

Tuesday, 24 February 2026

1

2 (10.00 am)

3 LADY SMITH: Good morning and welcome back to our hearings  
4 in relation to Phase 10, a case study in which we're  
5 looking at the provision by local authorities of  
6 residential care, both in places they ran themselves and  
7 in places they used to fulfil their statutory  
8 responsibilities.

9 Now, this morning we return to evidence in relation  
10 to Redheugh, which we started towards the end of last  
11 week, and I think we have a witness in person this  
12 morning, a witness in person this afternoon -- well, in  
13 person via a link, and probably in between, some time to  
14 read in other evidence.

15 Let me turn to Mr Peoples and he'll take it on from  
16 there.

17 MR PEOPLES: Good morning, my Lady.

18 The first witness this morning is -- has anonymity  
19 and will be known as 'Patrick'. He is a witness who  
20 I think should be -- receive a warning.

21 LADY SMITH: Yes, thank you.

22 'Patrick' (sworn)

23 LADY SMITH: 'Patrick', I'm grateful to you for coming along  
24 this morning to help us with your evidence in relation  
25 to the work we're doing here and in particular, as you

1 know, today we're looking into provision of residential  
2 care at Redheugh.

3 We have questions to ask you about that, but it's  
4 been really helpful to have your written statement in  
5 advance. Thank you for that. It's in the red folder in  
6 front of you. It will be there while you're giving your  
7 evidence for you to refer to if you want and we'll bring  
8 sections of it up on the screen there in front of you.  
9 You might find that helpful too.

10 Now, 'Patrick', if at any time you've got any  
11 questions or you want a pause or a break, please just  
12 say. I normally sit from this point right through till  
13 11.30 am and have a break then, but if you want to stop  
14 for a breather at any time, I can do it beforehand.

15 A. Thank you.

16 LADY SMITH: Separately, 'Patrick', you'll understand that  
17 the work we're doing here is the work of a public  
18 inquiry. You're not in a courtroom. It's not a civil  
19 court and it's not a criminal court, but some of the  
20 questions that we have to ask you are questions, the  
21 answers to which could incriminate you. Just like  
22 a courtroom of any type, you have the same protections  
23 here as you would have there and you need to understand  
24 that a transcript of your evidence is being made that is  
25 available after the hearing.

1           So it's your choice as to whether you answer any  
2           such question. If you don't want to answer it, that's  
3           absolutely fine. If you do choose to answer it,  
4           of course you must answer it fully, but it's a matter  
5           for you. Does that all make sense?

6   A. Yes, thank you.

7   LADY SMITH: If you're worried whether any particular  
8           question falls into that category, just tell us and  
9           we'll make that clear to you.

10   A. Yeah.

11   LADY SMITH: All right?

12   A. Yeah.

13   LADY SMITH: If you're ready, I'll hand on to Mr Peoples and  
14           he'll take it from there.

15           Mr Peoples.

16                   Questions from Mr Peoples

17   MR PEOPLES: Good morning, 'Patrick'.

18   A. Morning.

19   Q. As her Ladyship said, there is a copy of your signed  
20           statement in front of you in the red folder and perhaps  
21           I could just begin by asking you to turn to the last  
22           page, page 38, and confirm that you've signed your  
23           statement and dated it?

24   A. Yes, that's it.

25   Q. And you say in the final paragraph of your statement

1           that you have no objection to your witness statement  
2           being published as part of the evidence to the Inquiry,  
3           and that you believe the facts stated in your witness  
4           statement are true.

5           Is that the position?

6   A.   Yes, yeah.

7   Q.   Before I begin asking you any questions, just for the  
8           record, I'll give our reference for your statement. You  
9           don't need to concern yourself about this, but the  
10          reference is WIT-1-000001725.

11          You're very welcome to just use the statement in  
12          front of you, because I will be asking you some  
13          questions based on that.

14   A.   Yeah, sure.

15   Q.   But there is the screen as well if it's easier to use.

16   A.   Yeah.

17   Q.   Can I just make this point at the beginning: I'm not  
18          going to go through the statement line by line, but  
19          I will want to ask you about some matters in particular.

20   A.   Yeah.

21   Q.   And I appreciate that we're going back maybe some  
22          35/40 years, to when you worked at Redheugh, and there  
23          may be things that you don't know about your time there  
24          or things you cannot remember about the period you  
25          worked there, and if so, please say so when you give

1 evidence, because I think you are really relying on your  
2 memory?

3 A. Yeah.

4 Q. Now, 'Patrick', you tell us you were born in 1953?

5 A. Yeah.

6 Q. And you tell us at the beginning of your statement a bit  
7 about your general background, and I think that before  
8 you became involved in a residential care worker role,  
9 you had previously done very different things,  
10 I suppose. You had worked, I think, in your early years  
11 as an adult as a plumber?

12 A. Yeah.

13 Q. And then you also had a job for a time as a prison  
14 officer?

15 A. Yeah.

16 Q. And that was south of the border?

17 A. Yeah.

18 Q. How long did you work in that job?

19 A. As a prison officer?

20 Q. Yes, roughly?

21 A. Roughly, seven years I think.

22 Q. And then I think that when you met your wife, you made  
23 a decision that you would want to move to Scotland and  
24 that you moved to Scotland in 1981?

25 A. Yeah.

1 Q. And I think at that time you would be in your late 20s?  
2 A. Yeah.  
3 Q. And you tell us that your first job in Scotland was at  
4 -- is it Raisdale?  
5 A. Raisdale, yeah.  
6 Q. Which is a Salvation Army Adolescent Home, or was,  
7 I'm not sure it's still there.  
8 A. Yeah, I think it's shut now.  
9 Q. It was an adolescent home and you were there for, you  
10 reckon, a few months before you went on to Redheugh?  
11 A. Yeah.  
12 Q. And you tell us that you applied for the job at Raisdale  
13 when you were still in England, because of your plans to  
14 move to Scotland?  
15 A. Yeah.  
16 Q. And you tell us that your wife was in the Salvation Army  
17 at the time?  
18 A. Yeah.  
19 Q. And I think she appears to have known HDD [REDACTED] ?  
20 A. That's right.  
21 Q. And she was -- she enquired if there were any jobs, and  
22 I think you recall being interviewed by HDD [REDACTED] ?  
23 A. Yeah.  
24 Q. And I think we know from records that HDD [REDACTED] for  
25 a time, probably around 197 [REDACTED] to 198 [REDACTED], was SNR [REDACTED]

1           SNR or SNR at Redheugh?

2   A.  Yeah, yeah.

3   Q.  And then he went on to a more senior position in

4       Scotland?

5   A.  He did, yes, mm-hmm.

6   Q.  And I think, well, you maybe don't know this, but

7       I think before he became SNR, he had

8       previously been at Redheugh in a -- perhaps as SNR?

9   A.  No, I didn't know that.

10  Q.  You don't know that.  Okay.

11           And you tell us at paragraph 5 that you don't think

12       there was any need for you to present any specific

13       knowledge or experience of residential childcare with

14       what essentially were quite vulnerable and sometimes

15       very damaged children?

16  A.  Yeah.

17  Q.  And that you feel that, largely speaking, the assessment

18       was based on general character?

19  A.  I think so, yeah.

20  Q.  And so far as qualifications are concerned, you tell us

21       a little bit about that at paragraph 7 of your statement

22       and you tell us that the only qualification you possess

23       is -- was -- is a social services certificate, is that

24       right?

25  A.  Yeah, yeah.

1 Q. And just so I understand this, I think that you had no  
2 qualifications when you started at Redheugh?

3 A. Aye, I had no qualifications when I started at Raisdale  
4 and then went on to Redheugh and didn't have any there  
5 either, and got that while I was in Redheugh.

6 Q. Yes, and I think what you did is you completed a course,  
7 which lasted about a year, at Langside College in  
8 Glasgow?

9 A. That's right.

10 Q. And was that a full-time course or did you -- was it  
11 a day release?

12 A. No, it was day release.

13 Q. And I get the impression from your statement, that was  
14 fairly early on in your time in Redheugh?

15 A. Very early on, yeah.

16 Q. And indeed you say quite frankly that you didn't have  
17 qualifications or training for working with young people  
18 before you went to Redheugh?

19 A. That's right.

20 Q. Other than perhaps a very short time working at  
21 Raisdale?

22 A. Yeah.

23 Q. And was that course -- and I think you maybe tell us  
24 about it later on -- but was that course essentially  
25 quite a generic training course?

1 A. It was, it was, because there were people there that  
2 weren't involved with working with youngsters. There  
3 were people there from elderly care as well, I can  
4 remember that. So it wouldn't be specific to working  
5 with youngsters.

6 Q. Okay. And you tell us that you can put a year to when  
7 you started at Redheugh as a houseparent, because it  
8 was the same year you were married?

9 A. Yes.

10 Q. 1982?

11 A. Yeah.

12 Q. And you tell us at paragraph 12 that when you went to  
13 work at Redheugh, and was it really for essentially the  
14 whole of your time, you worked in a unit called the  
15 McGregor Unit?

16 A. Yeah.

17 Q. Did that have a particular purpose, that particular  
18 unit, or was it simply to --

19 A. No, no, there were -- there was a McGregor Unit, the  
20 Knox Unit and I can't remember the name of the lassies'  
21 unit, but there was two boys' units and a girls' unit  
22 upstairs, so it was generic, just working with boys.

23 Q. And the McGregor Unit was a boys' unit?

24 A. Boys' unit, yeah.

25 Q. And can you remember approximately the ages of the boys

1           in your unit?

2   A.   I would guess around 13 to -- I think one of the oldest

3           boys we had was probably about 17.

4   Q.   So somewhere still of school age?

5   A.   Yeah.

6   Q.   And attending school, or should be?

7   A.   Yeah, yeah.

8   Q.   And others were above school age and --

9   A.   Yeah.

10  Q.   -- some would be in work?

11  A.   Yeah, we did -- we did have a couple that went out to

12           jobs.

13  Q.   Yeah.

14  A.   Yeah.

15  Q.   And I think the other unit, if I can help you, might

16           have been called Wallace?

17  A.   Aye, aye, that was it.

18  Q.   Was that the unit for girls?

19  A.   Aye, that was the girls' unit, yeah.

20  Q.   But Knox and McGregor were boys' units?

21  A.   Knox and McGregor was boys' units.

22  Q.   And you tell us that there was also a unit which you

23           call the Minimum Support Unit, for older children who

24           were getting ready to leave care?

25  A.   That's right, it was across the yard.

1 Q. So it wasn't in the main building?  
2 A. No.  
3 Q. But the other three units you have talked about were in  
4 the main building?  
5 A. Were in the main building.  
6 Q. And I think we'll learn that there was a unit called the  
7 McLean Unit, which was open quite --  
8 A. That was an MSU unit.  
9 Q. That was in it?  
10 A. That was the same one. That was the same one. The  
11 McLean and the MSU was one and the same.  
12 Q. But I think there was some refurbishment or whatever in  
13 about 1989 or 1990?  
14 A. Aye.  
15 Q. And it opened up as the McLean Unit?  
16 A. Right.  
17 Q. But you say it was in the same place?  
18 A. It was the same place, yeah.  
19 Q. And essentially was catering for older --  
20 A. Yeah, yeah.  
21 Q. -- children or young people --  
22 A. Yeah.  
23 Q. -- who were getting ready to leave care --  
24 A. Yeah.  
25 Q. -- and live independently?

1 A. Aye, definitely.

2 Q. And I'll just ask you this at this stage: you tell us  
3 a bit about Stewart Burgess and you'll know that we're  
4 familiar with the fact that he has certain  
5 convictions --

6 A. Aye.

7 Q. -- for offences against boys at Redheugh. He was there  
8 in your time --

9 A. He was, yeah.

10 Q. -- or most of the time.

11 A. Mm-hmm.

12 Q. Where did he work?

13 A. He was in Knox Unit to start off with and then went over  
14 to what -- it was either the McLean or the MSU at that  
15 point.

16 Q. And that would be towards the end of your period at  
17 Redheugh?

18 A. Yeah, yeah.

19 Q. And you tell us that, your recollection about culture at  
20 paragraph 14, that you thought it was a very supportive  
21 culture at Redheugh?

22 A. Yeah.

23 Q. Staff were supportive of each other?

24 A. Yeah.

25 Q. And so far as you could see, were good with the

1 children?

2 A. Yeah.

3 Q. And you describe it as a happy place?

4 A. Yeah.

5 Q. Would these impressions be based largely on your  
6 experience in the McGregor Unit?

7 A. No, because I think, if I remember rightly, I think  
8 there was kids that -- ex-residents that would come back  
9 and visit on a regular basis. So that was one of the  
10 reasons why I felt it was a happy place as well, you  
11 know.

12 Q. Yes, if it hadn't been happy for them, they might not  
13 have come back?

14 A. They wouldn't have come back, you know.

15 Q. I follow. But you wouldn't have, on a day-to-day  
16 basis -- you wouldn't be aware of how people were  
17 interacting with children in different units?

18 A. No. No. No, I was basically McGregor Unit and there  
19 was just a set number of staff that was allocated to  
20 McGregor Unit. We didn't move around the units very  
21 much at all.

22 Q. So if something, for example, happened in a particular  
23 unit that wasn't your unit, that might have caused  
24 concern, you wouldn't necessarily be aware of it?

25 A. No, no. Definitely not.

1 Q. And would you describe Redheugh as quite a sprawling  
2 place, it was a former --  
3 A. Aye, aye, I would.  
4 Q. -- mansion?  
5 A. Yeah, I would definitely call it sprawling.  
6 Q. And it wasn't designed as a children's home or hostel?  
7 A. No.  
8 Q. No.  
9 A. I think it was a lauded gentry sort of home at one  
10 point -- house at one point.  
11 Q. And you say in general terms the relationship between  
12 staff and the kids was easy-go-lucky, in general.  
13 I just wonder if you could help us a little bit more.  
14 Well, you say 'in general', so maybe there's  
15 a qualification there --  
16 A. Yeah.  
17 Q. -- but can you just help us with what you were trying to  
18 convey?  
19 A. Yeah, well, as you can expect, there would be times when  
20 kids would get up to mischief, you know, which would  
21 cause a little bit of friction, but other than that,  
22 erm, I felt it was quite good. I mean, we did a lot of  
23 activities. Kids sort of spoke to staff and I just feel  
24 it was quite relaxed, you know.  
25 Q. I mean, you do talk about one particular period when

1           perhaps maybe things were a bit more challenging, the  
2           skinhead culture?

3   A.   Aye, aye.

4   Q.   So that was one that stands out?

5   A.   Yeah, yeah, because there were -- they were buying into  
6           this rebellion, you know, but again, it was just --  
7           I think it was just part of growing up, you know.

8   Q.   Can you put any kind of timeframe to that?

9   A.   No, no chance, no. Early on, that's all I would say.

10  Q.   Okay. No, no, that's fine. And you say that you went  
11           in as a houseparent and that was your role throughout?

12  A.   Yeah, yes.

13  Q.   And you reckon you were there around about 10 years and  
14           would have left around 1992?

15  A.   Yeah, something like that.

16  Q.   I mean, I can tell you that I think records show that  
17           Redheugh was formally closed around June of 1993.

18  A.   Right.

19  Q.   But I think things were starting to change before then.

20  A.   Yeah.

21  Q.   And I think again there's maybe a record, that the  
22           McLean Unit that we've spoken about closed at the end of  
23           December 1992. Now, you may not be aware of that.

24  A.   No, I wasn't, no. But I'm not certain what month I left  
25           either, so --

1 Q. Well, can I put it this way to try and get some kind of  
2 timeframe: we know that Mr Burgess, Stewart Burgess, was  
3 suspended from duty on 22 June 1992.

4 A. Right.

5 Q. Were you still there when he last worked?

6 A. Yes, yes, for definite. Yeah.

7 Q. But you weren't there when it finally closed in June  
8 1993?

9 A. No, no. I can remember we had a meeting with HDD  
10 HDD and I think it was a chap called Hugh Rae who  
11 I believed was -- I think the title was Provincial  
12 Officer, to say that they were closing it.

13 Q. So, just the names you've mentioned, by the stage that  
14 you recall this meeting, about the future of Redheugh  
15 presumably?

16 A. Yeah.

17 Q. Which was not good?

18 A. Yeah.

19 Q. They were going to close the whole thing?

20 A. Yeah.

21 Q. The people that you -- who had a meeting with the staff  
22 were HDD, who by then was in a more senior  
23 role in Glasgow?

24 A. That's right, yeah.

25 Q. In the divisional headquarters?

1 A. Yeah.

2 Q. And above him stood Mr -- Major Hugh Rae?

3 A. Hugh Rae, yeah.

4 Q. He was more senior in the Scottish command?

5 A. Yeah, I believe so, yeah.

6 Q. I mean, was it quite a hierarchical organisation,  
7 because we've got all these -- it's almost like  
8 a military-type structure?

9 A. Well, that's what the Salvation Army is based on,  
10 a military structure. You have the likes of titles,  
11 likes of Captain, Colonel and what have you, so.

12 Q. Okay. And you go on to tell us from paragraph 18,  
13 essentially what the job of a houseparent involved, and  
14 you tell us that you did day-to-day work with the kids  
15 and presumably that's when the kids, if they were not  
16 out at work or at school --

17 A. Yeah.

18 Q. -- you did some work with them both during the day and  
19 in the evenings, at weekends and so forth?

20 A. Yeah, yeah.

21 Q. You made sure that the children who were supposed to go  
22 to school were going to school?

23 A. Yeah.

24 Q. In some cases, staff would take them to school or take  
25 them back?

1 A. Yeah, we had a school run with a school bus.

2 Q. And did you do that at times?

3 A. We all did it from time to time, yeah.

4 Q. And you would also have -- you would also work, as you  
5 say, with the social work department and you would deal  
6 with visiting social workers --

7 A. Social workers et cetera, yeah.

8 Q. And you say that you also made sure that children who  
9 were given home leaves would be getting those --

10 A. Yeah.

11 Q. -- as arranged. And I think the general position, if  
12 I understand it, is that the majority of children would  
13 get home leave unless there were compelling reasons not  
14 to --

15 A. Absolutely, yeah.

16 Q. -- give it.

17 A. And we'd pick them up and drop them off at the railway  
18 station.

19 Q. Although I think you tell us later on that there might  
20 be occasions when home leave would be withdrawn as  
21 a sanction?

22 A. Absolutely, yeah, yeah. We tried not to, because  
23 keeping the home ties in most cases were very important.

24 Q. I suppose on reflection, if we were looking at this  
25 situation now, that would probably not be seen as

1 an appropriate form of sanction?

2 A. Aye. Aye --

3 Q. We've moved on a lot.

4 A. -- I think it's significantly changed. So, yeah,

5 I would say that would be right.

6 Q. And you tell us that the work pattern was really based

7 on a shift system?

8 A. Yeah.

9 Q. And that there was an early shift, which you reckon was

10 from around 8.00 am until 2.00 pm in the afternoon?

11 A. Yeah.

12 Q. There was a backshift from presumably about 2.00 pm --

13 A. I think it was 2.00 pm till 11.00 pm, I think.

14 Q. That's your recollection, is it?

15 A. Right.

16 Q. Then you say there was two people who came in to do, is

17 it a waking nightshift?

18 A. Yeah, nightshift, waking nightshift.

19 Q. And were these three a permanent nightshift staff?

20 A. Yeah, yeah, they were employed as nightshift.

21 Q. But there would be times when other staff would work

22 a nightshift for illness or holidays --

23 A. Yeah.

24 Q. -- or things like that?

25 A. Yeah, definitely.

1 Q. But I think in your case you said, although you did work  
2 occasional nights, you didn't do so very often because  
3 you didn't like a nightshift?

4 A. No, I didn't like nights. I tried to get out of it if  
5 I could.

6 Q. Okay. But as you say, if you were working nights, the  
7 expectation was that you would stay awake, you'd keep  
8 your eyes and ears open to make sure --

9 A. Yeah.

10 Q. -- everything was okay?

11 A. Yeah, yeah.

12 Q. But that the nightshift would be based in a room or in  
13 the main office?

14 A. Yeah, no, it's a small office at the -- next to the main  
15 office.

16 Q. But they would be expected, would they, to wander around  
17 from time to time?

18 A. Oh, definitely, yeah, yeah. Because it was so  
19 sprawling, you would walk out into the grounds and --  
20 and we had a craft unit and all sorts of other buildings  
21 out there.

22 LADY SMITH: Sorry, 'Patrick', can I just check, you said  
23 there were two people who did the nightshifts.

24 A. Yeah.

25 LADY SMITH: Were there always two people on at the same

1 time doing the nightshift?

2 A. Yes. Yes. Yeah, there was more than two on nightshift,  
3 but there was two on at any one time.

4 LADY SMITH: Okay. You would have to have that, you  
5 couldn't have two people 365 days a year responsible for  
6 nightshift.

7 A. No, no, I think in total, I think there was four, and  
8 I think there was -- what's the term for it -- somebody  
9 who would come in and cover as well.

10 LADY SMITH: You would need that to cover for leave,  
11 illness.

12 A. Absolutely.

13 LADY SMITH: Sudden leave of absence for some good reason or  
14 whatever.

15 A. Yeah.

16 LADY SMITH: Yes, thank you.

17 MR PEOPLES: So the idea was that at all times at night,  
18 there would be two people on duty?

19 A. Absolutely, yeah, yeah.

20 Q. But there was a group of people whose job it was  
21 generally to be the nightshift?

22 A. Yes, yeah.

23 Q. Whereas you were essentially a dayshift or backshift  
24 worker?

25 A. Absolutely.

1 Q. You tell us a little bit about the training. You've  
2 told us about Langside and the type of training involved  
3 in your early days at Redheugh and the qualification you  
4 obtained. You say you did -- you have a recollection or  
5 a memory of going on courses from time to time, but  
6 owing to the passage of time, you don't have a great  
7 memory of what these were?

8 A. No, no.

9 Q. Although you have one memory, I think, of going to  
10 a hotel or a house in or near Pitlochry?

11 A. It was Bonskeid House and that was part of the social  
12 services course that I did. They went there twice  
13 a year, I believed.

14 Q. Was that part of the Langside --

15 A. Yeah.

16 Q. -- course, that you went there?

17 A. Yeah, yeah. You went there as residential.

18 Q. Okay.

19 A. I think it was for two or three days or something.

20 Q. Now, you say you would have thought there was some  
21 induction training. Does that raise a question that --  
22 well, I think you were involved in training later on?

23 A. Yeah.

24 Q. And is there a risk that when you say that, you're  
25 hoping there was induction training but it might well be

1           that there wasn't?

2    A.  When I went through this statement, that was something  
3           that became obvious to me, was that because of my  
4           experience now and because I became a trainer, and the  
5           fact that what I would advocate now as a trainer is that  
6           you had supervision once a month, you did a proper  
7           induction, you did appraisal at least once a year,  
8           I can't remember how much of what we had was what  
9           I think should happen, rather than did happen.

10   Q.  And you've told us that Langside was quite generic.  For  
11           example, I mean, we're talking about maybe something,  
12           a course that you went through in the early 1980s -- and  
13           I'm testing your memory here.

