

Tuesday, 21 April 2026

1

2 (10.00 am)

3 LADY SMITH: Good morning, and welcome back to Phase 10 of
4 our case study hearings, in which we continue to look
5 into the provision of residential care by local
6 authorities in institutions they ran and in places they
7 used to fulfil their placement responsibilities.

8 Now, although we had hoped we would be starting this
9 morning with a witness in person, that's now proved not
10 to be possible, so I'll hand over to Mr MacAulay and
11 he'll explain what's going to happen.

12 MR MACAULAY: Yes, unfortunately, my Lady, the witness that
13 was pencilled in for this morning cannot be here. But
14 this chapter of the case studies will look at two local
15 authority institutions, Clerwood Children's Home and
16 Glenallan.

17 LADY SMITH: So those were two places in Edinburgh, I think,
18 weren't they; yes.

19 MR MACAULAY: Both in Edinburgh; Clerwood in the
20 Corstorphine area and Glenallan in the Inch area of
21 Edinburgh.

22 Just by way of introduction, I'll put photographs on
23 the screen. We're looking here at a photograph of
24 Clerwood. An imposing building, looks Victorian, and it
25 would appear to have an extension constructed to the

1 rear. Clerwood opened in 1947 and it closed, certainly
2 by 1981. It could accommodate, according to what is set
3 out in the Section A to D responses, about 24 to
4 40 children of different ages and different sexes.

5 Glenallan, if I can perhaps put a photograph up for
6 Glenallan, your Ladyship will see that's a much more
7 modern, fairly unattractive building. It opened in 1970
8 and it had a different approach to care, in that it was
9 a family group home, where they tried to accommodate
10 a number of siblings from one family. It closed in
11 about 1985 and it could accommodate 12 or so children,
12 so it was a small establishment.

13 LADY SMITH: Thank you.

14 MR MACAULAY: And again, a range of ages from very young to
15 perhaps early teens.

16 Both these establishments straddled two local
17 authorities; Edinburgh Corporation until it became
18 Lothian Regional Council.

19 So far as Clerwood is concerned, the main focus of
20 the chapter will be on the behaviour of Gordon Knott.

21 LADY SMITH: Yes.

22 MR MACAULAY: Who was there from 1973 to 1977 and he then
23 went to Glenallan, where again he was an abuser of
24 children. And he was there from 1977 to 1985 when the
25 establishment closed.

1 The other focus will be on Brian MacLennan who was
2 employed at Clerwood from 1976 to 1978.

3 'Fiona' (read in)

4 MR MACAULAY: So, my Lady, against that background then, can
5 I begin by reading in the evidence of the witness who
6 was due to give evidence this morning.

7 Her statement is at WIT.001.002.8905 and her
8 pseudonym is 'Fiona'. She's an applicant.

9 And she -- just by way of background again -- went
10 to Glenallan but she was there at a time that pre-dated
11 Gordon Knott's reign, in that she was admitted in
12 ██████████ 1971 and she left in ██████████ 1974.

13 So, picking up her statement, she tells us that she
14 was born in 1967 and she looks at her family background
15 and in particular life before she went into care and she
16 gives us some information about her siblings and in
17 particular her mother. She didn't know her own father.
18 And she goes on to say at paragraph 3:

19 'I was born in Bootle and the family home was in
20 Liverpool. My memory of that time is very vague. My
21 mother wasn't very good at filling in the details for
22 us, so I only have snippets from sisters. My real
23 father was extremely violent. From what I gather, we
24 kept being removed periodically for our safety. Social
25 services would remove us and then place us back with our

1 parents. I think that continued up until I was about
2 2 years old. There's definitely a photo of me with my
3 brothers and sisters, taken when I was about 18 months
4 old. The story I've been told is that we were all
5 brought together to have the photograph taken before
6 [a brother] was adopted, as a memento for him.

7 'My memories are very hazy. We moved to Broomhouse
8 in Edinburgh, but I only know that because my sisters
9 told me. It's only tiny snippets that I remember.
10 I must have been about 2 and I just remember hiding
11 under a big Silver Cross pram and screaming. I also
12 remember sitting under a table with [my brother] and
13 somebody, maybe one of my sisters, was trying to calm us
14 down with a sweetie. I vaguely remember police being
15 there and blood. I just know there was a person covered
16 in blood.

17 'From what I gather, the violence was directed
18 towards my mother. I've no memory of my father being
19 violent towards me or my siblings. I think he was
20 violent towards us at times, but more verbally abusive,
21 from what I gather. My sisters have told me that.
22 I think I was too wee and I really just have tiny
23 flickers of memory. My memory has a very good way of
24 shutting out things that I don't want to know. I have
25 huge gaps from my time in Quarriers.'

1 Can I just say, my Lady, the main thrust of
2 'Fiona's' statement is to do with Quarriers.

3 LADY SMITH: Yes.

4 MR MACAULAY: And a significant part of the statement covers
5 her time at Quarriers and what happened at Quarriers,
6 and that feeds into the impact that she talks about in
7 her statement, and of course her statement was given in
8 2019, after the Quarriers case study.

9 LADY SMITH: Of course, yes.

10 MR MACAULAY: But of course, your Ladyship will no doubt
11 look at it in due course.

12 LADY SMITH: Yes, she covers the conduct of people working
13 at Quarriers about whom I heard a lot during the case
14 study hearings and I covered in the case study findings.

15 MR MACAULAY: At paragraph 6 she says:

16 'My mum had a breakdown. I think we went into care
17 because of a combination of my mum's breakdown and my
18 father's violence. My sisters told me that my father
19 held us hostage at one point and threatened to kill us
20 all. The police were called. It may have been after
21 that that we were taken into care. I try not to pry
22 about that time, because I don't want to know. My
23 sisters and I don't really talk that much about our past
24 life at home.'

25 And she talks about Quarriers:

1 'I don't remember being taken into care, but I have
2 a distinct memory of my brother being taken away. We
3 were all there when he was removed. I think it's my
4 clearest memory from that time. We were all trying to
5 hang on to him and we were all screaming. I think that
6 was quite disturbing. We had no contact with him until
7 about 20 years ago.

8 'I know that my sister was removed to a care home
9 somewhere. I think my siblings were possibly in
10 separate places for a while until they were brought back
11 together at Quarriers. I know that they went somewhere
12 in Bonnyrigg and they weren't treated well there because
13 [my sister] has told me that. I'm not sure what
14 happened to my older sister. Later on she stayed with
15 my gran and then she was taken to a place called
16 Thornton's Girls' School, which was for children with
17 behavioural problems.

18 'I forgot I had brothers and sisters until I was 7.
19 I'm not quite sure when I was removed from my family.
20 I think I was separated from the rest of my siblings
21 because I was ill. I got very ill with dysentery when
22 I was about 2-and-a-half. I was taken to hospital. The
23 notes are very unclear, but I've tried to put things
24 together. I think I was removed backwards and forwards
25 to lots of care homes. I think I was in about

1 11 different places. I have no recollection of those
2 places or social workers.

3 'After all the placements I was in, I stopped
4 speaking. I was taken somewhere in Edinburgh, but
5 I'm not sure where. There was a piece of paper in my
6 records from Quarriers that said I was taken there
7 because I had disturbed behaviour. It said that my
8 behaviour had continued to deteriorate and that I was
9 very disturbed because of everything I had witnessed and
10 my mother's bizarre way of coping with stress. If
11 adults came into the room, I would go and face the wall,
12 hit myself and put my fingers in my ears. It said that
13 I had stopped speaking to all adults.'

14 And then she goes on to talk about Glenallan. The
15 records show that she was admitted to Glenallan on
16 [REDACTED] 1971, which means that she would be about --

17 LADY SMITH: About 4.

18 MR MACAULAY: 4, about 4, which I think is what she says:

19 'Glenallan is the first place I remember. I think
20 I was there from the age of 4 until the age of 7.
21 I know I was there for a couple of years. I don't
22 remember going there, but I remember being there.
23 I think I went to Glenallan from the place I had been
24 taken for my disturbed behaviour. All my memories of
25 Glenallan are so fractured. My memories are just full

1 of fear.'

2 Then she provides a description of the building and
3 going on to paragraph 13:

4 'I think Glenallan was owned by the local authority.
5 The only staff member I can remember is Uncle Rory.
6 There were other staff, but I can't remember them.
7 Glenallan was for boys and girls. I don't remember
8 there being as many children as Quarriers, so
9 I'm guessing there might have been about six or seven.
10 There were children there as young as me and there were
11 older girls. I know as an adult that they must have
12 been over 12, because the girl who was abusing me had
13 pubic hair.'

14 She goes on to talk about the routine:

15 'There must have been staff around at nighttime, but
16 I can't remember them. I shared a room with either one
17 or two older girls. I definitely went up to bed before
18 the bigger girls, but I don't know what time it was.
19 I had my own bed. I remember getting German measles and
20 going into a room on my own. I was really happy that
21 I was in a room of my own because the older girls were
22 abusing me.

23 'Mealtimes were very structured. I remember mince
24 and potatoes. I think we got fried egg and something on
25 a Saturday. The food was fairly standard. Most of the

1 time I would just pick at it. I have no memory of being
2 punished for not eating. I really struggled to eat and
3 I was very underweight, although I didn't realise it at
4 the time. I was so tense all of the time. I remember
5 being very frightened at meal times. I definitely have
6 a memory of being abused by an older girl before a meal.
7 I think I associated mealtimes with stress, but I don't
8 know if that's because I was being abused before
9 mealtimes.

10 'I remember that I attended St John Vianney's
11 Primary School. I remember a sports day there. I think
12 I wore a school uniform, but I can't remember my clothes
13 in the home.

14 'I remember doing chores. I was very small for my
15 age, so they got a seat over to allow me to reach the
16 sink and do the dishes. We had to make our beds and
17 things like that.'

18 And then she talks about leisure time and going on
19 to paragraph 19:

20 'I do remember going to a house across the road.
21 There was a wee girl there. I caught German measles
22 from her. I had a doll in a round plastic bag. It wore
23 plastic welly boots. I did have a toy pram, but one of
24 the older girls smashed it up. It was a pink pram made
25 of hard plastic. I remember loving it. I remember her

1 telling me she had smashed it up.

2 'One of my only memories I have of staff is sitting
3 on a staff member's knee when Brotherhood of Man won the
4 Eurovision Song Contest. I asked if the guy that was
5 singing was my dad. I clearly wanted him to be my dad.'

6 She talks about trips and holidays and in particular
7 having a holiday on the Isle of Tiree, which resulted in
8 her having a flashback later on in life.

9 At 22:

10 'I have no memory of social work visits at all.
11 There was a note in my records that said I was beginning
12 to show less signs of disturbed behaviour after being
13 placed in Glenallan.

14 'Up until the age of 7, I had no contact with my
15 siblings. I didn't actually know I had siblings.'

16 LADY SMITH: And yet, as we know, she had six.

17 MR MACAULAY: She did.

18 LADY SMITH: Yes.

19 MR MACAULAY: Clearly because she left -- she separated from
20 them so young she had no recollection.

21 LADY SMITH: Yes.

22 MR MACAULAY: 'There was also a note in my records that said
23 that they had written to my mum to say that the kindest
24 thing she could do was to let me stay there until I was
25 16, due to everything I had witnessed. I had no contact

1 with my mother from about 2-and-a-half until 7. I had
2 no memory of her.

3 'I have a vivid memory of coming home from school
4 one day. There was a man with a beard. He was one of
5 the staff and his name was Uncle Rory. He told me that
6 my mum and dad were coming to visit me. I remember
7 being really excited because I didn't know that I had
8 a mum and dad. Nowadays, there's no way they would do
9 that. Maybe there were things that had happened before
10 that, but I don't remember them. The staff made me put
11 on a clean dress.

12 'This woman appeared with this man. She told me
13 that she was my mum. I remember that she wanted me to
14 hold her hand and I didn't want to hold her hand. She
15 told me that the man was my new dad. I didn't want to
16 hold his hand either. They'd brought me a little mini
17 plastic box with a clothes line and pegs to hang up
18 dolls' clothes. I really liked that, but I remember
19 thinking that I didn't want to be with these people.

20 'They took me to Princes Street. To be honest,
21 I was probably not nice. I remember the woman calling
22 me "Princess". I said I wasn't her princess and she
23 wasn't allowed to call me that. She told me that I had
24 to call the man "Dad". I wouldn't do it and I think she
25 got cross with me. I remember there were squirrels on

1 Princes Street and the man had a bar of chocolate.
2 I then liked him because he had a bar of chocolate. We
3 fed the squirrels. I thought he was all right because
4 there was a squirrel about.

5 'Those people were my mum and [new dad].
6 I'm assuming that they were then allowed to take me away
7 to stay with them overnight. I think that happened more
8 than once. I remember being taken by them to a bedsit.
9 It was tiny. I had to sleep in the middle of them.
10 I remember being terrified of that. Looking back as
11 an adult, I think it was because I'd suffered so much at
12 the hands of other people and I was with two random
13 strangers. I know it was my mum, but to me they were
14 random strangers. I would lie rigid, awake in the bed
15 all night, because I was too scared to go to sleep.
16 I didn't want their skin touching mine. There was
17 a white Scottie dog in the bedsit and I remember it bit
18 me. My stepfather was still violent and I was scared of
19 him, but I don't remember much about it.

20 'My notes said that my mum came to visit me when
21 I was 7. She told me I had brothers and sisters. I was
22 ecstatic. I don't know how long it was after that, but
23 I went with my mum to visit my brothers and sisters at
24 Quarriers. They all lined up along the path. They all
25 told me their ages and their names. They wanted to give

1 me a bath, so they gave me a bath. I had a doll in
2 a round see-through plastic bag. I remember [one of my
3 sisters] wanted the doll. Once they'd bathed me, they
4 took me to the park. I remember that being quite a nice
5 memory.

6 'I don't know how I got it, but at one point I had
7 an injury to the base of my spine. It's possible it
8 could have been caused by the slipper.'

9 And later on she tells us about how she was beaten
10 with a slipper:

11 'But I don't know. It bled for a long time.
12 I still have a scar from it. It was right at the base
13 of my spine, just above the edge of the crease of my
14 bottom. At the time the scar was huge. I couldn't sit
15 for a long, long time. Even walking hurt. Just moving
16 my right leg was painful.

17 'The school must have noticed when I was unable to
18 sit. I had to sit at a tilt because it was so painful.
19 Whatever was on my back would pop open again and bleed.
20 I remember my underwear was stuck to it and trying to
21 pull it off. Whoever washed the clothes must have seen
22 that. It bled onto the bedsheets as well. I remember
23 trying to pull it, slowly at nighttime, so that the scab
24 wasn't ripped off again. It was never dressed.
25 I remember it always being open and it must have become

1 infected because I now know it had pus in it. Nobody
2 ever asked about it. I think it must have healed itself
3 because eventually I was able to sit down.'

4 And she then goes on to talk about abuse and in
5 particular peer abuse at Glenallan:

6 'My recollection of Glenallan is of being very
7 frightened. I was definitely being bullied there by
8 older children. There was a girl at Glenallan. I have
9 no idea who she was, but she abused me and terrorised
10 me. She convinced me that the devil was watching me all
11 the time. I had no idea what the devil was, but she
12 told me. I was very young and I had this monster in my
13 head. She told me that he lived under my bed and that
14 if I ever told anybody what she was doing, he would kill
15 me. I think my issues with eating started there,
16 because I was so tense. I only know this as an adult,
17 using my adult perspective on it. That girl was
18 horrific. She was horrible.

19 'I remember the older girl abusing me before a meal.
20 I'm guessing that when she came home there was a space
21 when nobody was in her room. She made me wash my hands
22 in case anybody smelled them. She would make me do
23 things to her with my hands. She would call me vile
24 names. I can remember a member of staff shouting me
25 down for whatever meal it was. The girl pushed me all

1 the way to the bathroom and said that if I told anybody,
2 she would kill me. By the time I got down for dinner,
3 I was rigid.

4 'The girl would lie on her bed and take her
5 underwear off. She made me put my hands inside her
6 until she came. It happened frequently. I don't know
7 when it started, but I think it started not long after
8 I got there. I was very frightened of her and another
9 girl from a very young age. I think I shared a room
10 with them. I remember being terrified at night, so it's
11 possible it was happening at night. I remember being
12 happy when I got German measles because I could go into
13 a room of my own. I was still terrified that the devil
14 would get me.

15 'There was another girl who was also resident at the
16 home, but I don't know if she was sexually abusing me.
17 She was physically abusing me. She would punch me and
18 assault me to the point where I would vomit. She and
19 the other girl who did sexually abuse me would laugh.
20 I had a pink plastic dolls' pram which I loved. One of
21 the older girls smashed it up.'

22 And that's something she made reference to.

23 LADY SMITH: Yes.

24 MR MACAULAY: 'There was a lot of bullying. There was also
25 an older boy who stayed in the home and bullied me.

1 I tried to keep myself to myself. I didn't really
2 interact with lots of children. My memories are of
3 being on my own a lot of the time. I just wandered
4 about the park. Looking back, I think that was because
5 I was scared of the other children.

