

Friday, 27 March 2026

1

2 (10.00 am)

3 LADY SMITH: Good morning, and welcome back to Phase 10 of
4 our case study hearings in which we are looking into the
5 provision of residential care at various places either
6 run by local authorities or used by local authorities to
7 discharge their responsibilities.

8 Now, we start this morning, I see, with a link that
9 looks as though it's all working well; is that right,
10 Ms Forbes?

11 MS FORBES: That's right, my Lady. So we start this morning
12 in relation to Colonsay House, and the next witness is
13 giving evidence by videolink. He is an applicant who is
14 anonymous and he is going to be known as 'Christopher'.

15 LADY SMITH: Thank you very much.

16 'Christopher' (via videolink)

17 LADY SMITH: 'Christopher', good morning.

18 A. Yes, I can hear you.

19 LADY SMITH: Can you hear me and can you see me?

20 A. I can see you and I can hear you well.

21 LADY SMITH: Thank you very much. I'm Lady Smith, I chair
22 the Scottish Child Abuse Inquiry here in Edinburgh and
23 I'm grateful to you for joining us over the link this
24 morning so that we can hear from you in person regarding
25 your evidence. Thank you also for the written statement

1 that I've been able to study in advance; it has been
2 really good to be able to do that.

3 'Christopher' (sworn)

4 LADY SMITH: 'Christopher', a couple of things before we
5 start. First of all, I do know that being asked to give
6 evidence about things that happened a while ago, quite
7 a while ago when you were a child, isn't easy,
8 particularly when the matters that we're going to
9 discuss are probably quite distressing. As I say,
10 I know that from having read your statement in advance.

11 If you need a break at any time, just say and we can
12 switch off the link and give you a breather. If you've
13 got any questions at any time, do ask us, because
14 sometimes, with our legal backgrounds, we're very bad at
15 speaking in a way that people who are not lawyers don't
16 quickly understand. So speak up, because it's really
17 important that you feel that you can tell us what you
18 want to tell us, and also that I do what I can to make
19 it a comfortable experience, whilst knowing, as I say,
20 this is not exactly the most comfortable thing anybody
21 would choose to do.

22 I hope that all makes sense. If you're ready, I'll
23 hand over to Ms Forbes and she'll take it from there.

24 Is that okay?

25 A. Yeah, thanks.

1 LADY SMITH: Thank you.

2 Ms Forbes.

3 Questions from Ms Forbes

4 MS FORBES: Thank you, my Lady.

5 Good morning, 'Christopher', can you hear me and see
6 me okay?

7 A. I can.

8 Q. Thanks. 'Christopher', as Lady Smith has said, you've
9 already given a statement to the Inquiry and we give
10 that statement a reference number, so I'm just going to
11 read that out so that we have it recorded in the
12 transcript. It's WIT-1-000001550. And I think you have
13 that witness statement in a red folder in front of you;
14 is that right?

15 A. Yes, I do.

16 Q. 'Christopher', if we could just turn to the very last
17 page of your statement, which is page 22?

18 A. Yeah.

19 Q. And at page 22 there's one paragraph there,
20 paragraph 116, that says:

21 'I have no objection to my witness statement being
22 published as part of the evidence to the Inquiry.
23 I believe the facts stated in this witness statement are
24 true.'

25 And then you've signed it and it's dated

1 15 January 2025.

2 A. Yes.

3 Q. And is that still the position, 'Christopher'?

4 A. Yes. I signed that and dated it.

5 Q. If you just go back to the beginning of your statement
6 in the red folder, you can have it and refer to it if
7 you want to, or if it doesn't help, you can just have it
8 at the side, whatever helps you.

9 So 'Christopher', I'm just going to start now by
10 talking about your early life before you went into care,
11 and I think you tell us you were born in 1982; is that
12 right?

13 A. I was, yeah.

14 Q. And I think you tell us a little bit later in your
15 statement that you were very young when you went into
16 care, but, talking about your life at home before that
17 happened, you say that you lived with your mum and your
18 stepfather, your biological father having left before
19 you were born; is that right?

20 A. That's correct.

21 Q. And you tell us that you were the youngest of four
22 children that your mum had, is that right?

23 A. Yeah.

24 Q. And you say that, at paragraph 4 of your statement,
25 'Christopher', you tell us that you were born and

1 brought up in Dundee, but that your mum did end up
2 moving about quite a bit when you were young. And you
3 go on to tell us about your stepdad and how he was in
4 the family home. I think you explain that he was a drug
5 addict and a violent man; is that right?

6 A. Yes, that's correct.

7 Q. And there was physical abuse towards your mum but also
8 towards you and your brother and sisters; is that right?

9 A. Yeah, that's correct.

10 Q. I think you tell us that he used to try and drown you in
11 the bath as an infant. I take it, 'Christopher', this
12 is something that you were told later on by someone,
13 about how he treated you?

14 A. Yeah, this was told to me by my mum. I would not have
15 remembered this, having been, having been around
16 10 months old.

17 Q. Yes. So she's told you about the abuse that she
18 witnessed him perpetrate on you when you were a baby?

19 A. Yeah.

20 Q. And I think you say that you think that later in life
21 you have been diagnosed with epilepsy, and you think
22 that maybe that's something to do with that, but I think
23 you tell us that your mum would know more about that.

24 A. Yeah.

25 Q. You tell us, 'Christopher', that your mum was with your

1 stepdad for about 12 years and that this violent abuse
2 continued throughout that whole time. And we'll go on
3 in your statement, 'Christopher', to see that you were
4 in and out, really, of different placements, care homes,
5 foster placements, and then back at home sometimes with
6 your mum and your stepdad.

7 So there would be occasions when you were back in
8 that environment and he was physically abusive towards
9 you again; is that right?

10 A. Yeah.

11 Q. And I think you say that as a result of what was going
12 on, the abuse, his involvement with drugs, police and
13 the social work got involved with the family, and you
14 and your three siblings ended up all in care; is that
15 right?

16 A. Yeah, we did.

17 Q. And you explain at paragraph 7, 'Christopher', that you
18 think there must have been some court process for that
19 to happen and -- but you don't know anything about that.
20 But you know that the first place that you went to was
21 Colonsay House in Perth.

22 A. Yeah.

23 Q. And you say that you've seen records that tell you that
24 you were placed there on [REDACTED] 1985?

25 A. Yeah. It was a Thursday.

1 Q. And you would have been then, 'Christopher', only around
2 3-and-a-half years old at that time; is that right?

3 A. Something like that, yeah.

4 Q. So, a very young boy.

5 A. Yeah.

6 Q. 'Christopher', you then go on to tell us about what you
7 remember about your time in Colonsay House, and that's
8 from paragraph 9 of your statement, so I'm now just
9 going to ask you some questions about that; is that
10 okay?

11 A. Yeah.

12 Q. So I think you tell us, 'Christopher', that the abuse
13 started almost instantly when you arrived at Colonsay?

14 A. Yeah.

15 Q. And you go on to tell us a bit more about that in your
16 statement, but you mention that it was SNR a guy
17 called PCE. That's the name that you remember, is
18 that right?

19 A. Yeah, that's correct.

20 Q. And I think you tell us you thought his surname was
21 PCE, but it might have been PCE, but it
22 certainly began with the letter P; that's something that
23 sticks in your mind?

24 A. Yes, it does, correct.

25 Q. So is it the case that you're just a bit unsure about

1 what his actual surname was, but you know it started
2 with a [REDACTED]?

3 A. I'm absolutely sure that it was PCE [REDACTED].

4 Q. You describe him a little bit, 'Christopher'. You say
5 that he had a beard and was balding. That's something
6 you remember; is that right?

7 A. Yeah, I'll never forget. I'll never forget the way he
8 looked.

9 Q. Yes. But certainly, he was the man SNR [REDACTED]?

10 A. He was.

11 Q. So at that time you were there, arriving
12 in [REDACTED] 1985, you knew him as PCE [REDACTED] and he was the
13 man who SNR [REDACTED] the place?

14 A. Yes.

15 Q. Okay. Just going on then in your statement,
16 'Christopher', you tell us that there was quite a lot of
17 staff at Colonsay House, but it's really just PCE [REDACTED] that
18 you remember the name of. Is that right?

19 A. That's correct, yeah.

20 Q. And you say that you don't think any of them were really
21 trained to look after kids, they didn't seem to know
22 what they were doing?

23 A. No, they, they didn't. They -- in fact, in my social
24 work files, there is a mention that they -- some of,
25 some of them had to be trained to look after us, me and

1 my sister, who's a year older than me at the time --

2 I mean, she's still a year older than me, sorry.

3 Q. So, you and your sister were very young to be in

4 Colonsay House, is that the point you're making?

5 I think you say that your impression was that this was

6 a place really for teenagers and not for small children

7 like you and your brother and sisters?

8 A. Yeah. The children's home was for teenagers

9 specifically. Me, my brother, and my two sisters were

10 all under the age of 10. They had no experience dealing

11 with that.

12 Q. Okay.

13 You make the point, 'Christopher', at paragraph 12

14 of your statement, you say you're not sure why you went

15 there. And it would really be, you say, Dundee City

16 Council who would need to answer that question, but it

17 might possibly be because there was no spaces closer to

18 home?

19 A. Correct.

20 Q. Okay.

21 But that's not something you've ever been told as to

22 why that was chosen for you; is that right?

23 A. Not at all. I -- I don't know, I think in recent years,

24 when children have to be taken away from the family

25 home, I think it's the case that the social work

1 department do other family checks to see if other family
2 members can take the children, as an alternative to
3 going into a children's home. I'm unsure if there was
4 a check for my grandmother, 'cause she would have taken
5 us, no problem.

6 Q. Okay. Just going on, 'Christopher', to what you tell
7 us, what your recollection is about your time at
8 Colonsay House, at paragraph 14 you're talking about
9 leisure time and you say you remember playing in a room
10 with a female member of staff, and it was some kind of
11 counting game with fish shapes and circles, and the
12 circles were different colours, and you say that you
13 couldn't tell the difference between the coloured
14 circles and kept getting it wrong.

15 A. Yeah.

16 Q. And there was a punishment given to you. You say as
17 a result, you were kept behind and you never got any --
18 your milk break that day?

19 A. That's correct.

20 Q. Would this be like the little bottles of milk that you
21 would get at a certain point in the day?

22 A. Yeah, back in the 1980s I think all children in schools
23 up and down the country got milk at the break time, and
24 that was small glass bottles with an aluminium lid or
25 foil lid. I remember it well.

1 Q. Yes. But I think, although that wasn't something that
2 was noticed at the time, you say looking back now, that
3 was the first time that you realised you were colour
4 blind, because you weren't properly diagnosed until much
5 later in life. But you say nothing was done about that,
6 or it wasn't investigated, I think?

7 A. No, I don't know if there's anything that can ever be
8 done about things like that, but it certainly wasn't
9 picked up at the time. I don't think it was an issue
10 until that activity, which was the first time I really
11 couldn't tell the difference between the colours. And
12 it was almost like I was being punished for it.

13 Q. 'Christopher', you talk about Christmas and birthdays at
14 paragraph 16 and you say that you actually remember
15 opening Christmas presents on your birthday, which is
16 in [REDACTED]?

17 A. Yeah.

18 Q. And you say that you've asked your mum about that and
19 she said that she wasn't allowed to come to Colonsay to
20 celebrate Christmas with you and your siblings, and that
21 the next time she was allowed to visit was for your
22 birthday, and so that's when you got to open your
23 Christmas presents?

24 A. Yeah. I think when I asked my mum, she said something
25 along the lines of the other children in the home would

1 have been jealous that -- of us, you know, seeing us
2 opening gifts and things, and we would have been bullied
3 otherwise, or something like that. You know.

4 Q. And were these gifts your mum --

5 A. Because -- maybe because --

6 Q. Oh, sorry, sorry, 'Christopher'.

7 A. Maybe because they didn't have parents or that kind of
8 thing in their life. I'm unsure, there could be
9 a number of reasons. But I do remember opening presents
10 on my birthday, Christmas presents.

11 Q. And were these presents that your mum brought or were
12 these presents from Colonsay House?

13 A. Mum brought them.

14 Q. Okay.

15 'Christopher', you tell us about bed-wetting at
16 paragraph 17, and you say that that was a problem you
17 had. You say as a result of the violence at home, you
18 wet the bed as a child, you'd be too scared to get up to
19 go to the toilet in case you upset your stepfather, so
20 you just wet the bed. And then that just became
21 something that happened to you regularly.

22 A. It wasn't the reason -- upsetting him wasn't the reason
23 that I did it. I did it because it happened and I was
24 frightened and I would wake up soaking. It's not
25 something that I ever did deliberately.

1 Q. No, I think --

2 A. It happened.

3 Q. -- 'Christopher', you tell us you were too scared to get
4 up because you didn't want to go to the toilet and upset
5 him or disturb him; is that --

6 A. It wouldn't have taken very much to upset him.

7 Q. Okay. Was that something -- I think you go on to tell
8 us about something that happened as a result of that in
9 Colonsay House, but that's something that followed you
10 into your time in care, is that right, the bed-wetting?

11 A. Yeah, until I was 18.

12 Q. Okay.

13 You tell us 'Christopher', about an annex building
14 that was joined on to Colonsay House that could be used
15 for families to spend time together, and I think you
16 explain that parents could stay there overnight with
17 their children, that you could go there, spend time with
18 your mum and your stepdad, and your mum could cook you
19 meals?

20 A. Yeah.

21 Q. And you say that did happen, but it didn't happen
22 straight away after you arrived in Colonsay House, it
23 took time; is that right?

24 A. It took a while, yeah. Really, remembering back, it was
25 actually the only time that I remember eating well. And

1 I don't really remember the food that we got in the home
2 but I do remember the food that we got from mum. And it
3 was quite wholesome, and she always fed us.

4 Q. And you tell us, 'Christopher', that your mum was a good
5 cook, so that's obviously something that sticks in your
6 mind from your time there?

7 A. Yeah. I was very fussy when I was a child, would only
8 eat things that weren't flavoured, such as pasta,
9 boiled, with nothing else, just pasta. And then it
10 moved on to other things. But it took time to get me to
11 eat other things. This is what mum told me a few weeks
12 back. I was very fussy as a child when it came to food.

13 Q. 'Christopher', you say that your stepfather would be
14 there on these visits as well, but you say that social
15 work were kind of watching to see a change in the
16 behaviour of him?

17 A. Yeah.

18 Q. Is that something you have been told later, or were you
19 aware of any of that at the time?

20 A. As I said, it didn't take much to set him off. He was
21 a loose cannon and it was walking on eggshells all of
22 the time.

23 Q. And you tell us, 'Christopher', that these visits from
24 your mum were really the only good thing that happened
25 when you were at Colonsay. She would bring sweets and

1 chocolate bars along and you point out that that was the
2 only time that the staff would be nice to you and your
3 siblings, but then, as soon as your mum left, the sweets
4 would be taken away from you?

5 A. Always. Always. I remember her leaving the home.
6 I thought she was going away. I didn't realise that she
7 was coming back. I remember it well. I wasn't even
8 wearing any trousers, I was only wearing my T-shirt and
9 I was about 3, 3-and-a-half. I left the home, the snow
10 was very, very deep, and I tried to follow her to the
11 shops, which I believe were round the corner, or just
12 behind the home, and I think it was my brother that
13 shouted from the bus stop, 'Mum, there's 'Christopher',
14 you'd better get him'. So it was -- I think it was the
15 case that mum ran across and wrapped me up in her jacket
16 and took me back to the home.

17 And I think she went a bit mad at the home for
18 letting me out, wandering about at that age.

19 Q. So was this after she had come to visit one time?

20 A. Yeah.

21 Q. And you tried to follow her out, and you were able to
22 get out, obviously, to follow her in the snow. And you
23 say that she was with your brother, so I think was this
24 a time then when your brother had gone back home?

25 A. Yeah. My brother and my older sister, they went back,

1 and me and my sister, a year older, were there still.

2 Q. 'Christopher', just before we leave that point, when you
3 say when your mum visited that that was the only time
4 the staff were nice to you, did that mean that after
5 your mum left, that their attitude towards you would
6 change?

7 A. Yeah, erm, all the time. It was relentless. It was
8 a lot. Freezing cold baths and everything.

9 LADY SMITH: We'll look at some details, I suppose, but what
10 was their attitude towards you?

11 A. Quite um --

12 LADY SMITH: What were they like?

13 A. Dismissive, I think, you know. It was like they just
14 couldn't be bothered dealing with children of that age,
15 and that we were basically left to do what we wanted or
16 just to, you know, be there for whatever they wanted.

17 LADY SMITH: Thank you.

18 MS FORBES: You say, 'Christopher', that you don't have
19 a memory of the social work visiting. This is at
20 paragraph 21. But you think they did because there is
21 records of that in the files that you've seen. And you
22 say that you think they observed you and your sister
23 playing together and acting out abuse towards each
24 other?

25 A. Yeah, that's from my social work files. That's written

1 in my social work files. So I wouldn't have a memory of
2 that, but reading it, I do have a memory of reading it
3 in my files.

4 Q. And when you say abuse, what type of abuse did it --

5 A. It wasn't explained within the file, but it just said
6 'abuse'. It must have been quite concerning for the
7 social worker to have witnessed, as the -- you know,
8 she -- it must have been important enough for her to
9 have written, her or him to have written in the file.

10 So it had to be something. Possibly even more than
11 just physical.

12 Q. And the way that you've explained it, 'Christopher', at
13 paragraph 21, you say that:

14 'We were acting out the abuse that we had both
15 suffered, which the social work thought was a very
16 strange way to play games.'

17 So the way that you've said that, is that something
18 you recall seeing in your file then?

19 A. Yes, it's written there. It's written somewhat like
20 that in my file.

21 Q. 'Christopher', you then go on to tell us about some
22 specific incidents that happened. And this is from
23 paragraph 22 in your statement. So I'm now going to ask
24 you about that, if that's okay?

25 A. Yeah.

1 Q. And you did tell us already that the abuse at Colonsay
2 started immediately after you arrived. And you first of
3 all tell us about wetting the bed and you say that as
4 a punishment for that, PCE, so this is the man who's
5 SNR of Colonsay House, would give you freezing
6 cold baths?

7 A. Correct. They were horrible.

8 Q. And you explain that -- you say:

9 'It was coming up to winter time and the windows
10 always remained open, so it was extra cold.'

11 Was that in the bathing area or just generally in
12 the home that the windows would be open?

13 A. In the bathroom.

14 Q. Okay.

15 A. I even remember the way the bathroom looked. There was
16 a bath and a window. There was no toilet or sink. It
17 was just a bath and a window and it was freezing.

18 Q. And you've seen in your records obviously, you went in
19 in the ?

20 A. Yeah.

21 Q. So, at . So I think you explain it
22 was coming up and with the windows being
23 open and the bath being freezing cold, both of those
24 things together made it a very unpleasant experience.
25 Is that fair?

1 A. It was. It's followed me for the past 40 years. And
2 I'm 43 now, so, you know, it's a lifelong thing.
3 I don't like being cold. I don't like -- I mean,
4 there's always got to be some form of heat wherever
5 I am, wherever I am, and even when I'm drinking water,
6 it has to be tepid. I don't eat ice cream, I never
7 have. I'm sure it tastes lovely, and I'd like to try
8 it, but I just don't.

9 Q. I think you say you even brush your teeth in hot water
10 as well?

11 A. Yeah.

12 Q. So it's something that really affects your daily life?

13 A. Yeah.

14 Q. 'Christopher', you then go on to talk about an occasion
15 at Colonsay House where there was some sexual abuse.
16 And you give us some details of that at paragraph 23.
17 And I think you say this was in your bedroom at night
18 and you remember a man sitting on the end of your bed;
19 is that right?

20 A. Yeah.

21 Q. And you tell us that you don't know if it was PCE
22 because you didn't see his face and it was dark.

23 A. The lights were always off when I had to do these
24 things.

25 Q. But I think you point out that you do recall that he had

1 a pot belly and was balding?

2 A. Yeah.

3 Q. Now, you mentioned before in your description of PCE
4 that he was balding and had a beard, but was a pot belly
5 something that PCE had as well?

6 A. I'm not entirely -- you know, it's difficult, it was
7 such a long time ago, but he probably did. I'll have to
8 ask. But this particular person did have a pot belly.

9 Q. So PCE has come into your mind when you've thought
10 about this memory, and you say that you can't say for
11 sure that it was PCE, but then you go on to tell us
12 that that male then made you perform oral sex on him; is
13 that right?

14 A. It was horrible. Horrible.

15 Q. I think we'll go on to see when you left Colonsay House,
16 I think we find out that you were still 4 when you left,
17 maybe nearly 5?

18 A. Yeah.

19 Q. So you were still a very young boy when this happened;
20 is that right?

21 A. Yeah.

22 Q. And is that the only occasion, 'Christopher', that you
23 recall something like that happening with an adult male
24 in Colonsay House?

25 A. Um, yeah.

1 Q. You go on though, 'Christopher', to tell us that you
2 were made to do something sexual with your brother when
3 you were in Colonsay House.

4 A. Yeah, sorry, I thought you meant the staff with your
5 last question.

6 Q. No, I did. I did, 'Christopher'.

7 A. Oh, right, sorry.

8 Q. So, no, you're correct. And it's my fault; if I'm ever
9 asking anything that doesn't make sense, it will be my
10 fault, so don't worry. But yes, I think when you tell
11 us about the male adult at night, that's the only
12 occasion you remember that happening at night with
13 a male adult; is that right?

14 A. Yeah.

15 Q. And then, you tell us then in paragraph 24 about
16 an occasion where you were made to perform oral sex on
17 your brother?

18 A. Yeah.

19 Q. And that that involved some of the kids and the staff
20 member, PCE ?

21 A. Yeah. I remember it well. They were all looking and
22 laughing and -- it was --

23 Q. Do you remember whereabouts in the house this happened,
24 'Christopher'?

25 A. It would have been the bedroom.

1 Q. Okay. And you say some of the kids, we've talked about
2 the fact that Colonsay House was really a place for
3 older children, certainly above the age of 10.

4 A. Yeah.

5 Q. The kids that you remember being there, were they older
6 children?

7 A. Um, I remember one person in particular. I'll not say
8 her name, but I do remember her name, and my mum also
9 told me that she remembers it as well. That young lass
10 was quite badly abused and we saw it, we heard it, it
11 was not nice. The screams at night, and me thinking,
12 'I'm glad it's not me tonight', but feeling sorry that
13 it was for them, it was their turn.

14 Q. And when this happened with your brother,
15 'Christopher' -- and I know it might be very difficult
16 to talk about, so if you don't want to talk about it
17 anymore, we can move on. But are you saying that that
18 girl that you're telling us about was there when that
19 happened with your brother?

20 A. I don't remember if she was there, but there were
21 certainly other kids that were looking, pointing,
22 laughing and giggling. PCE was there encouraging it.