14   A.  Yeah.

15   Q.  And please say so if you can't answer this question: was  
16           there much, if anything, about abuse of children in  
17           institutional care and how to safeguard such children  
18           from abuse?

19   A.  I have no idea to be honest at this point.  I couldn't  
20           say whether we did or we didn't.

21   Q.  And you've got a section from paragraph 28 onwards  
22           headed 'Structure and recruitment of staff'.  You've  
23           told us a bit already about the situation, that there  
24           was SNR [REDACTED] ?

25   A.  Yeah.

1 Q. And in your time it was HDD [REDACTED], and [REDACTED]  
2 [REDACTED] --  
3 A. Yeah.  
4 Q. -- from I think 198 [REDACTED], if my dates are correct, she was  
5 there for about four --  
6 A. I'm not sure of her dates, but --  
7 Q. Well, I think we've got records that suggest that she  
8 [REDACTED] in 198 [REDACTED].  
9 A. Aye.  
10 Q. And then she left in 199 [REDACTED].  
11 A. Yeah.  
12 Q. Were you still there when she left?  
13 A. Er, I would think so -- well, if it's 199 [REDACTED] I must have  
14 been, yeah.  
15 Q. Do you remember someone called --  
16 A. Yes, I was, because I tell you -- yeah, it was a chap,  
17 [REDACTED].  
18 Q. [REDACTED]?  
19 A. Aye, aye, [REDACTED], that's right.  
20 Q. And do you remember a person called [REDACTED]?  
21 A. Yes. Yes.  
22 Q. She was SNR [REDACTED]?  
23 A. I was just going to say, she was SNR [REDACTED], yeah.  
24 Q. Okay. And what you say is that your recollection is  
25 that [REDACTED] took more to do with day-to-day

1 [REDACTED] of Redheugh. That's when HDD [REDACTED] was SNR [REDACTED]  
2 SNR [REDACTED] ?

3 A. Absolutely, yeah.

4 Q. And then you give us the structure within units and you  
5 say that there was essentially a senior houseparent for  
6 each unit?

7 A. Yeah. Yeah.

8 Q. And you were in the role of the houseparent below the  
9 senior houseparent, is that right?

10 A. Yeah, there was just two positions. There was  
11 the senior and then the houseparent. The senior was the  
12 chap that was in charge and the rest of us were -- but  
13 we worked as a team, you know.

14 Q. And just on any particular shift, in the unit --

15 A. Yeah.

16 Q. -- a dayshift, whether it was the earlier shift or the  
17 backshift, would both the senior houseparent and the  
18 other houseparent be on duty at the same time?

19 A. Yes, you could have a senior and a houseparent working  
20 together, yeah.

21 Q. But you could have similarly -- I mean again, like the  
22 nightshift, there would be more than one houseparent as  
23 well as a senior?

24 A. Aye. Aye.

25 Q. So you could have two houseparents working on a shift?

1 A. No, there was usually two of us. There was two of us in  
2 there, whether it was the senior and the houseparent or  
3 two houseparents.

4 Q. Yes, sorry, I think that's what I was driving at?

5 A. Aye.

6 Q. But maybe I put it rather badly.

7 So the idea was that at any one time you would want  
8 two houseparents on duty?

9 A. Absolutely, yeah.

10 Q. One of whom could be the senior houseparent?

11 A. Yeah, yeah.

12 Q. But not necessarily, depending on the rota?

13 A. Not necessarily, yeah.

14 Q. And you have a recollection of houseparents who worked  
15 in your unit in your time, and one was -- well, you say  
16 the senior houseparent first of all was George Gillan?

17 A. That's right.

18 Q. And was that throughout your time?

19 A. Yes, I think so.

20 Q. And his wife, Edith, was also a houseparent?

21 A. That's right.

22 Q. As were you?

23 A. Yeah.

24 Q. And you say that later on you have a recollection of  
25 a person called [REDACTED] --

1 A. Yeah.

2 Q. -- becoming a houseparent as well?

3 A. Yeah.

4 Q. And then you tell us on page -- in paragraph 32 about  
5 some of the staff, and you actually say that your  
6 father-in-law, who was called [REDACTED]?

7 A. Yeah.

8 Q. Did nights at one point?

9 A. Yeah.

10 Q. And --

11 A. [REDACTED] --

12 Q. Yes. No, no, you have set that out and you say  
13 obviously they're both deceased now?

14 A. Yeah.

15 Q. I get the impression that some of the staff were  
16 related to each other, because I think you in fact --

17 A. That's right.

18 Q. -- are related to the [REDACTED] family; is that right?

19 A. Yeah, yeah. [REDACTED] was -- her single name was  
20 [REDACTED] and she was my wife's cousin's wife.

21 LADY SMITH: Right. Okay.

22 MR PEOPLES: The wife of your wife's cousin?

23 A. Yes. And my stepson --

24 Q. RSM [REDACTED]?

25 A. -- RSM [REDACTED], he worked in Knox Unit.

1 Q. And so, who was his mother?

2 A. My wife.

3 Q. Your wife?

4 A. Yeah, was his --

5 Q. Did she work in --

6 A. No, no.

7 Q. So she wasn't a worker at -- yes, okay.

8 A. No, no.

9 Q. So obviously we know that the Gillans, for example, were

10 husband and wife?

11 A. Yeah.

12 Q. And --

13 A. And I think Joy Gillan, the daughter, at some point

14 became like a housemother.

15 Q. And **HDD** and his wife **RFF**?

16 A. Yeah.

17 Q. Were **SNR** and matron, effectively, or

18 someone in a senior position, she had a position?

19 A. Yeah, she -- she was a housemother at one point and then

20 I think she was replaced with Joy Gillan.

21 Q. Okay. And do you recall whether **HDD**'s

22 daughter, **RAB**, worked --

23 A. Yes, I think she did some nights.

24 Q. In your time?

25 A. Yes.

1 Q. So there were quite a lot of people who were related to  
2 each other?

3 A. Yeah.

4 Q. You'll probably anticipate what I'm going to ask you  
5 next. I suppose if people are related to each other,  
6 then it may be more difficult for them to raise concerns  
7 about practice or behaviour?

8 A. Yeah, probably, but to be honest with you I don't ever  
9 think there was a conflict of interest anyway -- I never  
10 saw one anyway.

11 Q. But there was a potential conflict?

12 A. There was definitely a potential, yeah. I think that  
13 was likes of, for example, one of the reasons why **RSM**,  
14 my stepson, worked in Knox and didn't work alongside of  
15 me in McGregor. You know, I think that would probably  
16 be a decision that would be made to stop that type of  
17 thing, you know.

18 Q. But Edith Gillan worked with George Gillan in the same  
19 unit?

20 A. She did, aye. I know what you're saying. She did, aye.

21 Q. I'm just making a general point.

22 A. Yeah, yeah.

23 Q. I'm not trying to suggest that they necessarily --

24 A. No.

25 Q. -- there was an actual conflict or a particular instant

1           that I'm going to put to you on that one.

2    A.  No.

3    Q.  But you might say if things were done today, there might

4           be --

5    A.  Probably wouldn't happen today, yeah.

6    Q.  No.  And the other thing you say, that a lot of

7           recruitment, at paragraph 36, was done by word of mouth?

8    A.  Yeah, I think so.

9    Q.  People knew people?

10   A.  Yeah.

11   Q.  And they maybe even wanted a job for a relative?

12   A.  Yeah.  That's how my father-in-law ended up doing some

13           nights, simply because of our connection with Redheugh,

14           you know.

15   Q.  And again, probably in today's world --

16   A.  Yeah, that probably wouldn't happen, yeah.

17   Q.  And you tell us a little bit about recruitment process.

18           I don't think you've got a lot of -- you didn't have

19           a lot of involvement in recruitment.  You had none, did

20           you?

21   A.  I had no involvement in recruitment at all.

22   Q.  But what you can say, I think, from your own situation,

23           at paragraph 38, is that you had to get a reference from

24           the day-to-day SNR at Raisdale?

25   A.  Yeah.

1 Q. When you moved to Redheugh?

2 A. Yeah.

3 Q. And that the person that you recall being SNR [REDACTED]

4 [REDACTED] SNR at Raisdale, in presumably 1981/82, was

5 [REDACTED] RLX [REDACTED]?

6 A. Yes.

7 Q. Did he ever work at Redheugh?

8 A. No -- well, not as far as I'm aware. He may have worked

9 there before I got there, I don't know, but he certainly

10 never worked there when I was there.

11 Q. Did he have ginger hair?

12 A. Yes.

13 Q. Was he tall?

14 A. Yes.

15 Q. Because we've heard some evidence there was [REDACTED]

16 [REDACTED] at Redheugh; HDD [REDACTED], [REDACTED]

17 obviously?

18 A. Aye.

19 Q. But you can't recall RLX [REDACTED] being there in

20 your time?

21 A. No.

22 Q. Okay.

23 Just on the subject of references, while you had to

24 produce a reference for Redheugh, you can't recall

25 providing a reference to get the job at Raisdale.

1 I think you say that in paragraph 40 of your statement?

2 A. I can't remember sending one, no, no, definitely not.

3 Q. You actually say:

4 'I can't imagine me going to the Prison Service and

5 asking for a reference.'

6 Is there a problem with going to the Prison Service?

7 A. No, no, just that I left -- they weren't happy about me

8 leaving, because I was working in what was known as the

9 control room, which was all the electronic equipment,

10 and they'd invested a lot of time and effort into

11 getting me trained in that area, and so the security PO

12 wasn't happy about me leaving. He wanted me to stay on.

13 Q. So if you'd been asked to nominate a referee, you

14 wouldn't have asked him?

15 A. No, definitely not.

16 Q. And I suppose someone might, if they were being asked to

17 give referees, might -- that might be a consideration:

18 who do you put forward as referees?

19 A. Yeah. I must have -- I think I must have put referees

20 at some -- from somewhere, but it certainly, I don't

21 think, would have been the Prison Service, because as

22 I say, they wanted me to stay there, you know.

23 Q. Would you have described the interview you had with

24 HDD when you got the job at Redheugh as

25 particularly testing?

1 A. I can't remember the content. I'm guessing that it  
2 would be HDD and Hugh Rae that was actually both  
3 chairing that interview.

4 Q. Now, just going back to issues of -- you've told us  
5 about the training situation. You've got a section on  
6 supervision, appraisal and evaluation and I think you've  
7 told us what would happen in today's world?

8 A. Yeah.

9 Q. And you say, and understandably, you can't really  
10 remember much about the supervision. But maybe this  
11 goes back to the point you made earlier today, that it  
12 might be that there was no formal regular supervision of  
13 the kind you would get today, although you would have  
14 liked to think there would be such a thing, but maybe  
15 there wasn't?

16 A. Aye, I can't remember sitting down and having  
17 supervision sessions. I think at some point -- I think  
18 I sat with Elaine Jenks at some point. But I'm really  
19 not certain at all.

20 Q. But one reason --

21 A. Sorry, it may have been an appraisal meeting I sat with  
22 her, you know.

23 Q. Yes, one reason you might not remember is because there  
24 weren't any.

25 A. Oh, right, okay.

1 Q. I mean, it might just be that's a possibility?

2 A. I couldn't tell you, yeah.

3 Q. If I move on to paragraph 53, 'Patrick', you tell us

4 that social workers did come to Redheugh from time to

5 time and they would have discussions with staff, perhaps

6 at review meetings, or if someone was about to attend

7 a panel hearing or things like that?

8 A. Yeah. Yeah, definitely.

9 Q. Would the regularity with which social workers come to

10 Redheugh vary?

11 A. It would, yeah.

12 Q. Because children might come from a number of different

13 local authorities?

14 A. Absolutely.

15 Q. Some further away than others?

16 A. Yeah, yeah.

17 Q. And also because of pressures of work --

18 A. Yeah.

19 Q. -- social workers might have a large caseload?

20 A. Yeah.

21 Q. And they wouldn't necessarily be able to give as much

22 time?

23 A. No, it would definitely be down to the individual social

24 worker.

25 Q. But you do say that, in paragraph 54, that you know that

1           some of the kids came from what you describe as  
2           'terrible backgrounds'?

3    A.   Yeah.

4    Q.   And you can take it we're quite familiar with some of  
5           the backgrounds of children who were --

6    A.   Aye.

7    Q.   -- received into care over the years.  But you say that  
8           there would be information on their background in the  
9           children's files?

10   A.   Yeah.

11   Q.   And that staff would actually have access to and read  
12          those files?

13   A.   Yeah.

14   Q.   Would that be particularly so if you were the child's  
15          key worker?

16   A.   Oh, absolutely.

17   Q.   Would other staff who were not the key worker --

18   A.   No.

19   Q.   -- read the file?

20   A.   No, I think it would be just the key worker who would go  
21          through the files, because, for example, if I was in  
22          McGregor Unit, working in McGregor Unit, I wouldn't be  
23          looking through files for Knox Unit, because there was  
24          not any real need for me to do that.

25   Q.   But they were all kept in the same place?

1 A. All kept in the same place. If I remember rightly, it  
2 was a filing cabinet drawer that was lockable.

3 Q. But all staff had access to it?

4 A. All staff had access.

5 Q. So there weren't files on the children in the unit?

6 A. No, no.

7 Q. So if you had to write up something about the day and in  
8 relation to the children for that day, would someone  
9 have to go to the file in the office and write it up?

10 A. Yes. Yeah, definitely, yeah.

11 Q. And would they just go there and sit in the office and  
12 write it up or would they take it back to the unit?

13 A. No, in the office.

14 Q. Okay.

15 A. I can't ever remember files being taken into the unit at  
16 all, 'cause there would be no need for it.

17 Q. And if there was an incident during the day --

18 A. Yeah.

19 Q. -- in the unit, that would be recorded -- or it should  
20 be recorded?

21 A. It would, yeah.

22 Q. Well, yes, you say 'would', but probably 'should' is  
23 maybe --

24 A. Well.

25 Q. We don't know whether all incidents were recorded?

1 A. No. Let me put it this way: anything that I felt was  
2 out the ordinary that needed to be passed on to other  
3 staff, I would write it in the book.

4 Q. Restraints would be recorded?

5 A. Absolutely, yeah.

6 Q. Or maybe I'd put it another way: ought to be recorded?

7 A. Well, I would say it would be recorded.

8 Q. Were you a stickler for recording these things?

9 A. Well, I always felt if you don't -- if I go onto  
10 a shift, I want to know what's happened on the previous  
11 shift. So I would always make sure that there was  
12 things passed forward.

13 Q. And in your unit you felt that the recording was done  
14 the way you would want it to be?

15 A. Yeah, I would think so. And we did a lot of -- we did,  
16 like, shift changeovers.

17 Q. But again, I suppose I'd put the point I put earlier:  
18 you don't know what everyone was doing in other units?

19 A. Oh, no, no.

20 Q. Okay.

21 A. I can only say for McGregor Unit that we would sit, the  
22 likes of -- I can distinctly remember, a Friday  
23 afternoon, we would always, the three of us, in  
24 particular at this point -- I can't remember if Edith  
25 was part of this group or not, but I can remember

1 Maimie, George and myself sitting in the office and  
2 going through stuff to cover the weekend.

3 Q. Okay. And then so far as numbers are concerned, overall  
4 numbers, at paragraph 61, I think you tell us that you  
5 reckon there was, at any one time, is it between 25 and  
6 40 kids?

7 A. I would guess that, yeah.

8 Q. Over four units?

9 A. Yeah, but it is only a guess.

10 Q. Yes. But you do say you thought there were maybe eight  
11 to ten people --

12 A. Absolutely, yeah.

13 Q. -- in McGregor?

14 A. Yeah.

15 Q. And that the staff-to-child ratio, usually at least,  
16 would be two staff, two houseparents, to eight to ten  
17 children?

18 A. Yeah. Whoever was in the unit, there would always be  
19 two of you. So how many kids was in the unit at any one  
20 time, if there were any empty beds, it would be less  
21 than that, you know, but it would be two staff still.

22 Q. But you do say in paragraph 62, 'Patrick', that  
23 'sometimes we had three staff and sometimes only one,  
24 perhaps during staff holidays'. And would the same  
25 might have happened if there was an illness and someone

1 reported in sick, could that happen?

2 A. Only if it was last minute.

3 Q. Yeah. But it could have happened?

4 A. It could have happened, yeah.

5 Q. I mean, that's not unusual in a working environment, is

6 it?

7 A. Yeah.

8 Q. With a shift system?

9 A. Yeah, yeah. Certainly if they had a chance to arrange

10 it then it wouldn't happen, but if it was right at, you

11 know, last minute, then --

12 Q. And so far as sleeping arrangements are concerned, and

13 again I think you can only really -- well, you can speak

14 with -- about other units?

15 A. Yeah.

16 Q. But as far as McGregor is concerned, you say at

17 paragraph 65, that there was one bigger room with four

18 or five beds in it. There was a room with two beds and

19 there were some single rooms?

20 A. Yeah.

21 Q. Would it be fair to say that most children in your time

22 shared a bedroom?

23 A. I would think so, yeah.

24 Q. But the bedrooms were, you say, off the main corridor

25 and also off that corridor was the office?

1 A. Yeah.

2 Q. The main office for the building and some other toilets,  
3 bathroom and shower room and so forth?

4 A. Yeah.

5 Q. Was the small room that the night staff would sit in,  
6 was that there too?

7 A. Yeah, erm, it's hard to describe. If you came along the  
8 main corridor there like that, and then you -- at the  
9 very end you had the main office, and next to it,  
10 through the wall of the main office, was this little  
11 office that the night staff used to use.

12 Q. But they would access it by a separate door?

13 A. Yes. No. Well, the actual entrance into that room  
14 would be by a separate door, yes.

15 Q. Yes. Sorry.

16 A. Yeah, yeah.

17 Q. It's not through the main office?

18 A. No, no. I think they could access the main office.

19 Q. Yes.

20 A. But I don't know about -- they certainly never needed to  
21 walk through the office to get to theirs.

22 Q. And these rooms, like the main office, they wouldn't  
23 necessarily be locked at night, would they?

24 A. Oh, yeah, that would be locked at night.

25 Q. It was locked?

1 A. Yeah, aye, it would be locked.

2 Q. Why was that?

3 A. Because the night staff would be in the room next door.

4 Q. But they didn't need access to the main office?

5 A. I'm not sure if they would maybe need access for  
6 something, I don't know. But certainly that main office  
7 would be locked at night.

8 Q. Well, I suppose if you think about it, if it's a big  
9 place with a number of units all in the same building  
10 and a lot of children who can get out of their rooms,  
11 then if you didn't lock it, there might be concerns if  
12 there was a filing cabinet or other papers?

13 A. Absolutely, absolutely.

14 Q. Yeah, okay. So far as locking doors are concerned,  
15 I presume that the doors to the outside were locked at  
16 night?

17 A. Yes, yes, the outside door -- the main entrance was  
18 locked and there was a back door, as we used to call it,  
19 it got locked as well.

20 Q. And so far as the individual units in the main building  
21 were concerned, would the entrance to these individual  
22 units be locked at night?

23 A. No, 'cause they didn't have a lock on the doors.

24 Q. So --

25 A. It was swing doors, just.

1 Q. So if I was an adventurous boy who wanted to do a tour  
2 of Redheugh at night within the building, without having  
3 to think about how to break out to get into the grounds,  
4 I could wander about anywhere?

5 A. You could wander, yeah. How you would get out, I'm not  
6 certain. The only way I'm guessing that you could get  
7 out of the likes of McGregor Unit would be by the fire  
8 door, the back staircase, because if your front door's  
9 locked and your back door's locked, how would you get  
10 out the building? You know.

11 Q. Okay.

12 A. So I'm guessing that would be the only way, would be out  
13 the fire doors.

14 Q. I mean, we do hear about children in places that are  
15 locked at night absconding, and they find a way?

16 A. Aye.

17 Q. It's not uncommon?

18 A. Aye, aye.

19 Q. Because they're quite skilful at times?

20 A. Yeah, yeah. I'm not certain, but I would think that  
21 would be the way to do it, would be through the fire  
22 doors.

23 Q. Okay.

24 A. You know.

25 Q. At paragraph 71, 'Patrick', you say that you're not

1           certain if staff were taking children to their own homes  
2           at times. It wasn't something you did?

3   A. No.

4   Q. Do you recall whether there was any Salvation Army  
5           policy or rule on the matter?

6   A. No, I don't, no.

7   Q. You don't recall that there was?

8   A. I don't recall whether there was or there wasn't.

9   Q. Okay. But you readily accept, I think, that it was  
10           certainly possible in the days you worked at Redheugh  
11           that staff could take children somewhere on their own?

12   A. Absolutely, yeah, yeah.

13   Q. You don't know whether that happened, but you say they  
14           could?

15   A. Well, an instance would be if we were taking kids to get  
16           clothing in the town, you would take somebody, you know.

17   Q. Well, you say that if you had to take them for a reason  
18           like clothing, you wouldn't go without -- well, you  
19           wouldn't just walk out?

20   A. No, no, you would tell whoever was on where you were  
21           going. You had to say you were going out of the  
22           building.

23   Q. But obviously, if that wasn't the situation and you  
24           weren't going outwith the grounds, staff could take  
25           a child on their own to many places within Redheugh,

1           either within the main building --

2   A.   Absolutely.

3   Q.   -- or in the grounds, or in the sheds and the grounds

4           and so forth?

5   A.   Aye, definitely.  You could take kids outside, yeah.

6           You know, by 'outside', I mean in the grounds, you know.

7   Q.   And just on the question of reviews, if I can just move

8           on to paragraph 91, 'Patrick', that you have

9           a recollection that there would be reviews for each

10          child on a periodic basis?

11  A.   Yeah.

12  Q.   And your recollection is that the child's key worker at

13          Redheugh and the child's external social worker --

14  A.   Yeah.

15  Q.   -- would be involved in these reviews, and possibly the

16          senior houseparent from the unit the child was placed

17          in?

18  A.   Yeah.

19  Q.   Or perhaps SNR [REDACTED] ?

20  A.   Yeah, yeah.  Quite often it was Elaine Jenks, I can

21          remember being in a number -- in numerous panels with

22          Elaine Jenks.

23  Q.   Was she someone in your time that really had the

24          principal responsibility for determining admissions?

25  A.   Yes, definitely.

1 Q. And you have a section headed 'Discipline and  
2 punishment', 'Patrick', that -- and you've told us,  
3 I think you said this just a short time ago, that on  
4 Friday the houseparents, in McGregor at least, would  
5 gather together and have a discussion about whether any  
6 particular punishments or sanctions should be imposed?

7 A. Yeah, yeah.

8 Q. And you say that certainly within McGregor, the main  
9 form of sanction was stopping pocket money?

10 A. Absolutely.

11 Q. Was that stopping it entirely or reducing it or both?

12 A. Both. Both.

13 Q. And that that had to be decided because pocket money  
14 generally would be given out on a Friday night?

15 A. Yeah. Yeah, definitely.

16 Q. And you also tell us that at least the practice within  
17 McGregor Unit was that punishments like stopping pocket  
18 money were explained to the children?