6 'There definitely was discipline. I'm not sure what
7 I'd done, but I think I might have spoken at the table.
8 I was taken upstairs by a male member of staff. He took
9 my pants down and he leathered me stupid with a slipper.
10 I was so frightened that I wet myself. I remember
11 getting smacked again because I'd wet all over the staff
12 member's knee. It was incredibly painful. I couldn't
13 sit down afterwards. I remember looking at the marks on
14 my bottom and worrying that I might die because it was
15 bleeding. I also have a vague memory of someone being
16 hit around the face with a shoe, but I'm not sure if
17 that was Glenallan or Quarriers, because it was around
18 the same time.

19 'I never spoke to anybody about the abuse at
20 Glenallan. I genuinely believed that if I told anybody
21 about the sexual abuse, not only would the girl kill me,
22 but the devil would get me and take me to hell.

23 'After visiting my brother and sisters at Quarriers,
24 my memory goes to being in Liverpool with my mum, my
25 stepdad and [sister]. I was 7 and I'd left Glenallan.'

1 And I think the records show that she left Glenallan
2 in [REDACTED] 1974, when she would have been 7.

3 LADY SMITH: That would fit, yes.

4 MR MACAULAY: 'My first memory after Glenallan is of sitting
5 with [my sister] in an old close in Liverpool. We were
6 dipping our fingers into a packet of purple fruity
7 powdered drink. Our fingers were stained. It was warm
8 so it might have been summer.'

9 She goes on to talk about life at home. At
10 paragraph 40:

11 'We were absolutely terrified of our stepfather. He
12 was a violent alcoholic. [My sister] and I were amazing
13 allies. We would try and hide from him. We'd try not
14 to be left alone with him. Our mum worked so we were
15 left alone with him. I remember asking him what his job
16 was and he told me that he was a mercenary. I asked him
17 what that was and he told me he used to slit children's
18 throats for a living. He wasn't a mercenary. He was
19 a cooper. Of course, I believed him. He used to tell
20 me he could slit my throat in a second while I was
21 sleeping.'

22 She then goes on to talk about going on a visit to
23 Quarriers and at 42 she says:

24 'My stepdad's violence was completely out of control
25 towards us. It was towards us and not my mum.'

1 She goes on to say:

2 'How he never killed anybody, I don't know. He used
3 to stand over my brother with a hammer at night, saying
4 that he'd crush his skull. He used to pretend to be
5 asleep. He hated [my brother]. I have no idea why.
6 I was terrified that he'd kill him because he was out of
7 control.'

8 She then talks about how she came to be taken to
9 Quarriers and at -- with her sister, and she says:

10 'My memories are then vague. I remember two women
11 in a minibus. They drove us to St Andrew's bus station
12 in Edinburgh. My mum came with us but she got out at
13 the bus station. I think she said she was going to the
14 toilet or the café or something. She never came back.'

15 She goes on to explain how she was very anxious
16 about her mother not coming back. She says:

17 'We all freaked out completely. I just remember it
18 being chaos. We were crying. They didn't tell us what
19 was happening and my mum didn't tell us. We were
20 panicked past ourselves, saying they'd left our mum,
21 where were they taking us and what was happening.
22 I thought they were kidnapping us. I now know that
23 those women were social workers. We kept saying, "She's
24 not back yet, you can't leave without her". We were
25 paranoid that we'd left my mum in the middle of nowhere.

1 We kept trying to get them to stop the bus and go back
2 and get our mum, but they said we couldn't. My mum
3 wasn't able to say cheerio.

4 'I kept asking the women not to take me back to
5 Glenallan. I thought they were going to drive me back
6 to Glenallan on my own. They didn't tell us where we
7 were going at first, but then they said we were going
8 back to Quarriers and they told us all to calm down. We
9 were beside ourselves, saying we wanted to go back and
10 see our mum. That's how I ended up in Quarriers. I was
11 still 7 when I arrived at Quarriers, so I wasn't home
12 for long.

13 'Looking back, I think it was a terrible thing for
14 my mum to have done. Maybe she had her reasons, but she
15 would never discuss anything about Quarriers after we
16 left.'

17 And the records show that she was admitted to
18 Quarriers on [REDACTED] 1974, when she would still be
19 7 years of age.

20 LADY SMITH: Thank you.

21 MR MACAULAY: Then she provides very detailed evidence, it
22 has to be said, about her experiences at Quarriers, over
23 quite a number of paragraphs, and of course we're not
24 looking at that today.

25 LADY SMITH: No.

1 MR MACAULAY: And if I can perhaps move on to paragraph 170.

2 LADY SMITH: Thank you.

3 MR MACAULAY: On page 45. Perhaps just before 170, at

4 paragraph 168 she says:

5 'We came out of Quarriers just after my 12th

6 birthday.'

7 And the records show that she left Quarriers

8 sometime in 1979.

9 And she says at 170:

10 '[My sister] and I were the last of our family to

11 leave Quarriers. We weren't really allowed to discuss

12 Quarriers at home. It was a taboo subject.'

13 And she then talks about, for example, at

14 paragraph 172, that she suffered anxiety attacks at

15 school:

16 'I saw a GP who told me I had anxiety. I didn't

17 really know what that was.'

18 And she describes what life was like at home and

19 again she experienced a significant degree of violence

20 from her stepfather. At paragraph 175 she says that:

21 'It continued like that until I left, with assaults.

22 He broke my ribs twice before I was 14. He had a game

23 he used to play where he would get you into a bear hug.

24 Sometimes he wasn't drunk. You'd be walking, minding

25 your own business, he would suddenly grab you and

1 literally crush and crush you. Twice I broke my ribs.
2 Once I saw the GP, but my mum made me say I'd fallen
3 down the stairs. The second time, he and I heard my
4 ribs crack. My mum told me that if I told anybody
5 I'd be taken back to Quarriers. And they kept me off
6 school because I couldn't breathe properly.'

7 Then if I move on to paragraph 182, what she says
8 there is:

9 'I decided I couldn't live there anymore. I left
10 school. When I left home, I went to live in Broxburn
11 with my sister. She had joined the RAF to get away from
12 them. I lived with her for just under a year.'

13 Then she tells us at 183 that she managed to settle
14 in a flat and that she was always able to hold down
15 a job, but she suffered bad -- really badly:

16 '... from what I now know to be chronic anxiety.'

17 At paragraph 184, she tells us that she had a son
18 and, as we read on, that was something that was very
19 important to her and in her life.

20 If I go to paragraph 188, she tells us that she did
21 a diploma in psychology:

22 'I also did a qualification in Teaching English For
23 Adult Learners. I then went on and worked with Scottish
24 Human Services as a consultant. And to support the
25 government, I used to write research on inclusive

1 education, including not just children, but adults.'

2 So clearly she developed an academic type of
3 background and, in paragraph 190, she says:

4 'I got a degree in community education and social
5 policy. After that, I went into child protection.
6 Everything was going really well.'

7 And then moving on to paragraph 193:

8 'My mum called me to tell me that my stepfather was
9 dying and they asked if he could see me. I thought he
10 was dying and he was frail, so I went and saw him.
11 I did forgive him. I thought he needed to be able to
12 die in peace. Holding on to those kind of grudges can
13 destroy you. He apologised and said he wished that he
14 had spoken more about his own life. For me, that
15 doesn't cut it. I may have forgiven, but I haven't
16 forgotten. He was an adult and he had a choice.'

17 And moving on, my Lady, to paragraph -- to the
18 section dealing with impact, and can I say, much of this
19 is related to her time in Quarriers, but at 197 she
20 says:

21 'Recently, memories have suddenly come back to me
22 when I've been speaking to my counsellor. Sometimes
23 I'm affected by smells. Sometimes it will be someone on
24 the bus with a certain smell. It just creates terrible
25 panic. Because a lot of my memories are really

1 suppressed, I sometimes don't even know what the
2 triggers are. I can be going along and someone might
3 speak to me or look at me in a certain way and
4 I'll immediately be full of fear. Now I know that's to
5 do with trauma. I recognise it and I know I need to get
6 away from it.'

7 And moving on to paragraph 199, where she talks
8 about relationships, which were problematical, and at
9 paragraph 202, where there are paragraphs dealing with
10 her mental health:

11 'I ended up having my first breakdown when [my son]
12 was about 16 months old. It turned out it was just
13 utter trauma. Having [my son] was like the catalyst.
14 I realised that I trusted nobody, not even myself.
15 I became terrified that people would hurt [my son].'

16 And if I could go on to paragraph 210 where she
17 talks about what support she has been able to obtain:

18 'After the last attempt on my life, I received
19 counselling at the hospital. The psychologist I saw at
20 the hospital was great, but the hospital wasn't.'

21 And moving on to paragraph 216:

22 'I've received counselling through Future Pathways.
23 My counsellor is really good. Sometimes I'll smell
24 something and I have the most horrific feeling in my
25 stomach. I'll do breathing or I'll move away from it.

1 Since going to my counsellor, I've cried. It's the
2 first time I've cried since Quarriers. I think crying
3 is better than what I used to be. It's horrible hearing
4 it out loud. It's not something I ever talk about.
5 I don't even talk about my time in care to my
6 counsellor. We're only just starting to talking about
7 it. It's difficult for me to hear it. It played out
8 for years.'

9 And she has a section dealing with her physical
10 health. And moving on to paragraph 219 she says that:

11 'Counselling has made me realise that the reason
12 I'm very good at work is because I know the rules for
13 work. That was quite a revelation for me. It's sad
14 that it's taken me to the age of 52 to realise they're
15 all things I should have had. I never had nurture,
16 being able to make strong emotional attachments, having
17 an adult who made me feel safe, being able to say I had
18 a worry. My siblings and I didn't have anybody to do
19 that. We had each other and we tried to figure it out
20 as five 7-year-olds. We probably got it wrong most of
21 the time. I now realise that I still don't understand
22 most of the rules of society and people, but I'm okay
23 with that. Counselling helped me figure [out] that and
24 that part of the reason I'm good at my job is that there
25 are rules and guidelines I can follow.

1 'I now work as a senior counselling practitioner in
2 schools. I'm also a human being and I know that
3 I'm also good at my job because I love working with the
4 kids. I'm not a crusader in any way, but it's nice to
5 see a child come out the other side. I'm also aware
6 that I work with some children who don't come out the
7 other side. I'm not on a crusade mission. I did have
8 to make sure that when I went back to work, I wasn't
9 going to be triggered by children and I wasn't trying to
10 save the world.'

11 If I go on, my Lady, then to 228, where she sets out
12 a poem to try and capture the impact of her past life
13 and I'll read that.

14 LADY SMITH: Yes.

15 MR MACAULAY: It's quite poignant:

16 'The past, it clouds my judgment,
17 Created chaos, split me open, I felt so broken
18 Too many words unspoken
19 The gap, so wide
20 Too much to hide
21 The pain so raw,
22 A cavern full of fear
23 I lost myself in that
24 Dark place there
25 Days, it seems a battle

1 Still to be won
2 Anxiety clings until I'm done
3 The cut was deep as I
4 Lay waiting to be gone
5 My thoughts so sad,
6 So bloody angry, so bloody mad
7 I didn't want to leave or go,
8 But terror consumed and
9 Pushed the pills below
10 My son, my child, my
11 Life, my heart lay broken
12 A gaping, bleeding hole,
13 Tendons slipped away like my life
14 The tears bled into the
15 Grass. The raping of my
16 Entire life in this
17 One moment, so lost so broken.'
18 She then has a quite lengthy section dealing with
19 the reporting of abuse, and of course that's related to
20 Quarriers and what happened in that connection.
21 LADY SMITH: Yes.
22 MR MACAULAY: And if I go on to paragraph 235, she has
23 a section dealing with lessons to be learned. Again,
24 the focus is very much on her experience at Quarriers,
25 but perhaps moving on to 238, the 'Hopes for the

1 Inquiry':

2 'Staff should be trained to a high standard with
3 trauma-informed practice being a focal part of their
4 training. Training should be updated regularly and
5 staff have space to talk about their training needs, but
6 also fears and accomplishments within their roles.
7 Staff should be paid a wage that adequately reflects the
8 complex trauma work they are doing. Practice should
9 reflect well-written policy. There should be time and
10 space for reflection and supervision for staff.

11 'Early intervention is key. Foster carers should
12 also be trauma-informed. They should be given more
13 support, rather than a social worker just popping in or
14 phoning. They should have training about adverse
15 childhood experiences and self-harm behaviours in order
16 that they can think outside the box. A lot of the
17 children who go into foster care tend to be older and
18 are labelled as being attention-seeking. They need
19 attention. The way we use language around children is
20 important. Children pick up on negative labels they
21 hear about themselves and these can have a huge impact
22 on their self-esteem and core beliefs about themselves.

23 'The government should have a young persons'
24 advisory group that shapes and supports decisions for
25 young people within the care system. Children and young

1 people's voices should be key to implementing policies
2 and procedures, that their voice is heard. Each child
3 should be seen as a unique individual with unique hopes,
4 dreams and aspirations.

5 'Young people should not be judged upon arriving at
6 a new young persons' unit or foster placement. Staff
7 should be reminded that they are often seeing the end
8 result of a long and traumatic journey for that young
9 person. At the point of admission, each child should be
10 automatically assigned an advocate with no waiting
11 list.'

12 LADY SMITH: Yes.

13 MR MACAULAY: 'I think that the transition to a care
14 environment should be done with real care and
15 consideration. It is one of the most key and important
16 times for children and it should be as smooth as
17 possible. I know the impact of there being no
18 preparation for transitions. It's traumatic for
19 children. Children are still moving from place to place
20 and still literally being given bin bags. Social
21 workers should keep rucksacks in their office that are
22 age appropriate. Young people still appear with
23 nothing, not even with a photo of their mum or dad.
24 Even if their parent has been abusive to that child at
25 that point in time, a photo is important and this should

1 be recognised.

2 'The fact that children in care might have had no
3 nurture means that it is so important for a child to be
4 hugged. It could be set up so that hugs are only given
5 where other people are present. Hugging and physical
6 contact are integral to positive nurturing experiences
7 and emotional growth.

8 'The role of early intervention is crucial. The
9 earlier a child can have input from a positive role
10 model, play therapy et cetera, the better their life
11 chances. Waiting lists for services currently are
12 hampering recovery and the emotional life chances for
13 young people. Statistics show that the earlier that
14 intervention happens, the more positive the outcomes.
15 We should not be asking, "Will this cost money?" More,
16 "Will this save lives".'

17 And she ends by saying:

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

22 And 'Fiona' has signed the statement on 30 September
23 2019. Some very wise words at the end there.

24 LADY SMITH: Indeed, certainly.

25 She may not be right about hugging. Not every child

1 wants to be hugged. No, seriously, the adult needs to
2 be very careful about imposing an unwanted hug, but some
3 will welcome it, and that's something that those with
4 caring responsibilities have got to find out.

5 MR MACAULAY: My Lady, I move on then to the next read-in.

6 LADY SMITH: Thank you.

7 MR MACAULAY: This is another applicant. He uses the
8 pseudonym 'Watson'.

9 LADY SMITH: Thank you.

10 'Watson' (read in)

11 MR MACAULAY: His statement is at WIT.001.002.0852.

12 And 'Watson' tells us that he was born in 1972. He
13 provides some family details in paragraph 2 about his
14 half-siblings and his family and he says at 3:

15 'I am led to believe that I was in care homes from
16 when I was about 2 years old until I was 9 or 10.'

17 And he goes on to say that he was thereafter
18 fostered and adopted by his foster parents.

19 Now, records suggest that he first went into care in
20 ██████████ 1972, when he would have been under 2, a separate
21 care home to where he ends up in Glenallan, but he goes
22 to Glenallan when he was admitted there on ██████████ 1974.

23 LADY SMITH: Thank you.

24 MR MACAULAY: So he'd still be under 2 at that time.

25 LADY SMITH: Gosh.

1 MR MACAULAY: He says at paragraph 5:

2 'My first recollection of anything was while I was
3 at Glenallan Children's Home. It was in The Inch in
4 Edinburgh. I remember a lot about Glenallan, the
5 schooling and how the children's home was set up. I was
6 at least 4 years old when I went but I can't remember
7 being taken there.'

8 The dates suggest he was a bit younger than that:

9 'It was like an oversized council house. It was
10 a white stone-cast building with a small garden. It had
11 a fence round it and sat at the edge of a park. It had
12 an estate next to it. There were pensioners' houses
13 over the back. Over the Inch Park was the Inch
14 Primary School. I think it was actually called Liberton
15 Primary School. I went to school there.

16 'The home was on two floors. As you went in the
17 front door, there was a sitting area on the left and on
18 the right was a kitchen. Off the kitchen was a garage,
19 built into the house. They kept gerbils in the garage.
20 Apart from that, I'm not sure what was in there. There
21 was also a dining room on the ground floor.

22 'Upstairs was mainly bedrooms. We were moved from
23 room to room over the time I was there. I remember
24 being in different rooms. I couldn't tell you how many
25 bedrooms were in the place. There were two or three of

1 us in each room. It was mixed with boys and girls, but
2 the bedrooms weren't mixed. They had bunk beds in them.
3 I don't know how many children were in Glenallan in
4 total. I can't remember where the bedrooms were.'