23 Q. And again, we know your age, so you were still very
24 young at that time?

25 A. Yeah.

1 Q. And again, was that just the one occasion that you
2 remember that happening?

3 A. One occasion I remember. The abuse was relentless, so.
4 It happened that much that I just can't tell you about
5 any other times that it did happen.

6 Q. Okay.

7 You tell us, 'Christopher', that you had your own
8 room at Colonsay.

9 A. Yeah.

10 Q. And you think, looking back, that wasn't great and it
11 would have been better if there had been other people in
12 the room with you.

13 A. Yeah, um, me and my sibling, you know, we used to share
14 a room at home and it was nice if I woke up or whatever,
15 there would be that reassurance that there was someone
16 else there.

17 Being in a strange place and waking up in the
18 middle of the night, if it wasn't a member of staff
19 waking me up for his own gratification, waking up on
20 my own, it was lonely, frightening. I wouldn't have
21 known where I was. All I would have known is, I want to
22 go home, I don't like it here.

23 Q. You say, 'Christopher', that PCE, the -- you call him
24 SNR at paragraph 26, but the man who was SNR
25 SNR.

1 A. Yeah.

2 Q. You say he was doing all sorts to everybody. So you say
3 he was hitting people with his hands, and that would be
4 all the time?

5 A. Yeah.

6 Q. And did he do that to you, did he physically assault
7 you?

8 A. We were all physically assaulted, sexually abused,
9 mentally abused. Psychologically and everything.

10 Q. You say, 'Christopher', that your sister and you were
11 made to simulate sexual positions with each other and
12 that was by other children and the staff as well?

13 A. Yeah.

14 Q. And you say they all joined in and it was horrible.
15 When you say they all joined in, what do you mean by
16 that?

17 A. They all took turns putting us into different positions
18 and thinking that it was hilarious. A 3 and 4-year-old.

19 Q. And were you clothed when this happened?

20 A. I am not entirely sure. My sister -- my sister, my
21 older sister, she remembers this quite vividly. And
22 I would need to ask her.

23 Q. Okay. And did this type of thing happen more than once?

24 A. As I said, the abuse happened all the time, and there
25 was lots and lots of it and it would have happened all

1 the time, more than once.

2 Q. Because you do say, 'Christopher', there was a lot of
3 sexual stuff going on at Colonsay.

4 A. Yeah. From what I heard.

5 Q. Yes, okay. Is that, when you say what you heard, was
6 that later on, or was that something you were aware of
7 at the time?

8 A. It used to happen in the middle of the night. Like
9 I said, the social workers -- the kids in the home made
10 me and my sister do sexual positions with each other,
11 and then there was the sexual positions with my brother,
12 and performing the oral thing. And then the social
13 worker saying in her file that we were acting out abuse
14 and she thought that was quite a strange way to behave
15 or play. So I would imagine that that's what the social
16 worker meant when she was going on about the playing.
17 And, yeah, the abuse happened all the time.

18 The abuse to other people, as you said, although
19 I didn't see it, I heard it most of the time, although
20 I couldn't say what it was.

21 Since it happened to me, I knew what was happening
22 to them. Just with the noises and the screams, the
23 crying.

24 Q. And you go on to tell us about a particular girl, and
25 I think maybe this is the girl that you mentioned

1 slightly earlier in your evidence. You say that you
2 once saw PCE on top of a young girl in the hallway?

3 A. Yeah. Lifting up her top. Exposing her breasts.

4 Q. Okay. And I think you also tell us that, thinking back
5 now, you say you didn't know then, but thinking back now
6 they were probably having sex?

7 A. Yeah. I was young, I didn't know, but that's what it
8 was probably they were doing. I remember her not liking
9 it. And wanting him to leave her alone. And to think
10 back, it was, you know, knowing what I know now about,
11 you know, the rights and wrongs and this, that and the
12 next thing, age of consents and all these things, it
13 wasn't appropriate and it was horrible even just to
14 think back to that, how frightened she must have been.

15 Q. You tell us that she was one of the teenagers who were
16 in Colonsay and I think you give us a possible name that
17 you think --

18 A. That was the name that I didn't mention there, yeah.
19 She had learning difficulties and I do remember her
20 suffering a lot of abuse, sexual abuse, and that's what
21 I mean when I say I heard it most nights. There would
22 be always somebody going into her room, doing something
23 or other.

24 Q. And when you say somebody going into her room, do you
25 mean a member of staff or other teenagers?

1 A. It would have been a male member of staff. I wouldn't
2 have known if it was a teenager. But, you know, it
3 could have been, but I'm assuming that it was a male
4 member of staff since they were the main perpetrators of
5 the abuse. The ringleaders, if you like.

6 Q. And I think you tell us, 'Christopher', that when you
7 saw PCE on top of that girl, she was screaming, and
8 you say it was shocking and horrible and it was a scream
9 that you heard most nights.

10 A. Yeah.

11 Q. And you say you heard screaming all the time at night
12 and that you are of the view that that was definitely
13 people getting abused?

14 A. It wasn't a blood-curdling scream. It was just like
15 slightly raised in volume. A little less than a scream,
16 a bit more than a cry.

17 Q. And you made the point earlier, 'Christopher', and you
18 say it here in this paragraph, you say when you heard
19 that, you were glad that it wasn't you, but you felt
20 sorry that it was someone else.

21 A. Yeah, that's correct.

22 Q. You go on to tell us, 'Christopher', then at
23 paragraph 29 about the incident where you say that you
24 followed your mum out into the snow?

25 A. Yeah.

1 Q. And so we've got the detail, a little bit more of that
2 at paragraph 29, and you say that your mum wrapped you
3 up in her jacket to keep you warm, that you were both
4 crying, and she bought you some sweets and took you back
5 to the home?

6 A. Yeah.

7 Q. But then you tell us that PCE then took those sweets
8 away from you as a punishment?

9 A. Yeah, for running out of the home. Then I was given
10 a freezing cold bath as a punishment, windows open
11 again. It was relentless, it happened all the time.

12 Q. So these baths as a punishment were something that were
13 regular?

14 A. Yes.

15 Q. And would it be after you had done something that they
16 considered was wrong, as a sort of punishment, or could
17 it just happen anytime?

18 A. It was mostly after I wet the bed or done something
19 wrong that they didn't like. You know, it was -- it
20 felt like it was all the time.

21 I remember my sister coming into the bathroom one
22 time, turning the hot water tap on, which was amazing,
23 and she was telling me, 'Don't tell PCE 'cause we'll
24 both get into trouble'.

25 I've never spoken about this abuse with my brother

1 or two sisters, so I don't really know to what extent
2 they suffered, and my sister was obviously scared
3 enough. I can't even imagine what had happened to her.

4 Q. Okay. You do tell us, 'Christopher', though, that you
5 saw your brother suffering abuse from other kids at the
6 home, and you say that he was beaten up and stripped
7 naked and then thrown into the girls' dormitory?

8 A. Yeah. I don't know what after -- after that what had
9 happened to him, but certainly that's what I remember
10 seeing and, as I say, I have tried to speak to him about
11 it but he doesn't -- he doesn't acknowledge even what
12 you're asking him. He doesn't talk about it. He's
13 a closed book. He won't talk about it at all.

14 Q. And he was -- he would have been quite young as well at
15 the time; is that right?

16 A. Yeah, possibly about 8. I can't quite remember how old
17 he is at the moment, but.

18 Q. 'Christopher', you also tell us that you remember your
19 sister having a broken wrist whilst at Colonsay and that
20 was a result of a fight with other children; is that
21 right?

22 A. Yeah, she was -- yeah, she was getting beaten up from
23 the other kids and then they broke her wrist.

24 Q. Okay.

25 I think again you say she's not someone who will

1 talk about her experiences in care either; she doesn't
2 want to talk about it?

3 A. No, she won't talk about that at all.

4 Q. But certainly that's something that you remember, her
5 having that injury as a result of being beaten up by
6 other children?

7 A. Yeah.

8 Q. 'Christopher', you tell us that you and your siblings
9 did leave Colonsay for a weekend in foster care, but
10 there was an incident and you returned to Colonsay, and
11 then you left for good in 1987.

12 And I think we know from a printout record,
13 an electronic record, which is very brief, that we have,
14 which is the only thing we've been able to recover, that
15 your address was changed to Duncan Place Children's Home
16 on [REDACTED] 1987.

17 A. Yeah.

18 Q. So we know that that seems to be when you went to Duncan
19 Place. So, again, still very young when you moved from
20 Colonsay over to Duncan Place.

21 A. I remember being in Duncan Place. I don't remember
22 much. I remember some things. Some.

23 Q. I think you tell us, 'Christopher', about Duncan Place
24 from paragraph 37 of your statement and I think, you
25 know, in summary, [REDACTED] Secondary Institutions - to be published later

3 And then I think you tell us that you were then
4 moved on to other children's homes and, 'Christopher',
5 you go on to tell us about Seamab House, from
6 paragraph --

7 A. Yeah.

8 Q. -- 41 of your statement?

9 A. 1989.

10 Q. And you tell us that it was 1989, so you would have been
11 6 or 7, that you went there and you were there for over
12 a year.

13 Now, 'Christopher', I think you know, because I let
14 you know about this, that that evidence about Seamab was
15 read in during the Inquiry on 17 July 2025.

16 A. Yeah.

17 Q. That was Day 549 of the Inquiry. I'm just going to read
18 out the transcript reference so that it can be
19 cross-referenced. It's TRN-13-000000027.

20 So I think you know, 'Christopher', today we're
21 focusing on your time at Colonsay House.

22 A. Yeah.

23 Q. But that doesn't mean that we're ignoring the other
24 places you were in care at. But I'm not going to go
25 through your time at Seamab House in any detail, it has

1 already been read in, but just be rest assured that we
2 have that evidence and we take a note of it.

3 But I think in summary, you do tell us about your
4 time there, that there was physical abuse by members of
5 staff, there was sexual contact that you describe
6 between you and another girl of about the same age, and
7 some physical abuse from other children whilst you were
8 there as well. But we have that, everything you tell us
9 about that, in detail in your statement.

10 A. Yeah.

11 Q. And just going forward then to after your time in
12 Seamab, 'Christopher', I think there is a period where
13 you leave and you go home to your mum and your stepdad
14 and again you talk about this violence happening again.

15 I think there was a time when your mum managed to
16 take you and your siblings down to Merseyside and that
17 was for a few months, and that seems to be a good
18 experience, but then she came back again and the abuse
19 from your stepdad started up. You went back to Seamab
20 again for a while and then left for the last time in
21 1990.

22 And then you tell us you went home after that, and
23 then it was between then and going to Argyll Street in
24 Brechin in 1994 that you were in foster care with two
25 different families?

1 A. Yeah.

2 Q. And you tell us about the foster care placements from
3 paragraph 66. I think in summary, 'Christopher', you
4 tell us there wasn't any abuse with either family and
5 you were about 12 or 13, I think you say, when you
6 stayed with those families?

7 A. Yeah, they were in Arbroath. They were nice, I remember
8 them, they were very nice. And I stayed with another
9 family outside Arbroath. I think, I think the name
10 [REDACTED], something like that. And again, I wasn't there
11 for very long. I was always getting moved about.

12 Q. Yes, I think you tell us, 'Christopher', that Argyll
13 Street then in Brechin, that you say you've seen from
14 your records that you went there in 1994 when you were
15 12 or 13?

16 A. Yeah.

17 Q. And you were there for about a year. And again, in your
18 statement that's redacted, Secondary Institutions - to be published later

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14 Q. And after that time, you went to Balnacraig and I think
15 that was in 1996 and you were there for about two years
16 and --

17 A. Yeah.

18 Q. -- stayed until you were 16 in 1998?

19 A. I did, yeah. So I was -- 1998 -- 16, yeah.

20 Q. And you tell us about Balnacraig, 'Christopher', from
21 paragraph 78, but essentially you say that nothing
22 abusive happened to you while you were staying there,
23 although you do talk about SNR there who was
24 quite strict and would be verbally abusive?

25 A. Yeah.

1 Q. And an occasion where he hit somebody but then was
2 immediately, it seems, remorseful and cried about it.
3 But essentially there's nothing too bad that you're
4 telling us about at Balnacraig; is that right?

5 A. Could you repeat the last few words, please?

6 Q. Sorry, it's the way that I put that. It's my fault,
7 'Christopher'.

8 I think from what you're saying, is nothing abusive
9 happened to you, as you see it really, apart from what
10 I've mentioned, at Balnacraig?

11 A. No, everything was fine there. I mean, there were a few
12 wee incidents but that was just, you know, you're living
13 in a place with other kids, there will be arguments,
14 there will be disagreements, and differences.

15 All in all, it was very good. And they took me away
16 to Italy on holiday and I fell in love instantly with
17 Italy, and I've never forgotten that.

18 Q. I think you tell us, 'Christopher', at paragraph 83 that
19 that's a wonderful memory for you, that trip, and it was
20 something like you'd never experienced before and it was
21 amazing.

22 A. I went -- there's three runs on skiing; red, blue and
23 black. We were on the blue run, beginners. I was on
24 the red run. Mr KRK, SNR, shouted at
25 me, 'Get back to the chalet cafe'. This was in the

1 middle of the mountain. 'We could all have a bite to
2 eat.' But I disappeared and went up the mountain to the
3 black run. And this is for experienced people you would
4 see on Ski Sunday. It was really the top of the world
5 and you could see into the distance, however many miles,
6 mountain tops covered in snow and blue skies everywhere.
7 And I remember being 13 or 14, just burst out crying.
8 And this lady came across to me and asked me if I was
9 all right, I'm pretty sure, it was Italian. I didn't
10 understand. Then she realised that I was an English
11 speaker. And I says, 'I've just never seen anything so
12 beautiful'.

13 And then I skied down to the bottom. SNR
14 SNR shouted at me again and I skied right back
15 to the ski centre where you hired your stuff and I ran
16 away back to the hotel and decided to run away.

17 And I went into the town centre of Aosta Valley in
18 Pila. I saw this old homeless man, really quite --
19 I don't know but I think his clothes were so ragged they
20 were just held on by the smell. It was, I think, the
21 first experience of homelessness I ever had, and I just
22 stood and watched him from a distance, drinking his
23 little alcoholic drink or whatever it was, and he got up
24 and something -- the most amazing thing happened. He
25 belted out at the top of his voice 'La Donna è Mobile',

1 and that was beautiful. Sounded just like Pavarotti and
2 I was in awe, really.

3 Then Mr KRK came around the corner and got me
4 into trouble, took me by the arm, took me back to the
5 hotel.

6 But all in all, it was a beautiful time. A really
7 nice holiday.

8 I had a good time in Balnacraig. I had a good time.
9 I didn't learn very much, but I had a problem with
10 learning. My education wasn't that good. I'm getting
11 tested for autism just now, so probably not spotted back
12 then that I had these difficulties. But I liked --
13 I always liked learning what I wanted to learn. Secondary Inst

14 Secondary Institutions - to be published later

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16 Secondary Institutions - to be published later

17 Disappearing in the
18 north of Italy, running through the village, meeting
19 people, going into shops, just wandering about, smelling
20 the market, the fish and all that. It was just
21 beautiful. Hearing all the different dialects, smelling
22 all the different smells, the food, pastries, things
23 like that. It was really nice. Good sensory
24 experience.

25 Q. It's obviously something that's stayed with you since
then, 'Christopher' --

1 A. Yeah.

2 Q. -- so it's quite an important memory for you.

3 A. Yeah. I like the finer things. I like special moments.

4 I cherish them.

5 Q. Now, I don't want to go into it in too much detail,

6 'Christopher', because we do have it in your statement,

7 but you do mention the fact that after you'd left

8 Balnacraig, there was a staff member there who phoned

9 you up and invited you round to visit?

10 A. Yeah, yeah.

11 Q. And when you went there, I think you say that he was

12 drinking, cans of lager, and he asked you if you wanted

13 a drink, but you said no, and he actually put on a DVD

14 which was gay porn; is that right?

15 A. It was, yeah. It was a bit unusual, a bit -- it was

16 very awkward. I just didn't want to be there at all.

17 He phoned me up and I didn't live too far away from him,

18 four or five streets, probably five streets, and he

19 lived at the top of [REDACTED] next to the [REDACTED]

20 [REDACTED]. His name was PCW [REDACTED].

21 And in thinking back to it now, I think if he was

22 like that with me, he would have been a lot worse in the

23 home, in Balnacraig. So I would imagine that he would

24 have been another person that perpetrated abuse towards

25 young people. I can't say for certain, he's dead now,

1 but it's quite possible. It's not something that
2 I would ever do, invite someone to my house for a cup of
3 tea or whatever and say, 'Watch this, this is good', you
4 know? That's a private thing, you shouldn't be doing
5 that when there's other people, especially visitors, and
6 um...

7 Q. Would you only have been 16 or thereabouts at the time?

8 A. I was about 17, something like that. It wasn't really
9 appropriate. I didn't like it. It wasn't nice.

10 He didn't do anything to me. But shortly after
11 that, I just left, I just really felt awkward and
12 embarrassed, humiliated really. It wasn't a good
13 feeling. I felt unsafe. That I needed to go.

14 Q. But you hadn't been aware of him being inappropriate; he
15 hadn't been inappropriate towards you at Balnacraig
16 prior to this?

17 A. No, I don't ever recall that he was inappropriate with
18 me. But I have heard that Balnacraig is another school
19 that yous guys are looking at, so it could very well be
20 he was the one that yous are -- you know. But that's
21 not for me to mention. I've told you that I had a good
22 time in Balnacraig and actually, out of my whole
23 childhood, that was the best. Took me away to Italy and
24 I had the most wonderful time. I really did.

25 Q. Yes.

1 Well, 'Christopher', we're just going to a part of
2 your statement where you're talking about reporting of
3 abuse when you were in care, and this is at
4 paragraph 86. And you say that you've had a lot of bad
5 experiences and you've always felt that if you told
6 social workers or anyone about those experiences, that
7 you wouldn't have been believed. So is that how you
8 felt at the time?

9 A. Yeah, it's been my experience over the years that when I
10 mention anything about that, the authorities, mainly
11 social services and people like that, it's almost like
12 they stonewall you, close the book, they close the
13 files, they don't talk about it. They don't want to
14 talk about it. And I completely believe that it was
15 widely known but not spoken about, hushed up: 'Don't
16 talk about this with anyone, we know it happens, it
17 happens everywhere, just don't talk about it. Don't
18 accept liability. Don't even talk'.

19 That's basically the feeling that I've always had
20 with them, even now.

21 Q. Okay.

22 'Christopher', you go on to tell us about your life
23 after you were in care from paragraph 87.

24 A. Yeah.

25 Q. So I'm just going to move on to talk a little bit about

1 that. I think you say that you went to Dundee after
2 Balnacraig and you stayed with a friend. You had
3 a short period of a week as an apprentice engineer?
4 A. Yeah --
5 Q. I think you tried to join the army; is that right?
6 A. Sorry?
7 Q. You tried to join the army but there was an issue with
8 passing the medical?
9 A. Yeah, I've got [REDACTED]
10 [REDACTED] so I didn't get into the army.
11 I did the training and things like that, but. It was
12 quite a disappointment to me. I was really wanting to
13 join. I wanted to do something.
14 So I just --
15 Q. And I think -- sorry, 'Christopher', I don't want to cut
16 across you there? You were going to say something?
17 A. I just floated about after that for, you know, a while,
18 went from job to job, not really knowing what I wanted
19 to do. As I said, I didn't do very well in education
20 and I didn't have any modelled behaviours to learn from
21 or to even guide me. Just to even sit down with me and
22 say, 'Christopher', what do you like, what are you
23 interested in?' And I would have told them: creative
24 writing. I write stories now. I've had some published.
25 I'm actually quite a good writer.

1 Q. And that's something that you've come to learn that you
2 are good at, particularly good at, and that you enjoy;
3 is that right?

4 A. Yeah. Yeah.

5 Q. But I think the point you're making is that that wasn't
6 something that was explored or identified when you were
7 younger?

8 A. No, there was nothing nurtured, there was no nurturing
9 at all. Nothing at all.

10 Q. 'Christopher', you tell us a bit about the impact, and
11 this is from paragraph 90 in your statement. We've
12 spoke already about the cold water and how you don't
13 like cold water after the freezing cold baths that PCE
14 gave you at Colonsay House.

15 You tell us that you don't like it when people raise
16 their voice in your face?

17 A. No, I don't.

18 Q. I think you're quite --

19 A. I don't like loud noises at all. That's for everything.
20 But loud voices, it triggers me instantly and I lash
21 out.

22 Q. And you're quite frank, 'Christopher', in your statement
23 in telling us that in your adult life, you've had issues
24 with violence towards partners, and I think you say it's
25 something that you're sorry for.

1 A. Yeah.

2 Q. But it is something that you accept that's happened in
3 your relationships and the way that you've described it,
4 at paragraph 91 you say:

5 'I took the path of domestic abuse in my life.'

6 A. Unfortunately, I did. It's not what I would have chosen
7 for myself. It's -- thinking now, to be putting someone
8 through those things, it's appalling, and my ex-wife
9 didn't deserve any of it. She was the nicest person
10 when I met her and I simply didn't leave her like that,
11 which is always going to stay with me. Hopefully she
12 heals mentally. Eventually.

13 Q. And 'Christopher', you've told us that that behaviour
14 has led to convictions and imprisonment and you're
15 currently dealing, I think you tell us, with trying to
16 address your offending behaviour. I think you tell us
17 you've had to complete group sessions whilst you've been
18 in prison and this is part of the process of being seen
19 to be able to be released back into the community, and
20 I think you say you have to show a pattern of stability
21 before you can be trusted to be released.

22 A. Yeah.

23 Q. And that you've done group work.

24 And, 'Christopher', I think you explain at
25 paragraph 103, that that process of reflection and group

1 therapy and sessions has been good, and you feel that
2 you've changed, but there have been times when those
3 sessions have triggered you because sometimes there have
4 been people there talking about their offending?

5 A. Yeah.

6 Q. And in particular their offending towards children, and
7 that's been a trigger for you; is that right?

8 A. Yeah. Whilst being on the group, within the first week
9 of that group session, I referred myself to mental
10 health for counselling for some of the things that I was
11 hearing about other people talking about the abuse that
12 they've done towards their own children, and it
13 triggered me so much so that moving forward,
14 I sleepwalk, have nightmares, have night terrors. I've
15 wet the bed a few times and, you know, I'm 43 now. It's
16 not something that I feel happy about. It's quite
17 embarrassing really. But it's still triggered me from
18 what's happened to me in the past, and I can't believe
19 that the prison would put me on a group like that, or
20 put someone in my position, that has been a victim of
21 childhood abuse, on to a group like that.

22 I did say to them, an example was, you wouldn't take
23 a war veteran to a fireworks display. That would
24 trigger them.