19 A. Yeah, definitely.

20 Q. So they knew the reason why they weren't getting their  
21 pocket money?

22 A. Yeah. Yeah.

23 Q. Would the same apply if they were told they weren't  
24 going on home leave?

25 A. Yeah, oh, aye, even more so I would emphasise the point

1           there.

2   Q.   And did they sometimes -- was home leave sometimes

3           stopped for children in McGregor?

4   A.   Yeah, yeah, definitely.

5   Q.   But you say the reasons would be explained?

6   A.   Yes, always.

7   Q.   But again, if I go back to my general point about

8           Redheugh, you don't know whether that happened in other

9           units?

10  A.   No.  I'm assuming it did, but I could only guess.

11  Q.   Well, I'm probably just wanting your -- what you know

12           rather than what you assume.

13  A.   Yeah, well --

14  Q.   I mean, I think --

15  A.   Then I don't know, yeah.

16  Q.   But you do say that stopping children getting home at

17           weekends was generally a sanction of last resort?

18  A.   Yeah, absolutely.

19  Q.   And you say if a child or a kid hadn't -- wasn't going

20           to school on a weekday, you would tend to give them some

21           extra chores during the day in and around the unit?

22  A.   Yeah.

23  Q.   You're talking about children who should be going to

24           school, but for one reason or another are not going

25           during the school week?

1 A. Yeah, yeah.

2 Q. So you're trying to give them something to keep them --

3 A. Aye, keep them occupied.

4 Q. Did you give them any education?

5 A. No, no, we didn't.

6 Q. Looking back, you probably think that today, giving them

7 chores isn't necessarily particularly educational?

8 A. No. If we had the facility to do so, then obviously the

9 right way to do it nowadays would be to give them the

10 schooling within the centre, you know, within the home.

11 Q. If they couldn't go to an outside school?

12 A. Yeah, yeah.

13 Q. Because, just to make one point here clear, Redheugh may

14 have taken children from the courts who were committed,

15 but also took children who needed care and protection?

16 A. Absolutely.

17 Q. They took a broad range of children?

18 A. Yeah.

19 Q. But it wasn't a school?

20 A. No, no.

21 Q. The schooling, the education was provided externally?

22 A. No. The only type of -- and it doesn't come under

23 schooling really, the only other thing we did was likes

24 of the crafting work where we took 'em out and they

25 could do all sorts of stuff. We got kids interested in

1 painting and stuff like that, you know. We had  
2 a gardener, and the gardener would have kids working,  
3 and to be honest with you, a lot of the kids liked  
4 working with the gardener, you know.

5 Q. These were activities rather than education?

6 A. Absolutely, yeah.

7 Q. And they were generally maybe after school?

8 A. Sometimes the likes of -- during the day they would work  
9 with the gardener, you know. The craft unit we had,  
10 I think it was every Monday night we did the craft unit.

11 Q. Yes, and that would obviously have suited either young  
12 people who were at school or out working?

13 A. Aye.

14 Q. But if they happened to be in the unit or Redheugh in  
15 general during the day, whether it was weekday or  
16 weekend, there was the possibility they could work in  
17 the gardens if they wanted or perhaps get some kind of  
18 training from the craft instructor or whatever?

19 A. Absolutely, yeah.

20 Q. That was the idea?

21 A. Yeah, definitely. It was just to fill the time up for  
22 'em so that they weren't just clicking their fingers,  
23 you know.

24 Q. And you -- at paragraph 101, you say you can't remember  
25 if there was any formal policy or code of conduct in

1 relation to discipline and punishment. Now, is that  
2 a case of: well, there could have been, I just can't  
3 remember?

4 A. That's a case of: there could have been, I just can't  
5 remember. And to be honest, I would have expected there  
6 to be, but again I can't remember.

7 Q. Well, you're saying expectations. Now, you say you've  
8 been involved latterly in training --

9 A. Yeah.

10 Q. -- so your expectations probably are to some extent  
11 influenced by that subsequent training and what you  
12 think are good -- are matters of good practice?

13 A. Yeah.

14 Q. Is that fair to say?

15 A. Yeah, it is, yeah. And this is where I'm finding this  
16 process difficult, because knowing what I know now, to  
17 what I knew then, I can't differentiate between what  
18 I know should happen and what did happen. I'm finding  
19 it difficult to see, you know, what I knew happened and  
20 what I know should happen.

21 Q. Don't worry. It's perfectly understandable and  
22 of course it's not helped if people who -- if there were  
23 policies, that people who put them in place didn't keep  
24 copies or records --

25 A. Aye.

1 Q. -- to show how they -- what policies they had, what the  
2 policies said?

3 A. Yeah. Yeah.

4 Q. And so forth?

5 A. Yeah.

6 Q. And I think you'll know, generally speaking, that it's  
7 only in more modern times that people have got more used  
8 to having written policies for everything?

9 A. Absolutely, yeah.

10 Q. Whistleblowing, discipline --

11 A. Yeah, everything.

12 Q. -- control, everything. Is that not fair comment?

13 A. Yeah, definitely.

14 Q. And you tell us the sort of things that children might  
15 be disciplined for would be not wanting to go to school,  
16 being aggressive, hitting another child, the sort of  
17 things that you might expect --

18 A. Yeah.

19 Q. -- might merit a punishment?

20 A. Yeah.

21 Q. But you say there was no physical discipline or  
22 punishments that you can recall?

23 A. No, no.

24 Q. And that children, you say, were never segregated from  
25 others for any period of time?

1 A. No.

2 Q. So can I just seize on the last bit?

3 A. Yeah.

4 Q. Does that mean there were occasions when they were  
5 separated for a time?

6 A. No. No. I don't ever know of any point where a kid was  
7 separated from the unit or from whatever, you know,  
8 there was never any time when they were segregated, in  
9 my opinion.

10 Q. Were they ever sent to their room?

11 A. Er, probably, but I'm guessing.

12 Q. Yeah.

13 A. Yeah.

14 Q. And if that did happen, then what would have happened if  
15 a particular child was acting up or -- and was  
16 struggling or refusing to go to their room? What would  
17 happen?

18 A. I think probably the senior would get involved, if  
19 they're on duty, or Elaine Jenks would get involved, er,  
20 but I'm really not sure.

21 Q. How would they get there though, if they wanted to take  
22 them to the room, if they were resisting?

23 A. I think if it was me, I would have asked somebody to go  
24 along and get her, or get the senior.

25 Q. So do you accept though the possibility -- and I know

1           you're saying you don't remember any of this.

2    A.   Yeah.

3    Q.   But if someone wanted to separate a child, simply even

4           to take them to their room, and they were refusing to go

5           or struggling, it's possible that, at least in some

6           units, and perhaps even in your own when you weren't

7           there, that they effectively took hold of the child and

8           took them to their room?

9    A.   No.

10   Q.   That didn't happen?

11   A.   No.

12   Q.   Not in your unit?

13   A.   I never saw it anywhere.

14   Q.   But you don't know whether it happened in other units?

15   A.   I don't know if it happened at all anywhere else.

16   Q.   But you say that as far as records are concerned, there

17           was no punishment book to record punishments or

18           discipline, is that right?

19   A.   You know, I think if I remember rightly, anything that

20           was out the ordinary would be put in the kid's file.

21           I don't -- and I think if I remember rightly as well,

22           I think there was a daybook.

23   Q.   You probably recognise that the difficulty with that

24           system of record-keeping is that if you wanted to focus

25           on a particular aspect of care, like punishment or

1           absconding or whatever, restraint, if you put something  
2           in a general log or in a particular file, it's difficult  
3           to see the big picture?

4   A.   It is, and it depends how it's written.

5   Q.   As well, yeah, it depends on the entries?

6   A.   Yeah.

7   Q.   I mean, you could say 'child restrained', but if you  
8           don't say how and by how many and in what  
9           circumstances --

10  A.   Yeah.

11  Q.   -- it's not very helpful?

12  A.   No, it's not.

13  Q.   Now, just on the subject of restraint, you've got  
14           a section that starts at paragraph 108, 'Patrick'. And  
15           you say you would say there was no restraint used on  
16           children in Redheugh. What you mean there is you say  
17           you can't recall seeing a restraint?

18  A.   No.

19  Q.   In your unit?

20  A.   No.

21  Q.   But you wouldn't know what was happening in other units?

22  A.   No, definitely not, no.

23  Q.   But you -- you have -- your memory is that you can't  
24           recall personally being involved in a restraint?

25  A.   No, no.

1 Q. But you do say that if boys were fighting, and that did  
2 happen from time to time --

3 A. You'd try and break them apart.

4 Q. You'd try and pull them apart?

5 A. Yeah.

6 Q. And what you're telling us here is that in your view  
7 that isn't restraint?

8 A. I suppose it is restraint. However, it's restraint in  
9 order to rectify something, to make -- to minimise  
10 something.

11 Q. And because it's -- it involves physical contact, then  
12 there's a possibility that all sorts of things can occur  
13 in that --

14 A. Yeah.

15 Q. -- incident or that type --

16 A. Technically, yes. Yeah.

17 Q. And you say what you would have done was grab them by  
18 the arm or shoulder so they couldn't hit out at anyone?

19 A. Yeah.

20 Q. And you'd try to get them to calm down. You might even  
21 use a bear hug?

22 A. Yeah.

23 Q. But you don't know what other people would have done in  
24 that situation?

25 A. No, not at all, no.

1 Q. And if the child is quite agitated, angry or distressed  
2 or whatever, it could be quite a tricky situation to  
3 deal with?

4 A. It would, yeah.

5 Q. And some staff, if they don't have the appropriate  
6 training, could find that quite a challenge?

7 A. Yeah.

8 Q. And they might do things which, from the child's  
9 perspective, they could see as, for example, just  
10 a simple assault?

11 A. Yeah, yeah, I suppose so. But having said that, as  
12 I say, I never, ever saw anything like that. I don't  
13 know what happened in other units. You would have  
14 thought -- and this is only assuming again, I'm sorry,  
15 but it's the only way my mind can process it. But you  
16 would have thought that if there was anything untoward,  
17 they would have gone to either a senior or Elaine Jenks  
18 or somebody like that.

19 Q. You say if anything untoward; if who thought there was  
20 anything untoward?

21 A. A kid.

22 Q. Well, I hear what you say, but I mean --

23 A. Because a lot of the kids had good relationships with  
24 the staff.

25 Q. But that doesn't mean that you'll tell them everything?

1 A. Maybe not, but.

2 Q. Well, particularly if you're going to say a member of  
3 staff, one of your colleagues, one of the people that  
4 you trust to do the right thing, is not doing the right  
5 thing, that's quite a hard act for a child to do?

6 A. Aye.

7 Q. In a closed environment where they don't know what's  
8 going to happen next.

9 A. Aye.

10 Q. Do you accept that?

11 A. Well, yeah, but they could have gone to the social  
12 worker and that would have been a little bit easier for  
13 the kid to raise it.

14 Q. I take the point you're making, that there were people  
15 that you think they could have gone to, but I suppose  
16 we've heard in this Inquiry that children that are put  
17 into care settings, historically at least, would be  
18 often reluctant to speak out about incidents.

19 A. Sure.

20 Q. For one reason or another.

21 A. Sure.

22 Q. Either it was grassing, or they were fearful of the  
23 consequences, or even a staff member might have done  
24 something to them and threatened them --

25 A. Yeah.

1 Q. -- with all sorts of things if they said anything?  
2 A. Yeah.  
3 LADY SMITH: I've also, 'Patrick', heard from some people  
4 that they just couldn't find the words to explain --  
5 A. Right.  
6 LADY SMITH: -- what it is that was bad.  
7 A. Yeah. It would be difficult, I can understand that.  
8 But, as I say, I don't -- I don't know of anything like  
9 that at all.  
10 LADY SMITH: Mm-hmm.  
11 MR PEOPLES: It would also be very difficult if it was -- if  
12 the staff said, 'Oh, it's a restraint', and there was  
13 more than one member of staff and one person -- a young  
14 person being restrained, it's -- they might think it's  
15 a stacked deck, that it would be very difficult --  
16 A. Uh-huh.  
17 Q. -- for that complaint to be proved or substantiated or  
18 accepted as true.  
19 A. Right, sure.  
20 Q. These are all the things that --  
21 A. Yeah.  
22 Q. -- might go through the mind of a young person?  
23 A. Yeah, yeah.  
24 Q. Now, you say at 113:  
25 'I'm sure there would have been policies and

1 practices related to restraint at Redheugh. Things like  
2 that would have been covered at Langside College but it  
3 hardly ever happened. I don't think there was ever  
4 a training session to do with restraint. It wasn't  
5 something that was a priority. It wasn't a big thing.'

6 Now, again, are you struggling with recollection  
7 here, that you'd like to think that there was a policy?

8 A. Absolutely.

9 Q. But there might not have been?

10 A. Yeah. This is my problem. A lot of what I know should  
11 happen is based on my experience in latter years.

12 I can't say for definite one way -- there may have been  
13 a policy. I don't know. I can't remember ever seeing  
14 one, but again, it wasn't something that was made a big  
15 thing of.

16 Q. But if a child says they were restrained and things  
17 happened and there's -- you don't know that either. All  
18 you can say is: well, I never saw that happen. It could  
19 have happened because I wasn't everywhere, all seeing,  
20 all knowing?

21 A. Yeah, yeah.

22 Q. And to some extent, if we don't have many records for  
23 one reason or another, and I think that applies to  
24 Redheugh, as we've been told?

25 A. Right.

1 Q. We're reliant on people who were there, who might have  
2 been involved in incidents, to tell us, to the best of  
3 their recollection, what did happen?

4 A. Right. Yeah.

5 Q. Is that not the case?

6 A. Yeah, I think so.

7 Q. But you're quite clear in your own -- your own position  
8 was, if you saw anything that caused you any real  
9 concern, you would have reported it --

10 A. Absolutely.

11 Q. -- to a senior?

12 A. Absolutely. Because I did feel as though, especially  
13 [REDACTED] and HDD [REDACTED], were very approachable,  
14 you know. They were very approachable. You could --  
15 you could go to 'em with anything, you know. I wouldn't  
16 have been afraid to go to them with anything.

17 Q. But -- and I think your position in short is that you  
18 didn't see things that concerned you --

19 A. No.

20 Q. -- and required you to report to someone more senior, is  
21 that right?

22 A. Yeah. I never saw a thing that would cause me any  
23 concerns.

24 Q. Now, I follow your position, but you may not have seen  
25 things, but other staff may have done?

1 A. Yeah, absolutely.

2 Q. And if they had, would you have expected them to report  
3 their concerns at the time?

4 A. Absolutely. I think morally, I think you've got a moral  
5 need to do that. On top of that, I think the  
6 relationship with the staff and SNR  
7 and HDD, would not stop them  
8 from going to do it, you know.

9 Q. And if your first priority was the best interests of the  
10 children, rather than necessarily loyalties to staff  
11 that you knew and were friendly with --

12 A. Yeah.

13 Q. -- you should report these things, shouldn't you?

14 A. Absolutely.

15 Q. But you could see there might be -- some people might  
16 find that a difficult thing to do?

17 A. I can't speak for anybody else, but I wouldn't have  
18 found it difficult, because I had a situation in  
19 a previous life where I did speak up about something  
20 that I saw. So I wouldn't have found it difficult.

21 Q. Because I think we'll hear that there was maybe  
22 a situation where -- do you remember Isobel McGookin?

23 A. Yes.

24 Q. I think -- I can tell you there's a record that when  
25 Stewart Burgess was suspended in June 1992, she was

1 interviewed, because she had received an allegation from  
2 a resident in, I think, Burgess's unit?

3 A. Right.

4 Q. A complaint, and she was asked if she could recall any  
5 other incidents of concern, and she was able to recall  
6 instantly an instance where she entered a room and found  
7 Stewart Burgess giving what appeared to be an unwanted  
8 cuddle to a boy.

9 A. Oh right.

10 Q. That's the information I'm giving you, right?

11 A. Yeah.

12 Q. Now, what you've just told me, I'm assuming you say that  
13 if you had been in that position, you would have been  
14 straight to senior management?

15 A. Absolutely.

16 Q. Because that's a risk to children?

17 A. Yeah, absolutely.

18 Q. You say at paragraph 127, just on the subject of raising  
19 concerns, from the point of view of the children raising  
20 concerns rather than staff, that you think the kids  
21 would have known how to raise concerns or complaints  
22 because you've told us there were various avenues they  
23 could have used?

24 A. Yeah.

25 Q. To your knowledge, were they actually told how to raise

1 concerns or make complaints?

2 A. I really can't remember that. I'm only going on what  
3 I would hope would happen, you know.

4 Q. Yeah. Yes, you'd like to think --

5 A. You would, aye.

6 Q. -- they were given a proper understanding at the  
7 outset --

8 A. Yeah.

9 Q. -- of how they could complain if they had concerns,  
10 including concerns about the behaviour of staff towards  
11 them?

12 A. Yeah, definitely. That's what you would like to think,  
13 but as I say, I can't say it definitely happened.

14 Q. But what you do say, I think, is that, at paragraph 129,  
15 is that you didn't see any behaviour at Redheugh,  
16 I think particularly by other staff, that you would have  
17 considered to be abusive towards children --

18 A. No.

19 Q. -- is that your position?

20 A. Yeah, I never saw anything. That's why I was so shocked  
21 when Stewart Burgess went.

22 Q. Well, I was going to say --

23 A. And I only -- sorry -- I only discovered that he had  
24 gone. I didn't know the full story because I was told  
25 that he'd left under a cloud. We weren't told, or

1 I wasn't told what he'd gone for. It was only latterly  
2 when the police came to my door to say did I know  
3 Stewart and do I know anything, that I found out what  
4 had happened.

5 Q. I think your impression is that it was all very  
6 hush-hush?

7 A. Yeah.

8 Q. That's the expression I think you used in your  
9 statement?

10 A. Yeah, I would think so, because I don't think any of the  
11 other staff knew anything other than what I knew, and  
12 all I was told was it was under a cloud, which could  
13 have meant he'd had an argument with management. It  
14 could have been any reason. Certainly didn't expect  
15 something like that, you know.

16 LADY SMITH: Who told you that he'd left under a cloud,  
17 'Patrick'?

18 A. One of the staff, but I don't think it was one of the  
19 management. I think it was one of the staff, because  
20 I think, if I remember rightly, we were talking in  
21 general and something like, 'Oh, where's Stewart today?'  
22 'Oh, he's left. He's gone, he's gone under a cloud'.  
23 And I remember that specific phrase, because when I look  
24 back on it, not long afterwards, when the police came,  
25 I was trying to think how I found out, and that was how

1 I found out. But it wasn't anything specific.

2 MR PEOPLES: So staff weren't called to a general meeting --

3 A. No.

4 Q. -- to explain that a long-serving member of staff is no  
5 longer working at Redheugh?

6 A. No.

7 Q. And given some sort of explanation why that would be the  
8 case, if they had no reason to think that there was  
9 a problem with that member of staff?

10 A. No.

11 Q. You weren't given anything like that?

12 A. No, not as far as I'm aware, no. I only knew, as I say,  
13 because of the conversation I had with one of the  
14 ordinary members of staff, and I can't even remember who  
15 said it. But that was when I found out, was when the  
16 police came to my door, asking about him.

17 Q. But what is done now in this statement is for you to  
18 reflect back on your time working, not in the same unit,  
19 but working with Stewart Burgess?

20 A. Yeah.

21 Q. And I think you're asking yourself the question, or the  
22 obvious question: was there something that you should  
23 have noticed, picked up and reported?

24 A. Absolutely, yeah. Well, you're bound to. You know,  
25 you're bound to. When you work in a place, you know,

1           you think: well, you know, what is it that we've missed.  
2           You know?

3   Q.   Well, what if someone didn't miss something? I've just  
4           given you what appears to be a record of another member  
5           of staff, Mrs McGookin, seeing something some years  
6           before his suspension and saying nothing?

7   A.   Yeah.

8   Q.   Until the day of his suspension?

9   A.   Aye.

10   Q.   When she's talking about a complaint by a current  
11           resident?

12   A.   Yeah.

13   Q.   She mentions this other incident?

14   A.   Yeah.

15   Q.   And I think she goes further and talks about another  
16           resident as well where she had concerns.

17   A.   Oh, right.

18   Q.   That he was trying to avoid Stewart Burgess?

19   A.   Right.

20   Q.   So what's your response to that?

21   A.   I just don't know how it would not have come to light,  
22           as I say, you know. As I say, I can only speak for  
23           myself. If I'd seen anything, I would have raised it.

24   Q.   Well, that's one reason why it doesn't come to light:  
25           staff see something and they don't say anything, for

1           whatever reason.

2   A.   Yeah.  Yeah, but I can only speak for myself, that

3           I would have raised it.

4   Q.   Yes, but I'm telling you that.  You say: I can't

5           understand how -- and perhaps no one picked up on this.

6           But I'm just saying to you, there seems to be evidence

7           that someone did pick up on something --

8   A.   Right.  Right.

9   Q.   -- sufficiently memorable?

10  A.   Yeah, well, I can't speak of what happened between

11          Isobel McGookin, say, and whoever she reported it to.

12  Q.   No, I'm not asking you to.

13  A.   Right.

14  Q.   I'm just trying to show that there may be a situation

15          you're unaware of where another member of staff --

16  A.   Absolutely, yeah.

17  Q.   -- saw something?

18  A.   Aye, there could have been, yeah.

19  Q.   And she worked in the same unit as Stewart Burgess.

20  A.   Yeah, yeah, there could have been, I don't know.

21  Q.   And of course the risk in that situation is that if

22          someone sees something and doesn't report it, as we now

23          know, Stewart Burgess was abusing children?

24  A.   Absolutely.

25  Q.   And if that had been reported at a much earlier stage

1           than when he was suspended, it's perhaps possible that  
2           some children might have avoided --

3   A.   Absolutely.

4   Q.   -- abuse?

5   A.   Yeah, he would have been suspended earlier, you would  
6           think.

7   Q.   And would you have expected in a matter of that kind,  
8           when an allegation is made of sexual abuse by a member  
9           of staff, would you have expected in your time for that  
10          matter to be referred to the police?

11  A.   I would have thought so.

12  Q.   Because I think there was another allegation made by  
13          a boy, several years before Stewart Burgess was  
14          suspended, and it came to the attention and knowledge of  
15          management, but it appears that there was no police  
16          involvement at that stage.

17  A.   I'm surprised.

18  Q.   I think there may have been a suggestion he didn't want  
19          to press the matter or make a formal complaint, but if  
20          you're faced with that, surely the only appropriate  
21          course is to refer the matter.  It's a serious  
22          allegation.

23  A.   Absolutely.

24  Q.   Because you're not protecting the whole -- all the  
25          children in the unit or the place and you don't know

1           whether the allegation ultimately is true or not?

2    A.  No, absolutely.

3    Q.  Or that there may be other children who, if spoken to,  
4           could say: well, that happened to me too?

5    A.  Yeah.

6    Q.  So that might -- if these things were happening and were  
7           not being reported to police or not being reported to  
8           management, that could give you the explanation why he  
9           managed to survive so long, until 1992, when perhaps it  
10          would appear his past might have caught up with him?