5 LADY SMITH: The 'bathrooms'.

6 MR MACAULAY: Where the bathrooms were, I'm sorry:

7 'Somebody called Gordon Knott ran the home. There
8 was a cook there and various members of staff, who came
9 and went. We sometimes got Mormons, I think from
10 America, who would visit and do bits and bobs around the
11 place. The cook was female. She didn't stay at night
12 but she was there throughout my whole time there.
13 Gordon Knott stayed within the home. I don't know which
14 members of staff, if any, stayed there apart from him.

15 'Gordon Knott got married when I was there to
16 a member of staff. I was at the wedding. I think there
17 was a high turnover of staff at Glenallan.'

18 And he mentions a particular member of staff who
19 would write to him.

20 And looking at the routine, at paragraph 11:

21 'I remember getting up in the morning, brushing my
22 teeth and walking over the Inch Park to the school and
23 back to the home. We got Weetabix or cereal for
24 breakfast.

25 'I can't remember much about bedtime. I didn't have

1 any problems with bed-wetting. I remember my brother
2 and I got paired up in the same room for a while, but
3 not always. I wouldn't say we were close.

4 'I never, ever liked chicken and I was always forced
5 to eat it. On a Sunday I had to sit until I ate it.
6 I'd sit for hours and hours and eventually it would go
7 into the bin. That happened to me regularly.
8 I remember the cook always left a biscuit in a pot for
9 me, so I'd go through at night to see if there was
10 a biscuit for me. The children all ate together at
11 mealtimes. I can't remember how many of us, just that
12 it was a big table.

13 'I can't remember my first day at school.
14 I remember making things like chocolate crispies there.
15 I also remember being badly bitten by a dog in the
16 playground at school when I was about 6 or 7. I liked
17 school, but apart from that, I don't have much memory of
18 it. I can't remember getting homework while at school
19 in Edinburgh.

20 'I was always the youngest at Glenallan, so no one
21 from the home was in my class. Gordon Knott would
22 sometimes take me to school on the back of his big
23 motorbike and we got a lift along Glenallan Drive on it.

24 'There was normally a holiday once a year to Fort
25 William or Haggerston, just down from where I stay now.

1 Not everyone would go. We were split up. I can't
2 remember who took us. I presume it was staff.

3 'I got taken away at weekends by a family who stayed
4 at Liberton. [My brother] didn't go. I went myself.
5 They had a daughter who wasn't in the house at the time.
6 They ran the Sunday School at church. I liked going to
7 their house. I was in their garden all the time.
8 I don't know how this came about, but I went there a lot
9 at the weekends. This happened throughout my time at
10 Glenallan.

11 'At Christmastime, you'd come down and there were
12 bikes and things lying around. There was always a lot
13 of presents lying about on Christmas morning. The place
14 was decorated with a tree and the round decorations and
15 things. I can't remember if we celebrated birthdays.

16 'At the weekend, we would often go to the ice rink
17 at Murrayfield. We would go on our own by the bus with
18 other kids from the home.'

19 And he talks about an incident when he fell asleep
20 on the bus and had to be taken back:

21 'We would play on bikes or play with a golf club in
22 the Inch Park. There used to be a small golf
23 course-type thing. We had one golf club that we'd hit
24 balls with. We'd walk up to the shops that were about
25 half a mile away. We could leave the grounds if we

1 wanted.

2 'There was a television in the sitting room.
3 I think we used to get to watch it. I done a bit of
4 swimming with the school. I was in the Boys' Brigade.
5 It was in a hall, but I'm not exactly sure where that
6 was.

7 'Bath time was on a Sunday. I don't know if that
8 was for everyone. I can't remember a lot about it, just
9 that it was once a week on a Sunday. I knew there were
10 bundles of clothes downstairs with colours stitched into
11 them. We all had our own colour. We didn't pick our
12 clothes.

13 'While at the home, we had to clean, dusting and
14 stuff, and we got pocket money for it. I had a Post
15 Office account and put 25 to 50 pence into it a week.

16 'Once or twice my mum turned up at the home drunk,
17 demanding to come in, but nothing ever came of it.
18 I knew she was there. I was never encouraged to write
19 to my mum or to call her. Once we got a visit from my
20 brother and his adopted parents. That is the only time
21 we ever met him until a few years ago.

22 'People would come around the home, mainly from the
23 church and mainly in the summer. I had a social worker,
24 but I'm not sure who it was or when they came.

25 'From what I was told, I was in plaster from the hip

1 when I was young.'

2 And records suggests he was born with a hip
3 condition.

4 LADY SMITH: Yes.

5 MR MACAULAY: 'I don't know why that was. I can't remember
6 visiting a doctor. This was before going to Glenallan.
7 I have a big hole at the bottom of my spine. I don't
8 know how that came about. I remember being pinned down
9 in the hospital to get the needle in my back. I have
10 asked about medical records but they're a bit vague.'

11 He then goes on to talk about abuse:

12 'I remember being taken out of my bed at night by
13 Gordon Knott, the man who ran the home. I was very
14 tired and not wanting to go. I got taken through to his
15 room. I must have been a bit older as it was when I was
16 at the end of the home above the garage. I don't know
17 if that side was for older kids. It felt at the time
18 that it was quite often. I remember being so tired and
19 being lifted out of my bed. I remember falling asleep
20 and being wakened and falling asleep again.

21 'I don't remember how long this lasted or if anyone
22 else was abused. I was sexually abused by Gordon Knott.
23 I didn't speak to anyone about it. That's all I'd like
24 to say about this.'

25 And that really is as far as he went in his

1 statement.

2 LADY SMITH: Yes.

3 MR MACAULAY: 'About 18 years ago, two detectives turned up
4 at my door and told me that someone, who was dying of
5 cancer, who had been at Glenallan, wanted to get things
6 off his chest to the police. They asked me for
7 a statement there and then.

8 'As I said, I hadn't spoken to anyone about being
9 abused by Gordon Knott. I had to explain to my ex-wife.
10 She didn't know. We were still together at this time.
11 I had bought an ex-council house. I went down and told
12 my adopted parents and it was the first time they were
13 angry about something. I gave the police a statement.
14 I didn't get any feedback and found out in the news that
15 Gordon Knott had been charged, went to court and was
16 jailed. I don't know if it was partly what I said to
17 the police, because I was told nothing after that.'

18 So it's clear from that, my Lady, that this
19 applicant did not give evidence --

20 LADY SMITH: No.

21 MR MACAULAY: -- at the trial, possibly because he hadn't
22 provided much specification.

23 LADY SMITH: It could be, and the timing would be the first
24 trial?

25 MR MACAULAY: Yes.

1 LADY SMITH: Would it? Yes.

2 MR MACAULAY: He says at 31 that his partner knows
3 everything:
4 'She is good with it. She questioned whether
5 I should come here today. She is very supportive.
6 'I left Glenallan when I was 9 or 10 years old.'
7 And the records suggest he left in [REDACTED] 1982 when
8 he would be about aged 9 at that time. I think he does
9 indicate, whatever happened in relation to the abuse,
10 that he was a young -- very young boy at the time.

11 LADY SMITH: Yes.

12 MR MACAULAY: 'There were kids there who were older than me,
13 but I always knew while I was there that [my brother]
14 and I were there the longest. I saw a lot of kids come
15 and go.
16 'I only ever remember speaking to social workers
17 when eventually we had to. We put together, not a CV as
18 such, but a thing about ourselves to help us get
19 adopted. [My brother] and I done it together. We took
20 photos for it. It was like a big scrapbook. We put in
21 hobbies, interests and things. We got adopted shortly
22 after, so I would be about 8 when we did it.
23 'We met the adopted family a couple of times before
24 we were fostered. There was a social worker present.
25 It was the same place as we'd done the books in Hanover

1 Street.'

2 And it talks about his foster care in the next
3 number of paragraphs and if one moves on to paragraph 43
4 he says:

5 'We were fostered and then adopted.'

6 And then he talks about his experiences at that
7 time. And moving on to paragraph 55, and I think it's
8 fair to say that his experience when fostered or adopted
9 was relatively mixed, but he says at 55:

10 'I left school when I was 16 and I was out of the
11 house. When I left school I worked in a prawn factory.'

12 Then he talks about his work experience and if I can
13 take your Ladyship to paragraph 61, he says:

14 'I got married in 2001. I have two girls. My wife
15 and I split up about ten years ago. I am now with my
16 new partner.

17 '[My daughter] is at Dundee University. I am close
18 to her.'

19 And he describes that.

20 He goes on at 63 to provide some further information
21 about his work history and in particular that he is
22 a supervisor on a shift basis and he'd been in that
23 position for 21 years at the time he gave his statement.

24 At 65 he says:

25 'I can please myself with what I do now. I know

1 it's selfish, but I lacked that years ago. Now I have
2 enough money that I can please myself in what I do.'

3 If I can perhaps take your Ladyship to paragraph 73,
4 where he talks about his -- the impact:

5 'I feel I have always been envious of families who
6 have parents there and who visit parents. I do make
7 sure [my daughter] is never uncomfortable about asking
8 for anything. I always check that she has money and is
9 happy.

10 'I am not sure if my time in care has had an impact
11 on my relationships. I'd like to say I'm easygoing.
12 I hate being pinned down. I like to do what I want to
13 do. I blame my brother for that. When I was younger,
14 he told me what I could and couldn't do.

15 'I have recently thought about my time in care.
16 Years ago I drove past to see what the place looked
17 like. I think I was better off in care, as bad as it
18 sounds, than I was with my mother.

19 'If I've had a drink, I sometimes get myself down
20 about my time in care. I've always had friends to say
21 to the boy they've fostered, "Look at [him], he was in
22 a children's home", using me as a positive influence.

23 'I have never had counselling. Nobody's perfect at
24 the end of the day. Are counsellors going to
25 understand? I don't know. Are they going to have the

1 same background?

2 'I heard the advertisement on radio and television
3 and decided to come to the Inquiry. I could do with
4 closure, as to not hearing from the police, the lack of
5 feedback in relation to what happened, when I gave
6 a statement. As well as this, if it stops what happened
7 to me from happening again, it would be priceless.
8 People cannot be allowed to get away with what they've
9 done, but it's not just them. It's the people who have
10 put them in their position. Hopefully the Inquiry will
11 get something better put in place than what we've got.'

12 And moving on to the final page, my Lady, he says:

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

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

17 And 'Watson' signed his statement on 27 August 2018.

18 LADY SMITH: Thank you.

19 MR MACAULAY: Ms MacLeod will do the next reading.

20 LADY SMITH: Thanks.

21 Ms MacLeod, whenever you're ready.

22 MS MACLEOD: My Lady. This next statement is quite
23 a lengthy statement, spanning to almost 60 pages, and
24 most of it is relevant, so I intend to read the majority
25 of the statement in.

1 LADY SMITH: Thank you.

2 MS MACLEOD: So I may go over the morning break.

3 LADY SMITH: That's fine.

4 MS MACLEOD: If it needs to be split, I'm happy to do that.

5 LADY SMITH: If you reach a stopping point that makes sense
6 somewhere around the normal break, we'll take it, but if
7 not, fine.

8 MS MACLEOD: I'm obliged, my Lady.

9 LADY SMITH: Thank you.

10 'Paul' (read in)

11 MS MACLEOD: This is a statement of an applicant who will
12 use the pseudonym 'Paul'. This applicant is deceased.
13 The witness statement can be found at WIT.001.002.5254:
14 'My name is 'Paul'. [I was born in 1968]. I was born
15 in Edinburgh. I don't know whether [my parents were
16 married]. I have one brother and four sisters.
17 'I have no memories of what my life was like before
18 I went into care. However, I learnt in later life
19 a little bit about what happened. My father was
20 a heroin addict. He ended up going to prison for
21 stabbing a man in Edinburgh. He got a life sentence.
22 I don't really know much more about my dad. My mum was
23 young when my dad went into prison. I don't know how
24 old she was when that happened. I know my mother took
25 drugs because I have learnt in later life that I was

1 a "crack baby". I was born an addict because my mother
2 had taken heroin whilst she was pregnant with me.

3 'It was my older sister who called social services.
4 She told them that my mum wasn't coping with looking
5 after us. This was about 1970. [My older sister] would
6 have been about 16 at that time. That was when me and
7 [my two younger sisters] were taken into care. [One of
8 my younger sisters] was 1, I was 2, [and the very
9 youngest sister] was a baby. I think social services
10 just came and took us away. I don't know whether we
11 were in danger or what was going on. Looking back now,
12 based on what happened to me, I would have preferred it
13 if I had stayed with my mum.

14 '[My two younger sisters] and I ended up in Clerwood
15 in Corstorphine in Edinburgh in about 1970. I was in
16 Clerwood on two occasions. I was initially there
17 between the ages of 2 and 6. That means I would have
18 been there initially approximately between 1970 and
19 1974. I was then adopted along with [my younger sister,
20 who was around a year younger than me], by a couple in
21 Glasgow for about a year. We returned to Clerwood when
22 I was about 7. That would have been in about 1975.
23 I left Clerwood with [my sister] when I was about 8 or
24 9. That would have been in 1976 or 1977. For me, the
25 children's home became a way of life. If you don't know

1 any different, then life just becomes what you know. It
2 becomes normal.'

3 My Lady, records suggest that this applicant was
4 admitted to Clerwood with his sister in around [REDACTED] or
5 [REDACTED] 1971. There's a date for [REDACTED] and [REDACTED], but it was
6 around that time, and the applicant would have been 2.

7 LADY SMITH: Yes.

8 MS MACLEOD: Records suggest that he and his sister remained
9 in Clerwood until [REDACTED] 1976, when he was aged 7, when
10 both he and his sister were placed in foster care.

11 That placement seems to have been for less time than
12 the applicant recalls, indeed for around six weeks or
13 so, before he and his sister were returned to Clerwood
14 in [REDACTED] 1976.

15 They were ultimately discharged from Clerwood
16 according to the records, my Lady, in [REDACTED] 1977,
17 when the applicant was 8 and they then moved to
18 Glasclune. So the applicant's own memory and the dates
19 in the records are fairly close in relation to the ages
20 that he was at that time.

21 LADY SMITH: Thank you.

22 MS MACLEOD: 'Edinburgh Council ran the home. It was boys
23 and girls. I always thought there were a lot of kids in
24 the home. I remember playing in the grounds with easily
25 about 10 to 15 kids. There must have been at least that

1 number in the home. The age range of the kids was
2 babies all the way up to 12. I can't remember there
3 being many older kids than that. I only remember being
4 with kids older than 12 when I was in my next children's
5 home.

6 'There was a long road up to the house. If you were
7 walking from the main road, it would take you about five
8 or ten minutes to get to the front door. The house
9 itself was like a big mansion.'

10 LADY SMITH: I think the house was up the hill on the
11 Corstorphine Road as well.

12 MS MACLEOD: That's right, my Lady.

13 LADY SMITH: So that would have slowed a child down as well.

14 MS MACLEOD: Yes:

15 'It was like something that a millionaire would
16 have. I'm guessing that back in the day it was the sort
17 of building that would have had servants, staff and
18 things like that.

19 'When you opened the front door, there was a big
20 hallway. It was quite wide. There was one of those
21 old-fashioned phones in a wee cupboard without a door.
22 On the right-hand side, there was a set of stairs that
23 took you up to the children's bedrooms. To the
24 left-hand side was a big room which was like a living
25 room. If you walked straight through from the ground

1 floor front door to the back of the house, you came to a
2 kitchen and toilets. I think, but I'm not sure, that
3 there was a room on the ground floor that was the
4 nursery. The first floor was dormitories. That was
5 where my bedroom was. There were more dormitories on
6 the second floor. There was a room which the matron
7 used on the second floor. I think the staff also used
8 that room as an office because there were filing
9 cabinets in there. I can't remember there being any
10 other office in the house.

11 'I could be wrong, but I'm sure there were some
12 staff quarters up on the third floor of the main house.
13 It was like a wee attic bit. I don't know which members
14 of staff lived there. It could be that if the staff
15 were doing a nightshift or something they used those
16 quarters. I do remember that there was a bathroom up
17 there.

18 'At the back of the house, as you came out the back
19 door, there was a wee hill. At the bottom of the hill
20 were some tennis courts where we used to play.
21 I remember there was an old donkey that was kept in the
22 field next to the house. There was a wee road that led
23 from the front door of the house. Down that road was
24 a cottage where the manager of the home stayed. Across
25 the road from the cottage was an archway. If you went

1 through the archway, you got to an area where the old
2 stables were. Above the old stable building were some
3 rooms. There was a fire escape that allowed you to get
4 up to them.

5 'From reading about the home in adult life, and
6 talking to other people who survived being there, my
7 impression is that people could get a job at Clerwood
8 with no training whatsoever. I think they just employed
9 anybody.

10 'I don't know whether Gordon Knott was the manager.
11 I think he was, but I can't remember his title. He
12 stayed in the cottage. I'd say he was in his early 20s
13 when I was in the home at the same time as him.
14 Brian MacLellan was under him. He was like an assistant
15 manager. The rest of the staff were below Gordon Knott
16 and Brian MacLellan. I always presumed that each of
17 those members of staff were allocated certain children,
18 because that's what I saw happening in the later home
19 I was at. I'm not 100 per cent sure about that.

