Yes. I think when Renfrewshire became the  
3 unitary authority in 1996, while they would have  
4 inherited -- and I think we've been told this by  
5 Renfrewshire, they inherited policies and procedures and  
6 practices, to some extent, from Strathclyde Regional  
7 Council, but as a new authority they also carried out,  
8 I think, their own review. And there was this decision  
9 to carry out a comprehensive overhaul of the residential  
10 children's service within Renfrewshire, and part of that  
11 looked to close places like Gryffe and establish new,  
12 smaller units with less children and perhaps more of  
13 a focus on getting children back into the community  
14 earlier than had previously been the case.

15 A. Certainly.

16 Q. Yes. And that's not necessarily out of line with what  
17 was going on generally in Scotland at the time; is that  
18 right?

19 A. In fact, it was probably a few years behind what was  
20 happening, because certainly Glasgow had already very  
21 much bitten that, you know, bitten the bit about that  
22 and were already going down that road, so it was maybe  
23 a few years behind.

24 Q. You probably remember Fred Edwards?

25 A. I do indeed, uh-huh.

1 Q. And I think he was a person who had little time for  
2 places like Gryffe or large institutions for -- that to  
3 accommodate large numbers of children. I think he was  
4 very much of a view that: try and get as many children  
5 to either remain at home or get them back at home as  
6 quickly as possible, or, if not, into foster care. Was  
7 that a broad philosophy perhaps?

8 A. That's a broad recognition. A lot of people thought  
9 that way by that time in the 1990s. Certainly by the  
10 early 1990s the -- some units were becoming specifically  
11 designed to do short-term work and get kids home, and  
12 that certainly was what I was interested in and that was  
13 by 1992/1993.

14 Q. Well, I think, if I recall him correctly, he described  
15 Quarriers in the 1980s as the sort of place you would  
16 find in a third-world country. He was quite vocal and  
17 he --

18 A. Vocal about it.

19 Q. And I think he said that in public. So, yes, there was  
20 a move away. And we know from the history of this  
21 Inquiry that these large providers also diversified into  
22 different forms of children's services, removed the  
23 large institutions, moved to smaller group homes and the  
24 like. That was a development that was occurring from  
25 the 1980s and earlier, indeed, in some cases?

1 A. Yeah.

2 Q. So if I go back to Gryffe then, you say at paragraph 19  
3 that when you went there:  
4 'Gryffe was a big old building and it was  
5 unwelcoming. If you were a young person arriving there  
6 in the middle of the night, it must have been absolutely  
7 terrifying.'

8 A. Yep.

9 Q. That's how it came across to you?

10 A. Yep. Yep.

11 Q. Now, you were there for around about three months, and  
12 in essence you were both an investigator to look at the  
13 issues that you had been asked to consider, but you were  
14 also someone that, as you say at paragraph 23, ended up  
15 managing the place for about three months?

16 A. Yeah.

17 Q. And, so you were both conducting some degree of  
18 fact-finding and also trying to manage the place, in  
19 place of the previous officer in charge?

20 A. Yes.

21 LADY SMITH: And I take it from the way that's been put in  
22 your statement that in advance you had no idea that you  
23 would actually be having to run Gryffe at the same time  
24 as do the review you'd been asked to do?

25 A. No, I suppose what happened was when I got there, the

1 investigation almost became slightly secondary, because  
2 the children were -- the young people were in a bit of  
3 distress. A lot of the managers had either gone off  
4 sick or Paul had been suspended, so it was what could  
5 only be described as a shambles. And I couldn't really  
6 focus on the investigation as I would have, because  
7 I had to actually do the practical tasks, because there  
8 were children there and at that time there was still  
9 a fair number, maybe about 13. Some of them were quite  
10 upset and it was in some disarray.

11 LADY SMITH: As you say, a shambles.

12 A. Yes.

13 MR PEOPLES: And there would be uncertainty for the children  
14 as well because they wouldn't know what was going to  
15 happen to them?

16 A. Well, at that point in time it wasn't even safe  
17 day-to-day, because the kids were fighting with each  
18 other, the absconding was through the roof. So that  
19 actually took precedence, if I'm completely honest.

20 Q. But although you say you didn't focus on producing  
21 an investigation report and making recommendations,  
22 which you did in due course --

23 A. Yes.

24 Q. -- you did at a fairly early stage, and I think you say  
25 this in your statement, you did speak with both staff

1 and residents and you carried out a number of interviews  
2 in late January and February?

3 A. Yes.

4 Q. Speaking both to residents and staff to obtain their  
5 views and feelings about the whole situation and what  
6 may have been the root causes of the sort of problems  
7 that you describe?

8 A. Yes.

9 Q. And the shambles that it was then in?

10 A. Yes.

11 Q. And you gained some information through that method?

12 A. Yes.

13 Q. To just find out what are they saying; why do they think  
14 Gryffe's in the position it's in?

15 A. Yes.

16 Q. And you were getting a range of views, which I think are  
17 reflected in the statement you've given to this Inquiry,  
18 that some of the things you point out, like there was  
19 almost a unanimous sort of position that staff were, for  
20 example, not getting formal supervision?

21 A. Yes.

22 Q. That the situation was deteriorating quite rapidly,  
23 generally speaking, that children weren't going to  
24 school, they were absconding on a regular basis,  
25 record-keeping was a shambles, to use your word?

1 A. Yes.

2 Q. Care planning had gone off the rails?

3 A. Yes.

4 Q. Everything in fact of the kind that you would expect in  
5 a well-run residential house or unit?

6 A. All the normal structures were awry, to say the least.

7 Q. And people weren't getting guidance, support,  
8 supervision from the more senior managers?

9 A. No.

10 Q. And I think you've spoken about the managers, basically  
11 were in their offices far too much, maybe drinking  
12 coffee, as one of our previous applicants has  
13 described --

14 A. Uh-huh.

15 Q. -- a situation he came across in the early 1990s and not  
16 being out on the shop floor?

17 A. And because of the size the unit had been, there were  
18 many managers. There were an astonishing number of  
19 managers. You know, there were officers in charge,  
20 depute, third in charge, seniors. You know, a real  
21 number of them, at least eight or nine.

22 LADY SMITH: For 13 children.

23 A. For what was then 13 children. It would have been that  
24 number for 23, you know, and it had recently been going  
25 down to 13.

1 LADY SMITH: Yes, and I mustn't be unfair because there  
2 would need to be shift allocation and providing 24/7  
3 supervision.

4 A. Yes, but all of the managers were engaged somewhat in  
5 being very office bound, and sort of thought they had  
6 an office job, which was a bit -- not really what  
7 I would be expecting or --

8 LADY SMITH: That's not really the way to build an effective  
9 engagement with the children.

10 A. Not at all, no.

11 MR PEOPLES: It wasn't just even the very senior managers --

12 A. It was the next -- uh-huh.

13 Q. -- that what you'd call the middle managers who should  
14 be on the shop floor were treating it as an office job  
15 as well.

16 A. Yeah.

17 Q. And children weren't getting structured and planned  
18 activities for their free time, and, of course, they had  
19 a lot of free time because --

20 A. They weren't at school.

21 Q. -- they weren't going to school. So they were having  
22 free time they shouldn't have been having, but in the  
23 free time that they should be getting, there was no  
24 activities being planned or organised on a structured  
25 basis. Was that the situation that you --

1 A. That's correct.

2 Q. -- you walked into?

3 A. Yeah.

4 Q. And we'll come on to some of the repercussions --

5 A. Not all of the children. There was a few children who

6 actually -- there were some children who were very

7 academically inclined and they were at school. But the

8 majority, the vast majority, were not.

9 Q. And I think going to your statement, just to capture

10 this at paragraph 26, you say:

11 'Supervision was completely dead and the management

12 thought they had an office job. There was also

13 on-the-floor senior members of staff who just stayed in

14 their office as well. There were layers of people in

15 their offices instead of getting out and working with

16 the children.'

17 So --

18 A. Yes.

19 Q. Yes. It's not a way to build relationships?

20 A. No.

21 Q. And we know the background and you tell us about that in

22 paragraph 27, but we've covered the background in which

23 you came to Gryffe at that time. And at paragraph 29,

24 as we've already been told, you spoke to each member of

25 staff and spent time on shift with all of them?

1 A. Yes.

2 Q. And indeed you spoke to the children as well and young  
3 people.

4 And one of the things you say at paragraph 31 was  
5 there was a clear hierarchy which was a prominent  
6 feature at Gryffe?

7 A. Yes.

8 Q. Including someone who would be aspiring to be in the  
9 position of top boy or top dog?

10 A. Yes.

11 Q. And that was something that you learnt or became aware  
12 of?

13 A. Yes.

14 Q. That that was the way things were. And indeed, I think  
15 you learnt that one older boy who had recently left had  
16 been top boy, and you say he -- and I presume this is  
17 from information you obtained through speaking to staff  
18 and residents -- that he had basically had the run of  
19 the place and whatever he said went?

20 A. That was the primary complaint from the other young  
21 people, and it was a live complaint for them because  
22 although he had left, they were waiting to see who was  
23 going to be the new top dog. So that was certainly --  
24 I don't know that staff were talking about that so much,  
25 but that was the primary complaint and concern from the

1 young people. The young people were certainly fighting  
2 amongst themselves as well to establish -- I've seen  
3 that before, but this was really quite an extreme  
4 example of that.

5 Q. So there was, on the one hand, there was the people who  
6 were trying to replace him as top dog, but on the other  
7 hand, there was the other people who would have to live  
8 with top dog and run to top dog's rules?

