

Tuesday, 31 March 2026

1

2 (10.00 am)

3 LADY SMITH: Good morning. Welcome back to our case study
4 hearings in Phase 10 in which we're looking into the
5 provision of residential care for children and young
6 people by local authorities, either in places that they
7 ran or places that they used to have others fulfil their
8 responsibilities there.

9 Now, we start this morning with a link and I'm told
10 that the Webex link is working well. Is that right,
11 Ms Forbes?

12 MS FORBES: Yes, my Lady. That's correct. So our first
13 witness this morning is an applicant who is going to be
14 giving evidence today about Nimmo Place, although his
15 evidence about foster care and Starley Hall have
16 previously been read in and I will give the details for
17 that.

18 LADY SMITH: Yes, thank you.

19 MS FORBES: He is anonymous and is known as 'Anthony'.

20 'Anthony'

21 (Evidence given via videolink)

22 LADY SMITH: Thank you.

23 'Anthony', I'm Lady Smith and I chair the Scottish
24 Child Abuse Inquiry here in Edinburgh. Thank you for
25 joining us over the link this morning. I'm very

1 grateful to you for providing evidence to us again, as
2 of course you have already helped with another part of
3 our work, another significant part of our work, as is
4 this one.

5 'Anthony' (sworn)

6 LADY SMITH: I've already mentioned that you have provided
7 evidence before and you've provided a really helpful
8 detailed written statement and I've got that and it's
9 been of great value to me to be able to read it in
10 advance. We're not going to go through it all word for
11 word today. Don't worry. There are some specific
12 aspects though that we're interested in, particularly in
13 relation to Nimmo Place.

14 A. Yes.

15 LADY SMITH: If you need a break at any time, will you just
16 tell me?

17 A. No problem.

18 LADY SMITH: Just say. Or if there's anything else that you
19 need to ask or we can do to help you so that you can
20 give your evidence as comfortably as possible, you just
21 let me know, will you?

22 A. Okay. Yes.

23 LADY SMITH: Thank you.

24 I'll now pass over to Ms Forbes, and she'll take it
25 from there.

1 Ms Forbes.

2 Questions from Ms Forbes

3 MS FORBES: Thank you, my Lady.

4 Good morning, 'Anthony'.

5 A. Good morning.

6 Q. Now, 'Anthony', you've given your statement already to
7 the Inquiry and that's a signed statement. Now, we give
8 that statement a reference number, so because this is
9 being transcribed, I'm just going to read out that
10 reference number, but it's nothing for you to worry
11 about. It's WIT-1-000000633.

12 Now, 'Anthony', in that witness statement, on the
13 very last page, which is page 69, I don't know if you
14 have it in front of you in a folder? If you're able to
15 go to the very last page of that statement, at page 69,
16 there's a paragraph which is numbered paragraph 279.
17 Can you see that there?

18 A. Yes.

19 Q. Okay. So that's really where there's a declaration at
20 the end of your statement that you've signed and it
21 says:

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

1 Then it's an electronic signature and then it's
2 dated 5 March 2021. And is that still the position,
3 'Anthony'?

4 A. I can't write any more. I struggle to speak, but that
5 certainly looks like my signature.

6 Q. Okay. Okay.

7 A. It is.

8 Q. Okay. Great. Thanks for confirming that, 'Anthony'.

9 We can just go back to the beginning of your
10 statement now and you can have it in front of you to
11 follow along if you want, if it helps, but you don't
12 have to.

13 'Anthony', I'm just going to start by going through
14 your early life and how you ended up in care, so
15 I'm going to just ask some questions about that, if
16 that's okay.

17 I think, first of all, 'Anthony', you tell us you
18 were born in [REDACTED] 1978, is that right?

19 A. Yes.

20 Q. And at paragraph 2 of your statement, you say right at
21 the beginning, it's hard remembering where you were and
22 at what times when you were growing up in care and with
23 your mother and father.

24 And you've tried as best as you can to detail what
25 you can remember. Really, that's the position; is that

1 right, 'Anthony'?

2 A. It is.

3 Q. So it's difficult, I think, for you to remember the back
4 and forwards, but you've tried to set it out as best you
5 can; is that fair?

6 A. It is.

7 Q. Okay. 'Anthony', you tell us then about your life
8 before going into care, between paragraphs 3 and 9 of
9 your statement. And you give us a little bit of
10 background about your parents. You say who your father
11 was, that he was ex-SAS, a [REDACTED] and in the
12 Territorial Army; and you tell us about your mother and
13 you say that her extended family were German and she
14 herself spoke German and your first language was German
15 because of that; is that right?

16 A. Yeah.

17 Q. And, 'Anthony', just going to paragraph 4, you
18 essentially tell us that both of your parents were very
19 abusive and your impression was that neither of them
20 cared about you?

21 A. They did not. They were -- I was saw as a cash cow by
22 one of them and the other one thought I was a punching
23 bag.

24 Q. And you mention, 'Anthony', that there were probably
25 drink and drug problems around the time you were born

1 and that the social work were involved before you were
2 even born; that's what --

3 A. Yes.

4 Q. That's what you understand, is that right?

5 A. Yes.

6 Q. But regardless of them being involved, you did live with
7 them both initially and you say at paragraph 5 that that
8 was in a place called [REDACTED] just outside of Perth?

9 A. Yes.

10 Q. And you tell us about some of the abuse that you
11 remember from your mother and you say you remember that
12 your mother once stubbed an iron out on your foot, from
13 which you have a permanent scar?

14 A. Yes.

15 Q. And there came a time, it seems then, when your parents
16 separated and you were asked who you wanted to live
17 with, and you decided that you would go and stay with
18 your dad. And this was -- you were only 4, I think, at
19 that time, is that right?

20 A. Yes.

21 Q. So you did, you went to stay with your father. And you
22 go on then to tell us, 'Anthony', at paragraph 6 that
23 you were referred to by different sort of titles when
24 you were younger. You say nowadays they would call it
25 ADHD?

1 A. Yeah.

2 Q. But there wasn't that diagnosis until you were in your
3 teens; is that right?

4 A. Yes.

5 Q. And you remember them referring to you as being MAD,
6 M-A-D, the acronym. Did you know what that stood for?
7 No. Okay.

8 You tell us though that you were put essentially in
9 what you refer to as a special school, but this was for
10 intelligent children?

11 A. Yes.

12 Q. And you tell us what your recollections are about that
13 in your statement and we have that there. But you say
14 that the social work were involved still and that there
15 was concern because of the abuse you were suffering at
16 home and you go on, I think, 'Anthony', to tell us at
17 paragraph 8 that being with your father was okay for
18 a while, but then he was physically abusive towards you
19 and you tell us about him breaking your fingers and
20 punching you; is that right?

21 A. He went like that (indicating) when I -- 'It wasn't me,
22 I swear, it wasn't me', and he broke my fingers like
23 that (indicating), when I was begging to understand.
24 So, yeah.

25 Q. So you were with him, 'Anthony', you tell us, until you

1 were about 8 and you say, I think, that he ultimately
2 dragged you along to the social work office and handed
3 you over to them, essentially?

4 A. Yes.

5 Q. And --

6 A. And that's where I ended up in Starley Hall. I was
7 a young boy away from my home and it wasn't very nice.

8 Q. Yes. You tell us, 'Anthony', then, you were about maybe
9 8 at that time. You say --

10 A. Yes.

11 Q. -- that you ended up being taken to Starley Hall by your
12 social worker. And I think you know this now, because
13 I've previously told you about this, but that your
14 evidence in relation to what you tell us about
15 Starley Hall was read in to the Inquiry on 5 June 2025,
16 so last year, and that was Day 539 of this Inquiry.

17 A. Yeah.

18 Q. Now, 'Anthony', just so we can cross-reference that
19 evidence being read in with your evidence today,
20 I'm just going to read out the reference for the
21 transcript. It's TRN-13-000000017.

22 So we have that evidence being read in and it is
23 quite a large part of your statement, 'Anthony', that
24 talks about Starley Hall, between paragraphs 10 and 131.
25 So it's quite a large proportion of your statement.

1 And I think you recollect being there from about the
2 age of 8. I think from the records we've been able to
3 see, there's not a clear date, but there's a reference
4 to 1986 and there's a reference to [REDACTED] 1987, but
5 essentially it's around about what your recollection is,
6 you being 8 years old and it being in 1986.

7 And I think we know that you were discharged
8 sometime in 1989, but again the records aren't very
9 clear about when that was and I think again your
10 recollection is you were about maybe 10 or 11. I think
11 you think you were discharged in about 1990, but it's
12 broadly, broadly similar to what we have in the records,
13 which again aren't very clear about dates.

14 So, 'Anthony', the fact that -- we're not today
15 going to go through everything that happened at
16 Starley Hall, and that's not because it's not important
17 to the Inquiry. It is important, and there was a part
18 of this Inquiry that dealt with Starley Hall, and during
19 that part, this evidence that you've told us about,
20 about your experiences, was read in and taken into
21 account for then.

22 And I think you understand today, in the time that
23 we've got available, we're focusing really on
24 Nimmo Place, or Nimmo Avenue, I think you knew it as.

25 A. Because I've already been to the High Court in Edinburgh

1 and they laughed me out.

2 Q. But, 'Anthony', I really just want to summarise what you
3 tell us about Starley Hall, on which you give us a lot
4 of detail, because it's important that we understand
5 your journey before you got to Nimmo Place. And what
6 you tell us about is sexual, physical and mental abuse
7 throughout your time at Starley Hall, and this was
8 sexual and physical abuse from various staff members and
9 teachers, as well as sexual and physical abuse from two
10 male residents?

11 A. Yes.

12 Q. So that's really what you had to deal with when you were
13 there, and from the ages from about 8 years old to 10 or
14 11?

15 A. Yeah.

16 Q. Now, 'Anthony', I'm just going to move forward then to
17 part of your statement that deals with your time after
18 Starley Hall. This is paragraph 130. It's on page 32.
19 I think you really tell us that you weren't back then
20 able to report any of the abuse that you suffered at
21 Starley Hall whilst you were there, because there was no
22 one to speak to?

23 A. Yes.

24 Q. But you did speak to a nurse about some of the physical
25 things that were happening and your view was she didn't

1 want to listen and she would say that you were either
2 making things up or telling porkies?

3 A. Yes.

4 Q. And at the time of your statement, you tell us you had
5 recently told the police about the times that you'd
6 reported things and you were hopeful that they were
7 investigating that?

8 A. I made (audio breakdown).
9 That's not page 32.

10 Q. It is page 32, please, yes.

11 A. Well there's Alan Keep, but he's dead.

12 Q. This was the social worker, I think you mention him in
13 a little while again in your statement. So this is
14 a social worker who was involved in your care?

15 A. Yes.

16 Q. Is that -- so we're at page 32, 'Anthony'. Is that who
17 you say that you spoke to about abuse? Okay.

18 A. Yeah.

19 Q. 'Anthony', you also tell us at paragraph 31 (sic) that
20 you would tell the police that you were getting abused
21 at Starley Hall when they caught you when you ran away,
22 and --

23 A. Yes.

24 Q. -- essentially they just shrugged their shoulders and
25 said that you were making it up?

1 A. Yes.

2 Q. Yes.

3 A. They did.

4 Q. And it seems then the reason that you left Starley Hall
5 wasn't because any -- of any abuse that they were
6 looking into, it was because they wanted to get you into
7 mainstream schooling. And I think this is when you
8 mention, at paragraph 132, Alan Keep, the social worker,
9 who told you that. And then you think at paragraph 133,
10 you say there was maybe something like a Children's
11 Panel hearing around the time of you leaving Starley
12 Hall and that was all about whether you could do
13 mainstream schooling. And you say that you can't really
14 remember the day you left Starley Hall, but you just
15 remember feeling good that you got away from the place,
16 and the only good memory you have of that place is
17 leaving, essentially.

18 'Anthony', we then move to a part of your statement
19 where you tell us about your time in between
20 Starley Hall and Nimmo Place or Nimmo Avenue.

21 A. Yeah.

22 Q. And you tell us about this from paragraph 134, this is
23 on page 33. You went back to stay with your father, his
24 girlfriend and your little sister, who your father had
25 had by that time to his girlfriend; is that right?

1 A. Yes.

2 Q. And you say that you would have been about 12
3 approximately, 1990 or so, and you thought that that was
4 going to be something that would be a permanent
5 arrangement, but it didn't work out like that,
6 essentially; is that right?

7 A. Yeah.

8 Q. You go on, 'Anthony', to tell us about going back into
9 mainstream schooling, first of all at Perth High School,
10 and I think you say you were maybe there during first
11 year and maybe some of second year?

12 A. Yes.

13 Q. But there was bullying by older children, and this was
14 physical abuse as well, you say they would 'kick the
15 shit out of you', essentially?

16 A. Yeah.

17 Q. And you didn't know why that was happening?

18 A. I am bigger than them now.

19 Q. Sorry, 'Anthony', what did you say?

20 A. I am bigger than all of those people now.

21 Q. Yeah. I think you mention in your statement, 'Anthony',
22 at a certain point that you're very tall; are you almost
23 7 feet tall?

24 A. I am.

25 LADY SMITH: But I think you also mention in your statement,

1 'Anthony', that there was a time when you were a child
2 that you were one of the small ones?

3 A. Yes. I was tiny and then it's like I was put in a bag
4 of Easy-Gro, because I went 'whoosh' and now
5 I'm comfortable with size 15 feet at 7 foot tall.

6 LADY SMITH: You shot up like a beanstalk?

7 A. Yes.

8 LADY SMITH: Ms Forbes.

9 MS FORBES: My Lady, thank you.

10 'Anthony', I think you tell us that when you were at
11 your father's house, the social work involvement
12 continued, but at paragraph 138 you say, looking back on
13 the time you stayed with your father after Starley Hall,
14 it was horrible?

15 A. Yes.

16 Q. And you just had no choice but to just continue, and you
17 tell us again about your father being physically abusive
18 towards you and pulling your fingers until you could
19 feel them nearly break, and that when you would come
20 back from school, having been bullied and assaulted,
21 black and blue, he would then, the way you've put it is
22 'kick the shit' out of you because you were getting into
23 fights at school, and this was all blamed on you?

24 A. I was getting bullied. He was a massive man and he
25 wasn't protecting me.

1 Q. Yes.

2 A. So.

3 Q. And you tell us a bit more about what he did and the
4 injuries you had and having to see the doctor about
5 that, at paragraph 139. And this led, it seems, I think
6 because of the bullying, the social services began to
7 get more involved and there was more Children's Hearings
8 being held, conferences in Colonsay House, and
9 eventually I think you tell us, this is at
10 paragraph 141, that you went to stay with your mum in
11 Dumfries?

12 A. Yes.

13 Q. And that was in about 1991, just after maybe first year
14 at Perth High School. And at that time the contact with
15 your father stopped, is that right?

16 A. Yeah. Yes, because for him to be anywhere near to her,
17 it was like two devils interacting with each other.

18 Q. 'Anthony', you tell us about that time back with your
19 mum. You say you went to Dumfries Academy. You were in
20 second year?

21 A. Yes.

22 Q. You joined the army cadets?

23 A. Yes.

24 Q. But there was also conferences in Perth about you,
25 Children's Hearings and conferences, and you remember

1 them saying: 'What will we do with this naughty boy?'.
2

3 But as far as you're concerned, you were never
4 naughty?

5 A. I was not. I have a scar there (indicating) when I was
6 sticking up for myself. So someone thought it was okay
7 to grab a Stanley knife and go like that (indicating)
8 and I had no option but to go to my mother's place of
9 work and bang on the window.

10 Q. I think, 'Anthony', you are indicating there an injury
11 that happened to the back of your left ear, is that
12 right?

13 A. Yes.

14 Q. Was this from somebody who was involved in bullying you?

15 A. Yes.

16 Q. Okay.

17 A. I had a very posh leather jacket, a Norton. I used to
18 wear that and people would be jealous. Now people are
19 still jealous of me. I'm wearing a TAG Heuer and they
20 think: how do you have that? Because I saved for it.
21 But they want whatever they can get their hands on.
22 It's not cool.

23 Q. 'Anthony', I think you tell us later in your statement
24 about Savant Syndrome?

25 A. Yes.

26 Q. And you say that looking back, the way that you were

1 behaving back then, although you didn't know at that
2 time about Savant Syndrome, was because of that; that's
3 something that you found out about a little bit later,
4 is that right?

5 A. Yes, and I have an email address called
6 ████████████████████ because I was fixing
7 everyone's electronics for free.

8 Q. 'Anthony', just going on to the time that you were with
9 your mum again, you tell us that your mum and her
10 boyfriend split up?

11 A. Yes.

12 Q. And your mum moved to a council house in Muirton,
13 an area to the north of Perth, and this seems to be
14 a period where you tell us your mother was taking a lot
15 of drugs, that there would be men that would come round
16 to the house and take drugs with her?

17 A. Yes.

18 Q. And so it doesn't sound like a very safe environment for
19 you at that time?

20 A. She's still doing it now.

21 Q. And during this time, when you were living with her
22 there, you were seeing -- I think you told us earlier in
23 your statement, we haven't gone to that part about you
24 starting to see psychiatrists when you were younger. So
25 you were still seeing psychiatrists, but you say when

1 you were 12, you finally were taken to see a proper
2 psychiatrist, a Professor Mike Field?

3 A. Yes.

4 Q. And this was really to try and get diagnosis of what you
5 might be having difficulties with; is that right?

6 A. Correct.

7 Q. You tell us then, 'Anthony', this is going to page 36,
8 paragraph 145, that your mother, you say, eventually
9 said enough is enough, and you became homeless, that you
10 were in a homeless hostel and then you were in your --
11 with your uncle in his flat, and then the decision was
12 made to put you into Nimmo Avenue, I think is how you
13 refer to the children's home?

14 A. Yeah.

15 Q. You're basically told at the Children's Hearing that you
16 would be going there right now, from the hearing, yeah?

17 A. Yes.

18 Q. Now, 'Anthony', it might not matter too much, but
19 I don't know if you remember, we've seen from your
20 record there was a period where you were staying with
21 your grandparents before you went to Nimmo Avenue; is
22 that something you recall?

23 A. Yes.

24 Q. Yes.

25 A. I do, and I remember their address. It was [REDACTED]

1 [REDACTED] from Nimmo. And the area of Perth is called
2 Hillyland. Now, in Gaelic, 'hillock' means hills.
3 Hillyland.

4 Q. And again, 'Anthony', we know from your records that
5 there was a supervision order imposed naming your
6 grandparents, this was on [REDACTED] 1992, just so we
7 can give it a bit of context with dates. And I think
8 there's also reference then in the records as to how you
9 ended up going to Nimmo Avenue. The record is dated
10 [REDACTED] 1993, so you would have been 14, and there's
11 a record saying that you had left your grandparents'
12 house, you were living rough, that you'd stayed with
13 relatives for a few days, but there was no family
14 willing to take you in, and ultimately that led to you
15 being admitted to Nimmo Avenue; do you recall that?

16 A. Yeah.

17 Q. So, 'Anthony', we then come to you being placed in
18 Nimmo Avenue and I'll just refer to it as Nimmo Avenue,
19 because that's what you recall it. You recall it as
20 being that. We're referring to it here as Nimmo Place,
21 but just so it's what you remember, we'll call it
22 Nimmo Avenue.

23 I think you explain it's because it's at the corner
24 of both roads, Nimmo Place and Nimmo Avenue, so it's the
25 same area?

1 A. Yes. It's a huge building. Huge building.

2 Q. Okay. And you tell us, 'Anthony', about your time
3 there, from paragraph 146. So I'm now going to move to
4 Nimmo Avenue and your time there and ask you some
5 questions about that, if that's okay?

6 A. Okay.

7 Q. Yeah.

8 Essentially, though, you tell us at paragraph 146
9 that this -- it was just a horrible place?

10 A. Yeah.

11 Q. And you say it wasn't much better than where you'd been
12 before. I think by that you're referring to
13 Starley Hall, is that right?

14 A. Yeah.

15 Q. And you say it's a place that's really hard for you to
16 think about?

17 A. Yeah.

18 Q. And you describe it as being -- not being short of
19 a borstal, really?

20 A. Yeah.

21 Q. So that's how you saw it. That's how you remember it?

22 A. Exactly.

23 Q. Now, you tell us, 'Anthony', you can't remember exactly
24 how old you were when you first went to Nimmo Avenue or
25 how long you were there, but you think you were about 13

1 and you left when you were around 14.

2 A. Yes.

3 Q. I think we know from your records -- and again, it
4 doesn't matter too much because it all seems to be about
5 the same time -- that you were admitted there on [REDACTED]
6 1993, aged 14, and you left on [REDACTED] 1993 and you
7 were still 14 at that time. You would have been nearly
8 15, but you are still just 14.

9 So you are there for about five months or so from
10 the records, but I think --

11 A. Yes.

12 Q. -- you're quite frank, 'Anthony', in saying at
13 paragraph 147, staying there to you felt like
14 an eternity?

15 A. Yeah.

16 Q. 'Anthony', you go on to tell us about some of the staff
17 that you recall and the first one you tell us about is
18 somebody called FIZ [REDACTED], this is at
19 paragraph 148, and he had a nickname of being called
20 'FIZ [REDACTED]'. Now, is that because he [REDACTED]?

21 A. Yes.

22 Q. So that's how you distinguish him from other staff
23 members. Was he the [REDACTED] male member of staff
24 there?

25 A. Yes.

1 Q. Okay. Now, you've said the name FIZ [REDACTED]. Are
2 you sure, 'Anthony', about that surname, or could it
3 have been different?

4 A. It could have been a different surname, but that man
5 used to go swimming [REDACTED]. That's what he
6 called them. I didn't feel right saying that. I don't
7 call [REDACTED]. No. And he now works or --
8 young people's home [REDACTED]
9 called [REDACTED]. So he's still --

10 Q. Okay. But -- sorry, 'Anthony'.

11 A. Still being naughty.

12 Q. And I think, just so we are clear, his nickname was
13 'FIZ [REDACTED]', but he was also known as FIZ [REDACTED]. So who we're
14 talking about here is someone called FIZ [REDACTED], who was
15 a male --

16 A. Yeah.

17 Q. -- member of staff and he [REDACTED]?

18 A. Yes.

19 Q. And you go on to tell us a bit more about him later in
20 your statement, 'Anthony', and we'll come back to him.

21 But just looking at other members of staff then that
22 you remember, at paragraph 149 you talk about a member
23 of staff called ITA [REDACTED], who was --

24 A. Yes.

25 Q. -- a big massive guy?

1 A. Oh, he was massive. ITA ! I remembered he lived in
2 Stanley. That's a village outside of Perth.

3 Q. In relation to him, 'Anthony', I think you say he was
4 a gentleman. He never once hit you, but he was there,
5 so he was present, when other people hit you?