25 Q. Yes. So whilst I think you feel that the progress

1 you've made with these sessions has been good, I think
2 what you've explained is there's been some regression at
3 times because it's brought back, from what you're
4 saying, flashbacks and nightmares and --

5 A. Yeah.

6 Q. -- the bed-wetting has resurfaced on occasions?

7 A. Most people in here think that this group is just the
8 most amazing thing and it's going to help everybody.
9 But they're forensic psychologists. What I need is
10 a clinical psychologist, 'cause my problems just don't
11 start with my ex-wife, like what they're trying to work
12 on. My problems are long in the past, entrenched, you
13 know, beliefs and other issues that would trigger me,
14 that you just can't use a forensic psychologist to help.
15 You know, they wouldn't know what to do. I need
16 a specialist.

17 So it is probably the case that I won't move on from
18 prison because I won't -- the psychologists in here
19 won't see any notable progression or a shift in my
20 behaviours or beliefs, but that's their fault. I need
21 a clinical psychologist and that's not them.

22 For me to have made any progress, I need a clinical
23 psychologist.

24 Q. 'Christopher', you tell us at paragraph 105 that you've
25 not spoken about your time in care or anything that

1 happened to you when you were in care to anybody,
2 I think you say, prior to coming to the Inquiry.
3 I think you tell us it was somebody who's also in prison
4 with you --

5 A. Yeah.

6 Q. -- who told you about the Inquiry and gave you the
7 details. And you had seen the Inquiry on the news but
8 had never considered getting in touch?

9 A. I never realised that, you know, it meant me. I was
10 exactly the type of person they were talking about on
11 the news, of the Inquiry, or whatever, and so I would be
12 eligible to give my side of the story, and hopefully
13 one day that might help --

14 Q. Yes.

15 A. -- make the changes in the systems. So that's what I'm
16 doing just now. That's all I want to do, is try and
17 make the changes, when none of this should have happened
18 in the first place.

19 Q. And when you were telling us about lessons you think
20 could be learned -- this is at paragraph 109 onwards in
21 your statement, 'Christopher' -- I think you tell us
22 that there needs to be things like proper disclosure
23 when people apply for jobs. And you make the point,
24 this is at paragraph 109 too, where you say you found
25 out in prison that a lot of people who were sexually

1 abused as a child go on to do the same as adults to
2 other children, and you point out that it's a continuous
3 cycle?

4 A. Yeah, it's sad how that happens. I've learned a little
5 bit about that on the groups that I did in here.

6 Erm, just treat kids properly, the way they should
7 be treated. Nature, nurture, love and kindness.

8 Q. And you were such a young boy when you went into care
9 initially, 'Christopher', and you make the point at
10 paragraph 111 that:

11 'The early years of a child's life are the most
12 important and if you get that right, hopefully the child
13 will go on to make good progress and become something of
14 value in life.'

15 And you say:

16 'Children need to be encouraged to be creative.'

17 And I think maybe this goes back to how you've
18 realised that you have this talent for writing, later in
19 life, that wasn't identified as a child?

20 A. No, it could have been identified 'cause I really am
21 quite good, as I said. I've got -- three of my pieces
22 have been published in magazines. I have two stories
23 and a poem. I've won a platinum award for the poem and
24 I've had my two pieces of writing published in magazines
25 outside. So I feel quite chuffed about that. I feel

1 quite good and just a bit -- you know, what's the
2 word -- smug. I shouldn't feel that, but I do. And it
3 makes me happy to, you know, write something good.

4 Q. Is there a sense of pride and achievement from that?

5 A. Yeah, I achieved -- I've sent my mum some of my work and
6 she thinks it's brilliant and, 'How do you make these
7 things, how do you write?' It's just in here, in my
8 head. It's just I've got a lot of words going on about
9 my head. At times, I've got about two or three songs
10 playing in my mind at one time and I've got a very busy
11 mind. It helps me to put it -- it helps me to rest my
12 mind when I sit down and write. I focus my mind, write
13 things down. It's good. I like my writing.

14 Q. And 'Christopher', you also tell us -- this is at
15 paragraph 112 -- that you're not sure taking children
16 out of the family home is always the best thing. You
17 make the point that there was violence in your home and
18 you've told us about that from your stepfather, but it
19 wasn't all the time and you were actually, you say,
20 treated better at home than you ever were in children's
21 homes that you were in?

22 A. Yeah, I wasn't sexually abused and that's -- that's
23 something, you know. You shouldn't be doing things like
24 that to kids. It's not appropriate, it's not allowed.
25 It's illegal, and if you're that way inclined, then you

1 don't get a job working with kids. You know?

2 And people just have that kind of interest and
3 I just don't ever know if it can be helped in some of
4 them, from what I've seen in here. I don't think it's
5 a disease with them, I think it's just a sexuality.
6 Some people like women, and some people go on to marry
7 a woman. Some people like men and they're gay. Others
8 like children, and that's all they'll ever like.

9 So I think it's a sexuality, rather than a disease,
10 or whatever they think it is, a brain defect or
11 whatever, I don't know. I think it's just a sexuality.

12 Q. But from what you tell us at that paragraph,
13 'Christopher', are you saying that whilst there was
14 physical abuse in your home, you would have been better
15 off there than being abused in the children's homes that
16 you were placed into?

17 A. I might have been a bit hasty in saying that, erm, but
18 as I said before, it's the case now, and I don't know if
19 it ever was back then, but when the social workers are
20 dealing with abuse in the family home, it's then they go
21 on to look at other family members to see if they would
22 be able to house the children, and I don't know if my --
23 I don't know why they would have -- that they wouldn't
24 have assessed my grandmother as a suitable prospect for
25 that. We would have lived there, and it would have been

1 fine.

2 Q. But you have told us about some good experiences that
3 you had, for example at Balnacraig, but certainly -- and
4 in the foster homes as well, I think, the couple of
5 foster homes that you told us about, where there was no
6 abuse.

7 So there were some occasions --

8 A. Yeah, that was the later foster homes. The foster home
9 that I went into around about the time of Duncan Place,
10 I remember calling her a name. Quite an elderly woman.
11 She scrubbed my mouth out with soap and a nailbrush and
12 I remember the nailbrush was -- the handle of it was
13 made of wood and the bristles were similar to the ones
14 on a road sweeper's brush and it really was sore. My
15 tongue was bleeding.

16 Q. Yes, I think you tell us about that in your statement,
17 'Christopher'.

18 A. That's in my social work file as well, so.

19 Q. And I think, 'Christopher', you say in relation to hopes
20 for the Inquiry that you don't know a great deal about
21 the outcome of these kind of inquiries, but in your
22 mind, the Scottish Child Abuse Inquiry is a body that
23 looks at abuse that happened in care settings in
24 Scotland and that their role is to build up a lot of
25 evidence to get a picture and story of what happened in

1 all these places, and then a judge decides what can be
2 learned from all the mistakes that were made in the
3 past.

4 And I think you say:

5 'I hope that can happen and that things are
6 learned.'

7 A. Yeah. It's very important moving forward. I've been in
8 prison for a while and even being away from society,
9 I've still noticed some of the changes that have
10 happened. There's -- people go on about the 'Woke
11 Brigade' and things like that, so there's certain things
12 that you can say and not say these days. It's quite
13 important and it's quite um -- you hear it on the news,
14 you know, with the Reform leader in Scotland, I'm
15 talking about him making homophobic remarks eight years
16 ago, and it's not okay to do that now.

17 So hopefully these things can be learned moving
18 forward. And children, at the end of the day, they're
19 the future. We're the ones that need to make changes
20 for them, because they're the future.

21 I just don't like child abuse and I think that
22 children should be children. They should be encouraged
23 to -- whatever interests they have, they should
24 encourage that. I could have been a famous writer by
25 now, hopefully. Who knows. You know? It's yet to be

1 determined, whatever that might be, in my future.

2 But moving forward, hopefully the changes can be
3 made with children. Adults don't look at children's
4 homes and think: 'I'm not going to put my kids there
5 because of what I've heard about it, what's happened to
6 my uncle or my grandad or whatever'.

7 Children's homes these days, I don't know what
8 they're like, but hopefully they're a lot better and
9 there's a lot more safeguards in place for kids, a lot
10 more disclosures and, you know, checks, police checks
11 and things like that.

12 CCTV footage would be -- you know, CCTV cameras to
13 be installed in these places, where necessary. Absolute
14 and clear transparency. That's it, I think, yeah.

15 Q. Well, 'Christopher', you coming forward and telling us
16 about your experiences will no doubt help us understand,
17 you know, what happened back then. So thank you very
18 much and thank you for answering my questions today.

19 Is there anything that you want to tell us that
20 you've not had a chance to tell us about?

21 A. I'm fine, thanks --

22 MS FORBES: Okay, well, thanks very much, 'Christopher'.

23 A. Thank you very much.

24 LADY SMITH: 'Christopher', could I add my thanks. I'm

25 really grateful to you for engaging with us as helpfully

1 and openly as you have done. It's really helped me get
2 a clear picture of what your time at Colonsay was and
3 the other places that we've touched on.

4 Keep up the good work with your writing, and you are
5 allowed to be proud of that poetry prize.

6 A. Thank you.

7 LADY SMITH: Many people won't have a poetry prize, so work
8 on that and build from it.

9 Thank you very much.

10 A. Thank you, have a nice day.

11 (The witness disconnected)

12 LADY SMITH: Before I rise for the morning break, we have
13 used some names this morning of people whose identities
14 are protected by my General Restriction Order, which
15 means they can't be identified as referred to in our
16 evidence outside this room.

17 And there's the man called PCE, whose second name
18 may have been PCE, may have been PCE; people
19 called; a Mr KRK, and a man called PCW
20 PCW. And I'm just going to check if I have missed
21 anybody? No. No.

22 Well, we'll stop now for the morning break. Thank
23 you very much.

24 (11.24 am)

25 (A short break)

1 (11.46 am)

2 LADY SMITH: Mr Peoples.

3 MR PEOPLES: Good morning, my Lady. We will now move to
4 some read-ins for the rest of the day. And the first
5 reading this morning is a statement by an applicant
6 whose pseudonym is 'Scott'.

7 'Scott' (read in)

8 MR PEOPLES: The statement reference is WIT.001.002.1912.

9 LADY SMITH: Thank you.

10 MR PEOPLES: I should just say at the beginning that some of
11 'Scott's' evidence was read in during the Foster Care
12 case study on 7 July 2022 on Day 305. The transcript
13 reference I understand is TRN-10-000000039.

14 LADY SMITH: Thank you.

15 MR PEOPLES: 'Scott' spent a lot of her childhood in care
16 settings, both foster care and residential care and
17 indeed in a number of different places and I think to
18 some extent that is a pattern which is not unfamiliar.

19 LADY SMITH: Yes.

20 MR PEOPLES: She, and indeed others, went into care at
21 a very young age, indeed the last witness is an example.

22 So far as 'Scott' is concerned, I do propose to
23 focus on the establishments that are the subject of this
24 particular case study hearings and so I will just
25 summarise to some extent other aspects of the statement

1 which 'Scott' has provided.

2 LADY SMITH: Thank you.

3 MR PEOPLES: So far as life before care is concerned, that
4 is described between paragraphs 2 and 10. In short,
5 'Scott's' mum gave birth to four girls and two boys,
6 including 'Scott'. Her father went on to have two
7 children with another partner.

8 'Scott' tells us that none of the children are her
9 full siblings. Her father was a drinker. There were
10 problems in her parents' marriage and her father started
11 seeing another woman. Her mother had issues with
12 alcohol and 'Scott' recalls her having sex with another
13 man for money and becoming pregnant with one of her
14 stepsiblings, at paragraph 9.

15 Indeed, at that point, 'Scott' left home, 'Scott'
16 was taken into care when her mother left home to have
17 the baby.

18 Now, after that, it does appear as if there was
19 a period when 'Scott' was to some extent moving between
20 foster care and home, and also in residential
21 establishments.

22 LADY SMITH: Yes.

23 MR PEOPLES: Just seems to have been toing and froing over
24 a period, and sometimes these statements are quite
25 difficult to piece together exactly where she was at

1 a particular time, but I think we'll try -- I think we
2 can get a broad picture of what is happening.

3 LADY SMITH: It's understandable that it's hard for the
4 applicant to work it out all clearly.

5 MR PEOPLES: Absolutely. Absolutely, yes.

6 But what she does say is that I think her first care
7 placement was in foster care in Doune, and that is what
8 I think was largely read in during the Foster Care study
9 on Day 305. That section of her statement starts at
10 paragraph 11 and continues through to paragraph 44, and
11 I'll not plan to go through that today.

12 LADY SMITH: That's fine, yes, thank you.

13 MR PEOPLES: Then it appears that -- there's a section
14 that's headed 'Hillyland Children's Home, Perth' that
15 starts at paragraph 45, and 'Scott' tells us that she
16 and two of her sisters -- I'll just call them sisters;
17 they're all I think stepsisters, but I'll just for
18 convenience call them sisters.

19 LADY SMITH: Yes.

20 MR PEOPLES: She and two sisters went to a place that she
21 calls Hillyland Children's Home in Perth.

22 We think that that could just be another name for
23 Nimmo Place.

24 LADY SMITH: Oh.

25 MR PEOPLES: Or at least an earlier version of Nimmo Place.

1 LADY SMITH: Yes.

2 MR PEOPLES: The dates she was there, according to records,
3 are from [REDACTED] 1968 to [REDACTED] 1968. That's
4 a fairly short period. Then, again, for another short
5 period between [REDACTED] 1970 and [REDACTED] 1970. She was
6 then aged 6 and 7.

7 So I'm taking it this could be Nimmo Place, or at
8 least a previous incarnation, because I think the dates
9 we were working on were probably that Nimmo Place opened
10 later than 1968 or 1970, but it does appear that there
11 was something there that predated that.

12 LADY SMITH: Yes.

13 MR PEOPLES: So I'll just treat it at the moment as
14 certainly relevant for present purposes.

15 LADY SMITH: Okay.

16 MR PEOPLES: She tells us about that particular children's
17 home between paragraphs 45 and 61. I'll just pick out
18 some of the things she says.

19 She says it was run by a couple, husband and wife,
20 and she can't remember their names. She says at
21 paragraph 47:

22 'I don't know how many children were in there but
23 there were quite a few. There were babies up to 7 or 8.
24 I think there were about 12 to 14 children in total.'

25 Then she goes on at paragraph 48:

1 'I can remember there was a cot in my room. All
2 I can see is my bed and a cot next to it. There was
3 a little boy in the cot. He couldn't have been any
4 older than 2. I can't remember [my sister, one of my
5 younger sisters] being in my room. There was a kitchen,
6 living room, dining room, laundry room and boot room.
7 There were bedrooms and a couple of toilets. I can't
8 remember the bathroom.'

9 She goes on:

10 'The woman [I think this is the woman who runs the
11 home] used to test the fire alarms in the middle of the
12 night. She expected the tots who were in their cots to
13 get themselves out and get to the fire escape. We were
14 lifting the toddlers out of their cots because they were
15 crying and panicking with the noise. I got the wee boy
16 in my room out of his cot and I actually followed him
17 out because I didn't know where I was going. We were
18 getting them to the fire door and the woman was outside
19 waiting for us all to come out. She wasn't inside
20 helping with the tots. I experienced the fire alarm
21 twice.'

22 She goes on at paragraph 50:

23 'I was up at 7.00 am in the morning, dressed and had
24 breakfast and out the door. I can't even remember
25 getting washed or brushing my teeth in the morning.

1 I don't think I had used a toothbrush at that point.
2 She [I think this is, again, the woman in charge] never
3 gave me a bath before I went to school. She just got me
4 up and I got myself dressed. She gave us bus money.'

5 And she says she went to a local school, two bus
6 rides from Hillyland. She said she and her sister would
7 get on the bus and go to school, but one time her social
8 worker 'gave us a lift to school', she says:

9 'We asked her what we should do with our bus money
10 and she told us to spend it on sweets, so we did. That
11 night we told the woman [this is, again, the woman in
12 charge] that MCF [the social worker] had given us
13 a lift that morning, and the first thing she asked was
14 where our bus money had gone. She then phoned [the
15 social worker] and went ballistic. She was shouting at
16 her, but we weren't punished for it.'

17 Then at paragraph 53, moving on:

18 'After tea [this is part of the section on routine],
19 the telly was on. It was on all the time. You could
20 have a bath if you wanted. We were left to our own
21 devices and would just float about speaking to each
22 other. We didn't have any games or toys. We would just
23 be in the room with the telly on. We weren't told to do
24 anything specific. I can't remember any of the other
25 kids. There wasn't any fighting or anything. We knew

1 not to step out of line. It was instinctive. We just
2 got on with it.'

3 Then moving on to paragraph 56, she says:

4 'I started wetting the bed. One morning I had wet
5 the bed again and the woman [again, the woman in charge]
6 came in. She made sure everybody knew what I had done.
7 She took my pillow off me. I wasn't allowed to have
8 a pillow for two weeks. I don't know why she did that.
9 It didn't make any sense. Everyone knew. She didn't
10 give me a bath or a shower, even after I'd wet the bed.

11 'That day she took one of kids aside and I heard her
12 whispering to a girl in the hall outside the boot room.
13 The next thing, the other kid came in and started
14 saying, "What a smell of pee, who smells of pee?" It
15 was directed at me but I just ignored it and kept tying
16 my shoelaces. She [that's the woman in charge] had put
17 the child up to it. It wasn't the girl's fault, she was
18 only doing what she'd been instructed to do. That's why
19 I remember the boot room. It was so obvious.

20 'I hated it there. I hated her [I think that's
21 again the woman in charge].'

22 LADY SMITH: Hmm.

23 MR PEOPLES: 'It was the screaming at us for spending the
24 bus money, taking my pillow away, leaving me to take the
25 tots out during the fire alarm. All of it. She didn't

1 even tell me that there would be a fire alarm. It was
2 the first time I had heard one in my life and I didn't
3 know what was happening. She was just horrible. The
4 woman was evil. I didn't ever see her with the tots on
5 her knee. She didn't seem maternal at all. She should
6 never have been in the job.

7 'I think I was there a couple of times for a few
8 weeks.'

9 That I think bears out perhaps with the records.

10 LADY SMITH: Yes, that would fit, wouldn't it.

11 MR PEOPLES: 'I didn't have any personal possessions and
12 I can't even remember having my own clothes. Up until
13 that point, I had never had a Christmas anywhere.

14 '[The social worker] MCF [REDACTED] sometimes came in to
15 talk to the woman [in charge, I think]. She didn't talk
16 to us. I think the social workers must have been
17 looking for a place that would take us all. I think
18 some effort must have been made to keep us together.'

19 So I suppose she is making the point that at least
20 her sisters, or some of them, were kept together with
21 her.

22 She then says at paragraph 61 that she left when she
23 was about 8, which was 1970. And she then says that she
24 was taken to other places.

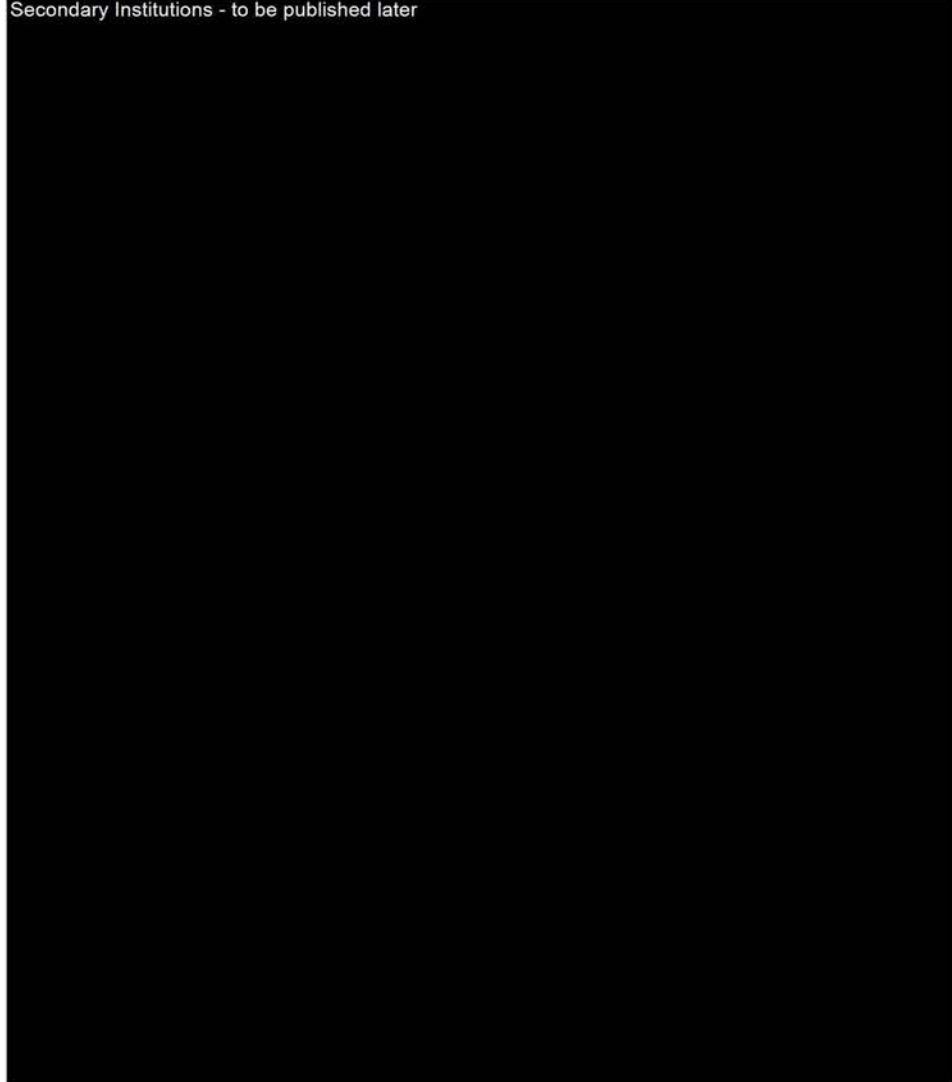
25 Now, at this point, it becomes a little confusing

1 just exactly what happened, but she seems to have gone
2 back to the place in Doune, according to her
3 recollection. She also, at some early point, ended up
4 in a home in Dundee, Carolina House, during this stage
5 in her childhood. That starts at paragraph 65, she
6 tells us about that, and she's got a long section on
7 that through from paragraph 65 to 152.

8 I don't intend to go through that, but other than
9 can I just say this: what she does say is that she was
10 there with all of her sisters, one of whom was a baby.
11 So she had two sisters she was with before; she's now
12 got her baby sister with them as well.

13 Secondary Institutions - to be published later
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20 Then, moving on to paragraph 153, if I may, she then
21 tells us about Colonsay House in Perth, starting at
22 paragraph 153.

23 She says at 153 that:

24 'Colonsay was SNR a couple called LND and MYJ
25 MYJ . They were really nice. It was mostly teenagers

1 there. There were people like myself but it was
2 an emergency holding spot for young people who were
3 going to borstal or due up in court the next day, if
4 they weren't trusted to be on bail.'

