

Friday, 20 February 2026

1

2 (10.00 am)

3 LADY SMITH: Good morning, and welcome to our last day of
4 the evidence this week in relation to Phase 10 of our
5 case studies, broadly local authority evidence, but not
6 just places that were local authority institutions and
7 homes, but places that local authorities used to
8 discharge their responsibilities, as I've indicated
9 before.

10 Now, we've already moved through some institutions,
11 some homes, and we've started just yesterday looking at
12 Redheugh. And today we move on to some more evidence
13 about Redheugh, I think; is that right, Ms Forbes?

14 MS FORBES: Yes, good morning, my Lady. The next witness is
15 an applicant for Redheugh, who is anonymous and is known
16 as 'George'.

17 LADY SMITH: Thank you.

18 'George' (affirmed)

19 LADY SMITH: 'George', thank you for coming along this
20 morning. You'll see that red folder in front of you has
21 got your written statement in it. That's already
22 evidence before me, I'm really grateful to you for
23 providing that, it's been so helpful to have it to read
24 in advance.

25 We're not going to go through it word for word

1 today, but there's some particular aspects of it that
2 we'd like to focus on and we'll guide you through that.
3 That's not to say that if you have any questions or if
4 there's anything else you want to tell me today, you're
5 not able to do that, you are. Do feel free to interject
6 if that's what you would like to do.

7 A. Okay.

8 LADY SMITH: Also, 'George', I do understand that what we've
9 asked you to do and you've agreed do is something that's
10 really very difficult. You've come into a public place
11 to talk about yourself, and not just yourself now, but
12 yourself when you were a child, all these years ago.
13 I do understand sometimes that's straining the memory,
14 but I also know that what we're going to ask you to
15 think about and talk about was a time that wasn't
16 exactly easy for you, if I can put it that way.

17 I know people get upset. I know people can be
18 overtaken by their own emotions and it can be quite
19 a surprise. You're no different. Don't worry if that
20 happens. And if you want a break, that's not a problem.
21 We hope your evidence will be finished by 11.30. That's
22 the plan. But we can play it by ear if necessary, all
23 right?

24 A. Okay.

25 LADY SMITH: Any questions at any time, just speak up.

1 A. Okay.

2 LADY SMITH: All right. I'll hand on to Ms Forbes, if
3 that's all right with you, okay. Thanks.

4 Questions from Ms Forbes

5 MS FORBES: Thank you, my Lady.

6 Good morning, 'George'.

7 A. Good morning.

8 Q. Now, your statement is in front of you in the red
9 folder. If I could just ask you to turn to the last
10 page of your statement, it should be page 23.

11 A. Yes.

12 Q. And on the last page, there's a paragraph, 111, where
13 there is a declaration and it says:

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

16 I believe the facts stated in this witness statement are
17 true.'

18 And then you've signed it and it's dated
19 24 March 2022. Is that right?

20 A. That's right.

21 Q. Is that still the position?

22 A. Yes.

23 Q. Okay. You can just go back to the beginning of your
24 statement if you want --

25 A. Could I ask a question, though?

1 Q. Yes.

2 A. Will it be published with that name?

3 Q. No, your name is going to be redacted.

4 A. Okay, right.

5 Q. Yes, so you're known as 'George' and that's how you'll

6 be referred to in any transcripts.

7 A. Okay.

8 Q. And in your statement, your name isn't going to be

9 released to anyone, okay?

10 A. Okay.

11 LADY SMITH: So that when we talk about redactions --

12 A. I understand.

13 LADY SMITH: -- the black box -- you can see on the screen

14 actually, the black boxes are there --

15 A. Oh yeah.

16 LADY SMITH: -- and the same when it comes to your

17 signature, none of that's visible on publication. Is

18 that the reassurance you were looking for?

19 A. That's fine, yeah.

20 LADY SMITH: Good. Ms Forbes.

21 MS FORBES: Thank you, my Lady.

22 'George', we give your statement a reference number

23 just for our records so, for the transcript, I'm going

24 to read that out, but it's nothing for you to worry

25 about. It's WIT-1-000000947.

1 Okay. 'George', you tell us in your statement you
2 were born in 1959, is that right?

3 A. That's right, yeah.

4 Q. And then you go on to tell us about your life before you
5 went into care and this is from paragraph 2 in your
6 statement, so I'm just going to ask you some things
7 about that and go through that with you, if that's okay.

8 I think, 'George', you tell us you lived with your
9 mother and your grandparents in Elgin after you were
10 born, is that right?

11 A. That's right, yes.

12 Q. And you tell us also that you had four aunties and two
13 uncles living in the house along with you and your mum
14 as well as your grandparents?

15 A. Yeah, on and off, the numbers changed.

16 Q. So quite a lot of people in the house?

17 A. Yeah.

18 Q. But there came a time, you tell us, 'George', when your
19 mother got married to a man and you've given us his
20 name.

21 A. Yeah.

22 Q. And that was when you were about 3-and-a-half?

23 A. That's right.

24 Q. And then when that happened, you moved in with his
25 parents and your mum and him, also though in Elgin, is

1 that right?

2 A. Correct.

3 Q. And you explain that you didn't actually know who your
4 biological father was until later on in life and I think
5 you say you thought that your stepfather really was your
6 father?

7 A. Yeah, up until age 11.

8 Q. Okay. And I think you go on to explain, 'George', that
9 later in life you actually found your biological father
10 and he explained that he'd been in the Navy in
11 Lossiemouth when he'd met your mother and they'd got
12 together, but he didn't actually know that you existed?

13 A. That's right.

14 Q. So you had that contact as an adult with him, but then
15 sadly he died. But I think you tell us that you did
16 keep in touch with his wife, who lived abroad?

17 A. I did, until he died.

18 Q. And she died as well. But before that I think you went
19 to visit her abroad?

20 A. Yeah.

21 Q. You tell us, 'George', then that whilst you were young
22 and about 5, your mum and -- you refer to your
23 stepfather in your statement as your dad, so --

24 A. Uh-huh. I still do.

25 Q. You still do. So your mum and your dad had twins when

1 you were about 5 and that was a boy and a girl, and then
2 just before that, I think you explain that you moved
3 into what you describe as a slum?

4 A. Yeah.

5 Q. In Elgin. And you tell us that you went to two
6 primary schools and you were back and forward between
7 the two, because you stayed at your mum's parents' when
8 she was in hospital having your other siblings?

9 A. Yeah. Well, having my third, my sister. Nae the twins.
10 The twins were born when we were in the close, in the
11 slum, and then we moved to a council house and my mum --
12 I went and stayed with my granny, 'cause she was having
13 ██████████.

14 Q. And I think you explain there was then two other
15 children. There was --

16 A. Aye.

17 Q. -- the sister you've mentioned and a brother?

18 A. Another brother, aye.

19 Q. And I think they came along when you were 8 and then 15,
20 is that right?

21 A. That's right.

22 Q. I think you then go on, 'George', to tell us about some
23 of the abuse that happened whilst you were living with
24 your parents, and this is from paragraph 7. And you
25 explain that you don't remember your parents ever

1 hitting your brother or your sisters, and your parents
2 weren't violent towards each other. However, you do
3 tell us about abuse that you suffered from your mum,
4 this was physical abuse?

5 A. Aye.

6 Q. One occasion where she threw you down the stairs when
7 you were only 3 and then another --

8 A. 2, 2-and-a-half.

9 Q. Sorry, 2-and-a-half, and then another occasion when you
10 were 4, you tell us, where she burnt you with an iron?

11 A. Aye, 4, aye. I didnae know about that. I only learned
12 about that 'cause she told me she did it.

13 Q. So you didn't have a memory of that, it's something she
14 told you.

15 A. Nah, and I've got nae scars from that that I know of.

16 Q. But you go on, 'George', and I think this is the main
17 abuse that you tell us about that you suffered whilst in
18 the family home, you tell us about your dad and his
19 physical abuse towards you and you say that that started
20 when you were maybe about 4-and-a-half, that you can
21 remember?

22 A. Just after they got married, I was 4-and-a-half/5, aye.
23 And he violently hit me since then up until I was 15
24 when I hit him back. He was a coward. And, er, he
25 threatened me since then, but, erm, I just looked at

1 him, he knew nae to do anything. And there was a bit of
2 sexual abuse and that from my dad, touching, but he
3 never got away with that. I made a lot of noise and
4 stopped him.

5 Q. And I think you tell us about this attempt at sexual
6 abuse at paragraph 11, so we have your detail about that
7 there, 'George', and I think --

8 A. Oh yeah.

9 Q. -- you say he maybe tried that twice or something?

10 A. Aye, twice, I think.

11 Q. But the physical abuse was regular?

12 A. Yeah.

13 Q. I think you say there was one particular occasion, this
14 is at paragraph 13, when you wouldn't eat cabbage that
15 you'd been given for dinner and you said you didn't want
16 it when he told you to finish it?

17 A. Aye.

18 Q. And he pinned you up against a wall and started punching
19 you?

20 A. And my brother walked away from the table withoot eating
21 his, withoot a word, never mentioned anything. So I got
22 up and he says, 'Where are you going? Cabbage'.
23 I says, '█ hasnae ate his'. 'You're eating yours.'
24 Bang. My mum had to jump on his back and pull his hair
25 to get him off.

1 Q. You say, 'George', that you were about 11 when that
2 happened?

3 A. Nae sure, cannae mind. Probably 11 or 12.

4 Q. You describe yourself as being a rake of a boy?

5 A. Aye, I was real skinny.

6 Q. You also say there was a time when he asked you to mug
7 him after his work to --

8 A. That's right, aye.

9 Q. And he worked at the [REDACTED] or the -- in the [REDACTED], but
10 I think you say that you explained to him that the
11 insurance company would work it out and you --

12 A. I put him off it, aye, with that.

13 Q. I think you say he was dumbfounded that you'd come out
14 with this --

15 A. Well, 'cause where we lived, there was a lot of
16 criminals in that hoosing scheme and I knew quite --
17 their sons and stuff and I wisnae active in that life.
18 But, erm, when he said this to me, he was actually
19 wanting me to get one of them to do it. And I says,
20 'You don't want to do that, you'll end up with nothing,
21 they'll nae give you any money.' And then he asked me
22 to do it, just give him a black eye or something. And
23 I put him off with that story about this insurance, that
24 maybe the police might close the investigation, but the
25 insurance will keep it open. How I knew that, I don't

1 know.

2 Q. But certainly that put him off?

3 A. Aye.

4 Q. 'George', you tell us about your time at high school at
5 Elgin Academy, this is at paragraph 15, and you say that
6 you used to skip school a lot on your own and it got so
7 bad, you were too embarrassed to go back, and at that
8 time you describe yourself as being depressed and
9 suicidal?

10 A. Within the first week of going to the academy after
11 primary school, a gang of boys beat me up so badly I
12 couldn't attend school for a week, I was black and blue
13 all over. And we got over that and the bullying stopped
14 after I fought back, and then it got to that stage. But
15 that was fae, I think retrospectively, from the abuse at
16 home, and what was going on at home was -- I didnae feel
17 like going to school or -- I was lost, I was very
18 confused and lost. And suicidal and stuff.

19 Q. And you were running away at that time as well?

20 A. Running away, suicide attempts, aye.

21 Q. And I think you say that one time you tried to go to
22 your granny's after a beating?

23 A. Yeah.

24 Q. By the time you got there, you think your parents must
25 have phoned ahead?

1 A. Well, they had. They phoned ahead and my granny
2 wouldnae let me in. She says -- she blamed me for it.
3 I got the blame for it.

4 Q. And the way that you've described it is you say that she
5 told you you'd made your bed and that you were to go and
6 lie in it?

7 A. That's right, that's what she said, aye.

8 Q. And she called you a 'bad bugger'?

9 A. I cannae mind what she called me, but she said I'd made
10 my bed, I've got to lie in it.

11 Q. But it seems then from that --

12 A. But they would tell lies, my parents, they would lie,
13 and put -- shift the blame.

14 Q. So it seemed that they turned her against you at that
15 point?

16 A. At that minute -- at that event, aye, but she was never
17 against me.

18 Q. You tell us, 'George', it was about around this time you
19 had a social worker called Denis Grant?

20 A. Yeah.

21 Q. And you tell us about an incident that happened where
22 you had an asthma attack and that led to your father
23 assaulting you during the course of him trying to help
24 you with an inhaler and he knocked you unconscious?

25 A. That's right.

1 Q. And the police were involved and --

2 A. I woke up in a doctor's car outside the hoose on the
3 back seat and the doctor came and -- I was -- aye,
4 I think he was there when I woke up. Then he went back
5 in the house and he told me the police were in, speaking
6 to him and I could go back in. They wouldnae come near
7 me. I wouldnae even see them, and in the morning,
8 Denis Grant, I think, appeared and took me away.

9 Q. And when you say he took you away, was this when he took
10 you away to care?

11 A. Redheugh. Redheugh.

12 Q. Okay. Because, 'George', you also mention an incident
13 where you were involved with some other boys in
14 an assault on someone, and you say you were about 15 and
15 that youse were all charged in relation to that, but you
16 explain that you don't think that you hit the guy at
17 all, but this led to a charge and a Children's Panel?

18 A. Yeah, five of us were charged with, initially they said
19 attempted murder and then serious assault. And
20 I remember that quite well noo. I remember the victim's
21 name. I'll nae say it. And the two guys that were
22 doing the hitting on him were, main instigators, were
23 two of my friends, and remembering, I did run in and
24 I kicked the guy once when he was lying doon on the
25 ground. So the charges were probably, erm, well

1 justified.

2 Q. And you say there was a Children's Panel as a result of

3 that?

4 A. Yeah.

5 Q. Is that when Denis Grant was allocated to you as

6 a social worker?

7 A. I'm nae sure, but probably.

8 Q. But in any event, you were put on a year's supervision?

9 A. That's right, aye.

10 Q. So just so we understand then that this was before the

11 incident with the asthma attack and you being taken away

12 the next day?

13 A. Must have been, aye. I cannae remember the timeline.

14 Q. Okay. I think you tell us there were a few other

15 incidents?

16 A. And I'm saying that that -- I was taken away the next

17 day after the asthma attack. I'm pretty sure that's

18 what happened, but I could be wrong there, but

19 I'm pretty sure that's -- 'cause I think that must have

20 happened 'cause I was in -- my dad tried to kill me.

21 Q. Well, I think you tell us, 'George', at paragraph 19

22 that the day that your gran died, you got a beating from

23 your dad that day and you say that --

24 A. That was before she died.

25 Q. Okay, so this was before?

1 A. Aye, she died that day, but before she died, he
2 didnae --

3 Q. He didn't know that.

4 A. Nae contact with her until the evening when she died.
5 My dad didn't have contact with her until the evening
6 that she died. But during that day, he'd assaulted me
7 and I'd ran off. And I think I went up the high street
8 and I smashed a shop window in the evening about tea
9 time, and then I went up a close. The [REDACTED]
10 closed. My dad worked in the [REDACTED], the [REDACTED],
11 he worked in the [REDACTED] but he would be at the [REDACTED],
12 and the [REDACTED] manager was coming doon the close and he
13 saw me and I thought, oh, he's gonna grab me, you ken.
14 So I was wary of him and he said my granny had died in
15 the [REDACTED] next door. I thought, that's a hell of
16 a lie to make just to get a hold of me. So I believed
17 him, and he took me into the [REDACTED], [REDACTED],
18 ex, which used to be a [REDACTED], and my dad wouldnae talk
19 to me. He just ignored me. They sat me in an office.
20 I saw him going back and forth, back and forth, and then
21 the police come in and arrested me. And I got put in
22 a -- I had [REDACTED] and
23 they put me in an interview room with a mattress for the
24 night without searching me. However, they came in the
25 next morning, searched me and found the [REDACTED]. Somebody

1 must have got in trouble for that.

2 Q. 'George', I think you say that in relation to that, that
3 you were at a [REDACTED] --

4 A. Yeah, the wee [REDACTED], I had tried to hang myself off the
5 [REDACTED].

6 Q. That's how the [REDACTED] came to be involved?

7 A. Aye. I hadnae judged it right and I [REDACTED]
8 [REDACTED] and it was absolute agony. So I'm
9 lying on the damp, dewy grass and took my socks and
10 shoes off and put my feet in the cold grass to ease the
11 pain. And then I thought it was funny that it had
12 happened like that. And I retrieved the [REDACTED] and
13 [REDACTED] and decided to go and do
14 something else, hide somewhere.

15 Q. Well I think as a result of what you've told us about,
16 that happened that day, that you end up, as you've said,
17 in the police cell?

18 A. Yeah.

19 Q. And I think there was a Children's Panel as well.
20 I'm not sure if that was before then you were sent to
21 prison, but certainly we have a record.

22 A. I think I was sent to Bilbohall after that.

23 Q. Okay. So I think -- yes, you ended up in Bilbohall
24 Hospital in Elgin for two weeks?

25 A. Aye, I think that was after that.

1 Q. Okay. I think we know that you were admitted there on
2 [REDACTED] 1974 when you were aged -- I think you would
3 have been 14 at that time?
4 A. 1974, which month?
5 Q. [REDACTED].
6 A. I'd have been 15.
7 Q. Yes, sorry, 15. About 15 by that point. And I think
8 you say whilst you were there, you spoke to
9 a psychiatrist, but it was after that then you went to
10 the Children's Panel and this was when you were sent to
11 Inverness Prison, you say?
12 A. It was shortly after that, yeah. It was -- I was home
13 for a while, and then --
14 Q. So there was some intervening period between these two
15 stays in the hospital and then the prison, because we
16 have a record of you being admitted to Porterfield
17 Prison on remand and that was in relation to charges
18 involving breach of the peace and some threats, and this
19 was on [REDACTED] 1974. You would have been 15 at that
20 point as well. And I think it was in relation -- they
21 granted an 'unruly certificate', is what they called it
22 at that time --
23 A. Is it?
24 Q. -- to allow you to be detained in a prison and there
25 is -- sorry, 'George'?

1 A. Was I charged with threats?

2 Q. I think there was some threats and breach of the peace
3 charges, yes.

4 A. Aye. Was that threats to a girlfriend?

5 Q. Yes.

6 A. Aye.

7 Q. And there is actually a record, 'George', of the police
8 finding this [REDACTED]
9 [REDACTED].

10 A. There was a record of that?

11 Q. There is. And so perhaps that in the order of events
12 might have been something that happened just before you
13 ended up going to Porterfield Prison?

14 A. Aye, yeah.

15 Q. It doesn't matter about the order, but at least we have
16 a record that you were admitted to Porterfield Prison.

17 You tell us about your time there from paragraph 23
18 of your statement and I'm not going to go through all of
19 that with you, but obviously you were only 15 and you
20 were in an adult prison. And you've described the
21 situation of being put in this, I think, 'dog box', and
22 then an observation cell with a mattress on the floor.
23 And whilst you were there, I think you were seen with --
24 by a psychiatrist, is that right, a doctor?

25 A. Yeah.

1 Q. A Dr MacLeod, who spoke to you in the prison and was
2 trying to get you moved out of there, and I think your
3 recollection is that you were there for about three
4 days?

5 A. I was there for three nights.

6 Q. Three nights. I think -- it doesn't matter because our
7 record might not be accurate --

8 A. Yeah, it's nae accurate.

9 Q. We have it from [REDACTED], you being moved then, but
10 you were in there --

11 A. It was probably the order was made that the permission
12 to move me would -- the next day, but the circumstances
13 prevented that.

14 LADY SMITH: I'm sorry, Ms Forbes. You referred to
15 [REDACTED]. Is that when the move into Inverness or out
16 of Inverness?

17 MS FORBES: Sorry, my Lady, [REDACTED] was the date he was
18 remanded to the prison, and then the date we have of him
19 being moved out of there is [REDACTED]. However --

20 LADY SMITH: And which year?

21 MS FORBES: 1974.

22 LADY SMITH: We're still in 1974. Thank you.

23 MS FORBES: But it's a summary by someone else of -- it's
24 not an official prison record. It's a summary by
25 someone else of what his movements were.

1 LADY SMITH: But it looks as though that was three days or
2 three nights in the prison?

3 MS FORBES: Around that, my Lady, yes.

4 LADY SMITH: About that, two to three nights, and then
5 Craig Dunain, was it?

6 MS FORBES: Yes, my Lady, it's straight then to Craig Dunain
7 Hospital in Inverness.

8 And you again tell us about your time in the
9 hospital, 'George', from paragraph 29. Now, again, from
10 our records it seems that you were there from about
11 [REDACTED] 1974 to [REDACTED] 1974, but I think your
12 recollection is you were there for about three months,
13 is that your recollection?