6 A. Yes.

7 Q. He never caused you any problems?

8 A. No.

9 Q. But he did, you say, try to stop people doing things
10 when he saw them and he stood up a couple of times. Was
11 this when you were being assaulted, he stood up a couple
12 of times and said: 'No, leave it'?

13 A. Yeah.

14 Q. Okay.

15 A. I have fond memories of how he treated me.

16 Q. So he was one of the good members of staff, if we could
17 put it that way?

18 A. Yes. There was only three --

19 Q. And another -- sorry, 'Anthony', I cut you off.

20 A. There was only three that were there who were nice. You
21 could tell, you could see what was in their soul, and
22 him and the next two people I mention --

23 Q. Yes, so this is Paula Orange and Carol Murray?

24 A. Yes.

25 Q. So those also were nice members of staff, good members

1 of staff?

2 A. I loved Carol Murray. Even when I was having difficulty
3 in Stanley, Carol came out to see me.

4 Q. So this was later in life?

5 A. Yes.

6 Q. She still was involved with your life a bit and helped
7 you?

8 A. Yes.

9 Q. Yes, I think you tell us a little bit more about that.
10 You say that in adult life you had a house where the
11 roof fell down and she was your saviour and helped you
12 get through everything?

13 A. Yes.

14 Q. But apart from the three that we have just mentioned;
15 ITA [REDACTED], Paula and Carol, I think you say the rest of
16 them didn't care about the children?

17 A. Yeah, official.

18 Q. You also mention, 'Anthony', another -- a couple of
19 members of staff: FKI [REDACTED], FJE [REDACTED], a nurse you don't
20 remember the name of, and also Rod, who was a chief
21 social worker, and you say: 'He was just horrible'.
22 This is Rod?

23 A. Yeah, he was, and when I'm saying, 'How dare you do that
24 to me', he was encouraging it. Like, you do not get
25 massive men and women to restrain somebody. That is

1 classed as physical assault. So why would I think Rod
2 was being a gentleman? No, he was not.

3 Q. 'Anthony', you tell us at paragraph 153 --

4 A. Yes.

5 Q. -- that Nimmo Avenue, you say, 'was a care home for
6 naughty boys and girls'?

7 A. Yes.

8 Q. That's how you kind of saw -- the way that they saw you;
9 is that how you felt?

10 A. Yes.

11 Q. But you say you don't think that you or the others were
12 naughty?

13 A. No.

14 Q. But you tell us it could hold about ten children. There
15 was a mixture of boys and girls of different ages.
16 There was a really young girl there and the way you
17 describe it, 'Anthony', is that there were plenty of
18 children who came and went and a lot of the children who
19 stayed were only there a day or so. So it changed
20 regularly who was there; is that a fair description?

21 A. Yes.

22 Q. You then go on, I think, 'Anthony', at paragraph 154, to
23 tell us about a couple of the children you remember
24 being there, and I won't read out their names, but you
25 give their names there. You remember them and in

1 particular a girl who had learning difficulties, and the
2 way you've put it is just --

3 A. Yes.

4 Q. -- she wasn't right. So she was one you particularly
5 remember being there?

6 A. Yeah. And she had been abused. No one could get near
7 her. She would (indicating). Like: 'It's okay,
8 I'll look after you'.

9 Q. I think what you've shown there on the screen, correct
10 me if I'm wrong, 'Anthony', is if anyone got close to
11 her, she would recoil away from them, close up?

12 A. Yes. And a couple of them, one I saved her life,
13 I haven't spoken to her in years, and the other is now
14 a nurse. I have spoken to her family.

15 Q. So these were some of the people you remember being
16 there with at Nimmo Avenue?

17 A. Yes.

18 Q. 'Anthony', you tell us about your first memories of
19 arriving there and you say they aren't nice at all, that
20 you were a very confused boy who'd just been dumped in
21 a care home?

22 A. I was dumped.

23 Q. Is that how you felt, that you were just dumped and
24 abandoned?

25 A. Yes, and I used any opportunity I had to run away.

1 Q. Yes and -- sorry, 'Anthony', continue, sorry.

2 A. And I was running away my entire adult life. I had been
3 to all over Europe, just running away. Those people,
4 those memories. And now I can't get into Europe
5 anymore.

6 Q. Yeah. I think you tell us later in your statement,
7 'Anthony', that as an adult you travelled extensively.

8 A. Yes.

9 Q. And are you saying that as a child you ran away from
10 these places, and then as an adult your travelling was
11 really you trying to run away from your memories?

12 A. The same reason why I haven't slept properly in
13 40 years. I have night terrors every night. So I would
14 rather have that manky coffee I was given a little while
15 ago than go to bed. Because I still wake up like that
16 (indicating). I can't move. I feel like someone is
17 holding me down by my arms, is kneeling on my chest, and
18 that's exactly what they were doing to me when they were
19 abusing me.

20 Q. 'Anthony', you tell us in this next part of your
21 statement about the sort of routine at Nimmo Avenue.
22 I'm not going to go through that in any detail with you.
23 We have it there. You go out to school. You tell us
24 about breakfast and coming back in the evening. You had
25 a room on your own. Eventually you moved to another

1 room which had its own sink, which I think meant that
2 you could then get washed in your own room in the
3 mornings. And essentially, in relation to showers, they
4 weren't supervised or anything like that, so you had
5 privacy, relatively; is that right?

6 A. Yes.

7 Q. The staff cooked your food. This is going forward to
8 page 39 now. You weren't allowed to do any cooking
9 yourselves. You weren't even allowed metal cutlery.
10 And you tell us about the standard of food, which you
11 say essentially wasn't good, and you describe it as
12 being what you would call council food?

13 A. Yeah. Now, I became a chef at [REDACTED]. That is
14 silver service. So if I can do that, when I had
15 porridge and toast, that shows you. You can do.

16 Q. And you say that there was no force feeding, but if you
17 didn't eat then -- so essentially, if you didn't eat
18 what was put in front of you, you didn't eat. And
19 sometimes you would try to eat out from takeaways,
20 Chinese or fish and chips, but if you couldn't afford
21 that, then you and another boy who you mention would
22 shoplift, so you could get something to eat.

23 And the way you've described it, 'Anthony', you say:
24 'It was diabolical that we felt we needed to do that to
25 eat'?

1 A. Yeah. And he has grown up and is a computer engineer
2 now, and I'm still stuck.

3 Q. 'Anthony', you tell us that the only chores you had to
4 do were really looking after your room, making your bed,
5 keeping your floor clean, but that you would also have
6 to clean toilets as a punishment?

7 A. Yeah.

8 Q. And you say looking back, you much preferred being made
9 to clean the toilet as punishment than being beaten up
10 by grown men?

11 A. Yes.

12 Q. You tell us about the clothes that you wore and your
13 school uniform, which was essentially a Fruit of the
14 Loom jumper and a school tie. This is at paragraph 163.
15 And you tell us the social work department gave you
16 a certain amount of money to buy clothes?

17 A. Yes.

18 Q. But the stuff you could afford with that was poor
19 quality, so you would have to steal stuff to get by, and
20 the only way you could get anything nice was by
21 shoplifting the things that you wanted?

22 A. True.

23 Q. But the staff didn't notice when you did that. If you
24 were wearing something that you'd stolen, you say they
25 didn't even notice?

1 A. No.

2 Q. You say the staff there didn't care. You explain they
3 probably did notice, but they didn't want to give
4 themselves more work by asking questions?

5 A. Exactly.

6 Q. In relation to possessions, 'Anthony', you say you
7 didn't really have anything by way of possessions other
8 than clothes. You weren't given pocket money, but you
9 could earn an extra £2 by playing pitch and toss at
10 school. So most people did that to get more money, but
11 that was through the school, is that right?

12 A. Yes.

13 Q. But you and the boy that you've told us about, you say
14 you didn't do that though because you really, together,
15 were shoplifters and you would get things to order, and
16 you explain that you were just desperate kids, just
17 trying to do what you could to get by.

18 A. And so life remains. I'm still trying to get by now.

19 Q. 'Anthony', in relation to schooling, you say there was
20 two different schools you went to when you were at
21 Nimmo Avenue. It was initially Perth High School?

22 A. Yes.

23 Q. And then later St Columba's, but there was no support or
24 help with homework at Nimmo Avenue?

25 A. Exactly.

1 Q. And you say that the quality of the teaching at
2 St Columba's was very good, but this goes back to your
3 ADHD and your Savant Syndrome, that essentially you were
4 too far ahead for what they were teaching?

5 A. Yes.

6 Q. So from what you tell us, 'Anthony', it wasn't really
7 challenging you?

8 A. That's true.

9 Q. I think you explain that if your grades were ever low,
10 it was because people weren't listening to you, and you
11 couldn't settle because teachers wouldn't believe you
12 about the work that you did or help you with your work.
13 And you explain that teachers would ask you whether
14 you'd done something and you'd tell them you'd already
15 finished it?

16 A. Yeah.

17 Q. But again, 'Anthony', you talk about being bullied by
18 pupils from Perth Grammar School, which was very close,
19 and you were having trouble with the teachers at
20 St Columba's and, as far as they were concerned, you
21 were this naughty boy?

22 A. More fool them.

23 Q. And you explain that you -- the way that you saw it was
24 that you were everything that a Roman Catholic shouldn't
25 be. Because it was a Catholic school, is that right?

1 A. Yes.

2 Q. And you were disciplined at St Columba's and that was
3 with the use of a ruler, a cane or a belt?

4 A. Yes.

5 Q. So even at that time in the 1990s, that's what was
6 happening?

7 A. And I became so good at martial arts back then, one of
8 my teachers, he would take great pride in getting the
9 belt and then I would move and he would hit himself
10 right in his stones. So, was I doing bad? No. I was
11 being smart. So he didn't like that.

12 Q. You tell us, 'Anthony', you were ultimately expelled
13 from St Columba's?

14 A. Yes.

15 Q. And your recollection of that is that you were expelled
16 for believing a religion that you wanted to believe in,
17 which was your own religion, and essentially, looking
18 back, they weren't very forgiving of anyone who wasn't
19 a Roman Catholic?

20 A. Yes. When I speak to my Reverend, I say: 'Please, don't
21 wear that muck in front of me'. 'Why? What do you have
22 a problem with those groups for?', I told him. I says:
23 those Roman Catholics, they were not Christian. Believe
24 the 'etholicos' means someone that doesn't believe in
25 God. So what do they believe in? Not God, oh, but

1 they're ready to go for the mother or the son? No, that
2 is not Christian.

3 Q. 'Anthony', you tell us that whilst you were at
4 Nimmo Avenue that you went to all the raves at
5 Ingliston --

6 A. Yeah.

7 Q. -- that took place at that time?

8 A. Yeah.

9 Q. And really your only entertainment was shoplifting and
10 taking drugs?

11 A. Yes.

12 Q. And you tell us about sniffing petrol?

13 A. Yeah.

14 Q. And that wasn't good for you, I think you say that sent
15 you really bad. And you later on tried magic mushrooms.
16 You were shoplifting to get magic mushrooms and you
17 turned to substance abuse because you were lost, you
18 were lonely and you were a target for everybody?

19 A. Yes.

20 Q. And you explain, 'Anthony', you just wanted to feel
21 something?

22 A. Exactly. And that's why even now, I go to church every
23 week. I don't touch alcohol. All I do is smoke tiny,
24 tiny little cigars, because that keeps me behaving.

25 Q. 'Anthony', you tell us about a couple of occasions where

1 you went out from Nimmo Avenue, and this is at
2 paragraph 172 onwards, and you say there was one
3 occasion you remember when FJE took you out walking
4 in the hills near Perth?

5 A. Yeah.

6 Q. But that was quite novel, you say, it wasn't something
7 that happened regularly?

8 A. No.

9 Q. And you remember him making a comment to you, saying:
10 'When you're older, you're going to be quite an imposing
11 piece of machinery'. And you took that as him saying in
12 a sense that you better watch because -- or he better
13 watch because you're going to be big, tall. And you've
14 told us you are tall?

15 A. And the gentleman to my left can confirm what size me
16 feet are.

17 Q. Are you referring to ██████, your supporter, your witness
18 support?

19 A. Yes.

20 LADY SMITH: 'Anthony', what size are your feet?

21 A. 15.

22 LADY SMITH: 15 shoe size?

23 A. Yes.

24 LADY SMITH: That's quite big.

25 A. Yeah.

1 MS FORBES: Not easy to get shoes?

2 A. No, I have to buy -- not being racist, because there are
3 no white men my feet size, so I have to buy from
4 African-Americans, and then I buy off eBay. And all
5 I have is Amazon and eBay.

6 Q. 'Anthony', there was another occasion you tell us about
7 where Carol Murray took you to Drumnadrochit, and this
8 you say is after --

9 A. Drumnadrochit.

10 Q. It's my fault, I always pronounce things incorrectly
11 when it comes to Scottish names, even though
12 I'm Scottish.

13 A. It's okay.

14 Q. Yes, so she took you away and you say that that was
15 after an incident when you were hospitalised following
16 taking magic mushrooms?

17 A. Yeah.

18 Q. And you do tell us again about that a little bit later
19 in your statement, so we will come back to that. But
20 after that incident, Carol took you away, just you and
21 her, and you just went away and chilled. You say that
22 was the only holiday you went on whilst you were at
23 Nimmo Avenue?

24 A. True.

25 Q. 'Anthony', you go on to tell us about any visits at

1 Nimmo Avenue and you say there was no visitors who came
2 in to Nimmo Avenue, and the only visitor you ever had
3 was your mother?

4 A. Yes.

5 Q. But your impression of her visits was that she was only
6 coming to visit to see whether she could follow your
7 father's suit and maybe get a bigger house if you moved
8 in with her. And I think you tell us, 'Anthony',
9 earlier in your statement, that when you moved in with
10 your father, there had been a fire at a flat that he'd
11 stayed in. But the fact that there had been this fire
12 and that you were coming to stay with him meant that he
13 got a bigger house; is that right?

14 A. Yes.

15 Q. So that was your impression of her motivation coming to
16 visit you?

17 A. Yeah.

18 Q. And there was no regular visits from social workers
19 while you were there and it would only be if you were
20 going to a Children's Hearing, and you mention again
21 Alan Keep being one of the social workers who was
22 assigned to you during your time there?

23 A. Yes.

24 Q. And he's someone who continued, I think, to be involved
25 after Nimmo Avenue; is that right?

1 A. He was lovely when he was alive.

2 Q. 'Anthony', you go on to tell us about seeing Professor
3 Mike Field, this is from paragraph 178, and this is
4 where you talk about Savant Syndrome and the fact that
5 you were -- I think you say you weren't told this at the
6 time, but you've discovered from your record you were
7 suffering from PTSD, and later in life that diagnosis
8 was changed to CPTSD, which is chronic post-traumatic
9 stress disorder. And you've also since learned that you
10 were diagnosed with ADHD, but that's -- you say it
11 wasn't referred to as ADHD at that time, and again you
12 have referred to MAD?

13 LADY SMITH: 'Anthony', could I just check, CPTSD in your
14 case --

15 A. Yes.

16 LADY SMITH: -- is it referring to chronic PTSD or is it
17 referring to complex PTSD, do you know?

18 A. Complex.

19 LADY SMITH: Complex.

20 A. Because I was really young when I was abused.

21 LADY SMITH: Yes, I wondered if it was that. Thank you for
22 helping me.

23 MS FORBES: Apologies, my Lady, that was actually my fault.
24 Yes, it's complex. It's me suggesting chronic.
25 You tell us, 'Anthony', about a nurse who worked at

1 the home and you say that she actually used to put paint
2 thinners on your cuff -- the cuff of your sleeve, and
3 that you would then sniff them?

4 A. Yeah.

5 Q. That would then lead to you just chilling out and not
6 bothering anyone. But you say it was basically solvent
7 abuse?

8 A. It was.

9 Q. So did you form the impression she was doing that so
10 that you would then just be relaxed and not bother
11 anybody?

12 A. Yes.

13 LADY SMITH: And, 'Anthony', I suppose that would make her
14 life easier, as she saw it?

15 A. Yes.

16 LADY SMITH: Yes. Thank you.

17 MS FORBES: 'Anthony', you tell us about a time when you
18 were about 14, you say you went shoplifting in the town
19 and you spoke to a boy who said you could exchange what
20 you'd shoplifted for quite a lot of magic mushrooms.

21 A. Yes.

22 Q. And you took all of them and ended up overdosing
23 effectively on them?

24 A. Yeah.

25 Q. You started hallucinating and had to be taken to Perth

1 Royal Infirmary and you describe what that was like,
2 that experience was like. At paragraph 180 you say you
3 went back to Nimmo Avenue after that, and you were
4 physically assaulted by the staff when you returned?

5 A. Yeah.

6 Q. That was an incident that seems to have affected you for
7 quite a while, the overdosing on the magic mushrooms?

8 A. It was. I still, even now looking at what I wrote,
9 I look at my hands, I have to focus, I am not
10 hallucinating anymore. But, yeah.

11 Q. I think from your records, 'Anthony', we can date this
12 incident because it is recorded and it's the weekend of
13 around [REDACTED] 1993.

14 A. Yes.

15 Q. The days before that, where it says you were eating
16 magic mushrooms over the weekend and had to have, what
17 they've referred to is, had to have your stomach pumped?

18 A. Yeah.

19 Q. And that you were admitted to Perth Royal Infirmary as
20 a result of that. And the way again it's described is,
21 somebody has recorded it saying:

22 'He experienced a very bad trip and although not
23 life-threatening, gave great cause for concern.'

24 So that's a record that we have from then.

25 A. Yeah.

1 Q. You tell us, 'Anthony', and you touched upon this
2 earlier, you tell us about running away from
3 Nimmo Avenue. You say you tried to run away all the
4 time?

5 A. Yeah.

6 Q. That you would go into a girl's room that was next door
7 and use her window to climb onto the roof of the
8 conservatory?

9 A. Yeah.

10 Q. Climb down and then run away. And sometimes you would
11 run away from school. So it was either running away
12 from Nimmo Avenue or running away from school, and you
13 say that when you did that, you would go all over the
14 place. I think you say you would run away and hang
15 around with travellers?

16 A. Yeah.

17 Q. But you say you'd usually end up going back to
18 Nimmo Avenue because you were hungry, or you would get
19 so out of it -- was that on substances?

20 A. Yes.

21 Q. That you didn't know where you were and you would be
22 lifted by the police and taken back.

23 So during that five-month period or so that you were
24 at Nimmo Avenue, you were running away a lot; is that
25 fair?

1 A. Yeah. I didn't want to be there.

2 Q. 'Anthony', you say that by the time you got to
3 Nimmo Avenue, bed-wetting wasn't a problem for you?

4 A. Yeah.

5 Q. But that staff would be rough with those children who
6 did wet their beds?

7 A. Yes.

8 Q. And there was a room opposite to yours where staff used
9 to sleep and you remember hearing noises from that room.
10 You remember hearing the children who had wet their beds
11 being taken into that room through the night to be
12 cleaned up?

13 A. Yes.

14 Q. And you would hear slapping, smacking noises and
15 children crying in pain?

16 A. Yes.

17 Q. So it was obvious to you from that, that the staff were
18 hitting those children who wet their beds?

19 A. And when I decided enough is enough, that's when I took
20 over that room and blocked the door, threw all the,
21 like, deodorant. The deodorant was glass bottles, like
22 this (indicating), and when the police pulled up, what
23 do you think happened to their -- I smashed them,
24 because they wanted to punish me. They weren't seeing
25 what they were doing to those young girls, those young

1 boys, and part of me says: no more.

2 Q. So I think there is a big incident just before you leave
3 Nimmo Avenue that you are describing, that we're going
4 to come to in just a minute, 'Anthony', where you
5 essentially barricade yourself in a room --

6 A. Yes.

7 Q. -- and the police end up involved. We'll come to the
8 detail of that, but are you telling us, that's really
9 when you'd got to the point that you'd had enough?

10 A. Yeah.

11 Q. Because, 'Anthony', we're going to now look at some of
12 the things you tell us that you remember about
13 Nimmo Avenue, a section in your statement where you talk
14 about abuse by staff, and this is from paragraph 184 on
15 page 45.

16 A. Yes.

17 Q. And, 'Anthony', you tell us that you weren't aware of
18 any sexual abuse, but at Nimmo Avenue there was mental
19 abuse, alongside constant physical abuse?

20 A. Yeah.

21 Q. And the physical abuse was near enough every day, and
22 the staff acted in the same way to you as they did with
23 other residents in the home?

24 A. Yeah.

25 Q. And you say:

1 'They called it restraining, but really they just
2 kicked the shit out of you.'

3 A. Yeah. That's --

4 Q. And essentially gang violence is what you say it was?

5 A. That's exactly what it says. And when -- after
6 I barricaded myself in the staffroom, it wasn't nice
7 with the police. They dragged me across the floor of
8 a meat wagon. They made cuts, bruises on my face
9 (indicating). So again, why did the police think it's
10 okay to treat a child like that?

11 Q. 'Anthony', you tell us at paragraph 186 that it's
12 difficult to say when the incidents occurred or exactly
13 what age you were, but I think we know that you were in
14 Nimmo Avenue when you were 14.

15 A. Yeah.

16 Q. But you explain it's difficult to separate out the
17 incidents to particular members of staff, because there
18 were multiple staff members involved when you were
19 physically abused, and you name the ones who were mainly
20 involved in that, and you mention the FIZ again, this is
21 FIZ ██████████, FJE ██████████ --

22 A. Mm-hmm.

23 Q. -- FKI ██████████, but you say there were others too. But FIZ ██████████,
24 you say in particular, seemed to be in charge of beating
25 you. And you also say you remember FJE ██████████ was one of

1 the people who would jump on you when staff were trying
2 to 'restrain' you, because you've mentioned they used
3 the word 'restraint' but you didn't see it as restraint;
4 did you see it as physical assault?

5 A. It was not. It was.

6 Q. And FJE, you say, was the first person who started
7 sticking his knee into your back and shoving your arm
8 right back behind you?