9 A. Indeed.

10 Q. And be governed by whatever regime top dog thought was  
11 appropriate?

12 A. Yep.

13 Q. To keep them in check or keep order or do things as he  
14 wanted them to do.

15 And we're talking about a male here; top dog would  
16 be a male?

17 A. Well, not -- I mean, not always, but on this occasion it  
18 was the boys that were --

19 Q. Sorry, I meant here though?

20 A. Yes.

21 LADY SMITH: So when you talk about this structure -- which  
22 I don't imagine was an official structure.

23 A. No.

24 LADY SMITH: I say the structure, the way things were  
25 working for the children -- did it happen that the top

1 dog would be the one who liaised with staff, rather than  
2 other children, about what was required for the children  
3 and what wasn't and what the children were to be allowed  
4 to do and not allowed to do?

5 A. The children in Gryffe perceived -- in fact, there's at  
6 least one statement where a child says: 'Oh, all this  
7 carrying on and damaging the building wouldnae have  
8 happened when so-and-so was here, because he kept things  
9 in order for the staff'. And they described it quite  
10 naturally, as if it was the most normal thing. No sense  
11 for them that that wasnae right or that wasnae normal,  
12 and they disliked that intensely.

13 LADY SMITH: A sort of shop steward for the children? Or  
14 not?

15 A. Not a nice shop steward. I wouldn't like that as a shop  
16 steward. No, I think more a bully.

17 MR PEOPLES: He wasn't acting in the best interests of all  
18 the children?

19 A. No.

20 Q. As their spokesman --

21 A. No.

22 Q. -- in discussions with the staff.

23 A. No.

24 Q. He was basically enforcing a regime?

25 A. And getting a few perks for it as well, I would say.

1 Q. Well, we'll come to that, but as you say in  
2 paragraph 30, it appeared that he and the other big  
3 boys, including possible successors, were being used by  
4 the staff to keep order. It would suit them to have  
5 a top dog?

6 A. Yeah.

7 Q. It made their life easier?

8 A. Yes.

9 Q. They could drink more coffee in the office and let him  
10 get on with things?

11 A. Yes.

12 Q. And if he was effective, however he chose to operate,  
13 then their life would be a lot easier?

14 A. Yes.

15 Q. Is that the way it seemed to you?

16 A. That's the way it seemed to me, yes.

17 Q. But it was a real issue, as you say, for quite a few of  
18 the children because they were --

19 A. Uh-huh.

20 Q. -- facing the prospect of another top dog who might be  
21 like the predecessor?

22 A. Yeah. It was their primary issue, I would say.

23 Q. And you also say I think that, what came across was at  
24 paragraph 32, that:

25 'There was a favourite status which was very much

1 aligned with the hierarchy amongst the young people.  
2 The favourites were all boys, it was very gender  
3 specific. It was a case of if you kept everything nice  
4 and in order and easy for the staff, then everything  
5 flowed your way as a favourite.'

6 And I think that extended to privileges and perks --

7 A. Yep.

8 Q. -- of various kinds, including monetary perks?

9 A. Yes. Well, not so much monetary perks, but the way you  
10 would get money. So they would get a big amount of bus  
11 money, big amount of clothing money, big amount of  
12 recreation allowance in their hand, whereas other kids  
13 might be getting little bits doled out to them, so --

14 Q. And they got to spend it as they liked?

15 A. Yes.

16 Q. They didn't, for example, as we've heard in the past, if  
17 someone went out to purchase new clothing, a member of  
18 staff went with them and basically had a say in what  
19 they purchased?

20 A. Uh-huh.

21 Q. These people could go out and purchase what they liked?

22 A. Yes.

23 Q. And that has some implications, as we'll find out --

24 A. Yes.

25 Q. -- did it not?

1           You also say, and I think apart from your initial  
2           impressions of it was an unwelcoming place, at  
3           paragraph 34, the other conclusion you very quickly  
4           reached was that the state of the building was also  
5           itself an issue; it was unsuitable for purpose?

6   A.   Yes.

7   Q.   I mean, was it somewhere, for example, that if a member  
8           of staff was minded to abuse a child sexually or  
9           physically, there were plenty of opportunities?

10  A.   Absolutely.

11  Q.   And then you say in terms of organised activities, at  
12           paragraph 36, and, you've echoed this, you've said this  
13           already, that instead of organising activities, the  
14           staff would give some of the kids their share of what  
15           you call recreation money to spend themselves, and you  
16           say:

17           'I was shocked as I'd never seen that before.'

18           And you're a lot -- you've been in residential care  
19           for a long time?

20  A.   Yes.

21  Q.   With no disrespect.

22  A.   No, but yes, that's true.

23  Q.   But this was something that was a fairly novel thing?

24  A.   I had never seen it being done like that before. Now,  
25           it would be not out of the way for a child to get money

1           in their hand if they had a hobby or, you know, if they  
2           were going to the horse riding or something like that  
3           and they had to take the money with them. But just  
4           loosely like that, no, I had never seen that before.  
5           Because it's one of the few tools that you've got, so  
6           it's always like -- you'd always try to use it to the  
7           best advantage to build relationships and do activities  
8           with.

9   LADY SMITH: It's also public money.

10   A. Of course.

11   LADY SMITH: That you have to take good care of.

12   A. Of course.

13   MR PEOPLES: Spend wisely.

14           And then you say one of the matters which there was  
15           a question mark over, and I'm not sure you ever got to  
16           reach a conclusion, was whether the top boy who had left  
17           had been frequenting staff members' homes, and you say  
18           that other children were telling you that this was  
19           happening?

20   A. Yeah.

21   Q. And you were inclined to think that they were telling  
22           you the truth on that?

23   A. Yes.

24   Q. But when the staff were asked and when he was asked,  
25           they both denied it?

1 A. The staff denied it, and he -- I asked -- I didn't have  
2 direct access to him. In fact I didn't actually ever  
3 meet him.

4 Q. Okay.

5 A. But he had an aftercare worker or a through-care worker  
6 and I had asked them to gently sound him out about  
7 whether he had been at staff's homes and he denied it.

8 Q. Yes. So, and it wasn't the only denials you met during  
9 your three months --

10 A. No.

11 Q. -- because I think when we come on to one of the other  
12 matters, you were faced with a similar set of denials,  
13 that people wouldn't necessarily be admitting to things  
14 which seemed to be reasonably obvious to you.

15 And then you say at paragraph 39, because you had  
16 formed a view about the staff in general and that:

17 'The staff were lazy. This business about giving  
18 the children their recreation and clothing money in  
19 their hands was just to save them having to do the work.  
20 The managers were in their office, the staff were in  
21 their office, and the kids had this huge building where  
22 they were roaming about, vandalising it and fighting  
23 with each other.'

24 And also, I suppose I could add, going out and  
25 spending their money as they pleased?

1 A. Yes.

2 Q. You tell us at the next paragraph that issues you  
3 discovered were that there was no proper care planning  
4 at that time. Paperwork was not being kept up to date.  
5 The staff in general were not engaging with the children  
6 properly and that children were not being taken on  
7 outings or organised activities. So these were general  
8 features that you came across?

9 A. Yes.

10 Q. And we're in the late 1990s here.

11 A. Yes.

12 Q. We're not in the 1960s, or the 1950s. We're in a period  
13 when we've got the Children Act, the UNCRC,  
14 Angus Skinner's 'Another Kind of Home', Roger Kent's  
15 safeguarding review. You -- I take it you would have  
16 expected better?

17 A. Absolutely. It was like, in some aspects, it was like  
18 very bad practice from the early 1980s.

19 Q. Yes. Although, I suppose the problem with children  
20 having almost unlimited freedom to do as they please is  
21 that when you then try to introduce activities and  
22 organised and structured activities, as you say, their  
23 initial response in this case was, in some cases, of  
24 disappointment, because they were used to having their  
25 own way and doing their own thing?

1 A. Yes.

2 Q. So there was a certain resistance?

3 A. Yes.

4 Q. To change?

5 A. Uh-huh.

6 Q. On their part?

7 A. Well, I would be saying things like I'd like them to go  
8 to the cinema or be ice skating or take up a hobby, and  
9 they were really wanting to kind of roam about doing  
10 their own thing. So, yes, there was some resistance.  
11 Short-lived.

12 Q. Yes. I mean, you did introduce a programme and you  
13 basically enforced that there would be a structure. But  
14 that's not something you would say was in any way  
15 oppressive. That's what you'd expect a well-run  
16 institution or residence to --

17 A. It might have felt a little oppressive to the kids  
18 because it was not what they were used to or wanting at  
19 that point in time. But they really did have to be  
20 diverted from what they were doing. I mean, good  
21 parenting, to me, if your child is going slightly off  
22 the rails at home, you might structure more activities  
23 for them. You might structure more -- so to me that's  
24 just a replica of ordinary good parenting that we have  
25 in our families.

1 Q. Yes, it's not as if we're talking -- or going back to  
2 the times when --

3 A. It was nothing unpleasant. It was the cinema and the  
4 skating and --

5 Q. I was going to say, it's not --

6 A. -- you know, pony riding or whatever it was.

7 LADY SMITH: So you're talking about a combination of  
8 structure and boundaries, which all children need.

9 A. Yes.

10 LADY SMITH: If they're going to feel safe and secure.

11 A. Absolutely.

12 MR PEOPLES: And the activities aren't being introduced as  
13 a means of control, or introducing things like heavy  
14 chores --

15 A. Oh no.

16 Q. -- that's going to have no meaningful and important part  
17 of their development as children to enjoy a happy  
18 childhood.

19 A. No.

20 Q. These were activities that, on the face of it, children,  
21 if they got used to them, should be able --

22 A. To enjoy, uh-huh.

23 Q. -- to enjoy and benefit from.

24 A. Uh-huh.

25 Q. But there was none of that really being done at that

1 time?