5 I think we know from records that 'Scott' went to
6 Colonsay House from [REDACTED] 1976 until
7 [REDACTED] 1977.

8 LADY SMITH: Okay.

9 MR PEOPLES: And she [REDACTED] Secondary Institutions - to be published later
10 [REDACTED] Secondary Institutions - to be published later
11 describing it as 'like a holiday camp' [REDACTED] Secondary Institutions - to
12 She said she had her own bedroom and her own bathroom,
13 she was given her own pocket money and she didn't have
14 to eat meals if she didn't want to. She got to go out
15 at weekends, she got to wear her own clothes, her
16 washing was done for her, and she said when she first
17 went in, paragraph 154:

18 'All of my laundry had been put on the bed.
19 I couldn't believe it.'

20 [REDACTED] Secondary Institutions - to be published later
21 [REDACTED]
22 [REDACTED]
23 [REDACTED]
24 [REDACTED]
25 [REDACTED]

1 Then she said at 155:

2 'There was a smoke room for us too. You were
3 allowed to smoke even if you were 13 or 14. LND [SNR
4 SNR] had a black Labrador. He would ask
5 me to go to the chippy for him to get him his fags and
6 he would tell me to get ten for myself.'

7 So it all seems in that sense very good.

8 Going on to schooling, she says at 157 she started
9 at Perth Grammar but she never went. She says:

10 'I hated it so I wouldn't go. The staff were taking
11 me in the van, dropping me off and I was walking
12 straight through the school and out the back. I had
13 been restricted all my life and there was more fun to be
14 had out of school. It wasn't that I couldn't learn or
15 wasn't clever, it was that I wasn't interested.

16 MCF [the social worker] tried to interfere
17 again. She came to visit about something, probably
18 missing school, and ended up telling me that I wasn't
19 allowed to go out at the weekend. I was going around
20 with my face tripping me that day. LND [SNR
21 SNR] asked me what was wrong so I told him. He told
22 me to get dressed and go out. He told me that he SNR
23 the home, not MCF . I remember thinking that was
24 great.'

25 She then said that she used to go out to a street in

1 Perth, which I think had a certain notoriety, and she
2 said she would mess about there with her pals. It was
3 a rough estate, she said, full of gypsies and ruffians.
4 She thought it was great fun and she said one of her
5 friends from school lived there, so she would go there
6 and see her.

7 She says she met a lot of nice friends there and she
8 loved it, she said, compared to what she'd been through
9 before:

10 'It was totally different. I didn't know such
11 freedom was available. Sometimes my friend [and she
12 names her] and I would smoke and drink a bottle of cider
13 when we were out. When we came home nobody noticed.'

14 I think that's to the home.

15 LADY SMITH: Yes.

16 MR PEOPLES: 'We would have our tea and go into the TV room.
17 I was trying all of the things I always wanted to try.
18 I never had any money for clothes because I spent it on
19 cigarettes and cider.'

20 Then, at paragraph 161, she is dealing with the
21 staff, and one of the staff that she recalls was
22 Peter Murray and also his wife [REDACTED]. She says
23 there was usually three or four on shift. She said:

24 'There was quite a lot to handle because everybody
25 had their own problems. It was crazy sometimes. Every

1 room had an intercom. There was always a member of
2 staff listening to the intercom. We weren't disciplined
3 or given into trouble. There were no boundaries.'

4 She says as far as family was concerned she never
5 saw her sister or brother, and she asked her social
6 worker, or begged her social worker, to tell 'Scott'
7 where her brother was so she could send him a card, but
8 she refused to do so, she says. She said she knew her
9 sisters were still in Carolina House.

10 She said her mum was living nearby in the street
11 that she's already mentioned. She said she would visit
12 her:

13 'The house was dire. She was off her face all the
14 time on Carlsberg and whisky. She was abusive when she
15 was drunk, so ['Scott'] tried to avoid her.'

16 She would tell 'Scott' she was dirty and a mess.
17 'Scott' says:

18 'I used to wonder why she always picked on me and
19 now I know it was because of my dad. I was his only
20 child.'

21 Then she has a number of paragraphs about
22 Peter Murray.

23 LADY SMITH: Yes.

24 MR PEOPLES: And she says that Peter Murray was married to
25 [REDACTED], who also worked at Colonsay House, and

1 that [REDACTED].

2 He was in his 30s. She recalls that Peter wore big
3 thick glasses and had greasy brown hair. She said:

4 'There was quite a few girls in Colonsay House, but
5 I remember one girl coming in when I was there. She was
6 very quiet and subdued but she always had cigarettes.
7 I used to always wonder why she had all these
8 cigarettes.'

9 She then mentions her friend who she shared a room
10 with at the time, and she said that they were sharing
11 the room and the girl had a full pack of 20 cigarettes
12 in her room. She said she can't remember her name but
13 she describes what she looked like.

14 Then she goes on at paragraph 167:

15 'It wasn't until Peter propositioned me that
16 I realised where she was getting the money to buy
17 cigarettes. He told me that if I had sex with him, he
18 would put my pocket money up to five pounds. I thought
19 I was being smart and asked for eight. When it came to
20 the reality of the situation, I wasn't so brave.

21 'One day, he came up behind me in the dining room
22 and grabbed me by the chest and started shaking my
23 breasts and bent me forward. He was pushing himself
24 into my backside and began mimicking sex. I pushed him
25 away and told him to get off me.

1 'Whenever I went out, he started following me in his
2 car. He was following me everywhere. I would see his
3 car all the time. He would be there when I came out of
4 school. My mum asked me why Peter Murray was always
5 sitting in his car outside the house. She phoned
6 Colonsay House to ask why he was outside her house.'

7 And she says LND called 'Scott' into his house.
8 He told 'Scott' that he had 'Scott's' mum on the phone
9 about Peter Murray:

10 'By this time I was scared of Peter so I told him
11 what he was doing. He told me that he would keep me
12 informed. He tried to catch Peter out by monitoring the
13 intercom, but Peter was too smart for it. LND told me
14 that there was to be a meeting with the police and
15 MCF, but I wasn't allowed to go.'

16 Can I just say at this point that there is
17 a contemporaneous record --

18 LADY SMITH: Yes.

19 MR PEOPLES: -- of this matter being raised by 'Scott' and
20 that certain entries will confirm that something was
21 said, and various people were interviewed in 1977,
22 but --

23 LADY SMITH: What type of record is that, Mr Peoples?

24 MR PEOPLES: It's a social work record.

25 LADY SMITH: Social work.

1 MR PEOPLES: The record would strongly suggest that the
2 police weren't involved on that occasion --

3 LADY SMITH: I see.

4 MR PEOPLES: -- despite 'Scott's' own memory. It's a long
5 time ago and the contemporaneous record doesn't really
6 bear that out. There certainly was a discussion
7 involving a number of people in the social work
8 department about the situation.

9 And just to say this at this point, the upshot was
10 that 'Scott' gave a statement, some other people gave
11 a statement. Peter Murray was interviewed, denied any
12 impropriety and, following this discussion, internal
13 discussion, Peter Murray was issued with a verbal
14 warning for entering a girl's bedroom unescorted,
15 contrary to standing instructions.

16 So that was the sum total of -- and it all happened
17 in a period of days, this, from start to finish.

18 LADY SMITH: Right. And I suppose it's possible that the
19 impression given by LND to 'Scott' was that the police
20 would somehow be involved.

21 MR PEOPLES: It could be. It's very difficult. But it's
22 certainly not -- I mean, she may well remember police
23 coming to the home because it's something that probably
24 did happen, and I think her records may suggest it
25 happened to her as well on an earlier occasion, so.

1 It's certainly not, though, I think, probably in line
2 with the contemporaneous records.

3 But anyway, going back to her statement, if I can
4 then, with that sort of in mind, she says that obviously
5 she still thinks the police were involved. She says at
6 171:

7 'The police and MCF [her social worker]
8 believed Peter Murray and I was called a liar. I was
9 14 years old. LND had tried to stand up for me but it
10 didn't matter. LND told me that he was sorry but
11 I couldn't stay there anymore. He said Peter was
12 getting kept on. They chose to keep him and not me.
13 LND told me he believed me, but there was nothing he
14 could do. It was out of his hands, so I had to leave.
15 I wasn't given any preparation for leaving. I had been
16 institutionalised all of my life. I left with the
17 clothes I was wearing. MCF [the social worker]
18 wanted me to go to stay with my mum. My mum was still
19 living on the estate in [a person's house that she
20 names].'

21 'Scott' told MCF, she says, about the condition of
22 the house, but she didn't listen:

23 'She would have been aware of it from the time we
24 had gone to visit my mum and got fleas. I was put out
25 of there when I was 14-and-a-half.'

1 This is Colonsay House.

2 LADY SMITH: That's put out of Colonsay House.

3 MR PEOPLES: Yes.

4 LADY SMITH: Was she or had she reached 15 according to the
5 dates you've got? She might have been 15.

6 MR PEOPLES: She might have been, yes, I think looking at
7 the dates.

8 No, I think --

9 LADY SMITH: Was she still 14?

10 MR PEOPLES: No, she was 15.

11 LADY SMITH: She's 15. But still under 16.

12 MR PEOPLES: Still under 16. She'd just turned 15.

13 But obviously there has been this allegation.

14 I will say loosely, investigation. And the upshot is
15 a warning and she has to leave, and she has to go to
16 a place that she dreads going to.

17 So that's the way it's been dealt with and
18 Peter Murray is not even suspended for any investigation
19 and he's straight back to work the next day.

20 LADY SMITH: And on the face of the record, the warning was
21 nothing to do with 'Scott's' report of what was
22 happening to her; it was to do with something else, was
23 it?

24 MR PEOPLES: Well, other than the fact that it appears that
25 Peter Murray was prepared to admit going into 'Scott's'

1 bedroom.

2 LADY SMITH: Oh, 'Scott's' bedroom? Right.

3 MR PEOPLES: Contrary to the standing order.

4 LADY SMITH: Right, I see.

5 MR PEOPLES: And having admitted that, there was at least

6 a basis to take some kind of action. Otherwise, it was

7 a situation where they clearly thought that there wasn't

8 enough to take the other matter any further.

9 LADY SMITH: I see, yes.

10 MR PEOPLES: So he gets his verbal warning and stays at

11 Colonsay House, and 'Scott' moves out to her mother's

12 against her wishes, I think is the broad thrust of what

13 she is saying, and feeling that this was a bad decision

14 on the part of the social work department, to put her in

15 that situation --

16 LADY SMITH: Right.

17 MR PEOPLES: -- with her mum.

18 And, indeed, it would appear that it didn't take her

19 long, as she says at 175, to in fact take an overdose,

20 she says, within months, and when she was at her mum's

21 home. And then she mentions seeing a psychiatrist.

22 Now, she has a section on life after care and

23 I think it's fair to say -- I don't plan to read this

24 out line by line, but I think it's -- she indicates that

25 obviously life was difficult. She had her home

1 situation. She talks about having a relationship with
2 a young man, when she was a teenager, who was a bit
3 older, who then joined the forces; wanted to marry her
4 but she said no. She then met and married her husband
5 when she was 18.

6 After her mother died, she says that she and her
7 husband looked after two of her younger sisters but they
8 got into financial difficulties, she lost her home and
9 the marriage broke down.

10 She then had a council flat for a time, took a job,
11 and says that she took her sisters in, but discovered
12 that they were spending money she had given them to pay
13 the rent and she fell into rent arrears.

14 She then met up again with the young man who went
15 off to the forces. He had left his wife, and they lived
16 together in Perth and had a son together. She says her
17 partner, this man, began drinking heavily, became very
18 abusive and violent, and she also refers to some health
19 issues. She suffered a brain haemorrhage, she says, in
20 her early 30s, by which time her partner was seeing
21 other women, and she ultimately left him and moved to
22 England with her son.

23 So that's a distillation of the section on life
24 after care.

25 She has a paragraph on reporting of abuse. She

1 blames the social worker for the situation that she's
2 described and she believes it could have been all
3 avoided. She says that things were said about what
4 happened when these strangers came to visit the home,
5 and of course she did report Peter Murray in 1977, we
6 know that.

7 LADY SMITH: Yes.

8 MR PEOPLES: And we know what the upshot of that was at the
9 time.

10 So far as impact is concerned, again, if I could
11 just sort of summarise. She has a section between 197
12 and 209 of her statement.

13 Essentially being in care, she says, has affected
14 both her physical and mental health. She has difficulty
15 connecting with people; that's at 199. She cannot keep
16 relationships or friendships; 200, paragraph 200. She
17 likes her own company; that's again the same paragraph.
18 She cannot trust anyone. And she says at 203:

19 'My time in care will never leave me. Most of it
20 was all mental abuse, it was wondering what was going to
21 happen next and having to watch your back.'

22 She says her education suffered from being in lots
23 of schools and learning nothing; that's at 203. She is
24 still very angry about certain things that happened to
25 her; she says that at 206. She said she did not receive

1 help and support when she left Colonsay House and she
2 feels she was failed by social work and received no
3 preparation for life after care.

4 So far as lessons are concerned, she says at 215
5 that:

6 'I want justice for myself and other people in care.
7 I don't want what happened to me to [I think it's
8 "happen"] to anyone else.'

9 She also says at 216:

10 'Children shouldn't be scared to ask or speak. If
11 you don't agree with something, then speak up.'

12 I suppose she might have added though: 'I did speak
13 up but it didn't do me much good'.

14 LADY SMITH: Yes, they didn't listen.

15 MR PEOPLES: I think the message is a good one, but perhaps
16 in the past the response wasn't equally good.

17 She has made the usual declaration and she signed
18 her statement on 23 October in 2018.

19 She did feature in the trial of Peter Murray in
20 1993.

21 LADY SMITH: I wondered.

22 MR PEOPLES: Some of what she says there is captured in one
23 of the charges.

24 There is also, I should say, a charge of
25 Peter Murray raping her in a car, which doesn't feature

1 in her statement to this Inquiry, but I think it was
2 something that she subsequently disclosed to police
3 before the 1993 trial, which I think explains its
4 inclusion in the indictment.

5 I am not going to go into the 1993 trial in detail
6 at this stage, but --

7 LADY SMITH: We'll get there.

8 MR PEOPLES: -- suffice it to say all the charges in
9 relation to Colonsay House and Nimmo Place residents
10 were withdrawn; the Crown accepted not guilty pleas in
11 return for guilty pleas to two charges of lewd and
12 libidinous conduct towards Peter Murray's younger
13 sisters when they were primary school age and he was
14 a teenager.

15 I'll probably come back to that --

16 LADY SMITH: Well, no doubt you will be coming back to that.

17 MR PEOPLES: I will come back to it, but --

18 LADY SMITH: Could that be planned for next week, Tuesday
19 possibly?

20 MR PEOPLES: Well, it could be on Tuesday. It will
21 certainly be Tuesday or Wednesday.

22 LADY SMITH: Or Wednesday, yes.

23 MR PEOPLES: We've got Perth and Kinross.

24 LADY SMITH: Of course.

25 MR PEOPLES: I'm not sure how much of it we need to trouble

1 Mr Murray with.

2 LADY SMITH: Mr Murray with, indeed.

3 MR PEOPLES: But I will maybe save that one till Tuesday.

4 So that's the statement of this particular person.

5 LADY SMITH: Thank you very much.

6 MR PEOPLES: If I can move on to another statement which we

7 have, this time it's by an applicant whose pseudonym is

8 'Alison'. Perhaps if I start 'Alison's' statement.

9 I am not sure I actually gave your Ladyship -- the

10 statement of 'Scott' was signed --

11 LADY SMITH: It was 2018, wasn't it?

12 MR PEOPLES: 23 October, I think, 2018.

13 LADY SMITH: Yes.

14 MR PEOPLES: So to some extent some of the events that have

15 happened since are not captured by that, or, indeed, the

16 next statement.

17 'Alison' (read in)

18 MR PEOPLES: 'Alison' has provided a statement and the

19 reference for that statement is WIT-1-000001237.

20 'Alison' was born in 1961. I think 'Scott' was born

21 in 1962. I'm not sure I brought that out.

22 LADY SMITH: I think it was, yes.

23 MR PEOPLES: So she was born just the year after.

24 So far as 'Alison's' situation is concerned, she has

25 a 'Life before care' section starting at paragraph 2,

1 and I'll just pick out a few things from that.

2 She tells us that she doesn't know who her father
3 was. Her mother had six children, 'and we all had
4 [a different father]', and she tells us a bit about her
5 siblings.

6 She says at paragraph 4:

7 'My mum worked all her life and we were basically
8 brought up by my grandmother.'

9 They were brought up in her gran's house, and again
10 it's in this same street in Perth that we've heard about
11 in the previous statement.

12 She says at paragraph 6 clearly, she says, the
13 housing conditions on that street weren't particularly
14 good at the time and she says that the houses were
15 really cold and there were bad winters:

16 'There used to be six of us in one bed, three at the
17 bottom and three at the top. We did have a hard life
18 but we just got on with it.'

19 At paragraph 7:

20 'Half of the time we had to do without food because
21 the money wasn't there. We had to do without
22 electricity or gas but we had a coal fire. We were
23 happy enough. We never got beat up or neglected. Now
24 and again we went hungry but 99 per cent of the people
25 that lived in [that street] were in the same boat.'

1 So she has not got any problems with that particular
2 situation, perhaps unlike the previous witness, who was
3 perhaps -- so she says at paragraph 9:

4 'My mum was a single parent and stayed with us at my
5 grandmother's house. She worked in Dundee and ended up
6 moving there. We would see her now and again. She
7 would come through on a Friday, disappear on a Friday
8 night and then come back on the Sunday, pack her stuff
9 and go back to Dundee. We didn't see a lot of her. She
10 liked going out partying.'

11 She says:

12 'I eventually ran away from my granny's because I
13 wanted to be with my mum. In the end she was made to
14 take me.'

15 She says she stayed with her mum in Dundee for, she
16 thinks, four or five years but then moved back to Perth
17 with her mother and they got a house in --

18 LADY SMITH: The same street.

19 MR PEOPLES: It is either the same -- well, she says

20 '██████████' -- but it's either the same street or
21 somewhere nearby. I am not sure, but it's certainly the
22 same area. She says granny came to live with them,
23 along with her brother.

24 Then she says at paragraph 12:

25 'My mum wasn't much of a mother. She wouldn't take

1 us anywhere. We were actually quite deprived.'

2 She says that she didn't really have a good time at
3 school at paragraph 13:

4 'Even when I was younger, we used to get bullied
5 a lot because we came from [the street that we have
6 already heard about]. You learned to live with that.
7 You had to.'

8 Then she says she had to go to Perth Grammar School.
9 'It was like being in prison', and she said:

10 'We were looked down on because we came from [the
11 same street]. People would walk past and stick a needle
12 in you or say you were smelling and I wasn't. I hated
13 it there, really hated it. I got dragged through the
14 mud and my hair pulled. It was a bloody nightmare.
15 I did ask my mum to put me to another school but she was
16 too interested in other things, her own life.

17 'If you didn't want to learn anything, the teachers
18 wouldn't bother teaching you. They just thought "What's
19 the point?" I thought "What was the point being there?"
20 and I actually stopped going to school. I just refused
21 to go.'

22 I think that's really what brought her into Colonsay
23 House.

24 She has a section starting at paragraph 16 about
25 Colonsay House Children's Home in Perth. Now, the

1 records indicate that she was admitted there on
2 [REDACTED] 1976, when she would be aged 15, and she
3 left in [REDACTED] 1977, just shortly before her 16th birthday.

4 She says at paragraph 16:

5 'I think it was in my last few years at school I was
6 taken to Children's Panel. The next thing I knew I was
7 being put into care. That was a big shock. I didn't
8 know why. I hadn't done anything wrong. They just
9 needed to let me go to another school, any other school,
10 but the rules and regulations meant that what part of
11 Perth you came from determined what school you were put
12 into.'

13 She remembers going to the Children's Panel with her
14 mum, she says. She says at paragraph 18:

15 'I told the panel what was happening to me at the
16 school, how I was being treated and this was why
17 I wasn't going. They weren't listening to what I was
18 saying. They said I hadn't been to school for however
19 long so I was going into care and it was for my own
20 good. I'd never been to a panel before in my life. It
21 was scary. I don't think my mum said anything at the
22 panel. To tell you the truth, I think she was glad to
23 get rid of me.'

24 So she then says that she was put into Colonsay
25 House. Now, she thought she was 13 or 14, but in fact

1 the records would say she was a bit older, 15.

2 LADY SMITH: She must have been a bit older, yes.

3 MR PEOPLES: She describes Colonsay House as a beautiful
4 place with a back garden where there were swings for the
5 younger children and the front was all gardens with
6 grass. At paragraph 21, she said:

7 'The people who SNR it were nice. MYJ was
8 an English woman and she SNR it with her husband LND.
9 LND 's dead now.'

10 She said they had two children and lived in a flat
11 the home. I think the way it's described
12 is the flat was probably almost part of the main house
13 but --

14 LADY SMITH: They may have had a separate entrance or
15 something that made it look as though it was --

16 MR PEOPLES: Yes, I think there was another flat as well
17 that was used by staff on night duties as well, but
18 that's her recollection.

19 She said of LND:

20 'LND was good. He was a fair man. You didnae mess
21 with him, put it that way. I didn't know at the time
22 but seemingly they had sensors upstairs and they could
23 hear what was going on in the bedrooms. I only found
24 that out after I left. LND never came upstairs. If he
25 wanted us, he would tell one of the other staff. He was

1 never ever upstairs. He didn't get that involved with
2 the kids. You actually hardly saw him. You would see
3 him if you did anything wrong. If he wanted something
4 from the shop, he would ask you to go for him. You got
5 an extra pound for going.'

6 She then says that the home was one which was mixed,
7 boys and girls in rooms off a corridor, and she said
8 further down the corridor from her room, two girls
9 shared a room. I think that's the girls [REDACTED]
10 [REDACTED].

11 LADY SMITH: Right.

12 MR PEOPLES: [REDACTED] and her roommate. Then she mentions
13 other girls whose names she can remember. She said she
14 had her own room, maybe because she was a little bit
15 older than the others.

16 She said she was at the end of the corridor where
17 the younger kids were, 7, 8, 9 years upwards. So there
18 was quite a difference in ages between the children.
19 The smaller ones -- so there were even smaller ones --
20 slept downstairs. There were bedrooms with cots
21 downstairs, so it seems to have been somewhere that was
22 basically from birth to 15, 16 --

23 LADY SMITH: Quite a range.

24 MR PEOPLES: Quite a range.

25 LADY SMITH: Yes. But of course we heard this morning about

1 somebody, from our first witness, who was very wee,
2 pre-school age, and then right up to the teenagers.

3 MR PEOPLES: Yes.

4 Then she goes back to saying, 'Alison', that there
5 were two sets of flats:

6 'That's where LND and MYJ slept. Staff who slept
7 overnight had the other flat. The door to the other
8 flat came out into the corridor where we were, so it was
9 easy access if anything happened.'

10 The corridor, she recalled, had red lights:

11 'My room wasn't far from the flat. The light from
12 the street lighting outside came into my room.'

13 She says at paragraph 27:

14 'Most of the staff were women. When Peter Murray
15 arrived, he was the only man apart from LND. He arrived
16 four or five months after me.'