11   A.  Yeah.

12   Q.  Were you ever told by the -- Redheugh or more senior  
13          people that he had in fact left and why he had left?

14   A.  I don't think so.  I think, as I say, the only reason  
15          I knew -- I certainly didn't know why he'd left.  That's  
16          a certainty.  But I think, as far as I'm concerned, that  
17          the only time I knew he'd left was that conversation  
18          with somebody that said he'd left under a cloud.

19   Q.  And just in terms of the issue of child protection --

20   A.  Yeah.

21   Q.  -- I don't think you're able to say what actual  
22          arrangements may have been in place?

23   A.  No.

24   Q.  But what you can say, and I think you do say at  
25          paragraph 142, if we could go there, is that knowing

1           what you know now, particularly about Stewart Burgess,  
2           you would say that the arrangements that were in place  
3           at Redheugh didn't work. Now, you say this in  
4           hindsight, but I think it's obvious that --

5   A. Yeah.

6   Q. -- if he was getting away with that for one reason or  
7           another and not being detected --

8   A. Yeah.

9   Q. -- then particularly if allegations were being made or  
10          things were being seen --

11   A. Yeah, because I never knew about anything prior to when  
12          he was suspended, so I didn't know about the  
13          Isobel McGookin thing or anything like that.

14   Q. No. No, sorry, I'm just putting to you that because  
15          I think we have a record of what she said.

16   A. Yeah, no, I'm only saying that, that at that time, it  
17          wasn't common knowledge, let me put it that way.

18   Q. Now, can I move on to the issue of allegations that have  
19          been levelled against you now, finally?

20   A. Yeah.

21   Q. I think I'll turn to that. And you seek to respond to  
22          these from 152 onwards. And you first of all make the  
23          point that you, when you were working, were never the  
24          subject of any allegation of that nature?

25   A. Yeah, yeah.

1 Q. The Inquiry did provide you with a case conference  
2 minute, which seems to describe some form of physical  
3 exchange between you and another boy --

4 A. Can I stop you there? It doesn't actually say in that  
5 minute 'physical exchange'. What it actually says is  
6 'confrontation'.

7 Q. 'Confrontation'. Well, okay.

8 A. Yeah. That's a different kettle altogether.

9 Q. Okay. But you don't know what the confrontation  
10 involved?

11 A. No, I can't even remember being at the baths with --  
12 'cause that's what's in that statement.

13 Q. Okay. Okay.

14 A. I can't remember what it was. So to me, first of all,  
15 it can't have been anything significant, because I think  
16 it would have stuck in my memory.

17 Q. Okay. Yeah. And -- but I think what we maybe know,  
18 I don't know if you know, that that boy left shortly  
19 afterwards to go to another place?

20 A. Yeah.

21 Q. Yeah. So there's a problem that --

22 A. But can I just say to you as well, there were other  
23 reasons why he left as well. Do you want me to tell you  
24 what those reasons were?

25 Q. Well, I think they're in your statement. You think he

1           was doing certain things like exposing himself?

2    A.   He was, yes.

3    Q.   At a swimming baths?

4    A.   No, I don't know that. I don't know whether --

5    Q.   Sorry, maybe I've misread that?

6    A.   See, when that incident was talked about at the swimming

7           baths, I can't remember that at all.

8    Q.   Okay.

9    A.   I don't even know what the confrontation was about. But

10           what I can tell you is one of the reasons that he left

11           was because he was exposing himself within the home.

12   Q.   Okay.

13   A.   'Cause he'd done it to a number of female staff.

14   Q.   Okay. You're quite clear about that then?

15   A.   Yeah, yeah.

16   Q.   Okay. Now, so far as other matters are concerned that

17           touch upon you directly, I'm not going to dwell a lot on

18           the statement of **HDT**, because I think you

19           correct some matters of detail.

20   A.   Yeah.

21   Q.   But you're not quarrelling with the general account --

22   A.   No.

23   Q.   -- that you took him shooting and he actually enjoyed

24           the experience?

25   A.   Yeah.

1 Q. And said you were brilliant, I think --

2 A. Right.

3 Q. -- so he was complimenting you?

4 A. Yeah. I think -- I think reading that statement was the  
5 fact that he talked about me standing behind him when he  
6 was holding the gun and he didn't like it because of  
7 what had happened with Mr Burgess. I think that was the  
8 indication I got from that statement.

9 Q. But he wasn't trying to suggest you knew something; he  
10 just wondered if you had become aware of something?

11 A. No, no, not at all.

12 Q. And indeed, he also wondered whether a matter he told  
13 Wee Joe about was conveyed to you, and I think your  
14 position in short is: I was never told about that?

15 A. No, definitely, 'cause I would have done something.

16 Q. And indeed you weren't the senior in the unit, so you  
17 weren't the obvious person --

18 A. No, no, but I was his key worker.

19 Q. Yes.

20 A. So as his key worker, I would have took it further.

21 Q. Yeah, you would have liked to have known, but you didn't  
22 get told?

23 A. That's right.

24 Q. And so although -- he doesn't know whether you were told  
25 or not. He's just saying, well, maybe --

1 A. I definitely wasn't told.

2 Q. Okay.

3 A. As I say, the first I knew of it, was after he'd been  
4 suspended.

5 Q. Okay.

6 A. So there was nothing at all prior to him being  
7 suspended.

8 Q. Now, so far as the other person, and this is the main,  
9 I think --

10 A. Yeah.

11 Q. -- matter that I can maybe just deal with finally, is  
12 what was said by a resident, KQR, who  
13 I think was known at the time as KQR, is that right?

14 A. Yeah.

15 Q. And you say at 194, that:  
16 'He was a wee guy, very small, bullied quite a lot  
17 because of his size.'

18 A. Yeah.

19 Q. So that was something you were aware of at the time?

20 A. Yeah.

21 Q. I think you seek to correct something he says about when  
22 social workers visit. You say that it would be unlikely  
23 that Stewart Burgess would be in the room when a social  
24 worker visited?

25 A. Yeah, I don't understand why Stewart would be there.

1 Q. Because he didn't work in the unit --

2 A. Exactly, yeah. It would be either Elaine Jenks or

3 George Gillan, I would have thought.

4 Q. So you think he's got that bit wrong anyway?

5 A. Absolutely, yeah, mm-hmm.

6 Q. And if he thinks that -- if he's suggesting that social

7 workers were never left alone with children, you say

8 that's just not the case?

9 A. It is absolute rubbish.

10 Q. Okay. I'm not sure he's suggesting that, I think he's

11 giving you purely factual recollection.

12 A. Aye, okay. Right, okay.

13 Q. But if he is, you say --

14 A. Yeah, because a lot of the social workers would come,

15 visit the kids, and you would leave the social worker

16 and the kid to do whatever. Sometimes the social worker

17 would take the kids out in the car and go for a coffee

18 or whatever. Sometimes they would go and sit in the

19 boardroom, which was quite a private wee bit, because it

20 was not next to any of the residential bits.

21 Q. I think we do have other evidence from people who were

22 at Redheugh who may well confirm what you say, that

23 social workers would take the person they were assigned

24 to out on their own?

25 A. Yeah, absolutely.

1 Q. Take them for a meal, do something with them?

2 A. Yeah.

3 Q. Perhaps going to the most significant matter, at  
4 paragraph 198, if I can then, 'Patrick' --

5 A. Yeah.

6 Q. -- is that he -- KQR, KQR, says that you abused  
7 him physically. You were a complete bully. I'll just  
8 read what he says:

9 'He was a complete bully to me and many others in  
10 the home. He would hit you in any way he could, which  
11 would usually be punches to my head and body. On other  
12 occasions, he would be holding me in choke holds and  
13 other times it would be kneeing me to the thigh, giving  
14 me a dead leg. I can remember times when he was so  
15 angry he would physically throw me against my bedroom  
16 wall, or throw me over the couch in the living area.  
17 There were times when he would kneel on my back as he  
18 held me down on the floor. I was screaming that I could  
19 not breathe. Sometimes the other boys would come to my  
20 defence and try to pull him off me. He never had any  
21 fear about hitting me in front of other boys. I am not  
22 sure if there were other staff present when he was  
23 hitting me. He would do anything he could to upset me.  
24 I can remember I was due to have home leave and at short  
25 notice he decided I had upset him and would not be

1 getting out that weekend. He also made comments to me  
2 that I was not good enough to be going home. The abuse  
3 from [you, 'Patrick', he says] was frequent but I cannot  
4 give exact time and dates. I do know that I was beaten  
5 so regularly it would have been countless days  
6 throughout my time there, even during the same periods  
7 that Stewart Burgess was sexually abusing me.'

8 And I think he makes -- and he says that  
9 Stewart Burgess was abusing him --

10 A. Which I find difficult to understand how a position  
11 would arise that Stewart Burgess and him would be able  
12 to be in similar places.

13 Q. Well, I think you've said already that it's a big place,  
14 people can meet up?

15 A. They can, yeah.

16 Q. And we know that Stewart Burgess did abuse boys?

17 A. Yeah.

18 Q. In various locations, I think?

19 A. Yeah, but I would have thought, reading between the  
20 lines, that the boys he abused was in his own unit. You  
21 know, not in a different unit.

22 Q. Well.

23 But just reverting to what was said about you by  
24 this former resident, what's your response to that?

25 A. Absolute rubbish. I'm actually -- I'm disappointed, to

1           some degree angry, because he was a boy that I stuck up  
2           for because, as I say, he was small stature and I used  
3           to stop the other boys from picking on him. There is  
4           absolutely no truth in any shape nor fashion about any  
5           of that. Nothing.

6   Q. Now, can I put -- you have made it very clear you  
7           vehemently deny abusing him or indeed any boy at  
8           Redheugh.

9   A. Yeah.

10   Q. Can I put this point to you, 'Patrick': we know  
11           Stewart Burgess, when allegations were made against  
12           him --

13   A. Yeah.

14   Q. -- always strenuously denied them, indeed, even at his  
15           trial and I think he continues to deny guilt.

16   A. Yeah.

17   Q. Although he's been convicted twice.

18           You are now the subject of an allegation by this  
19           particular boy and you strenuously deny it. Can you  
20           just help us why, in your opinion, the Chair should  
21           accept your denial and reject the evidence given by this  
22           particular former resident?

23   A. Because, first of all, I don't know how other staff  
24           wouldn't have put a stop to it. Secondly, I can't  
25           imagine the group of boys that were in that unit at that

1 time putting up with it. They would have gone forward  
2 and said something to somebody. George Gillan in  
3 particular had a very good relationship with the boys  
4 and I am convinced that if any of that was true, it  
5 would have gone -- it would have filtered out to George  
6 or somebody or Elaine Jenks at that time. That's all  
7 I can say, because I don't know how he can even talk  
8 about any of that, to be quite honest with you.

9 Q. And I think his position is that this was almost  
10 happening on a -- almost on a daily basis for the time  
11 he was there. Well, I think is that not what he's --

12 A. That's what he's saying, but -- but --

13 Q. But you say if that was the case --

14 A. You know, I just -- I just don't -- I can't see how you  
15 would get away with it, because if I was in the unit and  
16 it happened in the unit, you would -- first of all,  
17 staff in the main office would hear it. The staff that  
18 you would be in the unit with you, would know about it.  
19 So to me it's beyond comprehension, because it's just  
20 a lot of rubbish.

21 Q. And just lastly, there's another person who was  
22 a resident who mentioned an occasion when staff took him  
23 to a particular place and got him drunk. Now, I don't  
24 want to dwell on this too much because I think your  
25 position is you did go to an inn where you stayed --

1 A. Aye, we were doing part of the West Highland Way.

2 Q. Yes, but your basic position is: we didn't get him  
3 drunk?

4 A. Absolutely not.

5 Q. He might have sneaked a drink?

6 A. Yeah.

7 Q. But we didn't set out to get him drunk.

8 A. No, no.

9 Q. Is that what it comes to?

10 A. Absolutely.

11 LADY SMITH: One thing, if I can just check, 'Patrick', have  
12 you any memory of stopping his home leave?

13 A. Sorry?

14 LADY SMITH: Have you any memory of stopping his home leave?

15 A. KQR ?

16 LADY SMITH: Mm-hmm.

17 A. No. No. I will have -- I could have done.

18 LADY SMITH: All right, okay.

19 A. I'm not saying I didn't.

20 LADY SMITH: Thanks.

21 A. I could have done.

22 LADY SMITH: But you don't remember --

23 A. But I certainly would never have said to anybody: you  
24 don't deserve to go home.

25 LADY SMITH: I was just asking whether you had any memory of

1           stopping his home leave.

2    A.   Yeah, no.

3    LADY SMITH:   But you could have done?

4    A.   I could have done, yeah.

5    LADY SMITH:   Thank you.

6    A.   But I certainly would not have said: you don't deserve

7           to go home.   Because that is cruel.

8    LADY SMITH:   Mm-hmm.

9    MR PEOPLES:   And as you've said before, just so I'm clear,

10           if matters of that kind were being considered, the

11           practice, as you recall, is that you would all sit

12           down --

13   A.   On a Friday.

14   Q.   -- on the Friday, and it would get --

15   A.   Yeah, that's a definite.   That is a definite, because

16           something as important as home leave, we would --

17           I wouldn't make that decision on my own.   It would be

18           the three of us.

19   Q.   Because you weren't the senior houseparent?

20   A.   No.   No.

21   MR PEOPLES:   Okay, well, 'Patrick', these are all the

22           questions that I want to ask you today and I'd just like

23           to thank you for coming along today.   I know it's

24           difficult because of the time interval, and that I --

25   A.   I'm sorry if I sound a bit passionate, er, but that's



1 LADY SMITH: I want to mention some names before I rise for  
2 the break and these are names of people whose identities  
3 are protected by my General Restriction Order, and  
4 they're not to be mentioned as having been referred to  
5 in our evidence outside this room. And we've got RSM  
6 RSM, HDD, RFF and HDT  
7 and KQR or KQR.

8 Thank you very much. I'll stop now for the morning  
9 break.

10 (11.36 am)

11 (A short break)

12 (11.55 am)

13 LADY SMITH: Ms Forbes, now moving on to read-ins, whenever  
14 you're ready.

15 MS FORBES: Yes, good morning, my Lady.

16 The first read-in is from an applicant who's  
17 anonymous and is known as 'Fran'.

18 LADY SMITH: Thank you.

19 MS FORBES: And the reference for her statement is  
20 WIT-1-000001740.

21 'Fran' (read in)

22 MS FORBES: My Lady, 'Fran' was born in 1971 and tells us  
23 about her life before she went into care between  
24 paragraphs 2 and 8. In summary, she tells us she lived  
25 in Glasgow with her parents, two older brothers and one

1 younger brother.

2 She goes on to say at paragraph 4 that her mother  
3 was 'hard as nails' and never showed any love to them,  
4 well, not to her and one of her brothers in any event,  
5 and at Christmas, two of her brothers would get toys and  
6 she and one brother would get nothing.

7 She says her mother was an alcoholic and her father  
8 was beating her up, and her father was also beating up  
9 herself and one of her brothers, but not the other two.

10 She says they were living in a place for homeless  
11 people in Glasgow and life at home was a nightmare and  
12 the beatings were absolutely terrible.

13 She tells us that when they were in Glasgow, they  
14 were in and out of care. She also tells us she was  
15 sexually abused in the community by a family member and  
16 two of her -- a family friend's sons.

17 'Fran' tells us they left Glasgow and moved up to  
18 Alness. However, the physical abuse from her father  
19 continued and she said he would go away to train with  
20 the Territorial Army and then come back and they'd be  
21 beaten up and it was horrendous, and that her mother  
22 tried to take them to the social workers and show them  
23 the injuries, but she didn't get any help from them.

24 'Fran' tells us at paragraph 8 that she and her --  
25 one of her brothers ran away together. They were -- she

1 was only aged 7 or 8. They hitchhiked to Inverness and  
2 eventually they got all the way to Glasgow and  
3 ultimately they were picked up by the police, and she  
4 says they were put in a cell together. And she says  
5 they told the police why they were running away and how  
6 the beatings were too much.

7 She then tells us that after that, she and that  
8 brother went into care and she tells us about going into  
9 a children's home in Alness between paragraphs 9 and 18.

10 And I think she tells us that her brother went to  
11 a different children's home in Alness, so they were  
12 split up at that point.

13 At paragraph 18 she tells us she wasn't in that  
14 first children's home in Alness for long. And she says  
15 she kept on running away.

16 She then says that she was taken to Kinmylies  
17 Assessment Centre in Inverness and she tells us about  
18 that between paragraphs 9 and 15. 'Fran' says she was  
19 coming up to 9 years old at that time.

20 Sorry, that's not the right paragraphs.  
21 Paragraph 19, sorry. 19 and 51. Sorry, my Lady.

22 'Fran' then tells us at paragraph 52 there was  
23 a time she went to foster parents while she was in  
24 Kinmylies. She says she doesn't know how old she was  
25 but she was pre-teen and she says that they were

1 brilliant foster parents, but they ended up emigrating  
2 to Holland and she wasn't able to go with them.

3  
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Secondary Institutions - to be published later

9 Secondary Institution and that the police picked them up, and she  
10 indicates at paragraph 56 that there was an assault on  
11 her and her brother by the police and she describes that  
12 at paragraph 56.

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Secondary Institutions - to be published later

18 they went to Aberdeen and lived on the streets for  
19 a year and were essentially missing children.

20 They then went, she said from, I think it was --  
21 they'd hitchhiked from Inverness to Aberdeen and she  
22 tells us about that in the following paragraphs.

23 Ultimately, though, after that period, she ended up  
24 back in care, and this is at Raddery School in the Black  
25 Isle, this is between paragraphs 69 and 82 she tells us

1 about that, and she says she hadn't yet reached teenage  
2 age.

3 She then tells us, my Lady, that she doesn't know  
4 where she went, this is at paragraph 82, after Raddery  
5 School, but she knows that she was placed in Merton Hall  
6 at some stage, and she says for the purposes of this  
7 statement, she's assuming that's where she went next.  
8 And she tells us about Merton Hall between paragraph 83  
9 and 110.

10 And then at 111, paragraph 111 of her statement, she  
11 tells us about being in Kerelaw Secure Unit and she says  
12 she was there twice. She went to Kerelaw first and then  
13 Redheugh and then back into Kerelaw. And she tells us  
14 about Kerelaw between paragraphs 111 and 138.

15 And if we can go then to paragraph 138, she tells us  
16 that she went to Redheugh after the first time she was  
17 in Kerelaw and she was asked by the panel, the  
18 Children's Panel, to choose between Redheugh and  
19 a girls' school in Perth and she chose to go to  
20 Redheugh.

21 My Lady, 'Fran' then talks about her time in  
22 Redheugh between paragraph 139 and 165 and she says:

23 'Redheugh was a nightmare for me. That place should  
24 have been shut down a long time ago. The staff didn't  
25 care what you did in there. When I first went to

1 Redheugh, everything was all right and I liked it.  
2 I did a lot of activities and workshops. I can't  
3 remember what the activities were, but I enjoyed them  
4 and they happened through the summer months. The school  
5 was okay and I told myself it was an all right place for  
6 me. There were a lot of kids in Redheugh and I couldn't  
7 remember half of the ones that were there, just the ones  
8 I was close to.'

9 And then she mentions the name of a boy and a girl  
10 there.

11 At paragraph 140, 'Fran' continues:

12 'I was going back to Kerelaw Open School but I tried  
13 to avoid the art class. I hid in the boys' toilets  
14 until someone grassed me up. The staff would drag me to  
15 the art class. I tried to avoid George.'

16 And my Lady, in the preceding paragraphs when she  
17 talks about Kerelaw, she talks about George, the art  
18 teacher --

19 LADY SMITH: The art teacher, yes.

20 MS FORBES: -- who we've heard about before.

21 'Fran' continues then:

22 'I shared a room with another lassie. She didn't  
23 like it because I wet the bed. That had been an issue  
24 all the way through my time in care. I had got medicine  
25 to stop me wetting the bed and I was always asking for

1 the medicine I needed. The staff never got it for me.  
2 Nothing was done about it and the staff didn't care.  
3 I had to strip my bed and take it down to get laundered.  
4 I was frustrated with myself because I was wetting the  
5 bed all the time.

6 'There was an inspection in Redheugh. The staff  
7 knew that the inspectors were coming. We were  
8 forewarned not to tell them what the place was really  
9 like and what went on in there. You weren't allowed to  
10 talk about how the staff behaved with you. The staff  
11 put on a show for them.

12 'There were young men who came to the back gate at  
13 Redheugh, who I will speak about later in my statement.  
14 I was warned that if I told the inspectors about the  
15 young men who came to the back gate, they would come  
16 down hard on me. I was to tell the inspectors that we  
17 had a strict routine and staff were very attentive to  
18 our needs. They were worried about me talking to  
19 inspectors. I heard one of the staff said wouldn't it  
20 be easier if they took me out when the inspectors were  
21 there. The woman who took me to the hospital was there,  
22 with other staff members. I will talk about going to  
23 hospital when I was at Redheugh later in this statement.

24 'At the time, I was more interested to find out who  
25 the people were and why they were coming in to Redheugh.

1 I thought maybe they were coming in for me and I was  
2 wondering what I'd done wrong. I was thinking it was  
3 maybe because of my drinking. I didn't trust the staff.  
4 I saw a woman with a clipboard in the corridor where the  
5 bedrooms were. I was told not to go up there, but I did  
6 anyway. The staff would normally run after me to drag  
7 me back, but they didn't that day. I asked her what she  
8 was doing and a staff member told me to go downstairs  
9 and stop being rude. Me and the other residents were  
10 speaking about who these people were, because nobody  
11 knew who they were. Nobody asked to speak to me when  
12 they did come.

13 'The staff in Redheugh knew what was going on  
14 anyway. I felt like there wasn't any point telling  
15 anyone my side of the story as nothing would change.  
16 I never came across a member of staff who would do  
17 something for me and put across my point of view. As  
18 soon as an issue would go to management, you'd never  
19 hear about it again. The staff just wanted to have  
20 an easy shift and they didn't want to put in any hard  
21 work for anyone.

22 'At Children's Panels, as a teenager, it was always  
23 about the bad things you were doing. The woman who took  
24 the notes at the panels I knew for many years. She was  
25 at a lot of my panels. She was all right. I was asked

1           what my point of view was at a panel once or twice.  
2           I just had my social worker at panels to represent me.  
3           I never had a legal representative. I had  
4           Brian Dingwall as my social worker for many years early  
5           on, and several emergency social workers when I ran away  
6           and they came to get me. The other social worker  
7           I remember being involved with me was Bill Forbes  
8           through my time in Kerelaw and Redheugh.