2 A. Very little. Again, there was one or two children who  
3 had long-standing hobbies, but the minority, absolute  
4 minority.

5 Q. So the vast majority were basically running wild?

6 A. Roaming about, uh-huh.

7 Q. And if they weren't outside in the community doing  
8 whatever they wanted to do, they were in the building,  
9 making mischief.

10 A. Fighting.

11 Q. Fighting.

12 A. A lot of fighting.

13 Q. Damaging property. Being difficult to manage.

14 So the lack of the structure and the boundaries in  
15 some ways was creating a problem?

16 A. Yes.

17 Q. And making the children to some extent more difficult --

18 A. Yeah, combined with the lack of supervision.

19 Q. -- to manage.

20 And as you put it, bluntly, at paragraph 44, the  
21 situation was one where the staff were not fulfilling  
22 their professional duties towards the children. I mean,  
23 that's a clear example, is it not, of this being  
24 a failure to carry out their professional duty in  
25 a proper way?

1 A. Yes.

2 Q. And that extended from top to bottom?

3 A. Yes.

4 Q. And record-keeping, well, you say at paragraph 46,  
5 records were a complete shambles. You tried to find out  
6 why that might be so and the best explanation they could  
7 come up with was that the children were so difficult.  
8 But I would have thought it would have been obvious to  
9 any person at that stage, if they were working in  
10 a residential unit for children with complex needs, that  
11 that was always going to be --

12 A. Yeah.

13 Q. -- a potential challenge that they would have to manage  
14 and deal with, in an effective and appropriate way?

15 A. Well, I can think of situations where, if the children  
16 are presenting specific unusual challenges, that  
17 record-keeping could slip a little. But then you would  
18 sort that out and you'd get your record-keeping back on  
19 track. So it's not -- it's not impossible to imagine  
20 there's a little bit of ebb and flow with that. There  
21 might be times when you can do it better than you can do  
22 it at other times, because the children always take  
23 precedence, but that was not the reason in this case.

24 Q. No. And you formed a view about the leadership at  
25 Gryffe which -- and leadership I take it you would

1 instantly recognise is a very important consideration;  
2 effective leadership can mean a well-run residential  
3 unit?

4 A. Yes.

5 Q. Bad leadership or poor leadership can have the opposite  
6 consequence?

7 A. Yes.

8 Q. And you say that:

9 'Paul Creighton was extremely poorly motivated. He  
10 wouldn't tell anybody anything. He wouldn't tell  
11 a member of staff to buck up their ideas. If staff were  
12 trying to get through to a child about their behaviour,  
13 he would undermine them and would cut the legs away from  
14 them.'

15 So was that how it came across?

16 A. Well, I wasn't there with him, but that was certainly  
17 a staff complaint. So they would say: 'Well, we've been  
18 trying to speak to so-and-so about not going to school,  
19 but then he goes in and Paul says it's okay'. So he was  
20 undermining them in that sort of a ordinary day-to-day  
21 way.

22 Q. But he wasn't doing his job?

23 A. No, not --

24 Q. At all. I mean, if half of that was -- just if you  
25 accept even half of what was being said, they weren't

1 going to school, and if the staff were saying they  
2 weren't getting formal supervision, they weren't getting  
3 guidance or feedback, there weren't debriefing sessions  
4 after restraints and all of these things, surely that  
5 ultimately is laid at the door of the person in charge  
6 that's allowing these things to happen?

7 A. Absolutely.

8 Q. And indeed, I think the way you put it at paragraph 51  
9 is that:

10 'He was not acting in accordance with what was  
11 expected of a unit manager.'

12 You say:

13 '[You] found he wasn't doing any record sampling,  
14 [for example]. He didn't know the care plans and [didn't  
15 know] they weren't up to date. He wasn't setting proper  
16 parameters for care and control. He was allowing  
17 excessive sanctions. He wasn't debriefing staff after  
18 violent incidents and he hadn't ensured proper staff  
19 training.'

20 Well, that's quite a catalogue of failures?

21 A. Yes, that's correct.

22 Q. And I think in the end, you did recommend disciplinary  
23 action against Mr Creighton?

24 A. Yes.

25 Q. And he was demoted or downgraded, was he not?

1 A. Yes.

2 Q. As a result?

3 A. Yes.

4 Q. You do make the point at 52 that while he did face and  
5 was sanctioned in that way, there was nothing to suggest  
6 that he personally was being verbally, mentally or  
7 physically abusive towards children in his care; he  
8 simply wasn't doing his job?

9 A. Yes.

10 Q. But it was essential that he did do his job?

11 A. Absolutely.

12 Q. Because if he didn't do it, there was always the risk  
13 that other people might be doing the things he wasn't  
14 doing; in other words, abusing children or acting  
15 inappropriately towards them. Is that not --

16 A. Well, monitoring is an absolutely central part of what  
17 he should have been doing and he certainly wasn't doing  
18 any of that.

19 Q. And the problem didn't just sit at the level of  
20 leadership at the establishment level, because I think  
21 you also say that the external manager was not managing  
22 Mr Creighton very well either. So there was a failing  
23 at external management level too; is that right?

24 A. Yes.

25 Q. And then you address the issue of training and you say

1           that the staff hadn't been properly trained in TCI,  
2           Therapeutic Crisis Intervention. You said:

3           'I didn't get the feeling they were going out of  
4           their way to restrain people. It was more a feeling  
5           they weren't managing the kids well, so they were  
6           getting into difficult situations.'

7   A. Yes.

8   Q. So they were creating a situation where children would  
9           perhaps act up and then they would have to take some  
10           action, and they didn't even have the training to deal  
11           with it?

12   A. Or they wouldn't de-escalate sufficiently.

13   Q. Okay. Did they appear to have any real training in  
14           restraint?

15   A. I think they had had training, but at that point in time  
16           TCI was still relatively new, so I think they'd had  
17           training but it hadn't bedded in well. And they  
18           certainly might have been trained in the physical  
19           aspects of it, but I couldn't see evidence of  
20           de-escalation or hurdle help or the most important part  
21           of the TCI training, which is the avoidance of the  
22           incident.

23   Q. Well, we have heard some evidence, in the 1990s, of  
24           young people being restrained in a manner which doesn't  
25           on the face of it seem to be in accordance with any

1 recognised technique, if people would pile in or bring  
2 children to the floor, sit on them, twist their arms up  
3 their back and things of that nature, apply pressure to  
4 pressure points on their body. That's not something  
5 you'd have expected to happen in the 1990s, is it?

6 A. No, absolutely not. Because by that time there, you  
7 know, every member of staff would have been through the  
8 basic TCI training, whether they'd had refreshers or  
9 whether they'd been properly accredited after that or  
10 whatever the -- I can't exactly remember what the  
11 mechanism was, to make sure they were putting it into  
12 practice. But it's certainly necessary -- and I know I  
13 talk about that there was a lack of debriefing. I mean,  
14 that's one of the ways that you find out if people are  
15 utilising it properly, and that certainly was not being  
16 done at all.

17 Q. And you go on to check --

18 A. The root cause of some of the restraints that did happen  
19 was actually very easy to establish what the problem  
20 was. And I do go on to give a bit of evidence about  
21 what the problems were.

22 So that was not being done. And if that had been  
23 done, some of those restraints could have actually been  
24 avoided.

25 Q. Because you'd be wanting a manager in the top to be

1 looking at incident reports, looking at what debriefing  
2 there was, what discussion there had been with the young  
3 person to see whether the matter could be avoided in  
4 future and so forth.

5 A. Yes.

6 Q. These sort of things would presumably be just -- you'd  
7 expect these things to be done. But they weren't being  
8 done?

9 A. No.

10 Q. I think the staff were telling you that?

11 A. Yes.

12 Q. They weren't getting debriefed, they weren't getting  
13 guidance, support, things of that nature.

14 A. Yes.

15 Q. From on high.

16 And you say that, more generally at paragraph 58,  
17 that the staff weren't really functioning as a team?

18 A. No.

19 Q. And that they weren't -- I mean, there is a risk that  
20 saying they weren't loyal is -- it can be cut both ways,  
21 if you look at loyalty as protecting colleagues. But  
22 they weren't acting in a proper team-like way, is that  
23 what you're saying?

24 A. When I say they weren't loyal, I actually meant they  
25 weren't loyal to the establishment. So if my

1 establishment wasn't going well and somebody came in and  
2 questioned me about it, I would expect staff to say:  
3 'Oh, well, we're doing our best and we're trying this  
4 and we're trying to do that'. There was none of that,  
5 and it was just like: 'Oh, well, the manager's rubbish  
6 and my senior's rubbish and my colleague that I'm on  
7 shift with is rubbish'.

8 So it was really kind of like that, which I cannae  
9 really say I've ever seen anywhere else.

10 Q. Okay. And then you formed a view about a number of the  
11 female staff and you deal with that from paragraph 59  
12 onwards and you make some quite strong criticisms of  
13 them.

14 I think you say that one of the basic problems was  
15 that some of them, and one person in particular known as  
16 HGF, just narked and nagged at the kids all  
17 the time and was, I think, overly punitive, too many  
18 sanctions, too quick to argue and keep arguing with the  
19 children, creating an inflammatory situation and making  
20 matters worse. Is that the sort of thing you had in  
21 mind?

22 A. Yes. Exactly that.

23 Q. And I think you got the impression that none of these  
24 women that you've identified gave the appearance that  
25 they actually liked or even were wanting to provide care

1 in a proper way to the children that they were looking  
2 after?