20 'I don't remember many surnames of the other staff.
21 We mainly just called them by their first names. Jane
22 was my houseparent. She was only about 19 or 20 when
23 she worked in the home. She probably would have been
24 the person who was in charge of me on a day-to-day
25 basis. She came from Rannoch. She was very warm and

1 friendly. Looking back, I was lucky to have her as my
2 houseparent, because she took me away from the home
3 a lot.

4 'BFW [REDACTED] was another staff member. He was
5 another houseparent. I remember there was a woman
6 called Ruth. She was a nice woman. There was a woman
7 called Marion. I can't remember her surname. It may be
8 Bell, but I'm not 100 per cent sure. She was my
9 sister's houseparent. I don't remember her being there
10 when I was there, but I later on learnt that she had
11 been there. There was another male houseparent who
12 I can't remember the name of.

13 'The only people who weren't referred to by their
14 first names were the matron and the cook. We just
15 referred to them as "Matron" and "Cook". We never got
16 to know their full names. The cook had orange hair.
17 I'm pretty sure that her name was Mrs Turner. That's
18 all I remember about her. There was a chauffeur.
19 I don't remember his name or anything about him. All
20 I remember is him wearing a suit and a cap and taking us
21 to and from school. I don't remember him interacting
22 with us.

23 'My [youngest] sister was taken out of care by my
24 mother probably about eight months after we went in.
25 I don't remember her from the time I was in care with

1 her. In the end, it was just [me and my sister] who
2 stayed in care together. We stayed together throughout
3 our time in Clerwood and during our adoption for a year
4 in the middle. There [was] no restrictions on me having
5 any contact with my sister when I was [in] the home.

6 'I can't remember much about what happened when we
7 arrived [at Clerwood], but I have read things since
8 which describe what happened for new arrivals. We were
9 apparently put into a wee room [which] they called the
10 nursery. I do remember being in a room full of cots.
11 I don't know what my first impression would have been.

12 'My earliest memories are probably from when I was 3
13 or 4. I remember thinking that the place was scary.
14 I remember being a late developer when it came to
15 walking. It's possible that my mother's misuse of drugs
16 whilst she was pregnant with me might have contributed
17 to my slow development.

18 'Whoever was on duty in the mornings would come into
19 the dorm to get you up. It could [have been] any member
20 of staff. They'd turn the light on and shout "It's time
21 get up". That was about 7.00 am. You would then go and
22 stand in a wee line outside the bathroom. Everybody got
23 to go to a sink and brush their teeth. After that, you
24 went to get your school uniform or clothes on. After
25 that, you went down the stairs for breakfast in the

1 front room. All the boys and girls ate together.

2 'If it was a school day, you would go to school
3 after breakfast. We used to have a chauffeur who would
4 take us to school and pick us up from school. After
5 being dropped off, you were at school all day. You had
6 your lunch at school. When you came home from school,
7 you had to change out of your school uniform. You would
8 go up to your room and put on whatever was laid out on
9 your bed. If it was a sunny [and] nice day, you were
10 allowed to play in the grounds. If not, you played
11 indoors. After that, you had dinner. That was always
12 at 5.00 pm. I think you got to play after that but it
13 was always inside. After that, you got ready for bed.
14 Bedtime was about 7.00 pm. I remember it still being
15 daylight when I went to bed. I suppose, given the age
16 I was back then, that wasn't really that early.

17 'There wasn't much change in the routine between
18 winter and summer. There wasn't much change in the
19 routine between weekdays and the weekend. The only
20 difference was you didn't have school. We just either
21 played inside or outside instead of going to school on
22 those days.

23 'I don't know how old I was when I was moved out of
24 the nursery and into a dormitory. I remember being in
25 a dormitory when I was about 4, so it could have been as

1 young as that. My dormitory was a big room with about
2 eight beds in it. I stayed in that same dormitory
3 throughout my times at Clerwood. I remember it being
4 cold. It was especially cold during the wintertime.
5 I guess that it took a while to get heated up because it
6 was such a big room.

7 'There were both boys and girls in my dormitory. In
8 my room, there were six boys and two girls. We were all
9 young. I don't think there were children older than me
10 when I left at the age of 8. I don't know whether you
11 changed dorms when you were a wee bit older.

12 'I remember that, when I was 6 and had returned back
13 to the home after being adopted by a couple for a year
14 in Glasgow, I was placed back into the same dormitory.
15 It was all the same children, apart from [one boy, who
16 had replaced the boy who had previously] been in the bed
17 next to me. [That boy who was there on my return] is
18 the only [child I remember from my time in Clerwood].

19 'There were always staff on overnight. I don't
20 remember a specific nightwatchman. I'm pretty sure it
21 was just the staff who worked there during the days who
22 did nights. I know Gordon Knott and Brian MacLellan
23 worked nights. There was one other male staff member
24 who also did nights, but I don't remember his name.
25 After you went to bed you had to be quiet. Staff

1 members would come into the room and tell you to be
2 quiet if you weren't. We were told to be quiet quite
3 a lot. I don't know how they expected children to lie
4 in their beds from 7.00 pm in the evening until 7.00 am
5 in the morning and not speak to one another.

6 'We washed every morning using the sinks in the
7 rooms where the toilets were. If there were showers,
8 I don't remember them. There were two baths in one
9 room. That was a different room. Those were the only
10 things in that room. They were big baths. I'm pretty
11 sure you got a bath on a Sunday and a Wednesday.
12 I think bath time was after dinnertime.

13 'We would queue for the baths. It was first come,
14 first served. Someone else would share the bath with
15 you. It could be a boy or a girl. There was no
16 privacy. There was no privacy any time when you went to
17 get washed or changed. You had to do that in front of
18 the other kids. You couldn't afford to be modest.
19 I guess at that age you didn't think there was anything
20 wrong with that. The water wasn't changed in between
21 children. You'd just be unlucky if you were the last
22 kid going for your bath.

23 'A staff member would supervise you. It was whoever
24 was on duty during that day. I remember that
25 Brian MacLellan liked to be around bath times a lot.

1 The staff member would use a cloth to wash you. After
2 bath time you got dry, then went to bed. There was
3 another bath upstairs in the attic in the house. That
4 wasn't generally used by us.

5 'We had all our meals in the front room on the
6 ground floor that was like the living room. There was
7 a table at the back. We were allowed to talk to one
8 other during mealtimes. Breakfast was either toast or
9 cereal. I can't remember eating any fried food. If it
10 was a school day we had lunch at school. The main meals
11 at nighttime were substantial meals. All the meals were
12 cooked by the cook. Looking back, it was a good healthy
13 diet. Some of the stuff wasn't nice but I think that
14 was just because you were a child.

15 'BFW [REDACTED] forced me to eat food. I remember
16 when I was 5 years old I wouldn't eat Brussels sprouts.
17 It was near to Christmastime. What child likes Brussels
18 sprouts? When I refused them, BFW [REDACTED] made me
19 stand in the corner of the room facing a wall. I was
20 told that I shouldn't waste food. I was told I would
21 keep on getting the Brussels sprouts until I ate them.
22 Those same Brussels sprouts were given to me every meal
23 for three days. Each time they were brought to me, I
24 refused to eat them. I was fortunate that those three
25 days happened on school days, otherwise I wouldn't have

1 got anything to eat at all. I got my school dinners
2 whilst I was there.

3 'I started to think that if I didn't eat them,
4 I would never get anything else to eat. Eventually
5 I did eat them. BFW didn't physically force me
6 to eat them. I just ate them myself. I forced them
7 down. When I ate them I was sick. I remember running
8 into a cubicle and throwing them up into a toilet. It
9 put me off Brussels sprouts for the rest of my life.
10 I haven't eaten them since. I don't know whether the
11 staff got the message, because I was never given
12 Brussels sprouts in the home again.

13 'I don't remember seeing what happened with me and
14 the Brussels sprouts happening with anybody else.
15 I presume the staff did the same with other children.
16 I just don't remember seeing it.

17 'Looking back, it was a power thing. BFW
18 just wanted to have a power thing over me. There is no
19 reason to force someone to eat something that they don't
20 want to eat. I should have been given a choice about
21 whether I wanted to eat the Brussels sprouts or not.
22 The incident was a bit of a turning point. I think that
23 was when I started to get really scared of the place.

24 'I don't remember having to do chores. That's not
25 to say that we didn't do them, it's just I can't

1 remember any cleaning or anything like that. I presume
2 there were cleaners who did that.

3 'We wore normal clothes in the home. It was jeans
4 or shorts and T-shirts. We had a uniform for school.
5 I have no idea where the [children's] clothes came from.
6 I presume it was the staff who got them. We never got
7 taken out to buy clothes. It was all brought in for us.
8 I do remember that we didn't get an awful lot of new
9 clothes. There was a lot of old stuff. Looking back,
10 I think the clothes were all shared. I think we just
11 wore stuff until it was done. We weren't living in
12 luxury, that was for sure. I can't recall whether the
13 clothes were washed. They must have been -- they must
14 have done that though.

15 'There was a chauffeur. He wore a cap and
16 a uniform. He had a big black car. It was like
17 a limousine, but not one of these big fancy ones you get
18 nowadays. It had two sets of seats. The chauffeur
19 would park his car where the stables were. I remember
20 being in the car and being driven to school by the
21 chauffeur. I remember there being quite a few children
22 in the car at the same time. Looking back, all of that
23 sounds sort of unbelievable, but I am sure I am not
24 making it up.

25 'I went to a school called Foxgrove Primary. It was

1 a Catholic school located near the centre of
2 Corstorphine. It was a 15- or 20-minute walk from the
3 home. Not all of the kids from the home went to
4 Foxgrove Primary. They definitely didn't all go to the
5 same school I went to. I don't know what other schools
6 they went to. I can only presume they went to
7 a Protestant school.

8 'The other kids at school didn't treat the children
9 from the home well. We didn't dress the same as them.
10 It wasn't as if they went out of their way to treat us
11 badly. They just knew we were different. We acted
12 differently. When you're abused, you act differently
13 from those who aren't abused.

14 'I think school started off as a happy time for me.
15 I then started to get into trouble a lot. I guess I was
16 quite a disruptive kid. Because of that, I ended up
17 getting the belt a lot. I reckon I got the belt daily.
18 The teachers did that in a wee wooden annexe that was
19 attached to the school. I got belted much more than any
20 of the other kids. I ended up hating my teachers at
21 Foxgrove Primary. It became a chore to go to school
22 every day.

23 'I have looked back on all of that and wondered
24 whether I was belted so much because I was from
25 a children's home. I don't think that was it though.

1 I just think I was disruptive and the teachers didn't
2 know how to control me. I was uncontrollable because my
3 head was messed up. It wasn't really their fault. They
4 were just using the punishment that was available to
5 them.

6 'I can't remember there being any religion at
7 Clerwood. I don't remember prayers or going to chapel
8 or anything like that whilst I was there.

9 'I must have come from a Catholic family before
10 I went into care because I got sent to a Catholic
11 school. I remember the school taking us to Mass in the
12 local chapel during the day. I remember that I didn't
13 always go straight back to the home after school.
14 I went to something that was a little bit like a Bible
15 study class at Foxgrove Primary. It was a little bit
16 like a Sunday School type of thing. They held that in
17 the dinner hall. You got to learn about Jesus and
18 things like that. I remember going to that quite a lot.
19 It was held near enough every day after school. It
20 could have been something like confirmation classes.
21 I don't really know. I left Catholic school when I was
22 8, so I didn't have my confirmation. I think that, had
23 I stayed on, I would have eventually been confirmed.

24 'I was quite religious as a kid. I always had faith
25 in God. I always prayed. Looking back, that was

1 strange, considering what I was going through. It's
2 weird, because it wasn't as if I was praying for
3 something better, because I had nothing to compare my
4 life to. I didn't speak to other kids outside of the
5 children's home about their lives, so I didn't know what
6 a better life would be. You just don't go up to one of
7 your pals at school and say: "Oh, I got battered last
8 night, what happened to you?". I knew I wanted a mum
9 and [a] dad but that was about it.

10 'They took us to the zoo a few times [at Clerwood].
11 It was convenient because it was just down the road.
12 The only times we went anywhere else was when
13 BFW [REDACTED] took us out on walks on a path through the
14 woods. He did that quite regularly. He would [have]
15 six or seven kids at a time. I think those walks might
16 have been within the grounds [still]. It wasn't
17 a proper path. It was just made from people using that
18 route so often. The path circled back to the home. It
19 could have been that he took us on those walks to tire
20 us out. I can't remember going on any holidays or going
21 any other places with the home.

22 'Jane [my houseparent's] parents' lived in a wee
23 cottage with a coal fire in Rannoch. Her boyfriend
24 lived nearby. His parents owned the local hotel. Jane
25 used to take [my sister] and me up to the cottage a lot.

1 She took us up there at weekends, Christmastime and
2 Easter time. Every time we went up there, it seemed to
3 us that it was always covered in snow. I loved it up
4 there. Jane made us feel as if we were part of her
5 family. It was great. It was good to get away. It was
6 a break from the children's home. It felt like a life
7 line. There was no sexual or mental abuse up there.
8 I wasn't getting battered.

9 'A lot of people might say that it was shocking that
10 somebody could have just taken me away from the home for
11 two weeks at a time. However, at the end of the day,
12 Jane taking me to Rannoch is what saved me. It stopped
13 me getting abused for two weeks. I don't want to speak
14 for Jane, but my impression was that she knew what was
15 going on and wanted to take us away from the situation.'

16 LADY SMITH: Ms MacLeod, I think we should just take the
17 morning break now and then go on to the next section of
18 the read-in after that. So let's do that.

19 (11.30 am)

20 (A short break)

21 (11.50 am)

22 LADY SMITH: Ms MacLeod, when you're ready.

23 MS MACLEOD: My Lady, I will start the statement from where
24 I left off, paragraph 47.

25 LADY SMITH: Thank you.

1 MS MACLEOD: 'Back then, there were only three channels on
2 the telly and no computers. Kids had to make up their
3 own entertainment. If you didn't do that, you would be
4 sitting around bored out of your nut. I don't remember
5 going anywhere else other than the grounds to play.
6 There were two big tennis courts at the back where we
7 played. I mostly played with my sister and her pals
8 there. We'd play hide-and-seek and all that kind of
9 stuff. We just did what kids did.

10 'There were toys we could play with. We were all
11 allowed to play with them. I remember that my sister
12 had a wee trike. It had a wee platform on the back.
13 I remember one of us standing on that whilst the other
14 one pedalled.

15 'We didn't have any pocket money. You were allowed
16 to keep teddies and things like that. I remember that
17 I had a teddy bear that I took to bed with me. I
18 cuddled that a lot. Later on, I had a big teddy clown.
19 Other than that, I don't remember having anything to
20 myself. My sister had a trike that was given to her.
21 That was her own trike.

22 'Me and my sister were close and hung around
23 together. I don't remember having many friends in the
24 home. I was quite friendly with [the one boy
25 I mentioned], but that was about it. I can't even

1 remember being close to anybody else. I remember being
2 quite withdrawn and keeping myself to myself in the
3 home.

4 'Looking back, it was weird that I didn't have many
5 friends in the home. It's not that I didn't have a good
6 relationship with the other kids there, it was just
7 I wasn't close to them. I didn't stay in contact with
8 anyone from Clerwood other than [the boy I was friends
9 with]. It's strange because I am still in touch with
10 people who were my friends in the next home I went to.

11 'I never had friends from school come back to the
12 home. That wasn't allowed. I never visited their homes
13 either. That never happened. I don't remember that
14 happening with any of the other children.

15 'I think birthdays were celebrated but I'm not
16 100 per cent sure. I can't remember having a birthday
17 party or having a cake. I knew when my birthday was.
18 I don't remember seeing other people's birthdays being
19 celebrated.

20 '[My sister] and I spent Christmases with Jane in
21 Rannoch so I wasn't in Clerwood on Christmas Day. The
22 home did put up a tree though. We did get presents.
23 I remember one time getting a big teddy clown. We were
24 allowed to keep the presents we were given. That clown
25 stayed with me until the day I left. I left it behind

1 when I moved on.

2 'Every year at Christmastime, GAK [REDACTED] visited
3 the home. He presented a show on television called
4 "[REDACTED]", which had various cartoons.
5 As far as I'm aware, that show was on every [REDACTED]. He
6 was like a celebrity to us. He would put on a wee show
7 for the children. I can't remember what the show was
8 about. All I remember is him sitting on a chair and us
9 sitting in a semicircle around him.

10 'I had no contact with my family whatsoever. My
11 parents and other siblings didn't come to visit me.
12 I didn't even know I had siblings outside of the home at
13 that time. I thought that [my sister] and I were the
14 only ones. I thought that she was my only family.
15 I saw it as my job, as her big brother, to look after
16 her.

17 'Other children did get visits from their family in
18 the home. Some people had their mum visit. I remember
19 a boy who had visits from his mum. When people had
20 visits, they went into the front room just to the left
21 of the front door. I remember that no one else was
22 allowed in that room whilst people had visitors.

23 '[My sister] and I had a social worker who was
24 called Tom. We had him from when I was about 5.
25 I can't remember Tom's surname. I don't know whether he

1 only had one arm or one hand. He was disabled in his
2 right arm or hand though. He drove a Reliant Robin.
3 Tom came to visit us about once a month. He would see
4 [my sister] and me in the home. When he saw us in
5 Clerwood the staff weren't around. Sometimes he took us
6 to a café and we'd have juice and a burger or
7 something like that.