14 A. Yeah, I recall three months, but your dates will be mair
15 accurate than me.

16 Q. But again, I'm not going through all the detail of your
17 time at the hospital, and it's not because it's not
18 important, 'George'; it's just because I want to make
19 sure we have time to focus on your time at Redheugh --

20 A. Okay.

21 Q. -- that we're going to go on to, but --

22 LADY SMITH: Can I just reassure you, 'George', I have seen
23 it and I have read it.

24 A. Yeah, okay.

25 LADY SMITH: And don't worry about your memory of a period

1 maybe feeling longer than the actual dates that we've
2 found in records, that's not unusual. Time can hang
3 heavy on your hands when things aren't going well. I do
4 understand that.

5 MS FORBES: But just to summarise your time there, 'George',
6 so we understand, I think you tell us whilst you were
7 there you did some work with an electrician in the
8 hospital and got some pocket money for that. But you do
9 tell us there were some occasions where you suffered
10 abuse. There was assault by a male nurse. There was
11 also assault by a male patient in the hospital on you
12 with a walking stick, I think you told us about that?

13 A. Yeah, that's right, yeah. I forgot that.

14 Q. Also I think you say that there was a man in his 20s
15 that you used to sneak out with at night and go to pubs
16 drinking, and again you were only 15 still at this
17 stage; is that right?

18 A. Yeah, [REDACTED], mm.

19 Q. And you also talk about a woman you say who was in her
20 20s. I don't know if she was a patient there or was she
21 somebody who came in --

22 A. She was a patient.

23 Q. Okay. And you and her were involved sexually together?

24 A. She was involved with this guy you mentioned, but he got
25 locked up in a locked ward upstairs for some reason, and

1 I was speaking to another female patient in the corridor
2 and this woman came along. She was 12 years older than
3 me, she'd have been 27/28, and sat beside us for a bit
4 and then come over and just started kissing me and
5 I thought: ooh, yes, fucking great. Kinda that age, and
6 it kicked off fae that.

7 Q. And this, you say, happened as often as you could
8 arrange it, or you say 'we could arrange it' so --

9 A. Yeah.

10 Q. And it was in cupboards and toilets and empty rooms
11 and --

12 A. Anywhere we could find.

13 Q. And, 'George', you tell us that it was years later when
14 you were 17, you found out that she'd written a letter?

15 A. No, no. I then went fae there home and then I went to
16 Redheugh. And when I came home fae Redheugh, my mum
17 took a letter oot the -- I'd be 16, nearly 17 maybe, and
18 my mum took the letter oot the kitchen drawer and gave
19 it to me. That's when I found it.

20 Q. And this was a letter that this older female --

21 A. The woman had written, aye.

22 Q. -- had written to you?

23 A. Yeah.

24 Q. But your mum had intervened and taken it, is that right?

25 A. Well, I wisnae there, I was at Redheugh and when I got

1 home, she'd opened the letter and read it. And she gave
2 it to me, let me read it and what happened to it after
3 that, I don't know. She -- must have been destroyed.

4 Q. But this was a letter from that woman telling you --

5 A. From the woman, yeah, just saying that she'd had a son,
6 named him [REDACTED], aye, and, erm, didnae want any
7 responsibility from me. Which is a bit crazy, thinking
8 about that.

9 Q. So this is something that resulted from this
10 relationship that you had with this woman --

11 A. Yeah.

12 Q. -- when you were only 15, and then you found out about
13 this after you came out of Redheugh?

14 A. Yeah.

15 Q. And I think you tell us later in your statement,
16 'George', that he's someone you're still trying to find?

17 A. Still looking for him today. I've had DNA and Family
18 Wise looking for him. Somebody else looking for him as
19 well. And the funny thing is, he might not exist. He
20 might be a fiction. I'm hoping it's nae, but ... He'll
21 be 50/51.

22 Q. 'George', you tell us, just looking back on that time in
23 Craig Dunain, you felt like you had a great time in
24 there at the time. You weren't being abused by your
25 dad, you were having sex with this older woman, you were

1 going out drinking and you had some interest in this
2 electrical work that you were doing with the
3 electrician?

4 A. Well, Mary MacLeod gave me the option to go to school in
5 Inverness. I wisnae there as a patient. I was there as
6 a custody. I wasn't under any medication or anything,
7 or any treatment. And I just had, like, therapy
8 sessions with Dr MacLeod once a week, or every few days.
9 So the option was to go to school, which was totally
10 abhorrent to me at the time, or to go to work with the
11 electrician, Jimmy Nairn his name was, and get paid. So
12 I got, I think I got £16 a week and I -- just going
13 round helping him, labouring, carrying ladders, stuff
14 like that, and going round the hospital doing
15 maintenance and I quite liked it.

16 Q. There was a time though, 'George', you tell us you went
17 home at [REDACTED] from the hospital --

18 A. Yeah. That was horrible.

19 Q. -- for about two weeks? So things were just the same as
20 they were before?

21 A. They tried nae to be initially. And then [REDACTED],
22 I gave my sister a Petite typewriter and she was
23 struggling to work it. She's quite short tempered, she
24 still is. And she's 60, what, 61/62. So I tried the
25 best I could to show her how it worked and she was

1 getting irritable but she was listening to me. And my
2 dad got on to me, told me to leave her alone. I says,
3 'But I'm just showing her how to work this', and then he
4 hit me, and I goes 'To hell' -- the typewriter was made
5 of plastic. I jumped all over it and smashed it to
6 bits. Brought her to tears. Upset everybody in the
7 room and -- because of his behaviour. Kinda, my
8 reactions were -- well, they weren't a pretty scene,
9 they were pretty crazy.

10 Q. 'George', I think you tell us that stay at home lasted
11 for a few months, but these assaults from your dad
12 continued and that, you say, is when you started
13 standing up to him?

14 A. There was one day he had me pinned on the floor in the
15 lobby, just inside the front door, and how I -- he was
16 18/19 stone at the time and I was a skinny rake. And
17 I remember him lying on top of me, punching me like this
18 (indicating) and I thought, I'm going to die. And I
19 don't know how I got -- I lifted him off and I rolled
20 him off, I stood up and I kicked him and he got a shock,
21 because I did that. Then I opened the front door really
22 hard and it hit the stop at the wall but the handle made
23 a dent in the wall. I ran outside, my granny was
24 sitting in the kitchen at the window. He'd made this
25 wee fancy garden gate with a -- carved the number of the

1 hoose in it, painted it green and the number was picked
2 oot in white.

3 I ripped that off its hinges and intended to throw
4 it through the kitchen window and watched it fly through
5 the air, saw my granny and thought 'Oh, no!' But it
6 fell short and it landed on his flowerbed and I ran off
7 doon to my girlfriend's hoose and begged her mother for
8 help and then she cam doon to do nothing and I went over
9 to Denis Grant's hoose, the social worker, and sorted it
10 oot fae there and I don't know what happened. Maybe
11 that was the night the police -- I was begging at the
12 back door to get let in. My dad wouldnae let me in. It
13 was pouring rain and the neighbours phoned the police
14 and they came roond and gave him hell and I got back in
15 the hoose to my bed.

16 Q. Well we know, 'George', again, this is from the records
17 we've been able to get, that you ended up being admitted
18 to Redheugh after that stay back at home and this was on
19 ██████████ 1975, so if you went home at ██████████, you
20 were there for maybe a few months?

21 A. Yeah, they were intending -- they were searching for
22 either foster parents or children's homes sort of thing
23 and it was difficult up in the area where I live, and
24 ended up in Redheugh. Which terrified me, but I shortly
25 settled in there.

1 Q. 'George', you tell us about Redheugh from paragraph 47
2 of your statement and I think you say it was Denis who
3 took you from your house down to Redheugh?

4 A. Yeah, he drove me doon, we stopped at Blair Drummond
5 Safari Park. Took me roond there and then to Redheugh.

6 Q. You tell us, 'George', you say:
7 'I wasn't happy. I was scared. I had trepidations
8 about what it would be like.'

9 A. Aye.

10 Q. Had you heard anything about Redheugh before?

11 A. Nothing, no.

12 Q. You describe Redheugh to us, 'George', at paragraph 48
13 and you say it was a big -- sorry, an old Victorian
14 building?

15 A. Yeah.

16 Q. There was about 26 bedrooms in it. There was a housing
17 scheme around it. And I think you then tell us that
18 when you went in the main door, there was a long
19 corridor with an office on the right, but you weren't
20 allowed to use the main entrance or the main staircase,
21 you had to go in and out the back door?

22 A. Yeah.

23 Q. And up and down the back staircase?

24 A. That's right, aye.

25 Q. So that first day when you arrived, was that one of the

1 only times you went through that main door?

2 A. Yeah -- no, no --

3 LADY SMITH: 'George', did it bother you that you weren't

4 allowed to use the front door?

5 A. I don't think it did much, no. We werenae allowed to

6 use the main staircase. It was carpeted with Axminster

7 carpet and brass carpet hooks on it.

8 LADY SMITH: Oh, yes.

9 A. And one of our jobs, we all had chores at the weekends,

10 and one of your chores, somebody would be allocated to

11 polish this brass. I did it, I think -- I remember

12 doing it once, I hated it.

13 LADY SMITH: Was that for the rods that went between the

14 hooks?

15 A. For the rods, aye, yeah, but you weren't -- I had used

16 that staircase on a few occasions but with permission,

17 but -- and the front door as well, we were allowed to --

18 but your main entrance and exit was through the back

19 door and up the back staircase, which was a bare wooden

20 staircase.

21 LADY SMITH: Okay. Thank you.

22 MS FORBES: 'George', you tell us there was a kitchen and a

23 dining room off the corridor and then there was

24 an extension with toilets and sinks which was called

25 'The Ablutions'.

1 A. Yeah, that's right.

2 Q. And then there was a television room with plastic
3 chairs, a couch and a television, and also a snooker
4 room with a full-sized snooker table?

5 A. Yeah.

6 Q. And then upstairs --

7 A. And a church at the back as well. A church room with
8 a piano.

9 Q. And upstairs there were four bedrooms with five or six
10 kids in each room on bunk beds. And then you tell us
11 there was a big open landing with two other rooms called
12 Room 1 and Room 2 for the bigger boys, and they had four
13 beds in each room with locks on the doors for privacy?

14 A. Room 1 was the only room with a lock on the door and it
15 had bunk -- there was four beds in there, bunk beds, two
16 bunk beds, big wooden bunk beds. The annex held one,
17 two, three, four bedrooms. It's since been demolished.
18 That was a new modern extension to the building. And
19 underneath there, one of the staff had their hoose,
20 their family in there. And then through the main big
21 house, there was about five or six bedrooms in the top
22 corridor, quite a large area, with -- one room would
23 have seven beds in it, other one four. And the annex
24 bedrooms, which were smaller, I think there was two beds
25 in each room, and one room had three beds.

1 Q. Okay. 'George', you say that the first night you were
2 in the annex, is that right?

3 A. Aye, Room 3, I think -- no, Room 7. I cannae remember.

4 Q. And you remember being in there with another boy and I
5 won't say his name, but you give us his name?

6 A. Do I?

7 Q. You give us his name, yeah, but I won't read it out.
8 But we have it there.

9 A. He's deceased.

10 Q. I think you tell us about that later, that you found out
11 after that he's deceased?

12 A. Aye. He was also a convicted murderer.

13 Q. Okay. Just looking at the layout again of Redheugh,
14 'George', you say there was a converted attic, which had
15 been converted into a modern flat with a beautiful
16 kitchen and toilet?

17 A. Yeah, that was fantastic, that. You went through and --
18 from the upstairs there was a door and a corridor and
19 you went up a stairs into this fantastic room. I never,
20 ever seen anybody ever using it. It had four bedrooms,
21 a lounge, kitchen, kitchen facilities and a conference
22 kind of area.

23 Oh, the only time I seen it used was when my parents
24 came doon just prior to me being released and we had
25 a meeting, and we went up there for that meeting.

1 Q. You say, 'George', that you think that that area was
2 used to prepare boys for leaving, so a sort of place to
3 prepare them?

4 A. It was supposed to be, aye, but I never, ever seen it
5 used really.

6 Q. 'George', you tell us about the grounds and you say
7 around the back garden was a stable and a big wooden
8 shed and in the shed there was a games room and a dance
9 floor?

10 A. No.

11 Q. No?

12 A. In the shed there was work -- there was a work -- it was
13 like crafts. You could do printing, weaving, erm,
14 glass-cutting, picture framing, print. I ended up doing
15 furniture restoration on old chairs that somebody had
16 brought in. And then apart, separate fae that across
17 the way a bit, there was a big wooden shed which was
18 used as like a dance floor room. You could have maybe
19 played five-a-side football inside it.

20 Q. And there was also an obstacle course where you could go
21 down a wire?

22 A. Yeah, that's right, aye.

23 Q. You tell us then, 'George', about your first day and you
24 say you were taken to meet [REDACTED], so was he
25 a member of staff there?

1 A. He was [REDACTED] of staff, aye. He wisnae [REDACTED]
2 [REDACTED] SNR but he was [REDACTED] SNR .

3 Q. I think you tell us, 'George', that [REDACTED] SNR was
4 [REDACTED] HDD ?

5 A. [REDACTED] HDD was [REDACTED] SNR , aye. You hardly saw him.

6 Q. But you explain that [REDACTED] IJU managed the daily
7 running?

8 A. Yeah.

9 Q. But [REDACTED] HDD was [REDACTED] of discipline and could
10 dish out punishments?

11 A. Yeah, he lived in the house [REDACTED]. Redheugh
12 was situated at the time across the Kilbirnie burn, away
13 fae the housing scheme, in its own big grounds. It's
14 all changed noo, but [REDACTED] HDD lived [REDACTED]
15 [REDACTED].

16 Q. And you say that [REDACTED] HDD never abused you and you
17 never heard any stories about him?

18 A. Erm, the only thing I heard aboot him was that he was
19 strict and you had to watch what you were doing with
20 him.

21 Q. You say Mrs [REDACTED] RFF , [REDACTED] HDD wife, was a
22 housemother?

23 A. Was a housemother, aye, [REDACTED] RFF .

24 Q. But Miss [REDACTED] IER was your housemother?

25 A. Miss [REDACTED] IER , aye.

1 Q. And you describe her as a big woman and scary?

2 A. She was scary, aye.

3 Q. There was also an old watchman that came in at night and
4 a cook, but you explain that the cleaners were the boys?

5 A. The cleaners were the boys, aye.

6 Q. You say there were about 40 of you and the ages were
7 between about 9/10 to around 17, so quite an age range?

8 A. Yeah. 16 would have been the top age, I think.

9 Q. In relation to food, 'George', you tell us that you
10 remember the food and you think it was all right, and it
11 was the first time you'd ever tried a chip butty when
12 you were there?

13 A. That's right, aye, I'd never seen a chip butty before.
14 I didnae like it and I've never had one since.

15 Q. 'George', in relation to the set-up for washing and
16 bathing, you tell us at paragraph 56 that there were
17 showers and a bath and there was cubicles for toilets,
18 that you could wash whenever you wanted, but you think
19 you had to have a shower every week and if you had
20 stubble, you had to shave?

21 A. Yeah, your clothes were held in boxes in a storeroom,
22 where you went in and there was a counter and you were
23 issued with a change of clothes once a week. And you
24 had to have a shower to get that. But you could shower
25 every day if you wanted. But you only had a change of

1 clothes every week.

2 Q. You do say that there wasn't much privacy?

3 A. Nae really, no, 'cause you shared rooms.

4 Q. You explain an occasion, 'George', at paragraph 57, that

5 you were having a shower once and **HDD** wife

6 and daughter walked in?

7 A. Yeah.

8 Q. And you were standing at the sink naked and the door

9 opened?

10 A. Yeah.

11 Q. But you think that that was just an accident?

12 A. Well, to leave -- for them to get to their house, they'd

13 go doon the corridor to get oot the back door, but past

14 the back door was another door leading into the

15 ablutions. And why they went in there, through that

16 door, which had a glass in it, a frosted glass window in

17 it, I don't know. But they came into the ablutions, got

18 a shock 'cause I was standing there naked, stared at me

19 for what seemed like an eternity but was only a few

20 seconds, said nothing and left.

21 Q. But I think you say that you --

22 A. And that was -- the daughter is the same age as me. She

23 was at school with me. Her name was also **RAB** -- or

24 **RAB**. Mother was **RFF** and she was **RAB**.

25 Q. So you tell us that that was an embarrassing incident?

1 A. That was embarrassing, aye.

2 Q. 'George', you mentioned school and you say that you went
3 to Garnock High in the village and you could walk there,
4 but you say that your name wasn't on the register so you
5 just stopped going?

6 A. I went to school and every class I went to, they read
7 oot the register and my name was never read oot and then
8 they'd ask me who I was. So I told them my name was
9 'George', whatever, right. And then I realised they had
10 nae record of me being at school. So I stopped going to
11 school. I did other things. Up the hills for walks and
12 doon by the burn and went skinny-dipping in the rock
13 pools and stuff like that and -- or -- got into trouble.

14 Q. Did anyone notice that you weren't --

15 A. Eventually they did and I got into trouble, 'cause me
16 and two other boys decided to steal a car and run away.
17 And obviously, I was driving the car and couldnae drive.
18 I crashed the car and we got arrested eventually and
19 taken to Kilmarnock Sheriff Court and basically had
20 a case dismissed.

21 Q. Were these boys from the home?

22 A. Aye, two of them. Ended up -- we ended up in Greenock
23 and, er, got caught in Greenock and then went to the
24 police station there for a few hours and then taken
25 back -- we were taken back to -- in a small, like,

1 a police van, a small -- I dinnae ken what the make of
2 the car would have been. But there was like a bench
3 seat behind the two drivers, nae windows, and we were
4 sitting there in handcuffs and the police officer in the
5 passenger seat. The guy -- the boy next to me was
6 complaining that the cuffs were too tight, so the police
7 officer turned round and punched him in the face. And
8 I said something about that and he threatened to punch
9 me in the face. I said, 'I'm reporting you' and he
10 kinda backed off and, er -- 'cause that was totally
11 wrong. He could have just loosened the handcuffs a bit
12 and did his job right. But decided to be a bully
13 instead.

14 Q. 'George', you tell us about that at paragraph 72.

15 I won't go to it just now because you have already
16 explained what happened, but I think --

17 A. Did I say that before, have I?

18 Q. It's okay, we'll come to it later, but you have already
19 said what happened there. But I think you tell us that
20 when you got back to the home with the police, that the
21 staff asked why you ran away, but you didn't get into
22 any trouble for that from them, from Redheugh?

23 A. No, I dinnae think so, no. There was nae punishment for
24 that. Nae that I remember.

25 Q. Just looking at this part of your statement, 'George',

1 it's paragraph --

2 A. I think they gave me some counselling and talked to me
3 quite a bit in two or three sessions, I think. And I
4 changed my attitude to -- because what -- mainly me,
5 neither -- the other two boys that ran away with me, it
6 was mainly my fault because I took the car and I was
7 driving the car. And because I crashed the car, it
8 could have been a lot worse than that, I think
9 I realised it was not a good idea to do that kind of
10 thing.

11 Q. 'George', just where we are in your statement just now,
12 you tell us, and you've mentioned a bit of this already,
13 about the chores that you'd have to do. You've
14 mentioned polishing the brass on the staircase, but
15 I think you also say that you'd have to mop the floors,
16 dust, polish --

17 A. Where are you at?

18 Q. This is paragraph 60.

19 A. Yeah, that'd be right. You would -- at the weekends --
20 maybe -- I'm nae sure about the evenings, but definitely
21 the weekends everybody had chores to do, cleaning and
22 whatever. And then you had your free time and you had
23 your games and stuff, football and -- or gardening.

24 Q. I think you say, 'George', there was a time when you'd
25 left school when you were at Redheugh, officially left

1 school as opposed to just not going --

2 A. Yeah.

3 Q. -- and you had to get a job in a furniture factory,
4 I think you say you hated it and you had to give your
5 wages to Redheugh whom were giving pocket money back, is
6 that right?

7 A. There was a tuck shop inside the place and it had
8 a plastic rack of drawers, plastic little drawers, and
9 everybody had their own drawer with money. Their own
10 money was kept in these drawers. And you went to the
11 tuck shop and you bought something, and to take the
12 money out of your drawer and pay for it, put the change
13 in your drawer. So you never had hold of your own
14 money.

15 And my dad, stepfather, and my mum, would send me
16 money every so often and then when I was working, they
17 took money for bed and board, I think, and I got --
18 I was paid £16 a week, I think it would be, and
19 I can't -- I got a portion of that to put in my drawer.
20 And if you wanted -- if I wanted to go doon toon and
21 maybe buy something, they would give you cash oot your
22 money and you could do that, but you had to give the
23 change back when you come back, so --

24 Q. Sorry, 'George'?

25 A. That's all.

1 Q. 'George', you say that that job though in the furniture
2 factory didn't last too long, because they were really
3 just using you as a labourer but you actually wanted to
4 learn?