3 A. Well, that really was my core point. I mean, the unit  
4 was in -- Gryffe was in a village and this would have  
5 been one of the better-paid employments available. So  
6 they were not necessarily well motivated towards the  
7 task of looking after children and that's how it come  
8 over to me.

9 Q. Well, the way you put it I think at paragraph 90, and  
10 I'll not go to it just now, is that staff were not warm,  
11 I think the female care staff were not warm, caring,  
12 nice or lovely to the children. You didn't see evidence  
13 of that?

14 A. No.

15 Q. They could be quite sharp with them?

16 A. Yes.

17 LADY SMITH: I wondered if part of the problem you were  
18 capturing was that a culture had grown of the women  
19 behaving like this and it rubs off on each other; that's  
20 the attitude that everybody has here to the children,  
21 which is that they're a nuisance, they have to be  
22 controlled, they're less important than other people and  
23 'we don't like them'.

24 A. It wasn't everybody. There was --

25 LADY SMITH: Right.

1 A. -- a couple of people who were actually off sick for the  
2 most part when I was there, because they had become  
3 completely overwhelmed. So there was a lady called  
4 Diane Ralph and there was a lady called Margaret  
5 McLaughlin, and while I had other concerns about them,  
6 they were warm and caring.

7 And the cooks and the cleaners were very warm and  
8 caring, nurturing. You know, would make them special  
9 little dinners, make them little treats that they liked.  
10 So it wasn't everybody. It was quite half and half.

11 LADY SMITH: Okay.

12 A. I mainly put it down to people that were not well  
13 disposed to the job that they'd found themselves in.

14 LADY SMITH: Thank you.

15 MR PEOPLES: But they were a significant part of the caring  
16 workforce because --

17 A. Yes, because they were the main grade staff.

18 Q. Yes. So if they weren't doing -- behaving in the way  
19 that some of the other staff were behaving, then that  
20 was going to have a knock-on effect for the whole place,  
21 wouldn't it?

22 A. Yes.

23 Q. And the way children felt and how they felt they were  
24 being treated. And it wasn't going to build up any  
25 good, healthy relationship with the children.

1 A. No.

2 Q. And it would come across to them perhaps, and I think as  
3 it did to you, that these people, in behaving that way,  
4 would come across as uncaring?

5 A. Yes.

6 Q. And in the case of one of the female staff, RHQ  
7 RHQ, you say that she was involved in something you  
8 would regard as a form of abuse or neglect?

9 A. Yes.

10 Q. And that you recommended that she be disciplined for  
11 that?

12 A. Yes.

13 Q. And she was. That was failing to take a reverse-charge  
14 call from a girl who had absconded from Gryffe?

15 A. Yes.

16 Q. She didn't -- she refused to take it, and that girl was  
17 missing, and you said she was a girl that she ought to  
18 have had concerns about?

19 A. Yes.

20 Q. And we'll come to that, I think, in due course.

21 You also say that one of the male staff was  
22 recommended for disciplinary proceedings, paragraph 70,  
23 RHT, and you say he was responsible for making  
24 a couple of adverse comments to kids.

25 Now, it may not have been, to your mind, the worst

1           thing you came across, but can you recall the sort of  
2           things that you have in mind?

3   A.   I know that it was more than one thing.  I can't  
4           remember -- I can't at first hand remember the details.  
5           The one I remember is about spitting in a jug of water.

6   Q.   Yes.

7   A.   Which is gross, you know, a fairly gross misconduct type  
8           of thing.

9   Q.   Just if I can pause there, I think you're referring and  
10          you tell us about it, it was a situation where  
11          a resident was in bed?

12  A.   Yeah.

13  Q.   They wanted a jug of water.  Another female member of  
14          staff asked RHT [REDACTED] to get the water?

15  A.   Uh-huh.

16  Q.   He wasn't happy, said he wasn't a slave.

17  A.   Uh-huh.

18  Q.   And in the end he made what he claimed to be a jokey  
19          comment that he would be spitting in the water.

20  A.   Yeah.

21  Q.   And that was reported by the other staff member and  
22          that's something that you became aware of?

23  A.   Yes.

24  Q.   And felt was totally unacceptable?

25  A.   Yes.

1 Q. Now, you have a section headed 'Abusive incidents and  
2 ill-treatment', and you mention one situation, which  
3 again involved RHQ [REDACTED], where you say that she  
4 had or appeared to have deliberately banged pot lids  
5 together next to the ears of a boy with some form of  
6 hearing impairment; is that right?

7 A. Yes.

8 Q. And she also -- you thought that she had held  
9 a transistor radio against his ear and played it loudly?

10 A. Yes.

11 Q. And that this had caused this particular boy to become  
12 distressed?

13 A. Very distressed.

14 Q. Now, I don't think at the end of the day that RHQ [REDACTED]  
15 [REDACTED] disagreed with that these things happened?

16 A. No, she didn't.

17 Q. But I think ultimately she said she wasn't aware of  
18 either the level of impairment or whatever, because  
19 I think I've seen records to suggest that on that  
20 particular complaint, the warning that she got wasn't  
21 for that; it was for the failure to take the  
22 reverse-call charge. But I don't think there was any  
23 doubt she said she had done something like that?

24 A. Yes.

25 Q. And so she wasn't trying to say that it never happened.

1           Is that -- I don't know if that's --

2   A.   That's correct.  And it was part of other strange

3       practice relating to getting kids up in the morning --

4   Q.   Yes, you --

5   A.   -- and pulling bed covers over and making loud noises.

6       So it was a more general practice that she had engaged

7       in.

8   Q.   And would you see that -- you see that as abusive?

9   A.   Oh, yeah, absolutely.

10  Q.   Because it might be, in the good old days --

11  A.   All parts of that, including pulling the bed covers off.

12  Q.   Yes.  I mean, I was going to say, but in days gone by,

13       we hear plenty of evidence of staff coming along in the

14       morning and perhaps being fairly quick to try and get

15       children out of bed, and they may well have done the

16       sort of thing that you say was happening at Gryffe in

17       1998?

18  A.   Well, when I started in 1984, that sort of thing would

19       have been absolutely forbidden.  And that's 15 years

20       before this.

21  LADY SMITH:  It's an invasion of the children's privacy.

22  A.   Absolutely.  Absolutely.  And absolutely forbidden as

23       early as the 1980s.

24  MR PEOPLES:  And would you have expected someone like

25       Paul Creighton to know that?

1 A. Expect him to know it was forbidden or expect him to  
2 know it was happening?

3 Q. Well, no, to expect him to know that it was  
4 unacceptable?

5 A. He would absolutely know it was unacceptable. And I can  
6 explain how I know that, if you like?

7 Q. No, it's okay, I just -- but also you would have  
8 expected the care staff at that stage in the day, 1998,  
9 to know that that was not an acceptable practice?

10 A. Yes.

11 Q. Would you not?

12 A. I absolutely would.

13 Q. Now, the other matter that you refer to is also that  
14 there was a situation where a particular boy was falsely  
15 accused of stealing a laptop from another boy, I think  
16 it was. And I think what concerned you was the way that  
17 the matter was dealt with, that this was a public  
18 accusation in the presence of other children. And also  
19 you were unhappy that the reason appeared to be that --  
20 or the only known reason appeared to be that he had been  
21 known to be someone who had stolen things --

22 A. Had previous.

23 Q. -- in the past. He had previous, yeah. And that was  
24 really the basis on which the finger was pointed at him.  
25 And indeed, it caused this matter to be raised publicly

1 in front of other children; it caused staff at Gryffe to  
2 go to his home and search his bedroom for the missing  
3 laptop, and you say then it was later discovered that he  
4 wasn't the person who had taken it, but he didn't even  
5 get an apology?

6 A. Yes.

7 Q. You think that's totally unacceptable, I take it?

8 A. Totally unacceptable.

9 LADY SMITH: And just to be clear, is that an incident that  
10 occurred while you were there trying to run Gryffe or  
11 something you learnt about?

12 A. It had happened literally just before I arrived and the  
13 boy was a big 15 or 16-year-old boy, and he was  
14 absolutely distraught about it, because they'd gone and  
15 searched his granny's house and she was trying to get  
16 him home, and it was -- caused him a lot of distress.

17 MR PEOPLES: And of course they took the law into their own  
18 hands, because the police weren't involved in the  
19 incident --

20 A. No.

21 Q. -- if they thought there was evidence of criminality.

22 Now, that, I take it, by 1998, wasn't the sort of  
23 thing that you would do if you thought there was some --

24 A. Well, no, you should avoid --

25 Q. Or would you?

1 A. I mean, I would avoid involving the police in  
2 unnecessarily criminalising any young person. But  
3 I would also avoid doing anything to harm the  
4 relationship with their family, on the whim of thinking  
5 that they were the thief.

6 LADY SMITH: I don't suppose the grandmother particularly  
7 enjoyed having her privacy invaded in this way, did she?

8 A. Well, I can't --

9 LADY SMITH: Maybe you don't know.

10 A. I can't speak to that, but I can imagine a situation  
11 where a family would say -- 'Can we look in his  
12 bedroom?', and the family would say, 'Aye, okay'.