9 A. Yes.

10 Q. You tell us, 'Anthony', about an incident where Rod
11 approached you in the home and asked you whether you had
12 been taking drugs, and you said that you hadn't and
13 jokingly asked him whether he had some, and he told you
14 to get out the room. And then the staff then, you say,
15 'beat the shit out of you' because they thought you'd
16 been taking drugs, but you hadn't been?

17 A. Yeah.

18 Q. And after that the police were called to the home. And
19 you say they were called because you were resisting what
20 they were doing to you?

21 A. Yeah. Why are they still doing that to innocent
22 children? This is not Rossie Farm. No. Innocent
23 children. And I was getting my narcotics because I was
24 struggling.

25 I wanted to say that in the High Court: can't you

1 see? What? Can't you see? But no, I just had to sit
2 there while the judge went (nonsense noise).

3 I want that to go back, because I will not be quiet.

4 Q. And I think the police were called on more than one
5 occasion, is that right, in relation to incidents where
6 you were, what they would be calling 'restrained', and
7 you would resist --

8 A. Yeah.

9 Q. -- and then the police would be called and you would be
10 charged; is that right?

11 A. Yeah. For sticking up for myself.

12 Q. And you recall another occasion, 'Anthony', that you
13 were called up -- was this in the home? -- called up by
14 **FIZ** and asked whether you had been taking drugs and you
15 said you hadn't and that --

16 A. Yes.

17 Q. -- you say, for whatever reason, that led to you needing
18 to be 'restrained', in inverted commas again, by him and
19 other staff, and it seemed that every staff member in
20 the department felt the need to jump on you, and you
21 remember them kneeling on your arms and your back?

22 A. Yes.

23 Q. And you threw one of them off, not realising that it was
24 a female member of staff called **FKI**, and that then led
25 to you being told that you were abusing a woman. So

1 were they saying that you had assaulted her?

2 A. Yeah. But I, even now, I am having those night terrors
3 every night.

4 Q. Now, 'Anthony', the reason why I asked you about FIZ's
5 surname is because there is a record, and I think you
6 know about this, because I've told you about it before
7 you started your evidence today, but there's a record
8 that says that you were restrained by a FIZ
9 and FJE and that you were held down for
10 approximately 25 minutes before the police arrived, and
11 then you were taken to cells, and the date for that is 2
12 August 1993.

13 So that's one record of restraint and
14 a FIZ being involved. But again, I think you
15 said you knew his name was FIZ and he was a member
16 of staff?

17 A. He was. And I know he still works with young people.

18 Q. You mention -- again we touched on this earlier,
19 'Anthony' -- when you got back from hospital after the
20 magic mushrooms overdose, you say the staff 'kicked the
21 shit out of me' for that?

22 A. True.

23 Q. They restrained you, they put knees in your back, they
24 put your arms behind you, and you've described it as
25 being really brutal?

1 A. Yeah.

2 Q. And that's because you had taken magic mushrooms and you
3 had ended up in hospital?

4 A. Like, so what? Get the nurses to look after me, the
5 doctors to look after me. You have no right to abuse
6 a child, no matter how big or how developed they are,
7 so.

8 Q. 'Anthony', you say that looking back on that incident
9 with the magic mushrooms, you don't know how the staff
10 couldn't see that things were bad and they should have
11 been alarmed that you needed to take drugs to such
12 an extent that you ended up in hospital. And you
13 explain you were sad, lonely and you just wanted someone
14 to take you away?

15 A. Exactly. I didn't want to be around abusers. They took
16 me from a place where I was abused. I went there
17 because I was abused. There's just so many times that
18 I've been abused. Why can't anyone see?

19 Q. And -- sorry, 'Anthony' continue, sorry.

20 A. So I am -- I am bigger and I can look after myself.
21 I will look after myself. That's a promise. If my son
22 is in danger from these people, I will protect him.
23 And, sorry, I will spend the rest of my life in jail.

24 Q. Are you okay for us to carry on, 'Anthony'?

25 A. Yeah, it's because of what them has done to me

1 (indicating). Why can a High Court judge silence me?
2 How? So I say to him: I want to go back and get that
3 court case again. And if he dares to quiet me, then
4 it's on his head.

5 LADY SMITH: 'Anthony', which court case are you talking
6 about?

7 A. When I went to Edinburgh High Court.

8 LADY SMITH: Yes.

9 A. And he says when -- I was being -- what is it called --
10 cross-ref --

11 LADY SMITH: Were you going to be a witness in a trial?

12 A. I was.

13 LADY SMITH: Was that the one that was going to be to do
14 with Starley Hall?

15 A. Yes.

16 LADY SMITH: Right. Thank you.

17 A. And he says: no, no, no. And I: give me my High Court
18 case back. Because if that gentleman -- whether he's
19 the highest court judge in Scotland, he does not have
20 a right to speak to anyone like that, because what those
21 people done to me has left me with a life of trauma.
22 I'm sorry.

23 MS FORBES: Sorry, 'Anthony', are you okay to continue?

24 A. Yeah, I'm just -- I'm so sorry. I didn't want to --
25 excuse me for a minute, please.

1 Q. Of course.

2 A. No, I just didn't want any of that shit to come out.

3 LADY SMITH: 'Anthony', don't worry. Please don't worry.

4 It's not a problem. Okay?

5 A. I don't believe in swearing in front of women.

6 LADY SMITH: I've heard it quite often, 'Anthony'.

7 I'm quite long in the tooth. Don't you trouble yourself

8 about that.

9 'Anthony', at about this time in the morning,

10 I would usually take a short break. It helps everybody,

11 including the stenographers, who have been working hard

12 at keeping a record of the evidence since we started.

13 Would it help if we took a break just now?

14 A. Yes.

15 LADY SMITH: Well, let's do that and then we'll get back to

16 your evidence afterwards. Okay?

17 A. Thanks.

18 (11.25 am)

19 (A short break)

20 (11.45 am)

21 LADY SMITH: 'Anthony', welcome back. Are you ready for us

22 to carry on?

23 A. Yes.

24 LADY SMITH: Thank you very much.

25 Ms Forbes.

1 MS FORBES: Thank you, my Lady.

2 Hi, 'Anthony'. We'd got to part of your statement
3 where you were telling us about the police, and this is
4 at page 47, paragraph 190 onwards.

5 You tell us essentially that the police, when they
6 dealt with you, were just bullies?

7 A. They were.

8 Q. And you were beaten up so many times by the police that
9 your nose is now permanently damaged; is that right?

10 A. Yeah.

11 Q. And you remember that the police were called by the home
12 after the occasion that we talked about, where you were
13 asked by Rod whether you had been taking drugs, and then
14 you describe how the police dealt with you on that
15 occasion and you say, this is at paragraph 191, you say:

16 'When the police picked me up, they handcuffed me
17 with my arms behind me, dragged me across the back of
18 their van, then lifted me up and threw me in the back.'

19 You then ended up in a cell at the local police
20 station, because they battered you. You got locked up
21 overnight.

22 I think you said earlier in your evidence,
23 'Anthony', that on one of these occasions, I don't know
24 if it's this occasion, that you ended up with injuries
25 on your face?

1 A. Yes.

2 Q. Was that this occasion, do you know?

3 A. Yes, and this will not be easy for yourself to hear, but

4 I am still -- listen (pause). That was my nose. And

5 this (pause).

6 Q. So, 'Anthony', just what you're demonstrating there, is

7 that you showing, in the room that you're in, that when

8 you move your nose there's -- is there a noise that it

9 makes as a result of the injuries?

10 A. Yes.

11 Q. And was it also a noise that your jaw makes when you

12 open it a certain way?

13 A. Yes.

14 Q. Is that a clicking noise?

15 A. Yeah.

16 Q. Okay, just so we have that in the transcript.

17 A. It is painful, but it's proof of --

18 Q. And are both those injuries from your dealings with the

19 police?

20 A. Yes.

21 Q. Okay. You then tell us, 'Anthony', about this last

22 incident, the time when you'd really had enough, and you

23 say that you and a couple of other residents barricaded

24 yourselves in a room, and this was a room that the staff

25 would stay in and the supplies were kept and it was full

1 of stuff like shampoo and soap and things like that.
2 And you did that, you barricaded yourselves in there,
3 because you were getting abused by the staff and you
4 were sick of not being listened to?
5 A. Yeah.
6 Q. As a result of that, the police were called by the home
7 and you say, I think you held up a glass bottle of water
8 earlier to the screen, but you tell us at paragraph 193
9 that you had an arsenal of glass bottles in the room,
10 and when the police --
11 A. Yes --
12 Q. -- car arrived, you threw those at the police car from
13 the window and caused damage to the police car. And
14 then you tied some bedsheets together so that you could
15 climb down and run away. But the police --
16 A. Yes.
17 Q. -- knocked the door down, pinned you down to the floor
18 before you could get away. You were hog-tied,
19 handcuffed, they were very rough and you say they really
20 'kicked the shit out of you' that night and your face
21 was covered in blood, and they then took you to the
22 police station?
23 A. Yeah.
24 Q. So that was another occasion really you are telling us
25 about, where the police were involved and you suffered

1 violence at their hands?

2 A. Yes.

3 Q. And again, we do have a record of this incident,
4 'Anthony', in your records, and the date is [REDACTED]
5 1993, and I think they record that there was damage done
6 to Nimmo, including breakage of four windows, and then
7 you're saying that the police were involved, you were
8 charged with several counts of damage, you were held in
9 police custody in Perth.

10 And the record also shows that when you were taken
11 from the cells then onto the next place that we'll
12 mention in a minute, Corlundy Place, that on the
13 journey --

14 A. Yes.

15 Q. -- you expressed remorse for what had happened, but you
16 explained you had a deep resentment towards Nimmo Place
17 and the restrictions that you felt you faced whilst you
18 were there.

19 And I think there was charges against you as
20 a result of that, things like breach of the peace,
21 wilful and reckless damage, that included [REDACTED] and
22 [REDACTED] 1993.

23 So it wasn't just the police being called. They
24 also then charged you for those offences?

25 A. Yeah.

1 Q. Yeah.

2 A. And I say right now: do not bully a child. I was
3 a child. So I'm gonna stick up for myself.

4 Q. Yes. That incident, 'Anthony', seems to have led to you
5 leaving Nimmo Avenue and I think we know that you were
6 then taken to effectively a council house in Crieff?

7 A. Yes.

8 Q. You're still only 14 at that time and this was on
9 [REDACTED] 1993 and you stayed there -- [REDACTED] or [REDACTED]
10 1993 -- and you were there just for a few weeks until
11 [REDACTED].

12 I think this was a council house which had staff in
13 it; is that right?

14 A. Yes.

15 Q. A privately owned place that the council had.

16 But I think you tell us, 'Anthony', that nothing of
17 note happened really when you were there and after that,
18 you ended up going into effectively a foster care
19 placement with someone called Paulnacha O'Marthini,
20 who --

21 A. Yes.

22 Q. -- I understand was -- was he a social worker? A foster
23 carer?

24 A. He was a paedophile.

25 Q. Yes. And, 'Anthony', you tell us about what happened

1 when you were with him from paragraph 213 to 231. And
2 you were 14 when you were placed with him, so this was
3 [REDACTED] 1993, and you stayed with him in various
4 properties under his care until you were 15, in about
5 1993.

6 Now, 'Anthony', again, this evidence has been read
7 in, in full, during the Foster Care case study, and just
8 so we can tie it up in the transcript with your evidence
9 today, I'll read out some details about the dates.

10 So that was 27 September 2022. It was Day 327 of
11 the Inquiry and the reference for the transcript for
12 that is TRN-10-000000066.

13 And I think you understand, 'Anthony', that again
14 we're not going to go through what happened during your
15 time with him, but I think it's important that we know
16 really what happened to you there, which is that he
17 groomed you and he sexually abused you --

18 A. Yes.

19 Q. -- over that time. And we have the details of what you
20 tell us happened with you and that there was other boys
21 that you tell us about as well. And again, it's not
22 ignored at all, it was referred to in evidence in the
23 Foster Care case study and it's something that the
24 Inquiry have taken note of and will continue to take
25 note of, 'Anthony'.

1 But essentially that was you going then from
2 physical and emotional abuse at Nimmo Avenue to a foster
3 care placement, where you were then under the care of
4 someone who was regularly sexually abusing you in the
5 most serious of ways?

6 A. Yes.

7 Q. And I think you go on, 'Anthony', to tell us, this is at
8 paragraph 234, that you were telling people what was
9 happening to you in foster care, but nobody would listen
10 and you were just desperate to find a way out?

11 A. Yes.

12 Q. You had a friend who lived in a place near Perth and he
13 moved to Edinburgh and you started to go to see him, and
14 you said to social workers that you didn't mind staying
15 there and you ended up moving into a room, you say, in
16 Marchmont in Edinburgh, and that was what they called
17 trying to get you into independent living. But you were
18 still only 15, so you still weren't an adult at that
19 point?

20 A. Yes.

21 Q. But you go on to tell us that you moved into that room
22 in Marchmont, you were given a small amount of money to
23 get some furniture, but that really was the end of Perth
24 Council's involvement with you and you tell us at
25 paragraph 235:

1 'It was as if they sorted the room, gave me the £200
2 and then told me to fuck off.'

3 And is that how you felt?

4 A. That is exactly what happened.

5 Q. 'Anthony', you then go on to talk about your life after
6 leaving the foster care placement. This is from
7 paragraph 236. You explain it wasn't long until you
8 were on the streets. You ended up homeless. You were
9 still only 15. You were sleeping rough in Edinburgh.
10 That you were spending your time under a blanket, asking
11 strangers for money, and that was the only way you could
12 get money for food. You were on and off homeless really
13 until you joined the army later on when you were 21?

14 A. Yeah.

15 Q. You say that you had an opportunity to go to Sweden and
16 you got a job working on a farm in return for staying
17 there. You moved from Sweden then pretty quickly to
18 Greece, travelled through the Balkans, made it to Greece
19 and you tell us about working in Greece as a stripper
20 and a bouncer. You say you were the 'giant man in the
21 kilt' who stood on the doors.

22 And then you tell us that whilst you were making
23 money over there, a lot of money, you didn't know what
24 to do with it, and in the end you ended up back in the
25 UK, homeless in London, and you spent far too long being

1 homeless in London before coming back up to Edinburgh
2 and again being homeless up in Edinburgh.

3 You give a detailed account, 'Anthony', of what
4 happened, and I think you tell us, when you're back in
5 Edinburgh, you were homeless again, begging on the
6 streets. There was an organisation called Victory
7 Outreach who took you, I suppose, under their wing, but
8 you, after that, got -- ended up homeless again and in
9 London before coming back up to Edinburgh.

10 And I think this is when you start trying to get
11 into the army, and you explain your journey as to trying
12 to do that at paragraph 240 and I think you explain it
13 wasn't easy. You ultimately got offered a job as
14 an electrical and mechanical design draftsman, is that
15 right?

16 A. Yes.

17 Q. And you had -- I think you say it was an opportunity to
18 become an architect in the British Army, but the job you
19 were offered had a three-year waiting list, and whilst
20 you were waiting for that you became a highly qualified
21 medic in the army?

22 A. Yes.

23 Q. And you were sent very quickly, after being given
24 a qualification, to deployment in Oman.

25 But you say, 'Anthony', that your experience in the

1 British Army was just as bad as being in care and you
2 were in the army for about three-and-a-half years, got
3 into trouble and were asked to leave.

4 You go on to explain what happened after that, that
5 you thought you were going to end up homeless again.
6 You were directed towards the English Churches Housing
7 Group, which you say was just the worst. You were given
8 a room in a complex. And as soon as you were able to
9 get enough money to rent your own place, you did that.

10 You talk about a qualification in body piercing,
11 which you say you did well in, in that career. And you
12 explain you did lots of other stuff over the years after
13 leaving the army, working as a bouncer again,
14 a slaughterman in North Yorkshire, a skinner.

15 And essentially, I think, 'Anthony', you now have
16 some quite significant health problems, I think, that
17 limit your ability to work; is that right?

18 A. Yes.

19 Q. So you've had a stroke, and you've been diagnosed with
20 a nerve condition; is that right?

21 A. Yes, I will be needing a wheelchair for the rest of my
22 life.

23 Q. Okay. And, 'Anthony', we talk -- you talk about impact
24 in your statement from paragraph 246 and you say your
25 family and the people involved in your care ruined your

1 life, ruined your education. You've ended up with
2 complex PTSD. You mention the fact that you obviously
3 were very intelligent and there's a lot of potential
4 there that wasn't able to be realised because of what
5 happened.

6 You tell us about your injuries. You've got a right
7 shoulder that's permanently damaged as a result of
8 restraint in Starley Hall, and we've talked about your
9 nose and your jaw as well, from police.

10 You go on to tell us in your statement about your
11 experience in reporting the abuse in the various places
12 later in life and I'm not going to go through that,
13 'Anthony', because we have it there and you set out in
14 a lot of detail your experience, which it's clear was
15 very frustrating; is that fair, to say the least?

16 A. Yeah.

17 Q. Just going forward, 'Anthony', then, just to look at
18 lessons to be learned. This is from paragraph 269 of
19 your statement, page 66. You tell us that your
20 experience of being in care was not being listened to
21 and not being given any help and that it was horrible?

22 A. True.

23 Q. And you say no kid should ever have to go into care, but
24 if kids do go into care, they should be treated a hell
25 of a lot better than you were?

1 A. Yes.

2 Q. And at paragraph 271, 'Anthony', you say there's no
3 reason why a child has to be restrained by full-grown
4 men and your experience of being restrained in care was
5 that you were beaten black and blue by staff and you
6 question, why were you seen as the bad guy when all you
7 were trying to do was defend yourself?

8 Is that what we talked about, 'Anthony', that you
9 would be 'restrained', in inverted commas, but your
10 experience is that it was a physical assault, and when
11 you tried to --

12 A. It was.

13 Q. -- defend yourself against that, that you then would
14 have the police involved and charges brought against
15 you?

16 A. Exactly. So when is it not okay to defend yourself?
17 When I joined the army, they said: no matter what,
18 defend yourself. Defend your fellow man.

19 That's what I was doing.

20 Q. Yes.

21 You go on, 'Anthony', to say at paragraph 272:

22 'They need to register carers and make sure that
23 those persons who look after children are policed.
24 Children shouldn't be handed across to anyone so as they
25 can abuse them.'

1 A. Yes.

2 Q. That:

3 'Experienced social workers should come in and
4 question the carers on how they are going to look after
5 the children in their care.'

6 And that:

7 'If they don't answer correctly, then they shouldn't
8 be allowed to foster.'

9 A. Yes.

10 Q. 'If need be, social workers should go incognito and
11 inspect how carers are looking after the children in
12 their care.'

13 And you tell us, 'Anthony', that you've kept in
14 touch -- and I think you've mentioned some of the people
15 who were in care with you earlier. You have kept in
16 touch with a lot of the kids who were in care with you
17 over the years and for many of them, if not all, their
18 experiences didn't end very well. Some of them didn't
19 make it or ended up on heroin?

20 A. Yes.

21 Q. Looking forward then in your statement, 'Anthony', to
22 your hopes for the Inquiry, I think at paragraph 277 you
23 say:

24 'It's never okay for any person looking after
25 children to abuse them. Even if it's mental abuse, it

1 shouldn't happen. I don't want this to continue for any
2 child who is in care.'

3 Essentially, is that how you feel?

4 A. Yes.

5 Q. Is that one of the reasons you came forward to the
6 Inquiry, 'Anthony'?

7 A. It is me saying -- I'm sorry, my Lady -- I will kill
8 anyone doing that to a child. What is my life? What is
9 my life? Because of what they have done to me, what
10 they're doing to other young children, I'm not going to
11 behave. I'm sorry, if I go on to prison for the rest of
12 my life, fine. Fine. At least I will have moved on.

13 Q. 'Anthony', you tell us that, looking back, there was
14 never any choice for you in life?

15 A. Yes.

16 Q. As soon as you were placed in care, which wasn't your
17 choice, you were abused?

18 A. Yeah.

19 Q. And all you really wanted and all you want now is just
20 to live a normal life?

21 A. Yes.

22 Q. And I think you say that you hope that giving your
23 statement to the Inquiry might end up with the
24 Procurator Fiscal looking at what happened to you in
25 care again, and you hope that the people who you've

1 spoken about in your statement, that are still working
2 for councils, are gotten rid of or dismissed?

3 A. Yes.

4 Q. Well, 'Anthony', thank you very much for answering my
5 questions today. I know I've kept you for a really long
6 time this morning. Is there anything that you want to
7 say that you haven't had a chance to say during your
8 evidence?

9 A. No. I am trying my hardest to not be rude. I don't
10 believe in swearing in front of women, but sometimes you
11 need a big man to stand up for yourselves. If my son is
12 getting abused, I will dispose of people doing that.

13 MS FORBES: 'Anthony', that's all the questions I have for
14 you, so thank you very much for answering my questions
15 and bearing with me today. Okay. Thank you.

16 A. Thank you.

17 LADY SMITH: 'Anthony', before we switch off the link,
18 I want to add my thanks. You've been very patient with
19 us. We've asked you a lot of questions and I'm sure
20 we've tired you out, but it's been really helpful to
21 hear from you directly. So thank you very much for
22 that.

23 A. Thank you.

24 LADY SMITH: Well, before we move on to the next stage of
25 today, there are some names I want to mention of people

1 whose identities are protected by my General Restriction
2 Order, and they're not to be identified as referred to
3 in our evidence outside this room. And there was
4 ITA [REDACTED], there was FJE [REDACTED], there was a man, FIZ [REDACTED] or
5 FIZ [REDACTED] or maybe FIZ [REDACTED], also known as FIZ [REDACTED]
6 FIZ [REDACTED]. Somebody called FKI [REDACTED].

7 And then also at one point the witness 'Anthony'
8 gave in detail his own email address. Now, that's not
9 a name, but it's an identification that not only must
10 not be repeated outside this room, nobody who's heard it
11 today is permitted to use that. So please bear that in
12 mind as well. Thank you.

13 Now, Ms Forbes -- is there somebody I've forgotten?
14 Oh, and [REDACTED] as well. Yes, thank you. Thank you very
15 much.

16 Ms Forbes.

17 MS FORBES: My Lady, the next evidence we have is from
18 an applicant who has provided a statement and is
19 anonymous and is known as 'Carol'.

20 LADY SMITH: Thank you.

21 'Carol' (read in)

22 MS FORBES: The reference for 'Carol's' statement is
23 WIT-1-000001550 (sic).

24 'Carol's' evidence has been read in twice during the
25 Inquiry already. It was read in during Phase 8, Secure

1 Care, et cetera, study on 16 February 2024. That was
2 Day 419, and the reference for the transcript is
3 TRN-12-000000051 and that was for the establishment
4 Burnside or Harestane.