5 A. Yeah, it was -- they were making quite nice furniture,
6 laminated chipboard with real wood edges put on rather
7 than laminate, and those processes, machinery to do all
8 this. And I was supposed to be on an apprenticeship and
9 I was put on the sanding machine where they'd put the
10 sides on to a block of chipboard, which were thicker
11 than chipboard, and then they had to get sanded doon so
12 it was flush so they could put a mahogany or teak veneer
13 on it. And I stood all day with this big guy who looked
14 like a Honey Monster and never spoke to me and he walked
15 like this (indicating), with big pallets and stacks of
16 stuff, loading it through a belt sanding machine, for
17 a couple of weeks. And I goes, I'm nae having this,
18 this is nae -- so I refused to go back. And then the
19 boss at the factory came and I explained what was
20 happening to him, he says, 'Listen, I'm going to talk to
21 everybody, you go on whatever machine you want and learn
22 about it'. Within a week I knew all the machines and
23 I was an expert on all the machines, as far as I was
24 concerned and it was boring. Plus the other lads my age
25 in the shop had a tuck shop where you had your lunch,

1 which was subsidised, and your dinner would cost
2 15 pence with 5 pence for a bottle of coke or whatever,
3 and -- but the other lads, the local guys that worked
4 there, did not speak to me. Did not interact with me.
5 And I felt shunned and shut out as well.

6 So I went fae there, I refused to go back after that
7 period, short period. I think six or seven weeks
8 I lasted and then I went and worked on a farm which
9 lasted two days until I fell in a pile of manure and got
10 covered in that.

11 Q. You do tell us about that, 'George', in your statement
12 and then you say that after that farm job, you got a job
13 at [REDACTED] and this was delivering lemonade
14 to pubs and off licences, and that was a job you
15 enjoyed?

16 A. I quite enjoyed that. We travelled about a lot, went to
17 Dumbarton, went to Maryhill, went to -- I can't remember
18 noo, but a posh area of Glasgow. And it was interesting
19 'cause you met people, you spoke to people and you
20 got -- I got travelling about seeing things and the
21 driver, the lorry driver, very nice bloke and interacted
22 with me well and I really enjoyed that. I was
23 surprised, we went up to Dumbarton to a shop there,
24 across the -- what's the bridge there?

25 Q. My geography, I'm afraid I don't know that area,

1 'George'.

2 A. Went across that big bridge and into Dumbarton and I got
3 a surprise 'cause one of the boys was working in the
4 shop, hadnae seen him for a while. And I goes, 'What
5 are you doing here?'. I didn't know he'd been released
6 and sent home or whatever. He really wisnae old enough
7 to be working in a shop. He was younger than me. So
8 that was a surprise and -- that stuck with me. I cannae
9 even remember his name.

10 LADY SMITH: Don't worry.

11 MS FORBES: 'George', you go on to tell us about some of the
12 things that you would do when you were at Redheugh from
13 paragraph 64 and you say some boys went home at the
14 weekends but you had to accumulate and go home every
15 couple of months because it was so far away, but if you
16 didn't go home, they would organise activities for you.
17 So there was this big pitch at the back for football,
18 you could do some gardening, there was the dance hall,
19 I think you've mentioned that already and there was a --

20 A. I can only remember one dance ever being held in that
21 dance hall.

22 Q. But you also say there was a guy that came in and showed
23 you how to restore old furniture and that was something
24 you enjoyed?

25 A. Aye.

1 Q. There was also a youth hostel, you say in Biggar, that
2 you went to one weekend and there was pony trekking?

3 A. The summer holidays, 'cause when the other boys were
4 away, the staff had mair time to devote to who was ever
5 left, and they would take us, we went to the Borders,
6 Biggar and we went to Loch Lomond and we went to Largs
7 and doon the beach and that, different weekends, and
8 stayed in youth hostels in these places. Which was
9 horrible. It wisnae good for my asthma.

10 Q. But you do tell us about these trips that you went on
11 and then you go on to tell us about going to church on
12 a Sunday?

13 A. Uh-huh.

14 Q. And you say that there were different churches and you'd
15 also go to religious shows as well, and you say that at
16 Redheugh, they were like born again Christians?

17 A. Yeah, Salvation Army, aye.

18 Q. And that you were better off believing in God than not
19 because that's what they wanted?

20 A. That's what they wanted, aye. You were forced to go to
21 church. You had nae option and we went to a big
22 Salvation Army musical in a hall beside -- in
23 Kelvingrove, I cannae mind the name of the hall. It was
24 a big theatre hall. That was quite good actually. And
25 music and singing and dancing show about -- and it was

1 all Christianity related.

2 Q. You say that you had to wear Salvation Army jackets and
3 trousers and go chapping doors with envelopes for money?

4 A. On a couple of occasions, we'd go out fundraising,
5 putting envelopes and chapping. So, me being tall, and
6 another lad, quite big, passed for young adults. Our
7 school trousers were black anyway, black trousers, so
8 we had to wear them and somebody gave us Salvation Army
9 jackets so that we would appear as though we were
10 Salvation Army. And we were collecting -- putting
11 envelopes through and then a while later going back and
12 knocking the doors and collecting them. And what would
13 happen is one envelope go in there for them, one for me,
14 one for them, one for me. And we thought we were funny
15 doing this, ken, me and this lad. I actually seen the
16 staff doing it as well. They were at it as well. And
17 that didnae sit right with me, even though I was doing
18 it. So --

19 Q. I think you mention the name of a staff member that was
20 involved in that, somebody called **IEQ**, or was that
21 another boy, sorry?

22 A. **IEQ** was a staff member, aye. I think **RLX** was
23 doing it as well.

24 Q. You've mentioned **HDD**, so it's not **HDD**
25 **HDD** --

1 A. Not HDD . RLX .

2 Q. But I think you mention this RLX --

3 A. I think, I'm nae sure, it's either IEQ or RLX who

4 tried to sexually abuse me, but I'm nae -- I'm leaning

5 more towards RLX . He's a tall guy with ginger hair

6 and a beard, that did that. But it could have been --

7 or maybe it was both. I cannae remember.

8 Q. 'George', you go on to tell us that your social worker

9 Denis used to come down in his campervan with his wife

10 for a holiday to visit and they would take you to Largs

11 and buy you fish and chips?

12 A. Aye.

13 Q. That you remember your dad came down to visit and took

14 you to the pub, and you also remember another time your

15 mum and dad both coming down for a conference, and

16 I think you mentioned that's when you went up to the

17 converted area in the attic?

18 A. Uh-huh.

19 Q. You've told us a little bit, 'George', about running

20 away and in particular, this instance where you ran away

21 and stole the car. So we've gone through that --

22 A. There was another time I ran away. Nobody knew aboot,

23 'cause I came back. I took a walk up the back of the

24 hills and went over the hills until I came to a town up

25 over these moors and a house on the outside of the town.

1 There was a woman in the garden and she says, 'Hello,
2 what are you doing then?' And I spoke to her and I --
3 I didnae speak much to her. I must have come across as
4 a bit mute or something. But she took me in the hoose
5 and gave me a cup of tea and a cake or something and
6 I was speaking to her, and then -- quite an old woman.
7 And I told her what I'd done and she says, 'I think you
8 better go back'. I think she gave me money for the bus.
9 And that was Kilwinning. I'd walked miles over the
10 hills into Kilwinning and then got the bus back, and
11 then come home, up to the home as though I'd come oot of
12 school, and nobody knew about it.

13 Q. 'George', we're now getting to a part of your statement
14 where you talk about particular incidents of abuse at
15 Redheugh, so I'm going to ask you some questions about
16 that now, if that's okay?

17 A. Right.

18 Q. This is from paragraph 73. You tell us, 'George', that
19 on your first night there, you learned from another boy,
20 who -- you tell us his name, that someone else, who you
21 say is [REDACTED], who lived [REDACTED] with his
22 family -- was he a member of staff? That he was
23 an abuser and this boy said that he had to suck his
24 penis, and you say [REDACTED] was the housemaster?

25 A. The first night I arrived, I was put into that room in

1 the annex and I shared that with the boy who was
2 mentioned before, who's now dead. But the younger
3 ones -- this was right at the back and there was a room
4 there, a room there, and then two mair rooms up back
5 into the main house, and it was all kinda youngsters,
6 younger, and a lot younger than me. And we all gathered
7 in one room and these stories come oot that first night
8 and I thought 'What?'

9 And IEQ -- there was a fire escape doon and the
10 exit door went oot right next to his door to his flat
11 underneath. And if we were making a noise or anything,
12 he would come in that exit door and up the stairs and
13 cause havoc, give us hell. But the first night
14 I learned these guys were saying that IEQ made them
15 do these things and I took it with a pinch of salt.

16 Q. I think you describe the IEQ guy -- sorry, 'George'.

17 A. But these stories were repeated all through my time
18 there, aboot some abuse. Usually IEQ. I cannae --
19 IJU, I don't think I heard anything about him.
20 HDD, no. The RLX, I think he was
21 trying to abuse me but I made a big fuss and he got
22 scared.

23 Q. Well, just before --

24 A. IEQ, I was assaulted -- physically assaulted by three
25 of them, beat up. For some reason. I don't know.

1 Q. Well, we might come to that paragraph in just a minute,
2 'George', but before I leave the IEQ situation,
3 I think you describe him as a big burly guy with a big
4 black beard?

5 A. Aye, he was massive. He was a big, big bloke.

6 Q. And he was someone you say you saw assault boys. The
7 way you put it is, you saw him beat boys, but you didn't
8 see any sexual abuse from IEQ?

9 A. I never seen any sexual abuse fae him. I seen him
10 hitting boys and really whacking them, erm.

11 Q. But you go on, 'George', to say in the next paragraph,
12 paragraph 74, that it was either IEQ or another guy
13 with ginger hair, called RLX, who tried to touch
14 you sexually?

15 A. Aye.

16 Q. And you say you're not sure who it was. And you didn't
17 let it happen.

18 A. Yeah. I think -- it was in the ablutions, having
19 a shower and -- I'm nae sure but I think it was RLX,
20 because IEQ did something to me, but what I remember
21 he did was violence and it was on one of these weekend
22 hostel trips. He'd got bit on the -- bit on the breast,
23 on the pectoral muscle by a horse. We went pony
24 trekking, and the horse looked at him and decided he was
25 too big to get on that horse and the horse bit him quite

1 painfully. And I ended up with that horse and he took
2 another horse, or pony, whatever. And I'm sure it was
3 that specific trip that he -- he did something to me.
4 It was -- I'm sure it was just violence, for nae
5 justifiable reason that I can remember now.

6 Q. And when you talk about RLX [REDACTED], just so we're clear,
7 this is not HDD [REDACTED], this is [REDACTED] RLX [REDACTED] ?

8 A. Aye, a RLX [REDACTED], he was a tall thinner boy.

9 Q. You say with ginger hair.

10 A. He was about my height, and he had ginger hair and
11 a beard. Only two of them had beards, IEQ [REDACTED] and this
12 RLX [REDACTED].

13 Q. Do you remember RLX [REDACTED]'s surname at all?

14 A. No, I've tried to think about it. I can't remember. It
15 wouldn't be difficult to find out 'cause he was the only
16 RLX [REDACTED] that worked there at the time.

17 Q. 'George', you go on to tell us about the boy who died.
18 You say that that's the boy you shared a room with and
19 you say he was hit a lot in the home and that him and
20 another boy, who you also name, you say, were out of
21 control?

22 A. Yeah, [REDACTED] was a bit out of control and [REDACTED] kind
23 of followed [REDACTED] and the two of them -- [REDACTED] ended
24 up in an approved school. He got moved to a locked-up
25 place, and -- but, erm, he was out of control.

1 Q. You say that it was --

2 A. He ended up -- he cut somebody's hand off, that [REDACTED].

3 I heard a story about him cutting a guy's hand off with

4 a piece of barbed wire.

5 But [REDACTED] -- the two of them -- [REDACTED] got hit

6 quite a bit.

7 Q. And in relation to those two, 'George', I think you say

8 it was IEQ [REDACTED] and RLX [REDACTED] with the ginger hair that did

9 all the hitting?

10 A. Yeah, aye. The only time IJU [REDACTED], I ever seen him

11 hitting anybody was once. Me, I'm nae sure, he was in

12 the room while I was getting hit. I'm nae sure if he

13 hit me, but I think he might have. I'm nae sure. But

14 I came doon the back stairs at night to go to the

15 toilet, to the ablutions, and they had this guy from,

16 I think he was from just up north of Perth somewhere,

17 and they were really giving -- they were in the corridor

18 up outside the office, at the other end of the corridor,

19 slapping him about quite bad. And then I appeared and

20 looked and, 'What are you doing? Get away. Go back'.

21 I said, 'I'm going to the toilet'. And I did, I went to

22 the toilet, and when I came back oot there, they'd

23 disappeared. There was nae sign of them.

24 Q. 'George', this is at paragraph 77 of your statement you

25 tell us about that. Who was it that was doing the

1 hitting of that boy?

2 A. It was the RLX, IJU and IEQ, but I cannae
3 specifically say. I think they were all hitting him.

4 Q. And particularly in relation to IJU, did you see
5 him hit the boy?

6 A. My memory says the three of them were bent over hitting
7 this lad, but I cannae swear on that IJU was
8 definitely hitting him.

9 Q. I think you say that that boy, and you name that boy in
10 that paragraph, you tell us his name.

11 A. Yeah.

12 Q. And you say that he was laughing and you were thinking,
13 'Why is he laughing when they're belting him', and he
14 was about 11 or 12?

15 A. Aye, he just kept laughing. I couldnae believe it.

16 Q. And they looked up and saw you and told you to 'bugger
17 off'?

18 A. Aye.

19 Q. That was the staff?

20 A. Aye. Told me to get lost, go back to my room.
21 Could I get mair water please?

22 LADY SMITH: Of course you can.

23 A. If I've told you that boy's name, was he a [REDACTED]?

24 Q. Yes.

25 A. Aye, I cannae remember his first name.

1 LADY SMITH: Don't worry about that, 'George', it doesn't
2 matter if you can't remember the names. Please don't
3 worry.

4 A. Aye, it matters a bit to me, ken, it's ...

5 LADY SMITH: Yes, I know. Names get harder as we get older,
6 don't they?

7 A. Aye. I cannae remember yours!

8 LADY SMITH: That's fine.

9 A. I know it's Lady Smith.

10 LADY SMITH: I think my name's down there. It gives you
11 a clue!

12 A. And Dana. But I do have difficulty with names.
13 I've always had that.

14 LADY SMITH: You've had a lot of names going through your
15 head in your life, I'm sure.

16 Ms Forbes.

17 A. Wait a minute. Ironically, one occasion I forgot my own
18 name. That's true.

19 LADY SMITH: Well, I won't forget yours. Thank you.

20 MS FORBES: 'George', you tell us about something else
21 relating to this boy [REDACTED] and you say that he defaced
22 a good picture of Elvis that you'd drawn and that ended
23 up with you assaulting him.

24 A. Yeah, I did. Aye. I had drawn quite a cracking --
25 I'm surprised I'd done a -- I'm an artist now, but then

1 I wasn't an artist and I wisnae even a good drawer. But
2 I was an Elvis fan at a young age. I grew up with 60s
3 music and stuff with my aunties and and my granny's
4 hoose. And I'd drawn this quite a good portrait of
5 Elvis, about this size (indicating), and he defaced it.
6 I found it defaced and somebody grassed him up and
7 I went straight to him and assaulted him. And again he
8 was laughing, and then staff came along and I got into
9 trouble. He didnae get into trouble for -- I explained
10 why I did that, but he never got into trouble for it,
11 but I got into trouble for assaulting him.

12 Q. 'George', you say that as a result of that, you were
13 assaulted then by members of staff?

14 A. Was that why I was assaulted? It could have been, aye.

15 Q. This is at paragraph 78 and you say that you were
16 assaulted as a result of that by [REDACTED], [REDACTED] and
17 [REDACTED] with the ginger hair?

18 A. Aye, that's -- aye, that would have been right, aye,
19 when I -- yeah.

20 Q. 'George', you say:

21 'They all hit me, I think. There was definitely
22 more than one.'

23 But then you go on to say:

24 'I think maybe [REDACTED] was standing back.'

25 A. I think he might -- I'm nae sure. I think he was. Nae

1 that I want to protect IIIU ██████████, but. He was
2 definitely responsible, 'cause he was there and he was
3 in charge of them and I think he might have gave the
4 order to give me a -- it might have been preplanned.
5 Because it was in the office and I had to go in to see
6 him, to answer to him, and then he stood up, came roond
7 the edge of his desk and the other two were guards,
8 like, behind me, and then they just pounced on me. And
9 I don't think they did much damage but they gave me
10 a fright and a few punches.

11 Q. 'George', I think you tell us it was punches and slaps,
12 is that right?

13 A. Aye. Definitely punches, aye.

14 Q. But thinking back now then, was IIIU ██████████ involved in
15 the assault on you on that occasion or was he just
16 standing back, is the way you've put it?

17 A. I'm nae sure, but he did nothing to stop it, put it that
18 way, if he was --

19 Q. So you've got a recollection of him being there, but you
20 can't be sure --

21 A. He was there. I'm nae -- definitely RLX ██████████ and IEQ ██████████
22 punched me, definitely. But whether IIIU ██████████ -- I think he
23 might have, because I remember being shocked, 'cause he
24 was quite a decent bloke and fair to everybody, and
25 I think it was -- I remember being shocked. And I think

1 it might have been 'cause he hit me that time. But
2 I'm nae 100 per cent on that.

3 Q. 'George', you tell us that it was after that --

4 A. 51-year ago.

5 Q. Yeah, I appreciate it's a long time ago to remember.

6 You tell us though, 'George', that after that
7 incident you -- it was then that you ran away with those
8 two other boys and stole the car?

9 A. Was that -- yeah, that maybe caused that event, aye.

10 Q. Aside from staff, 'George', you tell us that there was
11 some fights with other boys in Redheugh and you also say
12 there was a boy who was a bit of a bully who attacked
13 you once and there was another bully who didn't like
14 you, so there were some issues in relation to some of
15 the other boys?

16 A. Can I say a name?

17 Q. Yes.

18 A. [REDACTED] from Port Glasgow. On the first night
19 I was there, Top of the Pops was on the TV and Queen
20 were in their glam rock, fairly new band, and they were
21 on Top of the Pops. And I think it was Bohemian
22 Rhapsody, probably. I'm sure it might've -- could've --
23 it would have probably been. And I said that Freddie
24 Mercury was a poof, not knowing at the time that he was
25 a homosexual. Just as a kid, I said it. And [REDACTED]

1 [REDACTED] didnae like this and he attacked me.

2 But eventually we kinda got on a bit better, but
3 I never trusted him. And then his pal -- these boys had
4 been there quite a while. [REDACTED], I think?

5 Q. I think you tell us a name [REDACTED], at paragraph
6 80?

7 A. [REDACTED], that's it. He was -- they were closer,
8 they had been there together for a while and -- as
9 [REDACTED] had been. But they didnae get on with [REDACTED] and
10 [REDACTED] didnae want much to do with them. And he kinda
11 backed up [REDACTED] in bullying. But I ended up, I wisnae
12 that easy to bully.

13 Q. You tell us, 'George', whilst you were there you gave
14 yourself, I think, tattoos, is that right?

15 A. Yep. You want to see them? No?

16 Q. We don't need to, 'George', but you've told us about
17 them and you say that that's something that -- you've
18 hated them and you've never been able to get rid of
19 them. And these are the tattoos you did yourself?

20 A. I did these (indicating) and [REDACTED] did that one
21 (indicating), which is a bloody mess, and I've hated
22 them.

23 LADY SMITH: And you were just about 16 then, were you?

24 A. 15.

25 LADY SMITH: 15 still.

1 A. Did them with Indian ink and a needle, a wee thread
2 wrapped round it and sitting, 'do, do, do, do, do'.
3 Quite painful and horrible. And I've really --
4 I thought about having them removed and gave it a lot of
5 thought and then decided, no, it's part of my life.
6 It's part of me. So they're staying.

7 LADY SMITH: Maybe you just --

8 A. I hate them.

9 LADY SMITH: Maybe you just have to think of them as battle
10 scars.

11 A. Yeah, battle scars, right. They tell a story. They're
12 part of a story, so ...

13 LADY SMITH: Mm-hmm.

14 MS FORBES: 'George', you told us about your dad coming to
15 visit you and taking you to the pub when you were only
16 15 and you say that there were some locals that were
17 there who were threatening you with violence, and you
18 say that your dad put you in a dangerous situation on
19 that occasion?

20 A. He took us to the pub, bought me a pint of beer. I was
21 15 years old. It wisnae the first time he did that.
22 And there was a snooker table in the pub and he set up
23 the snooker balls, put money in the meter to put the
24 light on and these local guys came in, threw us off the
25 pool table and my dad objected and they threatened him,

1 and I says, 'No, let's get the hell oot of here', ken,
2 and the bar staff didnae do anything about it.