13 LADY SMITH: Would they maybe think they have to because  
14 it's Gryffe?

15 A. Aye, exactly. Exactly. Quite a power imbalance.

16 LADY SMITH: And they mustn't upset Gryffe for the sake of  
17 the grandson?

18 Mr Peoples --

19 MR PEOPLES: A short break I think now.

20 LADY SMITH: -- I think we ought to take the afternoon break  
21 now, if it's all right for you, Carol?

22 A. Thank you.

23 LADY SMITH: Yes? Thank you very much.

24 (3.09 pm)

25 (A short break)

1 (3.22 pm)

2 LADY SMITH: Carol, is it all right if we carry on?

3 A. Absolutely.

4 LADY SMITH: Thank you.

5 Mr Peoples.

6 MR PEOPLES: My Lady, I've been advised that I didn't

7 actually give the reference for the statement so

8 I should perhaps just do it now for the record. It's

9 WIT-1-000001734.

10 LADY SMITH: Thank you.

11 MR PEOPLES: You don't need to worry about this, by the way,

12 Carol. It's just for the record.

13 A. Okay.

14 Q. We were looking at your statement and we had been

15 looking at some matters that you thought effectively

16 were unacceptable and abusive practices and you have

17 a section headed 'Isolation of children'.

18 A. Yes.

19 Q. And if I could just -- you learnt, I think, according to

20 paragraph 78, that -- from some of the children, that

21 there was a particular room that they were taken to to

22 calm down and you tell us that the children said they

23 didn't like this happening and that it was a cold room,

24 and it seems to have acquired the sort of label 'quiet

25 room'. And I think that when you came in, one of the

1 changes you made was to instruct staff to stop using the  
2 quiet room.

3 Can you just explain what the issue was and why you  
4 made that instruction?

5 A. Well, it wasn't sinister in the sense that it wasn't  
6 a locked room or a room that they couldn't get out of.  
7 However, it was a little cold room down at one end of  
8 the building that wasnae used for anything else, and  
9 kids would be asked to take ten minutes' time-out if  
10 they'd been maybe fighting with each other.

11 And they might actually be walked there, if they  
12 were causing a stramash or, you know, any kind of  
13 difficulty, they might be walked there and be expected  
14 to sit in there for a short period of time, so the kids  
15 were complaining that they did not like that.

16 And there was also always the question with these,  
17 because it's not the first time I'd seen a unit saying  
18 that they had a quiet room, and in fact I was similarly  
19 telling the staff at Newfield that they could not use  
20 the quiet room either. So the issue is then, if you say  
21 to a kid: 'Go and take ten minutes out', time-out,  
22 that's fine. They can do that in their bedroom. So  
23 that's the first thing. Go and calm down for ten  
24 minutes. Or you can go walk outside for ten minutes.  
25 But if you're demanding that somebody goes to a certain

1 place, the next step is that you might be taking them  
2 there, you know. Like, they might not be willing to go,  
3 and then you might be, instead of just sending them  
4 there or accompanying them there, you might be pulling  
5 them along. And really, it's not a good idea.

6 It's the thin end of a wedge to send them to a quiet  
7 room. So from that point of view, I was not in favour  
8 of it.

9 Q. And there were alternatives, like they could be asked to  
10 go to their own room?

11 A. Well, there's always alternatives. I mean, in Gryffe  
12 I suppose, the problem was that kids didn't have their  
13 own room. They had -- quite often the person they were  
14 fighting with might be sharing a bedroom with them,  
15 which is not ideal.

16 But you could -- you know, a sympathetic member of  
17 staff could walk them round the grounds until they've  
18 lost a wee bit of the steam, or lost a wee bit of the  
19 heat out of the situation.

20 Q. But I think you anticipate the danger is that if you've  
21 got someone that's fairly agitated and you're telling  
22 them to go to another place --

23 A. Uh-huh.

24 Q. -- and they're resisting and they have to be physically  
25 taken there, there's all sorts of possibilities?

1 A. Aye. Well, there's a temptation that staff will then  
2 think that they're going to convey them there by  
3 a physical method, and that's always going to escalate  
4 the situation.

5 Q. Yes, I think we've heard evidence in other situations  
6 where that does happen --

7 A. Yeah.

8 Q. -- if you restrain.

9 The other thing is it has all the appearances of  
10 solitary confinement?

11 A. Not as bad as other ones I've seen where the room was  
12 actually -- I mean, Kerelaw had one which had a lock on  
13 it. So -- and this was not like that. It was just  
14 a room that they asked them to go into. But it's not  
15 a good idea. And quite often -- some young people do  
16 want to be left alone. They don't want somebody, but  
17 some young people would prefer somebody just stayed with  
18 them when they were, you know, losing the heat out of  
19 the situation. So it's not -- it's just not good.

20 Q. If you were wanting a child to feel happy and contented  
21 in a calm room, you wouldn't put them in a cold --

22 A. Exactly, uh-huh.

23 Q. -- dark room at the end of a corridor?

24 A. Exactly.

25 Q. Just on -- what you also say at paragraph 80 is:

1           'The only other issues of physical abuse that  
2           I became aware of were incidents of children hitting  
3           other children at the behest of the staff.'

4           Now, what do you have in mind there?

5   A. More of this kind of peer pressure sort of a thing. So  
6           it was certainly put to me by a number of young people  
7           that they'd been, maybe to use the word that they would  
8           have used 'battered' by this head boy or by one of the  
9           big boys who were really doing the staff's bidding so  
10          I never saw that directly myself. Obviously, you know,  
11          it wasn't something that happened when I was physically  
12          there. But that was certainly put to me by young  
13          people.

14   Q. Okay. We've dealt with the staff member who was  
15          threatening to spit in the child's waters. I'm not  
16          going to go back over that one.

17   A. Okay.

18   Q. And you've got a section about peer sexual abuse. And  
19          I think that you were made aware that there were  
20          allegations that one of the top boys -- and this might  
21          have been the one that left --

22   A. Yes.

23   Q. -- had been sexually abusive towards one of the female  
24          residents and possibly her friend?

25   A. Yes.

1 Q. And did you speak to these girls?

2 A. Yes.

3 Q. And when you say in your statement that she was still  
4 quite traumatised and could see the whole thing  
5 repeating itself when a new top boy emerges, was that  
6 something you witnessed, that she was traumatised?

7 A. She was still upset about it and she was -- they were  
8 particularly talking to me about it because the boys at  
9 the time, and of which there were several very big boys,  
10 big -- physically big and older, they were vying amongst  
11 themselves about who was going to be the top dog, so it  
12 still hadn't really worked its way out of the culture in  
13 any way at that point in time and the girls were worried  
14 about that and understandably so.

15 Q. And maybe one of the problems is that one of the --  
16 perhaps anticipated privileges of top boy is to  
17 basically do what he wants to do with the girls?

18 A. Well, there certainly was that specific incident of  
19 a sexual assault, but there was also incidents of  
20 sexualised name-calling, which staff were alleged to  
21 have heard and not corrected, which is not something  
22 that I would expect either.

23 Q. Is that what you're saying at paragraph 88 then?

24 A. Yes.

25 Q. Sexually inappropriate remarks and these weren't being

1           picked up and addressed?

2   A.   They weren't being picked up and addressed and by and  
3       large the unit was quite sexist, I would say.  Just as  
4       a simple way of putting it in general terms, girls were  
5       expected to help clear the tables, but the boys weren't.  
6       There's a couple of wee things like that.

7   LADY SMITH:  That sounds misogynistic.

8   A.   Yes.

9   MR PEOPLES:  Was it a macho environment?

10  A.   No.

11  Q.   Because there are quite a lot of female staff?

12  A.   Aye, the male members of staff weren't what I would  
13       call -- I've seen a lot more macho and it wasn't really  
14       that, but it was actually coming from the women rather  
15       than the men, I would say.

16  Q.   Okay.  Now, I think the issue of absconding was  
17       a problem, but it was even greater of a problem because  
18       of what you're about to tell us about the next issue  
19       that you had to confront, which is in a section headed:  
20       'Child sexual exploitation and grooming'.

21           And can we just go through this.  You obtained some  
22       information, not from the care staff, but from perhaps  
23       the people that you thought were better, more caring,  
24       the cooks and cleaners, is that right?

25  A.   Yes.

1 Q. And you obtained, I think as you put it at paragraph 90,  
2 you obtained information from them that some of the  
3 girls were going out, to use their words, 'dressed like  
4 hookers'?

5 A. Yes.

6 Q. And that caused you I think to look at financial  
7 records?

8 A. I was looking at the financial records anyway. That had  
9 been part of the scope I had been given.

10 Q. And in looking at that, you obviously picked up the  
11 point that older girls, and I think we're talking as  
12 more 15/16-year-olds, they're not that old --

13 A. No.

14 Q. -- were getting what you term 'clothing money' and  
15 'recreation money' in their hand and being allowed to go  
16 out and spend money on their own?

17 A. Yes.

18 Q. That's something that you told us about earlier today.  
19 And you say that they were buying clothes that were  
20 unsuitable -- were not suitable, in your opinion,  
21 and certainly not suitable for going out on the street  
22 or -- well, sorry, no, I think I put that the wrong way  
23 round --

24 A. There's no nice way of putting it, I don't know.

25 Q. There isn't a nice way --

1 LADY SMITH: Well, just go for it, Carol. How would you put  
2 it as clearly as possible?

3 A. They were wearing clothes that were far, far too  
4 revealing and that were suggestive of what the cooks and  
5 the cleaners were saying.

6 MR PEOPLES: Yes, and they were not sort of clothes you say  
7 you would let a teenage girl in your care buy?

8 A. Absolutely not.

9 Q. They weren't being supervised when they were purchasing  
10 these clothes?

11 A. That's right.

12 Q. But they would be bringing back receipts?

13 A. Yep.

14 Q. And I think one item of clothing that you came across in  
15 the receipts was the purchase of a baby doll outfit?

16 A. Yes.

17 Q. And you tell us it's the sort of thing that someone  
18 might wear to their bed on their honeymoon and it was --  
19 it could hardly even be described as a dress and this  
20 was bought with council money and that staff were  
21 allowing girls who purchased this type of clothing to go  
22 out dressed like that?