8 'Tom stopped being our social worker when I was
9 about 7. I remember being upset about that. I remember
10 crying. He was the nicest man ever. He was cool as
11 anything. I liked him. He always made us feel good.
12 He spoke to us as if we were people. It wasn't like
13 an adult talking to a child. He was the only decent
14 person other than Jane in my life at that time. Tom
15 was the last social worker we had at Clerwood. We left
16 not long after Tom stopped being our social worker.

17 'I can't remember anyone coming in and making formal
18 inspections.

19 'The matron was on duty every day. She had a room
20 on the second floor. Matron wore a blue overall-type
21 thing. She dealt with all of the medication. If there
22 were people who needed particular types of medication,
23 she was the one would gave it to them. You would have
24 to go to her room if you needed that. I remember going
25 to her for medication when I had a cold.

1 'There was a boy in the home who I think had
2 cerebral palsy. I can't remember his name.

3 'I think you could be ill and be allowed to stay off
4 school. I think you had to be very ill for that. You
5 had to show signs of being ill. I remember that when
6 I was 4 or 5, a lot of the children in the home got
7 dysentery. The whole home had it. We all had sickness
8 and diarrhoea. The whole home was quarantined. I can't
9 remember getting any treatment or anything like that.
10 All I remember is everybody being sick. I learnt that
11 it was dysentery in later life when I spoke to the
12 police. The police said that they had found out it was
13 dysentery from the home's records. They told me that
14 when I spoke to them to provide a statement.

15 'There was a road that led down from the house
16 towards Glasgow Road. If we had to go to the dentist,
17 we had to walk down the road towards Glasgow Road.
18 I don't remember check-ups. I only remember one
19 occasion going to the dentist and that was when I had
20 a tooth pulled out.

21 'I remember when I was 7, I went to the dentist to
22 get the tooth pulled out. I was knocked over in the
23 road by a car on my way. It wasn't serious. The driver
24 just bumped me. I fell down and got up. I then went
25 back to the home. I was then taken to either a GP or

1 a hospital for a check-up. I can't remember who took me
2 there. They checked me over but I was fine. I ended up
3 having to make a later appointment at the dentist.

4 'I don't think I actually made an attempt to run
5 away from Clerwood. I did think about not wanting to be
6 in the home and running away. I would panic when
7 thinking about where I would go. Where would I go at
8 the age of 7 or 8? I was too young. I can't remember
9 anyone else running away.

10 'After the incident with the Brussels sprouts,
11 I started wetting the bed a lot. I would have been
12 about 5 when that started. It went on for about a year.
13 I can remember waking up and the bed being wet on quite
14 a few occasions. They did change your sheets.

15 'I can't remember going to the toilet during the
16 night. I can't remember whether there was access to the
17 toilet. I don't know whether the door was shut and that
18 was it when you went to bed. I don't remember there
19 being any rules about using the toilet at night.
20 I think fear might have been part of not wanting to go
21 to the toilet. You were scared of a lot of things.
22 I might have been scared to go to the toilet in case I
23 annoyed a member of staff and got punished.

24 'All the kids just wore underwear when they went to
25 bed. I ended up being forced to wear nappies and rubber

1 pant type things. I remember standing with the other
2 kids in our lines for the bathroom in the morning
3 wearing my nappy. That was kind of humiliating. Even
4 when I was 5, I was embarrassed because the kids around
5 me weren't wearing nappies. I can't remember the other
6 kids making fun of me. I just remember being and
7 feeling embarrassed. I suppose if everybody had been
8 wearing nappies then it wouldn't have mattered to me.
9 I think the fact that I was the only one made it matter
10 to me.

11 'Sometimes you were punished for wetting the bed.
12 They made you stand in a corner facing the wall. I got
13 smacked a few times as well. It was whoever was on duty
14 who decided whether you were punished or not.

15 **BFW**, Gordon Knott and Brian MacLennan were
16 always the ones who did it. It was whoever was on duty
17 in the morning.

18 'There was once an accident outside. I was about 7
19 when that happened. There were some men working on
20 scaffolding attached to the home. I don't know whether
21 they were fixing the roof or the side walls or
22 something. There were two men going up some
23 scaffolding. The scaffolding collapsed. One of the men
24 fell off and broke his arm and leg. The other landed on
25 his head. I think he died instantly.

1 'It was a horrible thing to see. I remember we were
2 all outside at the time. The staff brought us into the
3 home. The police came round. About six months later,
4 the man who survived came back to the home to say hello
5 to us all. He told us he was okay.

6 'There was no support given to us after the
7 incident. We saw the man falling and being injured.
8 The staff just pulled us inside and kept us there.
9 Nobody asked us whether we were okay. The police came
10 into the home but never spoke to us. It was never
11 mentioned after that. I don't know whether they thought
12 that not mentioning it would help it all go away. It
13 didn't though. I can remember the incident staying in
14 my head. I remember having nightmares about it.
15 Nowadays kids would be offered counselling or something
16 because it was a horrific thing to see.

17 'You got punished quite a lot when you were in
18 Clerwood. There were different severities of
19 punishment. It really all depended on the staff member
20 and what mood they were in. A lot of the staff members
21 would either give you a slap or put you in the corner on
22 an individual basis. I had a lot of punishments whilst
23 I was in there. I had slaps on my face, slaps on my bum
24 and slaps on my arm. The punishment could be for
25 anything. I can't remember what specifically you were

1 punished for, but I remember it [was] for petty things.
2 There were other staff who smacked you, but it was
3 BFW, Gordon Knott and Brian MacLennan who were
4 the biggest physical abusers.

5 'Gordon Knott abused me both physically and
6 sexually. I'm pretty sure there was mental abuse in
7 there as well. I don't have any feelings towards him.
8 I don't have any hatred towards him. Hatred would be
9 something that would have a grip on my life and
10 I'm never going to let him have a grip on my life again.
11 He was a child abuser. He was a man who wasn't trained.
12 He took advantage of the fact he worked in a children's
13 home.

14 'For me, the abuse probably started when I was 3 or
15 4. It could have started earlier and I just don't have
16 any recollection of it. My earliest memories are from
17 when he took me to the bathroom in the attic of the main
18 house. Gordon Knott used to take me into the bath with
19 him. He was naked and so was I. It started with him
20 touching me. He was making me feel comfortable with
21 what he was doing. It was always just me and him in the
22 bath. There was nobody else involved. That happened
23 quite a few times. I reckon that happened about once
24 every couple of weeks. It wasn't a daily event. That
25 went on for a while.

1 'I didn't realise what was going on at that time.
2 I just thought that was what you did in a bath. It just
3 happened to be a grown man in the bath with me. I never
4 thought it was unusual or strange. I now realise that
5 all of the bath times were him grooming me. At the time
6 when Gordon Knott was taking me for baths, someone
7 should have been questioning him why he was doing that.

8 'Gordon Knott then started taking me to where the
9 stables were. He was the only staff member who took me
10 there and the only one that was there throughout the
11 abuse. I would be taken into a room via the fire escape
12 above the stables. The room ran along the full length
13 of the stables. It just looked like an old barn. You
14 could see the beams in the roof running along the length
15 of the room. There were mattresses lain down on the
16 floor.

17 'I wasn't the only child taken into the room by
18 Gordon Knott. There were other boys and girls. It
19 was the same group of kids every time. There were about
20 eight of us. [My sister] was one of the girls and later
21 on, [the boy who was in the bed next to mine] was one of
22 the boys. I don't remember the other ones. I don't
23 know whether I joined a group of children that were
24 already there. I don't know whether the children I met
25 there had gone there for the first time at the same time

1 as me.

2 'Gordon Knott would play wrestle with you. He would
3 be in his underwear and so would you. It wasn't like
4 wrestling. It was all gentle so you wouldn't get hurt.
5 Before you knew it, he started slipping his hands into
6 your pants. He'd start by groping you. He'd then
7 encourage you to do the same with him. He would take
8 your hand and put it to where he wanted it to be, inside
9 his underwear. It wasn't always me he was with. He'd
10 have a turn with everybody.

11 'If you weren't partnered with him, you would be
12 partnered with one of the other children. He made sure
13 that he had a turn with everybody but wasn't concerned
14 who you were partnered up with if you weren't with him.
15 The other person could be a boy or a girl. It was
16 almost as if he was giving us lessons on how to abuse
17 each other. It was like a class to show you how to do
18 it. To begin with, there was no more to it than
19 Gordon Knott teaching us how to wrestle and put our
20 hands in each other's pants. There was no sex or
21 anything like that. That all went on for months. It
22 was the same scenario every time. I guess at the start
23 I thought that it was all good. It was better than
24 doing nothing.

25 'After a few months, Gordon Knott progressed with

1 us. He started doing it all naked. Everybody,
2 including him, had to be naked. It was the same sort of
3 thing. He'd encourage you to touch him if you were with
4 him. If you were with another child, he would encourage
5 you to touch them. It didn't matter whether the person
6 you were partnered with was a boy or a girl.

7 'After a while, it progressed from there to oral
8 stuff. When he did it, he would put the penis of the
9 boy he was wrestling with in his mouth. He'd then
10 encourage the boy to do the same with him. He did that
11 with me. He'd encourage the children who weren't
12 partnered with him to do the same. If you were
13 partnered with a girl he would encourage you to perform
14 oral sex on her. All that went on for a while. It
15 perhaps went on for about two or three weeks. We
16 weren't there every day. It was perhaps once or twice
17 a week. It was mostly at weekend times.

18 'It then progressed from oral sex to full
19 penetrative sex. That was with boys and girls. It
20 would be boys penetrating girls and boys penetrating
21 boys. He'd also penetrate the boys and girls. He'd
22 make it seem as if it was a game. He treated it all
23 like it was "just what people do". He'd make it out as
24 if "this is what wrestling is about". Not having
25 wrestled before, how were we to know that that wasn't

1 what wrestling was about? It all continued like that
2 for a while. It wasn't as if it went on for a few
3 months and then it stopped. All that went on for years.
4 It went on until I left there. Even after I had been
5 adopted and returned, it still carried on. It carried
6 on right up until I left to go to Glasclune.

7 'Gordon Knott made me have sex with my sister.
8 I was about 7 then. It was in the stables in the room
9 where the mattresses were. He told me to do that. He
10 actually put his hand on my back and forced me to lie on
11 her. That was the worst abuse I ever suffered. It's
12 something I will probably never get over. I've got over
13 the rest of it, but I will never get over that. It
14 didn't cause any shame then because I didn't know what
15 I was doing. However, it caused me a great deal of
16 shame later on. Of all the abuse, that was the thing
17 that killed me inside. It wasn't horrid at the time,
18 but horrid after I realised what I had been made to do.
19 It's also horrid because of the pain it caused my
20 sister. That's the worst part of it all. That's the
21 part that will always live with me. I will always have
22 negative feelings about what happened.

23 'Gordon Knott took me and [my sister] when I was 6
24 or 7 to somebody's home in Corstorphine to abuse me.
25 That would have been in about 1974. [My sister] would

1 have been about 5 when we were taken there. I don't
2 recall where exactly the house was. I know it was close
3 to the home and it was a normal house rather than
4 a children's home. It was a house that was near [REDACTED]
5 [REDACTED]. I am pretty sure it was on a road that had the
6 turnstile gate for [REDACTED]. It was a bungalow. The
7 reason I remember that it was a bungalow is that all the
8 other houses around it were big and it looked small next
9 to them.

10 'A man and his daughter lived in the house.
11 I'm pretty sure there wasn't anybody else in the house
12 when I was there. My impression was that Gordon Knott
13 knew who the man was. The man was about the same age as
14 him. He might have been a little bit older. I don't
15 know who the man was or who the girl was. The girl
16 was the same age as me. She was either 6 or 7. It
17 was the first time I had seen this girl.

18 'It was a summer's day. There was a blow-up
19 paddling pool at the back full of water. The girl and
20 I had to take our clothes off and jump into the paddling
21 pool. Gordon Knott and this man sat about whilst
22 I played with the girl in the paddling pool. Gordon
23 Knott and this man made me fool about with the girl. We
24 touched each other whilst they sat and watched. They
25 made me touch her vagina and made us perform oral sex.

1 I was made to fondle this girl whilst [my sister] was
2 sitting there in the pool. After that, [my sister] was
3 made to fondle the girl. [My sister] had to do the same
4 things as I did.

5 'That happened to me once. I was never taken back
6 to the house or saw the man and his daughter again.
7 However, [my sister] said she was taken back to this
8 house quite a few times. From speaking to [my sister]
9 in later life, I have found out that she got taken more
10 places than I was by Gordon Knott. She has told me that
11 she was once taken to the Botanic Gardens in Edinburgh.
12 She met a family there and was taken back to the
13 family's home. Things happened. She told me she was
14 sexually abused but didn't go into the detail of what
15 happened. I learnt that in later life after the court
16 case.

17 'Gordon Knott stayed in a little house near the
18 stables. He took me to his house. He abused me there.
19 He penetrated me. The only reason I remember that is
20 because he did that on a rug that was in the shape of
21 a bear. He took me into his house and abused me there
22 several times. All that happened after we returned to
23 Clerwood after being adopted. I don't remember that
24 happening before we were adopted. I don't remember
25 being in that house before then. I didn't think

1 anything about the rug until after the court case. It
2 was then that I discovered that my sister had also been
3 abused by Gordon Knott on that same rug.

4 'Staff did come into my room at night. Sometimes
5 you would think that if you closed your eyes tight
6 enough they would just go away. Gordon Knott would come
7 into my room. It wasn't an every night thing, but it
8 went on the whole time I was at Clerwood. Sometimes
9 a week would go by and he wouldn't come in. I remember
10 him touching me and [the boy in the bed next to me].
11 I remember that the day I came back from being adopted,
12 Gordon Knott came into my room and fondled me in my bed.
13 All I remember is him touching me when he came into the
14 room.

15 'When Gordon Knott wanted to punish an individual,
16 he would punish the whole home. He'd make it clear that
17 everybody was getting punished for something one child
18 had done. We would all have to line up for him. He
19 would sit there in a chair. One by one we would have to
20 go up to him and pull our pants down. He would then hit
21 each of us in turn on our bums with a piece of wood.
22 The piece of wood was a little bit bigger than a ruler.
23 It was about two inches wide and half an inch thick. We
24 would all be walking about holding our bums and
25 screaming.

1 'There was one occasion when I was about 7 when
2 Gordon Knott immediately apologised for hitting me after
3 he hit me with his piece of wood. He said that he
4 didn't want to hurt me. He also said that to my sister
5 and one other wee guy. All three of us were children he
6 was sexually abusing. I couldn't work out what that was
7 about. He was apologising to children for hitting them
8 with a piece of wood, but was at the same time sexually
9 abusing them.

10 'Looking back, I realise that the reason he was
11 apologising was because I was an important person.
12 I was important to him because he was able to abuse me.
13 Somewhere along the line in his warped mind, he probably
14 loved me. It's not love when you beat someone up and
15 rape them. He was just a warped individual.

16 'When I was 7, I went to see the dentist to have
17 a tooth pulled out. I had previously attempted to go to
18 the dentist before but had been run over on my way.
19 This was the subsequent appointment. The appointment
20 was the first time I remember going to a dentist. When
21 I saw the dentist, he put me under to extract the tooth.
22 Whilst I was under, I swore. I must have said "fuck" or
23 something.

24 'After seeing the dentist, I went back up to the
25 home. Out of the blue, Gordon Knott punched me full

1 force right in the side of the face. It was the same
2 side that I had the tooth taken out on. He did that
3 because I had sworn at the dentist's. The only way
4 I knew that I had sworn was because he told me I had
5 swore. I was unconscious at the time I swore. I didn't
6 even have an idea whether I had actually sworn.
7 I remember that I was already sore from getting the
8 tooth out and I was sore again from being punched.

9 'Brian MacLennan was into girls, not boys. It
10 was the girls that he tried to always be around.
11 I didn't have much involvement with him. He didn't have
12 much to do with the boys at all. My impression was that
13 he wasn't sexually interested in the boys. I know he
14 worked nights because that was when he abused children.
15 He would come into my room at night but he would never
16 come near me. He would only go across to the two girls.
17 I think my first memory of that happening was from when
18 I was about 5. He continued doing that until the time
19 that I left. I can remember him doing that in the last
20 few months I was in the home. He never came across to
21 me and [my friend in the bed beside me] or any of the
22 other boys. That wasn't an every night thing.
23 Sometimes there would be a week and he wouldn't come in.

24 'Brian MacLennan was around during bath times.
25 I never ever saw him wash the boys whilst they were in

1 the bath. I remember seeing him touching the girls in
2 the bath though. He would wash between their legs and
3 things like that. He wouldn't use a cloth. He would
4 just use his hand. Other than that, I never heard of or
5 saw a specific incident involving him being sexually
6 abusive.

7 'Brian MacLennan only seemed to punish the girls.
8 I think that was because it gave him an opportunity to
9 pull their underwear down. He did that in the big front
10 room. It was a case of the girls lining up, pulling
11 their underwear down and him using his hand to hit them.
12 He did that for stupid things. I remember thinking when
13 I was 7 that the only reason he was doing that was to
14 pull children's underwear down. It seems strange to me
15 that I thought that then, but I remember thinking that.