3 Q. And you put a play on, I think, at Redheugh and this was
4 where you essentially had to have a black face?

5 A. Boot polish.

6 Q. And you were embarrassed by that and even though you
7 were asked to do the play again, you said no?

8 A. I was doing the play. I was up the stage doing this
9 thing. I was dressed as a native African, savage, as
10 they would have put it, and I was blacked up, my whole
11 body was blacked up, my arms, my legs, my face, with
12 boot polish. And I remember I got applause, I got
13 praise for doing it and I probably did a good job of it.
14 And we were singing 'Whoa, we're going to Barbados',
15 Tropical whatever it was, dancing about in grass skirts,
16 taffeta skirts.

17 Anyway, I remember on the stage looking at the
18 audience and thinking, 'Thank God I'm blacked up 'cause
19 my face is beetroot with embarrassment'. And then the
20 job of getting that boot polish off, scrubbed -- oh, my
21 skin was raw.

22 Q. 'George', you tell us about an occasion, at
23 paragraph 85, where either the night watchman or the guy
24 that taught crafts held a pistol to your head, and you
25 say that you wet yourself on that occasion?

1 A. Yeah. I think -- I don't think it was the guy that did
2 the crafts. I think it was the night watchman. I'm nae
3 sure.

4 Q. But that's a --

5 A. Anyway, I remember the occasion. We were standing
6 outside the front door in the car park, just immediately
7 outside the building, coming fae the crafts workshop.
8 It would have been a Thursday, I think crafts were on
9 a Thursday.

10 And there was me, there was [REDACTED], [REDACTED]
11 [REDACTED], [REDACTED], maybe a couple of other kids.
12 And it was either the crafts guy or the night watchman,
13 and he was telling a story about gangsters and things
14 and fascinating everybody. And I was standing quite
15 next to him, like there, and everybody was like roond
16 him like that (indicating) and I was next to him. And
17 he pulled a gun oot his wherever, and he put it straight
18 to my head and I pissed myself. I got -- and they all
19 laughed at me 'cause I did this, and then he put the gun
20 away. Whether it was a real gun or not I don't know.
21 But, erm, I think he lost his job for it, because he was
22 reported.

23 Q. At the time though, 'George', did you think it was a
24 real gun?

25 A. Aye, I thought -- yeah, I thought it was a real gun.

1 Could have been a starting pistol. It looked real. In
2 fact, I cannae remember what it looked like. I just
3 knew it was a gun. Why he was carrying a gun, no idea.

4 Q. 'George', you tell us you were in Redheugh for about
5 18 months, and that when you were 16, they told you that
6 they had no right to keep you there and they would help
7 you get a flat and a job. But you chose to go home and
8 you say in retrospect that was a mistake.

9 Now, again, from our records, we've got you
10 returning home on [REDACTED] 1976, so you were aged 16?

11 A. I was turning 16 and they gave me an option, that
12 I could go home if my parents wanted me home and
13 I wanted to go home, or they could set me up, I'd keep
14 my job, 'cause I think I was still employed at the time,
15 or I could maybe get a better job, and they'd find a
16 place -- they could no longer -- they had no longer any
17 legal authority to keep me, but they'd help me with
18 a flat and stuff like that, as they had with other boys.

19 [REDACTED] -- was it [REDACTED], aye -- [REDACTED]
20 [REDACTED]'s older brother, he was set up in Kilbirnie and he
21 had a job in the ironworks, I think, the steelworks. He
22 was about 19 by this time, but he'd been in the home.

23 And I chose to go home. And then retrospectively
24 that was a mistake, because I ended up with a criminal
25 record and mental health issues and a personality

1 disorder and had nae treatment for the trauma I'd been
2 through. And I've got loads of excuses, where it was
3 kinda, I'm a victim. Which maybe I am, but some of them
4 might be just excuses, which are also reasons for my
5 behaviour, which I regret as well.

6 Q. And, 'George', you tell us about your life after care
7 from paragraph 87 and you've gone into some of that,
8 about being in trouble and being in prison and some of
9 the things that happened, and the difficulties you
10 had --

11 A. Aye.

12 Q. -- with alcohol and violence as well. And I think
13 you're quite frank in your statement about what your
14 behaviour was during that time?

15 A. Aye.

16 Q. And I think you say as well, you struggled with your
17 mental health and there was a suicide attempt. But
18 I think when we get to paragraph 93, you say that you
19 got an apprenticeship in painting and decorating, a City
20 & Guilds certificate, and you did that for most of your
21 working life. But you also got a college diploma in
22 computer data processing and a diploma in small business
23 financial management?

24 A. That's right, aye.

25 Q. And I think you've touched on the fact that you're

1 an artist now and I think you make the point you don't
2 receive any money from it because you receive incapacity
3 benefit, but that's something that you seem to enjoy
4 now?

5 A. I haven't done the art for a while and, in three years
6 I've not painted anything. A lot of other stuff went
7 on. I lost my stepmother and got depressed, and
8 lockdowns with COVID, and doing other stuff and things.
9 But I gave up my website, which is still there, it's
10 free noo, but I stopped paying for it and it's now
11 gone -- reverted to a free website [REDACTED] with
12 advertisement. I should really go in and remove it but
13 I cannae remember passwords.

14 Anyway, next month I'm going doon to London 'cause
15 I do still want to paint. I've had cataract surgery nae
16 long ago and nae longer have to wear varifocals and
17 I can see a lot better. So I'm going doon to London
18 next month to visit art galleries and maybe try and get
19 inspired to do something, 'cause I have a few ideas.

20 Q. Well, 'George', in relation to impact, you tell us, and
21 this is at paragraph 101, you say:

22 'I think a lot of damage was done before I went into
23 care. The biggest damage was from my parents but the
24 care system didn't help. I was programmed to be violent
25 from a young age and I've had to do a lot of work to

1 change that.'

2 A. Aye, looking back, my go-to reaction was learnt through
3 my father, my stepfather, to be violent, 'cause he had
4 a real short temper with me. He was violent to my
5 brother, his own son, [REDACTED], he got hit a few times. He
6 was never violent to the girls and I don't -- he was
7 never violent to my younger brother. And he was never
8 violent to my mother.

9 There was one day I went in the hoose visiting,
10 years later after all this, and my mum's sitting in the
11 kitchen with a black eye. I goes, 'Oh Jesus, what
12 happened to you?' She says, 'Your dad hit me'. I goes,
13 'Away'. She goes, 'No'. I says, 'You better nae be
14 lying because I'll go oot and smack him'. He was oot in
15 the back garden. She goes, 'No, he hit me'. I said
16 'I'm nae believing this'. It was hard to believe.

17 But I went oot in the back garden and I confronted
18 my stepfather, and I says, 'Did you hit mum?' He says,
19 'Aye'. I says, 'I'm going to beat you up'. And then he
20 says, 'Wait a minute'. He had -- tossing and turning in
21 his sleep and he had punched her when he was tossing and
22 turning in his sleep. So they thought it would be funny
23 to wind me up about it 'cause they knew I might get
24 violent. Well, they knew I could get violent. And
25 that's what they did to me. They encouraged me to be

1 violent towards me. And it took quite a bit of strength
2 for me to not be violent when -- to listen to him and
3 hear his -- I went back in and I got onto my mother
4 about it and I says, 'Why did you lie?' She says,
5 'I didnae lie'. I says, 'Well, you could have just told
6 me the truth, it was an accident'. I think having to
7 wind me up and get me all frustrated, and they didnae
8 care, didnae care.

9 Q. I think you say, 'George', that Future Pathways helped
10 you get access to a counsellor --

11 A. Yeah.

12 Q. -- and some physiotherapy and a gym membership?

13 A. Yeah.

14 Q. And is that something that helped?

15 A. Erm, that's helped a great deal, but I've also had other
16 help and self-help. The biggest help I got was reading
17 a book by a social worker from Manchester called
18 Gael Lindenfield, 'Managing Anger', and that lifted
19 a lot of weights off my shoulders and gave me control
20 back.

21 Then, dealing with -- I saw a psychologist from
22 South Africa. He just happened to be fae South Africa
23 but he worked in Elgin. He taught me about how your
24 mind -- your head works when you're a child, you're an
25 adult and you're a parent, and learning things. And

1 it's took me a long time to get to where I am. Much
2 happier, much more peaceful and caring and -- but the
3 help I've had from doctors -- is it doctors?

4 LADY SMITH: Yes.

5 A. Future Pathways? It's been great. They're still
6 supporting me today.

7 I've got a new adviser who's come online and his
8 name's Ewan Black, and he's nae as good as the last one
9 but he's doing a decent job. And they tailor the care
10 package to what I want, what I think, and it's reduced.
11 Kinda, it's coming doon to I'm nae facing any mair
12 therapy sessions with anybody. I'm just -- I cannae
13 remember what's in it. There's very little left in it,
14 so, I'm quite happy with that.

15 MS FORBES: It sounds like you've come a long way, 'George',
16 from where you were?

17 A. I started trying to address this in the 80s and did
18 various things through the years, but the maist intense
19 help I've had is from after being interviewed for this
20 Inquiry and then getting in touch with Future Pathways.
21 The lady I had before was absolutely brilliant and
22 unfortunately she had to take a break and left. But
23 I think I got a bit emotionally attached to her as well,
24 so that was a -- the break being necessary. And I can
25 imagine that in other cases where for professional

1 reasons you need to take a break and change.

2 But, erm, the help I've had from them has been

3 absolutely a life-changing thing.

4 MS FORBES: Well, 'George', that is really all the questions

5 I have for you, so thank you very much. Is there

6 anything you want to say that I've not touched upon

7 today?

8 A. Nae that I can think of. I think anything I did have

9 that I thought I might want to say, I think we've

10 covered it.

11 MS FORBES: Thank you, 'George'.

12 A. Yeah, and I cannae think of anything else.

13 LADY SMITH: 'George', let me add my thanks again.

14 I'm really grateful to you for coming today. You've

15 added so much to my understanding of your background

16 and --

17 A. Have I?

18 LADY SMITH: -- what happened to you in the different

19 places, including obviously Redheugh. I'm really

20 grateful to you for doing that, so I hope you have

21 a safe journey home.

22 A. Thank you very much.

23 LADY SMITH: If you have time before you go home to look at

24 an art gallery here, there are two very close. There's

25 the --

1 A. I've beat you to it.

2 LADY SMITH: You've been to National Portrait --

3 A. I did it yesterday.

4 LADY SMITH: -- Gallery on Queen Street? And the National
5 Gallery on Prince --

6 A. National Gallery yesterday, aye.

7 LADY SMITH: National Portrait Gallery on Queen Street?

8 A. No.

9 LADY SMITH: There's a very good exhibition on there of
10 modern portraits, you might be interested.

11 But anyway, very grateful to you. Safe journey
12 home.

13 A. Thank you very much.

14 It's nice meeting you.

15 LADY SMITH: Thank you.

16 (The witness withdrew)

17 LADY SMITH: Just before I rise for the morning break,
18 there's some names I want to mention of people who have
19 been referred to by name in the course of 'George's'
20 evidence but their identities are protected by my
21 General Restriction Order and they're not to be
22 identified as referred to in our evidence outside this
23 room.

24 Now, we have IJU [REDACTED], RLX [REDACTED], IEQ [REDACTED], Miss IER [REDACTED],
25 HDD [REDACTED], [REDACTED], somebody [REDACTED], somebody [REDACTED]

1 [REDACTED], [REDACTED], [REDACTED], and I think that
2 was everybody.

3 Can I just check whether one of the team picked up
4 anybody else that I didn't note?

5 Of course, a Mrs RFF [REDACTED] and RAB [REDACTED] as well.
6 [REDACTED], oh yes, it could have been somebody [REDACTED]. He
7 wasn't quite sure.

8 Thank you very much and I'll stop now for the
9 morning break and we'll sit again in about a quarter of
10 an hour or so. Thank you.

11 (11.40 am)

12 (A short break)

13 (11.55 am)

14 LADY SMITH: Ms Forbes.

15 MS FORBES: My Lady, we have another witness who's
16 an applicant and is anonymous and is known as 'Andy'.

17 LADY SMITH: Thank you.

18 'Andy' (affirmed)

19 LADY SMITH: 'Andy', thank you for coming along this morning
20 to help us with your evidence. I already have your
21 written evidence, of course, and I'm really grateful to
22 you for having provided that already. It is evidence
23 before the Inquiry, as that's already there.

24 We want today to look at some particular aspects of
25 that. We're not going go through it line by line, don't

1 worry about that.

2 Your statement is in that red folder in front of you
3 and it will be available -- do you see it's on the desk
4 there? That'll be available for you if you want to look
5 at it as we're going through your evidence, and we'll
6 bring parts of it up on the screen as well. You don't
7 have to use either of them, but they're there if it
8 helps you.

9 A. Thank you.

10 LADY SMITH: I also want to reassure you that I do
11 appreciate that what you're doing is difficult. This is
12 a public place and you're here to talk about yourself
13 and not just yourself how you are now, but how you were
14 years and years ago when you were a child and things
15 weren't particularly good, and we need to just explore
16 those a little bit with you.

17 People are often taken by surprise at how it stirs
18 their emotions and how difficult it is in fact to go
19 back to those days. If you get upset, it doesn't
20 matter, please don't worry about that. If you need
21 a break, that's absolutely fine. If you just want
22 a pause where you are, that's fine as well. You just
23 let me know.

24 We'll try to explain things as clearly as we can as
25 we go along, but if you don't follow us, that's our

1 fault, not yours, so feel free to ask, okay?

2 A. Okay.

3 LADY SMITH: Any questions at all, just ask. All right?

4 Are you ready for me to hand over to Ms Forbes and

5 she'll take it from there?

6 A. Yeah.

7 LADY SMITH: Thank you.

8 Ms Forbes.

9 Questions from Ms Forbes

10 MS FORBES: Thank you, my Lady.

11 Good afternoon, 'Andy'.

12 A. Good afternoon, Dana.

13 Q. I think you've got your statement in front of you in the

14 red folder --

15 A. Yeah.

16 Q. -- and it's also on the screen. But if I could just ask

17 you to turn to the very last page of your statement in

18 the folder, which is page 14, and you'll see at

19 paragraph 58 there --

20 A. Mm-hmm.

21 Q. -- there's a declaration at the end of your statement

22 and it says:

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 And then you've signed that and it's dated 10 June
3 2022?

4 A. Yeah.

5 Q. Is that right?

6 A. Yes.

7 Q. Is that still the position? Yes. Okay. If you go back
8 to the beginning of your statement, if you want, back to
9 the first page or you could put it to the side, it's up
10 to you, whatever you want to do, 'Andy'.

11 Now, 'Andy', you might be quite quietly spoken, so
12 if you find that, maybe get a bit closer to the
13 microphone or we'll put it closer to you, just to make
14 sure we pick you up, okay? Is that all right? Are you
15 feeling comfortable?

16 A. That's fine, aye.

17 LADY SMITH: Oh, that's much better, 'Andy', thank you.

18 MS FORBES: 'Andy', you tell us you were born in 1964, is
19 that right?

20 A. Yeah.

21 Q. And then you go on to talk in your statement about your
22 life before you went into care, this is from paragraph 2
23 to paragraph 7. So I'm just going to look at that now
24 with you, 'Andy', and ask you some questions about it if
25 that's okay.

1 I think you tell us, 'Andy', you were born in
2 Bellshill, is that right?

3 A. Yeah, yes.

4 Q. And you lived with your mum and your dad, is that right?

5 A. Yeah.

6 Q. And you tell us you had quite a lot of siblings, two
7 brothers and four sisters?

8 A. Aye.

9 Q. And I think you describe them and you say that the
10 oldest was a brother who was ten years older than you,
11 is that right?

12 A. That's right.

13 Q. And then the youngest was a sister who was six years
14 younger than you?

15 A. Right.

16 Q. And you tell us that your life with your parents and
17 your brothers and sisters were with your dad's parents,
18 I think, at first, is that right?

19 A. That's right.

20 Q. And then there came a time when you moved to East
21 Kilbride and that was when you were about 5 years old
22 because there wasn't any room anymore?

23 A. That's right.

24 Q. You tell us that both your parents worked, that your mum
25 worked in pubs and your dad was an engineer?

1 A. Yeah.

2 Q. And he stopped working when he was about 45?

3 A. Aye.

4 Q. Oh, I should say, 'Andy', it's my fault, there's
5 something we do here, we give your statement a reference
6 number and I've forgotten it read it out. So I'm just
7 going do that now just so we get it into the transcript.
8 So don't worry about that, I'm just going to read it.
9 It's WIT-1-000001009. So sorry about that.

10 Now that's out the way, we'll get back to your
11 statement.

12 I think you tell us though that life at home with
13 your parents wasn't very good because they both drank,
14 is that right?

15 A. Yeah.

16 Q. And they fought constantly? Yeah.

17 You describe the house as being like a mess?

18 A. Aye.

19 Q. And that youse were really 'like tramps'?

20 A. Aye, basically.

21 Q. And you were all neglected really? Yeah.

22 And you tell us about going to primary school and
23 you say you got on all right and you had friends, and
24 that the only time the social work got involved was when
25 you went to secondary school at St Brides?

1 A. Aye.

2 Q. And you tell us, 'Andy', that when you started secondary
3 school, your mum and dad actually kept you off school
4 for the first six weeks because there was no uniform for
5 you, is that right?

6 A. There was nae money for it.

7 Q. No money. You say they spent all their money on drink?

8 A. Aye.

9 Q. So you missed those first six weeks, and then you say
10 that when you went then to school finally, you didn't
11 know really the people and they'd all made friends
12 already, essentially, is that right?

13 A. Aye, that's right.

14 Q. So that was a bit difficult. I think you tell us that
15 there was an annex at the school and for the first year
16 you were there, and you went to that part of the school
17 all the time, but then --

18 A. Yeah.

19 Q. And then in the second year you moved up to the main
20 school building, is that right?

21 A. That's right.

22 Q. And this, you say, is when the bullying started from
23 boys in your year and that led to you then staying off
24 school more than you went?

25 A. Aye.

1 Q. And this was you getting bullied because of the state
2 you were in, being neglected and the state of your
3 clothes and your shoes, things like that?

4 A. Yeah.

5 Q. And you refer to the social worker as the 'dogger
6 woman', so she was the one that came, went along when
7 you dogged school, is that right?

8 A. Aye.

9 Q. And she came and picked you up at the house one
10 morning -- sorry in the morning and took you to school,
11 but that didn't make you go to school, because you tell
12 us you went in one gate and out the other?

13 A. That's right.

14 Q. And you tell us you don't think anyone ever asked you
15 why you didn't want to go to school?

16 A. No.

17 Q. So the fact you were being bullied didn't come out?

18 A. No.

19 Q. You tell us then there was a Children's Panel and it was
20 recommended that you go into care by the social worker,
21 and you say you think they just had their minds made up
22 before you got there?

23 A. Aye.

24 Q. And you don't remember if you were asked about anything?

25 A. No.

1 Q. But this was all relating to you just not going to
2 school, is that your recollection?

3 A. Aye, so I was told.

4 Q. Yes. You tell us you got a date to go into Redheugh,
5 which was [REDACTED] 1979. You would have been 14, is
6 that right?

7 A. Mm-hmm, yeah.

8 Q. And you knew that you would be staying there until you
9 were school-leaving age, which was 16?

10 A. Aye.

11 Q. And is that what they told you?

12 A. Yeah.

13 Q. And you tell us you then came out of Redheugh on
14 [REDACTED] 1980?

15 A. Yeah.

16 Q. Which would have been the end of the school year?

17 A. Aye.

18 Q. But you tell us that no one else in your family had been
19 in care?

20 A. No.

21 Q. You then go on, 'Andy', to talk about your time in
22 Redheugh from paragraph 8, and I'm just going to now
23 move to talk about your time there, okay?

24 A. Aye.

25 Q. You give us a description of Redheugh and you say it was

1 a big mansion house?

2 A. Yeah.

3 Q. It was run by the Salvation Army?

4 A. Mm-hmm.

5 Q. But it was under Ayrshire Council?

6 A. Aye.

7 Q. And you talk about a long driveway, big gates, and a wee
8 house at the gates, like a gatehouse?

9 A. Mm-hmm.

10 Q. And you say there were trees all around and the grounds
11 were massive?

12 A. Yep.

13 Q. There was even a full-size football pitch?

14 A. Mm-hmm.

15 Q. You tell us a little bit about the inside. And you say
16 you go in the main entrance and there was a side room,
17 to the left of the main doors there was a reception room
18 and to the right was the office, and then after the
19 reception room was a games room and a snooker room?