23 A. Yes.

24 Q. And you saw a receipt for this, didn't you?

25 A. I saw a receipt and I didn't see the girl wearing

1 the item, but I did see the item.

2 Q. But you were told already by the cleaners and cooks that  
3 this was -- this was the sort of items they were  
4 wearing?

5 A. Uh-huh.

6 Q. And no one questioned these purchases?

7 A. No.

8 Q. But you questioned the staff on this matter, did you?

9 A. Yes.

10 Q. So what were they saying? Why did they permit this?

11 A. They were saying that -- all sorts of excuses. So the  
12 main thing about the permitting her to go outside  
13 wearing it was that they were saying, oh, she had a coat  
14 over the top and they didnae really know what she was  
15 wearing, but I didn't really accept that because the  
16 cooks and the cleaners knew what she had been wearing so  
17 how did that happen?

18 And the other thing was that there was -- I mean,  
19 I have given older girls their own clothing money if  
20 they wanted to shop with a friend instead of a staff  
21 member, I've done that myself. Not often, but I have.  
22 But I would then check through what they've got and I'd  
23 have a good look at the receipts and I'd make sure that  
24 they'd got stuff that they actually needed.

25 So -- 'cause you might get -- they might have needed

1 two pairs of denims and come back with a £100 pair of  
2 trainers instead. You know, that would typically  
3 happen. So there just had been a complete lack of care  
4 around about it, a lack of interest almost, and then  
5 combined with the cooks and cleaners who were a bit more  
6 interested saying: 'Oh, my goodness, you should see how  
7 she's going out'.

8 Q. And I think you found out at that least two of the girls  
9 had been wearing these clothes to go -- at least this  
10 was what you were being told or they were telling -- to  
11 go to do some sort of work at a local takeaway shop in  
12 Bridge of Weir?

13 A. Yes.

14 Q. That was what you were being told?

15 A. Yes.

16 Q. And you say that you discovered that they were then  
17 coming back in cars late at night and sometimes not  
18 until the next morning?

19 A. That's right.

20 Q. And you also say that I think you discovered that they  
21 weren't getting any set shifts at this particular place  
22 for definite week days and you say it turned out that  
23 they weren't actually doing any form of work such as  
24 serving food or other type of job in the takeaway  
25 itself?

1 A. Initially it was put to me by the girls that they had  
2 a job at the takeaway and that was soon shown not to be  
3 the case.

4 Q. Because you did go to the takeaway, didn't you?

5 A. I did.

6 Q. And as you tell us, you did go because sometimes they  
7 would not come back when they should do?

8 A. Yep.

9 Q. You went out and one of the places you would go was to  
10 the takeaway?

11 A. Yes, that's right.

12 Q. And indeed you say I think on one occasion that you went  
13 there in the middle of the evening when, if they were  
14 working, they should have been there?

15 A. That's right.

16 Q. And they weren't there?

17 A. That's correct.

18 Q. And I think some of the girls in question you learned  
19 were also travelling to Glasgow?

20 A. Yes.

21 Q. Wearing these clothes?

22 A. I couldn't say that for sure, but I know that they went  
23 out of an evening towards the takeaway wearing these  
24 clothes.

25 Q. Okay. And you say that the girls, when they returned,

1 the ones that were supposed to be working at the  
2 takeaway, were coming home late or didn't return until  
3 next day or next morning, that's paragraph 100, but  
4 would sometimes return with cigarettes or cash?

5 A. Yes.

6 Q. And they would be boasting about it to some of the other  
7 girls?

8 A. Yes.

9 Q. And in that way, the staff got to learn of it?

10 A. Yes.

11 Q. Now, you say then that to you there was every indicator  
12 that this was possible sexual exploitation of the girls?

13 A. Yes, I mean, I think 'possible' is putting it mildly.  
14 I think it was a pretty clear indicator of sexual  
15 exploitation.

16 Q. And indeed, your concern was that these girls were being  
17 exploited and being taken advantage of?

18 A. Yes.

19 Q. And I think what troubled you was that Paul Creighton,  
20 who was in charge, should have identified these issues  
21 and put a stop to the problem, the girls were vulnerable  
22 and presumably some of them had very difficult  
23 backgrounds and troubled backgrounds?

24 A. Yes.

25 Q. Is that right?

1 A. Yes.

2 LADY SMITH: What ages are we talking about?

3 A. 15 and 16. The two I can think of specifically, 15 and  
4 16, I think one of them might have been just over 16.  
5 There was three possibly involved, two definitely  
6 involved, a third possibly involved and between them 15,  
7 16 and 16 probably.

8 LADY SMITH: Thank you.

9 MR PEOPLES: And I think you tell us that one of the girls  
10 had been a victim of family abuse and was very  
11 vulnerable?

12 A. Yes.

13 Q. And another one had been at least involved in a problem  
14 with -- where a murder had taken place in the  
15 Ferguslie Park area of Paisley?

16 A. Yes.

17 Q. And she may, you thought, have previously been involved  
18 in some form of sexual exploitation?

19 A. Or abuse.

20 Q. Or abuse?

21 A. Uh-huh.

22 Q. And in fact that particular girl, you tell us, went into  
23 secure care, I think, for safeguarding reasons?

24 A. Yes.

25 Q. And indeed you're not a proponent of secure care, but

1 I think you thought in her case this was perhaps  
2 something that had to be done to protect her?

3 A. Yes.

4 Q. And what you did, I think, unlike Mr Creighton, was you  
5 took steps to put a stop to this?

6 A. Yes.

7 Q. And you tell us that, first of all, you put structured  
8 activities in place?

9 A. Yes.

10 Q. For the girls and others?

11 A. Yes.

12 Q. And this was to ensure that the girls, rather than going  
13 out to -- apparently work in the takeaway would go out  
14 on a structured activity with a member of staff?

15 A. Yes.

16 Q. Yes?

17 A. Yep.

18 Q. And -- but you tell us, and this maybe echoes what was  
19 said earlier, when you introduced changes that on one  
20 view is restrictive -- are restrictive, that the level  
21 of resistance that the girls showed were quite high, but  
22 you think that might have been because of pressures from  
23 the community to turn up to do whatever they were doing?

24 A. They could have still been getting pressure from the men  
25 in the shop.

1 Q. And others?

2 A. And others.

3 Q. And indeed, I think the other step you took initially  
4 was to go to the takeaway shop with a male person, you  
5 think it could have been a local community police  
6 officer but you're not sure?

7 A. I'm not sure. I've been involved in going to a number  
8 of shops for a number of reasons, like selling alcohol  
9 or whatever, and I can't visualise exactly who went with  
10 me, but the more I thought about it, the more I thought  
11 it was likely to have been the community police officer.

12 Q. And you basically told the staff, you say, what age the  
13 girls were?

14 A. Yeah.

15 Q. I think that they were not to employ them any more --

16 A. That they had no permission to employ them any more.

17 Q. And that the girls wouldn't be coming back?

18 A. That's right.

19 Q. You told them to stop phoning the girls and to remove  
20 their numbers from their phones?

21 A. Yeah.

22 Q. And you say you actually stood by while they took their  
23 numbers from their phones?

24 A. Yeah.

25 Q. And that was your hope, that that might put an end to

1           the matter?

2    A.   Yep.

3    Q.   But it didn't?

4    A.   No.

5    Q.   Because you say that there were still people from that

6           particular takeaway that were phoning the home or

7           phoning the girls, is that right?

8    A.   That's correct.

9    Q.   And there were also men coming to the end of the

10           driveway in cars and girls were running to meet them; is

11           that something that you were told was happening or did

12           you see it?

13   A.   I didn't see it, but I would come in and if I came in in

14           the morning, quite often that would have been the

15           report, because obviously after I had paid my visit to

16           the kebab shop -- I'm saying kebab shop, it might have

17           been a pizza shop, takeaway shop -- erm, I was

18           monitoring what was happening and there certainly were

19           a few instances where it had persisted.

20   Q.   And you were getting some information from the cooks and

21           cleaners on this matter, weren't you?

22   A.   Yes.

23   Q.   So they were useful sources of information?

24   A.   They had -- one of them had seen a young woman, after

25           we'd been to the takeaway shop, being dropped off by

1 a man in a car.

2 Q. I think at that point you felt you had to get the police  
3 more directly involved?

4 A. Yes.

5 Q. And what you wanted to do initially, in the interests of  
6 the girls, was to have the matter of the staff  
7 contacting the girls to stop and to desist requesting  
8 them to do whatever they wanted and that you wanted the  
9 whole thing stopped more effectively, is that right?

10 A. I wasn't really clear in my mind what the police would  
11 do. You know, I wasn't clear what their appropriate  
12 course of action would have been but my primary concern  
13 was just to put a stop to it.

14 Q. And you say that you understand, I think, that what  
15 happened was that the men from the takeaway shop were,  
16 to use your expression, 'warned off' by the police and  
17 that men stopped coming?

18 A. Uh-huh. At the very least that happened, I mean,  
19 I don't know if anything further to that happened. But  
20 the second time, the second warning to stop, definitely  
21 had the desired effect.

22 Q. And I think you had some concerns, although I don't  
23 think you ever got to the bottom of the concern, that at  
24 least one male residential worker might be linked with  
25 this activity?

1 A. Yep.

2 Q. And perhaps because I think you had learned that he was  
3 maybe a party who had got the girls in contact with the  
4 takeaway, is that right?

5 A. One of the three said that that was the case and the  
6 other two said it was not the case, so I was getting  
7 mixed information about that.