16 'BFW [REDACTED] is the one who sticks out in my mind
17 as being the staff member who did the most violence. He
18 was quite a violent man when it came to punishment. He
19 was the worst staff member. Looking back, it was almost
20 as if he enjoyed hitting children. He seemed to take
21 pleasure out of it. He used to smack me across the
22 arms. He used to smack my sister quite a lot as well.
23 I don't think he was targeting just one or two people.
24 Everybody seemed to get it. He definitely hurt a lot of
25 children.

1 'One day in about August 1973, when I was about 5,
2 BFW punished me by throwing me up in the air,
3 acting as if he was going to catch me, then pulling his
4 hands away so that I hit the floor. It wasn't
5 an accident. He pulled his arms away deliberately. He
6 did that in the front room that was like a living room.
7 I remember my nose was bleeding. I was hurt quite
8 badly. A woman helped me after the incident. For the
9 life of me, I can't remember who the woman was. She
10 held the top of my nose and got stuff to put up my nose.
11 I saw BFW do what he did to me to quite a few
12 other children.

13 'We used to go out on walks with BFW. [He
14 would] go up past where the donkey was and carry on
15 through a nature trail in the woods. I remember BFW
16 BFW was very [demeaning] on these walks. We only had
17 wee legs. We had to run half the time to keep up with
18 him. One day, when I was about 6, one of the kids was
19 being slow. They weren't keeping up with us. I can't
20 remember the kid's name. BFW grabbed the boy
21 by his throat. He then started slapping the boy across
22 the face. He slapped the boy four or five times.
23 I remember feeling scared but also thinking, "Thank God
24 it's not me". There was nothing as children we could
25 do. We couldn't stop him from doing what he was doing.

1 It was horrible.

2 'There was another male staff member who used to
3 come into my room at night. I can't remember his name
4 or who he was. I knew he was at court the day I was at
5 court. He was the third person charged for doing things
6 in the home. He didn't abuse me. He did go over to
7 beds. I really can't remember which beds he went over
8 to. I assume he was abusing children, but it could be
9 that he wasn't.

10 'I don't know what the council were thinking having
11 a matron in the place. Matron was a really horrible
12 woman. She was not a nice woman. I remember seeing her
13 hold down a boy and forcing him to take his tablets.
14 She was holding his nose so that his mouth was open.
15 That must have been when I was 6, because it happened
16 just after I saw my dad in prison. He gave me some
17 sweeties during that visit and when I saw the incident
18 I was on the way to get [these] sweeties.

19 'Gordon Knott was very good at telling us not to
20 tell people what was happening in the stables. He made
21 a point of saying "This is our secret game" all of the
22 time. I could have gone and spoken to a staff member or
23 my social worker and told them what was happening.
24 However, what stops you is you think: "How do I know
25 that these people aren't also involved?". I had no way

1 of knowing whether other staff members were doing what
2 Gordon Knott was doing to other children in the home.

3 'I don't think I would have been able to speak to
4 anybody about what was going on whilst I was at
5 Clerwood. I'm sure there are other kids in there who
6 did talk to people, but I never did that. I didn't
7 speak about it with any staff member or my social
8 worker. Looking back, I just kept my head down and
9 hoped that the pair would go away.

10 'I didn't trust anyone. I trusted no one by the age
11 of 6. It was a hard thing. I was institutionalised and
12 I didn't know who to turn to. I was scared that if
13 I spoke to someone, I might [have found] out that they
14 were involved in it all. I was scared that if I told
15 someone, then more bad things would happen. I was
16 scared that if my abuser found out, [that] he would
17 abuse me even more. I was scared that if I told
18 someone, they may in turn start abusing me. I was
19 scared that I would be stuck in Clerwood forever.

20 'In my opinion, all the staff knew what was going
21 on. They had to know what was going on. It would have
22 been very hard to do the job without noticing things.
23 I reckon that if a lot of the staff looked back and were
24 honest with themselves, they would admit that they knew
25 what was going on and that they did nothing to stop it.

1 'Back then, what was regarded as abuse is different
2 to what is regarded as abuse now. Back then, kids were
3 allowed to be smacked. You couldn't do that to a child
4 now. What someone may view as abuse to them then might
5 not be seen as abuse to someone else. However, even
6 [when] I think that all the staff must have known that
7 something was wrong. I'm not necessarily saying that
8 they knew that kids were being abused, but they must
9 have known that something was not right.

10 'I presume there were changes in my behaviour whilst
11 I was at Clerwood. The bed-wetting was one thing. Not
12 doing well at school was another. I can't really
13 remember specific things. I don't really know whether
14 you realise your behaviour is changing when you are that
15 young. If there were changes in behaviour, then nobody
16 noticed them or talked to me about them.

17 'You felt a lot of pain in the home. The pain was
18 either from being raped or being battered. As a kid, it
19 was painful and sore. I didn't feel anything else other
20 than I am in pain and I want this to stop. I can't
21 recall looking at myself and thinking "Oh my God,
22 I'm dying here". Clearly nobody ever asked me why I was
23 bleeding or whether I had hurt myself after a fall or
24 something. I can't recall anything like that.

25 'I would like to think that there must have been

1 signs. If there were, then no one picked up on them or
2 they chose to ignore them. There must have been signs
3 because children at that age of 7 and younger were
4 sexually active in the home. Children in the home were
5 having sex with each other. That was separate from what
6 was going on in the stables. It was a learned
7 behaviour. I think things were different back then.
8 People weren't trained to look for signs of abuse.

9 'There was one occasion when a female staff member
10 came up to the stables, walked into the room, saw what
11 was happening and told us all to get out. I was 7 years
12 old when that happened. It would have been around 1975.
13 It was at least a couple of years after it all started
14 that this woman came into the room. By that time, the
15 abuse had been going on for years.

16 'I have racked my brains to try and remember who
17 that woman was, but I just can't remember. In later
18 life, when Gordon Knott had his trial, the judge put
19 five former female staff members in front of me. For
20 the life of me, I couldn't pick which one it was. All
21 I know is that it wasn't Jane, because I would have
22 remembered her.

23 'After the woman came into the room, we all had to
24 leave the room and walk back down to the home. I can't
25 remember whether Gordon Knott came with us or whether he

1 stayed in the stables. Nobody said anything to us when
2 we [were going back] to the house. No one ever asked us
3 what happened. Tom was still my social worker at that
4 point. He never said anything to me.

5 'I think that all fed into why we as children didn't
6 want to tell anyone about what was happening. If I had
7 heard of or seen what was happening as an adult, the
8 first thing I would have done was phone the police.
9 I'd have at least spoken to the child and asked them
10 what was happening. Back then, it felt as if nobody
11 cared. There wasn't even anyone who told me that what
12 was happening was wrong. There was no way of me ever
13 knowing whether what was happening was meant to happen.

14 'After the woman saw what happened in the stables,
15 we weren't allowed to go back there for a while.
16 I can't remember how long that was. It could have been
17 as long as a couple of months. We then started going
18 back to the stables. It all started again. I don't
19 know whether that woman maybe left or something else
20 happened. I have no idea. However, Gordon Knott stayed
21 on.

22 'Looking back, I realise that it all stopped because
23 that woman discovered what was happening. However, at
24 the time I didn't realise that. I don't know how she
25 was the first staff member to have come to the stables

1 to check on us after all those years. I don't know
2 whether other staff weren't allowed to come up there or
3 whether they just thought Gordon Knott was playing with
4 us. It was years before it was all discovered though.

5 'Jane is still alive. I know where she is and where
6 she stays. I have tried to make contact with Jane a few
7 times since leaving care. She just refuses to speak
8 [with] me. I don't know whether she feels bad for what
9 happened whilst I was in the home. I hope she doesn't
10 blame herself because it wasn't her fault. I'd like to
11 meet her to tell her that I don't blame her. I have
12 tried to convince myself that she didn't know anything
13 about it. However, I don't know how anyone could have
14 worked at Clerwood and not [known] what was going on.

15 'When I went to do my HNC in social care
16 I discovered that Marion, [who had worked as
17 a houseparent in Clerwood, had been a lecturer in that
18 area]. I can't remember [her] surname. It could have
19 been Bell. I remember a class where she was describing
20 a situation that happened in a children's home and the
21 situation was about me. She didn't use my name but
22 I [know] the events she was describing involved me.

23 'Marion was talking about an incident where a boy
24 came down some stairs in a home in girls' underwear.
25 She didn't name the home specifically but it was clear

1 from the way she was describing things that she was
2 talking about Clerwood and that she had worked there.
3 She talked about the boy wearing the girls' underwear as
4 something that could have been a clue as to a child who
5 was being abused. I remembered that incident from the
6 time I was there, because I was the boy she was
7 describing. From the time that she was there, I don't
8 remember what happened next. I don't know whether she
9 reported it. She didn't mention that she did. It was
10 weird. I had a panic moment. I had to run out of the
11 class.

12 'I can't even put into words how horrible I felt
13 that day. It wasn't Marion's fault. She didn't know
14 who I was. She was using an example to teach people
15 about the sort of abuse that can happen in a children's
16 home. I did go back to Marion later on and told her why
17 I had reacted in the way I had. It was then that she
18 told me that she had been [a] houseparent at Clerwood.
19 She remembered me [and] was apologetic. It came across
20 to me that she appreciated she had been young and naive
21 at the time of the incident. I [don't] feel any anger
22 towards her. She came across as very frank and honest
23 with me.

24 'The only time I had any contact with my father was
25 when I went to visit him in prison. That was when I was

1 about 6 years old. I remember being surprised that we
2 even had a dad. I think my dad insisted on us having a
3 visit before he would sign the papers which allowed us
4 to be adopted. I don't remember feeling bad or feeling
5 anything when I saw my dad. I just remember seeing this
6 old man with a beard. He looked like Santa Claus. He
7 had a bag of sweeties for us. After the visit we were
8 adopted. Nobody warned us that we were going to
9 Glasgow. It just happened. I'm pretty sure that I was
10 adopted with [my sister], as it wasn't just foster
11 carers.

12 '[My sister] and I were sent to stay with a couple
13 from Glasgow when I was about 6 [and my sister] would
14 have been 5. It only lasted between nine months to
15 about a year.'

16 I think we know, my Lady, from records that it was a
17 shorter period than that:

18 'I have no idea what the names of the man and woman
19 were. They were a nice couple. The man was quite tall,
20 had a beard and rode a motorbike. He was out working
21 most of the time.

22 'I liked it there. They had a beautiful house.
23 Everyone around that area were nice, decent people and
24 they sent us to Glasgow Academy.

25 'I don't recall there being any involvement with

1 social services when we were in Glasgow. I don't
2 remember ever seeing a social worker.

3 'The couple just didn't have a clue about children.
4 They tried but failed miserably. They couldn't handle
5 us. It was just the woman that used to hit us. It was
6 never him. It could be for anything and I can't
7 remember a specific thing.

8 'We put up with the smacking. It was just what
9 happened back then. I am sure there were loads of kids
10 who had loving caring parents who smacked them. It
11 didn't make it right, but that was the way it was back
12 then. The abuse I suffered was no way as bad as what
13 I had suffered at Clerwood.

14 'I think it was the couple who instigated us moving
15 back to Edinburgh. I think they just realised they
16 couldn't cope. Glasgow just didn't work out. When you
17 put in to adopt two children, you want two wee angels.'

18 And ultimately he describes that he and his sister
19 were returned to Clerwood:

20 'Whilst I was being driven back to Clerwood up the
21 M8 or M74, [I realised we were going back]. When I got
22 back to Clerwood, I discovered that [that boy I
23 mentioned] was in the bed next to me.

24 'When I got back to Clerwood, it was if I had never
25 been away. It was the same staff and the same people in

1 my room. The only difference was that [the new boy who
2 became my friend] was there. The abuse just took off
3 from where it left off. It was horrendous leaving
4 an abusive children's home to be taken to an abusive
5 adopted home and then to be returned back to an abusive
6 children's home. That was hard.

7 'I guess it was when I returned to Clerwood that
8 I really started thinking, "This is life and this is how
9 it's going to be". As far as I was concerned, that was
10 me there forever. I didn't even know that you could
11 leave care when you were 18. We were probably back at
12 Clerwood for about a year-and-a-half before we went on
13 to our next home. I was about 8 or 9 when I moved to
14 North Berwick.

15 'I have no idea why my sister and I moved out of
16 Clerwood. We were just told we were moving. I don't
17 remember the day we were told. I have learnt later on
18 that the reason we were being moved to Glasclune was
19 because we were being put up for adoption or to be
20 fostered. I can't remember anything surrounding leaving
21 or the journey to North Berwick.'

22 Between paragraphs 134 and 169 of the statement, the
23 witness described his time at Glasclune, where he --
24 I'll just refer to two specific paragraphs in there
25 without going to them. At paragraph 151, he describes

1 that he was taken back to Clerwood on a visit which he
2 found very difficult. And at paragraph 157 he describes
3 that he and his sister were separated, which he
4 describes as the worst day of his life, as she was
5 placed in a foster placement separate from him and they
6 didn't see each other for another 20 years.

7 LADY SMITH: And of course we heard about Glasclune in the
8 Quarriers, Aberlour and Barnardo's stage.

9 MS MACLEOD: We have, my Lady, we have.

10 LADY SMITH: Yes.

11 MS MACLEOD: I'll then move on to paragraph 70, my Lady, and
12 between paragraphs -- 170, I should say. Between
13 paragraph 170 and 189, the witness describes leaving
14 Glasclune when he was placed in a foster placement where
15 he remained until he was aged 18. That was a positive
16 experience for the witness. He describes his foster
17 carers as 'lovely' and 'beautiful' people and that the
18 placement gave him the stability he needed.

19 He describes that at the age of around 15, to use
20 his own words, that he started to go off the rails, but
21 he did remain in the placement until he was 18 when he
22 moved to London, and that takes us to paragraph 190 of
23 the statement, where he describes his life after care.

24 In paragraph 190, the witness tells us that he moved
25 to London when he was 18, initially to a labouring job,

1 that he got homesick and decided to come back to
2 Scotland. I'll pick up from paragraph 192 where he
3 speaks of his -- the more recent past:

4 'By 2000 I again decided that was enough for me.'

5 He tells the Inquiry that he had come off the drink.
6 He had a long think about what he wanted to do and that
7 he wanted to work in a care environment:

8 'I decided I wanted to work with homeless people.
9 I then went to college and did an HNC in social care.
10 After my HNC, I applied to university to do a social
11 work degree. I lasted a year doing that. University
12 was difficult.'

13 And he tells us that he had three children at that
14 time and was working in the evenings as well as being at
15 university.

16 Fortunately, about the same time he left university,
17 he was offered a job with a housing association in
18 Glasgow and he worked in that role in Glasgow and in
19 Edinburgh before moving to a role with the Salvation
20 Army.

21 In paragraph 193, the witness tells us:

22 'I met [my wife].'

23 When he was working in Scotland, having moved up
24 from London. They got married in 1990 and went on to
25 have four children together.

1 From paragraph 195 onwards, the witness tells the
2 Inquiry about the impact his time in care has had on his
3 life:

4 'From the age of 12 right up until the police
5 chapped on my door, I never really thought about
6 Clerwood. I tried my hardest not to think about it.
7 The only times I thought about it was when I did
8 something stupid and felt embarrassed. That's the only
9 time it seemed to come back.

10 'Until I met my foster carers when I was 12,
11 I didn't trust many people. I had trusted Jane and
12 Mary, who were my houseparents, and Tom, the social
13 worker. The rest of the people who had been involved in
14 my care just happened to be working in the places I was.
15 They didn't mean anything to me. I didn't want to give
16 love out because it had always been thrown back in my
17 face. Everybody had left me in life. I had a fear of
18 rejection and probably still have that now. I think
19 that fear of not being accepted will always be there.

20 'I was an alcoholic. I drank seven days a week.
21 I drank Buckfast and beer. I drank to stop myself
22 thinking about the shit that had happened to me. My
23 drinking was terrible. If I was drunk, I didn't think
24 about it. I lost jobs because I went in drunk.

25 'I was married in 1990 but I think I really lived my

1 own life up until about the year 2000. I did what
2 I wanted. I didn't consider anyone else in the
3 decisions I made. For [my wife], it was a nightmare.
4 I would come home with cuts and bruises on me. She
5 would have to mop me up. She would have police banging
6 on the door trying to drag me away. I wasn't living
7 a life as a married man or father. I was living a life
8 as a single man who wanted to go out, get smashed and
9 batter people.

10 'When I was fighting people, I wasn't thinking about
11 the person I was smashing. I was thinking about someone
12 else from my past. I was taking my anger out on them.
13 Without a shadow of a doubt, all that came back from my
14 time in care -- all that came from my time in care.
15 Violence in particular had always been part of my life.
16 I don't know whether things are different now, but when
17 I grew up in care, it was a case of learning to fight or
18 being leathered if you didn't. If you didn't know how
19 to look after yourself, you would get picked on. You
20 became the bully because you had to do it to survive.
21 I continued with that way of thinking into adulthood.
22 I was that all the way up until about the year 2000.