20 A. Yes.

21 Q. There was also a big staircase that you tell us about
22 and you say you weren't allowed to use that?

23 A. That's right.

24 Q. So was that what you were told?

25 A. Aye.

1 Q. Were you allowed to use the main entrance to get into
2 Redheugh?

3 A. No.

4 Q. No?

5 A. No.

6 Q. So that was another rule?

7 A. Aye.

8 Q. Did you know why that was?

9 A. Nae idea.

10 Q. What did you have to use instead of the main door?

11 A. It was a door further up, a wee side door kind of thing.

12 Q. And was there a different staircase that you had to use
13 then as well?

14 A. Yep.

15 Q. Was that at the back?

16 A. Aye.

17 Q. Okay. And you tell us that along the corridor there was
18 a small room, a dining room and then down to the
19 showers.

20 A. Aye.

21 Q. So the showers were down?

22 A. Aye.

23 Q. There was also a kitchen that you say you were never in
24 it, and then there was this back stair, which went up to
25 the dorms, and is that the stair that you mentioned?

1 A. Mm-hmm, yeah.

2 Q. There were also four or five dorms and this was on the
3 second floor or on the first floor -- the floor above
4 the ground anyway, is that right?

5 A. Aye.

6 Q. And then you say there were single rooms in the attic?

7 A. Aye.

8 Q. So there was another level above that?

9 A. Mm-hmm.

10 Q. And you say there was about half a dozen of them. And
11 eventually you got put into a single room while you were
12 there?

13 A. Yeah.

14 Q. You tell us, 'Andy', when you were there, it was all
15 boys at Redheugh, is that right?

16 A. Mm-hmm.

17 Q. You say there were about 35 to 40 boys?

18 A. Aye.

19 Q. And the age you remember is about being 12 and 20 years
20 old?

21 A. Mm-hmm.

22 Q. So you remember boys as old as 20?

23 A. Aye.

24 Q. You describe there being the odd fight with boys, but
25 generally the boys got on okay together?

1 A. Mm-hmm, yeah.

2 Q. And that there were these older boys you tell us about,
3 who were being prepared for outside, but there was just
4 a few of them?

5 A. Aye.

6 Q. And you mention one of them who had a nickname, because
7 he was always catching you around your neck?

8 A. That's right.

9 Q. You tell us -- oh sorry, sorry. I interrupted you
10 there.

11 A. I said, 'That's right'.

12 LADY SMITH: Was it just you he'd catch round the neck or
13 did he go for other boys as well?

14 A. Aye.

15 LADY SMITH: Just you?

16 A. He done it quite regular.

17 MS FORBES: He must have been quite an age, I think, because
18 you say that his younger brother was in Redheugh as well
19 and he was about 17?

20 A. Aye.

21 Q. So he was older than him? He was older than him?

22 A. I think he was about 20.

23 Q. Okay. 'Andy', you tell us about staff at Redheugh and
24 this is from paragraph 11, and the way you describe it
25 was you say the staff were there to keep you in order.

1 Is that how you saw it?

2 A. Aye, basically.

3 Q. You tell us about someone called HDD . Is
4 that what the boys called him?

5 A. Eh, sorry?

6 Q. Is that what the boys called him, HDD ?

7 A. Aye.

8 Q. You say he was SNR ?

9 A. That's right.

10 Q. So he was SNR --

11 A. Aye.

12 Q. -- of Redheugh. And his wife RFF --

13 A. Yeah.

14 Q. -- was also there?

15 A. Aye.

16 Q. And she worked there too, is that right?

17 A. Uh-huh, yes.

18 Q. You say that she was his partner in crime. Is that --

19 A. Definitely.

20 Q. Is that how you'd describe her?

21 A. Yeah.

22 Q. You tell us that HDD was a big lump of a man and
23 was about 6 feet 4?

24 A. Mm-hmm.

25 Q. He had grey hair and that RFF though was about

1 5 feet 2 so quite a lot shorter?

2 A. Aye.

3 Q. You say she was stocky and had ginger hair?

4 A. Aye.

5 Q. But they also had a daughter at Redheugh and you say she

6 was RAB ?

7 A. Mm-hmm.

8 Q. She was tall with blonde hair and a medium build.

9 When you were at Redheugh was RAB (sic) a member

10 of staff there?

11 A. Part-time, part-time.

12 Q. So as well as being their daughter, she also worked

13 there sometimes?

14 A. Yeah.

15 Q. And what was her job there, do you know?

16 A. Just basically keeping us in order.

17 Q. Okay. The same as the rest?

18 A. Aye.

19 Q. Do you know what age she was roughly when you were

20 there? Did you have an idea?

21 A. Early 20s, I would say.

22 Q. Okay. 'Andy', you also mention an PXL-SPO

23 PXL-SPO, so that was a married couple?

24 A. Mm-hmm.

25 Q. So they worked there. Another PZD, who you say was

1 a PZD [REDACTED], as well?

2 A. Mm-hmm.

3 Q. You mention George Gillon and an Arthur Steven.

4 A. Aye.

5 Q. So there's an PZD [REDACTED] and an Arthur Steven, so

6 [REDACTED]?

7 A. Aye.

8 Q. You tell us that [REDACTED], who was the wife of

9 PXL [REDACTED], she was the nicest woman you'd ever met,

10 but it wasn't the same for her husband; is that right?

11 A. No.

12 Q. You describe him as a brute, is the way you describe

13 him. And you tell us the staff were from their late 30s

14 to 50 years old but as you've said, RAB [REDACTED] was the

15 youngest, in her early 20s, and PXL [REDACTED] was the

16 oldest?

17 A. Yeah.

18 Q. 'Andy', you tell us the staff were on a rota and there'd

19 be two or three who would be in the building at night,

20 is that right?

21 A. Aye.

22 Q. And there was PZD [REDACTED] stayed in a wee cottage

23 opposite [REDACTED] with his wife and their two

24 daughters?

25 A. That's right.

1 Q. And you say that he was over 6 feet tall with a big mop
2 of ginger hair?

3 A. Aye.

4 Q. And you say there was also a husband and wife who stayed
5 in the cottage at the main gates, so the gatehouse or
6 something was it?

7 A. Yep, yep.

8 Q. You say they were fine, but they must have seen boys
9 being hit by other staff?

10 A. That's right.

11 Q. You don't remember them doing anything but you think
12 they must have been aware of it?

13 A. Aye.

14 Q. And there was no key workers and there was no staff
15 particularly responsible for certain groups of boys?

16 A. No.

17 Q. Just everyone looked after everyone, is that what it was
18 like?

19 'Andy', you tell us really about your first memories
20 of Redheugh from paragraph 13 and you say you were
21 really upset and frightened at getting taken away from
22 your family. Is that how you felt?

23 A. Aye.

24 Q. So this was your first time being away from your family,
25 is that right?

1 A. Aye.

2 Q. You say though in some ways it worked out for the
3 better, but there were other experiences that weren't so
4 good, and we'll come to them, 'Andy'.

5 A. Yeah.

6 Q. Your social worker took you and you say that when you
7 got there, you were even more scared. There was **HDD**
8 **HDD** and **RFF** who were there when you arrived and you
9 were taken into a wee reception room and told the rules,
10 is that right?

11 A. That's right.

12 Q. And the rules you say were that you just had to do what
13 you were told and behave, or else?

14 A. Or else.

15 Q. But there was no explaining what the 'or else' was?

16 A. No.

17 Q. And did you have an idea at that time of what that might
18 be?

19 A. No.

20 Q. And then you went to the dorm. At this time, the other
21 boys were still out at school?

22 A. That's right.

23 Q. So they were away. And you tell us that you put what
24 little stuff you had in the bedside cabinet?

25 A. Mm-hmm.

1 Q. You had a radio cassette player and a few bits and bobs
2 and then you went down to the sitting room and then the
3 boys came back from school?
4 A. That's right.
5 Q. You tell us about two boys in particular, and you give
6 us their names. You say they were in your dorm and they
7 took you back up to the dorm?
8 A. Mm-hmm.
9 Q. And they told you essentially what was what --
10 A. Aye.
11 Q. -- in Redheugh, so they gave you the lay of the land
12 essentially?
13 A. Aye.
14 Q. And they said that someone in particular was in charge.
15 Was that another boy?
16 A. Aye.
17 Q. Okay. So they told you that he was in charge of
18 Redheugh?
19 A. Aye, basically.
20 Q. So not the staff, but him?
21 A. Him.
22 Q. But you say that that settled you down a bit, speaking
23 to them?
24 A. Aye.
25 Q. They were nice boys?

1 A. Yep.

2 Q. But they told you that if you were ever sent to the
3 reception room then that meant you were going to be hit
4 by the staff?

5 A. Aye.

6 Q. And they said to you that would definitely happen?

7 A. Yep, at some point.

8 Q. At some point that would definitely happen. So were
9 they telling you that so that you were prepared for it?

10 A. Aye, so I was aware.

11 Q. And you say you weren't looking forward to that?

12 A. No.

13 Q. But you say you got on fine with the rest of the boys in
14 the dorm, there were no issues?

15 A. Yeah, no.

16 Q. You tell us a little bit 'Andy' about your routine. You
17 say there was you and there were five other guys in your
18 dorm. You'd get up about 7.30 and have your shower and
19 you'd go down -- sorry, get dressed and go down for
20 breakfast and then you went to school and when you came
21 back from school, you had about an hour before your tea
22 and you could do what you liked during that time?

23 A. Yeah.

24 Q. You'd have your tea at 6 o'clock and then the rest of
25 the night to play football, snooker or other games or

1 wander about the grounds?

2 A. Aye.

3 Q. And you say you were restricted to the grounds but they

4 weren't locked?

5 A. That's right.

6 Q. So were you told that you weren't to leave Redheugh

7 grounds?

8 A. That we were, aye.

9 Q. But from what you're saying it sounds like after tea you

10 really were left to your own devices and got to do what

11 you wanted within reason?

12 A. Yeah.

13 Q. 'Andy', you go on to tell us lights out were out at

14 10 o'clock and you had to be in, in the building by

15 then, is that right?

16 A. Yeah, aye.

17 Q. And the staff would put the lights out, but then you'd

18 put them back on or the boys would put them back on?

19 A. Aye, yeah.

20 Q. And then you say you ran about 'daft'?

21 A. Aye, basically.

22 Q. And would any staff members get involved when that was

23 happening?

24 A. Er, If you got caught.

25 Q. But you say you didn't have any problems with wetting

1 the bed, but there were a couple of boys who did, but
2 you're not sure what happened if they wet the bed?

3 A. No.

4 Q. It wasn't something that you were aware of really?

5 A. Aye.

6 Q. 'Andy', you go on to tell us a bit about the routine and
7 you say the food was all right. You got breakfast and
8 tea and there was no supper before bed?

9 A. No.

10 Q. There would be a couple of staff in the dining room to
11 supervise. But if you didn't like the food then
12 somebody else would eat it. It was like it or lump it?

13 A. Basically.

14 Q. So there was no punishment for not eating the food?

15 A. No.

16 Q. And it wasn't served up to you, again, at the next meal
17 or anything like that. I think you explain, 'Andy',
18 that lunch was at school?

19 A. Aye.

20 Q. But if it wasn't a school day, would you get lunch in
21 Redheugh?

22 A. Aye.

23 Q. You would. You tell us about a shower area called 'The
24 Ablutions', but you say that the showers were poor and
25 this was a communal shower area which had eight showers

1 and was really first come first served?

2 A. Mm-hmm.

3 Q. So would you have to then shower with other boys?

4 A. Aye, it was just an open space basically.

5 Q. And when you had to shower, would the boys be various

6 different ages?

7 A. Aye.

8 Q. Because you've mentioned one of the boys being maybe as

9 old as 20, would that happen?

10 A. He stayed in -- it was like a wee cottage and they were

11 preparing him for --

12 Q. Preparing him for leaving?

13 A. -- for leaving.

14 Q. So did he have his own area?

15 A. Aye.

16 Q. So there wasn't any showering with him?

17 A. No.

18 Q. Was it mostly boys then your own age that you were

19 showering with?

20 A. Aye, yeah.

21 Q. And how did you feel about that, coming from where you'd

22 lived at home to this?

23 A. You just got on with it.

24 Q. Okay.

25 A. Nae choice.

1 Q. 'Andy', you say you never had a cold shower there, so
2 there must have been plenty of hot water. But there
3 would be a male member of staff in the shower area when
4 you were showering?
5 A. Aye.
6 Q. And was that to supervise you?
7 A. Mm-hmm.
8 Q. And you'd have toiletries provided and you could get
9 more if you ran out?
10 A. Aye.
11 Q. So there wasn't an issue with anything like that?
12 A. No.
13 Q. 'Andy', you say that there was a football team and that
14 that was something that you were good at, is that right?
15 A. Mm-hmm, yeah.
16 Q. You played in the goals?
17 A. Yeah.
18 Q. And you played other schools as well?
19 A. Mm-hmm.
20 Q. And you mention playing a List D school called
21 Geilsland, is that right. And you say that those games
22 could be quite exciting because you beat them more than
23 they beat you.
24 A. Aye.
25 Q. And you've mentioned there's the snooker table and other

1 games, other -- a games room with games as well?

2 A. Mm-hmm, yeah.

3 Q. There was also a smoking room?

4 A. Mm-hmm.

5 Q. And you say you bought cigarettes off your pocket money

6 or the money your dad sent you?

7 A. Aye.

8 Q. So you were allowed to smoke there if you wanted to in

9 that room?

10 A. Mm-hmm, aye.

11 Q. You tell us about weekends, 'Andy', and you say that the

12 staff took you out to Largs and Saltcoats. You went

13 potholing and that was something you enjoyed?

14 A. Aye.

15 Q. And then there'd be walks up Ben Lomond, holidays to

16 youth hostels at Loch Lomond, Stirling and Lochearnhead

17 for a few nights?

18 A. Yeah.

19 Q. And you went hill walking, canoeing and fishing?

20 A. Mm-hmm.

21 Q. So were these good things; did you enjoy that?

22 A. Aye.

23 Q. And was this the type of thing you ever got to do when

24 you lived at home?

25 A. No very often. Or maybe not at all, aye.

1 Q. You tell us, 'Andy', there was a school uniform that you
2 were given. You had stuff for PE, trainers and a pair
3 of boots. You were given dress trousers and shoes,
4 jeans and a tracksuit, and you had drawers in the dorm
5 to keep your clothes in as well. And you make point
6 that the clothes you went to Redheugh in probably just
7 went in the bin?

8 A. Probably.

9 Q. But from what you've told us, 'Andy', you didn't have
10 a lot, did you, when you went to Redheugh?

11 A. No. No.

12 Q. You say that if you were not well, you were given hot
13 drinks and you'd be put in your bed. There wasn't
14 a nurse there, but if you needed to go to the dentist
15 then staff got you an appointment?

16 A. Aye.

17 Q. So were you looked after a little bit then if you
18 weren't well?

19 A. Aye, yeah.

20 Q. You talk about going to the Salvation Army church on
21 a Sunday?

22 A. Mm-hmm.

23 Q. Was that something that you could choose to do or did
24 you have to --

25 A. No. You just got put in the minibus and that was you.

1 Q. You say all the people had their uniforms on and you had
2 your school uniforms on and this was a busy place?
3 A. Aye.
4 Q. Was it well-attended?
5 A. Yeah.
6 Q. And there would be a service and games after it and you
7 say that you got some certificates for running, is that
8 right?
9 A. Sorry?
10 Q. Sorry, that's my fault, 'Andy'. Did you get some
11 certificates for running?
12 A. Running?
13 Q. Running. Do you remember that?
14 LADY SMITH: I think you say that in your statement. It's
15 paragraph 23.
16 A. (Pause)
17 I cannae remember.
18 MS FORBES: It's okay.
19 LADY SMITH: Could it have been an activity that the church
20 organised?
21 A. (Pause)
22 No, that was at school, oh, sorry.
23 LADY SMITH: Oh, that was at school?
24 A. Sorry.
25 LADY SMITH: No, that's fine. Thanks.

1 MS FORBES: So you recall getting some certificates for
2 running from school?

3 A. Aye.

4 Q. Yes. And you tell us that you would have to say grace
5 at mealtimes and a boy would be picked at random by
6 a staff member to do that?

7 A. Aye.

8 Q. So that was something you recall happening when you were
9 there?

10 A. Aye.

11 Q. There was also chores and you tell us that there was
12 a rota for that and you did chores once a fortnight?

13 A. Mm-hmm.

14 Q. And this could involve cleaning the shower area and the
15 toilets and you also had to Hoover?

16 A. Aye.

17 Q. But that would be the only time you were allowed up that
18 main staircase?

19 A. Yeah, when you were Hoovering it.

20 Q. I think you point out chores were all right if you got
21 the Hoover?

22 A. Aye.

23 Q. So was that the best one out the lot?

24 A. Aye.

25 Q. 'Andy', you say that you were at home for your birthday

1 and Christmas, but you say boys' birthdays weren't
2 celebrated at Redheugh that you remember?

3 A. No.

4 Q. And you got two weeks home at Christmas, but you say
5 that there was one boy, who was an orphan, and there was
6 him and a couple of other boys stayed at Redheugh at
7 Christmas?

8 A. Aye.

9 Q. But you say they seemed to do all right, do you mean in
10 the way of gifts or --

11 A. They seemed quite happy.

12 Q. They seemed okay. In relation to school, 'Andy', you
13 tell us that it was a normal secondary school in
14 Kilbirnie, you went to Garnock Academy and you would go
15 in the minibus, but you could walk if you wanted to?

16 A. Aye.

17 Q. And it was a 20-minute walk and the school was fine, you
18 say, and there was no issues at the school because you
19 stayed in a home?

20 A. Aye.

21 Q. So they didn't try to bully you because of that?

22 A. No.

23 Q. And you tell us that at school you did quite well, you
24 were quite smart?

25 A. Aye.

1 Q. And you explain that it was just when you were in East
2 Kilbride, because of what was going on, that you didn't
3 go school, but actually from what you tell us, 'Andy',
4 when you did go to school, you were able to get
5 certificates?

6 A. Yeah.

7 Q. And you talk about getting certificates, CSEs in
8 arithmetic, geography and English?

9 A. That's right.

10 Q. So was that, when you think about your time at Redheugh,
11 is that maybe one of the better things?

12 A. Mm-hmm.

13 Q. In relation to visits, 'Andy', you say that the only
14 people who came to see you were social workers and there
15 would be a female social worker who took you to Largs
16 about once a month?

17 A. Uh-huh.

18 Q. And you'd get the day off school do that?

19 A. Aye.

20 Q. And you'd do a couple of chores until she came and then
21 she took you out? But you --

22 A. That's right.

23 Q. Sorry 'Andy', yeah?

24 A. That's right.

25 Q. That's right. And you say though that she didn't ask you

1 how you were getting on --

2 A. Aye.

3 Q. -- at Redheugh and you didn't tell her about any of the

4 problems that you had?

5 A. No.

6 Q. There was also a male social worker who came from

7 Bellshill. You say, though, you never saw any

8 inspectors and you didn't go back to the

9 Children's Panel the whole time you were at Redheugh?

10 A. No.

11 Q. So that was you in from that first panel until you left

12 the school?

13 A. Aye.

14 Q. 'Andy', you talk about getting to go home after your

15 second weekend there and for the school holidays, as

16 long as you behaved?

17 A. Aye.

18 Q. And if you didn't behave, they wouldn't keep you back

19 for the full duration of the holidays, but you say that

20 that happened to you about half a dozen times?

21 A. Mm-hmm.

22 Q. And that could be for anything like giving backchat?

23 A. Aye.

24 Q. Not doing what you're told?

25 A. Mm-hmm.

1 Q. Or fighting?

2 A. That's right.

3 Q. So was there times when there would be fighting between
4 some of the boys?

5 A. Aye, yeah.

6 Q. You say that on a Friday, after school, you would get
7 your train fare and your £2 pocket money, which was
8 a lot back then?

9 A. Mm-hmm.

10 Q. And you say that you would have that spent by the
11 Saturday?

12 A. That's right.

13 Q. What type of things would you spend it on?

14 A. Yeah, cigarettes.

15 Q. An expensive habit?

16 LADY SMITH: 'Andy', how old were you when you started
17 smoking?

18 A. When I started smoking?

19 LADY SMITH: Yes.

20 A. 12.

21 LADY SMITH: So it was well established as a habit by the
22 time you went into Redheugh?

23 A. Aye.

24 LADY SMITH: Thank you.

25 MS FORBES: And you say, 'Andy', that you went back then to

1 Redheugh on a Sunday and going home was great. You'd go
2 to the football on the Saturday with your pals, do
3 whatever you did on a Saturday night and then go back on
4 the Sunday afternoon?