8 Q. And what was his reaction, because I think you raised  
9 the issue more generally with the staff and he was  
10 present. What was his reaction when you explained your  
11 concerns and the issue of the girls going dressed  
12 inappropriately to a takeaway shop, coming back late at  
13 night or early in the morning, what was his response?

14 A. Fairly dismissive and fairly -- fairly dismissive and  
15 poo-pooing that there was anything untoward happening,  
16 which, given what I was describing, is not really  
17 an appropriate reaction.

18 Q. Yes. And I think that though ultimately he denied any  
19 kind of wrongdoing or inappropriate contact with the  
20 takeaway shop, is that --

21 A. He did.

22 Q. And, indeed, I think none of the girls involved admitted  
23 to any form of sexual activity with anyone during these  
24 excursions out?

25 A. They did not admit to anything. They were very closed

1           in about it. Might well have been frightened.

2   LADY SMITH: Of course, that doesn't mean that they were in

3           the process of being groomed, not that they would

4           realise that?

5   A. I'm sure they wouldn't have realised it. They all

6           had -- each and every one of them had quite difficult

7           backgrounds and quite -- one of them probably was 16 in

8           name only. She was probably mentally a lot younger than

9           that, one of them.

10   MR PEOPLES: And I think you formed the impression, you say

11           this at paragraph 118, that the girls weren't being

12           completely truthful about their excursions to the

13           takeaway shop and were trying perhaps to hold back some

14           information about what was going on?

15   A. Yep.

16   Q. For whatever reason, you never really discovered but

17           there are all sorts of possibilities, but you did feel

18           that they weren't giving you all the information?

19   A. No.

20   Q. But the problem stopped, because of the police

21           intervention?

22   A. The problem stopped because of police intervention and

23           because of significant movements for the girls as well,

24           because it wasn't a one-pronged approach to the problem,

25           there was a number of strands to how I was trying to

1 tackle the problem. So I wanted the men to desist from  
2 whatever they were doing and I wanted to get the girls  
3 back into a much more normal lifestyle and in fact one  
4 of them went back to school and one of them quite  
5 impromptly after that went back to her family, which is  
6 all that she wanted. That was all that she really  
7 wanted to work on. So one went back to school, one went  
8 back to her family and the third girl, as you already  
9 mentioned, had a short term of protection in a secure  
10 unit.

11 Q. And what were the ages of the men in the takeaway shop?

12 A. I cannae really remember, probably around the same age  
13 that I would have been, maybe in their 30s.

14 Q. And the men that were seen dropping girls off --

15 A. Uh-huh.

16 Q. -- was anyone able to give a description of their age?

17 A. There was no particular exploration of that. There was  
18 comments that they'd seen girls getting out in a car,  
19 but the way that the driveway would have been, you might  
20 have seen a car, but you wouldn't necessarily -- it was  
21 trees, it was like a very big grounds and there was  
22 trees and whatever so you wouldnae necessarily be able  
23 to determine that from seeing somebody being dropped  
24 off, so, no.

25 Q. Do you know if the police took any action to try and see

1           who was doing this?

2   A.   Well, I thought very much about that, because I suppose,  
3           at the time, I was just quite happy that it had stopped,  
4           so I never really made it my business to enquire if the  
5           police had pursued it in any other particular way.  So  
6           I don't know if there was a police investigation into it  
7           or if it was just a matter that they warned them off and  
8           in my head when I was talking about it when I was being  
9           interviewed, I'm sure it was -- I thought it was just  
10          a matter of them being warned off.

11   Q.   Okay.

12   A.   And at that time we probably wouldnae have thought about  
13          it in the same way that we would think about it now,  
14          because it was certainly nothing that we'd come across  
15          before.

16   Q.   But you certainly weren't approached again by the police  
17          or --

18   A.   No.

19   Q.   -- and you weren't aware of any of the staff being  
20          approached --

21   A.   No.

22   Q.   -- to give information --

23   A.   No.

24   Q.   -- of what they'd seen, what the girls had been --

25   A.   No, there certainly wasn't that kind of investigation at

1 the time.

2 Q. But the person you had some concerns about, the male  
3 member of staff who was a bit dismissive of your  
4 concerns, he left shortly after?

5 A. He did.

6 Q. You had a concern about absconding and obviously these  
7 girls, to some extent, from what you've described,  
8 weren't just apparently going to work, they were  
9 absconding because they were back late or staying out  
10 overnight?

11 A. Yes.

12 Q. So that was a concern to you?

13 A. Yes.

14 Q. But I think you thought that the staff, whatever they  
15 were doing, were very complacent about the situation?

16 A. Yes.

17 Q. And, indeed, this, I think, led on to why  
18 **RHQ** was recommended for disciplinary action.  
19 This was a long-serving care worker who refused to take  
20 a reverse phone call -- a reverse charge phone call from  
21 a girl who'd absconded and I think what was more  
22 troubling as well was that this was a girl that you  
23 thought was being exploited potentially, who was going  
24 to the takeaway shop?

25 A. Yes.

1 Q. And I think, ultimately, I think you know that she was  
2 asked about this at a disciplinary hearing, is that  
3 right?

4 A. Yes.

5 Q. What, was her reaction?

6 A. Well, I certainly interviewed her about it and the level  
7 of absconding was one of the reasons I'd been sent to do  
8 the investigation in the first place, so that was one of  
9 Joan's -- Joan Lafferty had given me a kind of tick list  
10 of things she wanted me to look at and the level of  
11 absconding was one of those things. And there had  
12 already been some discussions with staff, because they  
13 were also, aside from the level of absconding being so  
14 high, they were also bothering the police on quite  
15 a regular basis. There was a number of different things  
16 going on.

17 There were kids who had a little bolt hole because  
18 some of the care leavers were in their own independent  
19 living flats nearby and then there was this business  
20 about them maybe going into Glasgow and them maybe being  
21 exploited. So there was a number of different things  
22 happening and they'd been given some instructions, but  
23 there was a bit of a lack of clarity about the  
24 instructions they'd been given.

25 So, for example, she was saying to me: 'Oh, well

1 we've been told we don't need to bother the police right  
2 away', which is absolutely true, they had been told  
3 that, but that was in the context of 'if you genuinely  
4 believe they're round the corner at their pals, what are  
5 you bothering the police for? Get your lazy self round  
6 and find out if that's where they are'. Or, 'If you  
7 think they're in a certain place, go and get them',  
8 which would be normal practice.

9 So she was using that as an excuse, that they'd been  
10 told to back off in their management of absconders which  
11 really wasnae what they'd been told.

12 Q. I mean I think you say that --

13 A. They'd been told to assess what required to be done and  
14 that it wasn't always a first approach was to call the  
15 police.

16 Q. And they were supposed to make a record of the  
17 assessment and you didn't find evidence of that?

18 A. Well, no, what happened was they were supposed to make  
19 a proper record that was then searchable for a pattern.  
20 So if I had absconders I'd be saying: when are they  
21 absconding? Do they abscond on a Tuesday when a certain  
22 member of staff's here? Do they abscond on a Monday  
23 when their mum doesnae turn up? So you'd be trying to  
24 determine a pattern and they recorded it in a way where  
25 they just recorded it in a running log and it wasn't

1       able to be interrogated in the way that I would be  
2       expecting it to be interrogatable, it would be on  
3       a spreadsheet and you'd be able to see when they went,  
4       who was on shift, when they come back, whether they were  
5       brought back by the police, whether they made it back  
6       under their own steam, and all a whole load of details  
7       that you would expect that would allow you to develop  
8       a risk assessment or a pattern.

9   Q.   And I think you said that you questioned Paul Creighton  
10       about the fact that it had been recorded in the records  
11       that RHQ [REDACTED] had not taken the call?

12  A.   Indeed.  And it's openly recorded.

13  Q.   And his reaction was she just used her judgment?

14  A.   His reaction was she just used her judgment.

15  Q.   And I think you were rather shocked by that response?

16  A.   Yes.

17  Q.   Because this was a young, vulnerable person who had  
18       apparently absconded and was making a call?

19  A.   Yes.

20  Q.   Herself?

21  A.   Yes, I cannot think of another example of a member of  
22       staff not taking a reverse charge call from a child in  
23       all my working life.

24  Q.   And I think that --

25  A.   It would be a regular occurrence for that to happen.

1 Kids would do a reverse charge call and it might be  
2 because they were wanting a way to get back home and you  
3 just go with that and you get them back home. I was  
4 astonished by that. Never seen it, anything like that  
5 before.

6 Q. And I think that RHQ herself -- and you  
7 thought she should have been sacked for this?

8 A. I did.

9 Q. But you say that when she was questioned, her reaction  
10 was to shrug her shoulders and say that she believed the  
11 girl was just expecting a taxi or lift back home and you  
12 saw that as evidence that she had no cognisance of the  
13 risk or danger that the girl might have been in or  
14 subjected to at the time?

15 A. Correct.

16 Q. Yes. And that was inexcusable, I would have thought, in  
17 your view?

18 A. Yes.

19 Q. And that she was -- she seems to have been fortunate to  
20 have got away with a six-month warning?

21 A. Yes.

22 Q. And she left shortly afterwards, or didn't she?

23 A. I think she made it clear that she was intending just to  
24 leave.

25 Q. Now, I'm not going to take you to the changes made

1           because we can read those for ourselves and you've  
2           already, I think, outlined some of the changes you had  
3           to take, but you did get rid of some old, long-standing  
4           rules like the quiet room and pulling covers off the  
5           beds and things of that nature, the ones that were  
6           perhaps -- should have been put away in the 1980s rather  
7           than the late 1990s?