23 'It was all like a horrible cycle. I was fighting
24 and drinking because of what had happened to me.
25 I couldn't go and speak to people about why I was

1 fighting and drinking in case they judged me for that.
2 I was scared of being judged and someone saying that it
3 was all my fault. Because of that, it all just carried
4 on.

5 'I find it difficult to show love in case people
6 judge me for that. That isn't good, but you can't help
7 yourself. I didn't show much love in any of the
8 relationships I had. I never had girlfriends at school.
9 There was a time when I was confused about my sexuality.
10 I thought that because I had been raped I might be gay.
11 I didn't show love to my wife. It's only in recent
12 times that I've been able to show [my wife] and kids
13 love.

14 'I remember that [one of my children] started going
15 to [a club]. I remember that I wanted to march down to
16 the hall to check whether the officers had all had
17 disclosure checks. I wanted to know as a parent who the
18 people were that I was leaving my child with. That sort
19 of thing went through my head all the time. I had that
20 fear of someone saying that I had allowed my children to
21 be around someone who could abuse them. I didn't want
22 to be blamed for putting my children in a situation with
23 someone who went on to abuse them. I was very
24 protective.

25 'I suffer from depression. I initially had a bad

1 doctor who didn't manage to diagnose me. He would just
2 tell me to get on with my life. I remember going to him
3 when I felt suicidal. His answer to me was, "We all
4 have days like that". When I was about 30 I changed
5 doctors. I was then diagnosed with depression and
6 seasonal affective disorder. Looking back, I have
7 probably had depression and seasonal affective disorder
8 since I was 12. I remember that when I was with [my
9 foster parents], I would lock myself in the house and
10 wait until summer came again. I would tell people --
11 I would tell [my foster carer] to tell people I wasn't
12 coming out. I just couldn't get out of bed.

13 'Over my life, there have been times when I felt
14 bad, suicidal and the whole shebang. I blamed myself
15 for it all. There's no way I would have been able to
16 speak to the Inquiry the way I am now 20 years ago.
17 I don't feel that way anymore. I don't feel bad at all.
18 I still have my moments. I still feel shit sometimes.
19 However, I don't feel the way that I used to. I can't
20 be held responsible for what happened to me as a preteen
21 child when I was surrounded by adults who were paid to
22 look after me.'

23 Between paragraphs 205 and 207 the witness speaks
24 about some treatments that he's had.

25 I'll read on from paragraph 208:

1 'I swore to myself when I was 12 that I wouldn't
2 tell another soul about what happened. The reason I did
3 that was because I wanted to protect my wee sister. In
4 early 1995, [my wife] and I were sitting watching
5 a programme about boys who had been sexually abused.
6 I turned to [my wife] and said, "That happened to me
7 when I was in a children's home". That was the first
8 time I had ever spoken to anyone about what had
9 happened. I just blurted it out. We didn't sit down
10 and have a long, in-depth conversation about it. That's
11 pretty much all I said.

12 'A month after first speaking to [my wife] about the
13 abuse I had suffered, the police chapped my door. It
14 was out of the blue. The policeman who was at the door
15 asked me if I could call the Children and Families
16 Department in Edinburgh. I initially thought it was
17 about [my sister and wondered if] something had happened
18 to her. After a couple of attempts of trying to get
19 through, I spoke to somebody. The guy on the other end
20 of the phone asked me whether I remembered being in
21 Clerwood Children's Home. I instantly said, "You must
22 be talking about that bastard Gordon Knott, eh?" I knew
23 right away why the police had wanted to speak with me.
24 It was as if I had been waiting up until then for that
25 moment to happen.

1 'I then met the police from the Children and
2 Families Department in Edinburgh. I gave a full
3 statement. I felt horrible while I was giving my
4 statement. The police officer who was initially asking
5 me questions was an older guy in his 50s. He asked me
6 far too much detail. His line of questioning made me
7 think he was a paedophile. He asked me questions like
8 whether I had an erection whilst I was being abused.
9 I still don't understand why he needed to know things
10 like that. I felt as if the guy was getting off on
11 things that I was telling him. I was made to feel as if
12 I wasn't even safe being interviewed by the police. The
13 police officer was eventually replaced with someone
14 else. The next time I was interviewed, I was
15 interviewed by a much younger guy. He was sensitive,
16 nice and took his time.

17 'It took me the whole day to provide my statement.
18 Back then I was raw. We kept stopping. I was crying
19 a lot. I told them everything I could about me. At the
20 end, I was asked what happened to my sister. At first
21 I didn't say anything. He then told me the police had
22 already spoken to [my sister]. I asked if [my sister]
23 had told them everything. He said she had. It was then
24 I decided to tell them about what had happened to both
25 me and [my sister]. Before that, I had been keeping her

1 out of the statement because I didn't want her to be
2 involved. I was protecting her. I didn't know whether
3 [my sister] could handle it if I said something and she
4 hadn't already spoken to the police.

5 'After I finished telling them everything, the
6 police explained to me what would be happening next.
7 They told me about the trial. They told me that it was
8 coming up and what might be happening next.

9 'At the point I gave my statement, the trial was due
10 to start only about four months later on. Looking back,
11 I think I was quite far down the line in terms of the
12 people the police had spoken to. I think they had
13 spoken to quite a lot of people before me. It could be
14 that they had difficulties finding me. [My sister]
15 wouldn't have been able to help the police find me
16 because we had not been in contact with one another. In
17 the end, the trial ended up getting delayed. It didn't
18 actually start until I think about November 1995.

19 'The police would pick me up every morning and bring
20 me to Edinburgh to the High Court for the trial.
21 I think they spent the day -- I would then spend the day
22 sitting in the witness room. I ended up going back and
23 forth for about a month before I had to give any
24 evidence. We were leaving the house at 8.00 in the
25 morning and not getting home until 7.00 at night. It

1 was monotonous. It was really quite a difficult month.
2 It was horrendous.

3 'The trial was the next time I saw [my sister].
4 About 20 years had passed. The police told me one day
5 that she was going to be there. I ended up meeting up
6 with her in the High Court itself. I was taken into
7 a room and she was sitting there. I knew it was her as
8 soon as I saw her. She still looked like me. That
9 was the most emotional day I had ever had.

10 'It was about three weeks before I gave my evidence.
11 I remember shaking like a leaf when I eventually gave my
12 evidence. I kept going after that, because I wanted to
13 see him convicted.

14 'My whole life changed the day that Gordon Knott got
15 convicted. The courtroom in the High Court is weird.
16 Normally when someone is convicted, they get taken down
17 some stairs near to where they're standing. In the High
18 Court, they're taken up past the public gallery. It's
19 a strange system.

20 'It was horrific. He had to walk past me. If it
21 wasn't for my sister being there, I think I would have
22 done him in that day. My sister stopped me. She
23 grabbed my arm. I'm quite sure I would have done
24 something if [my sister] hadn't been there. However,
25 watching him get sentenced to 16 years was quite

1 satisfying. I was overjoyed. There was that positive
2 that came out of it. It's a day I will always remember.

3 'After the trial, I phoned a man at Edinburgh Social
4 Services called McQueen. He was the Director of Social
5 Services. At that time he worked at Shrubhill. It
6 would have been about January 1996 when I called him.
7 Every time I phoned him I was told that he couldn't
8 speak to me because he was in a meeting. I pulled
9 a fast one. I told him that I would be at his door with
10 the BBC in five minutes if he didn't speak to me. Two
11 minutes later, he phoned me. Suddenly, he wasn't in one
12 of his meetings.

13 'When I spoke to McQueen I said to him, "All I want
14 out of you is an apology". He told me that he couldn't
15 give me one because if he said sorry, Edinburgh Council
16 would be legally accepting responsibility for what
17 happened to me. I couldn't understand. Gordon Knott
18 had been prosecuted and he was in jail. As far as I was
19 concerned, it was stated fact that what happened had
20 happened. I didn't get anything out of him. I didn't
21 get a letter or anything. I asked for forgiveness from
22 Edinburgh Council and I was told outright, "No".
23 Looking back, it was pretty naive of me to be expecting
24 an apology.

25 'An internal inquiry was set up by Edinburgh Council

1 after the trial in 1996. It was set up by a judge. It
2 was a man but I can't remember his name. He sat on the
3 panel with two other people. Cathy Jamieson was one of
4 the people on the panel. She was an MP at that time.
5 I can't remember the name of the other woman on the
6 panel.

7 'I was phoned by the inquiry and asked whether
8 I would like to speak to the panel. I decided to go
9 along. I met with the panel in the City Chambers. The
10 panel sat there and asked me questions. They asked me
11 about the same sort of things I have spoken about in
12 this statement. It was maybe not as in depth.

13 'There was a report, but it was short. It was all
14 "Child A said this" and "Child B said that". There were
15 parts that said things like, "There was no substantial
16 evidence to prove that this happened to Child A or
17 Child B". It came across to me that they didn't believe
18 people. It left me thinking that there was no point at
19 all. I can't remember what the conclusion of the report
20 was.

21 'I just think it was a whitewash. The inquiry was a
22 farce. I'm a total believer that if you set up an
23 inquiry, you don't make the organisation who is
24 responsible for the abuse in charge of it. To me, it
25 defeats the purpose. You have to make it independent.

1 It all felt to me like a process for Edinburgh Council
2 to save face. They were just doing it to show that they
3 were doing something. Nothing ultimately came of it.
4 As far as I know, no new laws were created to make
5 children's lives better.'

6 In paragraphs -- from paragraph 225 onwards the
7 witness speaks about attempts to gain compensation, as
8 he puts it, including an award for criminal injuries
9 compensation, I think, where he tells the Inquiry he got
10 £17,000. And also he speaks of civil action against
11 Edinburgh City Council.

12 I'll move on to paragraph 231, where he speaks about
13 records:

14 'I don't know whether there was a record of the
15 punishments that were given out at Clerwood. I don't
16 remember seeing a punishment book. If staff were
17 writing things down, I don't remember seeing that. When
18 you're a child, you're not looking to see that those
19 things are done after you're punished. You're too busy
20 nursing whatever it is they have done to you.

21 'I don't remember any records or paperwork being
22 kept by anyone else while I was in care. I can't recall
23 any of my social workers taking notes or anything like
24 that when they visited. I can't remember them sitting
25 and writing things down. I don't remember them even

1 having a pen and paper with them.

2 'I have tried to get hold of my records after the
3 trial. I phoned the office at Shrubhill where Edinburgh
4 Council's Social Work Department was based. They told
5 me I could have access to them over the phone. I then
6 applied for my records by post. Sometime later, someone
7 called me to tell me they had got my records. As it
8 happened, the person who called me was someone I knew
9 and she told me my records consisted of one page and
10 asked me if I wanted it. I said "yes", expecting that
11 she would post my records. However, she read out the
12 one page. All I remember is that the one page she read
13 out said something like: "'Paul' shows an unusual
14 attraction to male men." She then said that she thought
15 it was a bit convenient that this was the only page that
16 had been kept.

17 'I don't think the woman I spoke to was making
18 things up. I genuinely think that was the only one
19 page. My guess is that my records were burnt so that
20 I wouldn't be able to sue the local authorities. That's
21 my own opinion as to what happened.

22 'I don't know how far my lawyers have got with
23 getting my records. I don't know if they've got hold of
24 the police report and my medical records. I don't know
25 what else they have managed to get.'

1 From paragraph 236 the witness speaks about lessons
2 to be learned:

3 'The abuse just becomes routine. It's not as if you
4 accept it or you don't. It just becomes part of your
5 life. There was nothing you could do to change things.
6 As far as I was concerned, I thought that what was
7 happening to me was happening to every other child in
8 Britain. You have nothing to compare what is happening
9 to you too.

10 'You don't rationalise it and say, "This shouldn't
11 happen". You don't stop and think, "This guy is abusing
12 me", when you're a kid. You just think, "This guy is
13 an absolute bastard". The whole time I was in Clerwood
14 I was scared. You were scared to do something that
15 might annoy somebody. You were scared that you did
16 something that might lead to you getting battered from
17 a member of staff. When someone does something to you,
18 it does make you think that they could do anything else
19 to you. I suppose that's where the fear came from.

20 'There were no choices in my life. Everything was
21 decided for me. Abuse follows you around. Once you
22 have been abused, it becomes easier for others to abuse
23 you. There is something within you that abusers
24 recognise. I think that children become multiple abuse
25 victims because they are made to think that what is

1 happening to them is normal. If another member of staff
2 had come to Clerwood and started abusing me, I would
3 have just thought, this is just what happens.

4 'Looking back, and I realise it's a strange thing to
5 think about, I have asked myself whether it was better
6 being battered or it was better being raped. I know
7 that ultimately you don't get anything off either, but
8 sometimes you can strangely feel something. Sometimes
9 you feel as if you are getting something off a sexual
10 abuser, because it's as if they love you. It's
11 different from someone who punches you in the face or
12 drops you on the head. At the end of the day, though,
13 a child shouldn't ever be placed in a situation where
14 they think it is better to be raped or it is better to
15 be battered.

16 'The problem with Clerwood was that I don't think it
17 was checked by people. If it was checked, then there
18 had to be a lot of lying going on by the people who
19 worked there. Nowadays, you would have the Care
20 Commission coming in, but during my time there I don't
21 remember anyone like that.

22 'Nobody ever spoke to me in Clerwood and said, "If
23 someone touches you inappropriately, come and speak to
24 an adult". Nobody ever said that whilst I was in care.
25 Then again, back then, I expect that nobody would have

1 said that in a family home, never mind a children's
2 home. It wasn't a conversation that people had with
3 children. Nowadays, things are different. That's
4 a conversation that people might have with children.

5 'I could be wrong, but there was certainly no one
6 who asked me how I was getting on. In fact, throughout
7 my whole time in care, I was only asked what my life was
8 like once. That was a social worker. I just didn't
9 think -- I just don't think asking children how they
10 were getting on was thought about back then. I might
11 have opened up if there had been an outside person who
12 had spoken to me about what was going in Clerwood. Who
13 knows? I guess we'll never know now.

14 'Looking back at what the staff were like, I would
15 say that they weren't caring or loving people. I don't
16 think councils were looking for anything much out of
17 their prospective employees then. They were not looking
18 for people that actually cared. They were just looking
19 for people to fill the vacancies so that the kids
20 weren't actually looking after themselves. I think that
21 back then, working in a children's home was seen as
22 a chore. I don't think it was seen as a good career
23 option. I imagine it was a job that didn't pay a great
24 wage.

25 'For me, you should want to go into childcare

1 because you are a kind, caring person and you want to
2 help children progress in their lives. It shouldn't be
3 a job for people who think: "It's just a job, I'll do it
4 until something better comes along". People who think
5 like that shouldn't be doing those jobs.

6 'I know people were suspected of doing things and
7 they were given references by the home to go elsewhere.
8 I learnt that from listening to the evidence during
9 Gordon Knott's trial. I discovered that Gordon Knott
10 was suspected of abuse and got a reference to move to
11 another children's home. He went on to do exactly the
12 same thing in that new children's home. I find that
13 horrific. I can't even put into words how sick that
14 makes me feel. They could have stopped him, but they
15 chose not to.

16 '[My sister] was the only flesh and blood that
17 I knew existed. It is beyond me how social services
18 could separate two children whose only people in the
19 world were each other. I don't know how they could ever
20 argue that it was justifiable for them to have done
21 that. It was something they could have avoided and they
22 chose not to do that. It is beyond me how I ever
23 survived that. It took me 30 years to get over what
24 social services did to me. They robbed me of my sister.
25 I can never get those years back when I didn't see her.

1 I have been able to handle all the abuse I suffered.
2 However, that is something I'll never be able to get
3 over. It's something that I've nearly ended my life
4 over.

5 'I was offered no support whatsoever by anyone
6 during the trial. It was horrible. After I was dropped
7 off each time after attending court it was, "See you
8 later". That was it. There was no, "Here's a number
9 for a counselling service", or even someone asking, "Are
10 you okay?" There was nothing like that. I felt as if
11 I had just been dropped like a sack of tatties.

12 'At the time I probably didn't notice that so much,
13 but looking back I realise that it was a terrible way to
14 be treating people like me. We were vulnerable adults
15 who had gone through a terrible time. I think looking
16 forward, if people like me are going to be put through
17 something like that, they should be offered some form of
18 counselling or support.'

19 In the final part of his statement, the witness sets
20 out his 'Hopes for the Inquiry' from paragraph 249:

21 'If there is no one going in, making checks and
22 speaking to the children and the workers individually,
23 then the staff can do what they want. If that isn't
24 done, then things will continue to go wrong because
25 nobody is held accountable. There wasn't any

1 accountability in the 1970s and before. People were
2 allowed to do what they wanted. They didn't have to
3 answer to anybody. Without accountability, abuse will
4 happen. With accountability and checks, abuse may still
5 happen, but at least it will get captured earlier on.

6 'Back when I was in care, I know that is what
7 happened. I know of people who were placed back in the
8 children's homes or foster homes straight after they
9 reported things to the police. Why would anyone go to
10 the police if that is what happens to them? I want
11 proper legislation for children to allow them to have
12 a voice and speak up without fear. I would like, where
13 a child declares abuse, for that child to be immediately
14 placed somewhere safe. That should be done so that they
15 are not in the same place as the abuser.