9           'In that summer period at Redheugh, my cousin  
10          drowned [REDACTED]. My cousins were a lot older  
11          than me and my brothers. The man on the staff who told  
12          me about my cousin dying thought it would be funny to  
13          tell me in front of all the kids at the dinner table.  
14          He said he had a bit of bad news for me and I asked him  
15          if he wanted to go somewhere so he could speak to me.  
16          He replied, "No, I can tell you here. Your cousin died  
17          yesterday". I asked what happened to my cousin and the  
18          staff member didn't know, other than he'd died and  
19          I should phone my auntie. He wouldn't let me phone her  
20          for about three hours. The way the staff member did it  
21          was so callous, with no privacy. After that, I went to  
22          stay at my auntie's house in Dumbarton for the funeral.  
23          I met my mum and dad there as well.

24          'I was close to my cousins before we moved away from  
25          Glasgow. I had some phone contact with my auntie and

1 a visit to her house before my cousin died. My auntie  
2 came to Redheugh to see what it was like. My auntie  
3 wanted me to go and stay with her for a weekend to take  
4 me out for a bit and spend time with my cousins.  
5 I managed to get an overnight at my auntie's house  
6 rather than a weekend.'

7 And she says that -- she names a boy she met in  
8 Redheugh and says that they were good mates and that  
9 they decided they'd run away. She says she doesn't know  
10 why, it was just something they decided to do.

11 'Fran' then tells us from paragraph 150 about abuse  
12 at Redheugh. She says:

13 'There was a girl in Redheugh, I can't remember her  
14 name. She was from the same place where my auntie and  
15 cousins stayed in Dumbarton and she knew them.  
16 Everything was going okay at Redheugh until she  
17 introduced me to a couple of the "boys" who lived in the  
18 village. I say "boys" but they were aged between 23 and  
19 27. There was a little country road that ran past the  
20 back gate and they came to hang around. They were mods  
21 who lived in the village and rode Lambretta scooters.'

22 LADY SMITH: Ms Forbes, have we any indication from this  
23 applicant of her age at about that time?

24 MS FORBES: I think, my Lady, after the paragraphs relating  
25 to Redheugh, she tells us that when she went to Kerelaw

1 for the second time, between the first and second, she  
2 says she was 14 to 16 and she spent a summer in the  
3 middle of that at Redheugh, so she would have been  
4 between 14 and 16, but I don't think we have anything  
5 more specific.

6 LADY SMITH: Thank you.

7 MS FORBES: 'They were older guys who wanted to hang about  
8 with younger kids. Looking back, it wasn't right.  
9 These boys started giving us fags and we thought that  
10 was cool. They let us smoke in Redheugh.

11 'With the girls, there was always someone who had to  
12 be "top dog". I got bullied by a lot of the girls in  
13 Redheugh. I ended up fighting with a lot of them.  
14 I wanted them to leave me alone. The bullying among the  
15 girls was really to do with the boys who were hanging  
16 about at the back gates. I was the new girl and I was  
17 taking away attention from them. The lassie I shared  
18 a room with had fist fights with me about my bed-wetting  
19 because she called me names and said I smelled and made  
20 the room stink. I told the staff to get me out of that  
21 room or move her out, but they said there was no other  
22 room. I had no choice so I had to stay. Things started  
23 to go downhill after that. The other girls started to  
24 gang up on me because I wet the bed. It made me feel  
25 ashamed.

1           'It wasn't just bullying. They were ganging up on  
2 me and beating me up. I told the staff and not once did  
3 I get taken to hospital. The staff didn't bother about  
4 what the other girls were doing to me. The staff were  
5 around when I was being beaten up and they just butted  
6 in when they thought I'd had enough. But by then I was  
7 seeing stars. There were five lassies laying into me  
8 and kicking me in the head when I was on the ground.  
9 I could hold my own and I had to learn to fight. When  
10 I got up from the floor, I swore to every one of them  
11 that I'd get my own back and I did.

12           'We used to get clothing grants every three months  
13 and I bought a long cardigan and leggings for myself.  
14 I hadn't even worn them and I saw this girl wearing my  
15 clothes. I told her to get my clothes off. That  
16 was the kind of thing the other girls were doing to me  
17 all the time. She wouldn't take my clothes off so  
18 I said I'd rip them off her. I battered her. I wasn't  
19 proud of it. She went to hospital and she was  
20 unresponsive. I was charged with GBH (inflicting  
21 grievous bodily harm) and I think I went to  
22 a Children's Panel but I don't know. You can keep  
23 pushing someone, but I'd taken a lot of bullying by that  
24 stage. The staff didn't do a thing about it and told me  
25 to sort it out myself. The police and the

1 Children's Panel weren't interested in the lead-up to  
2 this incident happening. I'd done it, so I was a bad  
3 person and that was it.

4 'I was drawn away from the girls in Redheugh and  
5 towards this group of guys who came to the back gate.  
6 They were being my friends. It started off with them  
7 giving me fags. They had their ulterior motives. These  
8 boys were coming to the gate and giving us bottles of  
9 rum. I can't stand the smell of it now.

10 'When it came to a Friday or Saturday morning,  
11 I would get my pocket money. I would disappear and no  
12 one would see me until Monday or Tuesday. I stayed with  
13 those guys and they fed me alcohol and passed me from  
14 one place to another until they were finished with me.  
15 I'd show up at Redheugh drunk or I'd turn up through the  
16 night. I ended up in a relationship with a 26-year-old  
17 guy who was known as "██████". Those guys groomed the  
18 hell out of me. I was passed about from guy to guy.  
19 The staff knew exactly what was going on [I think that  
20 should say] and none of them did anything to stop it  
21 happening. I don't think the staff ever reported me  
22 missing. I used to stay at ██████'s house on some  
23 weekends. His mother was an alcoholic. I was so drunk  
24 that I would have blackouts. I'd wake up in strange  
25 beds in strange houses with different guys.

1           'I was going missing from Redheugh every weekend.  
2           Sometimes I'd go back very drunk and stinking of sex  
3           because I'd been put through so many guys in that one  
4           weekend. The staff wouldn't say anything when I went  
5           back after the weekend, other than that I smelled and  
6           I was drunk. I'd be told to go upstairs to get a shower  
7           or a bath and get into my pyjamas and that was it. The  
8           staff didn't care where I'd been and they didn't ask.  
9           They knew exactly where I was because I told them  
10          I'd been at [REDACTED]'s. I told them what was happening and  
11          I was blazing drunk. I gave up telling them because  
12          what was the point? Even if I didn't want to go with  
13          [REDACTED], one of the guys would come to get me. One of the  
14          guys sneaked into my unit to get me out. It was easier  
15          to go, because they wouldn't go away and they'd be there  
16          the whole time.

17          'One of the female staff clicked on that I wasn't on  
18          any contraceptive. This woman thought she had worked  
19          out my periods. When I did get my period, I was having  
20          serious bleeding to the extent I was nearly  
21          haemorrhaging. Thinking about what was happening to me,  
22          I'm not surprised. This female staff member tried to  
23          tell me that I was pregnant. I told her I wasn't  
24          pregnant, I was bleeding because it was my period. She  
25          was insistent that I was miscarrying and that woman put

1 me in a hospital.

2 'I was on a maternity ward where women were losing  
3 their babies and I wasn't even pregnant. I told her  
4 I didn't want to go to the hospital and she said if  
5 I didn't, they'd get the police to take me. I knew if  
6 the police took me, I'd end up in the cells. I never  
7 saw my social worker Bill Forbes. I can't remember  
8 talking to Bill in that time about anything like that.  
9 Bill didn't know half the stuff that was going on.

10 'The staff in the hospital asked me if I thought  
11 I was pregnant and I told them I wasn't. It was the  
12 female staff member who was telling them I was pregnant.  
13 They wanted to know why she was saying that and I told  
14 them to ask her themselves. I was told when I went in  
15 there that I wasn't to say anything to the hospital  
16 staff about what had happened to me and for them to ask  
17 the woman from Redheugh instead. I read in my medical  
18 file not long ago that I had said I was pregnant and  
19 that infuriated me as I'd never said that.

20 'This woman told me I had to claim it was one of the  
21 boys in the school that I was seeing and he got me  
22 pregnant. She told me she didn't want to hear me saying  
23 I was going with [REDACTED] and he was giving me alcohol  
24 because that didn't happen. I can't remember who this  
25 woman was, but she had white hair. She was maybe in her

1 50s, but I've no idea of her age. She might have been  
2 one of the senior staff as she was calling all the  
3 shots, telling me what I had to say and what happened  
4 and what didn't happen.

5 'This went on for months, to the extent that I ended  
6 up an alcoholic, and the staff did nothing. The woman  
7 said no one had come to visit me, nobody had given me  
8 anything, I was buying the alcohol myself or I was  
9 getting other people to buy it for me and drinking it.  
10 I was doing all this to myself. Looking back, she was  
11 just trying to prevent herself from being in trouble and  
12 saving her own job.

13 'Later, I was going blazing drunk to  
14 Barlinnie Prison because [REDACTED] was in jail and he wanted  
15 to see me. His mother and her partner were taking me in  
16 the car down the motorway. They couldn't get me into  
17 the jail because the prison officers said I was just  
18 a child. I think [REDACTED] had me written down as his  
19 girlfriend. He wrote to me from Barlinnie and staff in  
20 Redheugh gave me the letters. When I ended up back in  
21 Kerelaw again, all my letters had vanished. I suspected  
22 that would happen because that female staff member told  
23 me these things didn't happen. When all this was  
24 happening, I was a teenager of maybe 14.

25 'I was withdrawing from alcohol because I was

1 constantly drinking at weekends and through the week  
2 when I was in Redheugh. The staff knew I was drinking  
3 and I didn't hide it from them. The staff would come  
4 down to the back gate now and then just to see if I was  
5 still there. They knew all the guys were there. Never  
6 once did any of the staff tell me to get in the  
7 building, tell the guys to leave or report them to the  
8 police.

9 'The staff decided that they had to do something  
10 with me, because I was either going to get pregnant or  
11 something was going to happen to me. I would vomit  
12 every morning and I was shaking with alcohol  
13 withdrawals. The staff didn't want that on their  
14 conscience so they decided to send me back to Kerelaw.  
15 They couldn't have put me into secure without the  
16 Children's Panel agreeing to it, but there was no panel  
17 hearing unless they had one without me. If there was  
18 a panel and they said I was going back in there, I would  
19 have fought back against that.

20 'One day I did go into the open school at Kerelaw.  
21 There were many days there was no chance I would go to  
22 school and there were some days I would go. I was asked  
23 to go to the secure unit to ring the door bell as there  
24 was a message or something like that. When I got there  
25 it was a trick and they dragged me in the secure unit

1 and that was me back in secure care.'

2 And then she tells us about her second stay in  
3 Kerelaw between paragraphs 166 and 174.

4 And if we go down to paragraph 174, she says:

5 'Altogether I was in Kerelaw for two years from the  
6 age of 14 to 16 with a summer at Redheugh in between.  
7 When it came to my 16th birthday, I left Kerelaw and  
8 went back home. I never looked back to Kerelaw. I was  
9 glad to see the end of it.'

10 She then tells us about her life after being in care  
11 between paragraphs 176 and 192. 'Fran' says she went  
12 back to living with her parents. She fell pregnant and  
13 she was still -- she says she was 16 and she names the  
14 boy. This is the boy she met when she was in care. And  
15 she said he was just 15 and that he came to live with  
16 her mum and dad and her when he left care and turned 16.  
17 And she says that they were given a bedroom in the house  
18 and allowed to sleep in the same bed. She says that he  
19 started drinking a lot of alcohol and started beating  
20 her up. She was carrying twins and lost one. She talks  
21 about a lot of domestic violence and then she got  
22 a house before the baby was due and moved in there, but  
23 he ended up setting her house on fire and it was a bad  
24 relationship.

25 She tells us at paragraph 178 that everything went

1 wrong and that she then had her son when she was 17, and  
2 he was only 3 months old when she fell pregnant with her  
3 second child. And then the man she names or the boy she  
4 names left her for a woman who was ten years older.

5 She talks about struggling for a long time and her  
6 next partner being very controlling, and by the time she  
7 was 20 years old she had four children under the age of  
8 5.

9 She goes on then to tell us that she left Alness.  
10 She was in bad relationships and in and out of  
11 Women's Aid and she said that she lost her children  
12 to -- I think her mother got involved in looking after  
13 them and the social work were involved and she said she  
14 didn't get her kids back. She tried to take her life  
15 a few times.

16 She had issues with drinking alcohol between the  
17 ages of 23 and 25, but she says there came a time when  
18 a lightbulb came on and she got off the drink and got  
19 herself a job.

20 She tells us at paragraph 188 that she was working  
21 in a restaurant where she met her husband. They've been  
22 married for 28 years and that that was a brilliant --  
23 it's been a brilliant relationship. She tells us about  
24 spending a little bit of time in college trying to do  
25 nursing and then also learning how to do acrylic nails

1 and getting a qualification in that.

2 She says she started up her own business after she  
3 was given a grant, but that only ran for a year and  
4 closed in 2008. She then had a nail business from  
5 a market for about three or four years.

6 She then tells us that her mother became ill and  
7 ended up moving in to live with her and that she looked  
8 after her until she died.

9 'Fran' goes on to talk about impact from  
10 paragraph 193 to 203 and that relates, really, my Lady,  
11 to her entirety of her time in care. But she does tell  
12 us about her relationship issues, the issues with her  
13 children and social work, her poor physical health. And  
14 if we then go to -- further in her statement down to  
15 'Lessons to be learned', which is from paragraph 211, at  
16 paragraph 212 of that section 'Fran' says:

17 'Staff should not judge kids but believe what they  
18 tell the staff. They should not hide the fact that kids  
19 have been groomed and stop just trying to protect their  
20 own jobs. When I was in Redheugh, the grooming was  
21 covered up and the staff were dictating to me what to  
22 say to other people.'

23 If we go then to paragraph 215:

24 'When I think back to how the staff treated me in  
25 Kerelaw, I could have died in that cell when I was

1           withdrawing from alcohol. They should have taken me to  
2           hospital and got me medical attention, but they chose  
3           not to. When I was in Redheugh and I was taken into  
4           hospital because the staff member thought I was  
5           miscarrying, it was obvious to me that a child of my  
6           age, being put round so many men to have sex with them,  
7           was going to have very heavy periods. I was having  
8           blackouts because of the alcohol I was drinking. When  
9           things like that happen, the staff should be on to it  
10          and have an obligation on them to report it right away.  
11          That was one of the worst times of my life.'

12                 'Fran' then tells us about hopes for the Inquiry at  
13          paragraph 216 and says:

14                 'I hope that by giving a statement to the Inquiry,  
15          I can help change the care system to protect other  
16          children now and in the future from going through things  
17          I went through. I hope that kids now don't come out of  
18          care and have to live with the impact right into their  
19          20s and longer, carry the scars into their 50s and 60s  
20          and have poor health issues from substance misuse.'

21                 And then 'Fran' has signed her statement and it's  
22          dated 10 February 2026.

23          LADY SMITH: Thank you very much.

24          MS FORBES: My Lady, there's now another statement.

25          LADY SMITH: Thank you.

1 MS FORBES: And this is from someone who is named as  
2 an alleged abuser and is anonymous and is known as  
3 'Helena'.

4 LADY SMITH: 'Helena', yes.

5 'Helena' (read in)

6 MS FORBES: The reference for 'Helena's' statement is  
7 WIT-1-000001732.

8 'Helena' was born in 1958 and talks about her  
9 background at paragraph 2 and says she was 18 when she  
10 started working at Redheugh. She didn't have any  
11 qualifications in that line of work and she says at  
12 paragraph 2:

13 'I originally thought I wanted to work in social  
14 work and because my father was SNR at Redheugh,  
15 it was an obvious place for me to start. I worked at  
16 Redheugh as a houseparent for two years. When I left,  
17 I would have been 20 or possibly 21.'

18 And then to paragraph 3. 'Helena' says later in the  
19 paragraph:

20 'Despite hoping to work in social work, I never did.  
21 Working at Redheugh wasn't a good experience for me,  
22 because I was so young, and this probably made me change  
23 my mind.'

24 And then 'Helena' talks about Redheugh from  
25 paragraph 4 and I think, my Lady, if she was 18 when she

1 worked -- she started working there, it would probably  
2 have been 1977 because her birthday is [REDACTED] 1958.  
3 So she wouldn't have been 18 until the [REDACTED] of 1976.

4 LADY SMITH: Right. Thank you.

5 MS FORBES: She tells us at paragraph 4, my Lady:

6 'Redheugh Boys' Home was in Kilbirnie. It was run  
7 by the Salvation Army. Its purpose was to provide care  
8 and protection to boys. Some were of school age and  
9 some were school leavers. They were aged 12 up to 18.

10 'My father, HDD [REDACTED], started working at  
11 Redheugh when I was 8 years old. We were living in  
12 Irvine at that time but when I was 11, we moved into  
13 a flat within the main building at Redheugh. I lived at  
14 Redheugh from the age of 11 until I was 16.

15 She then tells us about her father's childhood at  
16 paragraph 6 and how he came to be involved in the  
17 Salvation Army, and she also talks about her mother's  
18 background, being brought up by the Salvation Army, to  
19 give context as to how they came to work there.

20 And then she tells us at paragraph 8 that her --  
21 after her father working in England, they -- he got  
22 a job back in Scotland and they moved back, and then he  
23 met someone who at that time was SNR [REDACTED] at Redheugh,  
24 RIX [REDACTED], and he asked her dad if he would like to  
25 be the residential social worker at Redheugh. She tells

1 us that her dad said he was interested, but he never  
2 actually started as a residential social worker; he went  
3 straight in as SNR [REDACTED].

4 She says that RIX [REDACTED] subsequently moved and  
5 her dad became SNR [REDACTED].

6 At paragraph 9, she says that her dad left before  
7 Redheugh closed and he was promoted to an office in  
8 Steps and was responsible for having an overview of  
9 children's homes, which included Redheugh, and then she  
10 talks about a unit, a Salvation Army unit in [REDACTED]  
11 being [REDACTED] and that he was highly  
12 respected by everyone and was [REDACTED] for the work  
13 he did with children at Redheugh. She talks about him  
14 being a [REDACTED] and becoming the [REDACTED],  
15 which is now called the [REDACTED]. And that the staff,  
16 the church, the community all respected him and he was  
17 highly respected in everything he did.

18 'Helena' then goes on to say, from paragraph 10:

19 'Even when I was very young, I spent a lot of time  
20 at Redheugh and often stayed with a houseparent, IER [REDACTED],  
21 who was like an auntie to me.'

22 She tells us that she would often play with children  
23 of a Salvation Army officer who was in charge of  
24 Redheugh at the time and that the staff were always nice  
25 to her. She would stay at Redheugh during school

1 holidays and it became a big part of her life from the  
2 age of 8.

3 She then tells us about working at Redheugh from  
4 paragraph 11 and she says:

5 'I applied for the post of houseparent in writing  
6 and I was obviously in a good position because my father  
7 at that time was SNR . The post was advertised,  
8 but I'm not sure where. I don't remember what specific  
9 skills they were looking for to fulfil this role. I was  
10 never asked to provide any character references and they  
11 never asked for any sort of disclosure checks to be  
12 done. That didn't exist at that time. I don't think  
13 they asked for any character references because of who  
14 my parents were. It might also have been because I knew  
15 all of my dad's bosses. By the time I started working  
16 at Redheugh, my mum and dad had bought their own house  
17 in Kilbirnie.

18 'I'm not aware if I had a probationary period. No  
19 one ever told me if there was. My first line supervisor  
20 depended on which house I was working on at the time.

21 'When I started working at Redheugh at 18, there  
22 were problems and challenges, but there always would be  
23 in that kind of work. I was a houseparent and I loved  
24 working with the boys. I don't have any unhappy  
25 memories at all. I was never aware of any bullying or

1 bad feeling amongst the staff or with the kids. There  
2 was the odd fight between the boys, but that is bound to  
3 happen.

4 'There were occasions when I was scared. I was only  
5 18, small, and probably wouldn't be described as  
6 a strong person. Some of the boys were 18, bigger than  
7 me, and could be quite intimidating. Some staff were  
8 a lot stronger and were far more capable of dealing with  
9 situations. They were far more disciplined and the boys  
10 would listen to them and calm down. I was much weaker.

11 'I never had any issue with the way the staff were  
12 with the children. I felt there was a good relationship  
13 between the staff and the children. Some children were  
14 hard to get through to and would put up barriers when we  
15 were trying to help them. They acted as if they didn't  
16 care and they rebelled. Eventually the barrier would  
17 break down and that was when it was really rewarding.  
18 On the whole, I felt everything ran quite smoothly.'

19 She then tells us about the daily routine and we  
20 have that there at paragraph 16. But she does say that  
21 breakfast tended to be quite chaotic and they did their  
22 best to try and get the boys organised and that the  
23 staff would sit at tables and eat with the boys in the  
24 evening.

25 She tells us at paragraph 17 that some of the boys

1 worked outside of Redheugh or had apprenticeships.  
2 Those who didn't remained within Redheugh and were  
3 allocated work sections and they would sweep the leaves  
4 from the driveway and they had different jobs to do  
5 within the home.

6 She tells us that at paragraph 18:

7 'Every morning at 10.00 am, everyone who was there  
8 would gather in the church within Redheugh. There were  
9 prayers and a thought for the day. Religion probably  
10 wouldn't be allowed to be pushed like that nowadays. We  
11 had a delivery of rolls every morning, so after the  
12 prayers, we all had a hot filled roll. All the staff  
13 gathered, including the cleaners, and the boys who were  
14 there through the day. It was a nice half an hour to  
15 chat and catch up.'

16 She talks then about what she would do during the  
17 day, take the boys to a doctor or dentist, or mend  
18 clothes or do other things that needed to be done. She  
19 tells us at paragraph 20 there were three separate  
20 houses: McGregor, Wallace and she thinks Knox. Some  
21 rooms had six beds in them, bunk beds. She then tells  
22 us about the different houses at paragraph 21. She  
23 says:

24 'Each house had their own senior houseparent.'

25 And she said if she had any issues with anything,

1 she would report it to SNR [REDACTED], she says, who  
2 was [REDACTED], and she said she never worked directly  
3 with her father. She doesn't remember being monitored  
4 or supervised and doesn't remember what the appraisal  
5 system looked like, or if there was one.

6 She tells us at paragraph 23 that she went on one  
7 short in-service training course while she was there, at  
8 Langside College in Glasgow, and that was on day release  
9 for around a year. She can't remember what was taught.  
10 And she also, with the course, went away for two  
11 weekends.

12 And she says that the training she went to at  
13 Langside was organised by Redheugh and she doesn't know  
14 if she got a qualification or certificate at the end.  
15 She says the course was to do with residential care, at  
16 paragraph 24. It wasn't just about young people. There  
17 were people on the course who worked with elderly people  
18 and List D schools. And she says at paragraph 24:

19 'Part of the training I remember was about writing  
20 up notes and how to get involved with the kids and take  
21 them places like youth hostels.'