5 And then 'Carol's' statement was also read in again
6 on 5 December 2024, Day 500. The reference for the
7 transcript is TRN-12-000000133 and that was for
8 St Mary's, Kenmure, post the De La Salle era.

9 With that in mind, my Lady, I shall only read out
10 parts of 'Carol's' statement and summarise the rest.

11 LADY SMITH: Thank you.

12 MS FORBES: In summary, 'Carol' was born in 1965 and tells
13 us about her life before care between paragraphs 2 and
14 4. She lived with her parents in Newarthill. She had
15 three sisters and two brothers and she was the second
16 eldest.

17 Her dad was a heavy drinker and her mum had a lot of
18 health problems. 'Carol' says she can remember lots of
19 happy times, but sad times too because of poverty. Her
20 grandparents helped, but her gran died at 48 years old
21 and then her grandfather moved away, so that family
22 support was lost.

23 She was placed in foster care for a period while her
24 mother was in hospital having twins, and then she and
25 her -- and she and her sister went into foster care.

1 And we know that she was there aged 5 in [REDACTED] 1971 for
2 just over a month, and then she was returned to her
3 parents, and she talks about that from paragraph 5.

4 Then when she was 10, the family moved to Bellshill.
5 She had to move primary school. Her parents weren't
6 working at that time. Things went downhill. She
7 remembers being hungry a lot. Her dad spent money --
8 all the money on drink. There was a lot of bullying in
9 the local area and she had to stay away from certain
10 streets because they weren't originally from there.

11 She was picked on at school. There was social work
12 involvement, but to 'Carol's' mind that didn't seem to
13 be much of a help.

14 Her mother then took them to Perth to her grandad's
15 and they ended up squatting in a flat above his flat.
16 But she would come back to see her dad and stay with her
17 mum's sister. But she had an aunt who would hit her.
18 She went back to Perth and the family all seemed to
19 split up at that time.

20 Her younger brothers and sisters were put into homes
21 and they were all living in different places.
22 Essentially, she was supposed to go to school but didn't
23 go and it was decided that she would go into care so
24 that she would start attending school regularly.

25 She ran away and the police caught her in Glasgow.

1 She was then put into Larchgrove Remand Home. She talks
2 about that at paragraphs 13 and 14 and says she spent
3 two nights there.

4 After that, she went back to her grandad's in Perth,
5 but was told eventually she couldn't stay with him and
6 was put into Colonsay House and she says she was about
7 12 years old when that happened, and she talks about
8 Colonsay House between paragraphs 5 (sic) and 30.

9 My Lady, we know from the records that we've
10 obtained that 'Carol' was placed on a compulsory
11 supervision order with a specific condition to attend
12 school. In [REDACTED] 1980 there were some charges she
13 would appear in court in relation to on and off, and
14 sentences were deferred and conditions were that she
15 attend school, but she didn't do that.

16 And more, further allegations of offending occurred
17 until the time came when she was ultimately admitted to
18 Colonsay House, and this was on [REDACTED] 1981, so she
19 was quite a bit older than she remembers. She would
20 have been 15.

21 And she was discharged from Colonsay House on [REDACTED]
22 [REDACTED] 1981, according to her records, so really
23 a short period of time.

24 LADY SMITH: Mm-hmm.

25 MS FORBES: And also from her records, we know she ran away

1 from there and was absent from the home from [REDACTED]
2 to [REDACTED], so --

3 LADY SMITH: She wasn't there long at all.

4 MS FORBES: -- it was an even shorter period of time. And
5 that ultimately led to her being placed in Burnside
6 Assessment Centre.

7 But if I can go to where she tells us about
8 Colonsay House at paragraph 15, 'Carol' says:

9 'Colonsay House was in a part of Perth that was
10 built in the early 1970s so it was quite a new building
11 at the time. It looked a bit like a nursing home from
12 the front. It was quite nice inside and was open plan
13 downstairs. At one end of the main room were pool
14 tables and at the other end a TV. It was locked inside
15 and the staff always used keys. So, for example, if you
16 were going from the dinner area to the toilet, you had
17 to ask a member of staff to open the door.

18 'I can't really remember my first day there. The
19 place was [REDACTED] a woman and man called Auntie MYJ
20 and Uncle LND. I remember being taken in and shown the
21 dinner room by the woman. There was a big, fat man
22 called Peter who worked there. He always seemed to be
23 about.

24 'I think there were about 15 to 20 children. It was
25 mixed, boys and girls. They were mostly all school age.

1 There were another couple of members of a family who
2 lived a couple of streets away from my mum who were in
3 at the same time. The kids were aged all the way up to
4 the age of 16. There were kids younger than me. I was
5 classed a younger one. I shared a room like a dormitory
6 with one other person. There were four beds in it.
7 I was lucky because it was only me and one girl sharing
8 the room. We had small wardrobes near our beds, but
9 I didn't have a lot of personal things.

10 'We got up at around 7 o'clock and went downstairs
11 to the dining area. The tables were all set out for
12 breakfast. We had cereal, but you were only allowed
13 a certain amount. After we had breakfast, we got ready.
14 I think we got ready in our rooms. We always had
15 showers or baths in the evening and changed into our
16 night clothes. We didn't have any privacy to have our
17 baths.

18 'We would get ready and wait on the bus. They took
19 us to school in a minibus. I was to go to Perth Grammar
20 School. The school was within walking distance but they
21 were dropping other kids off at school in the town.

22 'When we got home from school, we had tea around
23 5 o'clock in the dining area. After that, we were
24 allowed to watch TV and play pool. Some people had
25 managed to get allowed out at night. I can't remember

1 ever being allowed to go out. My friends would come to
2 the back gate and shout up to the window asking me to
3 run away.

4 'The member of staff, Peter, was always lurking
5 about the toilet area. The woman, MYJ, would run the
6 baths for the smaller ones. I can remember standing
7 naked a few times trying to hide myself and him coming
8 in and out. At the time I thought that's what it was
9 meant to be like, because I was in their care.

10 'I can't remember doing any chores when I was there.
11 All I can remember about it is the abuse I suffered
12 there. Peter was an adult, but he was still quite
13 young. My friend [REDACTED] who I shared with told me that
14 he was all right and that he used to come into the room
15 at night and sit for a while. She said he gave her
16 cigarettes and pocket money to buy sweets and juice. He
17 used to come into the room and sexually assault us every
18 night. He would lock the door. At the time, I thought
19 he was senior, like Aunt MYJ and Uncle LND. I don't
20 know if MYJ and LND knew about him going into our
21 room at night.

22 'They put films on for us at weekends. They would
23 shut the curtains and put the lights out. I can
24 remember Peter used to want us to go and sit up beside
25 him because he had the sweets to give out. He would be

1 rubbing himself against us in the dark while the film
2 was on and no one could see.'

3 'Carol' names the other girl. She says:

4 'She was abused more than me and at the time
5 I thought Peter liked her more than me. I had never
6 been abused before.

7 'Peter took advantage of the kids in his care. He
8 shouldn't have been working there. I think he was in
9 his 20s. He had a car and used to take me, [the girl
10 she mentioned and another girl who she names] out in it.
11 It was probably to make us like him more. I later heard
12 that he was in a relationship.'

13 And this is with the second girl she names.

14 'I can also remember Uncle **LND** hitting us with
15 a belt. It was me, [the first girl she named] and two
16 boys. I think it was normal in those days, although
17 that incident stayed with me. There was always shouting
18 and bawling and telling us what to do. Auntie **MYJ**
19 and Uncle **LND** were like Fred and Rose West. They were
20 horrible. They had speakers on the wall so the staff
21 could hear us talking in other rooms. Peter used to say
22 that he had heard us talking about things, so there
23 wasn't any privacy at all. They could speak through it
24 too.

25 'One of the worst things about it was that I was

1 frightened to say anything to anyone. There wasn't
2 anybody to speak to. I was scared to speak to my mum
3 and dad in case it made things worse. I didn't feel as
4 though I could speak to the social worker.

5 'By then, the social worker was a woman called
6 Jessie Young. She looked for places to put me and the
7 rest of my family. I can remember her taking me to
8 Dundee and being involved in another place I went later
9 on called Tyne Park. She was involved with me for
10 years. She was horrible and unsympathetic. She wasn't
11 caring and wouldn't listen when I tried to speak to her
12 about anything. I couldn't moan about anything to her.
13 I think there was a Mr Stewart who was more senior than
14 her.

15 'I wouldn't go to school, so the social worker,
16 Jessie Young, said that I was being sent to
17 an assessment centre to find out why I didn't want to go
18 to school. I was running away from Colonsay all the
19 time and going to stay with a friend who stayed near it.
20 The police used to take me back to Colonsay. The police
21 were unsympathetic as well. I didn't think I would be
22 believed. It was too hard to try to tell a policeman
23 what was happening.

24 'I can remember being beaten up by the police while
25 I was waiting at the charge bar in Perth Police Station.

1 One of the officers was holding me by the back of the
2 hair and hitting my head off the desk.'

3 And she names him:

4 'He was kneeling me on the backside. I hadn't really
5 done much other than be a bit cheeky and not wanting
6 them to touch me. I was only 13. One of the other
7 officers, a sergeant, came past and told him to stop
8 hitting me. I was screaming. I think that the sergeant
9 was called [and she names him]. You just wouldn't
10 believe that it could happen. I can remember being put
11 in what they called a detention cell. There was
12 a toilet. The sergeant kept coming into the cell every
13 hour or so to check that I was all right, because he'd
14 watched the other one battering me.

15 'It was around this time that I started sniffing
16 glue. Looking back, I think I was trying to forget
17 about everything that was going on. I knew by then that
18 I was probably going to be leaving Colonsay because
19 I was an absconder and it wasn't secure enough. I was
20 being threatened with going to Burnside in Dundee, but
21 by that time I thought it couldn't be any worse than
22 being in Colonsay with the pervert Peter around me all
23 the time. I was glad to leave because I knew it was all
24 over. I was taken to a Children's Panel. My dad was
25 crying when I was told I was being sent to Burnside

1 Assessment Centre because he probably knew things were
2 going to get worse for me and that I wasn't going to be
3 going home. I was in there for a few months.'

4 My Lady, we know then that 'Carol' was admitted to
5 Burnside on [REDACTED] 1981, she was still aged 15, and
6 she was there until [REDACTED] 1981. And that part of her
7 statement has been read in previously. She talks about
8 it between paragraphs 31 and 61.

9 We know, my Lady, from her records she was sentenced
10 to residential training from [REDACTED] 1981 and that
11 was for a period of 18 months.

12 We also know from our records, my Lady, that she
13 appeared on a petition warrant on [REDACTED] 1981 and was
14 fully committed to Cornton Vale under an unruly
15 certificate, and she was in Cornton Vale until [REDACTED]
16 1981, so almost two months.

17 And then she was admitted to Tyne Park School from
18 Cornton Vale on [REDACTED] 1981, still aged 15.

19 She tells us about Tyne Park from paragraph 61 and
20 in summary she says she was bullied there for the first
21 few weeks by some of the girls, but those girls were
22 moved to a different school when the headmaster became
23 aware of it.

24 She comments that Tyne Park was the best of all the
25 places she was in, although she does say abuse still

1 happened there. There was an incident at the dentist,
2 she talks about physical assault and sexual abuse from
3 a male member of staff.

4 We know, my Lady, from her records that on
5 [REDACTED] 1981 she was put on leave from Tyne Park to
6 find a job, and she was supposed to return if this
7 proved unsuccessful, but she failed to return and was
8 eventually apprehended in London, and she was flown back
9 and taken straight to St Mary's.

10 And she tells us then about Kenmure St Mary's, or
11 St Mary's Kenmure, and her records tell us she was
12 admitted there on [REDACTED] 1982, aged 16, and she
13 stayed there until [REDACTED], the same year, so still aged
14 16.

15 She was sent home on extended leave from there on
16 [REDACTED] 1982 and effectively released early from the
17 residential order in [REDACTED] 1981 from St Mary's.

18 I think she discovers -- tells us she discovers she
19 was pregnant. She tells us there was physical assault
20 at St Mary's by another girl, sexual assault by a boy,
21 and she also says she was sexually assaulted there by
22 two members of staff.

23 Again, my Lady, that evidence was previously read in
24 in more detail.

25 She tells us about her life after care from

1 paragraph 89. After she left St Mary's, she had her
2 daughter and got a house. However, her daughter's dad
3 was taking drugs and she ended up taking heroin. She
4 was 17 at that time. He ended up in prison and she
5 managed to end the relationship with him.

6 She had some work in the bingo hall and had cleaning
7 jobs, but went on to drugs. 'Carol' tells us she has
8 been unemployed for years. She was put on methadone in
9 1983 and at the time of this statement, she was still on
10 it and says she can't seem to get off it, but wants to
11 reduce it.

12 Her mother and father both passed away whilst she
13 was serving different prison sentences, but she says
14 since the last death, she has never been in trouble
15 since then and she says that her offences were all
16 drug-related.

17 She talks about being in a rehab centre in Liverpool
18 in 2020 for six weeks, but felt that she was being
19 bullied by some of the other patients and felt like she
20 was back in a home, so she left.

21 She says she works in a local charity shop for six
22 hours twice a week and loves that. Her daughter and her
23 daughter's partner and her granddaughter have moved in
24 with her, but she's been diagnosed with breast cancer.
25 She's had surgery and radiotherapy treatment but she's

1 worried it will come back.

2 She talks about impact from paragraph 96 and she
3 talks about the impact on her siblings as well, who she
4 says were also abused in care, and one of them committed
5 suicide.

6 'Carol' says her education was affected by her time
7 in care and she didn't sit any exams.

8 She says she was in a relationship after her
9 daughter's dad and she says he was a great man, but
10 sadly he became depressed after losing his younger
11 brother and took his own life. And she misses him, she
12 says, a lot and hasn't been in a relationship since.

13 My Lady, then 'Carol' makes the usual declaration at
14 paragraph 105 and she has signed her statement, dated
15 9 March 2022.

16 LADY SMITH: Thank you very much.

17 MS FORBES: My Lady, the next statement is from an applicant
18 who is anonymous and is known as 'Colin', and this
19 relates to Nimmo Place, and the reference for 'Colin's'
20 statement is WIT-1-000001091.

21 'Colin' (read in)

22 MS FORBES: My Lady, 'Colin' tells us he was born in 1964.
23 He talks about his life before going into care from
24 paragraph 2 and says he has 12 brothers and sisters and
25 he was the youngest.

1 He was brought up in [REDACTED] in Perth and
2 doesn't remember much about family life before his mum
3 passed away, but says his dad was in the army and
4 a cook.

5 'Colin' tells us at paragraph 4 his mum passed away
6 when he was 6 years old and he was put into a children's
7 home at Nimmo Place in Perth. He was there for 11 or
8 12 years. His brother went there too, but his brother
9 was three or four years older than him and left when he
10 was 13.

11 He says all the other children in the family were
12 older and not taken to that home, and he thinks it was
13 organised through the social work and there was no
14 social work involvement before that.

15 'Colin' then tells us about what is headed as
16 'Tulloch Children's Home, 22 Nimmo Place, Perth' but
17 I think for our purposes, my Lady, we call it
18 Nimmo Place.

19 LADY SMITH: Nimmo Place, thank you.

20 MS FORBES: And my Lady, we know from his records that his
21 mother died in [REDACTED] 1970 when he was aged 6, and
22 I think we can tell from his records that he was in
23 Nimmo Place on two occasions. The first was for
24 a shorter period of time from [REDACTED] 1969 to
25 [REDACTED] 1969, when he was aged 5. And then he was

1 placed there, immediately after his mother's death in
2 [REDACTED], he was placed there on [REDACTED] 1970. And we don't
3 have a date for him leaving in the records
4 unfortunately, but we do have a record that shows he was
5 still there when he was aged 11 in September 1975. But
6 I think we'll see from his statement, my Lady, that
7 'Colin' says he was there for a lot longer than that.
8 But unfortunately the records relate primarily to his
9 brother and we only find some information about him in
10 there.

11 LADY SMITH: Okay.

12 MS FORBES: 'Colin' then talks about Nimmo Place from
13 paragraph 5 and he says:

14 'GKK [REDACTED] and RHR [REDACTED] were husband and
15 wife and SNR [REDACTED] of the home.'

16 I think, my Lady, from the records we have, we know
17 it's RHR-GKK [REDACTED].

18 LADY SMITH: RHR-GKK [REDACTED] would make sense, yes.

19 MS FORBES: 'There were between 12 and 14 children and I was
20 there the longest. I continued going to Goodlyburn
21 Primary School, which was not far from the home. It was
22 boys and girls at the home. The boys were at one end
23 and the girls were at another end.

24 'I felt like the social worker just grabbed us and
25 took us away to this home. It looked okay when I first

1 went in, but then I saw a lot of children walking back
2 and forward with their heads down and it did not look
3 right.

4 'It was a big white building with a garden at the
5 front and a garden at the back. It was on two levels.
6 The ground floor had a kitchen, a big corridor,
7 a bathroom, a utility room, a living room and an office.
8 There was a playroom too. Upstairs were all the
9 bedrooms and another bathroom. I think there were seven
10 or eight bedrooms in total. The girls were separated
11 from the boys. I shared a room with a couple of other
12 boys. The staff slept upstairs too, in the middle of
13 all the bedrooms.

14 'There was a cook called Christine and GKK and
15 RHR 's son RGG helped at the home as well. There was
16 a gardener and a cleaner but I have forgotten their
17 names. There would have been two or three staff members
18 on at the same time. They swapped around every day.

19 'I was one of the youngest at the home and you
20 stayed there until you were 16.

21 'The staff would shake you in the morning and pull
22 the covers back. You had to hurry up and get ready and
23 if you were too late you wouldn't get your breakfast.
24 You just had to go to school. After school, we had to
25 do homework and then we could play in the playroom.

1 'We had to be in our beds for 6.30 every night.
2 I was in a room with six or seven boys. My brother [who
3 he names] was in a room with me. It was lights out and
4 we weren't allowed to talk. Staff would come round and
5 check to make sure you were in your bed. You'd get
6 punished if you weren't. Staff would check on you
7 during the night too. You could go to the toilet. You
8 had to ask permission.

9 'We had a dinner ticket for lunch at school.

10 'At the home we always got small portions of food.
11 The food was okay, but we were always hungry. I would
12 sometimes try and go into ["the larder", I think that
13 should say] where the food was, but if they caught you,
14 you would be punished.

15 'One time I would not eat my cabbage because
16 I didn't like it and they both forced me to eat it.
17 They battered me under the table when I was trying to
18 hide and wouldn't eat the cabbage. They kicked me under
19 the table and tried to get hold of me. There was one at
20 either side. They managed to get me and forced me to
21 eat the cabbage by holding my nose and opening my mouth.
22 One held my head and the other forced it in. I was then
23 put in the corner for four or five hours in the dining
24 room. I had to stand and face the wall. It was just
25 the cabbage I wouldn't eat and they tried to force it

1 down my throat. I can remember this happening once or
2 twice. I did not see this happening to anyone else.

3 'You could have a normal bath if you wanted to and
4 it would be warm water. We lined up for the bath and we
5 got fresh water. There were no issues with that. It
6 was one person at a time.

7 'We had a wee cupboard at our beds for our clothes.
8 I had a lot of clothes provided by the home. I used to
9 change them all the time. The staff would wash them for
10 us.

11 'We had toys in the playroom. I had some Action Men
12 and things like that. My brother did too. You could
13 not play with other children's toys. You got punished
14 for that. We weren't allowed toys in our room. There
15 was a television, but if you were bad you were not
16 allowed to watch it. You could sometimes watch it after
17 teatime.

18 'At weekends you were allowed to play out the front
19 or the back. Sometimes they would let you go a bit away
20 from the home but you had to be in at a certain time,
21 before it was dark. It was maybe only five, ten minutes
22 away you were allowed to go. If you weren't in before
23 it was dark you would get punished.

24 'They used to take us swimming to the local swimming
25 pool at Dunkeld Road, but I can't swim so I just used to

1 stay at the shallow end. That was maybe once a week and
2 we would all be taken in a minibus.

3 'Other children went to the cinema but I just didn't
4 want to go. I would always just stay in the playroom.
5 You had a choice if you wanted to go as a treat.

6 'The primary school was just along the road so
7 I would walk. I was not very good at school. I got Ds
8 and Es. I could not speak to the teachers at school as
9 I knew I would get into trouble at the home.

10 'I remember one day I got a report card from the
11 school and I didn't hand it in to the home as I knew
12 I would get punished because it was bad. I destroyed
13 it.

14 'I got the belt in class at school. It was just for
15 normal things and a belt over the hand only. It was
16 maybe four or five belts and not the same as what
17 happened to me at the home.

18 'I remember seeing a dentist when I was at the home.
19 It was just for routine appointments. I don't remember
20 ever visiting a doctor. If you hurt yourself, they
21 would get a doctor. If it was a minor cut, you would
22 just get a plaster.

23 'We went to a big church every Sunday. Everyone had
24 to go. You had clothes for church that they provided.
25 It was dress trousers. You had to be well suited up for

1 church. They were right into their religion. I just
2 had to go along with it.

3 'We had to say prayers at nighttime before we went
4 to bed. They would watch you. GKK or RHR would also
5 stand up and say prayers at meal times and we had to put
6 our hands together.

7 'We went to a place called Carnoustie once a year at
8 summertime. We stayed there three or four days. It was
9 a big, massive house. I don't know who ran it. Staff
10 came with us and we all had to go.

11 'There were never any day trips with the home.

12 'You got a birthday cake and maybe a wee toy for
13 your birthday, but that was it. At Christmastime, we
14 would get some toys. You got a stocking and a Christmas
15 meal. All the kids were there at Christmastime. No one
16 went home.

17 'We had a wee cupboard at the side of our bed for
18 personal stuff. We got maybe 50 pence a week pocket
19 money and there was a tuck shop to buy sweets.

20 'I wet the bed one night and I had to lie in the pee
21 all night. I tried changing my sheets but they caught
22 me. I got the belt too for trying to hide it from GKK
23 and RHR. I had to go to school the next day without
24 a bath and I was smelling of pee. I wasn't allowed to
25 wash. Sometimes GKK and RHR made me have a cold bath

1 when I wet the bed. They would put soap in my mouth
2 too. I wet the bed quite a lot when I was younger until
3 I was about 8 or 9 years old. They washed your sheets
4 for you if you wet the bed. Other children would wet
5 the bed too and we would be called "pee the beds" by the
6 other children.