5 A. Mm-hmm.

6 Q. But you say, though, you weren't feeling the best on
7 a Sunday because you'd be anxious?

8 A. Aye.

9 Q. And was that because you were anxious about going back
10 to Redheugh?

11 A. Yeah.

12 Q. Because of what was happening?

13 A. There was a bit of bullying going on, quite a bit of
14 bullying.

15 Q. You tell us, 'Andy', that you got a letter from your dad
16 every week with a couple of pounds in it?

17 A. Mm-hmm.

18 Q. And it would be sealed when you got it, nobody opened it
19 before?

20 A. No.

21 Q. So you would get that money?

22 A. Aye.

23 Q. 'Andy', you go on to talk about times when you ran away
24 from paragraph 32 and you say you were fed up with
25 getting slapped -- and we're going to go on to talk

1 about what was happening, that led to you running away
2 -- but you say you were fed up with getting slapped and
3 you and another boy ran away and you walked from
4 Kilbirnie to Paisley?

5 A. Yeah.

6 Q. And you say that you broke into a telephone box, got the
7 train fare to East Kilbride and you were away for five
8 days?

9 A. Aye.

10 LADY SMITH: Just to fill in the facts that younger people
11 may not realise, that was in the days that you needed to
12 have coins that you'd put into a box in the telephone
13 box?

14 A. That's right, aye.

15 LADY SMITH: So you found a way of opening up that I think
16 metal box to get into the money, did you?

17 A. Just a screwdriver.

18 LADY SMITH: A screwdriver, yeah. Was it quite full?

19 A. Aye, there was a few pound in it.

20 LADY SMITH: Enough for your train fare?

21 A. Aye, enough to get us to East Kilbride.

22 LADY SMITH: Thank you. Yes.

23 MS FORBES: 'Andy', you say that by that time, your mum and
24 dad were separated and so you went to your dad's?

25 A. Mm-hmm.

1 Q. But the police were looking for you, so you and the boy
2 just went back to Redheugh yourselves?

3 A. Yeah.

4 Q. And your dad gave you the train fare to go back. You
5 didn't have to break into another telephone box?

6 A. No.

7 Q. But you say, though, you were scared of going back. And
8 why was that, 'Andy', why were you scared to go back?

9 A. Because I knew what was coming, basically.

10 Q. And you say you knew you were going to get a slap?

11 A. Aye, at the least.

12 Q. At the very least?

13 A. At the very least.

14 Q. But when you got back, you say you were asked why you
15 ran away?

16 A. Mm-hmm.

17 Q. And you told them, you said you were getting bullied?

18 A. Aye.

19 Q. But then you just got slapped about again?

20 A. That's right.

21 Q. And they didn't ask you any more about the bullying, you
22 say?

23 A. No.

24 Q. But you make the point it was them that was doing the
25 bullying and they knew it?

1 A. Mm-hmm, aye.

2 LADY SMITH: When you say 'bullying', are you talking about
3 bullying by members of staff or by other boys?

4 A. No, members of staff.

5 LADY SMITH: Members of staff?

6 A. Yeah.

7 LADY SMITH: Thank you.

8 MS FORBES: 'Andy', you tell us about some of the
9 punishments. You say that there were different
10 punishments if you did something wrong and it was
11 usually HDD or RFF, his wife, who punished you?

12 A. Aye.

13 Q. So one of the punishments was you didn't get to go home
14 for the weekend; is that right?

15 A. Mm-hmm.

16 Q. You got slapped by the staff?

17 A. Aye.

18 Q. You say with their hand or they kicked you?

19 A. Aye.

20 Q. And you say your pocket money could be stopped or
21 halved?

22 A. Aye.

23 Q. And you say RFF was handy with her fists?

24 A. For such a wee woman, she was.

25 Q. You then go on, 'Andy', to tell us a little bit more

1 about that and this is from paragraph 35, where you talk
2 about particular occasions of abuse at Redheugh. So
3 I'm going to talk to you about that now, is that okay?
4 A. That's fine.
5 Q. You tell us, 'Andy', that the main ones who punched,
6 slapped and kicked children were HDD , RFF , his
7 wife?
8 A. Mm-hmm.
9 Q. And their daughter, RAB ?
10 A. Aye.
11 Q. So she was the one who was in her early 20s and worked
12 there part-time?
13 A. That's right.
14 Q. You also say PZD and PXL were
15 also ones who assaulted the boys?
16 A. Aye.
17 Q. Because you say it wasn't just you?
18 A. Oh, no.
19 Q. It was everyone getting hit?
20 A. No. Aye.
21 Q. And this was regular?
22 A. Aye.
23 Q. You describe it as being at least twice a week, is that
24 right?
25 A. Yeah, at least.

1 Q. And you tell us it was like being at home and getting
2 a smack off your mum or dad, 'only HDD was a lot
3 bigger than my dad', is the way you've said it?

4 A. Mm-hmm.

5 Q. So he was the one you described as 6 foot 4?

6 A. Aye, that's right.

7 Q. And you say if you were fighting, 'that's how things
8 were done back then, it wouldn't be okay now'. So is
9 that the type of thing you'd get smacked for if you'd
10 been fighting?

11 A. Aye.

12 Q. So this would be fighting with other boys?

13 A. Aye.

14 Q. And you say that the first time you were hit, you felt
15 sore and afraid. Was this your first experience of
16 something like that?

17 A. In there, aye, but I did plenty at home.

18 Q. So you'd been hit at home?

19 A. Aye.

20 Q. But was it the same type of hitting that you were
21 getting in Redheugh as you'd got at home or was it
22 different?

23 A. No, it was different.

24 Q. Okay. In what way was it different?

25 A. Well, just the size of HDD. If he slapped you,

1 you ended up on the other side of the room.

2 Q. So the force --

3 A. Aye.

4 Q. -- of it was greater?

5 A. Aye.

6 Q. And you say that you got used to it because you just had

7 to put up with it?

8 A. Yeah.

9 Q. And is that how you felt, you just resigned to the fact

10 you had to put up with it?

11 A. Uh-huh, nothing else for it.

12 Q. Did you feel there was anything you could do?

13 A. No.

14 Q. You tell us, 'Andy', it got to the stage that if you

15 were in the corridor and you saw one of them coming, you

16 would duck into the smoking room or the toilet just to

17 dodge them?

18 A. Aye.

19 Q. So make yourself scarce, was that a tactic to avoid it?

20 A. Aye, it was quite a narrow corridor.

21 Q. You tell us, 'Andy', about a particular occasion, you

22 say two or three weeks after you first went in, you and

23 another boy were arguing and PZD [REDACTED] came in

24 and told you to shut up?

25 A. Aye.

1 Q. And you say you gave him a bit of backchat?
2 A. Aye.
3 Q. And you got a slap on the head and a kick?
4 A. Yeah.
5 Q. But you say this was totally out of the blue?
6 A. Aye.
7 Q. So you didn't see it coming?
8 A. No.
9 Q. And you say you ended up on the floor because the slap
10 was that hard?
11 A. Aye.
12 Q. So there must have been some force to that?
13 A. Mm-hmm.
14 Q. And you say PZD [REDACTED] played five-a-side football
15 with you, so with you and the other boys?
16 A. Aye.
17 Q. Did other staff members play football with you?
18 A. No, it was only --
19 Q. Only him --
20 A. -- only PZD [REDACTED], aye.
21 Q. But when he played football with you, you say he was
22 really rough and he'd be fouling you in a rough way?
23 A. Aye, not just me.
24 Q. Other boys as well?
25 A. What I meant was if you got him in a bad mood he would

1 kick everybody.

2 Q. And you've said he was a big guy?

3 A. Aye. He was over 6 foot.

4 Q. And the way you've put it, 'Andy', as you say, 'he

5 kicked the shit out of us and elbows were flying

6 everywhere'?

7 A. That was PZD .

8 Q. So this was when you were playing football?

9 A. Aye.

10 Q. You go on, 'Andy', to talk about RFF and you say that

11 you could be walking past RFF in the corridor and for

12 no reason at all, she'd give you a backhander. So you

13 describe this as being slapped on the head by the back

14 of her hand?

15 A. Aye.

16 Q. So was this on your head or your face?

17 A. On my head -- it was usually when you were walking past

18 her, she would swing at you.

19 Q. You describe her as being this tiny woman and you've

20 said she was 5 foot 2, but you say she was like the

21 Tasmanian Devil?

22 A. Aye.

23 Q. And when she came in, in a bad mood, everybody got it?

24 A. Aye.

25 Q. And she would walk round the dining room slapping folk?

1 A. Aye.

2 Q. Would that be for any reason; any particular reason?

3 A. No, nae any particular reason.

4 Q. So nobody had done anything to deserve the slap?

5 A. Maybe a bit of cheek at her or something like that.

6 Q. You say as well, 'Andy', that HDD and RFF's

7 daughter, RAB --

8 A. Aye.

9 Q. -- that she was apt at giving you a cuff round the head,

10 on your body or a wee kick on your knee in the corridor?

11 A. Mm-hmm.

12 Q. And you say it was never on your face and would be for

13 absolutely no reason. So with her it wasn't for giving

14 her backchat or doing something wrong?

15 A. No.

16 Q. She would just hit you for no reason?

17 A. Aye, like mother like daughter, kind of thing.

18 Q. Have you got quite a clear memory of her being somebody

19 who did that?

20 A. Aye.

21 Q. And was that a regular thing?

22 A. Quite regular, aye.

23 Q. Was she working there, if you can remember, the whole

24 time you were there or not?

25 A. No, she wisnae there when I first went in.

1 Q. So there was a time after you went to Redheugh where she
2 started working there?

3 A. Aye.

4 Q. And was she still there when you left?

5 A. No.

6 Q. No. Okay.

7 A. She just kind of appeared, appeared fae nowhere.

8 Q. You tell us, 'Andy', that if you'd been fighting in
9 school, you'd get taken to the reception room and we
10 know, because you've told us, that that was the
11 reception room you were warned about?

12 A. Yep.

13 Q. And you say that when that happened, there'd be four or
14 five of you and you'd be taken in one at a time?

15 A. Aye.

16 Q. And you describe yourself as being scared?

17 A. Mm-hmm.

18 Q. And it was usually **HDD** and then whatever member
19 of staff had reported you and in the room you got
20 slapped, punched and kicked from both of them?

21 A. Aye.

22 Q. You would be pushed to the floor. And you say they
23 didn't hold back and you got some 'right beltters'?

24 A. Aye.

25 Q. So would you be punched and kicked when you were on the

1 floor, 'Andy'?

2 A. No. But they made sure that you ended up on the floor.

3 Q. You say that there were boys in that room, that

4 reception room, every day?

5 A. Aye.

6 Q. And would they be getting that treatment?

7 A. Yeah.

8 Q. And you tell us you knew what you were getting if you

9 were going there. Would that be the only reason that

10 you would go to the reception room?

11 A. Unless you get a visitor, the social worker -- the

12 social workers came.

13 Q. So was there relief sometimes when you went and it was

14 actually a visit from the social worker?

15 A. Aye.

16 Q. But if you were just getting told off and you weren't

17 getting assaulted, they would do it in front of the

18 other boys?

19 A. Aye.

20 Q. So from what you're saying then, 'Andy', would these

21 assaults in the reception room take place outwith the

22 other boys, they wouldn't be there?

23 A. One at a time.

24 Q. Did you have injuries after these assaults?

25 A. Maybe some bruises (indicating).

1 Q. And you indicated there your chest?

2 A. Aye.

3 Q. Is that where it would be?

4 A. Just the ribs.

5 Q. What about your face, did they ever hit you in the face?

6 A. No, never.

7 Q. So that was something that they avoided doing?

8 A. Yeah, except with one wee boy.

9 Q. Okay. What happened with him?

10 A. He'd been in the reception room and he came out and his

11 face was all burst, I think his nose was broke. They

12 ended up taking him to the hospital.

13 Q. I think you tell us about that in the very next

14 paragraph, at paragraph 40, this was a boy and you tell

15 us his name?

16 A. Aye.

17 Q. He came out of the reception room and his nose was burst

18 and his mouth was bleeding?

19 A. Yeah.

20 Q. And somebody asked him what had happened -- sorry,

21 somebody asked him what had happened and **HDD**

22 said:

23 'The idiot fell, didn't he'?

24 A. That's what he says.

25 Q. And you knew that wasn't right, that wasn't what

1 happened?

2 A. No.

3 Q. You make the point there was nothing to fall over in the
4 reception room. There was just a couple of couches and
5 a desk?

6 A. Aye.

7 Q. But you say that boy should have been taken to hospital,
8 but he wasn't, and do you say that, 'Andy', because of
9 the level of injury that you saw on his face?

10 A. Aye.

11 Q. So it must have been quite bad?

12 A. They did eventually take him to hospital.

13 Q. Right. But he wasn't taken straightaway?

14 A. No.

15 Q. You tell us, 'Andy', you were in the dorm for about
16 six months?

17 A. Mm-hmm.

18 Q. And then you went back after Christmas and were told by
19 one of the boys you were getting moved. Your stuff had
20 been taken out of your bedside cabinet and it was PZD
21 PZD who said that you're going into a single room
22 in the attic and you were happy at the fact you were
23 getting a single room. You thought it was going to be
24 all right?

25 A. Aye.

1 Q. But we'll go on to talk about the fact that it wasn't
2 all right, was it?

3 A. No it wisnae.

4 Q. You say, 'Andy', the first week you were in that single
5 room at night you were in your bed and somebody came in;
6 who was that?

7 A. PXL .

8 Q. And you say that you didn't think anything of it,
9 because other staff members came into your room too?

10 A. Yeah.

11 Q. And you tell us you had a pair of shorts on in your bed,
12 is that right?

13 A. Uh-huh.

14 Q. And PXL sat on the chair at the side of your bed and
15 rubbed your stomach?

16 A. Aye.

17 Q. But he didn't stop there, did he?

18 A. No.

19 Q. I think you tell us he worked his hand down --

20 A. Mm-hmm.

21 Q. -- is that right? And then he got to your pubic area
22 and he rubbed your pubic area?

23 A. Aye.

24 Q. And you say and he knew that you got erect?

25 A. Aye.

1 Q. You tell us, 'Andy, 'he never touched me', do you mean
2 never touched your skin; was this over your clothes?
3 A. No, it was -- I had a pair of shorts on, that was it.
4 Q. So was he touching you over your shorts or underneath?
5 A. Underneath.
6 Q. Underneath, okay. You say then he did that for a wee
7 bit and then he stopped, but he was doing something
8 strange while he was doing that to you, you say. What
9 was that?
10 A. He was talking -- he called it 'tongues', it was just --
11 I don't know what it was.
12 Q. So I think you say you thought it was like gibberish?
13 A. Aye, that's what I thought.
14 Q. Did you ask him what he was doing and that's when he
15 said he was talking in tongues?
16 A. Tongues.
17 Q. I think you say as well he said it was prayers?
18 A. Aye, it was something to do with the church.
19 Q. But when that happened, 'Andy', you tell us how you
20 felt?
21 A. Aye.
22 Q. And you say you felt dirty and scared?
23 A. Aye.
24 Q. And is that the first time anything like that had ever
25 happened to you?

1 A. No.

2 Q. No. Okay. Do you want to tell us anything about that
3 or not?

4 A. That was my uncle.

5 Q. Okay, right. So this was back at home?

6 A. Aye.

7 Q. But you tell us, about this incident, 'Andy', that you
8 never said anything to PXL when he did that to you?

9 No.

10 A. Just froze.

11 Q. And you say that went on for months?

12 A. Aye.

13 Q. Until you left Redheugh, and it was every night that he
14 would be on the nightshift?

15 A. Aye.

16 Q. And you would dread those nights when he was on duty?

17 A. Because you knew he would be in, in to see you.

18 Q. And you make the point, 'Andy', that you don't think you
19 were the only one he was doing that to, because it was
20 all the vulnerable kids who were in the attic?

21 A. Yes.

22 Q. Was that what you saw when you looked around, that these
23 boys in that attic were vulnerable?

24 A. Aye, yep.

25 Q. And you think that those kids were in the attic because

1 PXL wanted them there, yeah?

2 A. I don't think he would have minded two of us. Or it
3 wouldnae mattered, I don't think.

4 Q. But you say that things were different back then and
5 nobody spoke about these things going on?

6 A. No, aye.

7 Q. And you say that you didn't want to tell anyone about
8 that at Redheugh?

9 A. No.

10 Q. I think one of the things you say was you thought you
11 wouldn't be believed?

12 A. No. You didnae really speak about it back then, you
13 know, you just kept it, kept it bottled up.

14 Q. And you say you couldn't talk to anyone in Redheugh?

15 A. No.

16 Q. And you couldn't talk to your family about it?

17 A. No.

18 Q. You say, 'Andy', that if an independent inspector had
19 come in and asked you how you felt, then you might have
20 told them what was going on?

21 A. Mm-hmm.

22 Q. Do you think you might have done that?

23 A. I might have, yeah.

24 Q. And you didn't know of any boy who complained or said
25 anything?

1 A. No.

2 Q. And you make the point that when these assaults, these
3 physical assaults happened, you'd have pain from being
4 hit, and we've talked about bruises as well.

5 A. Mm-hmm.

6 Q. But you say you were never bleeding like the boy with
7 his burst nose?

8 A. No.

9 Q. And that the staff would always hit the back or side of
10 your head or body and avoid your face?

11 A. That's it.

12 Q. 'Andy', you say that you were, as we've mentioned, you
13 were in Redheugh because you were not going to school?

14 A. Aye.

15 Q. And then you came out the day you left school. You were
16 16 years old. You came home from school, packed up and
17 you were off. And I think we know from some records
18 that we have seen, 'Andy', that you went home, I think,
19 on a trial for four weeks.

20 Now, the date that we have in your records, it's not
21 always correct, but the date that they put is
22 [REDACTED] 1980 but that's about the same time or so. And
23 then your place officially at Redheugh was terminated
24 from [REDACTED] 1980, but that's not something you might
25 have been aware of at the time?

1 A. Right, yeah.

2 Q. And you say you felt glad to be out when you went home?

3 A. Yeah.

4 Q. You got the train and went to stay with your dad in East
5 Kilbride?

6 A. Aye. Aye.

7 Q. You go on, 'Andy', to talk about your life after being
8 in care from paragraph 46, so I'm just going to go
9 through some of that with you.

10 A. Mm-hmm.

11 Q. You say you were at your dad's house and you would see
12 your mum sometimes as well, is that right? But you
13 didn't see any social workers after you left Redheugh?

14 A. No.

15 Q. But when you came out, you started a youth opportunities
16 programme on the Tuesday, after you came out?

17 A. Mm-hmm.

18 Q. And you worked with -- as a storeman with the council
19 for a year?

20 A. Aye.

21 Q. And that's something you enjoyed, is it?

22 A. Aye.

23 Q. You say it was smashing being out working and getting
24 paid?

25 A. Aye.

1 Q. And you tell us that you've worked in outdoor jobs with
2 a couple of council departments and in construction, and
3 you say that you then went to England with your wife
4 before you were married and you worked there for a few
5 months?

6 A. Aye.

7 Q. But you tell us that due to some medical issues and
8 an operation on your spine, it means that you can't work
9 now?

10 A. Aye, that's right.

11 Q. But there was a significant period in your life where
12 you were working?

13 A. Aye.

14 Q. And you say that you met your wife when you were quite
15 young, you were 17, is that right?

16 A. Aye.

17 Q. And you've got two children together?

18 A. Aye, that's right.

19 Q. 'Andy', in relation to impact of all this, you tell us
20 from paragraph 47 that you started drinking when you
21 were 17, is that right?

22 A. Aye.

23 Q. And you say sometimes it helped you to forget, but other
24 times it would make you emotional. And you say you
25 found it easier to cope with the drink, but you got

1 worse --

2 A. Aye.

3 Q. -- and worse. And you say that that led to offending
4 when you had been drinking and there was a time when you
5 were hitting, you say 'the bevvy', when you worked for
6 the council, and you had to resign, is that right?

7 A. Aye.

8 Q. But you say that's something that you've had to struggle
9 with, about drinking, yeah? And this is about maybe the
10 week before Christmas that it seems to flare up; is that
11 right?

12 A. Aye.

13 Q. But you don't know --

14 A. I've never been able to put my finger on it. But it's
15 always round about Christmastime.

16 Q. But you tell us, 'Andy', you've been in rehab and you
17 have stopped drinking a few times over the years?

18 A. Yeah.

19 Q. You describe that it was probably worse living at home
20 because of the fights between your mum and dad because
21 that was constant?

22 A. Every weekend.

23 Q. But you say you were bad with anxiety at Redheugh and
24 that's something that stayed with you?

25 A. Mm-hmm, yeah.

1 Q. You've got a lack of confidence, you tell us, and it's
2 been hard for you to express yourself, like in job
3 interviews and things like that?

4 A. Aye.

5 Q. And you say that you're quite a quiet person? Withdrawn?

6 A. Very. Very quiet. Every other member in my family's so
7 outgoing and I just seem to be the only one. I could
8 sit in a room with somebody and speak for a couple of
9 minutes and then wouldnae know what to say. Go quiet.