22 She then tells us about the members of staff and the  
23 structure at paragraph 25 and she says:

24 'My dad, HDD [REDACTED], was SNR [REDACTED] and he was SNR [REDACTED]  
25 SNR [REDACTED]. [REDACTED] was SNR [REDACTED]. [REDACTED]

1 were senior houseparents and houseparents. Some of the  
2 houseparents were IEQ [REDACTED], RLX [REDACTED] and  
3 Malcolm Daddy. [She says] there was other staff as  
4 well, domestics and those who did the laundry. There  
5 were cooks and kitchen assistants and someone employed  
6 to work in a craft unit.'

7 She tells us at paragraph 25:

8 'There was no nightshift cover when my dad started.  
9 He changed that and a woman, Margaret Higgins, started  
10 working nightshift. It subsequently changed and two  
11 people worked on the nightshift. I remember when  
12 Margaret first started, she was given a master key for  
13 the whole building and just left to get on with it.  
14 I thought that was weird, and I am sure that wouldn't  
15 happen nowadays.'

16 She says that her dad held staff meetings every week  
17 and there was meetings with psychiatrists and social  
18 workers to discuss the individual boys, and she didn't  
19 go to those meetings.

20 She was never involved in recruitment of staff. She  
21 does talk about, at paragraph 28, there being some  
22 volunteers who would come in and cut the boys' hair, and  
23 she says that staff would work with those volunteers so  
24 they wouldn't be alone with the boys.

25 She says she never managed or supervised anyone and

1 was not involved in any training of anyone.

2 She then tells us from paragraph 31 about how the  
3 children came to be in Redheugh and we have that there.

4 At paragraph 33 though, she says:

5 'Children stayed at Redheugh for varying lengths of  
6 time. Some children didn't want to go home because  
7 Redheugh was an escape for them. There were over  
8 30 boys but I am not sure of the exact numbers. Most of  
9 the boys went home for the weekend. Some didn't go home  
10 if they didn't have one to go to or because it wasn't  
11 safe. Some didn't if their weekend leave had been  
12 stopped because of bad behaviour. There were less staff  
13 there during the day because the boys were at school or  
14 work. In the evening, there were normally two members  
15 of staff to each house.'

16 She goes on to talk about the food and she says that  
17 the food was lovely and the cooks were great and there  
18 was always a choice of food for the boys.

19 She tells us about the sleeping arrangements at  
20 paragraph 36 and again talks about three houses and that  
21 each house had around 12 boys. She tells us about the  
22 Minimum Support Unit, where boys were getting ready to  
23 move to independent living, and that there were single  
24 beds in there. And she says that the boys moved to  
25 minimum support at about the age of 16 or 17 and they

1 would have left school and would have been doing well.

2 She tells us about washing and bathing at  
3 paragraph 37 and says that was a main area downstairs  
4 with rows of showers. She tells us that when the boys  
5 were showering, there was always a male member of staff  
6 present to stop the boys from fighting.

7 'Helena' then goes on to talk about trips and  
8 leisure time at paragraph 38, and she says that trips  
9 were arranged to go youth hostelling for the boys  
10 throughout the year and it would be one house at a time  
11 for the weekend. And she says they went to  
12 Newton Stewart and Oban, she talks about the activities  
13 they would do. There were boys that went home in the  
14 school holidays, but those who didn't would go youth  
15 hostelling, and she says at paragraph 39:

16 'If boys had lost their weekend leave because of bad  
17 behaviour, they wouldn't be allowed out of the building  
18 and spent a lot of the time watching the TV.'

19 But she says that the atmosphere was far more  
20 relaxed within Redheugh at the weekend.

21 'Helena' talks about leisure activities at  
22 paragraph 40, saying the boys would go swimming, there  
23 was a craft room, there was football teams, and she says  
24 at paragraph 40:

25 'One time they arranged an "It's a Knockout" style

1 competition for the boys.'

2 She talks about volunteers coming in to help boys  
3 with activities, and she mentions a woman coming in to  
4 show the boys how to use the loom.

5 She tells us there was a snooker table within  
6 Redheugh, at paragraph 41, and that the police would  
7 sometimes come in and play snooker, and she thought that  
8 was a good thing, because the police would get to know  
9 the boys.

10 At paragraph 42, 'Helena' says:

11 'I am not aware of any member of staff taking a boy  
12 back to their own house. Any time that boys were taken  
13 out of Redheugh, it was organised. Sometimes the boys  
14 went down to the town themselves because they were  
15 deemed old enough. The staff didn't go with them.'

16 She tells us that any medical attention was dealt  
17 with by the houseparents. There was no nurses or  
18 medical staff there. And she's not aware of any child  
19 being given medication to manage or control their  
20 behaviour while she was there.

21 At paragraph 46, she tells us about chores. She  
22 says:

23 'The boys didn't do any manual work, like scrubbing  
24 or polishing the floors or anything like that. The only  
25 boys who would do any work were the ones who didn't go

1 to school or work. They would be in "work sections" and  
2 given tasks like using the great big brushes to sweep  
3 the leaves off the drive. There was a gardener and  
4 sometimes the boys would help him.'

5 She tells us about visitors at paragraph 47 and boys  
6 had visits from their families, social workers and  
7 psychiatrists, and she doesn't remember if any visitors  
8 took the boys out.

9 She talks about reviews from paragraph 48 and says  
10 the children had regular reviews with their social  
11 workers and this was organised by seniors. And she  
12 tells us a little bit more about that in the following  
13 paragraphs.

14 At paragraph 51, 'Helena' says:

15 'When it was time for the boys to leave, we always  
16 tried to arrange them "digs", or sometimes kind people  
17 in the town took them in as lodgers. Often boys who  
18 worked at the steelworks got friendly with other boys  
19 and when it was time to leave Redheugh, they moved in  
20 with these friends.

21 'My father arranged for some boys to get  
22 apprenticeships. They generally did their  
23 apprenticeship for the last two or three years they were  
24 at Redheugh. I know that these boys have gone on and  
25 have been very successful in their trade.'

1           She mentions one boy, who she names, and she says he  
2           wanted to be a joiner, and that her dad went to the  
3           local joiner and he had availability to take him on and  
4           he did really well and the boy turned his life around  
5           and ultimately succeeded in his own business.

6           She tells us though, a lot of the boys who didn't  
7           get apprenticeships worked in the steelworks.

8           She tells us about living arrangements at  
9           paragraph -- from paragraph 54 and she says:

10           'We lived in the flat [REDACTED]  
11           [REDACTED] in the main building from when I was 8 up  
12           until I was about 14. At the age of 14, we moved to  
13           a cottage which was still within the grounds. This  
14           cottage had been used by RIX [REDACTED], so when he  
15           moved out, we moved in. We were there until I was 16  
16           when my parents bought a house in Kilbirnie. There were  
17           boys' bedrooms just outside our flat and then there  
18           was the office. These boys were the younger schoolboys  
19           aged between 12 and 16. The 16 to 18-year-old boys who  
20           worked were also within the main house. I think they  
21           were in the Knox Unit. They were in an extension to the  
22           old building, which was accessed by going down a few  
23           stairs from the first floor. The only unit that was  
24           outwith the main building was the Minimum Support Unit.  
25           Everyone else was in the main building.

1           'Below the Knox Unit was a flat which was occupied  
2           by a member of staff and their family. The deputy  
3           warden and the senior houseparents lived in Kilbirnie  
4           and in other nearby towns. They travelled to Redheugh  
5           to work. When I was working in Redheugh, I was still  
6           living with my parents in Kilbirnie. When we moved out,  
7           I think it was Thomson Mason, a senior houseparent, who  
8           moved into our flat in the main building with his  
9           family.

10           'Everyone had access to all the residential areas  
11           within the main house. The external doors were locked  
12           overnight, although some of the boys still managed to  
13           escape.

14           'When my dad started, there were no [nightshift].  
15           Basically before the backshift finished, they would make  
16           sure that all the boys were in their beds and then leave  
17           them alone. I know the boys used to make their beds  
18           look as if someone was in the bed and go out and get up  
19           to mischief in the town. They would break into  
20           cigarette machines and fill pillowcases with cigarettes.  
21           There was no one at Redheugh keeping an eye on them  
22           through the night. My dad changed that and employed  
23           Margaret Higgins as waking night staff and then, later  
24           on, someone else so there were two night staff.

25           'The schoolboys were given pocket money and if there

1 was any bad behaviour, they would be fined and the  
2 pocket money would be taken from them. Sometimes as  
3 a punishment, they would not be allowed out on any of  
4 the activities, like swimming. Sometimes they could  
5 lose their weekend leave. Some boys were deliberately  
6 bad through the week so they weren't allowed to go home  
7 at the weekend. They were happier being at Redheugh  
8 than they were back at home. It was the senior  
9 houseparents who were responsible for punishing the  
10 boys.

11 'I'm not aware of any formal policy or code of  
12 conduct in relation to discipline and punishment.  
13 I can't remember if there was any responsibility given  
14 to the more senior children in relation to the  
15 discipline of the younger boys.

16 'Examples of bad behaviour, which may result in  
17 children being disciplined or punished, might be if they  
18 were being cheeky to staff or refusing to do something  
19 that was asked of them or just generally rebelling.  
20 There were lots of reasons. The senior houseparent  
21 would decide if they were to be punished and what the  
22 punishment was to be.

23 'I never ever saw any child being physically  
24 punished. I never saw any child being hit or physically  
25 abused. Children weren't taken away and segregated from

1 the other children as a punishment.

2 'I never disciplined a child because I wasn't  
3 a strong member of staff. I suppose I would have spoken  
4 to a child to discipline them if they had misbehaved.  
5 When I started at Redheugh, I was young and  
6 inexperienced and was out of my depth. The boys took  
7 advantage of that. I would only ever raise my voice,  
8 but the boys wouldn't take me seriously. When that  
9 happened, I had to get the senior staff involved and  
10 they would deal with it. I know I shouldn't have been  
11 doing that job because I wasn't strong enough and was  
12 far too young.'

13 She then talks about restraint from paragraph 64 and  
14 says:

15 'The only time I saw something which would be  
16 classed as restraint was when the boys were fighting,  
17 they would be pulled apart. I never saw any child being  
18 held down, physically restrained or hit.

19 'I was never trained in restraint procedures and  
20 I don't believe there was any such training back then.  
21 Sometimes children would be separated and taken into  
22 another room but never in a violent way. Staff would  
23 talk to them to try and calm them down and stay with  
24 them. They wouldn't be left on their own.

25 'I'm not aware of any child ever being administered

1 medication as a means of restraining/sedating or calming  
2 a child.

3 'At no time did I ever restrain a child at Redheugh.  
4 At that time, I don't think there were any policies or  
5 practices, written or unwritten, relating to restraint  
6 at Redheugh. I never saw excessive restraint being used  
7 on children at any time.

8 'I'm not aware of there ever being any concern  
9 within Redheugh itself or to any external body or agency  
10 or any other person because of the way in which children  
11 were treated.'

12 She then tells us at paragraph 69 that she's not  
13 sure what the process was if a child or another person  
14 on their behalf wished to make a complaint. She says  
15 they would either approach SNR [REDACTED] or SNR [REDACTED]  
16 SNR [REDACTED] and she says there were occasions when complaints  
17 were made to SNR [REDACTED] or SNR [REDACTED], but she was not  
18 involved in that, and that no child ever made  
19 a complaint or reported concerns about the way they were  
20 treated to her.

21 She tells us at paragraph 70 that children tended to  
22 get close to one particular member of staff, so if they  
23 wanted to confide in anyone, it would probably be that  
24 member of staff. And it could be sometimes one of the  
25 cleaners, and they knew more about the boys than the

1 staff did and that the boys talked to domestics and had  
2 a good relationship with them.

3 She tells us at paragraph 71 that she's not aware of  
4 there being any definition of abuse at Redheugh in  
5 relation to the treatment of children and she says at  
6 paragraph 71:

7 'I never saw any behaviour that I would consider to  
8 have been abuse of any kind. The children never  
9 reported any abuse to me. Looking back, if abuse had  
10 been taking place, I am confident that it would have  
11 come to light at or around the time it was occurring.  
12 If children were being abused, I am sure they would have  
13 reported it to my dad or another senior. If a child for  
14 whatever reason was reluctant to report something, then  
15 I am not sure that it would come to light, unless it  
16 came from other children.'

17 She then talks about child protection arrangements  
18 at paragraph 72, and talks about the fact that she  
19 doesn't know about guidance given to staff or managerial  
20 staff about how children should be treated or cared for  
21 or protected against abuse. She says she was never  
22 given any such training. She mentions the course that  
23 she did, but doesn't really remember anything about it  
24 and there was no guidance or instruction given at  
25 Redheugh.

1           And she goes on to say similar in the following  
2 paragraphs about that.

3           She was not aware, she says, at paragraph 76:

4           '... at any time of any inspectors or other  
5 officials visiting Redheugh to carry out any  
6 inspections.'

7           She tells us about record-keeping from paragraph 77  
8 and she says the boys had individual files which  
9 contained their details and their background  
10 circumstances. She says that any staff member could  
11 record any information in the file, but if there had  
12 been an incident, it would more than likely be recorded  
13 in the daily incident book.

14           There was also, in the child's file, typed-up  
15 reports with details of their reviews, but she doesn't  
16 remember a lot about the files that were kept, and she  
17 can't comment about the quality of record-keeping  
18 because she doesn't remember much about it.

19           She tells us from paragraph 80 that she was never  
20 the subject of an allegation of abuse or ill-treatment  
21 of a child or children who resided at Redheugh while she  
22 was there. She was never involved in any investigation  
23 on behalf of Redheugh into any allegations of abuse or  
24 ill-treatment, and she's never been involved in any  
25 issue, any reports to Redheugh by former residents

1 concerning historical abuse or any civil claims.

2 At paragraph 83, 'Helena' says that she was not  
3 aware of any police investigation to any alleged abuse  
4 at Redheugh, and she says at paragraph 83:

5 'I only became aware very recently that Stewart  
6 Burgess had served two sentences for sexual assaults.  
7 It was in the newspapers. I had left when I was told  
8 this, but I know [REDACTED] had to dismiss Stewart. As far  
9 as I remember, my dad was still SNR [REDACTED] at Redheugh  
10 and he was really upset about it all. It was  
11 heartbreaking to hear about it.'

12 And then she tells us that the only person she's  
13 ever heard about who was convicted of abuse of a child  
14 or children at Redheugh was Stewart Burgess and that  
15 came to light, she says she became aware of that after  
16 she left.

17 She tells us at paragraph 85:

18 'I knew Stewart and I think he was there for roughly  
19 my last two months before I moved to work in Glasgow.  
20 He was a houseparent and wasn't a Salvationist and  
21 didn't wear the Salvation Army uniform. I think he went  
22 to the Church of Scotland. I didn't work directly with  
23 him or have anything to do with him. I didn't really  
24 get to know him at all. What I do remember about him  
25 was that he was quite irritating sometimes because of

1 his mannerisms. He had different ideas about how to do  
2 things, but I can't give an example of what I mean. He  
3 was quite officious and looked down on me.

4 'I personally didn't have any concerns about him,  
5 but I wasn't there long enough and didn't work directly  
6 with him. I wasn't aware of anyone else having concerns  
7 about him and it all came to light after I had left.'

8 She doesn't know anything about his recruitment, his  
9 qualifications or training.

10 She then tells us from paragraph 88 about other  
11 staff members, including her mother and father, and  
12 essentially she lists what she remembers about those  
13 individuals, but says that she never saw any of them  
14 disciplining or abusing any children while she was in  
15 Redheugh.

16 'Helena's' then asked about allegations, from  
17 paragraph 96, from an applicant who has the pseudonym  
18 'Andy' and gave live evidence to the Inquiry, and parts  
19 of his statement are put to 'Helena' in the following  
20 paragraphs. And this related to allegations by 'Andy'  
21 that 'Helena' was involved in physical abuse towards him  
22 in the way that he describes in those paragraphs.  
23 However, 'Helena' states she doesn't remember that  
24 individual. She says she's never sanctioned or punished  
25 him. She says at paragraph 101:

1           'I have no recollection of who ['Andy'] is, so it's  
2 difficult for me to respond to his allegations. All  
3 I can say is that I never abused anybody. The passage  
4 of time has not affected my recollection of what is  
5 alleged. I can't explain why he would say this about  
6 me.'

7           And then she tells us at paragraph 103, she makes  
8 a comment:

9           'Why would I have hit someone for no reason?  
10 I wouldn't have hit anyone in any circumstances.  
11 Absolutely not. This did not happen.'

12           Then she is asked about some allegations that were  
13 included in the Part D that was obtained from the  
14 Salvation Army and she states at paragraph 104 that  
15 she's been made aware of a document which relates to  
16 a complaint about her, and that was a disclosure made to  
17 a Salvation Army child protection officer on 19 June  
18 2007 by a man who was a boy at one time, who she names  
19 in full.

20           And she says she remembers that boy, at  
21 paragraph 105. She says they were friends, that he was  
22 about four or five years younger than her. And she  
23 tells us a little bit about what she knows about his  
24 background and his family, and she says at paragraph 107  
25 that she left Redheugh to work at a girls' hostel in

1 Glasgow and that she thinks that this individual left  
2 about the same time. She tells us that what he has  
3 alleged has really shocked her and she tells us at  
4 paragraph 108:

5 'I never sanctioned or punished [him]. I never  
6 abused him. I care for [him] and his family.'

7 And then a redacted copy of the document that was  
8 provided was then put to her and it states that:

9 'Then [and the boy is named] (aged 14 approximately)  
10 was put into care to the Salvation Army home at Redheugh  
11 and the staff obviously had information about his past.  
12 [He] felt that one member of staff in particular took  
13 full advantage of knowing the situation he had faced in  
14 the past and decided to use this to her advantage. He  
15 had been on a trip to America which had not turned out  
16 well for him, but then when he was back in the centre,  
17 one of the staff knew that he was back and came in to  
18 see him. He had been asleep on his bed and she woke him  
19 up and started off by chatting generally to him, and  
20 then moved on to more personal issues.

21 '[This] employee was ['Helena'], who was  
22 a houseparent at the time. [He] thought she may have  
23 been around age 26 when this happened. ['Helena'] asked  
24 questions about whether [he] was going home for the  
25 weekend or not and started to make advances towards him.

1 At first [he] thought this was just a bit of "banter",  
2 but then [she] invited him to go with him [I think that  
3 should be "her"] to a disco with her friend. [He] was  
4 flattered at the thought and went to the disco with  
5 [her] and her friend. As the evening went on [he]  
6 mentioned that he needed to get back to Redheugh and  
7 ['Helena'] informed him that she had booked him out for  
8 the weekend, making it look as though he was going home.  
9 When [he] asked why this had been done, she advised him  
10 that she had booked a room for them both so that he  
11 could stay over with her. [He] mentioned that he was  
12 okay with the idea of this at first, but it was only  
13 later he thought to himself how this had been  
14 an inappropriate action, as she was a member of staff  
15 and should not be doing something like this.

16 'Following this, ['Helena'] had regular contact with  
17 [him], coming into his room at night and coming into his  
18 bed.'

19 'Helena' says at paragraph 110:

20 'I remember [and she names the boy] did come to  
21 a disco with me. He would have been at least 17 at the  
22 time. It is possible that I had actually left Redheugh  
23 by that time, but I was regularly going back to visit  
24 Redheugh because it was like a second home to me. It  
25 was my friend's brother's 21st birthday party and it was

1 in Glasgow in the middle of nowhere. [He] knew where it  
2 was and wanted to go. I don't know who signed him out.  
3 I never twisted his arm up his back and forced him to  
4 go. We were pals. He probably shouldn't have been with  
5 me, but he was my pal. Again, this is another example  
6 of me being too young to work there and being too close  
7 to the same age as the boys.

8 '[He] did stay out of Redheugh that night, but only  
9 because he wanted to. I never forced him. We stayed at  
10 the house of the boy's parent whose birthday it was. We  
11 went back to their house after the disco where we  
12 continued partying. We did not sleep in the same room  
13 and there is no way that anything happened between [he]  
14 and I. We didn't actually go to our beds that night.  
15 We just sat up all night and chatted.

16 'I never abused [him] in Redheugh. I would never  
17 have done it because it would have been total disrespect  
18 to Redheugh, my father, the Salvation Army and  
19 everything it stood for. I got very fond of and cared  
20 for [the boy] and we became friends. I even visited his  
21 dad, who was a wee old man. He still worked, but they  
22 had nothing. What he has said has hurt and saddened me.  
23 I never abused him.

24 'He says at the end of the report that I regularly  
25 got into his bed. There were at least six other boys in

1 his room, so why would I do that? I can honestly say  
2 that I never went into [his] bed at any time. I can't  
3 believe he has said this.'

4 She does agree at paragraph 115 that if what the  
5 individual said happened, then it would be classed as  
6 abuse.

7 In relation to helping the Inquiry, she says at  
8 paragraph 117:

9 'I never saw or heard of any abuse while I was at  
10 Redheugh. I can't explain how it can be that such  
11 allegations of abuse have now been made. The only  
12 explanation, and I might be wrong in saying this, but it  
13 could be that a lot of people are jumping on the  
14 bandwagon looking for money. I met a boy [who she  
15 names] a few weeks ago who had been in care at Redheugh.  
16 Before that, he had been in a care home run by nuns. He  
17 told me someone had approached him and asked him if he  
18 wanted to give a statement in relation to the abuse he  
19 had suffered with the nuns. He was told he got about  
20 £11,000. [The boy who she names] said he wasn't going  
21 to, because he didn't want to talk about the abuse  
22 anymore.

23 'I cannot comment on how the experiences of abuse  
24 some children had at Redheugh has continued to affect  
25 them and impact on their lives, because I never saw any

1 abuse. I understand if children were abused how it  
2 would affect them, but I never witnessed it.'

3 And in relation to lessons to be learned, 'Helena'  
4 says at paragraph 119:

5 'I was too young. There was no training. There  
6 wasn't such a thing as disclosure or vetting. I wasn't  
7 prepared, trained or experienced enough to carry out the  
8 role I was in at Redheugh. I know things have changed  
9 now and things are far stricter. I loved Redheugh and  
10 I would never say anything bad about it. I am just so  
11 sad that this has happened and I am aghast.'

12 Then 'Helena' has made the usual declaration, she's  
13 signed her statement and it's dated 29 January 2026.

14 LADY SMITH: Thank you very much.

15 Before I rise for the lunch break, just a few more  
16 names from the evidence that we've read in. The first  
17 one is somebody known as [REDACTED], and then we've had IEQ  
18 [REDACTED] and RLX [REDACTED] and again HDD [REDACTED], and  
19 I think that's all. They're not to be identified as  
20 referred to in our evidence outside this room.

21 Very well. I'll rise now for the lunch break and  
22 sit again at about 2 o'clock. Thank you.

23 (1.00 pm)

24 (The luncheon adjournment)

25 (2.00 pm)

1 LADY SMITH: Mr Peoples.

2 MR PEOPLES: My Lady, the next witness is giving evidence  
3 via videolink. He is Stewart Burgess and I think he  
4 will require a warning.