7 'I had no visitors and was never allowed home to see
8 my family. I don't know why.

9 'Our social worker was a man. He came a few times
10 to talk to RHR and GKK, but they just went into the
11 wee office. They never spoke with me. I am not sure of
12 his name, but David Scott comes to mind.

13 'I did not know where any of my family stayed to
14 visit them. I don't know why my dad never came to see
15 me. My brother was not allowed to come back and visit
16 me.

17 'Normal discipline is hard to explain because of all
18 the other stuff that went on. They might stop your
19 pocket money or you weren't allowed to use the tuck
20 shop. You would be sent to your bedroom and not allowed
21 to watch television. They could also stop you playing
22 with your toys.

23 'I ran away once and I never did it again as I was
24 punished for it. It was just to the side of the home
25 for one night and I hid in the bushes.'

1 'Colin' then talks about abuse from paragraph 38:

2 'When I describe being punished at this home it was
3 GKK and RHR who punished me. They
4 used to belt me on my bare backside and on the back of
5 my legs. It was with a belt or a cane. It was both of
6 them that would do this and they were both there when it
7 happened. One would watch and the other would hit you.
8 It could be for anything. I don't know what I did
9 wrong. If felt like it was just a punishment for the
10 fun of it most of the time. I was just a child.
11 I don't think I did anything wrong.

12 'My brother got the same treatment when he was
13 there. All of the kids did. It was every day. I don't
14 know if it happened to the girls. They never said much
15 and were at the other end of the home.

16 'Either GKK or RHR used to grab me in the
17 privates as well when the other one was hitting me.
18 They would take you into the wee office for the
19 punishments. That's where you would get the belt and
20 the cane. It was the two of them that did it. You
21 would be red and sore afterwards.

22 'I also used to have to stand in a corner facing the
23 wall for four or five hours at a time. Other folk were
24 just watching television.

25 'One of the times that I was refusing to eat cabbage

1 was when my brother got thrown out of the home. I don't
2 remember all of this, but he has told me RGG, GKK and
3 RHR 's son was hitting me under the table and he threw
4 a knife at him. It hit a rocking horse, but he got
5 thrown out for that behaviour. I am not sure if it was
6 that day or a few days after, he was taken away. He
7 went to live with a foster family. Things got worse for
8 me then. I was about 8 or 9 when he left.

9 'I got battered outside the home one time as well.
10 The neighbours across the road saw it and were shouting
11 and bawling at GKK and RHR to stop. They were
12 punching and kicking me and pulling my hair. It did not
13 stop them that the neighbours were shouting at them.
14 I don't know if the other staff knew what was happening.
15 If they did, they kept it to themselves.

16 'If you used bad language or spoke back to GKK and
17 RHR when you were getting a beating, they used soap in
18 your mouth and gave you a cold bath. You would get this
19 if you were late coming home from being out as well. It
20 was all different things they would do for it. It was
21 usually RHR that would put you in a cold bath.

22 'When I turned 16, I just said I was joining the
23 army and I went straight into the army from the home.'

24 RHR (sic) then talks about life after being in
25 care from paragraph 46. He says he was in the Black

1 Watch for a year-and-a-half and then he went to stay
2 with his dad, and he was with his dad for eight years
3 before he passed away. He worked on building sites and
4 harvesting potatoes. He met a girl and they had a son,
5 but she left. Then he met another partner. They are
6 now separated, but they have two children together and
7 they were together for 12 years.

8 He tells us at paragraph 48 he's been fitting
9 underfloor heating for 20 years now, but has been off
10 for the last two years at the time of this statement
11 with depression.

12 He says that when he was with his last partner, she
13 went into hospital with coronavirus and he thought she
14 was going to die and that their children would be put
15 into a home. And he tells us that he told her bits of
16 what happened to him in the home, but only after he'd
17 had alcohol, and her being in hospital just triggered
18 what happened to his mum for him.

19 He then talks about impact from paragraph 50 and
20 again mentions his ex-partner being in hospital and him
21 being worried about what would happen to their children,
22 if something happened to her.

23 At paragraph 51 he says:

24 'A lot of the time I just sit in my bedroom. I make
25 sure my children have plenty of food and if they leave

1 it, I just tell them to put it in the bin. I never give
2 them into trouble. I wait until they have had enough
3 food and then I eat the scraps.

4 'People know that there is something the matter with
5 me now. They can just see it.'

6 He says that before his partner went into hospital
7 he was okay, but then he says:

8 'That triggered everything that happened to me as
9 a boy.'

10 He goes on:

11 'I don't discipline my children. I do shout at
12 them, but I have never hit them. They just get shouted
13 at. I don't want to repeat what happened to me.'

14 He tells us he's on medication for depression, finds
15 it hard to sleep and gets up at 3.00 in the morning and
16 looks at the walls, and he says at paragraph 55:

17 'I just have to live with this for the rest of my
18 life.'

19 He goes on:

20 'I want to go for help but I have not been offered
21 any. I have just been given more medication and I am
22 getting worse. I am hoping to get some counselling
23 soon.

24 'I have never told anyone of the abuse I suffered at
25 Tulloch Children's Home. I was too scared I would get

1 more beatings. The school never noticed what was going
2 on.

3 'I have never seen any records of my time in care
4 and I don't know if they would have any. I have applied
5 for the Redress Scheme and I know they have my records.
6 They told me they only managed to get seven years of
7 records and five years are missing. There is nothing
8 about any abuse in them.

9 'I don't believe what happened to me in the home
10 when I was a child should have been allowed to happen.
11 There was no one there to help me. There should have
12 been someone there to check up on me. Now GKK and
13 RHR are dead and they have gotten away with it.
14 I don't want any other children to have to go through
15 what I went through. It should have been reported to
16 the police, but it never was. They would have believed
17 them before me if I told the police anyway.'

18 And then 'Colin's' made the usual declaration and
19 he's signed it and it's dated 27 September 2022.

20 LADY SMITH: Thank you very much.

21 MS FORBES: My Lady, there are three more read-ins, however
22 I don't know if we'd be able to finish one of them in
23 the time and I know that we have a witness at 2.00, so
24 we do have a space tomorrow for some read-ins.

25 LADY SMITH: Well, let's leave them until tomorrow instead

1 of rushing the others.

2 Now, before I rise for the lunch break I think we
3 have just got two names there of people whose identities
4 are protected by my General Restriction Order, RHR
5 RHR and GKK. They're not to be
6 identified outside this room.

7 Is there somebody else?

8 MS FORBES: My Lady, I think I mentioned -- I mentioned by
9 accident a child in care, █████, in relation to
10 'Carol's' statement.

11 LADY SMITH: Oh, of course, yes, █████ or █████.

12 MS FORBES: Sorry, there's also RGG, I think, who was
13 mentioned in the last statement, who is the son of GKK
14 and RHR.

15 LADY SMITH: Right. Oh, yes, yes. Also █████ or █████
16 and RGG, RGG. Their identities are likewise
17 protected and they're not to be identified outside this
18 room.

19 Right. Very well, I'll rise now for the lunch break
20 and sit again at 2 o'clock for the next witness, who
21 should be ready then. Thank you.

22 (12.49 pm)

23 (The luncheon adjournment)

24 (2.00 pm)

25 LADY SMITH: Mr Peoples.

1 MR PEOPLES: My Lady, good afternoon.

2 The next witness is Peter Murray. This witness will
3 require a warning.

4 LADY SMITH: Thank you very much indeed.

5 (Pause)

6 (2.04 pm)

7 (A short break)

8 (2.07 pm)

9 LADY SMITH: Good afternoon. It's good to see you at last.
10 I'm sorry about that hiccup before we could get started.

11 Can you see me and hear me all right?

12 A. Yes, my Lady.

13 LADY SMITH: Thank you very much.

14 I'm Lady Smith and I chair the Scottish Child Abuse
15 Inquiry here in Edinburgh. Thank you for joining us
16 over the link this afternoon to help us with the
17 evidence that we'd like to explore with you.

18 If possible, I'd like to begin by you taking
19 an oath, please.

20 Peter Murray (sworn)

21 (Evidence given via video link)

22 LADY SMITH: Now, first of all, how would you like me to
23 address you? I'm happy to use your first name, Peter,
24 or use Mr Murray if you're more comfortable with that;
25 which would work?

1 A. Peter's fine.

2 LADY SMITH: Well thank you for that, Peter.

3 Before we move on to your evidence, there's
4 something I would like to say at the outset. And I hope
5 you understand this isn't a courtroom and it's not any
6 form of court process. It's a public inquiry, which is
7 a little bit different. But one of the things that's
8 the same is you have all the protections here that you
9 would have if it was a court process. And that means
10 that if you are asked any questions about anything, the
11 answer to which would incriminate you or could
12 incriminate you in relation to anything of which you
13 have not been convicted -- and I do know you have
14 convictions -- but if you're asked any other questions
15 that could lead to an incriminating answer, you're not
16 obliged to answer them. It's your choice whether you
17 answer or not. But of course, if you do answer them,
18 I expect you to do so fully.

19 Does that all make sense to you?

20 A. Yes, my Lady.

21 LADY SMITH: If you're in any doubt at any time whether
22 we're in that territory or straying into it, please just
23 check. That's not a problem.

24 Now, also, Peter, I do appreciate that giving
25 evidence on this subject matter and in these

1 circumstances can be exhausting and stressful, and if
2 you need a break at any time, you must let me know. We
3 can do that, because I'd like to do whatever I can to
4 make the process of giving evidence as comfortable for
5 you as is possible in the circumstances. So speak up if
6 there's anything that's bothering you.

7 And if you've got any questions at any time, do ask.
8 If we're not making sense in what we're asking you,
9 that's our fault, not yours, so you tell us if you've
10 any queries.

11 If you're ready, I'll hand over to Mr Peoples and
12 he'll take it from there; is that all right?

13 A. Thank you, my Lady.

14 LADY SMITH: Thank you.

15 Questions from Mr Peoples

16 MR PEOPLES: Good afternoon, Peter.

17 A. Good afternoon, sir.

18 Q. As you know, this Inquiry is concerned with the abuse of
19 children, and I'd like to begin by reminding you what
20 you admitted to in December of 1993 in the High Court.
21 And Peter, I'm aware you have a folder in front of you
22 and there should be in that folder a copy of the trial
23 indictment, the charges at that trial. The reference
24 that we have, and you don't need to worry about this, is
25 CFS-000016062.

1 Now, you might want to have that in front of you.

2 A. Mm-hmm, yeah.

3 Q. Peter, you will see from that document and you probably
4 recall that you faced 12 charges involving seven
5 children, and at your trial you pled guilty to two
6 charges, subject to some alterations to the charges.
7 And what I propose to do at this stage is read out what
8 you admitted at the time.

9 You admitted in relation to charge 1 that on various
10 occasions between [REDACTED] 1967 and
11 3 September 1970 -- now, that reflects what was done at
12 the course of the negotiation in the plea -- that on
13 various occasions between these two dates, at your home
14 in Glenrothes, that you used lewd, indecent and
15 libidinous practices and behaviour towards your sister,
16 who was born in 1961 and who was then aged between 6 and
17 8 years (sic).

18 And you admitted that you exposed your private
19 member in her presence, you caused her to remove her
20 clothing, you kissed her on the mouth, you handled her
21 chest and private parts, you caused her to handle your
22 private member, you lay on top of her and you placed
23 your private member at or near her private parts.

24 Now, a not guilty plea to a charge of attempted rape
25 of your sister was accepted by the Crown in 1993.

1 You also admitted, in relation to charge 3, that on
2 various occasions between [REDACTED] 1970 and
3 3 September 1970, at your home in Glenrothes, you used
4 lewd, indecent and libidinous practices and behaviour
5 towards your other sister, who was born in 1963, who was
6 then aged 7 years, and that you exposed your private
7 member in her presence, caused her to remove her
8 clothing, handled her private parts, lay on top of her,
9 and placed your private member at or near her private
10 parts.

11 And in relation to this sister, a not guilty plea to
12 a charge of rape was also accepted by the Crown.

13 The Crown, at that stage, also accepted your not
14 guilty pleas to all of the other charges on this
15 document. Eight of those charges alleged sexual abuse
16 of four children in care at Colonsay House and one child
17 in care at Nimmo Place, while you worked at these two
18 children's homes.

19 So you recall the events of 1993, do you?

20 A. Not as decreed as what's written or currently being
21 stipulated in this report.

22 Q. No, I -- Peter, just --

23 A. Sorry. Sorry, sir.

24 Q. No, you carry on.

25 A. I -- the thing that strikes me, which my father gave me

1 a tanking for, a severe slapping and punished beyond
2 belief with his miner's belt, was the fact that I -- one
3 of my sisters, the oldest one, came into the toilet and
4 I was sitting in the toilet, I hadn't locked the door.
5 I was whatever age I was then, I'm sorry, I can't
6 remember. And I was playing with my private part and
7 she went nuts. You know? And that's my recollection of
8 the older one.

9 But the younger one, no, I'm sorry.

10 Q. I can assure you, Peter, I've read out what you pled
11 guilty to and I've taken out bits in that document that
12 were originally there, which were taken out as part of
13 the admission you made. So I think I've faithfully
14 reproduced and read to you what you admitted to at that
15 time. You may not remember it, but let me assure you
16 that that is what you pled guilty to.

17 A. Okay, sir.

18 LADY SMITH: Yes, I think, Mr Peoples, just to get this
19 absolutely clear, you are not suggesting that what is
20 showing in this document is what finally was the outcome
21 of the trial, because what the Crown accepted your
22 guilty pleasto was broadly less than the charges that
23 did result in convictions, and there are charges on this
24 document that the Crown didn't go ahead with the
25 prosecution on. They accepted a not guilty plea.

1 I do understand that, Peter.

2 MR PEOPLES: Yes, we were given this document, but on
3 reading other documents, it does appear that certain
4 parts of these two charges were taken out as part of
5 that plea that was tendered.

6 So if I could move on, Peter, can I come back -- can
7 I go to now your -- perhaps a little bit about your
8 background, before you started work at Colonsay House.

9 Your parents had six children, four boys and two
10 girls, between 1955 and 1963; is that correct?

11 A. That's correct.

12 Q. And you are the eldest child?

13 A. Yes, I am the eldest one.

14 Q. And I think it's correct to say, and you'll correct me
15 if I'm wrong, that in the 1960s, Peter, between perhaps
16 about 1962 and 1966, you and your siblings were in care
17 on several occasions; is that correct?

18 A. That's correct, yes.

19 Q. And I think --

20 A. My mother had nervous issues or -- you know.

21 Q. Yes. I think some admissions were because your mother
22 was in hospital receiving treatment for some depressive
23 or nervous condition; is that correct?

24 A. That's what I can vaguely remember, yeah.

25 Q. Yeah. And so far as your parents' marriage was

1 concerned, Peter, I think starting from when you were
2 maybe around 7 years of age, did that marriage become
3 increasingly unstable due to a combination of factors,
4 in particular, your mother's depression or nervous
5 condition, your father's unemployment, financial
6 difficulties and the fact that your parents were having
7 a large family to support?

8 A. I'd say that's fairly true, yeah.

9 Q. Now, Peter, I think it's correct to say that you left
10 home around about September 1970, aged 15, after leaving
11 school?

12 A. Correct, yes.

13 Q. And did you leave school with any qualifications?

14 A. None as such, no. I had no GSEs or, you know, anything
15 like that, no.

16 Q. No O-Levels, no certificates?

17 A. Nothing, no.

18 I mean, yeah, the idea at the time was I needed to
19 get work so I could help support the family or whatever.

20 Q. Well, I think the position is that you left the home to
21 train as a chef; is that right?

22 A. Correct.

23 Q. And you worked in various hotels in Scotland for
24 a period?

25 A. Yes. Yes, that I did.

1 Q. And I think you worked in hotels in Kinross, Stirling,
2 Bridge of Allan and Elie between about 1970 when you
3 left school and 1975?

4 A. That's correct.

5 Q. Given what you admitted in 1993, Peter, you left school
6 and home knowing that you had sexually abused your two
7 younger sisters on various occasions between 1967 and
8 1970, one when she was aged between 6 and 8 and the
9 other when she was 7 years old; that must be the
10 position?

11 A. Not how I remember it, no.

12 Q. But you admitted to doing that in 1993?

13 A. Yes, but as -- that was part of the case. I was just
14 taken into a courtroom, a side room and asked to, you
15 know, sit down and say: look. You know?

16 Q. But you had a choice. You could say that didn't happen.
17 But you didn't; you admitted it did happen?

18 A. Okay. That's fine. Aye, that's fine, yep.

19 Q. Now, to avoid me reading this out every time I mention
20 this matter, I will refer to this knowledge that you had
21 when asking further questions as your 'guilty secret'.
22 If you can bear with me, that's what I'll refer to it,
23 shorthand, do you understand?

24 A. Right, okay. Can I just say one thing?

25 Q. Yes.

1 A. I don't know if you're aware of this, but I was taken
2 aside at that court case (audio breakdown) and told
3 that, you know, that it was a choice. The Director of
4 Social Work at that point, or in that time, had asked
5 that he didn't want me to walk away from the court with
6 no charges and that I was to be, you know: just do
7 whatever you can, just get him charged. That's what
8 I was told.

9 LADY SMITH: Peter, did you have a lawyer representing you?
10 A. Yes.

11 MR PEOPLES: I think you had a Queen's Counsel and a junior
12 counsel representing you at the trial?

13 A. Mr -- sorry. KC Herbert of King's Counsel --
14 Queen's Counsel at that time -- would be Herbert
15 Kerrigan.

16 Q. Yes, so you had the access to legal advice?
17 A. Yes.

18 Q. I think during the trial there was an adjournment.
19 There was a discussion. Your counsel no doubt discussed
20 with you what might or might not happen. You were given
21 a choice. You may have been given advice, I don't need
22 to know that. But ultimately you pled guilty to what
23 I read out?

24 A. That's correct, sir, yes, I did, when you put it in that
25 frame of mind, yes -- sorry, that frame of statement.

1 Q. And just moving on in your journey, Peter, after leaving
2 home, you met your late wife, [REDACTED], in 1975 when she
3 was already working at Colonsay House; is that right?
4 A. That's correct.
5 Q. I think, and you can correct me if I'm wrong, I think
6 Colonsay House itself opened around 1974 and your wife
7 was working there from the beginning?
8 A. As far as I can vaguely remember, yes, that's correct.
9 Q. And was that a new-build children's home?
10 A. I'm not sure. I've no idea.
11 Q. But it wasn't one of these old mansions that we
12 sometimes see?
13 A. No, no, it wasn't an old mansion, no. It fitted into
14 the scheme in which it was situated.
15 Q. Was it in the North Muirton area of Perth?
16 A. Yes, correct, yes.
17 Q. And in January of 1976, Peter, aged 20, you applied
18 successfully for the post of assistant houseparent in
19 Colonsay House; is that correct?
20 A. That's correct.
21 Q. You had not previously worked in residential childcare
22 and you had no residential childcare qualifications or
23 experience?
24 A. That's correct, yes.
25 Q. Did you provide references?

1 A. I gave references too, for some of my ex-employers, yes.

2 Q. Yes, I think that you gave -- you certainly gave,
3 I think, a reference from at least one previous employer
4 in the hotel trade; is that right?

5 A. Yes.

6 Q. But I think I'm also correct in saying that you also
7 provided a reference from a Reverend Dr Wallace Shaw,
8 minister of St Margaret's Parish Church in Glenrothes;
9 do you remember that?

10 A. I don't directly remember it. I'm not saying it didn't
11 happen.

12 Q. Well, maybe I can assure you that I've seen that
13 reference, so if you trust me there that there was such
14 a reference?

15 A. Yes, that's fine. There are some things I do remember,
16 some things I don't.

17 Q. No, I appreciate, Peter, it's a long time ago, so
18 don't -- by all means say if you don't remember.

19 Why did you choose Dr Shaw? Did you know him at the
20 time?

21 A. Yes. I just can't remember how deep our conversations
22 were or -- you know? I can't even remember why I even
23 asked him if he wanted to be, you know, somebody that
24 could speak on my behalf, you know?

25 Q. Okay. Were you interviewed for the post at

1 Colonsay House?

2 A. Yes, sir, I was.

3 Q. Can you remember who interviewed you?

4 A. There was LND [REDACTED], there was his boss at the time,
5 a man, I can't remember his name, Stewart -- was it
6 Stewart or --

7 Q. Stewart Wardrobe?

8 A. Stewart Wardrobe, yeah. And somebody from the higher
9 department. I'm sorry, I can't remember its technical
10 name anymore.

11 Q. So there's maybe two or three people that were at the
12 interview?

13 A. Yeah.

14 Q. Okay. Can I ask you this, Peter: I mean, harbouring
15 this guilty secret that you had, how could you possibly
16 believe in 1976 that you were a fit and suitable person
17 to be entrusted with the care of vulnerable children of
18 varying ages who were living away from home, some of
19 whom would be in care because they'd experienced sexual
20 abuse at home from members of their own family?

21 A. Up to a point that was never an issue for me, but it
22 came out at my last hearing, where I was convicted and
23 sent in here. And what the statement in the court,
24 rightly or wrongly, was that I was a teenager at the
25 time. Now, that's either acceptable or it's not

1 acceptable, but it's not something that I directly
2 remember, you know?

3 Q. But you certainly didn't mention the guilty secret when
4 you went for the interview?

5 A. No, obviously I didn't.

6 Q. And obviously your referees didn't know about it either?

7 A. That's quite possible, yes, that's possibly true, yes.

8 Q. Now, initially you stayed in Colonsay House for a short
9 time, I think in a room on the corridor where there were
10 children's bedrooms; is that correct?

11 A. I was employed to be on call in that bedroom, yes.

12 Q. But I think before you -- well, can I take it this way:
13 you and your late wife, ██████, were married in ██████
14 1976?

15 A. That's correct.

16 Q. According to the records, you started at Colonsay House
17 on 20 January 1976. Does that ring a bell?

18 A. I have memories of -- I actually lived with her parents
19 in another part of Perth.

20 Q. Yes, I think you met your wife. You got together. You
21 were living at home. You had a row with your father.
22 Because of that row you moved in with your then
23 girlfriend or fiancé's parents for a time. You then
24 applied for a job at Colonsay House and, having done so,
25 did you not stay in Colonsay House for a short time

1 before you moved to a council property in [REDACTED]
2 in North Muirton area, after you were married?