10 Q. But you say that you've blocked a lot of things out?

11 A. Right.

12 Q. And you're bad at keeping things to yourself and letting
13 things build up, is that right? And you say that you
14 and your wife, I think at the time of this statement,
15 were living separately?

16 A. Aye.

17 Q. But you're still together, but living separately?

18 A. Uh-huh.

19 Q. And you say that that is one of the issues, to do with
20 the drinking?

21 A. Yeah.

22 Q. But you say that there has been times when the
23 relationship with your children has had bother but
24 everything's good the now, is that right?

25 A. Right, yeah.

1 Q. And they don't know what you went through when you were
2 younger?

3 A. I think they maybe do now.

4 Q. They maybe do now?

5 A. Aye. In fact I'm quite sure they do.

6 Q. Okay. And I think you say in particular that, was this
7 your sister you told that you were speaking to the
8 Inquiry?

9 A. Aye, mm-hmm.

10 Q. And she said that she knew something was going on when
11 you were in Redheugh, but every time she asked you, you
12 just said everything was fine?

13 A. Aye.

14 Q. And were you just not able to tell her?

15 A. That's it.

16 Q. You make the point that you were clever and enjoyed
17 school up until you went to that big school in second
18 year, and you say once you were in Redheugh you just
19 wanted out and you didn't sit any exams?

20 A. No.

21 Q. So you got those certificates though, is that right?

22 A. Aye. Yeah.

23 Q. But did you mean, like, going on -- staying on to
24 complete official exams?

25 A. Aye, yeah.

1 Q. And you tell us that because of the smoking, there's
2 been some problems with COPD?

3 A. Uh-huh.

4 Q. And I think you tell us about some of the medication
5 that you've been on for the anxiety.

6 You tell us, 'Andy', that since you spoke to the
7 Inquiry, you also made a complaint to the police and
8 they took a statement from you, is that right?

9 A. Aye.

10 Q. And you say that they told you they couldn't trace
11 HDD [REDACTED], RFF [REDACTED] or PZD [REDACTED], and that
12 PXL [REDACTED] was dead?

13 A. Aye.

14 Q. And you say that the case was closed as far as the
15 police are concerned?

16 A. Mm-hmm.

17 Q. So is that what they've told you?

18 A. Aye.

19 Q. You tell us you've not been back to Redheugh but you
20 looked it up on the internet and you saw that the
21 building had been turned into flats?

22 A. Flats.

23 Q. In relation to treatment and support, 'Andy', you tell
24 us that you have had some counselling and at the time of
25 this statement, you'd had counselling when you were in

1 rehab?

2 A. Mm-hmm.

3 Q. And you did talk about your time in care during that, is

4 that right?

5 A. Aye, yeah.

6 Q. And you say you felt relieved?

7 A. Aye.

8 Q. And you told them everything?

9 A. Yeah.

10 Q. And you -- it had been building up for 40-odd years, you

11 say, and you hadn't spoken about it?

12 A. No.

13 Q. And that the counsellors were good?

14 A. Aye, yeah.

15 Q. And you say once you started talking, you couldn't shut

16 up about it?

17 A. Basically.

18 Q. But I think you tell us that after that, you felt able

19 to cope better, and was that a period that you stopped

20 drinking?

21 A. Mm-hmm.

22 Q. So from what you've told us, 'Andy', that was something

23 that seemed to help you quite a lot, that counselling?

24 A. Aye, yeah.

25 Q. 'Andy', you go on to tell us about lessons you think

1 should be learned from your time in care, from
2 paragraph 57.

3 A. Mm-hmm.

4 Q. And you talk about inspections and your view is there
5 should be more inspections of homes?

6 A. Aye.

7 Q. And that there should be independent inspectors?

8 A. Yeah.

9 Q. And this should be at least once a month to check on the
10 welfare of the children?

11 A. Uh-huh, yeah.

12 Q. And that counsellors and social workers should go in to
13 try and get the children to talk?

14 A. Aye.

15 Q. And it should be someone who's sympathetic, that the
16 children can trust?

17 A. Aye.

18 Q. But you also make the point that there should be more
19 screening of people who want to work with children?

20 A. Aye.

21 Q. And you say, 'Andy', in your last sentence at
22 paragraph 57, you say:

23 'I hope that having the Inquiry will mean that there
24 is less abuse of children.'

25 A. Yeah.

1 Q. So do you hope that coming forward to the Inquiry, this
2 statement will help in relation to that, to help us
3 understand?

4 A. I would hope so. I would hope so.

5 MS FORBES: Well, 'Andy', that's really all the questions
6 I have to ask you today, so thank you, but is there
7 anything you want to say that you've not had a chance to
8 say as we've been going through, or anything that you've
9 thought of?

10 A. No, I cannae think.

11 MS FORBES: Well, thank you very much.

12 LADY SMITH: 'Andy', let me add my thanks as well. It's
13 been so good to hear from you in person in addition to
14 having your written evidence.

15 A. Aye.

16 LADY SMITH: You've contributed a very significant amount to
17 the work we're doing here, which you obviously
18 understand is for the protection of children in
19 residential care.

20 A. Mm-hmm.

21 LADY SMITH: And that adds to my learning. Thank you so
22 much.

23 A. No problem.

24 LADY SMITH: You're now able to go and I hope you have
25 a restful afternoon.

1 (The witness withdrew)

2 LADY SMITH: I think I've already mentioned the names and
3 I'm just about to check again before I rise for the
4 lunch break, but we've used the names PXL [REDACTED],
5 [REDACTED], HDD [REDACTED] or HDD [REDACTED], RFF [REDACTED]
6 RFF [REDACTED], RAB [REDACTED], PZD [REDACTED] and [REDACTED]
7 [REDACTED] in the course of 'Andy's' evidence, and those are
8 people whose identities are protected by my General
9 Restriction Order, so they mustn't be identified as
10 referred to in our evidence outside this room.

11 Did I miss anybody? No. Thank you.

12 MS FORBES: I think there was somebody called -- did we
13 mention the name [REDACTED], [REDACTED]? I'm not -- yes.

14 LADY SMITH: I'm not sure if he actually mentioned the name,
15 but in case, [REDACTED].

16 Thank you. Very well.

17 (12.56 pm)

18 (The luncheon adjournment)

19 (2.00 pm)

20 LADY SMITH: Good afternoon.

21 Now, as we explained yesterday, I think we now move
22 on to some read-ins; is that correct, Ms Forbes? Would
23 you like to introduce them?

24 MS FORBES: Yes. Good afternoon, my Lady.

25 LADY SMITH: Thank you.

1 MS FORBES: The first read-in is from an applicant who is
2 anonymous and known as 'Katniss'.
3 LADY SMITH: Thank you.
4 'Katniss' (read in)
5 MS FORBES: The reference for her statement is
6 WIT-1-000000824.
7 My Lady, 'Katniss' has previously given live
8 evidence to the Inquiry during HAD and that was on 7 May
9 2025, which was Day 528 of the Inquiry, and that was in
10 relation to -- predominantly in relation to Ladyfield.
11 The reference for the transcript for that, for her
12 evidence is TRN-13-000000006.
13 Now, my Lady, because 'Katniss' has already given
14 live evidence, I only intend to read parts of her
15 statement.
16 LADY SMITH: Thank you.
17 MS FORBES: And in particular, the parts that relate to her
18 time in Redheugh. We have the transcript of her live
19 evidence to refer to for more detail.
20 LADY SMITH: Yes.
21 MS FORBES: However, I should say, my Lady, that during her
22 live evidence, 'Katniss' explained that since she'd
23 given her statement to the Inquiry, she had been able to
24 gain access to her records from care and had discovered
25 that what she was told previously about her life before

1 care wasn't what she thought had actually happened. And
2 she just gave the explanation, which I'll just
3 summarise, my Lady, that her mother was only 15 when she
4 fell pregnant with 'Katniss' and gave birth to her at
5 16. They then lived in Barrhead with her grandfather
6 and when she was 2, her grandfather kicked them out and
7 she was taken into care, and then her life in care then
8 started in [REDACTED] 1973.

9 LADY SMITH: Thank you.

10 MS FORBES: My Lady, she was in a few different places and
11 I'm not going to go through the detail of those, but
12 from the records we have, we know that she was admitted
13 to Carsewood House from [REDACTED] 1973, aged 2. She was
14 then admitted to Ladyfield on [REDACTED] 1981, aged 10,
15 and whilst at Ladyfield, she was still going back to
16 Carsewood on the weekends.

17 She was admitted to Beech Avenue Children's Home in
18 [REDACTED] 1982, aged 11. There was a temporary stay at
19 Gryffe, which she explains was the first time she felt
20 safe. But then she was back to Beech Avenue and she was
21 there until [REDACTED] 1987 when she was admitted to
22 Redheugh.

23 And my Lady, she does tell us about Redheugh --

24 LADY SMITH: So that was [REDACTED] or [REDACTED]?

25 MS FORBES: Sorry, [REDACTED].

1 LADY SMITH: [REDACTED].

2 MS FORBES: 1987. She would have been aged 16.

3 LADY SMITH: Thank you.

4 MS FORBES: My Lady, she tells us about Redheugh between

5 paragraphs 96 and 109 of her statement and I'm going to

6 read from paragraph 96:

7 'Redheugh was run by the Salvation Army and the

8 majority of staff were Salvationists and in the Army.

9 I remember an English guy called KOO who worked there.

10 There was also HDD, who was another member of staff,

11 and who was also a member of the [REDACTED].

12 The head of Redheugh was a captain in the Salvation Army

13 and her name was Elaine.

14 'I didn't stay here long at all. It was probably no

15 more than a year. The routine was not the same as at

16 other places I had stayed. They used the Bible

17 literally as part of staying here.

18 'Redheugh was an adolescent unit. It was a mansion

19 with 50 to 60 people staying in different units. It was

20 one house with three male and one female units and then

21 you had the cottages which were for those who were

22 getting ready to leave. I never moved to a cottage.

23 'I had left school by the time I went to Redheugh.

24 'I eventually got work, it was a wee bit better than

25 a Youth Training Scheme. It was Community Industries,

1 so I was paid £6 more than a YTS. I think it was the
2 local council who ran the scheme. I done a bit of
3 everything. I worked as a groundsperson at a Catholic
4 seminary, just keeping the grounds maintained. I had to
5 hand in all my wages to the Salvation Army. They called
6 it "digs", but I am thinking they were getting more
7 money for me from the social work. They gave me 7
8 back. I remember I refused to hand over my wages to
9 staff and they threatened to call the police to report
10 me for theft.

11 'I tried to take my own life when I was 16. This
12 was after I had reported the initiations for new kids at
13 the place. I was taken to Crosshouse Hospital in
14 Kilmarnock and spent weeks in the psychiatric unit.
15 I didn't receive a visit from my social worker when
16 I was in there. I don't remember who my social worker
17 was, but I was still under Barrhead social work.'

18 My Lady, 'Katniss' gave some evidence about this
19 incident during her live evidence and she talks about
20 being [REDACTED]
21 [REDACTED], and indeed the records that we have for 'Katniss'
22 confirm that she attempted suicide in this way. And
23 there was a subsequent hospital admission for just over
24 a week and she had to be seen later, when she moved to
25 Chapel House, for a [REDACTED], so even after she left

1 Redheugh.

2 My Lady, I continue at paragraph 102:

3 'If we weren't working, they gave you menial jobs to
4 do. If you didn't do them, you were starved, because
5 they used the Bible to punish you. The jobs were things
6 like sweeping the driveway and picking up litter. If
7 you refused, you were not fed at lunchtime. As a prime
8 example of the way they used the Bible, there is
9 a portion in the psalms that says "There is no God", but
10 before that it says that, "The fool in the heart says
11 there is no God". They said, "If you don't work, you
12 don't eat", which is from the Bible. I went hungry
13 between breakfast and the evening meal because I refused
14 to do the work they demanded I do. It was all the staff
15 who behaved like that.

16 'There was definitely no cake for birthdays there.
17 I remember the only Christmas I spent in Redheugh, I got
18 blank tapes for my Christmas present.'

19 'Katniss' then speaks about abuse at Redheugh from
20 paragraph 104:

21 'A relative of someone who had been in Beech Avenue
22 with me was in Redheugh and they found out about my
23 women's clothes. That is when my life became hell. And
24 I wasn't just getting bullied by the residents, I was
25 getting bullied by the staff as well. I got to the

1 point I didn't feel life was worth living. Somehow they
2 found out I was planning to take my own life and the
3 other kids were putting bets on whether I would do it.

4 'I remember that I wasn't feeling well and I tried
5 to tell HDD . He poured freezing cold water over me
6 whilst I was in my bed and then he lifted the bed up and
7 tipped me out of it. I was 16 when that happened.

8 'Every new kid had to go through an initiation which
9 involved being battered and being forced to drink liquid
10 soap. It was all done by the other residents who would
11 kick, punch and headbutt the new kid. I went through
12 this.

13 'I ended up being hospitalised through a serious
14 assault and the social worker decided to send me back to
15 the same home as the person I was assaulted by.

16 'I reported the initiations to my social worker
17 after I had been in Redheugh for about six/seven months
18 and there was a meeting with the convener of the former
19 Strathclyde Regional Council, my social worker and
20 Elaine, the head of Redheugh. Elaine made me out
21 a liar, saying there was no such thing as an initiation.
22 The social worker had too much cotton wool in his ears
23 and not enough in his mouth. I think my social worker's
24 name was Michael Masaravich from Barrhead Social Work
25 Department. I would imagine my social worker wouldn't

1 put all this on record.

2 'After I tried to take my own life, I went to
3 hospital and I never returned to Redheugh. I went
4 straight to Chapel House from hospital. I wasn't
5 involved in the decision-making for this move. I was
6 just picked up from the hospital, not knowing where
7 I was going to be ending up. A social worker took me,
8 but I can't tell you if it was my social worker or just
9 any social worker.'

10 My Lady, we know then that 'Katniss' was admitted to
11 Chapel House Children's Home on [REDACTED] 1988. She was
12 still 16 at that time. She tells us about that between
13 paragraphs 110 and 115. She stayed there until
14 [REDACTED] 1989, when she would have been 18 years old,
15 I understand, and then she went to Walkinshaw Street.

16 She tells us about her life after care and her
17 description of that and the impact of care are set out
18 in her statement, my Lady, and they relate really to her
19 entire time in care and some of that, especially in
20 relation to impact, was explained more fully by
21 'Katniss' during her live evidence.

22 LADY SMITH: Yes.

23 MS FORBES: My Lady, if I can go to paragraph 161 on
24 page 34, 'Katniss' makes the usual declaration and she's
25 signed the statement and it's dated 6 October 2021.

1 LADY SMITH: Thank you very much.

2 MS FORBES: My Lady, we now have another statement from
3 an applicant who is anonymous and is known as 'Gordon'.
4 'Gordon' (read in)

5 MS FORBES: The reference for 'Gordon's' statement is
6 WIT-1-000001484.

7 LADY SMITH: Thank you.

8 MS FORBES: My Lady, 'Gordon' was born in 1973 and he tells
9 us about his life before going into care from
10 paragraph 2. He says he was raised by his grandmother.
11 Also living at the house at the time was his aunt, who
12 was mentally and physically handicapped.

13 His aunt couldn't help it, but had regular psychotic
14 episodes, which put pressure on his gran, and as far as
15 he knows, he was moved in with his gran when he was
16 about 2 weeks old. He says although he knew she was his
17 grandmother, he always treated her as his mother.

18 His mother and father had separated and went on to
19 have many more children to different partners and the
20 only sibling he had growing up from his natural mother
21 and father was a younger brother, who he names.

22 He tells us about his first primary school and he
23 says that his father was a street fighter and sometimes
24 would work as a doorman. But some of the parents he had
25 fights with had children at the school and they would be

1 told to exact revenge on him and they bullied him, and
2 he would be getting into fights in school, trying to
3 stand up for himself.

4 One occasion a teacher told him to go to the
5 headmaster's office for causing problems and he just
6 refused to do that and walked out of the school.

7 Social workers were getting involved. He was also
8 being sent to Children's Panels for the fighting and
9 some other petty crime and he was warned by the
10 Children's Panel, if his behaviour didn't change, he
11 would have -- they would have to take different action.
12 And he says unfortunately his behaviour didn't change
13 and he was told he was being sent to Kirkland Park
14 Assessment Centre.

15 My Lady, 'Gordon' tells us about that from
16 paragraph 7. We know from his records, my Lady, he was
17 admitted to Kirkland Park Assessment Centre on [REDACTED]
18 1984.

19 LADY SMITH: Thank you.

20 MS FORBES: He was there for three weeks and then returned
21 home. He says there was no issues whilst he was there,
22 but he went home, but his behaviour didn't improve and
23 it was just the same. And he was only home for a few
24 months before he was told he was going to be kept in
25 care and he was sent to Warner Street Children's Home in

1 Stevenston.

2 My Lady, we know that he was placed on a residential
3 supervision order on [REDACTED] 1985 and admitted to Warner
4 Street Children's Home and then he stayed there until
5 [REDACTED] 1985, when he returned home.

6 'Gordon' says there was no abuse by anyone there and
7 the panel decided that he could go back and live with
8 his gran. But again, it wasn't long before he started
9 misbehaving again. He says that while he was in his
10 first year at high school, he was back in front of
11 panels and he was sent back to Warner Street in
12 Stevenston. Again, we know from his records, my Lady,
13 that that was on [REDACTED] 1986, when he was 13 years
14 old, and he stayed there until, just for a short period,
15 [REDACTED] 1986.

16 However, his behaviour, he says, was going downhill.
17 He was getting into trouble with the police for fighting
18 in the street and this led to him being sent to
19 Redheugh.

20 LADY SMITH: Thank you.

21 MS FORBES: He then tells us about Redheugh from
22 paragraph 17. He was admitted there, from his records,
23 my Lady, we know, on [REDACTED] 1986 and whilst there, he
24 was attending Kerelaw as a day pupil.

25 So he would have been aged 3 (sic). He thinks in

1 his statement he was about 12 or maybe 13 and wasn't
2 sure of the exact length of time he was there.

3 From paragraph 18, 'Gordon' says:

4 'The home was run by the Salvation Army and SNR
5 SNR was named HDD. I think he was a sergeant
6 in the Salvation Army. There was member of
7 staff called George and he looked after the animals. He
8 had his family cottage situated outside the home. He
9 stayed there with his wife and they were both really
10 nice to me. She didn't work at the home when I was
11 there.

12 'The other staff I can remember are Stewart Burgess,
13 who was my key worker, and the deputy head of the home.
14 I can also remember and her nephew, RSM
15 RSM, Frida Webster, KOO, who also [I think
16 that should say "who was also"] one of my key workers.'

17 LADY SMITH: Must have been, mm-hmm.

18 MS FORBES: 'Frida, and RSM were really good staff
19 who were nice to me.

20 'There were three separate units in Redheugh which
21 were called McGregor Unit, Knox Unit and Wallace Unit
22 for the girls. When I arrived, I can remember we went
23 up a long driveway through a forest area which opened up
24 and I saw Redheugh. It was like a castle with turrets.
25 It was a grey and brown bricked building.

1 'There was a big double wooden entrance door. As
2 you went in, there was the black slate tiled hall
3 leading to a winding wooden staircase. On the ground
4 floor was the dining room, kitchen, chapel and staff
5 offices. There was also a snooker room and a smoking
6 room which led to the back door. From the hallway there
7 was a door to the right side, which had another concrete
8 staircase leading to a room at the top of one of the
9 turrets.

10 'On the first floor there were two units. The first
11 one to the left was McGregor Unit which I was in. It
12 had a room with five or six beds, another room with two
13 single beds, and another single room. In the rooms, we
14 would have had a bedside chest of drawers and
15 a wardrobe. When I first went in, I stayed in the big
16 room. Later, I was moved into the double room with my
17 pal [and he names him] who was from my area. Nearer the
18 end of my time, I was allowed to stay in the single
19 room. I did not last long there, maybe a couple of
20 weeks, before I was in bother again with the staff and
21 moved back to the double room. You were usually moved
22 when someone had moved out of the smaller rooms, but
23 that move all depended on whether you had behaved
24 yourself.

25 'Also in the unit was a living area. In this we had

1 the kitchen and TV lounge. There was also a toilet
2 block, which had a couple of showers in it. At the end
3 of the corridor there was a set of fire exit stairs
4 leading down to the back of the building.

5 'There was also an independent unit in a separate
6 building for young people between 17 and 19 getting
7 ready to go back into society. This building was next
8 to George's house who looked after the animals.

9 'We were woken in the morning by whatever staff were
10 on duty. It might have been between 6.30 am and 7.00 am
11 they woke us, and we would be able to get a shower and
12 our teeth brushed. It was then into the living area
13 where we would eat our breakfast.