17 Now, just pausing there, the records indicate that
18 Peter Murray arrived on 20 January 1976, which would be
19 before 'Alison'. So I think either she is right or the
20 records are wrong, but it's perhaps rather immaterial
21 because, ultimately, Peter Murray was convicted of
22 indecently assaulting 'Alison' in 2025.

23 LADY SMITH: Convicted in 2025, not assaulting her in 2025.

24 MR PEOPLES: Convicted in 2025 of indecently assaulting her
25 when she was in Colonsay House as a child.

1 LADY SMITH: Thank you.

2 MR PEOPLES: Yes. But she describes him as in his 30s and
3 'a bit of a hippy'. He wouldn't be in his 30s because
4 he was born in 1955.

5 LADY SMITH: Yes, I was a bit puzzled about that because the
6 previous read-in also put him in his 30s and, knowing
7 how old he is now, it didn't quite seem to fit.

8 MR PEOPLES: He probably felt very old in one sense to
9 younger people and maybe they just added a few more
10 years, and maybe it was also just the way he appeared to
11 them as well, because they said -- she describes him as
12 a bit of a hippy, with long hair, a big man, well-built.
13 But she says:

14 'I remember he had hands like a woman. They were so
15 perfect. I don't think he had done a day's work in his
16 life.'

17 She says he came to the home with his wife, which
18 I think we know is correct, and she worked in the home
19 as well and, well, she doesn't appear to have a great
20 deal of time for his wife but what she says at 27, and
21 she goes on to develop this, is:

22 'Peter went on to abuse me.'

23 She says at 28:

24 'They were never allowed to be on the same shift
25 together, although they did work together a few times.

1 They were both carers. I remember Peter had a car.
2 They were still working at the home when I left.'

3 I think that's correct from the records.

4 So then moving on to paragraph 30, she talks about
5 Peter Murray and said:

6 '[He] always had this wee boy in his arms. I don't
7 remember his name, but he had a sister who was in the
8 home as well. The first day he came into the home he
9 had the wee boy in one arm and his sister in the other.
10 He was always cuddling into the kids and it was always
11 the youngest ones, the babies. He always had them
12 around him. None of the other staff seemed to have time
13 to do that. It just didn't make sense. Why did he have
14 to give them their bath? Why not the other carers? He
15 was always downstairs with the younger kids and I did
16 notice that at the time and I didn't like it. I was
17 never going to say, "Why is he there? What is he
18 doing?" because I didn't know. I wish I had spoken up.'

19 She says:

20 'Some of the staff were really friendly. Others
21 just came in, did their work and went away again.
22 During the day, there were usually four staff on and LND
23 and MYJ [SNR] would help out.
24 Sometimes there would be six staff on during the day but
25 at nighttime there was always just two.'

1 There were two women who did cleaning and cooking.

2 She thought there was about 40 kids in the home,
3 boys and girls. That may be an overestimate, but
4 obviously -- she says she was the oldest at the time and
5 the youngest were babies, so that, as we have previously
6 seen, was quite a large age range:

7 'Most of the kids in there came from problem
8 families. There were two brothers I remember, they were
9 wee horrors. One of them is dead now through drugs.'

10 That's a kind of recurring theme, that a lot of the
11 people that they remember are no longer with them, for
12 all sorts of reasons.

13 She has a section on routine, which I'm not going to
14 read in all of, but I'll just pick out what she says at
15 35. She says:

16 'I didn't like being there [at Colonsay] because my
17 family were not that far away, probably about a mile and
18 a half.'

19 Though she adds:

20 'It suited me though and probably took me about
21 a month to really settle in. I had my own bedroom and
22 I got on okay with LND and MYJ. There were maybe one
23 or two kids I wasn't so keen on, but I wasn't there all
24 the time. I was there to sleep and go to school, and
25 when I came home, I used to go to my mum's house for

1 a couple of hours, then go back. The first night I was
2 there, I was seemingly crying in my sleep.'

3 She then describes the morning routine and I think
4 we can just read that for ourselves, but -- and she
5 describes mealtimes as well, where everyone ate
6 together.

7 Then if I go to paragraph 45, which is on washing
8 and bathing, she said:

9 'I didn't like that you couldn't lock the door when
10 you went for a shower, and you had all the wee boys, 9
11 or 10-year-olds, just barging in. What I started doing
12 was putting towels behind the door, so if someone tried
13 to get in, they couldn't. I did it behind my bedroom
14 door as well.'

15 She said:

16 'Peter Murray got me into trouble for doing that and
17 told me not to do it. I said I didn't want people
18 coming in and seeing me naked and they should put a lock
19 on the door. He said they weren't allowed to put locks
20 on the door. I just kept on doing it.'

21 Then if I move on to the section on schooling that
22 starts at paragraph 49, she's at Perth Grammar, which
23 was the school she didn't want to go to.

24 LADY SMITH: Of course.

25 MR PEOPLES: And she says was the reason she ended up in

1 Colonsay House.

2 LADY SMITH: Yes.

3 MR PEOPLES: Rather than going to another school.

4 LADY SMITH: Yes.

5 MR PEOPLES: She says at paragraph 50:

6 'I never told anybody at school I was in a home.'

7 She says SNR had two daughters and
8 they were at the same school. She says:

9 'I didn't spend too much time with them but they
10 didn't ignore us.'

11 Then she said:

12 'I had a lot of problems at that school but I just
13 kept myself to myself. I didn't get very good grades.
14 We got a report card that we had to show to LND and
15 MYJ. LND was quite soft. I remember him saying the
16 only grades he was interested in were the days I had
17 attended.'

18 LADY SMITH: I suppose with her background of not going to
19 school, that would be an achievement --

20 MR PEOPLES: That would be a success.

21 LADY SMITH: -- but it's not an education.

22 MR PEOPLES: No.

23 She says:

24 'He really praised you as well and would hand you
25 a couple of pounds to go and get something you wanted.'

1 He was good and so was MYJ .'

2 She then goes on to deal with various matters;
3 healthcare, religious instruction, trips and holidays.
4 Says they weren't taken on any trips.

5 She says as regards work, she had a part-time job in
6 a local chippy and they would let her keep that on when
7 she went into Colonsay House, and so she had money
8 coming in and she got home at Christmas.

9 She didn't have a problem with bed-wetting, and
10 those that did, she said they had special mattresses on
11 their beds, staff would change the beds and kids would
12 be put into a shower. She said she never saw anyone
13 being punished for wetting the bed.

14 As for visitors, she said -- and this is maybe
15 a familiar theme -- that the social worker was involved
16 and would come and check to see if everything was okay:

17 'It wasn't even an hour's visit. They would go into
18 the office and they would ask how you were feeling. We
19 would actually sit in the dining hall with them, but the
20 staff from the home would be there at the time. I was
21 never alone with a social worker. I was put into care
22 but I never had a social worker.

23 'If I had been alone with a social worker, I don't
24 think I would have said anything. I was too embarrassed
25 and ashamed. Nothing like that had ever happened to me

1 before. I was underage. I now know I had nothing to
2 feel ashamed of. Peter took advantage of his position
3 of employment.'

4 I think we will hear a little bit more on that:

5 'I am more angry now than I was then. It's still
6 hard to think about it, but I do wonder how many people
7 he has abused.'

8 As for a family contact, she says she didn't receive
9 visits from her family; paragraph 62.

10 And as for discipline and chores, she says:

11 'We had to make our beds and tidy our bedrooms in
12 the morning, but we didn't have to do anything else.
13 They had cleaners come in. They did insist we did our
14 homework before we did anything else. I would say the
15 atmosphere in the place was okay. I came and went as
16 I wanted to. The younger kids used to be quite annoying
17 sometimes, but I was actually quite lucky in that I was
18 able to do what I wanted to do.'

19 Then she said at paragraph 65, and this develops
20 what she said earlier about putting towels behind the
21 door:

22 'After I had an issue with Peter, I used to put
23 a towel or something on the floor behind my door. It
24 was horrible. I used to stay downstairs or go to [and
25 this is ██████████] room and sit there for a wee while.

1 Then I would go to my own room and put something like
2 a towel behind the door, something in case anyone came
3 in.'

4 And she then says that as regards punishment or
5 discipline, at paragraph 67:

6 'Punishment if you got into trouble [was the loss
7 of] pocket money and [loss of the] right to go home or
8 to go out for a week.'

9 And then I think she thought about running away but
10 she said she didn't think there was any point in doing
11 that. Indeed she thought no one ran away.

12 And then she has a section that's headed 'Abuse at
13 Colonsay House'.

14 Now, this statement was prepared and signed before
15 the conviction of Peter Murray for indecently assaulting
16 'Alison'. That conviction was on 9 September, I think,
17 of 2025, and what is said I think is broadly in line
18 with the conviction.

19 Perhaps I can just, at this point, read out what the
20 charge was.

21 LADY SMITH: Please, yes, thank you.

22 MR PEOPLES: The conviction was on 9 September and the
23 sentence was on 9 October of 2025, and Murray was
24 convicted of two indecent assault charges, one
25 concerning the person known as 'Alison', and that was

1 charge 1 -- there were two charges. And the charge 1
2 read:

3 'On various occasions between 20 January 1976
4 [that's when Murray started] and [REDACTED] 1977 [I think
5 that's when 'Alison' left] at Colonsay Children's Home,
6 you, Peter Murray, did indecently assault 'Alison', who
7 was born in 1961, who was then aged between 14 and 15,
8 and did touch her body, touch her on the body, touch her
9 buttocks, utter indecent remarks to her, place your arms
10 around her waist and touch her breasts and between her
11 legs, offer her money in exchange for engaging in sexual
12 intercourse with you, walk into her bedroom uninvited
13 when she was in a state of undress, enter her bedroom
14 when she was asleep and attempt to remove her underwear,
15 and enter her bedroom and penetrate her vagina with your
16 fingers and your hand to her injury.'

17 So that was the charge.

18 There was a separate charge. On various occasions
19 between [REDACTED] 1980 and [REDACTED] 1981 at the same Colonsay
20 Home, he indecently assaulted a male resident who was
21 born in 1966 and was then aged 14. And I don't know if
22 you want the charge read out now?

23 LADY SMITH: I think we had better, yes, thank you.

24 MR PEOPLES: The charge was:

25 'On various occasions between [REDACTED] 1980 and

1 [REDACTED] 1981 at Colonsay Children's Home, you,
2 Peter Murray, did indecently assault [and the boy is
3 named], who was born in 1966, then aged 14 years, and
4 did touch him on the body, place his hand on your penis
5 and compel him to masturbate you, enter the bathroom
6 uninvited and watch him while he was bathing naked,
7 utter a sexual remark and touch his penis and testicles,
8 seize him on the body and attempt to force him onto his
9 knees in an attempt to penetrate his anus, enter his
10 bedroom whilst he was asleep, pull down his lower
11 clothing and touch his penis and testicles, masturbate
12 in his presence, and did penetrate his anus with your
13 penis or similar object.'

14 So these were -- and he got a sentence of 10 years.

15 LADY SMITH: Yes.

16 MR PEOPLES: So if I go back now to 'Alison's' statement,
17 which was, as I say, given in 2023 before the trial.

18 LADY SMITH: Of course. Thank you.

19 MR PEOPLES: She said at paragraph 69:

20 'One day we were sitting down for breakfast or
21 dinner in the dining room, when in came LND and MYJ
22 with this man and this woman. He introduced himself as
23 Peter. He said, "I'm your Uncle Peter". I just sat
24 there with the older kids. Peter looked around and
25 I don't know why but I just got a horrible feeling about

1 him. He had these two kids in his hands. Every time
2 you saw him, he seemed to have this wee boy in his
3 hands. None of the other staff had time for things like
4 that. They were always working, cleaning and putting
5 things away.'

6 That's a record of what she said earlier.

7 She then goes on at paragraph 70:

8 'I said [this is to Peter] that I was sorry, but he
9 was only Peter to me and I would not call him Uncle
10 Peter because he was not my uncle. I told him he was
11 a carer. I think he was a bit shocked and he said he
12 would be caring for me. I told him that I didn't need
13 anyone caring for me and that I could look after myself.
14 I really tried to avoid him after that. There was
15 something about him that I just didn't like and I felt
16 very uncomfortable around him.

17 'Coming in from school, we had to come in the back
18 door and into a cloakroom, where we had to keep our
19 shoes and things. One day he was sitting there with all
20 the kids. I really never paid any attention to what he
21 was doing. I turned around to take my coat off and
22 I actually felt him touching my backside. I thought to
23 myself, "Did that just happen?" I wasn't sure but it
24 was horrible. I turned around and stared at him and he
25 just put his head down. I thought, did he or did he not

1 just do that? I actually went up to my room and I just
2 sat there for a couple of hours. I remember thinking,
3 did I just imagine that? It had happened, I felt it.
4 After a couple of hours I wanted to get out of there.
5 I left and went home but I never said anything to my
6 mum.'

7 In paragraph 73, she, 'Alison', says:

8 'I was always told that the males should not be
9 upstairs but he was always up there. He would put
10 laundry in the rooms and things like that. I didn't
11 think that was right.'

12 Well, of course we know from the records that there
13 was a standing instruction not to go upstairs to rooms
14 and that he got a verbal warning around that time.

15 LADY SMITH: Yes.

16 MR PEOPLES: Going on at paragraph 74, 'Alison' tells us:

17 'We used to have a laundry room and every time he
18 would catch you in there. I remember him asking me what
19 I wanted and me telling him that it had nothing to do
20 with him and for him to stay away from me. I was
21 collecting my underwear and he was standing looking at
22 it. I just felt so uncomfortable. I grabbed my laundry
23 and went. This happened a few times. He always seemed
24 to catch you in there. I was very gullible when I was
25 in Colonsay House.'

1 Now, she gives her age but in fact I think the
2 records make her a little bit older than that.

3 LADY SMITH: Yes.

4 MR PEOPLES: But she says at 76, well, she seems to have
5 come from, she says, a fairly strict upbringing and
6 maybe sheltered upbringing.

7 LADY SMITH: Yes.

8 MR PEOPLES: And she goes on that:

9 'One time in the home, Peter asked me if I wanted
10 extra pocket money. I asked him why and he said he
11 could give me extra and it would help because I smoked.
12 I told him I could get my supply from my mum and didn't
13 need any extra money. He said that I could do him
14 a favour and said something about a condom. I didn't
15 know what a condom was at the time. I told him to piss
16 off and leave me alone and I walked out.

17 'People must have thought I was really thick or
18 stupid [because] I had a really good friend at school,
19 I asked her what a condom was and she started laughing.
20 She told me that that was what a guy put on when he had
21 sex. I remember thinking, "Oh my God". I didn't say
22 anything to my friend about why I was asking.'

23 Moving on to 78:

24 'A few weeks later I was in the cloakroom and said
25 to Peter that he was a dirty pig of a man, speaking

1 about condoms to me. I told him that I hadn't known
2 what that was, but now did. I told him he was sick and
3 that I didn't like him. I told him to stay away from
4 me. That was it, I kept away from him.'

5 Then she says that she started getting her period
6 but didn't have anything to use because she wouldn't ask
7 Peter for anything:

8 'I did have one towel and I used it and left it by
9 the radiator while I had a shower. When I came out,
10 I forgot about it, but he had seen it and asked me if
11 I had had my period. I was so embarrassed. He asked me
12 if I had any towels and I told him that I had and to get
13 out of my room and leave me alone.'

14 So she's describing again, he's in her room.

15 And at paragraph 80 she goes on:

16 'I'm not entirely sure when it was, a few weeks or
17 months later, when I was lying in my bed one night. It
18 was nighttime, dark and quite late. We went to bed
19 about 9.30, 10.00 pm. Where I was lying, you could get
20 the street light in the bedroom. There was also a red
21 light above the door. I didn't like it when he was on
22 late shift or night shift and would get quite wary.
23 I was lying there and heard somebody coming into my
24 room. I just lay there and didn't think it was him. He
25 put his hand under the quilt and I felt him feeling my

1 legs. I thought, "Oh my God", and I actually froze.
2 I thought this isn't happening. He actually put his
3 fingers inside me. As he got up and walked to the door
4 I seen the back of him and thought you dirty pig.
5 I just lay there. What could I do? I couldn't shout,
6 I couldn't scream. At this time I hadn't realised that
7 they had these sensors in the rooms, or maybe I would
8 have done something.

9 'I really hated it when he did that to me. I felt
10 useless. Nobody had ever done that to me. I tried to
11 avoid him. If I heard him coming up the stairs, I would
12 go back into my room until he had gone.

13 'He caught me another time, I think it was one of
14 the last times he came near me. I was in the laundry
15 room and he was laughing and joking. I told him he was
16 a dirty, filthy pig and that my brother was coming home
17 from the army the following day, and that if he didn't
18 stay away from me I was going to tell him. He asked
19 me what I was going to tell him, and I said that he knew
20 what he had done. He just smirked. I think I had
21 a laundry basket in my hands and I threw it at him and
22 told him to [fuck] off. Ever since that time he kept
23 his distance. He was there, but kept his distance.

24 'He had no reason to be in the laundry room. When
25 we came home from school in the afternoons, your laundry

1 would be on your bed. If I couldn't find stuff, I would
2 go to the laundry room looking for it and they would
3 say, it must be in the washing machine or in the dryer.
4 If we had something we wanted to wash, we could wash it
5 and get it ourselves, so there was no reason for him to
6 be in there. Peter wasn't always in the laundry room,
7 but he was there a good four or five times a fortnight
8 when I went in.

9 'I wasn't aware of anyone else having clothes going
10 missing.

11 'Maybe it was my imagination, but when I was in the
12 home my underwear kept going missing. It was a woman
13 who used to do the laundry and I would go down and ask
14 her where my underwear was. She said maybe they had
15 been mixed up, but our initials were on them. I had
16 some quite nice underwear my mum and granny bought me.
17 I did check with the other girls, checked the kids'
18 rooms downstairs, but never found them. When I left
19 that place, I didn't have one pair of pants. I had to
20 borrow a pair of pants off somebody else, and you just
21 don't do that kind of thing.

22 'I really don't know what happened to them. They
23 were the only things that ever went missing of mine.
24 Nothing went missing during the first four or five
25 months I was there, it was just after Peter arrived,

1 slowly, slowly, slowly, until I think the last month
2 when I had none left.'

3 So there's a bit of a problem with the dates, but
4 obviously she is saying there was a problem about
5 losing --

6 LADY SMITH: Yes, losing her underwear.

7 MR PEOPLES: -- her underwear.

8 She then goes on, on reporting:

9 'I could never have told my family what had
10 happened. It was always there in the back of my mind
11 but I just kept it to myself.'

12 And she says at paragraph 90 -- well, she says at
13 paragraph 89:

14 'Telling the police about it would have been
15 a no-no. We never had anything to do with the police.'

16 Well, I think that may be a reflection of what the
17 culture was in the street she lived.

18 But she then goes on at 90 to say:

19 'I never spoke to any of the other girls in the home
20 about Peter Murray and never suspected he was doing
21 anything to them.'

22 And then she says she was at Colonsay House for just
23 over a year:

24 'The day I got out was the happiest day of my life.
25 I was only 15 when I left. I left school in [REDACTED] and

1 wasn't 16 until [REDACTED].'

2 Now, that does fit in with the dates, so I think,
3 you know, she's --

4 LADY SMITH: Yes, that would work.

5 MR PEOPLES: So it's unlike, perhaps, the earlier passages.

6 'But I just packed up my things and left. I went to
7 stay with my mum at first but she only had a two-bedroom
8 house.'

9 Now, she has a section on life after care and I'm
10 not planning to read that in detail. She does say that
11 since the age of 16, at paragraph 95, she's worked ever
12 since. And she describes in the paragraphs that follow
13 that that she's been in various relationships over the
14 years and one of which was quite long-term at the date
15 of the statement, but I don't think any of them have
16 proved to have been particularly satisfactory
17 relationships and I don't need to go into the detail and
18 read that out.

19 But one particular relationship did result in her
20 becoming pregnant and having a daughter, but I think the
21 father really didn't want anything to do with the
22 daughter --

23 LADY SMITH: Yes, I can see that.

24 MR PEOPLES: -- or 'Alison' after that.

25 She talks about living in Perth but ending up in

1 places where she was quite close to where Peter Murray
2 lived, which made her uncomfortable and I think resulted
3 in a move to a different address.

4 She talks about some health problems. She had
5 a brain haemorrhage, she says -- this is at
6 paragraph 103 -- and had to give up the job she then
7 had. And she also had a serious road accident as well.

8 She talks about her relationships again at 105 and
9 the fact she is in a long-term relationship. But
10 although it's a long-term relationship, she later
11 describes it as not a satisfactory one in her
12 estimation, and indeed she has quite a lot of issues
13 with her long-term partner.

14 She says at 109:

15 'I've been through a lot in my life, I have had
16 a lot of health issues.'

17 But she has a daughter and she has a grandson and
18 she says at 110:

19 'Life can only get better, hopefully. I've learned
20 to shut up and get on with things.'

21 She says, so far as impact is concerned, at 112,
22 that she is very close to her daughter and very
23 protective of her. It's the sort of things we have
24 heard from many in this situation.

25 LADY SMITH: Yes.

1 MR PEOPLES: 'That's because of what happened to me. I was
2 the one who was gutsy enough to tell him to get lost.
3 I didn't say get lost, I swore at the man, I hated him.'
4 She says at 115:
5 'If I'm in a crowd of people, I'm very careful.
6 I am very wary of people but especially men. It's
7 horrible because you don't want to think like that.'
8 She's describing hyper-vigilance because of --
9 LADY SMITH: Of course.
10 MR PEOPLES: -- her childhood experiences.
11 She says she looks at people:
12 'I look at people and their actions. I'm always
13 watching out for anything that could happen.'
14 That's at 116, and she says at 117, she says:
15 'Even when I'm in shops, I'm careful who is standing
16 behind me.'
17 At paragraph 119, she says:
18 'It's been hard for me. I started drinking a lot
19 and have attempted to take my own life four or five
20 times. I was going through a bad patch with my family
21 and had issues with relationships.'
22 So there's a combination of things, but clearly
23 there is an awful lot of contributions from her
24 childhood experiences to the whole situation.
25 But she says in a more positive light, at

1 paragraph 123, that she's going to be more independent
2 in the future and she's going to try to be more relaxed
3 and get out of the house. And obviously she has
4 her daughter and grandson. And she says she's in a good
5 position, she's got a good job. She was living then in
6 a town in England, but she did say she was considering
7 moving on from there. I presume that's to leave the
8 partner as well.

9 LADY SMITH: It sounds like that from what she's saying.

10 MR PEOPLES: Then she returns to the question of
11 responsibility for her situation at 125:

12 'I blame the social workers for all that. Why did
13 they not just put me into a different school, just
14 change my school? That's all I wanted, to get out of
15 that school. I know things would have been totally
16 different for me if I had got an education. What
17 happened in the care home should never have happened to
18 me.'