3 A. Yes. I believe that there was staff accommodation in
4 the children's home as well, you know?

5 Q. Yes.

6 A. And then the on-call room was used for whoever was on
7 call that night.

8 Q. Yes, so there was accommodation to stay overnight for
9 staff, either because they were staying there on
10 a permanent basis for the time being, and there was also
11 a room that night staff could use and could -- and these
12 staff could go to children's rooms if there was some
13 need to go?

14 A. Depending on which rooms it was, because there was
15 strict statements about if it was a female, you had to
16 go and get a female member of staff. But, anyway --

17 Q. So what you are telling me, Peter, is that when you
18 started there was a strict house rule or -- in relation
19 to Colonsay that male members of staff should not enter
20 a female resident's room unescorted; was that the rule?

21 A. Yeah, so there was -- make sure there was a female
22 there, because at the end of the day, you know, the
23 minute you cross the line, that was it.

24 Q. Now --

25 A. My SNR [REDACTED], Mr LND [REDACTED], used to say: the minute you

1 cross the line.

2 Q. Now, just before I go on and just to ask you about
3 something that happened in 1977, you moved to this flat
4 in [REDACTED] in Perth, but I think you later lived at
5 other addresses; is that correct?

6 A. Yes.

7 Q. Including an address at Luncarty?

8 A. Yes.

9 Q. Now, moving on. In [REDACTED] of 1977, a female resident at
10 Colonsay House -- and we're calling this female resident
11 'Scott', I think you know who she is, if you -- I think
12 you have got -- I don't want you to tell us her name,
13 but --

14 A. Oh, right.

15 Q. You know this -- you remember this person?

16 A. Yes. She was the one that opted out of the case, yep.

17 Q. So in [REDACTED] of 1977 this resident called 'Scott'
18 alleged that you had sexually abused her; do you recall
19 that?

20 A. No, I don't. No.

21 Q. You don't recall the allegation being made?

22 A. I did not do what she said I did.

23 LADY SMITH: Peter, that's not what Mr Peoples was asking
24 you. Do you remember that all these years ago, that
25 allegation was made against you? That's what 'Scott'

1 was saying?

2 A. I didn't get -- with respect, my Lady, I didn't get to
3 see the list of charges against me and the in-depth.
4 They were kept by my solicitor who was appointed to the
5 case, and he'd asked me if I'd done this and I said
6 'no'.

7 MR PEOPLES: Okay. I'll take it a different way, Peter. No
8 doubt the fault's all mine. But we know from records,
9 because there are records surviving on this matter, that
10 'Scott' did allege that you had sexually abused her and
11 she also said at that time that you offered her money in
12 exchange for sex?

13 A. No, I'm sorry, sir, I did not.

14 Q. You didn't do that; that's your position?

15 A. That's my position, yes.

16 Q. And I think you were interviewed about that allegation
17 at the time; do you remember that?

18 A. Vaguely. I'd be telling you lies if I said I could
19 remember it word for word.

20 Q. No, I'm not suggesting -- I'm not expecting you to
21 remember it word for word, Peter, but we have a record
22 that shows that you were interviewed at that time and
23 you basically stayed silent about your guilty secret and
24 you denied her allegations, and that's in line with what
25 you're saying today?

1 A. Yes.

2 Q. But you did, at that time, and I don't know if you
3 recall this, receive a verbal warning for entering
4 'Scott's' bedroom unescorted, contrary to the standing
5 instructions; do you remember that?

6 A. To be quite honest, I don't, and I'm not saying it
7 didn't happen, right. It's just I can't -- my memory
8 can't stretch that far back.

9 Q. Well, again, you maybe have to trust me, but there is
10 a record to that effect.

11 A. Okay. That's fine.

12 Q. However, having received this verbal warning, you were
13 allowed to carry on working as a houseparent at
14 Colonsay House?

15 A. Yes.

16 Q. And I don't think at any stage at that stage you were
17 suspended pending any form of investigation?

18 A. Not that I can remember, no.

19 Q. Well, I don't think the records suggest you were, so
20 I think you're correct in saying that.

21 A. Yeah.

22 Q. And then in 1980, if I can take you forward a couple
23 of -- three years, another female resident, and we'll
24 call her [REDACTED], and I think again you'll know who this
25 person is?

1 A. There's no [REDACTED] on this.

2 Q. Well, let's leave the name aside, because I think you
3 told police in the 1990s that in 1980 or thereabouts
4 a female resident, leave aside whether her name was
5 [REDACTED] or not, alleged that you had sexually abused
6 her. Did you not actually tell the police that later
7 on, that there was a complaint of that nature against
8 you? And did that matter not feature at your trial?

9 A. There wasn't many -- at my trial, there was not a lot of
10 people other than a member of staff and a couple of
11 kids -- or, sorry, young people -- that ended up giving
12 evidence before things changed, you know?

13 Q. Did your sisters give evidence?

14 A. No. That I can remember.

15 Q. That you can recall?

16 A. Not that I can recall.

17 Q. Do you recall a member of staff giving evidence?

18 A. Yes, I think that would be Lynda. Is it Lynda? Or
19 somebody anyway.

20 Q. Lynda Makin?

21 A. I think that's her name. I can't -- as I say, it's
22 quite a longtime ago.

23 Q. I think your memory's correct because I think there's
24 media reporting at the time that does refer to Mrs Makin
25 giving evidence about a complaint made by a girl around

1 the time that I'm discussing with you, 1980, saying that
2 a girl came back, made some form of complaint, she was
3 in a distressed state, and then she disclosed that there
4 was no record made of the girl's complaint; do you
5 remember that?

6 A. Yes, but it was referred, I believe, to my SNR
7 SNR, LND and his boss, Mr Wardrobe, at
8 the time.

9 Q. I mean, how did you -- were you aware at the time that
10 an allegation had been made?

11 A. Not -- indirectly I heard, because they had been out and
12 searched the area allegedly where this should have taken
13 place, or was alleged to have taken place, out on the
14 road somewhere, you know. And they come back and said
15 that, you know, for somebody to do that at the side of
16 the road, you know, a main road, in their words, a
17 bit -- their words, not mine -- 'crazy'. You know?

18 Q. Well, people do crazy things, Peter, do they not?

19 A. Some do in their life, but I certainly did not do this
20 to her, you know?

21 Q. Okay. So whatever the complaint was, and it seemed to
22 involve something happening outwith Colonsay House,
23 perhaps in a motorcar in a layby?

24 A. That's what they investigated, yeah.

25 Q. And were you interviewed at that stage about the matter?

1 A. I was asked about it and they told me that they had been
2 out and looked at that, and as far as they were
3 concerned -- their words, not mine -- that they felt
4 that this wouldnae be happening. Nobody in their right
5 sense of their mind would sit on a busy main road and
6 carry out any sort of function like that --

7 Q. So they were judge and jury on that matter, having paid
8 a site visit?

9 A. Up to that point, yeah. But I'm not responsible for
10 them, you know?

11 Q. No, I'm not suggesting you are. I'm just wanting to
12 know what they did?

13 A. Yes.

14 Q. That's the way they determined matters?

15 A. Yeah.

16 Q. And they didn't even bother to write it down, it would
17 appear, that someone had said this?

18 A. I'm not aware of that fact. I mean --

19 Q. Well, that was said at the trial by Mrs Makin, that LND
20 LND --

21 A. Well, she would know more than me, because I wisnae
22 aware of what happened 'cause I was asked to leave the
23 room after they'd finished talking to me about it.

24 Q. Well, again, there is a media report of the trial, where
25 Mrs Makin gave evidence to the effect that a complaint

1 of some sort, along the lines you've described, was
2 made, but it was not recorded in any form of log, and
3 that she was asked and she said: 'LND didn't log it'.
4 And then she was asked: 'Well, can you tell us when it
5 was made?'. And she couldn't remember the detail of
6 time, place or year.

7 Do you remember that evidence being given?

8 A. I remember that evidence being given in court, but she
9 said that nothing had been recorded. Her words were:
10 nothing had been recorded.

11 Q. Yes, and I think the judge at that point was completely
12 astonished that if someone makes a serious allegation of
13 that nature, that no one even troubles to put a record
14 of it, or make a record of it?

15 A. Yes.

16 Q. Do you not find that astonishing, or 'crazy' to use your
17 word?

18 A. Yeah. Well, yes. I mean, I'm not responsible for what
19 he does or says, but at the end of the day, erm, I don't
20 know who they were trying to protect, but at the end of
21 the day, they went out and they'd obviously asked
22 questions in certain areas and they went and checked
23 what was relative to those certain areas. I didn't know
24 what was happening until I was called in the next day.

25 Q. But it had consequences because at the trial, that seems

1 to have been a reason why the trial was interrupted.
2 There was a discussion, people went to their rooms,
3 Mr Kerrigan, you went to a room no doubt, the
4 Advocate Depute went to a room, and then the upshot
5 was that the parties came back, you pled to certain
6 charges as I've described, and the rest of the charges
7 were -- pleas of not guilty were accepted and the trial
8 ended and you got nine months?
9 A. That's correct, yeah.
10 Q. That was a matter that should have been recorded at the
11 time; do you not agree?
12 A. If it had been done properly, yes, it should have been
13 recorded, yeah. I mean, I'm, as I say, I'm not
14 responsible for what they did or didn't do,
15 technically --
16 Q. Well, I suppose one thing --
17 A. -- to investigate this further, yeah.
18 Q. Well, I suppose one thing we can say is you stayed
19 silent about your guilty secret when that matter came
20 up?
21 A. When you put it in those words, yes, I certainly can't
22 lie to that. You know, I didn't see it as the big
23 be-all and end-all of it, you know.
24 Q. Well, maybe others would have done --
25 A. Rightly or wrongly.

1 Q. Maybe others would have done, had you disclosed it to
2 them.

3 Now, notwithstanding a second allegation of sexual
4 abuse that had been made within three years, you were
5 not suspended and you were allowed to carry on working
6 at Colonsay House; is that the case?

7 A. Yes.

8 Q. And you worked there until about September of 1984?

9 A. Roughly, yeah. I mean, I couldn't give you total dates.

10 Q. Again, trust me, I think the date is pretty accurate
11 because I've seen some documents --

12 A. I'm not saying your words are incorrect, sir. All
13 I'm saying is my memory isnae as good as what it used to
14 be, purely from the fact that I've had a couple of
15 medical things in my life that have affected my memory.

16 Q. I appreciate that.

17 A. And that's not an excuse. That's there in black and
18 white, medically, for you to --

19 Q. Well, I think we all can forget precise dates. There
20 are other things that are very difficult to forget, but
21 sometimes have to be concealed.

22 A. As I said, that's how I felt at the time.

23 Q. Okay. Now, while you were working at Colonsay House
24 between 1976 and 1984, did you take any special or
25 particular interest in some of the children who were

1 placed there? Did you have favourites, for example?

2 A. Not as such, no. These children were all in care for
3 a reason.

4 Q. Okay.

5 A. You know? I don't think I was aware of having
6 favourites, you know, or, you know, giving some more
7 than others or feeding them more or doing anything for
8 them more or what, you know.

9 LADY SMITH: Peter, when you say: 'These children were all
10 in care for a reason', what do you mean by that?

11 A. The reason were usually broken homes, issues with care,
12 with their families, that sort of thing, you know. You
13 know, that's what -- we only got so much information
14 when a new child would come in, and at the staff meeting
15 we would say, 'Oh, so-and-so is coming in', and they
16 would be taken up to their room, whatever, and they come
17 from a broken home or they had trouble with their
18 education, things like that, bits and pieces. Just to
19 get them back on a sort of level where, you know,
20 they're going to school, you know.

21 LADY SMITH: All right, so --

22 A. And if terms, if terms work out right, they can then go
23 back, back to their parents.

24 LADY SMITH: So how does that explain that you didn't have
25 any favourites amongst them?

1 A. I didn't treat them as favourites, you know? I mean,
2 I didn't treat them badly. I mean, they were children
3 in care, you know? Some of them talked to you, some of
4 them didn't. You know?

5 LADY SMITH: Okay.

6 Mr Peoples.

7 MR PEOPLES: Did you ever take any of the Colonsay girls out
8 in your car on their own?

9 A. As in, to where?

10 Q. Well, anywhere --

11 A. I mean --

12 Q. -- in a car. It's a simple enough question.

13 A. No -- if I was -- no. I don't remember taking kids out.
14 I would have to have had a female with me to take the
15 kid out --

16 Q. So you can't remember any -- sorry.

17 You can't remember any occasion when you took
18 a Colonsay female resident out in your car on your own
19 for whatever reason?

20 A. Not for anything direct. I mean, take her round to the
21 shop, maybe, you know? I actually look to get some
22 stuff for the shop, so I'd jump in the -- jump in the
23 minibus and sort of drive around, you know, but that
24 would be all. Or we'd take them all with us and travel
25 round. So it wisnae just always one person, you know --

1 Q. Did you ever give a female resident a lift home to
2 Crieff, to her home there? Can you recall ever giving
3 a female resident a lift from Perth to Crieff?
4 A. Perth? No, no, sorry, I did not. I mean --
5 Q. Did you ever have Colonsay girls in your own home, for
6 example, when you lived at [REDACTED]?
7 A. No, I've no girls in my home, you know. I mean, other
8 than my daughter, you know, who I was looking after
9 then, you know.
10 Q. Did you have a --
11 A. Nobody invited -- there was nobody invited round.
12 Q. Did you ever have a former Colonsay resident in your
13 home for a time after she left Colonsay House; do you
14 recall a time when you had an ex-Colonsay girl, can we
15 call her [REDACTED]?
16 A. No [REDACTED] on that list, as I say.
17 Q. Okay. Well, whether she's on the list or not, I'm just
18 asking you whether you remember a person --
19 A. I remember a [REDACTED] from Colonsay.
20 Q. From where?
21 A. From Colonsay House?
22 Q. Yes, and what happened with her?
23 A. I think she went back home --
24 Q. She never stayed with you and your wife at any stage,
25 because of home difficulties?

1 A. No, no.

2 Q. No?

3 A. Is she claiming that she did?

4 Q. Sorry?

5 A. Is she claiming that she did?

6 Q. I'm just asking a question. I'm not giving evidence.

7 A. No. No. No, no.

8 Q. Okay. How often, Peter, did you enter the bedrooms of

9 female residents unescorted?

10 A. Thinking back, you know, maybe once or twice, but

11 I always shouted on a member, a female member of staff,

12 you know, because I can't just walk into a bedroom, you

13 know, and I would knock on the door.

14 Q. Well, you walked into 'Scott's' bedroom and you got

15 a warning for it. And you knew that that was contrary

16 to the rules. And you've been convicted of entering the

17 bedroom of another Colonsay resident who we -- that we

18 are calling 'Alison'. You were convicted last year of

19 entering her bedroom and abusing her there?

20 A. Yeah, but that's how the law found me. I mean, I didn't

21 abuse her at all, under any circumstances. She stated

22 that she put cloths over her door, so if I had to walk

23 in, all the cloths would fall. But there's no guarantee

24 that it would be me that would open the door. What if

25 a female saw that? Do you not think a female would ask

1 why, why -- with girls up there? That's my recollection
2 from the hearing.

3 Q. Well, I think you've seen some statements from people
4 who we call applicants, former residents, who have come
5 to this Inquiry and some of them have said that you were
6 going in and out of girls' rooms quite often; is that
7 not true?

8 A. I mean, I've done it once or twice. I would be lying
9 for that, but I mean, it wasn't an everyday thing, no,
10 you know, because --

11 Q. It was more than once or twice?

12 A. I'm aware of one, two or -- once or twice, you know, but
13 it was not all the time because I would be down the
14 boys' end most nights, or most days or most mornings,
15 when it's time to get them up, you know. The female
16 would go. There was always a male and female got up the
17 stairs, or called to make sure that when the kids are
18 wakened that there were male and female there. That
19 was the orders from LND .

20 Q. Now, if I could just ask you, that after you left

21 Colonsay House, Secondary Institutions - to be published later

22 Secondary Institutions - to be published later
23
24
25

1

2

3 Q. And then I think you successfully applied for the post
4 of depute officer in charge at Nimmo Place Children's
5 Home in Perth?

6 A. That's correct, yeah.

7 Q. And I think that's in the Tulloch area of Perth,
8 sometimes known as Hillyland?

9 A. Yeah, I think so, yeah.

10 Q. Is that right?

11 A. Not the Hillyland bit, but I would remember it as
12 Tulloch.

13 Q. Tulloch, okay. I think you were employed there,
14 according to records, from about May 1985 until
15 16 January 1989; would that be about right?

16 A. Roughly, yeah. As I say, it's been a long time, so.

17 Q. And during that period, am I right in thinking that SNR

18 SNR was MYJ?

19 A. That's correct.

20 Q. Had she moved from Colonsay House?

21 A. Yes she did, I believe so, 'cause she was the wife of

22 LND.

23 Q. But I think LND didn't go with her; is that right?

24 A. No, he didn't. He stayed at Colonsay, I think.

25 Q. Yes.

1 A. I'm not 100 per cent sure what he did.

2 Secondary Institutions - to be published later

3

4

5

6

7 Q. And at that time you began professional training at the
8 Northern College in Dundee with a view to become being
9 a social worker?

10 A. That's correct, yes.

11 Q. And then in 1991, one of your sisters alleged that you
12 had sexually abused her and your other sister when you
13 and they were living in the family home in Glenrothes;
14 you'll remember that?

15 A. Erm, my memory doesnae stretch that far. I mean, they
16 were part of the case against me at Stirling, yes. But
17 I would be telling lies if I was to answer that as
18 'yes'.

19 Q. Well, I'll put it this way: I think what gave rise to
20 the police investigation and the trial in 1993 initially
21 was an allegation by one of your sisters. That caused
22 a police investigation to be undertaken and in the
23 course of that investigation, a number of former female
24 residents at Colonsay House and Nimmo Place said you had
25 sexually abused them while you were working at these
establishments.

1 That explains the document we looked at earlier, the
2 indictment?

3 A. That's news to me, because I wasn't made aware of that
4 at the time, when I was sitting with my KC. He didn't,
5 you know, go into that in any great depth as far as
6 I can remember.

7 Q. Well, you'll have to ask Mr Kerrigan about that, because
8 obviously they don't come onto the indictment for no
9 reason. They come because the Crown usually follows
10 a police report, the Crown are satisfied there's enough
11 evidence to put charges into the indictment in relation
12 to these people against you, and that's what happened,
13 that five former residents of these two establishments
14 found their way onto that document that I mentioned to
15 you at the beginning, the one that was the list of
16 charges at the High Court in 1993. Do you follow?

17 A. But for me -- yes, I follow, but from the point of
18 view -- I don't buy into this whole thing of -- you
19 know, FCD [REDACTED] 's been, for years, been trying to
20 get money for what's happened to her on various levels,
21 be it directly or indirectly, by going to other
22 companies. And when I was sentenced at Perth High
23 Court, one of the things that was stated on the
24 indictment was that she'd been trying to get money from
25 Digby Brown.

1 Now, you don't have to take my word for it, that's
2 what was read to me by the solicitor who supported me
3 right before I was put on bail.

4 Q. And are you saying that any person that makes
5 an allegation against you, including the people who have
6 made allegations and statements to this Inquiry, are
7 just in for the money, they're lying, and there's no
8 truth in anything they say; is that your position?

9 A. Yeah, because why was there not any -- I mean, I don't
10 know -- is there any staff who have had issues with me
11 or -- I mean, I honestly don't know. I mean, I'm not
12 aware of anything like that. If there are big issues,
13 I mean, there will be flags run up or --

14 Q. Peter --

15 A. -- or they'll not be there.

16 Q. Peter, it's not uncommon for people who sexually abuse
17 children to do it when staff, other staff are not
18 around. It's very rare that other staff are present,
19 unless they're participating in the activity. You must
20 understand that?

21 A. Up to a point, but the thing for me is that, you know,
22 we're back to the old adage, you know, which you know
23 very well would be TCP and MMO.

24 Q. Can you translate for the benefit of those here?

25 A. Yeah. Time, place and circumstance; means, motive and

1 opportunity. But I mean, if you're the only guy that's
2 actually working in the place, you know, you're going to
3 get accused of being guilty for things that you haven't
4 done. You know, and that was one of the things I spoke
5 to LND [REDACTED] about: why is there not two people on --
6 paid to be on call, one female, one male, you know?
7 Those were my feelings from the time.

8 Q. And are you saying when you were on call at nights, for
9 example, you were on your own?

10 A. If you're sleeping in your bedroom, if I wasn't down
11 with the staff sitting in the staff house, having
12 coffee, a drink or whatever, and then going -- you know?
13 I'm on my own in that bedroom in the middle of the
14 house, you know, and the floors were so thin you could
15 walk up and down the floors, you would wake people up.
16 You know, if there was anything serious went on or
17 screaming or children being abused or hurt, the place
18 would be on fire.

19 Q. Well, it would appear that -- well, did you give
20 evidence at the 2025 trial?

21 A. No. I was not allowed to give evidence.

22 Q. Yes, you were. You were the person on trial. It was
23 your right to give evidence. You might have got a legal
24 advice from your counsel. I assume you had counsel for
25 that trial?

1 A. She would not call me. She would -- I did say.

2 Q. I'm sorry?

3 A. She would not call me. She would not allow me to give
4 evidence. She would not call me --

5 Q. You are not telling me seriously that the legal adviser
6 took the decision? Legal advisers advise. Clients
7 decide and it's your choice. You can go -- you might
8 get advice as to the risks of giving evidence, and
9 I'm sure that that's quite a normal process, but it's
10 your decision.

11 A. With all respect, sir, from me to yourself and to
12 Lady Smith, I was not given that opportunity. Now, the
13 KC was Wendy Culross, and I was not allowed to speak.
14 I just had to sit there and listen to the Procurator
15 Fiscal's evidence, this is the charges, and he intimated
16 that I was guilty. That was it. There was nothing
17 further, you know, because in the final day, I failed to
18 turn up and boom. I was not allowed to give evidence or
19 speak on my behalf by the end of the trial.

20 Q. Well, if I could go back to 1991, Peter, there was this
21 police investigation which, although you may not know
22 it, began with one of your sisters making the allegation
23 that you ultimately admitted in 1993. But in the course
24 of that, other people came forward and I think -- and
25 you may not recall this, because it's a long time ago --

1 but when interviewed by the police about these
2 allegations that were being made by your sisters and by
3 former residents of Colonsay House and Nimmo Place, you
4 denied any wrongdoing on your part, just as you had done
5 in 1977 and perhaps in 1980, didn't you?