14 'After breakfast, we all got ready for whatever
15 school we were going to. If you were not going to
16 school, you were expected to attend at the chaplain for
17 10.00 am. You might be given a roll and a cup of tea
18 afterwards, about 11.00 am. You then helped carry out
19 some small jobs around the home or helped in the garden.
20 If you did not join in with the hymns, you were not
21 given the filled roll.

22 'After finishing school, we had a bit of free time
23 until tea, which was about 5.00 pm. After tea,
24 suppertime would be before going to bed. We might be
25 given a sandwich or toast and some tea.

1 'There were staff on duty during the night but
2 I'm not sure how many they were covering. I'm not sure
3 if the shift pattern was an 8 or 12-hour shift. The
4 nightshift staff would patrol the rooms and use their
5 torches to check that everyone was still in the home and
6 no one had run away.'

7 He then tells us about meal times and food. If I go
8 to paragraph 32, 'Gordon' says:

9 'Although I can't remember the dinner ladies' names
10 they were really nice. I can remember the food they
11 served was all right and no one tried to force-feed
12 anyone if they did not like what was being served.

13 'There were showers available in the toilet area.
14 We would get washed in the morning and I preferred
15 a shower at night. The showers were all in cubicles
16 with doors to provide some privacy.

17 'We all wore our own clothes at the home. There was
18 no uniform to wear. We were all given about £10 per
19 month as a clothing allowance. Frida or one of the
20 other staff would take us to the shops. The main shop
21 we used was Dunn & Co, as the home had an account there.
22 We were able to choose what brand of clothes we
23 preferred, so long as it was within the budget. My gran
24 always supplied me with new clothes, so I chose to use
25 the allowance to buy nice trainers.

1 'In the grounds, the staff kept different animals.
2 There were donkeys, goats, chickens and peacocks. If we
3 were free in the afternoon during the summer, we might
4 go for a jump in the river, which was fun. They also
5 allowed us to go fishing and sometimes to use the
6 canoes.

7 'In those days, almost everyone smoked and we were
8 allowed six cigarettes per day. We were able to keep
9 them ourselves but later when I was in Kerelaw, the
10 staff allocated them.

11 'After doing our chores, we would be free to play
12 and that might involve football outside, badminton or
13 rounders.

14 'While I was at Redheugh, I still needed to go to
15 school. They tried different schools but no one would
16 take me in, or I would not like a place and would be
17 refusing to go. After a few months at Redheugh, the
18 only option they found for me was to be a day pupil at
19 Kerelaw Residential School.'

20 Then, at paragraph 40, 'Gordon' says:

21 'I had been baptised as a young boy in the Mormon
22 church when I was about 6. The home never took this
23 into consideration. You had to sing the hymns that the
24 Salvation Army sang. If I did not do it correctly,
25 Mr Burgess would take me aside to give me a row and

1 other times he would lock me in the turret.

2 'I can remember we were taken out for trips. One of
3 those trips was walking the West Highland Way, which
4 took around five days. Other times, we would be able to
5 go camping. I had been used to that when I stayed with
6 my gran. The ones that had problems with the camping
7 were some of the Glaswegian boys. They were not used to
8 camping outdoors. If I needed to, I could make a tent
9 out of an old sheet over washing rope and pegs.

10 'During my time at Redheugh, there was
11 an opportunity for a holiday abroad. Some of the others
12 were able to go on that trip, but I was not allowed.
13 They took this out on me as some sort of punishment.

14 'We were asked to carry out some chores within the
15 home. That might have involved some mopping or brushing
16 of the floors, cleaning the brass. We could also be
17 asked to help in the garden with cutting the grass or do
18 some weeding.'

19 If I then go to paragraph 45, 'Gordon' says:

20 'I did get visits from social workers but I'm not
21 sure how often they came to visit. Sometimes they
22 phoned the home to check on how I was getting on. If
23 they came to the home to visit me, more often than not
24 either Burgess or KOO would be in the room.

25 'On some other occasions, if I was on weekend leave

1 and staying with my gran, the social workers might call
2 round to the house to speak to me.

3 'I can't remember there ever being anyone from the
4 outside coming in to inspect the home or to call in to
5 check on the welfare of the young people there.

6 'So long as I had not been in trouble, then I would
7 be allowed to have weekend leave to stay with my gran.
8 I had to be in the home for a month before I gained the
9 trust to allow me some home leave. For the family
10 visits within Redheugh, it was arranged for two units on
11 the same day, but organised at separate times.

12 'My gran visited me a couple of times at the home,
13 and she sometimes brought my aunt. When they visited,
14 the social work would bring them to the home and take
15 them back afterwards. We would have the visit in a room
16 in the home or sometimes we might have a cup of tea in
17 the garden. I would also show them all the animals we
18 kept there.

19 'I can remember that my uncle, who had been in the
20 home when he was a boy, came up to visit me. He liked
21 to point out the different areas of the home that he
22 remembered from his time there.

23 'One of the punishments for misbehaving may have
24 been a loss of privileges, such as no access to my
25 cigarettes. There were some times that I was being

1 punished and locked inside the room at the turret.
2 I think I had been refusing to do something and I was
3 left there overnight. There was nothing in that room,
4 no window, and it was freezing in there. I did not have
5 any warm clothes on. This was Stewart Burgess again.'

6 'Gordon' then talks about abuse at Redheugh from
7 paragraph 52:

8 'When I stayed in the larger room at Redheugh,
9 sometimes during the night, some other unknown members
10 of staff would come in and take one of the boys out of
11 the room. If they were brought back, they were always
12 crying in pain. Some were taken out and the next
13 morning they were nowhere to be seen. The staff would
14 just say they had been shipped out. I was never taken
15 out of that room.

16 'Another member of the staff who abused me was
17 **KOO**, but that was mainly physical. He was
18 an Englishman and heavysset. He was a complete bully to
19 me and many others in the home. He would hit you in any
20 way he could, which would usually be punches to my head
21 and body. On other occasions, he would be holding me in
22 choke holds and other times it would be kneeling me to
23 the thigh, giving me a dead leg. I can remember times
24 when he was so angry, he would physically throw me
25 against my bedroom wall or throw me over the couch in

1 the living area.

2 'There were times when he would kneel on my back as
3 he held me down on the floor. I was screaming that
4 I could not breathe. Sometimes the other boys would
5 come to my defence and try to pull him off of me. He
6 never had any fear about hitting me in front of other
7 boys. I am not sure if there were other staff present
8 when he was hitting me.

9 'He would do anything he could to upset me. I can
10 remember I was due to have home leave and, at short
11 notice, he decided I had upset him and would not be
12 getting out that weekend. He also made comments to me
13 that I was not good enough to be going home.

14 'The abuse from **KOO** was frequent, but I cannot
15 give exact time and dates. I do know I was being beaten
16 so regularly, it would have been countless days
17 throughout my time there, even during the same periods
18 Burgess was sexually abusing me.

19 'As well as being deputy head, Stewart Burgess was
20 also one of my key workers. He was a tall, slim-built
21 man. I can remember he either had a beard or was rough
22 shaven. I think he was in his 40s and stayed in
23 Cumnock. I think he is in his 70s now and currently
24 serving a sentence in prison for abuse.

25 'I was just a wee boy in the home when I was

1 sexually abused on many occasions by Burgess. It
2 started a few weeks into my stay there. I was trying to
3 fight him off, but he would hold me down on the ground
4 and cover my mouth, so I could not scream for help. He
5 would also pull my shorts or pyjama bottoms down. He
6 would make me read pornographic magazines and make me
7 masturbate him and perform oral sex on him. He would
8 also masturbate me and place his fingers inside my anus.

9 'He also put his penis inside me and when he was
10 doing this, he would again cover my mouth to stop me
11 screaming out with the pain. This usually took place on
12 top of my bed in my room. He ejaculated on my backside
13 and on other occasions on various parts of my body and
14 in my mouth. I cannot remember the number of times he
15 raped me. A lot of the abuse was when he was on
16 nightshift and would either get me out of bed or abuse
17 me while I was in my bed.

18 'When he was finished abusing me, I would go to the
19 shower rooms and scrub my body red raw. I can remember
20 after he had raped me, I would be bleeding from my anus.
21 Sometimes when [and he names a boy] was away on home
22 leave and I was left at the home, Burgess would come
23 into my room and again sexually abuse me.

24 'There were times when it wasn't just me that was
25 abused in the room, as there were times when [the boy]

1 told me when he was on his own in the room, Burgess
2 would be doing the same to him. It also happened to me
3 when I was later in the single room. It was usually
4 late at night, either during the backshift or the
5 nightshift when no other staff were around. He never
6 abused me or [the other boy] in front of each other.

7 'There were other times he would take me out of the
8 room, down the fire exit into the woods where the canoes
9 were kept in a shed. He would again sexually abuse me
10 there. There were many times while he was having sex
11 with me he was calling me a filthy little Mormon. Other
12 times, he would tell me I was a special little boy. He
13 would also tell me that I was his special boy.'

14 Sorry:

15 'He would also tell me that as I was his special
16 boy, I would get more home leave and more spending money
17 if I kept my mouth shut and did not tell anyone.

18 'When I was back in my room, I would feel ashamed
19 and cry myself to sleep. I cannot count how many times
20 he made me have sex with him, but I do know each time
21 I was crying and asking him to stop. I can remember
22 many times when we were so scared Burgess was coming
23 into the room that [the other boy] and I got out of the
24 room, out of the fire exit and climbed a pole on to the
25 flat roof to hide from him. I have even climbed on to

1 the main roof with just my blanket and hid up there to
2 avoid Burgess getting hold of me.

3 'After abusing me, he would give me extra home leave
4 and extra money for clothing shopping. This was all
5 with him telling me that I was never to tell anyone what
6 was happening.

7 'Some of the times when I was trying to refuse him,
8 he would lock me in a room that was used as a cell and
9 a smoking room. Other times, he would put me in the
10 room at the top of one of the turrets and I would be
11 locked in the wooden room. It was freezing in that room
12 and I would be left wearing just a T-shirt and shorts.

13 'One of the happy places I had was playing with the
14 animals. That would take my mind off everything that
15 was happening. He even caught me when I was out the
16 back and would make me touch the private parts of the
17 goats. He would then tell the other boys that I was
18 having sex with the goats and the boys would then start
19 calling me all sorts of names and bullying, because of
20 him. This is one part of the abuse that I have never
21 been able to tell the police or anyone else about.
22 I was too embarrassed and ashamed.

23 'One time, things got so bad that I stole a knife
24 from one of the shops. I kept that knife under my
25 pillow. One night during the week, Burgess came into

1 the room that I shared with [the other boy] who was in
2 his bed. I always slept lightly, and I was always
3 scared he would be coming into the room. This time when
4 he came in the room, I pulled the knife out from the
5 pillow and threatened him. He ran out of the room and
6 I was chasing him while I was in my pyjamas. He never
7 came back to the room to abuse me.

8 'I could not report the abuse to anyone as Burgess
9 had threatened to beat me up if I did. He also told me
10 that no one would believe a bad little boy in care over
11 a senior member of staff.

12 'I am not sure if any of the other staff were aware
13 of the abuse that was carried out on me.

14 'Not long after I had threatened Burgess with the
15 knife, maybe a week, I was just told by one of the staff
16 without any notice that I was being sent home to live
17 with my gran. This was not signed off at the time by
18 any Children's Panel. I knew Burgess just wanted me out
19 of the place and he could have made that decision as he
20 was a deputy in charge. It was some weeks after I was
21 back with gran that I was back at the panel for them to
22 agree my release.'

23 'Gordon' then talks about being back home from
24 paragraph 71 and he says he was back at a normal school.
25 He was probably still in the first year but he's not

1 certain, but it only lasted a few months before he was
2 in trouble again.

3 And I think, my Lady, we know that he was discharged
4 from Redheugh, I think in [REDACTED] 1987.

5 LADY SMITH: 1987, so that takes him to what age then?
6 I should know.

7 MS FORBES: My Lady, he would have been -- [REDACTED] 1987, he
8 would have been --

9 LADY SMITH: 14 years old?

10 MS FORBES: 14-and-a-half.

11 LADY SMITH: Yes.

12 MS FORBES: My Lady, he says when he was back home it wasn't
13 long before he was in trouble again. He was back at
14 Kerelaw as a day pupil, so he wasn't able to go to the
15 normal high school. He tells us he got involved in some
16 incidents using an air rifle and he says on an occasion,
17 he ran from his gran's house as he knew the police were
18 looking for him and he made his way to Kerelaw and, when
19 he arrived there, he told someone at Kerelaw that the
20 police were wanting to speak to him and he asked her to
21 take him into the school on a full-time basis.

22 She contacted the police and after that, he was
23 taken to the police station and interviewed, and later
24 at a Children's Panel they agreed that he would be
25 placed into care at Kerelaw Residential School.

1 My Lady, we know from the records that he was
2 admitted to Kerelaw on a residential basis on
3 ██████████ 1998 (sic).

4 LADY SMITH: Thank you.

5 MS FORBES: So he would have been aged 15 then.

6 He tells us about Kerelaw between paragraphs 75 and
7 148. I'm not going to read that in, my Lady. It wasn't
8 read in before because his statement was given after we
9 started the hearings in relation to Kerelaw.

10 LADY SMITH: Of course, yes.

11 MS FORBES: But he tells us he was there until 16 years old
12 and he was there for a period of about 11 months and
13 whilst there, there was abuse by staff. There was
14 sexual abuse, physical and emotional abuse.

15 And then going to paragraph 148, he tells us
16 thereafter about leaving Kerelaw and he says that they
17 wanted him to stay until he was 18 but his gran was
18 against that, and he found out he could get out early if
19 he had a job. So he got a job on a Youth Training
20 Scheme, making slabs, and he was then allowed to leave
21 Kerelaw and return to live with his gran.

22 'Gordon' then tells us about being back home again
23 from paragraph 50 (sic) and says he had been working for
24 the YTS for about six weeks, but as soon as the
25 Children's Panel released him from their care, he packed

1 the job in.

2 It turns out that he was then back in trouble after
3 a couple of months. His gran needed an operation and
4 moved in with his uncle and he was left homeless and
5 living on the streets.

6 And he tells us between the ages of 17 and 21 he was
7 in and out of various prisons and young offender
8 institutions, including Longriggend, Polmont, Glenochil,
9 Castle Huntly and overnight stays at Edinburgh and
10 Barlinnie. And he says in between those stays he was
11 back living with his gran again.

12 He tells us in the following paragraphs about his
13 experiences in those young offenders' institutions and
14 in detention. And this is from paragraph 156 to 199 and
15 in summary, my Lady, he talks about segregation,
16 solitary confinement within those places, assaults by
17 staff on him, staff using other inmates to assault him
18 and allowing that to happen. And I think he says that
19 the only place was Castle Huntly where he didn't suffer
20 some form of abuse.

21 That takes us to paragraph 199, where he tells us
22 about his life after being in care and he says that
23 throughout his adult life, he continued to get into
24 trouble and has spent most of those years in and out of
25 the prison system. His last time being sentenced to

1 prison was in 2006 and before that there was a ten-year
2 gap.

3 At paragraph 202, he tells us that when he came out
4 of the prison system, he opened his own hair salon for
5 a short time, but he's also done jobs such as gardening,
6 roofing, fitting kitchens, general labour jobs, and the
7 longest job he had was for six months.

8 My Lady, in relation to impact, 'Gordon' says from
9 paragraph 203 that his friend, who he shared a room
10 with, he names the boy he shared a room with at
11 Redheugh, he says:

12 'My friend, who had been abused at Redheugh, could
13 not handle the memories of the abuse he suffered. He
14 began taking drugs to hide the memories, but eventually
15 they took control and he died of an overdose. He was
16 only about 22 when he died.

17 'As a result of my time in care, I was not in a good
18 place with all the abuse I suffered. There were many
19 boys I knew from Redheugh and Kerelaw that were also
20 caught up in the prison cycle. Many of them are now
21 serving long sentences, others are addicted to drugs,
22 and some, like [the boy he shared the room with at
23 Redheugh], have died from overdoses.

24 'I suffered from alcohol and drug addiction and for
25 a number of years was sniffing glue. I used those

1 things to try and hide the abuse I suffered in care, but
2 have been sober since around 2006. As time goes on,
3 some of the memories are starting to come back, but with
4 the damage from the drugs, it is difficult to piece them
5 all together.

6 'As a result of my time in care, I blamed everyone
7 for this and hated everyone. I was rebelling against
8 society and the authorities, including the police and
9 the courts.

10 'I find it difficult relating to people and some
11 friends. When I am talking to them, I will often tell
12 them all is okay, but it is a facade. Inside I am
13 broken and putting a smile on for everyone.

14 'I have abandonment issues and that has affected how
15 I reacted with my different partners. As soon as they
16 get near to trusting me, I would push them away. I was
17 17 when I had my first child. Now I have four children,
18 with my oldest being 32 and the youngest 7. I am making
19 great efforts to get my mental health and all my other
20 issues under some control so that I can concentrate on
21 seeing my youngest grow up.

22 'In 2023, as a result of my trauma, I was having
23 real difficulties in coping with them. This was around
24 Christmastime and on two occasions I tried to hang
25 myself. Thankfully, my friend and neighbour came to my

1 flat and found me.

2 'I have seen different doctors during my adult life
3 with regard to my mental health. During those many
4 years, I have been prescribed different medications,
5 some of which I still take to this day.'

6 'Gordon' then goes on to tell us about suffering
7 from post-traumatic stress disorder. He says he had
8 some sessions with a community psychiatric nurse and was
9 having sessions with Break the Silence, who give support
10 to survivors of childhood abuse, and he says he's been
11 opening up more.

12 He says he's been on disability allowance for over
13 ten years, but that's not just for his mental health,
14 but also as the result of an injury. He says he's had
15 night terrors most of his adult life about the abuse and
16 he says he's been using, with the community psychiatric
17 nurse, cognitive behaviour therapy to try and help cope
18 with that. He's also having some intensive therapy with
19 East Ayrshire Mental Health team.

20 He says at paragraph 213:

21 'I have carried all the bad things with me
22 throughout my life and I hope, with the help I am
23 getting, that I can put it all behind me and move on
24 with my life.'

25 'Gordon' tells us he never reported all of the abuse

1 he received at the hands of Stewart Burgess because of
2 the shame and embarrassment of what he did to him.

3 He tells us about somebody from Kerelaw --

4 LADY SMITH: Yes, I recognise those names. This man was
5 abused by some of the worst sexual abusers we've come
6 across.

7 MS FORBES: Yes. The names we've heard time and time again.

8 LADY SMITH: Yes.

9 MS FORBES: My Lady, going down to 'Lessons to be learned',
10 going to paragraph 222, 'Gordon' tells us:

11 'If the staff spent as much time on helping and
12 educating the children that they spent abusing them,
13 then the children would all have gone on to have had
14 better lives, despite the problems they were having.

15 'I think there needs to be more vetting of the staff
16 at the start and an ongoing process to check for
17 changes. When allegations are made, the kids need to be
18 believed right away, not after they have had time to
19 cover it up. The authorities need to believe the kids
20 over the abusers.'

21 And he says, 'Other information' at paragraph 224,
22 he says -- I think this is a hope for the care system:

23 'They need to show more care for children. They
24 need to show them more compassion and understanding.

25 'It has taken too long for the abusers to be brought

1 to trial. How has it taken over 40 years for those
2 things that happened to me to be progressed?'

3 And then he's made the usual declaration and he's
4 signed it and it's dated 21 August 2024.

5 LADY SMITH: Thank you.

6 MS FORBES: And my Lady, that's all the read-ins for today.

7 LADY SMITH: Very well. Well, I'll finish for today, but
8 before I rise, names again, I think we've heard them all
9 already. We had HDD and we had KOO, RSM
10 RSM, also, because there is a family
11 relationship there, and RLX again. I think that was
12 it.

13 But again, they're protected by my General
14 Restriction Order in case anybody had forgotten since I
15 last mentioned it.

16 So that's it for today and that takes us to Tuesday
17 at 10 o'clock, when we are moving to what?

18 MS FORBES: Yes, my Lady. So next week on Tuesday we have
19 two live witnesses, one in the morning and one in the
20 afternoon, and then there will be a period in the
21 morning, hopefully, for the remaining read-in, which is
22 felt to be more appropriate to be done at that time.

23 LADY SMITH: The remaining read-in for Redheugh?

24 MS FORBES: Yes, it's in relation to an alleged abuser.

25 LADY SMITH: Yes.

1 Thank you. Well, thank you all very much and I hope
2 you have a good weekend.

3 I'll rise now until Tuesday at 10.00.

4 (2.45 pm)

5 (The Inquiry adjourned until 10.00 am
6 on Tuesday, 24 February 2026)

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