19 Then 'Reporting of abuse', well, I'm not going to
20 really go into that because ultimately she did go to the
21 police in, I think it's 2022, and the upshot was there
22 was a police investigation and then a trial in 2025 that
23 resulted in the conviction in 2025 of indecently
24 assaulting two residents, one female and one male, at
25 Colonsay House in the 1970s and early 1980s. So I think

1 that's superseded to some extent by events.

2 'Lessons', well, she, perhaps because of her
3 particular experience, she doesn't believe that men
4 should be employed in working with children or girls in
5 care settings.

6 But of Peter Murray she said:

7 '[He] should never have been allowed upstairs. He
8 had freedom to do what he wanted.'

9 Well, it does appear there was a standing
10 instruction, but clearly it wasn't heeded by him in the
11 event.

12 Of course, she goes back to the point that she made
13 a number of times: she should never have been put into
14 a home. She was unhappy at her particular school and if
15 she had been taken to a different school, it may have
16 had a very different outcome.

17 At that stage, she was hoping that this type of
18 thing would never happen -- be allowed to happen again.
19 She hoped Peter Murray got done. Well, he has got done,
20 as it turns out. And she says: 'He needs to know what
21 he's done and do his time.' Well, he is now doing his
22 time.

23 She has the usual declaration and she signed her
24 statement on 18 April 2023.

25 LADY SMITH: Yes.

1 MR PEOPLES: So that's perhaps a convenient point to break.

2 LADY SMITH: We could stop for the lunch break now and I can
3 sit again at 2 o'clock.

4 Before I rise, I think we've just got two names
5 we've been using here. Again, MYJ and LND. That's
6 MYJ and LND.

7 Is there somebody else?

8 MR PEOPLES: No, well, the social worker is mentioned but
9 I don't think she's --

10 LADY SMITH: Yes, I wondered about that.

11 MR PEOPLES: But I don't think she -- well, I don't think
12 there is any --

13 LADY SMITH: That's MCF, yes.

14 MR PEOPLES: I'm not sure she is the subject of any, what
15 I would term allegations, but it's a matter for your
16 Ladyship.

17 LADY SMITH: For the time being, before anybody identifies
18 her as referred to in our evidence, please would they
19 check with us.

20 Right, time for the lunch break.

21 (12.58 pm)

22 (The luncheon adjournment)

23 (2.00 pm)

24 LADY SMITH: Mr Peoples.

25 MR PEOPLES: My Lady, good afternoon.

1 The next read-in is from an applicant who has
2 a pseudonym 'Daniel', and 'Daniel's' statement is
3 WIT.001.002.9411.

4 LADY SMITH: Thank you.

5 'Daniel' (read in)

6 MR PEOPLES: In 'Daniel's' case, part of his evidence has
7 previously been read in, during Chapter 9 of Phase 8 on
8 Day 475, which is, I think, 25 September 2024, and the
9 transcript reference is TRN-12-000000108. And I think
10 that was mainly in connection with Oakbank and a little
11 bit of evidence about Glenochil as well.

12 LADY SMITH: Thanks.

13 MR PEOPLES: If I can just turn to his statement. He has
14 a section on life before care, which I think has
15 previously been canvassed largely during the previous
16 read-in. I don't intend to repeat all of that.

17 He was born in Glasgow and he tells us a bit about
18 his family background. But essentially, to get to the
19 point where he moves to Colonsay House, which he tells
20 us about from paragraph 11, it appears that he went into
21 care initially when his youngest sister was born, which,
22 if he's correct, would be 1973 or 1974, when he was aged
23 6 or 7.

24 He seems to think that at that stage he was in some
25 form of foster care and then he went back home again,

1 and I think things at home weren't really much better.
2 He was having problems with his older sister, who was
3 looking after him and beating him up, and his father was
4 also being quite cruel to him, as he describes in his
5 'Life before' section.

6 And then he says in paragraph 10, at some point the
7 family fled to Perth without his father and moved to be
8 near his grandfather. And they seemed to be, according
9 to his recollection, they were living -- they were
10 squatting in a flat above his father's bedsit and when
11 they were discovered, 'Daniel' says they were -- he and
12 siblings were put into care.

13 He says at paragraph 10 -- because we, I think in
14 his case, don't have records, but he says that according
15 to his records, the social work department say that
16 they've -- that the children were put into care because
17 of stealing. And he seems to be taking exception to
18 that being the explanation, but at any rate it seems
19 that is how it came to be that he ended up in Colonsay
20 House.

21 He tells us that he and his younger brother were put
22 into Colonsay when he would be in around Primary 4 or 5,
23 which would be --

24 LADY SMITH: About 10 years old, 9, 10 years old, something
25 like that.

1 MR PEOPLES: Mid 1970s, 1975 or 1976. I think it's more
2 likely to be 1976 because he tells us about a worker
3 called Peter who didn't start until January 1976.

4 LADY SMITH: Right.

5 MR PEOPLES: So I think -- and 'Daniel' would have been
6 getting on towards 9 by then. So I think that's more
7 likely to be the timings.

8 LADY SMITH: Yes.

9 MR PEOPLES: But at any rate, he went there with his
10 brother, younger brother. And his younger sisters, two
11 younger sisters, went to, he says, another home in Nimmo
12 Avenue. And then another, I think older, sister, went
13 to live with an auntie. That's at paragraph 11.

14 He tells us that Colonsay was SNR Uncle LND and
15 his wife Auntie MYJ. He says:

16 'Uncle LND had been in the army and they had two
17 children and there was a worker called Peter.'

18 [REDACTED]

19 And then he says that he was there a lot of the
20 time, but wasn't on nights as far as 'Daniel' could
21 recall. He was very complimentary about one of the
22 female staff called Issy and doesn't believe she was
23 aware of things that were going on. She was a member of
24 the night staff.

25 Then he says:

1 'Colonsay was a bit like a hotel, with ten rooms
2 upstairs on each side of the corridor.'

3 And there seems to have been effectively a girls'
4 section, according to his recollection, and also a boys'
5 part of the corridor. And there was a hall where meals
6 were served.

7 He says at paragraph 15 there were 20 or so children
8 at Colonsay up to the age of 16, more girls than boys.
9 I think that's about right, in terms of the capacity.
10 I was just checking what the A to D said and I believe,
11 if I'm not mistaken, that the capacity would be in the
12 order of 16 to 20 places for Colonsay House, and perhaps
13 a maximum of eight beds for Nimmo Place.

14 It does appear that Nimmo Place may have been in
15 existence before 1972, if that's a date that we have
16 been tending to think about.

17 LADY SMITH: Yes, yes.

18 MR PEOPLES: Again, I checked, it's not entirely clear
19 exactly when, but there's a suggestion that both places
20 might have been purpose-built, with Nimmo Place being
21 built in, or opened around 1968, and that would tie in
22 with the evidence we heard this morning about Hillyland.

23 LADY SMITH: Yes.

24 MR PEOPLES: Then it looks like Colonsay opened around 1974.

25 And certainly they're in different places. Nimmo

1 Place is in -- has been known, according to the council,
2 as Tulloch Children's Home and it's in the Tulloch area
3 of Perth. And Colonsay House is in the North Muirton
4 area of Perth. So that information has been provided by
5 the council.

6 If I go back to what 'Daniel' tells us, he says
7 that, at paragraph 15:

8 'The older boys sent me to the shops in Colonsay
9 [when he was in Colonsay, I think] to steal sweets and
10 fireworks. I had never stolen anything before.'

11 So this is a sort of 'university of crime'
12 situation. And he does say he was also introduced to
13 substances as well, later on, I think.

14 He talks about the routine from paragraph 16
15 onwards, but I'll just pick out at paragraph 17, he
16 again mentions the fact there were speakers in the rooms
17 so the staff could speak to you, and Uncle LND used to
18 say 'Wakey, wakey, rise and shine' in the mornings to
19 get them up, and that he was sharing a room with his
20 younger brother.

21 LADY SMITH: That's what I think it was 'Scott' referred to
22 as sensors. Must be the same thing.

23 MR PEOPLES: Yes, they talk about sensors, speakers, baby
24 alarms, of the sort that you might have to be able to
25 hear from another room, probably something that was

1 plugged in the wall or something. I'm not entirely
2 sure, but I think that's the general idea. It was
3 a two-way communication system I think, or at least
4 a communication system you can hear at both ends.

5 So he talks about that. So I think that's -- it
6 seems to have been a feature of homes perhaps in this
7 particular area. It's not something we've heard a lot
8 about before, if I recall. But certainly they seem to
9 be used, certainly in Perth and Kinross.

10 He shared with his brother. And then he, at
11 paragraph 21, he reckons he was at Colonsay for about at
12 least a year. He said he didn't get home very often and
13 his mother visited him only once or twice. He says at
14 paragraph 22:

15 'We weren't allowed to leave the home.'

16 His mum had a house, apparently, about [REDACTED]
17 [REDACTED] from Colonsay House, that he would run away and
18 go there when he had the chance. And he says that was
19 one of the reasons why he and his brother, younger
20 brother, were moved to, I think it's Lochvale Home in
21 Dumfries in due course.

22 LADY SMITH: Yes, yes.

23 MR PEOPLES: At paragraph 23 he said:

24 'I used to run away with [and he names two boys].'

25 And he said:

1 'The older guys in the home got us into substance
2 abuse.'

3 And he said:

4 'We would go to B&H and Woolworths to get, [perhaps
5 steal I would have thought], Evo-Stik.'

6 And he says one of boys he went with subsequently
7 died as a result of an overdose.

8 He said:

9 'We waited until playtime at school, then ran across
10 the road and away. We used to go to the rail yard,
11 break into HGVs and sleep in them. We broke into
12 Crawford's bakery and got something to eat. I ran away
13 from school every chance I got. We would stay away for
14 a couple of days at most because we were only young boys
15 and the police would catch us and take us back to the
16 home. The police used to hit us across the face when
17 they caught us. To them, we were thieving little
18 bastards. A couple of policemen were all right, but the
19 majority were not.

20 'I used to tell the police about what was happening
21 to me in Colonsay when I was picked up after running
22 away. One of them asked me, who was going to believe
23 a wee bastard like me.'

24 Then he turns to the matter of bed-wetting, he said:

25 'My brother and I shared a room. He wet the bed and

1 he got a lot of hassle for it. The staff made a fool of
2 him and he got hit on the back of the head by Peter and
3 Uncle LND, using an open hand.'

4 So this is now introducing physical abuse by both
5 Peter and Uncle LND.

6 And then he goes on at paragraph 27 under a section
7 headed 'Abuse at Colonsay House' to say:

8 'Uncle LND made [the two boys that he ran away with
9 and 'Daniel'] sit on the floor in the main hall
10 cross-legged with our hands on our heads for hours as
11 our punishment for running away. It was sore. He hit
12 us with a cane across the buttocks. He would also shake
13 my hand and trap my thumb and press it in so hard that
14 it was sore. He said he was only playing when he bent
15 my thumb back, but it was painful.'

16 I think someone said he was in the army, so maybe he
17 learnt that technique --

18 LADY SMITH: Could be.

19 MR PEOPLES: -- there, I don't know.

20 And then he goes on, at paragraph 28, to say:

21 'There was another female member of staff who
22 squirted washing up liquid down my throat because
23 I swore. I didn't know that I had sworn. She and
24 another woman with blond hair who were on duty that
25 night grabbed me and squirted it into my throat and

1 I was vomiting and bubbles came out of my nose.'

2 And he's not able to, I think, identify; he just
3 gives descriptions of them.

4 And then he says:

5 'Peter was married to a woman called [REDACTED].'

6 So I think we can take it that Peter is

7 Peter Murray --

8 LADY SMITH: Yes.

9 MR PEOPLES: -- and [REDACTED] is [REDACTED], and it fits with
10 their dates of employment.

11 And he goes on, 'Daniel' goes on to say:

12 'He was sadistic and evil. He would get me down and
13 straddle me, leaning on my chest and try to show off.
14 He would come into my room and batter me. Peter was
15 horrendous, he would punch the head off you.'

16 Then he goes on at 30:

17 'My mother was staying in [a particular street] and
18 she allowed to us go swimming nearby. I cracked my
19 ankle at the swimming pool. My mum said it was all
20 right, but Colonsay took me to the hospital. I was off
21 for five or six weeks. I heard someone crying when
22 I was in my room. I saw Peter come out of [I think this
23 is [REDACTED] room]. My room was on the other side,
24 about three doors along, near at the halfway point.
25 I could see her room from my door so I went over.

1 'She was in a single room. There was a sanitary
2 towel in her metal bin which had blood on it. She was
3 sitting on the bed, crying.'

4 [REDACTED]
5 [REDACTED] 'Peter told me to go and get a shower.
6 I went into the shower and he told me to take my clothes
7 off. I was scared of him. I took them off and he stood
8 and stared at me. I was uncomfortable about the way he
9 was staring at me. He eventually walked out. I went
10 and got my clothes on and left. There were other things
11 that happened but at the time I felt so sorry for that
12 poor girl. I was about [he says] 9 or 10 and I wasn't
13 stupid. This has affected me all my life. I saw Peter
14 coming out of girls' rooms all the time and they were
15 crying.'

16 He goes on:

17 'Girls told me that Peter was doing things to them.'

18 And he names two who said that Peter had done, to
19 use his expression, 'bad things to [them]'.
20

21 And he goes on:

22 'He was always questioning us about which girls
23 skipped school. He used to go out in the minibus or car
24 and was literally looking for the girls who were skiving
25 school. He knew the places they would hang out and he
would take them away and rape them.'

1 Well, I think that's just, not obviously based on
2 direct knowledge, but clearly we know there were charges
3 brought in 1993 involving rape and in cars as well as
4 other locations.

5 He says, he goes on:

6 'There were other things that went on in Colonsay.
7 Peter was a pervert. He would come into the showers and
8 let on that he was helping me wash, but he was touching
9 me up. Sometimes he would come in after bedtime and
10 touch us up. He picked his times. Peter used to abuse
11 another boy called [and he names him].'

12 And that is the boy who was the subject of the
13 second charge in 2025, I think, that he was convicted
14 of. I think I read that out this morning, earlier.

15 He says this boy told 'Daniel' years ago that Peter
16 had raped him. He said:

17 'But I wasn't aware of this when we were in Colonsay
18 [together].'

19 He goes on, 'Daniel' goes on:

20 'I think I told a member of staff that Peter was
21 hurting me and I got moved out of my brother's room to
22 somewhere else.'

23 And then he recalls another occasion when he was
24 coming back from school on the bus, and he and another
25 boy stole the bus driver's money and stashed it, and he

1 says they were caught. He said:

2 'I got caned by Uncle LND.'

3 And then he goes on:

4 'Someone broke into LND office at Easter and stole
5 all the Easter eggs.'

6 And that he and another boy were blamed and that LND
7 caned them. He said:

8 'I hadn't done anything and he dragged me in and hit
9 me. It put the fear of God into me.'

10 Then he says:

11 'By the age of 9 or 10, I refused to take it.
12 I used to grab the cane off him and tell him I would hit
13 him with it. He couldn't do anything about that.'

14 Then at 35 he continues:

15 'The atmosphere was one of fear. Every day they
16 would grab you and fling you about. We were bullied by
17 the older boys.'

18 So he has got bullying as well as solvent abuse and
19 teaching them how to steal.

20 He says:

21 'There was a bad atmosphere in Colonsay. I was only
22 a wee boy and I was scared all the time. I had my
23 younger brother to look after too.'

24 Then at 36 he says:

25 'I was moved out of Colonsay for stealing biscuits

1 from the shop and running away to my mum's. They wanted
2 to move me as far away from home as possible and they
3 moved me and [my brother] to Lochvale.'

4 Which is in the Georgetown -- was in Georgetown in
5 Dumfries. He says his social worker, whom he names,
6 took them there.

7 Then he's got a section on Lochvale, which I will
8 pass over. Secondary Institutions - to be published later

9 Secondary Institutions - to be published later
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20 And then he leaves Lochvale and he says that he went
21 home while his brother stayed, I think, there at
22 paragraph 59.

23 Then he seems to have been in another home in
24 Edinburgh, which he tells us about at 62, paragraph 62,
25 starting there. And, again, I'll not read it out but,

1 Secondary Institutions - to be published later

2
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9 MR PEOPLES: Secondary Institutions - He thinks he was in Waverley --
10 sorry, that's a place he -- for just under a year, and
11 then he goes from there to an approved school, Oakbank
12 List D School, and he tells us about that, and I think
13 that's the part that has been read in probably earlier,
14 if I'm not mistaken.

15 LADY SMITH: We have heard about Oakbank before, yes.

16 MR PEOPLES: Yes, so I am not planning to spend time. But
17 suffice it to say that he has a section again on abuse,
18 starting at paragraph 100, and he names a number of
19 members of staff who were abusive towards him.

20 He says at 104 that his social worker, his female
21 social worker, he told her about the abuse that he was
22 experiencing at Oakbank and that he was getting battered
23 there, and that she didn't believe him and according to
24 his statement, she later denied having said that.

25 It looks as if he -- then he had a short spell in

1 Glenochil. I think that was again covered in the
2 previous evidence.

3 LADY SMITH: That's right.

4 MR PEOPLES: But he says he left Oakbank when he was 16 and
5 he then talks about life after care. And I don't plan
6 to read all of it out, but I mean, I think he -- it's
7 not been a straightforward life after care. He's
8 obviously been in trouble with the law at an early
9 stage, at paragraph 106, and indeed he has a short spell
10 in the Murray Royal under the Mental Health Act due to
11 drug addiction, and I think that's a problem he tells us
12 about, has been a longstanding problem.

13 And he had a spell in London, staying at Centrepoint
14 in Soho, but he says there was a big queue to get in
15 there and Arabs offering boys money for sex.

16 He hung about Trafalgar Square and stole tourists'
17 wallets and purses and so forth, and pick-pocketed
18 people on the Tube. But he says at the same time he was
19 injecting heroin two or three times a day and staying in
20 a hotel near Euston Station.

21 So I think one can infer the sort of lifestyle he
22 was leading at that point.

23 LADY SMITH: Yes.

24 MR PEOPLES: And he says he ended up in a relationship where
25 both parties to the relationship were using drugs, but

1 they did have two daughters together and he did stop
2 injecting heroin just before his first daughter's birth.
3 He seems to have done some work at that stage and -- but
4 he says in -- towards -- around 1999, he was planning to
5 jump from [REDACTED].

6 Then he said at that stage he had been sleeping
7 rough for years, and again he was in custody and the
8 drug addiction seems to have continued.

9 And then he was down in Liverpool, paragraph 110,
10 was seeking help for his drug problem and he had some
11 rehabilitation. And it looks as if to some extent he
12 pulls his life together then for a while and was
13 drug-free, he said, for about five years and was doing
14 some work with people with HIV and AIDS, and also
15 travelling back and forth to Scotland to see his
16 children and his mother.

17 And then, when you go to 'Impact', we see that he
18 says he's been a registered drug addict from the age of
19 16 but was using solvents from the age of 9. So that
20 kind of harks back, I think, to what he says about his
21 experience when he went into care, what he learnt there.
22 And he said:

23 'They reckoned that was my way of coping with
24 things.'

25 Then at paragraph 116, he says he got involved in

1 crime as a result of what happened to him in care. And
2 he says he's been homeless at times and so forth, and
3 he's had various offences, convictions and so forth.
4 Largely for offences I think involved with trying to
5 fund his drug problem, it would appear.

6 And then he says at 117 he has tried to take his own
7 life a couple of times. He says:

8 'I have blocked out a lot of things because I don't
9 know if I can handle them. I've been on methadone for
10 25 years.'

11 And then he says, this is maybe a sort of ray of
12 hope, at 118, that up to five years before he gave the
13 statement, he was in and out of the prison. He says:

14 'My life hasn't been good except for the last four
15 or five years, I have been out of prison and I have
16 stayed out. This is the longest I have been out of
17 prison in my life.'

18 And he does voluntary work, or he was doing that at
19 the date of the statement.

20 And then, moving on, he does seem to -- he says he
21 has three children, at 121, and six grandchildren, and
22 that is something that makes him happy, but he feels
23 he's wasted his life. And again, he says:

24 'There are things I need to say, but I have blocked
25 them out for so long.'

1 And then, on reporting, he says he told a drug
2 worker when he was 16, which would be about 1983 or
3 thereabouts, some of the stuff that had happened:

4 'We made an appointment to see --'

5 This is the person that was his social worker, and
6 he says he told her that he was being abused and she
7 said -- and he says:

8 'As far as I'm aware, she didn't do anything about
9 it and nothing changed and she later denied it.'

10 And he thinks by this time she was the head of the
11 social work department. I'm not sure about that, but
12 the general point is that he's telling someone and he's
13 not getting anywhere.

14 LADY SMITH: Yes. Yes.

15 MR PEOPLES: Then he says also, of the police, that he went
16 to the police in Perth in 2000, and this is at 123, and
17 he was interviewed in relation to abuse, the abuse he
18 had experienced. And he tells us that he was told by
19 the officer to go to Liverpool and report it there. And
20 he says:

21 'I couldn't understand why she wanted me to go to
22 England to report the abuse, because it had happened in
23 Scotland, and I didn't do anything further.'

24 He says:

25 'I've also spoken to drug workers about what

1 happened to me. They should have reported this to the
2 social work department.'

3 And he says he's told social workers when sheriffs
4 have requested reports prior to sentencing him. He's
5 told a psychiatrist, he says, who worked in a drugs
6 problem centre in Dundee. So he's clearly saying: 'I've
7 told a lot of people but I'm not getting anywhere'.

8 LADY SMITH: Yes.

9 MR PEOPLES: Then, on treatment and support, he says he
10 hasn't had any treatment dealing specifically with the
11 abuse he suffered while he was in care:

12 'There are things which I haven't addressed which
13 happened to me sexually, because I have blocked them
14 out, and there are other things which have happened to
15 me which I'm not able to talk about. I have blocked
16 things out, but that's what's helped me to survive.'

17 And under 'Lessons', he says that:

18 'People working with children in care should be
19 rigorously checked... Children were put into care to
20 get looked after and they weren't. They were mentally,
21 sexually and physically abused. I am still suffering to
22 this day. I don't want what happened to me and my
23 brother to happen to anyone else. There are things
24 I have told you that I haven't ever told anyone. When I
25 saw the advert about the Scottish Child Abuse Inquiry on

1 television, I just wanted to help. I'm aware that these
2 people could still be working.'

3 And he makes the usual declaration at paragraph 131
4 and he signed that statement on 11 October 2019.

5 LADY SMITH: Thank you very much.

6 MR PEOPLES: Can I next move to another statement, this time
7 from a person whose pseudonym is 'Thomas', and his
8 statement is WIT.001.001.1504.

9 'Thomas' (read in)

10 And some of 'Thomas's' evidence has already been
11 read in during the Foster Care case study, on Day 319,
12 on 23 August 2022. And the transcript reference is
13 TRN-10-000000057.

14 His statement starts with a number of health
15 problems. I'm not going to read them out, but he
16 obviously tells us he's got quite a lot of problems.