6 A. Well, if I haven't done it, I haven't done it.

7 Q. Yeah, but you kept your guilty secret as well?

8 A. Does that make me a bad person? No.

9 Q. Well, it eventually made you a convicted abuser because
10 you did admit it finally in 1993.

11 A. Well, if that is the case, that is the case. I
12 cannot -- I could not deny that anymore. Okay?

13 Q. And I think in 1991, and it may have been related to
14 events at that time, you withdrew from your course at
15 Northern College, is that right, in about August of
16 1991?

17 A. I was asked to remove myself by the people running it.

18 Q. Okay.

19 A. And --

20 Q. And was that connected with the police investigation?

21 A. I have no idea. At the time it was just said that I was
22 no longer required, and there was no reason given.

23 Q. Up to that point, had you passed your placements or
24 failed them?

25 A. With respect -- my placement?

1 Q. Your social work training, had you passed all your exams
2 and placements?

3 A. Oh, no, I hadn't got as far as that. In fact, I had one
4 placement, I think, and I'm not sure -- I cannot --
5 I would not be telling you the truth if I said how it
6 went. But judging, you know --

7 LADY SMITH: Peter --

8 A. -- like I say, it probably went badly.

9 LADY SMITH: Peter, a minute or two ago you told me that
10 you thought the name of the KC who represented you at
11 the trial in 2025 was Wendy somebody. Could her first
12 name have been --

13 A. Culross.

14 LADY SMITH: Wendy Culross?

15 A. Wendy Culross, yeah, but she pronounced her name
16 'Couris'.

17 LADY SMITH: 'Couris', thank you.

18 MR PEOPLES: Well, yes, she is a member of the bar.

19 LADY SMITH: You know, I wasn't suggesting she wasn't. Just
20 the papers also reported the name of a lawyer, Deirdre
21 Flanigan.

22 MR PEOPLES: She's also an advocate. She would be junior
23 counsel.

24 LADY SMITH: She was the junior counsel.

25 A. Yes, she was the one that gave the statement at my

1 sentencing --

2 LADY SMITH: Yes.

3 A. -- for the fact, and then when the judge was

4 assimilating the sentencing, she mentioned the fact that

5 'Mr Murray was a teenager at the time of the alleged

6 offences with his sisters'. Correctly or incorrectly,

7 that's what she did.

8 LADY SMITH: Yes, but that meant you had not just one, but

9 two people representing you in court, yes?

10 A. Yes.

11 LADY SMITH: Yes, thank you.

12 A. But the majority of the work was done by Wendy Culross.

13 MR PEOPLES: And just going back to 1991, Tayside Regional

14 Council, the council that had been your employer since

15 1976, I think terminated your employment with effect

16 from 3 September 1991, according to documents I've seen;

17 is that, it would be about that time, is that right?

18 A. Well, you've seen more documents than I have because

19 I never received any.

20 Q. Well, you didn't work for them again, did you?

21 A. No, no, no, I did not return to work.

22 Q. And as I say, if we go back to the trial, you were

23 prosecuted in December 1993 in the High Court on

24 12 charges of committing sexual offences against seven

25 children. Four of these charges related to your

1 sisters; the remaining eight charges related to four
2 former female residents at Colonsay House, including the
3 residents who had made allegations against you in 1977
4 and 1980 and one resident in Nimmo Place.

5 And I think you've seen the document. You've got it
6 in your folder. It shows the 12 charges.

7 You can look at it if you want. I don't know if
8 it's necessary.

9 A. Yeah, well.

10 Q. But --

11 A. It's a lot to take in here.

12 Q. Yes, well, the point I was just going to raise though is
13 at the start of that trial, Peter, you pled not guilty
14 to all charges?

15 A. Forgive me, sir, it was such a long, long time ago.

16 Q. No, take your time.

17 A. (Pause). Right, so the question was?

18 Q. I said at the start of the trial, your position was you
19 were pleading not guilty to all 12 charges?

20 A. This was correct, yes.

21 Q. And that's why evidence was led, because you were
22 adhering to your plea of not guilty. But during the
23 trial, after some evidence had been led -- and I don't
24 think there was too much from what you've said or from
25 what the reporting said at the time -- but after that

1 evidence had been led, you admitted abusing your younger
2 sisters, having previously denied doing so.

3 Your instructions was to plead not guilty to abusing
4 your sisters, but within a short time of the start of
5 the trial, for perhaps a number of reasons, you pled
6 guilty to abusing them. You admitted to doing that?

7 A. Yeah, that was my solicitor who said that to me. She
8 says, you know, you've got two options, you know.

9 Q. Yeah, well, I think most people have two options in
10 a trial: either you plead not guilty or you plead
11 guilty. But ultimately the point is, it is an option,
12 and you can choose one or the other and that's your
13 choice.

14 A. That's true.

15 Q. Now, in 2025, moving forward -- I'm just wondering at
16 the time, whether perhaps a short break might --

17 LADY SMITH: Yes. Would it be a good point to break there?

18 MR PEOPLES: Yes, I'm not, obviously, quite --

19 LADY SMITH: Yes. Peter, I normally break at this time in
20 the afternoon, just a short break so that we all get
21 a breather, including our hard-working stenographers who
22 are keeping a record of the evidence.

23 Would it work for you if we did that just now?

24 A. Yes, yes, I'm happy to do that, my Lady.

25 LADY SMITH: Very well. Let's take a break.

1 (3.05 pm)

2 (A short break)

3 (3.18 pm)

4 LADY SMITH: Peter, welcome back.

5 A. Thank you, my Lady.

6 LADY SMITH: I hope the break helped. Are you ready to
7 carry on?

8 A. A little bit, yes.

9 LADY SMITH: Thank you very much.

10 A. Yes, I'm ready to carry on.

11 LADY SMITH: Okay. Thank you. Well, again, if you need
12 another breather, please just say.

13 Mr Peoples.

14 MR PEOPLES: My Lady.

15 Peter, we had reached the point where I was about to
16 ask you about the 2025 trial. You were prosecuted in
17 the High Court on two charges of indecently assaulting
18 two former residents at Colonsay House, one who was
19 female and we're giving her the pseudonym 'Alison', but
20 I think you know who 'Alison' is.

21 A. Yes.

22 Q. And the other was a male resident whose pseudonym is
23 [REDACTED], but again, I think you know who that person
24 is?

25 A. Afraid so.

1 Q. And you were prosecuted and convicted of indecent
2 assaults on these two former residents.

3 I think you told us, and if not, I'll ask you now:
4 you pled not guilty to these offences, is that right?

5 A. All the way through, yes.

6 Q. Yeah. And you've told us you didn't give evidence, but
7 on 9 September last year, you were found guilty on both
8 charges and sentenced to a period of 10 years'
9 imprisonment.

10 I'll perhaps just -- and I think you've got a copy
11 of this in your folder. The indictment or list of
12 charges, two charges, is in your folder and our
13 reference is, and you don't need to worry about our
14 reference, it's JUS-000000345. You might want to just
15 have that in front of you, Peter.

16 And you'll --

17 A. Right.

18 Q. You'll see that charge 1 relates to 'Alison' and you
19 were found guilty of, on various occasions between -- is
20 it the [REDACTED] of -- sorry, I'll just check.

21 It's [REDACTED] 1976, I think it's [REDACTED] 1976, and
22 [REDACTED] 1977 at Colonsay Children's Home, you were found
23 guilty of indecently assaulting 'Alison', who was then
24 aged between 14 and 15 years of age. You touched her on
25 the body, touched her buttocks, uttered indecent remarks

1 to her, placed your arms around her waist and touched
2 her breasts and between her legs, offered her money in
3 exchange for engaging in sexual intercourse with you,
4 walked into her bedroom uninvited when she was in
5 a state of undress, entered her bedroom when she was
6 asleep and attempted to remove her underwear, and
7 entered her bedroom and penetrated her vagina with your
8 fingers, to her injury.

9 And you were also found guilty that on various
10 occasions between [REDACTED] 1980 and [REDACTED] 1981 at
11 Colonsay Children's Home of indecently assaulting
12 [REDACTED], then aged 14. You touched him on the body,
13 placed his hand on your penis and compelled him to
14 masturbate you, entered the bathroom uninvited and
15 watched him while he was bathing naked, uttered a sexual
16 remark and touched his penis and testicles, and
17 attempted to penetrate his anus, and entered his bedroom
18 while he was asleep and penetrated his anus with your
19 penis or similar object.

20 So these were the charges and the jury found you
21 guilty on these charges, as I think you recall. And
22 I think that you were sentenced a month later to
23 a period of 10 years' imprisonment. Is that correct?

24 A. That's what I was convicted of, yes, but I -- what
25 I'm saying here now is I haven't done these to these two

1 people.

2 Q. Well, I was going to ask you. I was going to ask you

3 Peter, do you now admit to having abused 'Alison' and

4 [REDACTED], as set out in these charges, and I take it

5 your position is, no, you don't?

6 A. No. My statement at the time, right from the time I was

7 interviewed by the police right through to the end of

8 the court case before I was convicted, was no. No.

9 Q. Yes, but your position before the court case with your

10 sisters was the same, but you did admit those, albeit it

11 was during a trial, rather than at the end of the trial.

12 I'm just asking you, are you prepared to do that in the

13 case of 'Alison' and [REDACTED], and you're --

14 A. No.

15 Q. -- telling me 'no', is that right?

16 A. You read right, I'm not admitting to something that

17 I haven't done. One, I have never been gay in my life.

18 Why on earth would I want do that to a boy? Who?

19 Who --

20 Q. Well, why should you want to do it to a girl either?

21 A. No, this lady is, she is -- she very rarely stayed

22 there, if my memory serves me correctly.

23 LADY SMITH: But, Peter --

24 A. No, but at the end of the day, she has made the

25 accusations, but I believe the accusations were made by

1 other people.

2 LADY SMITH: Peter, just a moment, and I don't want to cut
3 across you, but it's important you understand that you
4 having been convicted, in the court, before a jury, of
5 these matters, I can only proceed on the basis that
6 these are facts in front of me, that these things
7 happened. This isn't an opportunity for you to get
8 a different finding on those charges.

9 You may understand that already, but it's important
10 you realise that, that I must proceed on the basis that
11 this happened and this occurred, in the way it's
12 described in these charges of which you were convicted
13 last year; okay?

14 A. I'm sorry, Lady Smith. I was sent down for that.

15 LADY SMITH: Yes. Yes.

16 A. On, again, on the 25th.

17 LADY SMITH: I think Lady Carmichael also explained that if
18 you'd been prosecuted separately for those two charges,
19 the sentences on each would have added up to more than
20 10 years.

21 A. Yeah.

22 LADY SMITH: You remember that.

23 A. She mentioned 8 and 6.

24 LADY SMITH: Yes, thank you.

25 MR PEOPLES: And I think she did take account of your age

1 and your state of health.

2 LADY SMITH: That's right.

3 MR PEOPLES: So she did explain very fully, I think, the
4 basis for her -- of the sentence she did impose
5 cumulatively for the two charges.

6 But as her Ladyship said, this is now proven fact.
7 We're not here to open it up or give the opportunity for
8 you to say something. That's a matter for you in
9 a different forum.

10 So if I could move on, and perhaps -- you've already
11 told me what your position is about the person that
12 we're calling 'Scott', who made the allegation in 1977,
13 so I'm not going to go back that to that, Peter.
14 I think you've seen her statement and it very much
15 I think echoes quite a lot of what was in the charges
16 that we looked at earlier on. But your position is
17 quite clear on that, that you didn't abuse her in any
18 way; is that right?

19 A. That's correct.

20 Q. But you'll be aware that some other people have come to
21 this Inquiry, who were both in Colonsay House and some,
22 or at least one, in Nimmo Place, have made allegations
23 against you, and I think you -- you have had some
24 advance notice of what they've been saying about you; is
25 that right, Peter?

1 A. How do you mean, advance notice?

2 Q. Well, you know already what the allegations are?

3 A. Yes, sorry.

4 Q. Sorry --

5 A. You have updated me.

6 Q. Yes, it's my fault, it was a bad question. But I'm just
7 saying, I'm not just springing something on you that
8 you've not been aware of, what people have said.
9 Because you had --

10 A. Yes.

11 Q. -- the chance to -- you were told, I think, what was
12 being said about you; is that right?

13 A. That's correct, yes.

14 Q. Now, what I want to do now, and at this time I'll remind
15 you again of the warning you got at the beginning, these
16 are allegations, and obviously you have the right to
17 remain silent if they involve or appear to involve
18 allegations of criminality. So I just remind you of
19 that, Peter, and -- but I will take you to them and just
20 ask you for a response; do you understand?

21 A. That's fine.

22 Q. And if we can take the first statement that I'm going to
23 look at, which is from a person that we're calling
24 'Daniel', and again you should have a copy of 'Daniel's'
25 statement in your folder. I'll just give the reference

1 for our purposes, it's WIT.001.002.9411.

2 If you could turn to page 6, I think it is, of
3 'Daniel's' statement. At paragraph 26, Peter, 'Daniel'
4 says that he and his younger brother shared a room at
5 Colonsay House, and I think 'Daniel' was -- has said he
6 was there maybe around 1976/'77 when he was in P4 or P5
7 at school.

8 And what he says there is that his brother wet the
9 bed, the staff made a fool of him for doing so, and his
10 brother was hit on the back of his head by you and
11 indeed by another member of staff, using an open hand.
12 Did that happen?

13 A. No, sir, that did not happen.

14 Q. Then if you move on to page 29 --

15 LADY SMITH: Page or paragraph?

16 MR PEOPLES: Sorry, paragraph 29, on page 7. My apologies.

17 LADY SMITH: That's all right.

18 MR PEOPLES: You will see there that 'Daniel' describes you
19 as 'sadistic' and 'evil' and he says that you would get
20 him down and straddle him, leaning on his chest. You
21 would come into his room and batter him, you'd punch the
22 head off him.

23 Now, did that happen?

24 A. No, sir, that did not.

25 Q. And then at paragraphs 30 to 31 on page 7, 'Daniel'

1 tells us about an occasion when he was around 9 or
2 10 years of age when he broke his ankle and was off
3 school for several weeks. He says he recalled hearing
4 someone crying when 'Daniel' was in his own room. He
5 saw you come out -- coming out of [REDACTED] room, and
6 you know who [REDACTED] is, which was nearby. When he
7 went to [REDACTED] room, he said there was
8 a bloodstained sanitary towel in her metal bin.
9 [REDACTED] was sitting crying. 'Daniel' says you told him
10 to go for a shower. He went to the shower. You told
11 him to take off his clothes, which 'Daniel' did,
12 whereupon you stood and stared at 'Daniel' in a way that
13 made him feel uncomfortable. And after a time, you
14 walked out and he put his clothes back on and left.

15 Now, did that happen?

16 A. No, sir, that did not happen.

17 Q. And did none of that happen? You don't recall being in
18 [REDACTED] room?

19 A. No, I certainly wasn't.

20 Q. Okay. You will appreciate you were convicted of
21 an offence of going into PMA [REDACTED] room, in 2025?

22 A. Yeah. I may have been convicted of it, but that doesnae
23 mean to say that I actually physically did it.

24 Q. Okay, well, we'll move on to paragraph 32, which is on
25 pages 7 and 8 of 'Daniel's' statement. He says that --

1 he's told this Inquiry that girls had told him that you
2 were doing things to them. Two girls, whom he names and
3 I'm not going to name them aloud, said that you had done
4 bad things to them.

5 So I'll remind you, Peter, that you were found
6 guilty in 2025 of doing bad things to PMA when you
7 worked at Colonsay House. Did you do bad things to
8 other girls when you worked there?

9 A. No, I didn't. You know?

10 Q. And moving on to paragraph 32, another part, I think,
11 'Daniel' says that you were always questioning boys
12 about which girls were skipping school. Do you recall
13 doing that?

14 A. No, I don't. I don't remember that at all. You know?

15 Q. Well he says that you would go out in the minibus or
16 your car?

17 A. We used to drop them at school -- we would drop them at
18 school every day, sir, and drop them off and park away
19 from the school, so we didnae show up, you know, so that
20 all their friends could see them arriving. They went to
21 school. If they opted to play truancy, that was down to
22 them. I'm not here to castigate them for not attending
23 the school.

24 Q. But did you go out in search of them though, if you knew
25 they'd skipped school?

1 A. No.

2 Q. That's what 'Daniel' is saying, that you went --

3 A. For to do that, that would need to have been organised
4 and agreed to by whoever runs the home: 'Oh, do you want
5 me to go out and see if they're hanging about the
6 area?'. No, I'm sorry, that did not happen.

7 Q. I mean, in 1977, 'Scott' said that your car was parked
8 outside her mother's house. Can you explain that?

9 A. All I could remember about that point was at that time
10 I was down at Colonsay House and not at Nimmo where
11 I physically worked, and I was asked if I could drop,
12 erm, 'Scott' -- which one's 'Scott' again? FCD
13 FCD.

14 LADY SMITH: Peter --

15 A. I dropped somebody off there, and then -- yes?

16 LADY SMITH: Peter, was there a problem with girls skipping
17 school?

18 A. Not as big as I think as has been made out to me here.

19 LADY SMITH: So it was something that happened, was it?

20 A. Now and again. Some kids would play truancy, but they
21 were always dealt with through the school and then the
22 social workers would get involved and then they would
23 take up the case, you know.

24 LADY SMITH: Surely the home would have been concerned if
25 girls in their care were skipping school, weren't they?

1 A. Yeah, well, it was brought up at the staff meetings, you
2 know, that so-and-so had been off school for two or
3 three days and they should have been there and they're
4 away doing other things, and half the time we didn't
5 even know where they were. They would just come back
6 home at night, you know, sit down and have their tea.

7 LADY SMITH: These were --

8 A. And then we find out -- if the school hadn't phoned us
9 to say they hadn't turned up --

10 LADY SMITH: Yes. But you're talking about youngsters who
11 are still children and you wouldn't have wanted them to
12 come to harm, would you?

13 A. No, I wouldn't want any of them to come to harm, but at
14 the end of the day, if they do things, we didn't always
15 get told right away that: 'Oh, so-and-so hasnae turned
16 up for school today, do you know where he is?'.
17 I mean, LND would take maist of the calls, the
18 incoming calls on -- that's Mr LND -- on
19 a daily basis, and he'd come out and say: 'Oh, so-and-so
20 hasnae appeared at school today'.

21 LADY SMITH: All right.

22 A. Or whoever it was.

23 LADY SMITH: But do I take it, it could be a problem, it was
24 something that was talked about at staff meetings, and
25 of course the home wouldn't want something bad to happen

1 to them?

2 A. Oh, no, no, they wouldn't want anything bad to happen to
3 them at all.

4 LADY SMITH: Right, okay. Mr Peoples.

5 MR PEOPLES: Peter, perhaps you could raise your voice a
6 little bit?

7 A. Right.

8 Q. You're starting to get -- it's quite hard sometimes to
9 hear your answers.

10 So I think 'Scott' in 1977 said that actually her
11 complaint was also that you were following her around,
12 and indeed at one point you were outside her mother's
13 house. Are you saying that didn't happen?

14 A. No. FCD ? No, no, that did not happen,
15 sir.

16 Q. Okay.

17 A. Okay?

18 Q. And 'Daniel' also says, at paragraph 33 on page 8 of his
19 statement, that you would come into the showers and
20 touch him up as he showered, and that you did the same
21 to other children when -- and to 'Daniel' -- when they
22 were in bed.

23 Now, did you inappropriately touch boys at
24 Colonsay House when they were in the showers and/or in
25 their beds?

1 A. No, sir, I did not touch any boy when they were in their
2 showers or in their beds.

3 Q. But you accept you were convicted of doing so in the
4 case of ██████████, in 2025?

5 A. That was beyond my ability. I mean, I have pled not
6 guilty, but I was not --

7 Q. But you have been found guilty.

8 A. -- allowed to speak. I've been found guilty by the
9 system, right, but my statement, and like I said
10 earlier, I pled not guilty all the way through, even
11 from -- I would say from the police statement forward to
12 the end of the case, I pled not guilty. I did not do
13 what I was being accused of.

14 I was not allowed to speak at my trial. I was not
15 allowed to give a statement or anything, on the
16 instruction of my KC.

17 Q. And so if you say that none of these things happened,
18 are you saying that 'Daniel', like 'Scott', like
19 ██████████, like 'Alison', are telling lies?

20 A. Well, I can assure you I did not do what they're
21 accusing me of, because I wouldn't have been the only
22 one to hear about it, if I'm supposed to have done that
23 to the children at any way, time, at a given point.
24 Because people would be down the stairs complaining:
25 'You'd better get up the stairs, Peter Murray is being

1 a bad man, he's doing this, he's doing that'. There was
2 nothing. And that, to me, doesn't mean to say that
3 I'm telling lies. I just didn't do these things.

4 Q. Well, can I move on to another person who was in
5 Colonsay House who has come to this Inquiry and we're
6 calling him 'Thomas'. Now, you maybe want to look at
7 his statement, and do you remember 'Thomas'?

8 A. Yeah, yeah, vaguely. I vaguely remember this young
9 gentleman at that point.

10 Q. Okay. I mean, I think he, according to the records, was
11 in Colonsay House between about [REDACTED] 1976 and [REDACTED]
12 1977 with his older sister, and I'm not going to mention
13 her, but I think you know who she is.

14 And you say you've got a vague memory of 'Thomas'.
15 Well, if we just look at 'Thomas's' statement and go to
16 paragraph 39.

17 (Pause)

18 LADY SMITH: If I could ask, Peter, if you could be closer
19 to where the microphone is picking you up at that end.

20 A. Okay, I'm closer, can you hear me better?

21 LADY SMITH: That helps me. I don't know, it may help the
22 stenographers.

23 It's not your fault. There's noise coming from
24 another place in the building --

25 A. Next door.

1 LADY SMITH: -- that we're hearing.

2 Thank you.

3 MR PEOPLES: Peter, if you could look at page 8 of
4 'Thomas's' statement at paragraph 39, you'll see that
5 'Thomas' has told this Inquiry that his sister, who's
6 now deceased, told him that you touched her on the
7 breasts and on her genitals when she was in her bed.

8 Did do you these things to 'Thomas's' sister?

9 A. No, sir, I did not do this to 'Thomas's' sister under
10 any circumstances.

11 Q. And if we move on quite a way in the statement to
12 paragraph 161, which is on page 32 of 'Thomas's'
13 statement. Have you got that, Peter?