5 LADY SMITH: Thank you very much.

6 Mr Burgess, good afternoon, my name is Lady Smith.

7 (Pause)

8 Now, how would you like me to address you?  
9 I'm happy to use Mr Burgess or Stewart?

10 A. Stewart would be fine.

11 LADY SMITH: Stewart, thank you.

12 Stewart Burgess (sworn)  
13 (Evidence given via videolink)

14 LADY SMITH: Now, Stewart, in a moment or two I'll hand over  
15 to Mr Peoples, who's going to take evidence from you  
16 this afternoon, but a couple of things I want to say  
17 first.

18 First of all, thank you. Thank you for engaging  
19 with us this afternoon to assist me with your evidence.  
20 I already of course have your written evidence, that's  
21 part of the evidence to the Inquiry and it's been very  
22 helpful to be able to read that in advance.  
23 I'm grateful to you for that.

24 We won't be going through it word for word, don't  
25 worry, but there are some particular aspects that we'd

1           like to focus on, obviously, regarding the time that you  
2           were at Redheugh Adolescent Unit.

3           Now, in relation to that, Stewart, I want to assure  
4           you, this isn't a courtroom, so the procedures we use  
5           are a little bit different. It's a public inquiry.  
6           But, you have the same protections that you would have  
7           in a court and that means that if you are asked about  
8           any allegations of which you have not been convicted --  
9           and I do know about your convictions -- but if you are  
10          asked about any other allegations, the answers to which  
11          could lead to you incriminating yourself, please  
12          remember you have the usual protections, and you don't  
13          have to answer those questions. But of course if you  
14          do, I expect you to do so fully.

15          If you do, you need to appreciate a transcript is  
16          being made of your evidence and it will remain available  
17          after today.

18          And I hope that makes sense to you. If you've any  
19          doubts about that or further queries, don't hesitate to  
20          ask.

21   A. Thank you.

22   LADY SMITH: Likewise, Stewart, if at any time you've got  
23          any questions, please speak up. If you want a break,  
24          that's not a problem. We can do that. Don't worry  
25          about that meaning that we have to switch off the link

1 and come back again. What's more important is that  
2 you're as comfortable giving your evidence as you can  
3 be; all right?

4 A. Thank you very much.

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

7 Mr Peoples.

8 Questions from Mr Peoples

9 MR PEOPLES: Good afternoon, Stewart.

10 A. Good afternoon.

11 Q. Stewart, I think you will have a copy of the statement  
12 you've provided to the Inquiry in front of you, I hope  
13 you have.

14 A. Yes.

15 Q. And could I just ask you initially to turn to the final  
16 page of that statement, and can you confirm for me that  
17 you have signed your statement and dated it on  
18 13 January 2026?

19 A. Yes, I have, yes.

20 Q. And I think you say in the final paragraph, 107, that  
21 you believe the facts stated in your witness statement  
22 are true?

23 A. Yes.

24 Q. And before I go on, I'm going to just give the reference  
25 number that we give to statements and you don't need to

1 worry about that, but I'll do it for the record.

2 A. Okay, thank you.

3 Q. And the reference is WIT-1-000001721.

4 Now, Stewart, I'm not going to go through everything

5 today. I'm going to ask you about some questions and

6 I'll start at the beginning by establishing that you

7 were born in 1950? I don't need the precise date.

8 A. Yes. Correct.

9 Q. And in your statement, you provide a bit of background

10 information for the Inquiry and say that prior to

11 working at Redheugh in -- I think you started in 1981,

12 is that correct?

13 A. That's correct, yes.

14 Q. And prior to that, you say that you had worked for

15 a time between 1965 and 1978 in the poultry husbandry

16 field?

17 A. Yes, that's correct.

18 Q. And you began your employment in social care in 1978 at

19 Kirkland Park Assessment Centre, where you remained

20 until 1980, is that correct?

21 A. Correct, yes.

22 Q. And then from 1980 through to 1981, you were employed at

23 Craighens Children's Home?

24 A. Yes, correct, yes.

25 Q. And then in 1981 you moved to Redheugh and you remained

1           there, and you say that your employment ended in 1992,  
2           is that right?

3   A.   That's correct, yes.

4   Q.   Now, you say that you were suspended from duty in 1991  
5           in your statement, but can I just -- can I say that we  
6           have some records?

7   A.   Uh-huh.

8   Q.   Limited records, and they indicate that you were  
9           suspended on 22 June 1992, Stewart?

10  A.   Uh-huh.

11  Q.   So I think you're maybe one year out on your suspension?

12  A.   That's quite possible.  It's a long time ago.  It's a  
13           long, long time ago.

14  Q.   Yes.  Well, I do appreciate that, we're talking about  
15           events that are now maybe 34 years away?

16  A.   Yeah.

17  Q.   And you're -- I think largely -- well, you may be wholly  
18           relying on your memory, is that right?

19  A.   Absolutely, yeah.

20  Q.   Okay.  And you tell us that between 1986 and 1989, you  
21           were attending Langside College to obtain  
22           a qualification in social services?

23  A.   That's correct, yes.

24  Q.   And you say in paragraph 2, Stewart, that during that  
25           time you didn't work at Redheugh at all.  Does that mean

1           you weren't going into work at all during that period?

2   A.  No, no work at all.  We were doing sort of placements,  
3           as well as in college.

4   Q.  And you say that you qualified as a social worker in  
5           1989?

6   A.  I think so, yeah.

7   Q.  And I think we know that you did at least go back to  
8           Redheugh around that time?

9   A.  Yes, yeah.

10  Q.  And you've told us about your employment before 1981.  
11           Can I ask you, Stewart, what happened when you left  
12           Redheugh, did you take up further employment elsewhere?

13  A.  No.

14  Q.  Are you sure --

15  A.  After Redheugh?

16  Q.  Yes?

17  A.  There was various health problems and I didn't work at  
18           all after that.

19  Q.  Because the reason I'm asking you, Stewart, is we have  
20           certainly seen some records, and I just want your  
21           comment, that you may have gone for a time to work at  
22           Geilsland?

23  A.  No, that's not me.  I never said this.

24  Q.  I'm not saying you said it.  I'm just putting it to you  
25           because --

1 A. No, I never worked at Geilsland, no.

2 Q. You've never worked there? No, okay.

3 A. No.

4 Q. Did you ever --

5 A. I never --

6 Q. Sorry?

7 A. I never, ever worked after leaving Redheugh.

8 Q. In any job?

9 A. In any job.

10 Q. Right. So you wouldn't have had any more social care

11 posts or residential care posts?

12 A. No, none. None.

13 LADY SMITH: So that would mean you haven't worked since the

14 age of about 42, is that right?

15 A. That's correct, yes.

16 LADY SMITH: Okay. Thank you.

17 MR PEOPLES: Now, when you were at Redheugh, I think

18 latterly you were the senior houseparent in what I think

19 we now know as something called the McLean Unit; is that

20 right?

21 A. Yes. That's correct, yes.

22 Q. And I think our understanding is that that unit opened

23 up maybe around 1989 or 1990, would that be right?

24 A. Yeah, I think so, yes.

25 Q. And it was intended for people who were older and really

1 getting ready to leave the care system and lead  
2 an independent life, is that right?

3 A. That's correct, yes.

4 Q. But I think before you were in the McLean Unit, you  
5 worked in another unit. And was that called the Knox  
6 Unit?

7 A. Yes, I worked there, yes.

8 Q. And was that for boys of -- what sort of age were the  
9 boys in Knox?

10 A. That was -- I would think maybe about 14 to 16/17, that  
11 kind of age, age group.

12 Q. And just so that we're not confused, we've heard that  
13 there was a Wallace Unit at one point, a Knox Unit and  
14 a third unit, which --

15 A. McGregor Unit.

16 Q. McGregor. And they were all in the main building at  
17 Redheugh?

18 A. They were, yes.

19 Q. And we've heard some evidence that there was also  
20 something called the Minimum Support Unit; was that the  
21 predecessor to the McLean Unit?

22 A. Yes, yeah.

23 Q. But am I right in thinking that for the most part, your  
24 employment was in Knox Unit initially and then latterly  
25 the McLean Unit?

1 A. No, I went from the Knox Unit to the Wallace Unit, which  
2 was girls.

3 Q. Okay.

4 A. The girls' unit.

5 Q. Did you do that before you went to do the Langside  
6 College full-time course?

7 A. Yes, I think so, yeah.

8 Q. Okay. And when you came back from that course, it  
9 sounds as if you almost went straight into the McLean  
10 Unit position?

11 A. Yeah, well, what happened was the McLean Unit was two  
12 cottages joined and there was a lot of renovation work  
13 to be done. So I was involved -- not in the renovation  
14 work, but in overseeing the rooms and things and then  
15 buying all the equipment and bedding, all this kind of  
16 thing. So I did that before the unit opened.

17 Q. Okay. But you didn't go back to working in Wallace or  
18 Knox after you did your qualifications?

19 A. No, no. No.

20 Q. Now, I'm going to ask you just some general questions  
21 about Redheugh at this stage and you've told me where  
22 you worked. Can I ask you maybe, Stewart, to turn to  
23 paragraph 40 of your statement. You've got a section on  
24 discipline and punishment. This is a sort of general  
25 section to tell us a bit how these things were done in

1           your time. Do you see that?

2    A. I'm just getting --

3    Q. Take your time.

4    A. Yes, I've got that, 'The type of discipline that could

5           be given was a loss...'

6    Q. Yes

7    A. Pocket money et cetera, yes.

8    Q. So you are giving examples of the sort of discipline

9           that was used at Redheugh in your time, and you say that

10           children were not physically disciplined?

11   A. No, never.

12   Q. And you say:

13           'No child was segregated from other children for any

14           length of time.'

15           Now, can I just ask about the last qualification.

16           Does that mean that there was a form of segregation at

17           least for a period of time?

18   A. I never experienced any segregation of children.

19   Q. Do you know if other people sent children to a room,

20           either their own room or some other room?

21   A. It's quite possible that that could take place, yeah.

22   Q. Would you know how long they would be kept in isolation,

23           as it were?

24   A. No. I don't think 'isolation' was ever the word.

25           I think it was more or less if they were misbehaving and

1           maybe in a fight, to cool down, sent to their room to  
2           cool down, that type of thing.

3   Q.   Okay.  And, I mean, if there was a need to do that, and  
4           the child was aggressive or angry or quite agitated and  
5           didn't want to go to wherever they were being asked to  
6           go to, how did the staff deal with that situation, do  
7           you know?

8   A.   I think if there was a situation where a houseparent was  
9           involved in that and there was a problem, he would then  
10          go to another houseparent or to a senior member of  
11          staff, and there would be two of three of them dealing  
12          with it.

13  Q.   And could that involve in some cases, if the child was  
14          struggling, that they had to be physically moved from  
15          where they were to, for example, their own room?

16  A.   I can't remember any instance of that, but I suppose  
17          it's possible.

18  Q.   Yes.  because if a child was struggling and was  
19          resisting, it might be necessary --

20  A.   I would think so.

21  Q.   -- to hold them?

22  A.   I think I say in my statement is if there was a fight  
23          between two children or there was a fight between  
24          a member of staff, that's when we would come in and get  
25          involved.

1 Q. Yes.

2 A. And separate them.

3 Q. Well, I think -- indeed you do. You say -- there's

4 a section on restraint as it's called --

5 A. Uh-huh.

6 Q. -- but you say at paragraph 43, Stewart, that restraint

7 was something that you recall was very rarely used, is

8 that right?

9 A. Very rarely used, yeah.

10 Q. Are you able to tell me how children were restrained

11 when it was used, in terms of how, say, for example,

12 three staff would restrain a boy, for example?

13 A. I don't know. I think maybe we'd put the arms round him

14 and hold him, stop him punching, that type of thing.

15 Q. Would they ever put a child to the floor?

16 A. I've never known that to happen.

17 Q. But I suppose if the child was being difficult and

18 resisting, it's possible?

19 A. It's possible. It's very possible.

20 Q. And I think I obviously know from what you've just said,

21 but if I ask you the question, were they ever held face

22 down, is that possible?

23 A. I think it would be possible, if it was really bad,

24 yeah.

25 Q. And did all care staff, to your knowledge, receive

1 appropriate restraint training?

2 A. I think in the early days, no.

3 Q. No, okay.

4 And I think you tell us at paragraph 45 that there  
5 were staff meetings and that staff would discuss methods  
6 of restraint. Can you recall much of what was discussed  
7 on that matter, or was it just a general discussion?

8 A. I think it was a general discussion, but maybe somebody  
9 would come in with: what happens if such and such  
10 happens, what happens if such and such happened, how  
11 would we deal with it? And then it would be up to the  
12 officer in charge, the deputy officer in charge, and the  
13 Salvation Army to come up with that.

14 Q. Okay. Now, you say at -- well, I suppose you -- there  
15 would be, from time to time, a need for some sort of  
16 physical contact between --

17 A. Yes, there would be.

18 Q. -- children and staff?

19 A. There would be, yeah.

20 Q. And one example, as we've just discussed, is if there  
21 was a potential restraint situation and a need to  
22 somehow contain the child who was acting up; that's one  
23 possibility?

24 A. That's a possibility, yes.

25 Q. But you're asked, I think, that -- about other forms of

1 physical contact at paragraph 53, Stewart, and I just  
2 want to know what the general position is. I'm not  
3 asking you about any specific occasion, but you say  
4 there was a clear understanding at Redheugh during your  
5 time of what was and was not abuse:

6 'Abuse was physical contact or inappropriate  
7 advances of a sexual nature.'

8 A. Correct, yeah.

9 Q. Can I ask you this: can you recall whether there was any  
10 specific policy, guidance or instruction given to staff  
11 on physical contact with children, when it was  
12 appropriate, when it was not, or was that just left to  
13 the staff to decide?

14 A. I think in the early days, it was left to the staff. As  
15 time went on, staff were going to college on in-service  
16 days and were bringing back methods of restraint and all  
17 the rest of it, so it would be discussed in house  
18 meetings.

19 Q. And again, this is a general question, and I'm not  
20 directing it to any specific thing, but would unwanted  
21 contact, even something like a cuddle, would that be  
22 something that was inappropriate, if it was unwanted?

23 A. Nowadays it would be, but I think in those days,  
24 a cuddle would be acceptable in the right circumstances.

25 Q. Am I right in thinking that, certainly in your time,

1           there was no sort of blanket rule that care workers,  
2           residential care workers, should not, except in  
3           exceptional circumstances, show any physical affection  
4           towards children? Was that the position in your day?

5   A. I think in the early days that was the position. As  
6           people started to get more clued up on this by going to  
7           college, et cetera, then it became clear about how you  
8           restrained and how you touched a child.

9   Q. But when you say 'the early days', do I take it that the  
10          period before you went to Langside, perhaps that was the  
11          situation, that there wasn't the same degree  
12          of guidance?

13   A. There wasn't the same degree, no, that's fair to say,  
14          yeah.

15   Q. You say at paragraph 55, Stewart, that you've been asked  
16          whether you saw behaviour you considered to be abuse of  
17          any kind taking place, and you can't recollect anything  
18          of that nature, that's something you don't recollect  
19          happening; do you see that?

20   A. Not abuse, no. And I say abuse would be hurting a child  
21          physically, or sexual abuse, or bringing the other side  
22          into it as well.

23   Q. You have a section on child protection arrangements,  
24          Stewart, that starts at 58, paragraph 58, and I think  
25          I've already said that you've -- I've asked, broadly

1 speaking, if there were sort of any guidance given on  
2 matters such as how to deal with children, things like  
3 physical contact. But also, was there any guidance  
4 given on how to respond to reports of abuse or  
5 ill-treatment or any other concerns that a member of  
6 staff might have? Was there any guidance given to you  
7 or others, to your knowledge?

8 A. I can't remember any particular policy on it, but it  
9 certainly was discussed in meetings.

10 Q. Okay. And what would your practice have been at the  
11 time if you had had -- had some concern about, for  
12 example, the behaviour of another member of staff  
13 towards a child? What would you have done at that time?

14 A. I would have gone to my line manager, and discussed with  
15 my line manager.

16 Q. And I think though your position was probably of  
17 a senior houseparent in a unit, is that right?

18 A. It was, yes.

19 Q. Sorry?

20 A. Yes, it was, yeah.

21 Q. So therefore, you would be going to someone such as SNR  
22 SNR or SNR?

23 A. I would, yeah. I would, yeah.

24 Q. So for example, if another member of staff -- if you had  
25 seen behaviour by some other member that caused you

1 concern, you would go to your line management?

2 A. I would, yes.

3 Q. And would you have expected other members of staff to do

4 the same, was that an understanding?

5 A. I would, yes. I would, yes.

6 Q. Do you know if they always did so?

7 A. Say that again?

8 Q. Do you know whether members of staff who did have

9 concerns always went to their line managers with

10 those --

11 A. They should have. They should have. I mean, the system

12 was, there was three houseparents, plus a senior in

13 every unit. So the houseparents could go to the senior,

14 the senior could go to the depute, the depute could go

15 to the officer in charge.

16 Q. Now, I'm going to ask you something about some

17 allegations that were made against you, so you've had

18 a warning, but I think the simplest way to deal with

19 this, at this stage, before I ask any specific

20 questions, is to say this: that if we turn to page --

21 paragraph 100, Stewart, and 101, do we see there that

22 you have set out some details of the two convictions in

23 2008 and --

24 A. Uh-huh.

25 Q. -- you say 2022, I think the records say it's 2023, but

1 don't worry about that.

2 So your position today, and I think it's been your  
3 position consistently since allegations were notified to  
4 you, is that you didn't commit the offences that you've  
5 been convicted of. Is that your position?

6 A. That's correct, yes.

7 Q. And can I just -- to take this a stage further, which  
8 might save a little bit of time in exchanging  
9 allegations with you, if other similar allegations of  
10 sexual abuse were to have been made, is it your position  
11 that you did not abuse any child, either sexually or  
12 physically, while you were employed at Redheugh; is that  
13 your position?

14 A. That's correct, yes.

15 Q. So, as well as denying the offences, if someone put to  
16 you an allegation, your position would be quite simple:  
17 I didn't do that?

18 A. I didn't do that.

19 Q. Okay. Because you'll know that certain allegations were  
20 made by boys or former residents in one of your trials.  
21 I don't think you were found guilty of them, but you  
22 know that allegations were made by I think a [REDACTED]  
23 and [REDACTED]; do you remember that from the 2008 --

24 A. Yes, I remember them, yeah. Yeah.

25 Q. And I think your position then and remains today that

1           these allegations are without substance; is that right?

2   A.   Could I just tell you what actually happened with [REDACTED]  
3       and [REDACTED]?

4   Q.   Well, I would rather just deal with this at the moment.

5   A.   Okay.

6   Q.   I just want to know that your position remains the same  
7       about whatever they were alleging you did?

8   A.   Yes.

9   Q.   I'll maybe come to something about what happened in 1992  
10       first later, but that's your position.

11           And if I was to mention another name, and I don't  
12       know it's a name that you recall, but do you recall  
13       a boy named KQR [REDACTED]?

14   A.   No.

15   Q.   No. Because I think he's made some allegations of  
16       a similar nature to [REDACTED] and [REDACTED], but again  
17       can I be clear: your position is if he's alleging any  
18       form of sexual or other abuse by you, that's -- that  
19       didn't happen?

20   A.   I don't know that name.

21   Q.   No. But if --

22   A.   I don't know that -- if -- yes, I didn't do that.

23   Q.   Okay. Okay.

24           So going back to before you left Redheugh, do you  
25       remember, Stewart, allegations being made about four

1 years before you were suspended in 1992, do you remember  
2 allegations being made by a boy called [REDACTED]?

3 A. Yes.

4 Q. And what do you remember about how that -- what happened  
5 when those allegations were made, can you help us?  
6 What's your memory of that time? What happened and what  
7 the outcome was? Do you have a memory?

8 A. I can tell you what the outcome was. The outcome was it  
9 went to court and I was found guilty of [REDACTED]'s  
10 attempted rape.

11 Q. Yes, I appreciate that, but what -- [REDACTED] was one  
12 of the people, I think, that was on the charge sheet in  
13 the 2008 trial. But there's records indicating that  
14 four years before you were suspended, this was while you  
15 were still working, he had come forward and made  
16 allegations against you to staff. Did you know anything  
17 about that?

18 A. No.

19 Q. Were you ever asked about it at the time?

20 A. Not that I can recall.

21 Q. So you -- if they were made, and we have a record that  
22 suggests they were, you weren't --

23 A. I can't -- I can't remember. I honestly can't remember.

24 Q. Okay. No, I appreciate it's a long time -- I just  
25 wanted to know if you have a memory.

1           And you certainly have no memory of being, for  
2           example, interviewed by the police on that, if that was  
3           done, in 1988, say?

4   A.  No.

5   Q.  No.  If we go forward in time to the time of your  
6           suspension, Stewart, what do you remember about that  
7           year and the suspension and what went on before you left  
8           Redheugh; what's your memory of what happened?

9   A.  Well, everything was normal up to the point that I was  
10          asked to go to the office to see SNR [REDACTED] and SNR [REDACTED]  
11          SNR [REDACTED], and I was suspended at that stage.

12  Q.  Yes, and I think -- I've given you the date because  
13          I think the records show it's 22 June 1992?

14  A.  Uh-huh.

15  Q.  And I think we know you didn't go back to work at  
16          Redheugh after that?

17  A.  Yes, yeah, that's correct.

18  Q.  And what I was interested in, there's a record that says  
19          that you were -- the allegations were put to you on  
20          13 July?

21  A.  Uh-huh.

22  Q.  After the suspension, by representatives of the  
23          Salvation Army.  Do you remember that --

24  A.  That was -- was that when I was suspended?

25  Q.  After you were suspended, do you remember?

1 A. After I was suspended? After I was suspended I never  
2 went back to Redheugh.

3 Q. No, I know you didn't go back, but I think you had  
4 a meeting with representatives on 13 July when they put  
5 the allegations to you that had been made. Do you not  
6 remember that?

7 A. I honestly don't remember that. I thought it was  
8 a letter, but it could have been a meeting.

9 Q. No, I think they called you by letter of 8 July 1992 to  
10 a meeting on the 13th and you were asked --

11 A. And was that at Redheugh or somewhere else? Was that at  
12 Redheugh or somewhere else?

13 Q. I think it may have been at their command headquarters,  
14 but it would be in one or the other I think, in Glasgow?

15 A. Right.

16 LADY SMITH: Stewart, you say you were suspended, and you  
17 obviously have a clear memory of being suspended. Were  
18 you subsequently dismissed?

19 A. I was never dismissed. I was made redundant.

20 LADY SMITH: Really?

21 A. I was never sacked. I was never sacked.

22 LADY SMITH: Well, redundancy is a type of dismissal --

23 A. No.

24 LADY SMITH: How long after did that happen?

25 A. I think that was two years after I was suspended, I was

1           made redundant.

2   LADY SMITH: I see. Thank you.

3           Sorry, one other question. I take it you didn't

4           challenge the redundancy?

5   A. No.

6   LADY SMITH: Why not?

7   A. Well, I had ill-health at that stage. I was practically

8           a nervous wreck with all that was going on and

9           I'd always had a lung problem and it tended to get

10          worse. And I went to the doctor and the doctor said:

11          there's no way you can go back into employment after

12          this, in this type of --

13   LADY SMITH: Was there discussion as to the way in which you

14          would formally leave? What I have in mind is there

15          could have been discussion about agreeing redundancy as

16          a way forward?