17 And life before care, he tells us he's the second of
18 five children, at paragraph 10, and I'll just observe
19 that he tells us that he has a sister who was about 15
20 months older than him, whom he names at paragraph 10.
21 The reason I mention her is she does feature in
22 something he says later on.

23 LADY SMITH: All right, thank you.

24 MR PEOPLES: Then he says that after a younger brother died
25 in infancy, that was the first time that he and his

1 slightly older sister were put into care, this is at
2 paragraph 11. I think some of this has probably already
3 been covered in the read-ins, so I'm not taking it at
4 any length.

5 LADY SMITH: Okay.

6 MR PEOPLES: He has -- he was put into care at Nazareth
7 House, in Cardonald, I think it is. And he tells us
8 about that at paragraphs 13 to 17. But for him, the
9 recollection or the memory was of a happy place, so he's
10 not telling us anything of the kind that we have heard
11 from some others, so perhaps he was one of the fortunate
12 ones.

13 And then he has a time with his parents again, after
14 he came out of Nazareth House, and he said there was
15 a time that they were living in Perth and then they were
16 in the Drumchapel area of Glasgow. And then he tells us
17 that his parents were divorced at that time, in 1976 or
18 thereabouts, and he talks about a fire and so forth. At
19 which point, it seems, he -- his mum turned up and he
20 was taken to Perth and at that point he and his sister
21 were put into Colonsay House.

22 He breaks his times in Colonsay House into different
23 parts, but can I just deal with it this way, that --

24 LADY SMITH: Yes.

25 MR PEOPLES: -- records indicate that he was in Colonsay

1 House, first on [REDACTED] 1977, when he was approaching
2 8; he would have been 8 in the following [REDACTED], I think
3 it was.

4 LADY SMITH: 7? If that was 1977, with a 1971 date of
5 birth?

6 MR PEOPLES: Yes, he was 7, but he would be 8 the
7 following [REDACTED].

8 LADY SMITH: Oh, I see what you mean, yes.

9 MR PEOPLES: He was certainly in Colonsay House for some of
10 that period, possibly most of it, between
11 [REDACTED] 1977 and [REDACTED] 1978, which would mean he'd
12 just turned 8.

13 That's what the records are saying, because I think
14 he puts it a little bit earlier, because he has
15 a recollection of spending a [REDACTED] in Colonsay.
16 I think he's probably one year out on that one.

17 And he tells us that a man called LND SNR the home
18 with his wife MYJ [REDACTED]. He says:

19 'They were also at the Nimmo homes that I went to
20 later.'

21 Well, I think he's partially right; I think the
22 records suggest that MYJ [REDACTED] moved from Colonsay
23 House to Nimmo Place in December 1983, but her husband
24 LND remained as SNR [REDACTED] at Colonsay. And
25 MYJ [REDACTED] was SNR [REDACTED] from that time on

1 for a while, probably till nearly the end of that
2 decade.

3 LADY SMITH: Okay.

4 MR PEOPLES: LND I don't think became SNR
5 SNR there, so they may have been working in two
6 different places and as we know, Peter Murray moved from
7 Colonsay to Nimmo Place, but in between he had been in
8 another children's home for a short time. And he went
9 on to another children's home after Nimmo Place, so he
10 was in four.

11 LADY SMITH: Right.

12 MR PEOPLES: Between 1976 and 1989/90 or thereabouts, and
13 then things started to catch up with him because there
14 were allegations made which resulted in the trial. His
15 sister came forward in 1991.

16 LADY SMITH: That was the 1993 trial?

17 MR PEOPLES: Yes, she came forward first in 1991. That led
18 to a police investigation which uncovered the allegation
19 by 'Scott' and a complaint by another girl, which wasn't
20 recorded, and this all led to a trial in 1993. He pled
21 to two charges in relation to his sisters, and other
22 charges against him in relation to all the five
23 residents of Colonsay House, four of Colonsay and one of
24 Nimmo Place, were dropped by the Crown.

25 LADY SMITH: Yes, you alluded to that earlier.

1 MR PEOPLES: If that helps you to get the sort of context in
2 which we are dealing.

3 LADY SMITH: Yes.

4 MR PEOPLES: So, but anyway, this period he's talking about
5 is really, essentially 1977 to 1978, Colonsay House.
6 Whether he thinks it's three periods or one, it's that
7 timeframe.

8 So I'll just deal with it on that footing, if I may.

9 He says that obviously LND and MYJ were SNR
10 the place at that stage and he says:

11 'There was another man at Colonsay House who did the
12 same sort of thing. He was called Peter.'

13 I think it's clear that's Peter Murray. He says:

14 'The story we got told was that Peter had been in
15 care with LND and MYJ.'

16 I'm not sure that the records bear that out,
17 although I think he did say at one stage himself, in
18 a self-penned life story, that he did spend,
19 Peter Murray did spend time in care as a child in the
20 1960s.

21 So there may be -- it may be partially correct, but
22 I'm not sure he was in care with LND and MYJ, but.

23 So then he goes on that LND and MYJ, at
24 paragraph 23, lived on site in a house attached to the
25 home, and he thinks that Peter also lived on site but

1 he's not so sure about that.

2 Well, I think Peter did live on site for a time, but
3 then he and his wife moved to various addresses in the
4 Perthshire area. Scone, Luncarty, addresses in Perth.
5 So he did, I think when he got married and started, they
6 were there for a time.

7 LADY SMITH: Thank you.

8 MR PEOPLES: But what he does say there is that very rarely
9 were LND and MYJ working through the night and it was
10 often other staff who were on the rota. Peter often
11 worked through the night.

12 Then he goes on to deal with Colonsay House routine.
13 And sometimes Peter would get them up in the morning,
14 and they would be taken in a minibus to different
15 schools and it would either be Peter or LND who would
16 drive the minibus.

17 And then he says at 27 that -- well, sorry, I should
18 just take 26 first. He says:

19 'I suppose I felt reasonably happy that first time
20 at Colonsay House. My memory was that I was missing my
21 mum and dad, especially my dad as I hadn't seen him for
22 over a year.'

23 And then he goes on:

24 'LND and MYJ did show us some love and
25 attention.'

1 And he says that he recalls there were maybe 15 to
2 16 children in the unit. Well, that would be in line
3 with the broad capacity.

4 And that there was -- he says there were
5 dormitories, a girls' and a boys' one. It may well be
6 he means there's a girls' section and a boys' section.

7 LADY SMITH: Yes.

8 MR PEOPLES: And he says -- but then he goes on. Having
9 said at first that he seemed reasonably happy, he says
10 at paragraph 29:

11 'I don't really have any happy memories from that
12 time.'

13 And he doesn't remember anyone celebrating
14 a birthday when he was there. I don't think he means
15 necessarily his birthday.

16 But he says:

17 'The pocket money we got, which you had to line up
18 for every Saturday, was far more than my mother could
19 ever afford to give us.'

20 He seems to think he set fire to a boot room when he
21 was 5 or 6. I'm not sure that fits in with the dates we
22 have, but -- he may have set fire to a boot room, but
23 not when he was 5 or 6.

24 He says his mum didn't come to visit him when he was
25 in Colonsay House during that period, and he and his

1 brother didn't go and see her, although he says:

2 'We saw her towards the end.'

3 I wonder whether that's where he's maybe thinking,
4 that he's having times in and out of the place during
5 the two dates that I gave.

6 LADY SMITH: Possibly.

7 MR PEOPLES: And then he's got a section dealing
8 specifically with abuse during this first spell between
9 1977 and 1978. He says:

10 '[LND], who was over-familiar, and I suppose you would
11 say it was sexual abuse as he was touching in places
12 that he shouldn't have done. He was quite overt about
13 it. I know with my sister [this is the slightly older
14 sister that I mentioned before], in front of everybody,
15 he would put his hands on her chest and say "Oh, two
16 fried eggs" and would laugh it off sort of thing. It's
17 only as you get older that you realise that kind of
18 behaviour wasn't right.

19 'When we were in Colonsay... the only stuff that
20 happened involved [LND].'

21 This is I think the period 1977 to 1978. I mean,
22 Murray was there on the dates we have.

23 He says:

24 '[LND] did it with everyone and fondled us over our
25 clothing. [LND] would sit me down on his knee and touch

1 me over my clothes on my genital area. He would always
2 come over as being friendly and it was just one of the
3 things that he did. At the time I didn't really think
4 anything about it. It's only as you get older you
5 started to think it wasn't right because of other things
6 that happened.

7 'This seemed to happen most days if he was about.
8 If it wasn't me or my sister, it was someone else. He
9 was very overt in what he was doing. The things with
10 LND only really happened in the lounge area, which was
11 beside the dining area and the play area. LND just
12 treated it all as a jokey thing. He'd always be making
13 jokes and saying things as a kind of distraction. He
14 would be making it out to be something different to what
15 it was. An example was when he would touch some of the
16 girls' chests and he would say "Oh, still two fried
17 eggs" and people would be laughing. I saw him doing
18 this to [my sister]. It was over her clothes. [My
19 sister] told me later she didn't like him doing that to
20 her.'

21 Then he goes on:

22 'You would be passing LND and he would ask someone
23 to come to him. You knew that if he asked you to come
24 to him, you would know that you were going to be sitting
25 on his knee. I saw LND fondle other boys. It was

1 always over their clothes, never inside their trousers.
2 I didn't tell [my sister] what he was doing to me.
3 I saw him doing it to girls when they were sitting on
4 his knee and he would put his hands round from the back
5 and fondle them. That would be over clothes. I only
6 saw him touch girls on the chest and that is the only
7 thing that [my sister] told me about. I can't remember
8 if MYJ would have seen what was happening.'

9 Then he says at paragraph 39:

10 'Peter was different to LND and he was there a lot
11 of the time. Peter touched [my sister] on the breasts
12 and her genitals when she was in her bed. I never saw
13 this but she told me about it.'

14 He tells us later that that sister is now deceased.

15 He says at paragraph 40:

16 '[My sister] was really upset about it and just
17 before we left Colonsay House, she started wetting the
18 bed. I thought that was just one of the things that
19 happened.'

20 And then he says at 41:

21 '[My sister] told me after we left Colonsay why she
22 thought she was wetting the bed. She told me that she
23 didn't like LND touching her, but I didn't know about
24 Peter.'

25 Then he has a period, at 42, when he says he was

1 living at home for a time. I think this is all in the
2 same timeframe, and so really, when he talks about
3 Colonsay the second time, I think that's very much the
4 dates I've given you from [REDACTED] 1977 to [REDACTED] 1978.
5 And he just breaks it into periods of weeks within that,
6 those two dates.

7 He seems to have been getting trouble at school from
8 other boys and being called derogatory terms, he tells
9 us about that at 45, and being -- boys pulling his hair
10 and him being called names, which were derogatory and --
11 about him.

12 There's shades of one of the other statements about
13 certain schools treating certain people from certain
14 areas in a certain way. So he tells us about that.

15 Then he has a section where he moved on to -- he
16 moves to foster care, and that's at 49 through to about
17 paragraph 124, and that was read in in the Foster Care
18 study, so I'm not going to repeat. I think it was read
19 fairly fully on the day I gave.

20 So I will pass on from there through to pick things
21 up again.

22 He talks about being at Colonsay House a third time
23 and this, on this occasion, he is talking about [REDACTED] LND ,
24 [REDACTED] MYJ and Peter still being there:

25 'And the stuff that had happened before just

1 continued, with LND fondling me on top of my clothing,
2 but then I knew what he was doing was wrong, so I tried
3 to avoid sitting on his knee when I could. LND touched
4 [my sister] over her top again. I'm not aware of Peter
5 doing anything during this period.'

6 I think it probably means the same period,
7 1977/1978, but it's possible, although I don't think
8 it's likely, that it might have been when he was in
9 Colonsay House for three days in 1982, or -- but I think
10 it's the 1977/1978 period that this is dealing with.

11 It seems to break into two things: for him, LND was
12 the problem, and his sister told him things about what
13 was happening to her with Peter. But then when he moves
14 to Nimmo Place, Peter does things to him that he hadn't
15 done before. So that's I think how the statement reads
16 on a fair interpretation.

17 Because he comes on to talk about -- he calls it
18 Nimmo Avenue, Nimmo Place, Perth, at paragraph 129, and
19 it's certainly the case that records show that he was in
20 Nimmo Place in 1981, from [REDACTED] to [REDACTED], which
21 is just a period of a week. And he does say he has no
22 real memories about it, so that probably coincides with
23 a very short period there.

24 He says he just remembers that LND and MYJ had
25 moved to Nimmo Avenue:

1 'I don't remember Peter being there at the time.'

2 Well, if MYJ [REDACTED] was there, he must be talking about
3 something post December 1983.

4 LADY SMITH: Yes.

5 MR PEOPLES: So it doesn't look as if much was happening in
6 1981, or possibly 1982 if he was there.

7 And then he talks about being back with his mum for
8 a time and being in an emergency home in Ayrshire.

9 Then, if we go back to Nimmo Place at paragraph 136,
10 he's got a single paragraph and says that he and his
11 sister were moved to Nimmo Place in, he thinks, [REDACTED]
12 or [REDACTED] 1981. Well, as I've said, he was in there
13 for a week in [REDACTED], but he says:

14 'Nothing happened there that I need to mention.'

15 So I think we can kind of move over from that.

16 LADY SMITH: Move on, yes.

17 MR PEOPLES: Then he is in what he calls unofficial foster
18 care and he tells us about that from 137 to 156. That
19 was read in during Foster Care, so I'm not going to
20 repeat what is there said.

21 He goes -- then he's back to living with his mum as
22 he recalls.

23 It's a constant churn of foster care, homes, back
24 with mum and so forth.

25 LADY SMITH: Yes.

1 MR PEOPLES: And then he's got another foster care placement
2 that he tells us about at 148, through to 152, where he
3 says there was some abuse in that setting. And then
4 he's back with his mum, he says. And then he returns to
5 Nimmo Place, because he tells us about Nimmo Place
6 again, starting at 157, and he says that:

7 'At Nimmo Place [on this occasion] MYJ [REDACTED] had
8 totally changed and she was really nasty to me.'

9 Now, if MYJ [REDACTED] was there from December 1983, records
10 show that 'Thomas' was there in 1986, from [REDACTED]
11 through to either [REDACTED] or [REDACTED], when he was aged 14 to
12 15 years.

13 So I think that's the occasion he is talking about.

14 LADY SMITH: Okay.

15 MR PEOPLES: It's a bit confusing, but I think it fits in
16 with what we know, and he says that MYJ [REDACTED] had changed.
17 He said:

18 'She seemed to be grumpy all the time. She had
19 previously talked to me as an equal and had been quite
20 nice. This time she turned quite angry towards me
21 sometimes, and I don't know why.'

22 Then he said:

23 'My nana died when I was 14'.

24 Well, he turned 14 in 1985 in [REDACTED], so we can put
25 some sort of approximate date to what he is about to

1 tell us. He says:

2 'My nana died when I was 14. MYJ took me into
3 the office in Nimmo Place and told me my mum had just
4 phoned and she told me my nana had died.'

5 And he then says at 160:

6 'I just went upstairs into my room and I lay on my
7 bed. After a few minutes MYJ came upstairs and she
8 went ballistic at me for being upset. I think she took
9 umbrage because I was lying on the bed and she said
10 there was no need for all of this, "You're not lying
11 there", and that I was to "go downstairs". She showed
12 me no affection at all. She didn't express any
13 condolences or offer me any comfort. I went downstairs
14 and I went into the downstairs toilet and shut myself in
15 there for probably about two and a half hours. I heard
16 them outside asking where I was, but I wasn't really in
17 the mood for speaking to anyone. They found me in the
18 toilet and demanded that I get out of the toilet, so
19 after that I just went out the house, but I did go back
20 later.'

21 So I suppose he is describing a rather unsympathetic
22 emotional or psychological abuse, rather than -- when
23 he's saying she's nasty, he isn't necessarily saying on
24 this occasion she was physically abusive but --

25 LADY SMITH: Insensitive.

1 MR PEOPLES: -- this is more damaging because he remembers
2 this because he associates it with the death of his
3 grandmother.

4 LADY SMITH: Yes.

5 MR PEOPLES: And then he moves on to talk about Peter Murray
6 at 161 and says:

7 'Peter would come up to my room, not just mine, at
8 night time, and he would touch me and masturbate when he
9 was doing this. I had maybe been there a week the first
10 time that he did this. Before this time, Peter would
11 quite often come in and tell me that it was time for
12 "Lights out". He had maybe done this twice before the
13 time I'm going to tell you about. Other members of
14 staff who were on duty did it the other nights.'

15 I think he means the lights out.

16 LADY SMITH: Yes.

17 MR PEOPLES: He says:

18 'The doors weren't locked and Peter could just walk
19 in. This was usually about 10.00 pm. This time Peter
20 came in and turned the lights off and sat on the bed
21 around my knees. He hadn't sat on the bed before.
22 I was wearing pyjamas and I had a duvet on top of me.
23 He didn't say anything, he just put his hands under the
24 covers and touched me over my pyjamas. He was breathing
25 hard and was grunting. He was masturbating, although

1 I never actually saw him do it.

2 'Peter only touched me with one hand. I wasn't
3 erect. He didn't put his hand inside my pyjamas and it
4 lasted a couple of minutes. He said nothing throughout.
5 I had been lying on my right side initially when Peter
6 came into the room, with my back to the wall, but when
7 he put the lights off, I rolled over and was lying on my
8 back.

9 'I was shocked by the whole thing. I couldn't
10 believe it was happening and I was frightened. I really
11 didn't know what was going on. I was quite naive. This
12 was the first time Peter had done anything to me.'

13 So this is again the contrast: LND at Colonsay,
14 Peter at Nimmo Place.

15 And he said:

16 'This happened one more time and it was the same
17 sort of thing, exactly the same.'

18 He said:

19 'I have never told anyone about this before. After
20 this had happened, when I saw Peter in the home, he just
21 gave me a horrible look and I just avoided him as much
22 as I could.

23 'I was aware that something had happened to another
24 girl in the home.'

25 And he gives her name, he says she was 18 months

1 younger than 'Thomas'. She was 18 months younger than
2 'Thomas'. He said:

3 'I don't know her last name. [This girl] and
4 I started going out with each other a while after Peter
5 had touched me. She told me Peter was doing things to
6 her and that she was scared of him. He was a big, big
7 guy. I don't know what he did to her or how often it
8 was happening because she didn't go into detail. The
9 only thing I told her was that I was scared of Peter.
10 Nothing else happened when I was at Nimmo Place.'

11 And he tells us that, sadly, the girl that he has
12 mentioned at 170 died when -- before her 16th birthday.
13 He's not necessarily relating this to anything as such,
14 but -- and he talks about, obviously, people that he
15 knows have died young who were in these places.

16 He says:

17 'In Nimmo Place I can't think of any particularly
18 good times or experiences when I was there.'

19 He then moved from there for a time to a care or
20 a children's home in Edradour, which he tells us about,
21 and again I'm not going to deal with that

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1 Then he leaves there and he seems to go home to live
2 with his mother under some form of supervision. And he
3 makes the point that while he was with his mother, he
4 and his sister were still on the at-risk register and
5 were seeing a social worker, I think, weekly.

6 And then he talks -- he has a section about running
7 away and it seems to cover a number of periods, because
8 he talks about running away from the age of 12 and doing
9 it on quite a frequent basis.

10 And then, well, basically he does sum up at 199 that
11 he is toing and froing from establishment to
12 establishment, and certainly his statement bears that
13 out, because he's moving from one to another.

14 And then he has life after care, or after
15 institutions, as he says, and I'll just pick up a few
16 things there at 202.

17 He says in 1986, when he's aged 15, he went back to
18 live with his mum and he was never back in care after
19 that. He says he moved in with his cousin in Wishaw for
20 a time and said he could have left school at the end of
21 fourth year, but he stayed on and took various Highers
22 and wanted to go to university. And he says he was on
23 course to do that until his cousin decided that she
24 didn't want him anymore, so he went back to live with
25 his mum.

1 And then when he was aged around 17, I think, he was
2 put out of the house by his mum -- this is at
3 paragraph 203 -- and this was just weeks before his
4 school exams.

5 And then he says that because he was under 18 -- or,
6 no, he says he was 18 by then but was still on the
7 at-risk register, he thought that social work would be
8 able to help him to stay at school and complete his
9 exams.

10 And he says at 204, they didn't deny that he was on
11 the register and that he was still under social work
12 supervision, and he thought that they would be able to
13 do something, but he says they didn't and that he was
14 sent to the council's housing office and that they told
15 him to go back to social work, with a list of bed and
16 breakfast places, where he went again and tried to plead
17 with them to get help to enable him to sit his exams.
18 And he says that they didn't want to engage with him and
19 just gave him a list of bed and breakfast places. And
20 he said he didn't know who would pay for it and no one
21 gave him any advice on the matter.

22 And then he said he sat in the social work office
23 and said he wasn't moving unless -- until he got any
24 help, but they just threatened to phone the police.

25 He said he went to look at one of the places he had

1 been given an address for, said it was a stinking place
2 and there were too many people in one room, so he said
3 he just slept on the street in Perth.

4 He went to school to explain what was going on but
5 they said they couldn't help him and he said all his
6 school books were at his mum's and he tried to get them
7 but she just called the police. He didn't get back to
8 school and didn't sit his exams.

9 So he then said that he was then in a homeless
10 hostel and then he decided to join the army. And then
11 he said that he was in the army from age 18, I think, in
12 1989, served for two years and was medically discharged
13 in 1991. Then he got a job in a hotel, paragraph 211,
14 and he said that he -- I think he really felt he was
15 being taken advantage of. He says that there was money
16 in a safe and he thought he was due over £1,000, he took
17 the money and was locked up for three weeks, was given
18 probation and had to repay the money.

19 Then he said he went to Dundee, at 212, where he met
20 his future wife and that he has two step-children with
21 her, whom he still sees and that his wife died seven
22 years before the statement.

23 And he said after he left his mum in his sixth year
24 at school, he had no contact with his older sister for
25 a number of years, and, indeed, another sister.

1 And then, reporting of abuse, he says that he thinks
2 he's sure that he and his sister reported the abuse by
3 the foster parents to social work and that they
4 definitely told an aunt.

5 At 216, he says he came out of the army in 1991, and
6 then in October or November of that year -- and this
7 would be about the time that the allegations about
8 Murray were surfacing --

9 LADY SMITH: Yes, early 1990s.

10 MR PEOPLES: Yes -- that he went to the police to report
11 what Peter Murray, for what he had done to 'Thomas' when
12 he was in Nimmo Place in 1986. He said:

13 'I just decided I needed to tell them what
14 happened.'

15 He went to Perth Police Station, he recalls, on his
16 own and asked to speak to someone about a crime. They
17 sent two police officers down to the front desk and he
18 spoke to them. He told them, he says, what he has told
19 the Inquiry but he didn't go into all the detail. He
20 said:

21 'It was quite private in the area we were talking as
22 no one came in to the front desk. I was staying in
23 [a particular street] at the time and the police station
24 was [fairly close by].'