8   A.   Indeed.

9   Q.   And of course you instituted this structured programme  
10       of activities and so forth and you say at 156, if  
11       I could just pick up something you say there, that you  
12       say that you had been in places where you've stopped  
13       long-standing rules and the staff are usually happy  
14       because -- with that because they've agreed it was the  
15       time to update themselves and to stop doing things that  
16       were done in the past but not at Gryffe:

17               'The only people that were happy were the cooks and  
18               cleaners because they were a bit more nurturing.'

19               Is that the impression you got?

20   A.   Yes.  A bit of resistance to any, any kind of changes,  
21       even the ones that were kind of long overdue and even  
22       ones that were mandated by what the policy was by that  
23       time.

24   Q.   And it was still difficult after your changes to get  
25       them out of the office and do the things they were paid

1 to do?

2 A. Yes.

3 Q. Yeah?

4 A. Yeah.

5 Q. I think you did, as one of the changes though, did --

6 were responsible for introducing better in-house

7 training, including in areas such as TCI training and

8 safeguarding, that was one of the changes as well?

9 A. Yes, and record-keeping, which was really, really

10 outdated.

11 Q. But, as you say, Gryffe was really on its last legs and

12 the children were reducing over time?

13 A. Yeah.

14 Q. And while there was a review of all the care plans

15 I think --

16 A. There was.

17 Q. -- some of the children were sent -- went back home and

18 some went to other places --

19 A. Yes.

20 Q. -- as part of this closure process.

21 One thing you do say, if I can just pick this up at

22 175 of your statement, Carol, you say that you don't

23 think there were any complaints raised by the children's

24 individual social workers?

25 A. Yeah.

1 Q. Although I think there was evidence they did visit on  
2 a fairly regular basis?

3 A. Yes.

4 Q. And I think you say that Sheena Duncan was constantly  
5 telling social workers that they were the vanguard of  
6 safeguarding?

7 A. Yeah.

8 Q. Part of their responsibilities was to go in and out of  
9 units and that they were an extra pair of eyes --

10 A. Yes.

11 Q. -- and no doubt ears. So if they were saying nothing,  
12 is this a situation where they weren't doing their job?

13 A. I think it was maybe a little more than that. I think  
14 they had -- there was a very static group of social  
15 workers, who had been going in and out of Gryffe for  
16 years and probably saw it as just the way it had always  
17 been, so maybe were uncritical of the fact that it had  
18 not moved with the times.

19 Q. And that could be said also of the external manager?

20 A. Yeah. And while there was lots of developments for  
21 residential workers, it wasnae the fieldworkers' main  
22 day job, so they maybe wurnae as well-informed about the  
23 changes in expectation and the changes in practice in  
24 the way that it should be, than they might have been.

25 Q. But they are still an external scrutiny of practice --

1 A. Absolutely. Absolutely.

2 Q. -- and they should be talking to the children --

3 A. Absolutely.

4 Q. -- in a way that gets information about how they're  
5 being treated, what practices are being carried out.  
6 I mean, children with the right form of engagement, can  
7 tell you quite a lot, can't they?

8 A. Absolutely.

9 Q. As can cooks and cleaners, it would appear?

10 A. As can cooks and cleaners.

11 Q. Yeah. But one of the points you do make, which is  
12 a systemic point, is that people like Paul Creighton and  
13 those below him could also point to the fact that  
14 perhaps they weren't getting properly managed themselves  
15 and properly guided, supervised and trained and all  
16 that, so they, to some extent, would use that as  
17 a potential defence --

18 A. Indeed.

19 Q. -- of their own position and to some extent they maybe  
20 had a point?

21 A. It was true, uh-huh, to some extent it was true.

22 Q. But you say at least that in Sheena Duncan's case  
23 towards the end of your statement, paragraph 204, that  
24 she wasn't bothered about what you uncovered and whether  
25 it got to the press. She wanted things to be

1           investigated properly --

2    A.  Yeah.

3    Q.  -- and if it got into the papers and it caused some

4           degree of reputational harm, so be it?

5    A.  Absolutely.

6    Q.  Is that something that in your experience was common

7           practice in days gone by, or was there more of

8           a reputational risk concern?

9    A.  It was -- I suppose I was thinking about that

10           retrospectively, because it was not my experience in

11           relation to the Kerelaw matters.  There was a great deal

12           of concern about reputational harm and I suppose, by

13           contrast, Sheena was not one bit concerned about

14           reputational harm and she was absolutely very concerned

15           about the standards of care for children, which makes

16           the job very considerably easier if you've got to do

17           an investigation like this, because you don't have to

18           worry that, you know, what's going to befall you if you

19           reveal the wrong thing.

20   Q.  No pressure was put on you --

21   A.  None.

22   Q.  -- to confine your investigation?

23   A.  None.

24   Q.  Or to change your report?

25   A.  None.

1 Q. Lastly, if I just deal with one final matter, that  
2 you've been giving some reflection to a concern that you  
3 have about disciplinary hearings and their outcomes and  
4 the fact that written warnings for six months are  
5 removed from the employee's record after six months and  
6 it might be very difficult, unless some informal record  
7 is made elsewhere, to know what has happened in the case  
8 of a particular employee?

9 A. Yes.

10 Q. And if something happens in the future that's of  
11 a similar nature, you don't have that information to  
12 draw on?

13 A. Well, it's supposedly been expunged, it should be  
14 expunged, and you may or may not have people who've been  
15 around long enough to remember.

16 Q. But if you don't have those people and there's no  
17 official record, someone could be the subject of  
18 a number of complaints and indeed outcomes that were --  
19 that result in a sanction, but once the period of  
20 sanction's over --

21 A. They get a clean slate again.

22 Q. -- they've got a clean slate and that's the formal  
23 position, is it not?

24 A. Well, to my understanding, it was the formal position.  
25 It was such a prevailing incident -- it's such a

1 prevailing issue in Kerelaw that the HR department had  
2 to really try and rethink that --

3 Q. But what about the -- sorry --

4 A. -- because people did literally have a six-month  
5 warning, get a clean slate, have another disciplinary  
6 and that that repeated itself six, seven, eight, nine  
7 times.

8 Q. I don't know if you can help me but, I mean, this  
9 pre-dated the SSSC?

10 A. Yes.

11 Q. And the new form of regulation --

12 A. It did.

13 Q. -- of the workforce. Presumably a written warning would  
14 be something that would have to be notified to the SSSC?

15 A. I believe that that is the case, yes.

16 Q. I don't know what records they keep for how long --

17 A. Well, I suspect that they make a distinction and this is  
18 my understanding and, you know, I might not be  
19 100 per cent correct, given I'm a retired lady and it's  
20 not my daily business any more, but I believe that the  
21 SSSC make a distinction between punitive and  
22 non-punitive disciplinary outcomes. So a six-month  
23 warning might not be something that they would retain  
24 information about.

25 Q. So it could be the case that no one keeps the

1 information and that --

2 A. Uh-huh.

3 Q. -- perhaps potentially valuable information could be  
4 lost?

5 A. And cumulative information. You know, something goes  
6 from being a one-off to something that a member of staff  
7 routinely does to different young people when he gets  
8 the chance.

9 Q. Well, I think we have already heard, in a different part  
10 of this case study, about the problem of where  
11 allegations are made and there's no determination about  
12 them and the employee moves on?

13 A. Uh-huh.

14 Q. And what happens and what weight, if any, can be given  
15 to them and who can be told about them; is that  
16 a concern to you?

17 A. Absolutely, and I can clearly think of examples where  
18 employees moved on to avoid disciplinary measures or to  
19 avoid even disciplinary hearings, so they knew they were  
20 under investigation, they knew that it wasn't going too  
21 well, they made themselves scarce before they ever got  
22 to a hearing or before there was ever any outcome and  
23 they found employers who were unscrupulous enough,  
24 employers in the care sector, who were unscrupulous  
25 enough to take them on board and to not heed the

1 warnings of the previous employer.

2 Q. But they might not even got told about them for they're  
3 merely allegations --

4 A. But even if they did get told about them, they still  
5 took them on and gave them again an absolutely clean  
6 slate. And that happened, absolutely happened with more  
7 than one employer, and it happened in relation to issues  
8 that I would regard as quite serious.

9 Q. And of course the risk is that they go on to work in  
10 another, for example, childcare setting and maybe do  
11 something very serious?

12 A. Indeed.

13 MR PEOPLES: Well, Carol, these are all the questions I have  
14 today and I'd just like to thank you very much for  
15 attending today and assisting the Inquiry so thank you  
16 very much.

17 A. You are very welcome.

18 LADY SMITH: Carol, let me add my thanks once more for you  
19 coming here this afternoon and allowing yourself to be  
20 grilled over the details --

21 A. Gently grilled.

22 LADY SMITH: -- that you've provided. As I said before,  
23 your written statement is already before me so that's  
24 already evidence that I have and it's really valuable,  
25 but you've added to that today. So I'm really grateful

1 to you and I'm now able to let you go, thank you.

2 A. Thank you very much.

3 (The witness withdrew)

4 LADY SMITH: I have two more names of people who are  
5 protected by my General Restriction Order and they're  
6 not to be identified as referred to in our evidence  
7 outside this room and that was RHT and  
8 RHQ.

9 So I take it that's it for today, Mr Peoples?

10 MR PEOPLES: Yes, we have one more witness for Gryffe  
11 tomorrow morning and then we'll move on to a different  
12 establishment in the afternoon.

13 LADY SMITH: Very well. I'll rise now until 10 o'clock  
14 tomorrow morning. Thank you.

15 (4.05 pm)

16 (The Inquiry adjourned until 10.00 am  
17 on Thursday, 19 February 2026)

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