17   A. No. It was just a straightforward letter to say that

18          I'd been made redundant.

19   LADY SMITH: Okay. Was it a total surprise to you?

20   A. I thought I would be sacked.

21   LADY SMITH: All right. Thank you.

22           Mr Peoples.

23   MR PEOPLES: So you have a memory of receiving a letter of

24          termination on the grounds of redundancy? At some point

25          after your suspension?

1 A. Yes, I think so, yeah. Yes, yeah. Could I come back to  
2 you on something?

3 Q. By all means.

4 A. Yeah. When you mention it, it's starting to come back  
5 into my memory that I did have a meeting with the  
6 Salvation Army and I think it was somewhere like Shotts  
7 or somewhere like that. It just came back to me when  
8 you, you know, when you brought it to me then.

9 Q. Well, I think you did have meetings. It's just that  
10 I suppose what we're interested in is to try and piece  
11 together the sequence of events and how the matter ended  
12 in terms of your employment ending.

13 A. How it ended was I got a letter and a cheque for  
14 redundancy, and that was it.

15 Q. So you got a redundancy payment?

16 A. I did, yes.

17 Q. Yes. And was there any mention in this letter about any  
18 other matter, including the allegations that had earlier  
19 resulted in your suspension?

20 A. I don't think so, to be honest with you. I think it was  
21 just a straight letter.

22 Q. Now, just, can I just ask you a few more questions then  
23 on that. Were the police at any stage involved in  
24 relation to the allegations that were made in 1992 by  
25 [REDACTED] and [REDACTED]?

1 A. I think they were, yeah.

2 Q. You say you think you were, because I think you say in  
3 paragraph 66, Stewart, that no further action was taken  
4 in relation to the matters under investigation after  
5 police questioned other residents that had been in  
6 Redheugh at the same time as yourself, who didn't --

7 A. Yeah, I think that was the --

8 Q. Sorry, if I could just finish --

9 A. I think that was --

10 Q. -- who did not complain or verify the allegations that  
11 had been made:

12 'I didn't return to work after this and I was made  
13 redundant in 1992.'

14 You say.

15 So how do you know that other residents, apart from  
16 the two -- or apart from the individuals I've mentioned,  
17 were questioned by police at that time? Do you know  
18 that?

19 A. I didn't know that, no. I wasn't told that by the  
20 police.

21 Q. No, but that's what you've said in your statement, am  
22 I right or am I misreading it? Do you see at  
23 paragraph 66, Stewart?

24 A. Yeah, I'm reading it now, yeah.

25 Q. Have I got this wrong? See what you've said there?

1 A. -- I just think -- all I can remember about that was  
2 that there was a -- obviously there was police after  
3 that, because I was charged. So I mean, obviously there  
4 was a --

5 Q. I know, Stewart, you were charged in 2006 probably --

6 A. Oh right.

7 Q. -- when people, including ██████████, ██████████,  
8 ██████████ and ██████████, gave statements to the police  
9 and you were subsequently interviewed at that time, some  
10 years after 1992, you were charged, you appeared on  
11 petition, and then you were tried in 2008.

12 Now I'm trying to go back in time to 1992; do you  
13 follow what I'm doing?

14 A. Yes, I know what you are.

15 Q. And at that time all I'm asking is, have you -- do you  
16 know whether or not the police at that time, 1992,  
17 questioned residents who were at Redheugh about this  
18 matter? Do you know if that happened --

19 A. I can't -- I can't honestly remember that, truthfully.  
20 I can't remember.

21 Q. And before you got this letter of redundancy as you've  
22 told us --

23 A. Uh-huh.

24 Q. -- were you, at any stage, interviewed by the police  
25 about the allegations in 1992?

1 A. Maybe.

2 Q. Sorry?

3 A. Maybe. Probably, but I don't have a recollection of  
4 that.

5 LADY SMITH: Stewart, let me just pick you up on one thing.  
6 When I was asking you earlier about the redundancy and  
7 how that took place, you said it was about two years  
8 after your suspension.

9 A. I think it was.

10 LADY SMITH: So that would mean it was about 1994 that you  
11 got some letter from your employers?

12 A. It could have been less than that, but my recollection  
13 was it was quite a long time afterwards, but my  
14 recollection could be wrong.

15 LADY SMITH: All right.

16 MR PEOPLES: Could I help you?

17 I think I can maybe help you here. An inspection  
18 report that we have seen, which was prepared in 1993,  
19 reported on an inspection of Redheugh in November and  
20 December 1992, now that's a few months after you were  
21 suspended?

22 A. Uh-huh.

23 Q. And that report said that a decision had been taken by  
24 then to close the McLean Unit?

25 A. Uh-huh.

1 Q. And it would close on 31 December 1992, which would be  
2 about -- just around six months after you were  
3 suspended. And the same report said that three members  
4 of staff, they didn't identify who they were, were  
5 facing redundancy. Now they could be the three --

6 A. I --

7 Q. Sorry, if you let me finish. These could be the three  
8 people who were employed in the McLean Unit or at least  
9 three people who were employed in the McLean Unit, is  
10 that right?

11 A. Yes, yeah.

12 Q. Because at that stage, Redheugh otherwise was still  
13 operational. It didn't close fully until June 1993?

14 A. Yeah.

15 Q. But the McLean Unit itself was closing at the end --

16 A. Right.

17 Q. -- of 1992?

18 A. Well that's what must have happened then.

19 Q. Do you recall having a discussion about the closure,  
20 about redundancy, about redundancy payments and then  
21 receiving a letter; do you have any recollection of  
22 that?

23 A. I have no recollection of any of that, but I've  
24 a recollection of getting the letter.

25 Q. Right. Because --

1 A. I'm not saying that didn't take place. I've just no  
2 recollection of --

3 Q. No, I just wanted to know your recollection.

4 And can I also say that we haven't been provided by  
5 the Salvation Army with any letter of termination of any  
6 kind showing when your employment was terminated and on  
7 what grounds?

8 A. Uh-huh.

9 Q. But your memory is you received a letter and that the  
10 sole ground of termination, why you were still  
11 suspended, was redundancy?

12 A. It was.

13 Q. And you received a redundancy payment?

14 A. I received a payment.

15 Q. Do you think it was a redundancy payment? There are  
16 differences.

17 A. Well, I didn't know that. I honestly didn't know that.

18 Q. Well I think you said it was a redundancy payment, with  
19 all due respect and --

20 A. No, I remember that, but I don't remember the letter  
21 saying anything else.

22 Q. Okay. Okay. And can I just ask you this, Stewart:  
23 before this letter was received, did you recall  
24 attending any disciplinary proceedings?

25 A. Erm, I think when you mentioned the meeting at the

1           Salvation headquarters, this is coming back to me that I  
2           attended that meeting. So I would imagine what you're  
3           saying happened then.

4   Q. Well, I'll tell you what the records say happened.

5   A. Uh-huh.

6   Q. And my question was quite precise, because you were  
7           suspended on 22 June. At that stage you were told the  
8           reason for suspension was an allegation or allegations  
9           of sexual abuse?

10  A. That's fair, yes.

11  Q. Following that, there was a further meeting on 13 July  
12           1992, at which you were -- the details of the  
13           allegations were disclosed to you and you were asked to  
14           respond and you did respond and in essence your position  
15           was: I didn't abuse anyone; the position you have today?

16  A. Yes.

17  Q. I don't know if you remember that happening, but there  
18           are records to show it did happen?

19  A. Yeah. No. When you started talking about it, it did  
20           come back to my memory.

21  Q. But what I'm asking now is, following that meeting,  
22           where you got notice of the detail of the allegations,  
23           did you attend any further, what I call, disciplinary  
24           hearing, where there would be effectively, like,  
25           charges, which would then be the subject of some sort of

1 evidential hearing. And then at the end of it the  
2 person conducting the disciplinary hearing would make  
3 a determination and findings as to whether what was  
4 alleged had been made out and if so, what the  
5 appropriate sanction would be; have you got any memory  
6 of attending a hearing of that kind?

7 A. I have no memory of that, no.

8 Q. Because we haven't been given any documentation.

9 A. Uh-huh. I have no memory of it.

10 Q. No. What we do have, which is not a letter of  
11 termination, is a letter from HDD to you on  
12 23 November 1992, asking you to attend command  
13 headquarters on Friday, 27 November 1992; do you recall  
14 receiving a letter of that kind?

15 A. Now you have mentioned it, yes, but prior to this  
16 meeting today, I had no memory of that.

17 Q. Okay. Well, you have a memory of receiving that letter,  
18 which --

19 A. I don't have a memory of receiving that letter, sorry,  
20 no, I don't.

21 Q. I thought you had been jogged by what I've just said to  
22 you?

23 A. Yes, but I don't remember the letter. I remember having  
24 to go to the headquarters.

25 Q. Okay. So you did attend?

1 A. I did that one, yes, yes.

2 Q. And can you remember anything about the meeting, what  
3 was discussed? Was it termination of employment and the  
4 reasons for it?

5 A. Well, I've only just remembered it right -- five minutes  
6 ago.

7 Q. No, I'm just asking for your recollection.

8 A. I've no recollection, honestly, of that, no.

9 Q. But it is around the time, I have to say, when  
10 a decision had been taken to close the McLean Unit and  
11 that would result in a redundancy situation, I think, if  
12 the people employed there were --

13 LADY SMITH: I suppose it would depend whether there was  
14 work elsewhere in the organisation because the employers  
15 had other places that they were giving similar  
16 positions.

17 MR PEOPLES: It might lead to redeployment within the  
18 organisation, but essentially those jobs were  
19 disappearing because the McLean Unit was closing. So  
20 I'm just trying to piece together from what we have,  
21 just exactly what happened to these allegations that you  
22 were facing and how the story ended. And I'm struggling  
23 from the documents we've got and I'm just trying to get  
24 your help on this.

25 A. I think the police came to me. I think that's what

1           happened next. The police came to me.

2    Q. But when?

3    A. I haven't a clue when.

4    Q. Well, you see, I know that they came to knock on your  
5           door well afterwards in 2005 or 2006?

6    A. If you know that, that would be correct.

7    Q. Yes. I don't think there's any evidence that between  
8           1992 and 2004/5/6, whatever it is, that they came  
9           knocking on your door. I know it's a long time and time  
10          can be difficult to piece together. But we don't have  
11          any suggestion that after 1992, the police had any  
12          involvement with you. There is an issue of whether they  
13          had any involvement with you at all in 1992 and that's  
14          why I asked you earlier; do you remember the police  
15          speaking to you?

16   A. I have no recollection of that. I honestly can't  
17          remember that.

18   Q. Okay. So really that's as far as you can really help us  
19          with how things came to an end and on what basis?

20   A. Regarding the police or regarding the Redheugh?

21   Q. The investigation, the allegations in 1992. It came to  
22          an end basically for you when you received a letter  
23          saying that your employment was ending because of  
24          redundancy, is that what you remember?

25   A. Yes, that's what I remember.

1 Q. And was anything said about the allegations?

2 A. Not that I can remember.

3 Q. And -- but you say, of course, you didn't need to worry  
4 about how that would be -- how that would affect your  
5 future employment because you didn't work again?

6 A. Correct.

7 Q. So you wouldn't have needed a reference?

8 A. No.

9 Q. And a new employer wouldn't have needed to know from the  
10 Salvation Army anything that might be of relevance to  
11 your new employer --

12 A. Well I didn't work again, so it didn't matter.

13 Q. No, but it could have done if you had --

14 A. If I had, yes, but I didn't, so it's irrelevant.

15 Q. Then I suppose a question would have arisen what would  
16 the Salvation Army have done if they hadn't resolved the  
17 allegations?

18 A. I don't know. You need to ask them that question.

19 Q. Well, I will be, but I'm just saying that that would be  
20 relevant if you applied for another care job?

21 A. But I didn't apply for another care job.

22 Q. No, if you had --

23 A. Well it's a big 'if' isn't it, if I didn't do it?

24 Q. Well --

25 A. It's a big 'if'.

1 Q. Well, I was saying that there was certainly information  
2 that I've seen that suggested that you did work at  
3 Redheugh but you say that's not -- at Geilsland, but  
4 you're saying that wasn't the case?

5 A. I never entered Geilsland to work.

6 Q. You know the place?

7 A. That's completely wrong. I never worked anywhere after  
8 Redheugh, in any other employment, in care or out of  
9 care.

10 LADY SMITH: You just said you 'never entered Geilsland to  
11 work', Stewart. Have you been in Geilsland?

12 A. I wonder -- I wonder, did we take a football team there  
13 sometime? I wonder. That's what's going through my  
14 mind right now, football teams.

15 MR PEOPLES: I mean, it wasn't that far away, was it?

16 A. No, no. It was only about 8 miles away in Beith.

17 Q. Did you ever do any voluntary work at Geilsland after  
18 you left Redheugh?

19 A. Never.

20 Q. No. So you have no memory --

21 A. Nothing. No, I have a memory, I didn't. I didn't.

22 Q. So if we want to know why -- well, what the Salvation  
23 Army made of the allegations, what they did, we need to  
24 ask them, do we?

25 A. I would think so, yeah. I think that would be --

1 Q. You don't know?

2 A. I can only tell you what I remember. I can only do  
3 that. I can't do anything else. I don't have --  
4 I didn't write it all down at the time, dates and times  
5 and -- I just went with it, so now after 30 years later,  
6 some things I can remember, some things I can't. You've  
7 brought that to my recollection about the meeting in  
8 Shotts. I had completely forgotten about that, until  
9 you mentioned it.

10 Q. Perhaps I can just, though, ask you one more thing,  
11 which you may or may not remember. When you were  
12 suspended -- there's a record of this by the way,  
13 Stewart, that was made at the time.

14 A. There will be, yeah.

15 Q. I mean, Redheugh didn't keep very many records and it  
16 seems to have been a stroke of good fortune that they  
17 kept this one. But there was a note of an interview  
18 with you on 22 June 1992, the day you were suspended?

19 A. Yes.

20 Q. And the note says this, and I'm just going to read it to  
21 you and just ask you --

22 A. Uh-huh.

23 Q. -- whether you recall these exchanges.

24 At this meeting, which was at 3.15 pm on 22 June  
25 1992, the meeting opened with **HDD**, who was

1           there, saying:

2           'I have a very unhappy duty to do today. I have to  
3           tell you that there's been an accusation of sexual  
4           abuse.'

5           And according to the record, Stewart, your reply is:

6           'You don't say.'

7           Do you remember saying that?

8   A. No.

9   Q. And then he goes on, HDD :

10           'I have to tell you that I will need to suspend you  
11           on full pay pending investigation. I need to ask you to  
12           leave the premises and not to return until I get back to  
13           you.'

14           I presume you would accept that something along  
15           those lines must have been said?

16   A. Yes, yeah.

17   Q. But according to the record, your response to that was:

18           'But I have not touched any kids.'

19           Do you remember saying that?

20   A. I don't remember saying it, but I can see myself saying  
21           that.

22   Q. And then HDD goes on:

23           'At least four staff know of the accusation.'

24           And you, according to the record, say:

25           'I'm astounded. Boys or girls?'

1 Do you remember saying that?

2 A. I don't remember saying that.

3 Q. And then HDD [REDACTED] replies:

4 'Boys.'

5 And then, according to the record, you say:

6 'You'll have to give me some more information. Is

7 it [REDACTED]?'

8 Do you remember saying that?

9 A. No, no.

10 Q. But of course, if [REDACTED] had made accusations four

11 years before, as the records indicate, you might well

12 have said that?

13 A. I might well have said that, yeah.

14 Q. And it's fair to say you didn't get any more detail

15 really at that stage. It was only on --

16 A. No.

17 Q. -- 13 July that they expanded on some of the accusations

18 that were then being made?

19 A. Yes.

20 Q. And it was only at that point, I think, that they

21 mentioned things about [REDACTED] having been -- there

22 being accusations previously, and you were asked to

23 respond?

24 A. Yes.

25 Q. And I think you were asked to respond in July, on the

1 13th, about an initiation game in your unit; do you  
2 remember that?

3 A. No.

4 Q. No. And I think you said there was a game, but it  
5 wasn't the game as described to --

6 A. What was the game?

7 Q. About boys running naked through the unit and being --

8 A. No.

9 Q. New boys, and being hit with wet towels?

10 A. No. No, never happened.

11 Q. No, but I'm just saying, an allegation of that nature  
12 was put to you on 13 July and I think your position was  
13 there was a game --

14 A. I think -- I think I would have remembered that. Boys  
15 running naked through a unit? I'm sure I would have  
16 remembered that.

17 Q. Well, no doubt that was why it was being put to you, but  
18 I think you said there was a game, a silly game, but it  
19 didn't involve that type of description?

20 A. Yeah, I can think of that, yeah.

21 Q. If there was an accusation by [REDACTED] of being  
22 touched, and --

23 A. Uh-huh.

24 Q. -- you had mentioned his name at this suspension  
25 meeting --

1 A. Uh-huh.

2 Q. -- can you recall whether, after that accusation had  
3 been made, whether you refrained from touching boys in  
4 any way at all? Can you recall whether your practice  
5 changed? Because you did say earlier that physical  
6 contact wasn't banned and affection could be given and  
7 indeed was given, I think, by staff. Did you change  
8 your practice after that accusation?

9 A. I don't know. I can't remember that.

10 Q. Okay. But if you had seen another member of staff  
11 giving an unwanted cuddle to a resident --

12 A. Well, if it was unwanted --

13 Q. Yes.

14 A. -- it would be wrong.

15 Q. It would be wrong. And would you have reported --

16 A. If it was unwanted.

17 Q. Would you have reported --

18 A. You said that it was -- pardon?

19 Q. If it was unwanted cuddling, would you have reported  
20 that if you'd seen another member of staff do it?

21 A. I would have asked why he did it, or she did it.

22 Q. And would you have reported it?

23 A. Well, I would need to -- I would need to find out what  
24 they said to me.

25 Q. Well, what if the boy said it was unwanted --

1 A. If a girl had been crying or a boy had been crying and  
2 a member of staff had put their arms round them, well  
3 I wouldn't think there was anything wrong in that, at  
4 that stage.

5 Q. No, but if it appeared to you that it wasn't that  
6 situation, that it was something that didn't look as if  
7 it was wanted or appropriate, would you have reported it  
8 to your superiors?

9 A. Yes, I would have, yeah.

10 MR PEOPLES: Okay.

11 I think these are really all the questions I have  
12 today for Stewart.

13 LADY SMITH: Thank you very much.

14 MR PEOPLES: So thank you -- Stewart, these are really all  
15 the questions I want to ask you this afternoon, and  
16 thank you --

17 A. Could I just come -- could I come back to something?

18 LADY SMITH: Do.

19 A. You mentioned two names, you mentioned [REDACTED], and  
20 what was the other name you mentioned?

21 MR PEOPLES: [REDACTED]?

22 A. Yes, [REDACTED]. The trial came back for [REDACTED] as  
23 not proven.

24 Q. I know that.

25 A. [REDACTED] -- in the court.

1 LADY SMITH: Yes.

2 A. [REDACTED] said I patted him as he went past. That was  
3 thrown out of court because in the court he said it  
4 wasn't a sexual touch, it was just a friendly touch. So  
5 I would just like to make the record clear on those two  
6 points.

7 MR PEOPLES: Okay. And, sorry, I should maybe ask one  
8 further follow-up from that. At your 2008 trial,  
9 I should have asked you this, did you give evidence? At  
10 the first trial?

11 A. Yes, I think so, yeah.

12 Q. Yes. I think you may have done, but what I would also  
13 like to know is, at the second trial, which involved  
14 HDT [REDACTED], as I think you know?

15 A. Yes.

16 Q. Who didn't -- he wasn't a boy in your unit, was he?

17 A. No. I never worked with him, no.

18 Q. No, but you were found guilty of offences against him or  
19 an offence against him in 2023. I know your position --

20 A. By a very -- by a very, very unfair trial.

21 Q. Okay. Well, but --

22 A. And there was a reason it was unfair. There was  
23 a reason it was unfair.

24 Q. Did you give evidence?

25 A. Would you like me to give the reason?

1 Q. I would like, just to answer my question. Did you give  
2 evidence at that trial?

3 A. Yes, I did, yeah.

4 Q. Okay. And a verdict was returned. You may have  
5 complaints about the trial or complaints generally, but  
6 as I think you may know is that our Inquiry has to treat  
7 these convictions as proven.

8 A. Absolutely. Absolutely.

9 Q. That's the system. And we do treat it --

10 A. That's the system.

11 Q. So we can't -- whatever you would like to say, this  
12 isn't the place, I think, that you should try to say it.  
13 So I'm not trying to cut you off, but I'm just trying to  
14 make that clear to you, that we have to treat that as  
15 a given.

16 A. Yeah. Absolutely. I understand that.

17 LADY SMITH: And, Stewart, we have an appeal system and you  
18 accessed that appeal system in relation to your sentence  
19 from the first trial, I think, isn't that right?

20 A. Yes, I did, yes.

21 LADY SMITH: Yes, and your sentence --

22 A. It was reduced from ten years to five years.

23 LADY SMITH: Yes, and it was reduced. That was a sentence  
24 appeal, I think, wasn't it?

25 MR PEOPLES: Well, if I could just correct you, it was

1 reduced from 10 to 7.5 years --

2 LADY SMITH: That's right.

3 A. By three years, right.

4 MR PEOPLES: But you got early release after serving

5 two-thirds, which is why you think five years was the

6 sentence. It was the time spent in prison, but it

7 was --

8 A. That's correct, you're correct.

9 Q. Just for this record, just for accuracy.

10 LADY SMITH: Yes, that's right.

11 MR PEOPLES: So obviously we've detained you a little bit

12 longer, Stewart, but these are still now all the

13 questions that I have for you today, so thank you very

14 much.

15 LADY SMITH: And, Stewart, I have no other questions.

16 I just want to thank you again for bearing with us and

17 letting us delve into the past with you. I know it's

18 not easy.

19 A. And could I thank you. Could I thank you for [REDACTED].

20 I found her very caring and very good, and thank you to

21 yourself that you allowed me to come here today, and not

22 have to travel to Edinburgh.

23 LADY SMITH: Not at all.

24 A. With my ill-health.

25 LADY SMITH: I appreciate that, Stewart, and I hope that you

1 can now rest for the remainder of today. Thank you.

2 A. Thank you very much. Thank you.

3 (The witness disconnected)

4 MR PEOPLES: My Lady, that concludes evidence for today.

5 LADY SMITH: Yes.

6 MR PEOPLES: We have one final witness tomorrow morning for

7 this particular establishment, who will be the

8 representative of the Salvation Army, who will give

9 evidence at 10 o'clock tomorrow morning.

10 LADY SMITH: Thank you very much.

11 Well, that's it now, until 10 o'clock tomorrow

12 morning. Thank you.

13 (3.05 pm)

14 (The Inquiry adjourned until 10.00 am

15 on Wednesday, 25 February 2026)

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