25 He says the two police officers took him to Nimmo

1 Place in a van and wanted him to point out things to
2 them. They drove up. He wasn't sure it was still
3 operating as a children's home -- I think it probably
4 was then, actually -- and he said it just really looked
5 like two council houses joined together:

6 'They asked me to point out my bedroom but
7 I couldn't because my room was round the back.'

8 Then he says:

9 'We went back to the police station and they told me
10 that I would hear from them shortly but I never heard
11 any more about it and I didn't chase them up anymore and
12 I didn't want to have to go down and report it again.'

13 He says at 220:

14 'I don't recall them writing anything down; in fact,
15 I'm sure they definitely didn't. The desk officer
16 didn't write anything down either and I can't remember
17 giving them my name and address. I felt that they were
18 both totally indifferent to what I was saying and it
19 didn't seem to register with them that to me this was
20 something seriously wrong. I felt like it was dismissed
21 before we even got out to the van.'

22 It's fair to say that the allegation by his sister
23 might have been fairly recent to that time, so the
24 police were in the very early throes of their
25 investigation, and maybe they treated him in a way that

1 was dismissive, because at that stage they hadn't done
2 the fuller inquiries that they later did, but be that as
3 it may, that's his recollection of how he was treated at
4 that time.

5 And then he says on impact:

6 'I have been puzzled for the whole of my life why
7 I was in so much bother when I never did anything wrong
8 that I felt merited what was happening to me and what
9 I was being punished for. In all my time, I never,
10 ever, appeared in front of a Children's Panel as I never
11 did anything wrong. I never did anything that warranted
12 a panel except running away. I felt like I was never
13 ever in a position where people who were supposed to be
14 looking out for me actually did. They just didn't.'

15 He said at 224:

16 'There was little or no protection from any abuse
17 and there was a definite lack of support all through my
18 childhood.'

19 At 227, he says:

20 'I moved 23 times backwards and forwards between
21 schools.'

22 He went backwards and forwards between more than
23 schools in that childhood as well, but clearly that's
24 not going to do anything for your education. Although,
25 having said that, he said he got to the stage of doing

1 Highers, nearly.

2 LADY SMITH: Indeed.

3 MR PEOPLES: So whatever wasn't done for him, he did stay
4 on, unlike many.

5 And then he says, towards the end of that section on
6 impact, at 231:

7 'With regards to the abuse by Peter, I just feel
8 ashamed that I let it happen.'

9 Well, I think that's unfortunate that he still feels
10 that way, because, clearly, with a bit more help and
11 support, maybe someone could point out it's not his
12 fault and he shouldn't be ashamed.

13 LADY SMITH: Could be.

14 MR PEOPLES: But he goes on:

15 'All that was important to me was that I got to tell
16 my story and someone listened to it. That's all I'm
17 bothered about. I wanted to do it for such a long, long
18 time but, because of [my sister], I didn't. As I told
19 you [his sister, he says] changed her mind but too late
20 for her because she died. I just hope some good comes
21 out of this Inquiry for people in the future.'

22 And at 233, he says:

23 'I have found this process to be cathartic in the
24 sense that I am going to tell my view of events and to
25 actually have it there in black and white. It is up to

1 people whether they choose to accept it all or not but
2 at least I have managed to finally get everything said
3 that I have always wanted to say.'

4 And he has made the usual declaration and that
5 statement was signed on 25 October 2016.

6 I think that's maybe a time for a short break.

7 LADY SMITH: Well, let's have an afternoon break. Thank you
8 very much for that -- and no new names from that
9 evidence that we've read in.

10 Thank you.

11 (3.03 pm)

12 (A short break)

13 (3.16 pm)

14 LADY SMITH: Mr Peoples, where now?

15 MR PEOPLES: My Lady, before I move to the next read-in,
16 I strongly suspect I didn't give the year of birth of
17 'Daniel', which was 1967, and 'Thomas', which was 1971.

18 LADY SMITH: 1971.

19 MR PEOPLES: So, just for the record, I just don't remember
20 reading that out.

21 LADY SMITH: Thank you.

22 MR PEOPLES: So I think I have got the dates for the other
23 two, 1961 and 1962.

24 LADY SMITH: I think you did. Yes.

25 MR PEOPLES: So with that introduction, can I move to

1 another read-in --

2 LADY SMITH: Certainly.

3 MR PEOPLES: -- which is a statement by an applicant who
4 will be known as 'Frank' and his statement is
5 WIT.001.002.1957.

6 'Frank' (read in)

7 MR PEOPLES: And again, some of 'Frank's' evidence has
8 previously been read in on two occasions, one of which
9 was during the Foster Care case study on 12 July 2022,
10 Day 307, and the transcript reference is
11 TRN-10-000000043.

12 LADY SMITH: Thank you.

13 MR PEOPLES: And then, again, part of his evidence I think
14 relating to Burnside Assessment Centre was read in
15 during Phase 8 case study, Chapter 3, 16 February 2024,
16 Day 419, and the transcript reference being
17 TRN-12-000000051.

18 So I hope that will mean that I can, to some extent,
19 focus more on the establishments that we're dealing with
20 this week.

21 LADY SMITH: Yes.

22 MR PEOPLES: 'Frank' tells us that he was born in either
23 1966 or 1967. He's not sure which. So we will just
24 proceed on the basis that it was one or other of these
25 years.

1 He tells us about life before care and I think that
2 was read in in its entirety in the Foster Care case
3 study, so I don't think I would propose to go back to it
4 but all I will say is, perhaps at paragraph 5, he does
5 say, which echoes I think some of the other statements
6 we have read from, that he was put into care at
7 Nimmo Place Children's Home in Perth, he thinks, when he
8 was around the age of 3, which would make it perhaps
9 around 1969, 1970, or thereabouts, which, again, of
10 course would tell us that Nimmo Place was operational at
11 that time.

12 LADY SMITH: Yes.

13 MR PEOPLES: Now, he says, albeit it's a fairly limited
14 recollection, he remembers bits of his time at
15 Nimmo Place.

16 We don't have records to provide us with any dates
17 that will confirm his age and the date of admission but
18 we'll assume it's around that time that he was admitted.

19 He says at paragraph 6:

20 'Nimmo Children's Home was a cold and sterile place.
21 There was nothing on the walls. It was like an empty
22 hospital.

23 'I remember sitting in a cot and a woman with long
24 black hair coming in to see me now and again. I was
25 left in the cot all the time. I was like a freak show.

1 Some of the kids would come in and touch my hair.

2 'I was fed, changed and bathed in my cot. I can't
3 remember ever getting out of the cot other than when
4 people came to visit me.

5 'When I was a bit older, I went into another house
6 that was still within the grounds of the home.
7 I remember bits about playing in the garden and it being
8 sunny.

9 'I hated the food at Nimmo. It was custard and
10 cabbage. I would get the same food the next day if
11 I didn't eat it.

12 'I can't remember any visits from my mother.'

13 He said he had a social worker, and it seems to be
14 a familiar name, and he said he hated her:

15 'I would hear her saying things about my mum.'

16 Perhaps that maybe answers the question that we did
17 this morning.

18 LADY SMITH: Yes. Yes.

19 MR PEOPLES: 'I asked for a picture of my mum and she told
20 me that I deserved nothing.'

21 So that looks to me like a form of verbal or
22 emotional abuse, derogatory expressions.

23 LADY SMITH: Yes. It's the same category as, for example,
24 nuns telling children they were never going to amount to
25 anything because their mother was a dirty whore, which

1 we've heard about.

2 MR PEOPLES: Yes, and in fact, in this case perhaps, the
3 social worker would be aware of the age of his mother
4 when she had 'Frank', she was quite young.

5 LADY SMITH: Oh yes. Yes.

6 MR PEOPLES: So that's what he tells us about the social
7 worker. He says:

8 'I know there were social work reviews every
9 30 days.'

10 I suspect that's something he must have learned;
11 it's difficult to imagine he would know that otherwise.
12 But he says:

13 'Sometimes I would be at these; other times I would
14 have to sit outside.'

15 He says he thinks that the social worker probably
16 told him he would be going to foster parents, he says:

17 'I don't think I was listening. I was too busy
18 screaming at her.'

19 He said:

20 'I used to throw my food at the staff. When I did
21 this, I would be hit by a woman. I don't remember
22 anything more about her.'

23 He says that he stayed at Nimmo Place until he was 5
24 and then went into foster care. Well, if that is the
25 case, we were talking something around 1969 to 1971, or

1 1970 to 1972 that he would be there.

2 LADY SMITH: Okay. So he is still pretty young.

3 MR PEOPLES: Oh yes. Yes, yes.

4 He says that there was no preparation for going to
5 foster care: one day he was in care and the next day he
6 was in the foster placement.

7 This evidence will have been read in, in Foster Care
8 I think, so I'm not planning to go through that.

9 He does talk, I think, about some abuse when he was
10 in foster care -- I think he says he ran away at
11 paragraph 31 and that he was hit.

12 He said he was at school. One of boys said
13 something about his foster parents not being his real
14 mum and dad and, when he told his foster mother, she hit
15 him, so he ran away. He didn't realise that his real
16 mum stayed round the corner. When he was older, he
17 said:

18 'I found out I should never have been in care.
19 There was no need for me to have been in care.'

20 I think it was a voluntary type of admission, as it
21 turned out.

22 LADY SMITH: Okay.

23 MR PEOPLES: I don't think it was a reception into care
24 under some statutory power.

25 Of course he says of that period that he was also

1 called names at school, because I think his father
2 was --

3 LADY SMITH: Well, his father was Jamaican, he says.

4 MR PEOPLES: Jamaican, I think, yes. So he tells us about
5 that at 37, but he says that, when he told his foster
6 mother what was happening, she leathered him for
7 actually using the word. So, I mean --

8 And he talks about -- he has a section in that part
9 of his statement about abuse in foster care and how he
10 was, from time to time, hit by his foster mother with
11 a stick, and it could happen on a regular basis. That's
12 at 42 and 43.

13 He said he told his social workers about being hit
14 right from the first time it happened but nothing was
15 done about it. That's at 46. This is in Foster Care.

16 Then he seems to have then had a spell at a boarding
17 school in Pitlochry, and again, I'm not going to spend
18 too much time there. I think, generally speaking, he
19 captures what -- at paragraph 66, he says he was in this
20 boarding school from the age of 7 to 11 and he loved it
21 there. And if it was 7 to 11, it would be roughly
22 1973/74 to 1977/78, but the only thing he says is that,
23 on one occasion a man who he describes as 'SNR [REDACTED]',
24 'gave me the cane' and he laughed and that he picked up
25 a dog chain and hit him on the back of the head. He

1 told his social worker and he says, two weeks later, the
2 man in question left. He says he thinks he was sacked
3 but no one actually told him what had happened.

4 Then -- again, it's another situation of someone
5 going to numerous different places at a very young
6 age -- he ends up in another residential centre in the
7 Downfield area of Dundee, which he tells us about from
8 paragraph 70, and says he was there for almost two
9 years, he thinks, although it was supposed to be
10 an assessment period.

11 And again, I'm not going to spend too much time,
12 because obviously it's there and we have it, but he does
13 say that while he was there, at paragraph 90, he says
14 that at a review, one of the reviews that they had, he
15 said:

16 'I was sick of not being listened to. Eventually
17 I lost the plot and smashed up the office. I was fed up
18 of being told that I was bad. I hit [that particular
19 woman] with one of the phones.'

20 And he also says of his social worker that he would
21 only visit for case conferences. So, again, that's
22 something that seems to be coming through on a lot of
23 occasions, that there was only certain times at which
24 you would see the social worker.

25 He says he ran away from this place in Dundee the

1 first time when he was about 11 years of age, he says.
2 That's at paragraph 93. He ran away with two girls and
3 he says, when they got back, they were put to bed
4 without supper. He was locked in what he called 'the
5 wee room'; and he said, if he wet the bed, as he did,
6 'you were also locked in this wee room'. That's at 95.
7 And he said there was nothing much in it apart from
8 a radiator and a raised box in the corner of the room.

9 He has a specific section about abuse at this
10 particular place by various members of staff, one of
11 whom hit him with a paddle, when he misbehaved. That's
12 at paragraph 97 and that, after being hit with this
13 paddle, he would be dragged into the wee room, the
14 locked room, and left there. That's at 98.

15 He talks about the individual who was SNR
16 SNR from paragraph 99. He said he would punish the
17 boys and he said there was one boy who was in his room
18 or dorm who wet the bed, and he saw this person SNR
19 SNR come into the room and drag the boy out of his
20 bed by the hair. And he said on another occasion he was
21 dragged out -- that's 'Frank' -- for talking at night
22 and he said that SNR or the person SNR had
23 a baby monitor in his room and could hear you. So,
24 again, it seems to have been a fashion in Perth and
25 Dundee to use these monitors --

1 LADY SMITH: Yes.

2 MR PEOPLES: -- so that they could hear what was going on.

3 He says that the person SNR would also go into
4 girls' rooms at night, and he doesn't know what was
5 happening but he could hear girls shouting at him.
6 That's at 101.

7 He said, again, at 102, that he told his social
8 worker, or two social workers, what had been happening
9 but he says they weren't interested in listening to what
10 he had to say.

11 At 103, he says he left that particular place after
12 the incident with the phone and the member of staff and
13 it was decided he would go to Burnside Assessment
14 Centre. Now, that was read in in Phase 8, and he deals
15 with that at 104 to 135, so I'm not going to go back
16 over that, other than to say that he does have
17 a section, beginning at 132, about abuse at Burnside and
18 by a particular member of staff. There was physical and
19 sexual abuse at 132 and there was also other abuse by
20 a different member of staff, which he tells us about at
21 133.

22 Again, he says of reporting of this abuse, at 134,
23 that he told one of the staff about being hit by another
24 member of staff, and the response was that 'Frank' was
25 big enough to deal with that situation on his own.

1 He then leaves Burnside and he says he went from
2 there to the place we've heard a bit about before,
3 Carolina -- he calls it -- Orphanage in Dundee where he
4 was taken, and he deals with that at 137. He has quite
5 a bit on that particular place, which, again, I'm not
6 going to deal with today, Secondary Institutions - to be published later

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25 Then I think it seems to have dawned on him that, at

1 this stage, there was no legal requirement for him to
2 remain in care, so he could just walk out; but he seems
3 to blame his mother for not really making that clear to
4 him and he says perhaps it was seen as a punishment for
5 being of mixed race.

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7
8 And then it says at 188 that it was decided that 'Frank'
9 would then go to Colonsay during the week and come back
10 to his mum's at the weekend. That's at 188.

11 He deals with Colonsay House at 189 and he says:

12 'It was like two big houses joined together with
13 grounds outside. There was a playroom and kitchen. LND
14 and MYJ were SNR. They had a house on one
15 side, the other side of the children's bedrooms. This
16 was run by [REDACTED] and Peter.'

17 These are Peter Murray - SPO I think, clearly:

18 'They were monsters [he said]. [REDACTED] and Peter
19 usually worked the night shift.'

20 If this was the early 1980s, which I think it seems
21 to be, he would be around 15 or more and we know that
22 MYJ was there until December 1983. So we can
23 probably date it to the early 1980s.

24 LADY SMITH: Early 1980s, yes.

25 MR PEOPLES: We know that Peter Murray was still there.

1 He says that, at that time, at 190, he estimates
2 there were 14 children in the home aged between 7 and
3 16, and that each bedroom slept two children. He said,
4 under the routine, about bedtime that bedtime was
5 between 9.30 pm and 10.00 pm at 192:

6 'I didn't like going to bed because of what was
7 happening during the night.'

8 As regards chores, he says at 194:

9 'You were meant to do work at the home. I would
10 make my own bed but that's it. I never used the
11 playroom or the kitchen, so I never done any work in
12 there. I didn't see why I should do jobs for other
13 people.'

14 Of schooling, at 197, he says he went to
15 Perth Grammar School. He says:

16 'This was one of the better schools I had been at.
17 They just let me get on with things. Nobody knew me
18 there. This suited me.'

19 So it's a mixed blessing, the school, because for
20 some it seems to be a good place but, for others, it's
21 not a good place. And then he says but he was too late
22 to sit exams but marked time until he could leave.

23 He said of leisure when he was in Colonsay House
24 that:

25 'You made up your own mind about what you wanted to

1 do with your time. I would go out and about to
2 different places to see my friends.'

3 He said at 203 that he used to run away with his
4 friends from the home, and indeed he says one time he
5 hit Peter and he thought the police would come so he ran
6 away. Now, we don't know quite why he hit him but,
7 anyway, he tells us he did so.

8 And he says of punishments:

9 'If you did something wrong, you would be grounded
10 and your pocket money stopped. I was very rarely given
11 any pocket money. I had always done something wrong
12 that meant I never got any.'

13 And then he's got a specific section on abuse,
14 starting at 205. He says:

15 'There was a baby monitor in each of the rooms.
16 This was so that, when Peter and [REDACTED] were in their
17 office, they could hear you in the room. It would
18 always make a cackling noise and you knew that it was
19 on. If it went silent, then you knew they had switched
20 it off and were on their way.

21 'If they came into your room and you were awake,
22 then Peter would give you a hiding. I would be punched
23 and kicked when I was under the covers.'

24 He said:

25 'I heard him and [REDACTED] going to [and this is

1 a female resident's room and he told us about this
2 person earlier on, I think. He said] I could hear
3 noises but didn't know what was going on. When they
4 came out, [REDACTED] and Peter would be arguing.'

5 Then at 208, he says:

6 'On my first day at the home, I saw LND and MYJ
7 dragging one of the children [and he names her] by the
8 hair into the house. Not long after this, the police
9 came and took [the girl] away.'

10 So that's a physical abuse incident that he said he
11 witnessed on his first day.

12 And he says he did report abuse at Colonsay to
13 a doctor, who I think was a psychiatrist who he had come
14 across earlier in his time at some of the previous
15 placements, and I think this doctor had on occasions
16 taken him for holiday breaks and things.

17 He says he was in Colonsay for about five or six
18 months and left when he was 16. And if that's right,
19 I think we could -- if he was 16, it would be --

20 LADY SMITH: It depends which year is his date of birth.

21 MR PEOPLES: Yes, it would be 1982 or 1983 I think he would
22 have left, and he said he was given £200 and that was
23 his preparation for leaving the care system.

24 He then says about life after care that after
25 leaving Colonsay, he still had contact with the social

1 work and that not long after leaving, he was arrested
2 for police assault and seems to have spent time in
3 Perth Prison, and after his sentence was served, he
4 moved to a homeless hostel, where he stayed for about
5 a year. And then, aged about 20, I think, in 1986, he
6 moved to London. He said it seems a group of 30 people
7 went there together in a Stagecoach bus and when they
8 arrived, they met some homeless people who showed them
9 around and he said he stayed in London for about eight
10 months in a squat.

11 He then moved to the south coast to work in
12 amusement arcades for a time and then he seems to have
13 spent time in the north of England, before travelling
14 around Europe and Asia. So he seems to have wanted
15 to -- or he couldn't stay still in any one place, and I
16 think he explains that as perhaps a legacy of moving
17 around so much when he was a child.

18 And then he tells us that he married in his early
19 30s and that he and his wife were together for about 14
20 or 15 years before they split up, and he tells us about
21 a brother -- I think this may be a brother who was,
22 really, like a brother or he was the son of
23 the adoptive -- sorry, of the family that fostered him,
24 but I may be wrong.

25 LADY SMITH: Right.

1 MR PEOPLES: At any rate, he says, on impact, he wanted to
2 move around and he said he had been in so many care
3 places he could never settle when he was older.

4 He says that he's in prison when this statement has
5 been given, as he tells us, and he says, even although
6 he has been in prison a long time, it doesn't bother
7 him:

8 'After you have been in care for the time that
9 I have, there's nothing that can be done that will
10 affect me.'

11 So he is very much institutionalised from an early
12 age. He said:

13 'Being in care was an education for me. I learnt
14 a lot about myself and how to take care of myself.
15 After I was in care, I learned to educate myself. I see
16 myself as well educated now.'

17 So, again, there's the question that he's
18 self-sufficient; he's having to educate himself and he
19 didn't really get the educational provision that he
20 should have done. He said:

21 'I do think about my time in care a lot. I have
22 panic attacks and sometimes night terrors. There are
23 triggers like bullying. If I see things happening, I
24 will act first and think about the consequences later.'

25 As for lessons to be learned, he says:

1 'Children in care have to be listened to so that you
2 can hear what they have to say.'

3 I suppose he is making the point it's not just
4 letting them speak; you have to listen and take on board
5 what they're saying, rather than just hear it and do
6 nothing.

7 He says:

8 'There was a group meeting that I had been to. This
9 is called the Thousand Voices. It is people who are in
10 prison and who have previously been in care. They were
11 all saying that the same things were still happening.'

12 So he's obviously suggesting that those that he is
13 in contact with in the system still believe that the
14 things that he was experiencing are still happening at
15 the time of the statement.

16 He said:

17 'Children should be treated better and when they are
18 in care, it shouldn't be a sterile environment.'

19 And he says he has been to anger management classes,
20 at 226:

21 'It seemed, though, it was always my fault.'

22 He says, while he's been in prison, he has had
23 regular counselling sessions, which help, and he has
24 been diagnosed with multiple personality social
25 disorders.

1 He says he's never asked for an apology or been in
2 contact with any of the institutions where he was in
3 care as a child. He says he knows now he should never
4 have been in care; there was no legal reason for it.
5 And he says:

6 'I think it was to punish my mum for having mixed
7 race children.'

8 So that's his belief in the whole matter. And his
9 hope is that people who have hurt children in care are
10 found and locked up. Well, I suppose in one case, he's
11 had his wish.

12 LADY SMITH: Yes.

13 MR PEOPLES: And he has the usual declaration and he's
14 signed his statement on 24 October 2018.

15 LADY SMITH: Thank you very much.

16 MR PEOPLES: I don't know what your --

17 LADY SMITH: Well, we've achieved quite a lot today. If we
18 were to stop at this stage, how would that --

19 MR PEOPLES: Yes, I think we're agreed that that would
20 probably work fine. Yes.

21 LADY SMITH: Well, it's Friday. I think we should all,
22 well, no doubt, we have other work to finish but enable
23 ourselves to finish Friday before midnight at least. So
24 let's do that, let's stop now until Tuesday, when we
25 start again at 10 o'clock, as usual.

1 MR PEOPLES: And there will be an applicant giving evidence
2 via a video-link, and then there will be time for more
3 read-ins, and then we have Mr Murray appearing, we
4 think, in the afternoon.

5 LADY SMITH: That's right.

6 MR PEOPLES: And then we have a further day on Wednesday.

7 LADY SMITH: Meanwhile, no more names that I spotted. No.

8 MR PEOPLES: I don't think so.

9 LADY SMITH: I'm having corroboration of that.

10 Thank you very much.

11 Very well, I hope you all have a good weekend.

12 (3.43 pm)

13 (The Inquiry adjourned until 10.00 am on Tuesday,

14 31 March 2026)

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