14 A. Yep.

15 Q. 'Thomas' has told the Inquiry -- sorry, I should first
16 say, according to records, 'Thomas' was admitted to
17 Nimmo Place, so he was in both. He was admitted to
18 Nimmo Place on [REDACTED] 1986, according to records.

19 'Thomas' has told the Inquiry that you would come
20 into his room when he was in Nimmo Place, touch him and
21 masturbate yourself while doing so. Did that happen?

22 A. No, sir, it did not.

23 Q. And he also says, at paragraphs 162 and 165, which are
24 pages 32 and 33, that he recalls two occasions when you
25 entered his bedroom, turned the lights out, sat on his

1 bed, put your hands under the covers and touched
2 'Thomas' over his pyjamas, and as you did so, he says
3 you were breathing hard and grunting and, 'Thomas'
4 believes, were masturbating yourself, and that 'Thomas',
5 after these incidents, tried to avoid you as much as he
6 could.

7 Did these things happen?

8 A. No, sir, they did not.

9 Q. And moving on to 167, which is on page 33 of 'Thomas's'
10 statement, he says he was aware that something happened
11 to a female resident named ██████ in the home. That's
12 what we're calling her. And she told 'Thomas' that you
13 were doing things to her and she was scared of you.

14 'Thomas' says he doesn't know the details of what you
15 did, because ██████ didn't go into details.

16 Now, did do you bad things to ██████?

17 A. No, sir, I did not do anything to ██████.

18 Q. So, if you say none of these things happened that
19 'Thomas' has told us about, he, like the others, is
20 telling lies; is that right?

21 A. Yes, he's telling lies.

22 Q. Now, can I move on to another statement. This time it's
23 a statement from a person we are calling 'Carol'. And
24 her statement reference, for the transcript, is
25 WIT-1-000000931.

1 Now, first of all, Peter, you'll know the name of
2 'Carol'. I think you've got the identity of this
3 person, haven't you? I don't want you to name her, but
4 you know who she is?

5 A. The name doesn't strike a bell in my head, okay? And
6 I'll leave it there.

7 Q. No, that's fine. I was just going to ask you, did you
8 remember her, and I think you have very frankly said no,
9 you don't.

10 A. No.

11 Q. I mean, I think she was only in Colonsay House for
12 a relatively brief period of time, but she does say
13 certain things about you and I need to ask you for
14 a response.

15 But first of all, at paragraph 21 of 'Carol's'
16 statement, you'll see that 'Carol' says that you were
17 always lurking about the toilet, I think, bathing,
18 showering area, and she remembers standing naked on
19 several occasions trying to hide herself when you were
20 coming in and out.

21 Now, do you remember doing that?

22 A. No, I do not. And as I say, one of the biggest rules
23 from LND, rightly or wrongly, was you do not
24 cross the line, especially when there's anybody inside
25 the shower, or bathroom or call it whatever you like.

1 Q. Or indeed enter the girls' bedrooms unescorted, but you
2 say you did?

3 A. I did it once or twice, I'm not going to deny that now,
4 but at the end of the day, I wisnae going for anything
5 that would be -- that would hurt them or make them feel
6 bad or any of this, you know, or be could -- brought
7 back to me for any form of abuse to them. I wisnae
8 there for that, you know? I was a young, married man
9 with a kid. If you think for a minute that I would go
10 (inaudible) them down the river, just to go and do
11 things that are not appropriate, to any kid, no, sorry.

12 Q. But you had done things, you admitted doing things that
13 were inappropriate to your own sisters. Your own
14 family. That doesn't square very easily with what
15 you've just said?

16 A. Right, okay, but as a teenager. Well, I was stupid, you
17 know. And, as I say.

18 Q. Now, you'll see that 'Carol' in her statement says that
19 whilst she was at Colonsay House, you did come to her
20 room, you sexually assaulted her and, indeed, her
21 roommate on a number of occasions. Did that happen?

22 A. Two people in the same room? Is that what you're saying
23 to me?

24 Q. No, I'm just saying what she said.

25 A. Aye.

1 Q. I just want --

2 A. No, I didn't.

3 Q. -- your response.

4 A. No, I did not. I mean, if I've -- sorry if

5 I've misunderstood you, but you're saying two people in

6 the room, 'Carol' and somebody else; is that correct?

7 Q. Well, I'm just reading out I think what she said, but

8 maybe I got that wrong. I'll just check.

9 LADY SMITH: Peter, I don't think she's suggesting that --

10 A. Oh.

11 LADY SMITH: -- she and her roommate were there at the same

12 time and you were engaging with both of them at the same

13 time.

14 A. My apologies, Lady Smith.

15 LADY SMITH: But what she's saying is this is something her

16 roommate told her that you were doing when her roommate

17 was there.

18 A. No, I'm sorry, I didn't do this.

19 MR PEOPLES: Well the point you're making is you're denying

20 this ever happened. If that's what she's saying, this

21 is not the truth; is that your position?

22 A. That is my position, yeah.

23 Q. And she also says, at paragraph 23 on page 5 of her

24 statement, that at weekends, when residents were

25 watching films in a room where the curtains were shut

1 and lights were out, that you gave out sweets and wanted
2 girls to sit beside you and that when they did so, you
3 rubbed yourself against them in the dark during the film
4 in a way that no one could see what you were doing.
5 Now, is that something you did?
6 A. I didn't give out sweets, to anybody.
7 Q. You didn't or you did?
8 A. I did not. No, I didn't.
9 Q. And you didn't watch films in the dark with female
10 residents?
11 A. There was all sorts of residents in there. Female and
12 male at the time, if my memory serves me correct --
13 Q. Yeah, you're right --
14 A. -- and the only place I could sit was close to the door,
15 'cause if the phone rang, I would have to go through and
16 answer it.
17 Q. But would you sit beside girls from time to time? It
18 doesn't seem an unlikely scenario?
19 A. Yes, sometimes it was girls. Sometimes it was boys.
20 Q. And all I'm putting to you is 'Carol' is saying that
21 when this happened, you were rubbing yourself up against
22 them. Are you saying that didn't happen?
23 A. No, no, no, of course, it didn't happen, you know. So.
24 Q. And, I, think that she also says, at paragraph 24,
25 Peter, which is on pages 5 to 6, that she says, 'Carol'

1 that is, that you took her, and indeed other girls, out
2 in your car and indeed she heard, she said, that you
3 were in some sort of relationship with one of the girls
4 that she names. Did you actually take female residents
5 out in your car? I think you may be -- I'm not sure
6 what your position was on that, ultimately? I got the
7 impression you did maybe sometimes take girls out in the
8 car, is that right?

9 A. I took one girl out in the car, yes or a car, and in
10 fact, it was the minibus belonging to the home, you
11 know.

12 Q. Okay, but you had a car as well, didn't you, Peter?

13 A. I had my own car, yeah.

14 Q. What colour was it?

15 A. Red, I think.

16 Q. Red or wine? Red? Wine?

17 A. Possibly, aye, red or something, wasn't it?

18 Q. Because I think that was the description of the car that
19 was seen outside 'Scott's' house that was parked there?

20 A. Yeah, 'cause I dropped off the girl that was going there
21 and I went back to Nimmo Place.

22 Q. Okay. Now when you had a female resident in your car on
23 any occasion, did you do any bad things to them?

24 A. Not under any circumstances.

25 Q. Because you know that there were charges against you in

1 1993 that you raped certain Colonsay girls when you and
2 they were together in the car? You know that there were
3 charges to that effect?

4 A. It's been a while. But I mean, a lot's happened since
5 then, but, I mean, I don't react to the things that
6 I would take them out to rape them or do anything bad to
7 them. You must think I'm -- no.

8 Q. Well, I'll put it to you what I've said before, if you
9 say these things didn't happen, are you saying 'Carol',
10 like the others that we've been through, is also telling
11 lies?

12 A. Yes, she's telling lies.

13 Q. Okay.

14 A. You know, if I told you what I did to her, you would be
15 saying: hang him, you know.

16 Q. Well, that's not my judgment to make, but perhaps I can
17 move on to another statement from a person we are
18 calling 'Frank'. I think you've got 'Frank's' statement
19 in your folder, Peter.

20 The reference is WIT.001.002.1957. And I think you
21 know 'Frank's' name, do you?

22 A. No, I don't. Well, I do, I just, you know --

23 Q. Well, I think you know who 'Frank' -- you know what his
24 name is. Did you remember 'Frank'?

25 A. Not as such, no.

1 Q. No, because I think he says he was in Colonsay House for
2 around five or six months before he turned 16, which
3 would be around 1982 or 1983, if that helps you, and
4 that you were working there, as was your wife, and
5 I think 'Frank' says that there was a baby monitor in
6 each of the residents' rooms and that staff on night
7 duty could hear any sounds coming from the rooms,
8 including any talking after lights were out. Is he
9 right about that? Is 'Frank' right, there was a system,
10 was there?

11 A. Yes, there was a system and there was a speaker in every
12 bedroom and one in SNR's house, one in
13 the staff house and one in the middle.

14 Q. Do you know why there was such a system? Because it
15 seems an unusual thing. Today it would be seen as
16 an invasion of privacy perhaps, but why were there these
17 sort of baby monitors?

18 A. They were just baby monitors in case anything, you know
19 -- anybody was sick during the night or cried for help,
20 you know, but as I say --

21 Q. And 'Frank' says, at paragraph 206 on page 32 of his
22 statement, that you came to his room when he was still
23 awake and gave him a hiding. He says you would punch
24 and kick him when he was under his bed covers. Do you
25 see that?

1 A. I can't see that, but I've heard what you said.

2 Q. Did that happen?

3 A. No, sir, it did not happen.

4 Q. So again --

5 A. How long would I have had a job if I was going around
6 doing that? Because people in there would not be quiet.
7 I'm sorry, I mean, for anybody who has suffered
8 anything, but at the end of the day, if I'd have done
9 all these things and abused people and kicked them and
10 slapped them and whatever they're physically saying,
11 that it would not have gone unnoticed because other
12 people would have heard.

13 Q. So 'Frank' --

14 A. Or run down the stairs and said --

15 Q. 'Frank', like 'Scott', 'Daniel', 'Thomas', 'Carol',
16 'Alison', [REDACTED], he's telling lies also?

17 A. Yes, yes.

18 LADY SMITH: While we're at that statement, Peter, could you
19 look at paragraph 203 where he says that one time he hit
20 you; do you remember that?

21 A. No.

22 LADY SMITH: You've no memory --

23 A. He hit me?

24 LADY SMITH: He hit you and he ran away because he was
25 afraid you'd get the police; do you remember that?

1 A. No.

2 LADY SMITH: Just take a minute.

3 A. I'm sorry, we're just trying to find the page. It's not
4 as if I don't want to answer you. I have never been hit
5 by any kid in the place.

6 LADY SMITH: Okay.

7 MR PEOPLES: It's page 32.

8 A. 'One time I hit Peter and I thought the police would
9 come so I ran away.'

10 LADY SMITH: Mm-hmm.

11 A. You know, no, I'm not aware of that at all, you know.

12 LADY SMITH: All right. Thank you.

13 MR PEOPLES: Now, Peter, we've been through all these
14 allegations and you've told us about your position in
15 relation to all of these former residents of either
16 Colonsay House or Nimmo Place.

17 And can I just go back again and say during your
18 trial in 1993, I think you've agreed that you admitted
19 abusing your younger sisters, having previously denied
20 doing so. I think we are agreed on that; is that right?

21 A. That's correct, sir.

22 Q. And you were convicted, and I know what your position is
23 today, you were convicted on 9 September 2025 of
24 sexually abusing two Colonsay House residents, 'Alison'
25 and [REDACTED] when you were working there. I mean,

1 that's something that's happened. You were convicted?

2 A. Not because I wanted to be convicted, sir, I'll be
3 openly honest with you and Lady Smith, you know, because
4 I'm not sure how well the law is working at the moment.
5 I mean, you may either agree or disagree with me, you
6 know. I was looking at it from the point of view that
7 the Moorov doctrine is allowing things, rightly or
8 wrongly, and I'm not saying the law's totally bad, what
9 I'm saying is that something's just not quite right here
10 and from the point of view -- like I said to the
11 policeman at the end of my interview, and he accused me
12 of all this, and if I'd have done that, I would have
13 admitted it and I said that to my KC, Wendy Culross, and
14 you can ask her that.

15 Q. But, Peter, you do have a track record of denying abuse
16 of children and then admitting to abusing some of them,
17 at least, that happened in 1993, and today you are
18 denying all allegations, as I understand it, of sexual
19 and physical abuse that may have been made -- that have
20 been made, sorry, by a number of former residents of
21 Colonsay House and Nimmo Place who have come forward to
22 this Inquiry; is that your position?

23 A. Yeah. And again, I will be open and honest with
24 yourself and Lady Smith, and the people who are sitting
25 here beside me showed me the allegations and that's the

1 first time I've actually read them in depth of what
2 I'm being accused of, wrongly accused of, in my humble
3 opinion, for what it's worth.

4 Q. Well, given your track record, Peter, why should this
5 Inquiry accept your denials and reject, as lies, you
6 would say, what these former residents and indeed the
7 people in the 1993 trial say happened to them when they
8 were children at Colonsay House and Nimmo Place in the
9 1970s and 1980s; why should this Inquiry accept your
10 position against all of that?

11 A. Because I know what I haven't done, right. I haven't
12 done what these people have accused me of; slapping
13 them, abusing them, interfering with them on many
14 levels, you know, and I fail to see how nobody heard
15 anything, nobody reported anything. Nobody came back
16 and said: 'We need to take Peter Murray out. We need to
17 remove him. We know what this guy is. He -- this guy
18 is, you know, straight in, straight into the jail'.
19 Bang.

20 Q. Well, Peter, if the sort of investigation that was
21 carried out in 1980 is anything to go by, I'm not sure
22 I would have the same confidence you have in saying
23 that, because clearly if all they did was a site visit
24 to a locus of an apparent crime and decided it was not
25 likely -- a likely venue for someone to do what you were

1 accused of, that doesn't say much for the system or the
2 people that you were working with at that time. So
3 I wouldn't -- I'm suggesting we can't have confidence --
4 A. With respect, sir, I didn't ask them to go and check
5 that out --
6 Q. No, you've said that.
7 A. -- for information. They got information, from where,
8 I don't know.
9 Q. It doesn't look as if they were very keen to accept the
10 word of a young vulnerable child against your word, does
11 it?
12 A. Well, if that's how it looks, I did not control that.
13 I did not have anything to do with that. All I can do
14 is be open and honest and state what I have or haven't
15 done, and I haven't done 99 per cent of what's in there,
16 other than the sisters, 'cause I've admitted to that.
17 Q. Peter, whatever you may say now, I'll suggest that your
18 convictions in 1993, on your own admission, and in 2025,
19 on the verdict of a jury, show that you had a sexual
20 interest in children and indeed it started before you
21 went to Colonsay House and continued during your periods
22 of employment at Colonsay House and Nimmo Place.
23 Is that not proof of a sexual interest in children
24 that started when you were between 12 and 15 years of
25 age?

1 A. I was a teenager. I obviously got that wrong, didn't I?
2 I mean, it was uncalled for and unnecessary, right, and
3 I, in the end, admitted to that.

4 Q. Well, it took you a long time to admit it?

5 A. Yeah, well, it's like everything else in life, you know,
6 these are my sisters, you know, and irrespectfully --
7 not unrespectfully, but in respect to them, you know,
8 that's what I was given the option for, you know,
9 whatever happened.

10 Q. Well, your choice of employment in 1976 and between then
11 and 1990 or so and the position of trust that you held
12 gave you the opportunity, did it not, to continue to
13 abuse children as you had done between 1967 and 1970 and
14 by choosing to be a residential care worker for
15 vulnerable and troubled children, you thought, did you
16 not, that you could engage in various forms of sexual
17 activity with them and get away with doing so?

18 A. Why would I want to do that? I mean, why was this not
19 brought up or why did somebody not complain to my
20 employers? Or: 'Look, this man shouldnae be doing this.
21 He shouldnae be getting away with anything, you know, he
22 shouldn't be hurting our kids. The children are in
23 care'. I'm sorry --

24 Q. But if they said anything, you would, and you did, deny
25 wrongdoing and no doubt you thought: who would believe

1 them over me? Is that not the true position?

2 A. No. Was I caught doing anything, you know? It's bad

3 enough the statements that I've just read and the amount

4 of stuff I'm supposed to have done to these children,

5 you know --

6 Q. And as long as your sisters --

7 A. -- total shock, you know.

8 Q. Peter, as long as your sisters remained silent, did you

9 not believe that you had nothing really to fear, even if

10 a child did make an allegation against you, as some did,

11 and that was really the way that your mind was working

12 at the time, was it not?

13 A. Not that I'm aware of, you know, 'cause I didn't make

14 them go and run away and clype on me or saying Peter's

15 all badness, you know.

16 Q. Well, whatever your mindset may have been, the fact is

17 that you were abusing children, both your sisters and

18 children in care, according to the 1993 confession and

19 the 2025 conviction, and you were doing so for personal

20 gratification with no thought whatsoever to the

21 immediate and lasting impact of your abuse of your

22 victims; is that not the position?

23 A. No, it's not, you know. You're making me out to be

24 something that's, you know, other than my stuff at the

25 start. No.

1 Q. And you had --

2 A. I did not abuse these kids. And if I had abused them,
3 why has it not been brought to light? Why has it been
4 able to go on and on and on and on? You must think
5 I'm Superman. I ain't no Superman.

6 Q. And you had, did you not, an abhorrent sexual addiction
7 to engage, when it suited you, in various forms of
8 sexual activity involving children, which, in your case,
9 started at an early age and you focused totally on your
10 own needs and desires without any thought for your
11 victims: is that not the truth of the matter?

12 A. No, it's not the truth of the matter.

13 Q. Okay. And to avoid confronting that awful truth, and
14 the irreparable harm you have caused to your victims, I
15 suggest that you are in a state of false denial?

16 A. That, sir, is your statement. It's certainly not mine.

17 Q. Well, do you want to respond to that suggestion?

18 A. And say what? At the end of the day, I haven't done
19 these things and that's all I can say.

20 Q. Why do you think the trial judge said in 1993:
21 'This man must never be allowed to work in
22 a children's home again.'?

23 A. I'm not aware of the trial judge saying that and if he
24 did, I apologise. All I'm aware of is that the Director
25 of Social Work asked that he didn't want me working in

1 social work again.

2 Q. Well, the judge is reported in the press as saying it,
3 so again you may have to trust me on that one but --

4 A. No disrespect to yourselves, but at the end of the day,
5 I didn't get that.

6 LADY SMITH: And that was the judge in 1993, wasn't it?

7 MR PEOPLES: Yes, yes, yes. Yes.

8 LADY SMITH: Which is particularly significant when it was
9 so long ago.

10 MR PEOPLES: Peter, these are all the questions I have for
11 you today and I thank you for attending and answering my
12 questions today for the Inquiry. Thank you very much.

13 A. Thank you.

14 LADY SMITH: Just for completeness, Peter, and I'm not
15 trying to make you any more uncomfortable than I'm sure
16 we've made you already or rub salt into any wound, but
17 do you remember the criticisms and strong language that
18 Lady Carmichael used last year when she sentenced you?

19 A. No, you would have to repeat them, my Lady. I just
20 can't, you know.

21 LADY SMITH: She talked about how serious the offences were,
22 that they were perpetrated upon vulnerable children,
23 both vulnerable through their age and the fact that they
24 were living in a children's home, and that you were able
25 to get access to them because you worked there and that

1 the conduct you engaged in was a significant breach of
2 trust. It was obviously liable to harm the victims and
3 it's had that result. Do you remember that?

4 A. Yeah. I don't remember a lot about it, because I was
5 medically unfit and I'm sure you know the reasons why.

6 LADY SMITH: I mean, I'm reading from a public record of
7 that statement, because that sentencing statement was
8 issued. And she had heard the evidence that had also
9 been heard by 15 members of the public who convicted
10 you; that's right, isn't it?

11 A. That's correct, yes, and the 15 of eight were required
12 to vote, but if my memory does serve me right, is the
13 fact that there was a unanimous victory -- sorry,
14 statement from the jury.

15 LADY SMITH: Peter, thank you for engaging with us.

16 I've already said, I do appreciate that this can't have
17 been easy for you. I hope you understand why we've had
18 to ask you these difficult questions. It's because of
19 my overriding responsibility to look at the systems of
20 protection of children in care, in Scotland, whether
21 they've been working in the past, whether there have
22 been failings, what they're like now and what they need
23 to be in the future. So there is a very wide-ranging
24 picture I have to look at here and you are part of that
25 picture, you are part of the history of that picture

1 because of these convictions.

2 But thank you for your patience. I'm sure you are
3 now exhausted and probably will be glad when we've
4 switched off the link. Thank you.

5 A. Thank you for your time, Lady Smith.

6 MR PEOPLES: I don't know if there are names to be --

7 LADY SMITH: There will be names, quite a number, if you
8 give me one moment, and I'll need to be corrected if
9 I've missed any.

10 Certainly I can start with LND and somebody
11 called FCD, somebody called , somebody called
12 , a , a , a FCD
13 and then I'm asking for confirmation from the team for
14 any other names. .

15 MR PEOPLES: I think I mentioned. I mentioned
16 MYJ as well. Did I mention ?

17 LADY SMITH: I've mentioned , yes.

18 MR PEOPLES: .

19 LADY SMITH: Yes, was mentioned.

20 MR PEOPLES: 'Alison'.

21 LADY SMITH: 'Alison' is a pseudonym, yes. What I would
22 say, it's the same message: the General Restriction
23 Order that I've issued covers these people's identities
24 so they can't be identified as referred to in our
25 evidence outside this room. But given that we used

1 quite a lot of just first names with that witness,
2 I would ask that people don't publicise them again,
3 apart from the witness's own name, which is not
4 protected, but don't publicise these other names again
5 without checking, please, in case they are protected.

6 That takes us to tomorrow morning, when we'll sit at
7 10 o'clock.

8 MR PEOPLES: Yes, the plan is to have some read-ins to begin
9 with and then we'll have our final oral witness.

10 LADY SMITH: Thank you very much. I'll rise now until
11 10 o'clock tomorrow morning.

12 (4.07 pm)

13 (The Inquiry adjourned until 10.00 am
14 on Wednesday, 1 April 2026)

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