16 'I think things are different now. If I was a child
17 in a children's home now and reported what happened,
18 I think the member of staff who abused me would be
19 suspended pending an investigation. I don't think that
20 happened back then.

21 'All I want from the Inquiry is to make children
22 safe, make sure that checks are in place and make sure
23 that there is accountability. If you are not held
24 accountable, then you have the power to abuse the people
25 you are paid to look after. If you have someone from

1 the outside coming in and asking the child what their
2 life is like, what a good day and a bad day looks like,
3 you might get some honesty from the child. You might
4 get children who will speak. That might lead to people
5 being held responsible for their actions. There was no
6 one making those checks when I was in care.

7 'I have no objection to my witness statement being
8 published as part of the evidence to the Inquiry.
9 I believe the facts stated in this witness statement are
10 true.'

11 'Paul' signed the statement on 18 April 2019.

12 LADY SMITH: Thank you very much indeed.

13 Well, I'm going to rise now for the lunch break, but
14 before I do that, there's one name I want to mention and
15 it's BFW . He's not to be identified as having
16 been referred to in our evidence outside this room.

17 Thank you very much. We'll sit again at 2 o'clock.

18 (12.57 pm)

19 (The luncheon adjournment)

20 (2.02 pm)

21 LADY SMITH: Good afternoon.

22 Now, Mr MacAulay.

23 MR MACAULAY: Yes, good afternoon, my Lady. This is another
24 applicant who is to be read in and he will be using the
25 pseudonym 'Jim'.

1 LADY SMITH: Thank you.

2 'Jim' (read in)

3 MR MACAULAY: His witness statement is at WIT.001.002.3882.

4 'Jim' was born in 1970. He provides some
5 information about his life before going into care and in
6 particular that he lived with his family in Edinburgh.

7 He goes on to say at 3 that:

8 'My dad was a builder, metalworker and grate
9 builder. He was pretty typical. He liked a drink. He
10 would come home from work, wash his hands and then go to
11 the pub. I wasn't crazy about my dad. He would hit us
12 with the belt which would leave a red mark on my
13 backside. It wasn't excessive and I never felt
14 victimised. We had corporal punishment at school. We
15 only really saw my dad when we were getting punished.
16 I didn't see him that much. My mum was a soft touch.

17 'My parents were together until I was 11. There was
18 not much love between them. There was no laughing.
19 When they split up, my mother got a new boyfriend within
20 a short space of time. My parents never said anything
21 to me. I just came home one day and there were two kids
22 in the house. They were [the boyfriend's] children.'

23 And at paragraph 8:

24 'My dad wanted to get back together with my mum.
25 She wouldn't go back to him and they got divorced. My

1 dad said that my mum should take two children and he
2 should take two. He was trying to put pressure on her
3 to take him back. It had nothing to do with wanting us
4 to stay with him. [My brother and I -- two children]
5 stayed with my mum, [my brother] and I had to go and
6 live with my dad. I was gutted. I was closer to my
7 mum.

8 'My dad, [my brother] and I moved to Dalry in
9 Edinburgh. Dad had a younger girlfriend. She was maybe
10 19 or 20. I was embarrassed. He was just showing off,
11 "Look at me and my young girlfriend". I thought it was
12 a bit of a joke. I didn't get on with her. I didn't
13 want to be there with them.

14 'We ended up in temporary accommodation in Niddrie
15 for a while. It was a difficult time. My dad struggled
16 to look after us. He was not a drunk but he was always
17 in the pub. We used to sneak out and turn the pub's
18 fuse box off so that the lights would go out and my dad
19 would have to come home. He was messed up from the
20 divorce.

21 'During that period, my dad washed my clothes and
22 hung them on the washing line. Someone stole them so
23 I had no clothes to wear. I was going about looking
24 like a hobo. It was so embarrassing.

25 'I missed my mum. [My brother] and I felt pushed

1 out. [My brother] was aged 7 or 8. There wasn't room
2 at my mum's house. I didn't see her for over a year.
3 I was a bit huffy with her about everything that had
4 happened. I felt it was a betrayal. She had taken on
5 someone else's children instead of us.'

6 And then he goes on to talk about that he went to
7 different schools over that period. And at
8 paragraph 11, he says:

9 'I came home from school one day and my suitcases
10 were packed and sitting in the hallway. There had been
11 no social work involvement in our family prior to then.
12 Once my dad realised that he wasn't getting my mum back,
13 he didn't want the grief of looking after us anymore.
14 My father took me to a children's home. We went into
15 the reception area. He was uncomfortable and handed me
16 50 pence.

17 'I thought going to [the home] was a temporary
18 thing. No one ever told me. I never put posters on my
19 wall as I thought I would be going home soon.'

20 And he was admitted to that home on [REDACTED] 1984
21 when he would have been aged 13.

22 And going on to paragraph 32, he says:

23 '[That home] was temporary. I was there for
24 a couple of months. My parents were never straight with
25 me about what was happening. The staff talked about

1 what was happening with me and discussed that I might be
2 going home or moving on. I was kidding myself that
3 I would go home soon. It came to a head that my mum
4 didn't want me back in her house. They found me a place
5 in another home called Glenallan near Inch. They took
6 me to stay overnight at Glenallan. It was a gentle
7 introduction. I had a couple of overnight and weekend
8 stays before moving there.'

9 And there are records to indicate that he moved to
10 Glenallan in [REDACTED] 1984 when he would have been 13 or 14.
11 I think he tells us himself --

12 LADY SMITH: He thought he was a little younger himself,
13 didn't he?

14 MR MACAULAY: He was 13.

15 LADY SMITH: Thank you.

16 MR MACAULAY: Then at paragraph 34:

17 'When I first arrived, the staff introduced
18 themselves. I was taken to my room. We all had our own
19 rooms. My room was decorated in brown colours. It had
20 cheap, industrial, tough carpets. There were no
21 pictures on the wall.

22 'A man, Gordon Knott, was in charge. He was in his
23 late 30s or early 40s. He never cracked a joke or
24 anything like that. I never saw him smile the whole
25 time I was there. He came across as quite aloof and

1 snobby. He was about 6 foot 3. He was massive.

2 'There was a woman called Anne who was my key
3 worker. The other staff I remember were a woman called
4 Sylvia and a male called Pat. Pat was a young Irish man
5 who was really friendly.

6 'The food was all right. The chef was a woman
7 called Mrs Adie. She would make stews. She was a nice
8 old lady. Her sons were the heaviest kids in Edinburgh.
9 They worked at Glenallan for a while as temporary staff.

10 'The kitchen was at the front of the building.
11 There were two tables behind the pool table that we ate
12 at. There would be staff sitting at the tables with us.
13 It was very relaxed.'

14 And then at paragraph 40, he says:

15 'I had a fight at Glenallan. We were just being
16 kids. I think I punched someone and that was it. It
17 was just kids winding each other up. I'm not sure the
18 staff knew about it. We were all typical teenagers.
19 There was a lot of one-upmanship and a pecking order.
20 There was no bullying or anything like that.'

21 And he talks about discipline:

22 'The kids would play up to get attention, so you
23 would have to do something pretty major to get
24 disciplined. What you might consider bad at home would
25 be pretty mild at Glenallan. There was no corporal

1 punishment.

2 'I stayed at Tynecastle School whilst I was at
3 Glenallan. I would get a bus to school and walk back.

4 'I remember sitting at a table doing my homework.

5 'I didn't like a big fuss made on my birthday.

6 'At Christmas, I spent the night at my mum's house.'

7 And he talks about watching a film when he was
8 there:

9 'I used to draw all the time. I loved it.

10 I stopped when I went to Glenallan because there were
11 too many distractions.

12 'We had medicals and check-ups. I think we had to.
13 I saw the dentist regularly.

14 'I broke my leg and had it in plaster for three
15 months. I then broke my other leg. I had to have pins
16 put into it and external fixators. I had an open
17 plaster and it looked bad. I was on crutches and
18 couldn't move around very much.

19 'I had no contact at all from my dad. I saw my mum
20 sometimes. My brother went to see her regularly.

21 I arranged to see her in town a few times, but it was
22 always a bit awkward. The contact with her was
23 occasional. She visited me when I smashed my leg. My
24 mum came to visit me once a week during that period.
25 There was a quiet room on the ground floor that the

1 staff set up for me to stay in. I couldn't get
2 upstairs. My mum would visit me there.

3 'My parents were never straight with me about what
4 was happening. My mum would sometimes come to my social
5 work reviews. I began questioning whether I would be
6 going home. My mum told me that she was going to
7 Australia and I wasn't going with her. I remember being
8 upset.

9 'Gordon Knott was the officer in charge at
10 Glenallan. MVF worked at the social work department on
11 [REDACTED]. He was a Manager of Children's Services or
12 something like that. He had an office at [REDACTED]
13 [REDACTED]. MVF was Gordon Knott's boss. They were as thick
14 as thieves.

15 'Within the first couple of weeks of being at
16 Glenallan, the kids were messing about whilst I was in
17 the shower. They were opening the lock on the shower
18 door with a coin. I just wanted to have a shower in
19 peace. I had locked the door again. It all went quiet.
20 I was listening for the kids. The door opened again and
21 Gordon Knott was there. I thought it was just going to
22 be the kids. Gordon must have used a coin to open the
23 door.

24 'Gordon Knott just walked in. The shower was on one
25 side. I was in the shower behind the shower curtain.

1 He tried to pull the shower curtain back. I had wrapped
2 it around my hip because the kids had been pulling it.
3 I was quite shocked. He tried to yank the shower
4 curtain off me but he couldn't. He tried to yank it off
5 me a second time. Then he just walked out. He didn't
6 say anything. I did not interpret it in a sexual way.
7 I thought it was slightly over the top at the time.

8 [Redacted: Secondary Institutions - to be published later]

9 [Redacted: Secondary Institutions - to be published later]

10

11 [Redacted: Secondary Institutio]

11 [Redacted: Secondary Institutio]. I told Pat about what had happened in the
12 shower with Gordon Knott. I said that I didn't know
13 what it was like at this home, but I didn't expect staff
14 members to walk into the showers and try to pull the
15 shower curtain off me. Pat was really friendly and
16 normal. No one ever spoke to me about it. I could hear
17 raised voices in the office, but I'm not sure what it
18 was about or exactly when it was. It was clear that Pat
19 did not like Gordon. I think there was a bit of
20 friction between Gordon Knott and the other staff. You
21 could see that the staff weren't enamoured with him.

22 'A shorttime after the shower incident, Gordon
23 asked me to go on his motorbike with him. He said he
24 would need to stop off at his house to pick something
25 up. I had already decided by then that I didn't like

1 him and didn't want to go. He stood there for ten
2 minutes, pestering me to go with him. He even asked
3 another staff member to come through and encourage me to
4 go with him. I'm not sure whether my leg was in plaster
5 at the time. I thought that it was unusual. I enjoyed
6 saying no to him because he was an arsehole.

7 'After the incident in the shower, Gordon Knott was
8 a bit aloof towards me. Any time I had to ask for
9 anything like food or juice, he would be a bit huffy and
10 make snide remarks. He looked down on me and the rest
11 of the children.

12 'When I first arrived and the staff were introducing
13 themselves, there was a man who started talking to me.
14 He just plonked himself next to me and starting talking.
15 He was a big fat man, 16 or 17 stone. He was well over
16 6 foot. He had grey hair and stubble and was balding.
17 He always wore a grey suit [with] white shirt and grey
18 shoes. I just assumed that he was a member of staff
19 too. He introduced himself as **MVF**. He started saying
20 that he wanted to take me on holiday. I spoke to Sylvia
21 about it after **MVF** had left. I asked her if we were
22 going on holiday. She said, "You aren't going on
23 holiday with anybody". I thought she was annoyed with
24 me.

25 'A short while later, I had broken my leg and had it

1 in plaster. I was bored because I couldn't do much.
2 I was swinging on a swing outside. MVF came out to the
3 swing. He had a bulge in his trousers. It was obvious
4 that he had an erection. I thought it was funny. He
5 spoke to me. He wasn't listening to anything I was
6 saying. I remember feeling a bit weird. He said, "Oh,
7 your leg is in a bit of a stuckie, you better make sure
8 the plaster doesn't touch your willy". He didn't do
9 anything else. He was just really creepy. I felt
10 awkward and embarrassed.

11 'When I was 13 or 14, I had a review with Sylvia and
12 some other people in the living room. My mum was there
13 too. MVF walked in and said, "Oh, do you mind if I just
14 sit in?" I felt it was a bit strange. I remember him
15 sitting there. Sylvia threw him a really dirty look.
16 I don't think it was within his remit to be sitting in
17 on my review. He shouldn't have been there. I was
18 sitting there listening to them all talking about me and
19 asking questions amongst themselves. MVF started asking
20 me things. I felt uncomfortable. He wasn't listening
21 to what was being said. He asked me what I was feeling.
22 He was trying to be my friend.

23 'At the social work review, I was told that I wasn't
24 going home. I went upstairs to my room. It was above
25 the kitchen. I was sitting on the edge of my bed crying

1 a little bit. I didn't want to see anybody. My hands
2 were on my face. I heard the door of my room open.
3 I assumed it was a female member of staff or my mum
4 coming to comfort me. I didn't see who it was. I could
5 just feel the weight on my bed. I knew then that it
6 wasn't a female member of staff. I knew it was **MVF**. He
7 always wore a grey suit and grey shoes.

8 **MVF** put his arm around me and I felt the weight of
9 his arm on me. He started grabbing me around the ankle
10 and said, "Can I see the grips on your trainers?" He
11 grabbed my trainer and tried to tip me over by pulling
12 my foot up. He was trying to open my legs up.
13 I started to fall backwards. He was forcing his body
14 over me and his face was right next to my face. I could
15 feel the wetness and stubble of his face on mine. It
16 was absolutely disgusting. My hands were pushing his
17 chin away from me. I put my palms under his chin and
18 pushed myself away. The weight of his body pushing
19 forward helped push me away. I pushed my leg onto the
20 ground and pushed myself back to my feet. It was really
21 quiet because all the kids were at school. I heard the
22 door downstairs open. I heard running up the stairs.
23 It was Sylvia and another woman. As soon as I heard the
24 door downstairs open, my room door flew open and I was
25 confronted by Gordon Knott. Gordon looked surprised

1 when I opened the door and saw him. Then I realised
2 that he was there keeping an eye out and had been there
3 the whole time. Sylvia and the other woman came running
4 up the stairs and I just left the building. I never
5 said anything. I ran past them. I think they suspected
6 what was going on. They were always frosty towards him.
7 I ran to the park. I knew MVF would go away if I stayed
8 away from my room.

9 'Not even a week after the incident in my room,
10 I had another run-in with Gordon Knott. I was going to
11 school. I had to get my bus money and dinner money from
12 the staff before leaving. I had to ask Gordon. He
13 would always be a bit snippy with me. Everything was
14 a bit difficult. There was a girl from New Zealand
15 working there. I remember she was on duty that day.
16 I was going out the door and Gordon Knott stopped me.
17 He said really quietly that I had to go to MVF's office
18 in [REDACTED] after school. I said, "No, I'm not", quite
19 loudly. I wanted the girl to hear. Gordon then said,
20 "You are going or I will stop your pocket money". He
21 also said that if I went, he would give me an extra bus
22 fare. He took it out of his pocket and gave it to me.
23 I took the extra bus fare and just intended to spend it.

24 'I was at school thinking about what Gordon had
25 said. I was curious. I thought I could beat

1 a paedophile. I thought I could outsmart a nonce at
2 that age. I wasn't sure what was going to happen.
3 I didn't tell anyone. I didn't even tell my best
4 friend. I didn't want to think about it. I didn't want
5 to say it out loud. I thought it was an office in the
6 social work department, so what could MVF really do?
7 I thought I would be safe. I assumed other people would
8 be there.

9 'I went to the social work office after school. It
10 was right in the middle of [REDACTED]. I could hear my
11 heart pumping. I was worrying whether I was doing the
12 right thing. There was a lift that you could take up to
13 his office or you could take the stairs. The stairwell
14 was fairly smelly but I decided to take the stairs.
15 I thought MVF [would] get me if I took the lift.

16 'MVF's office was in a car-park type building.
17 There were boxes everywhere. There was a middle-aged
18 woman there. She barely looked up. I asked her, "Do
19 kids come here? Do I have an appointment?" And she
20 said "No". I said, "I don't understand why I am here",
21 and that was when MVF came out of his office and said,
22 "It's okay", and ushered me inside. I told him to keep
23 the door open. His desk was in an alcove. There was
24 a line of filing cabinets. I was standing there and MVF
25 started getting all gobby. He said, "Let's just get

1 that door shut". He told me to sit down but I refused.
2 I said, "No, I'm standing". I asked him what he had
3 asked me there for. I asked him again in a louder
4 voice. He didn't say anything, but just rested his eyes
5 on my crotch. I started getting scared. MVF was
6 rubbing himself through his trousers. I said that I was
7 leaving. I left his office.

8 'My mum was visiting me regularly and I think that's
9 what saved me. I think Gordon and MVF shied away from
10 me because of my contact with my mum. By the time I was
11 leaving Glenallan, I had been sleeping in my clothes to
12 prevent Gordon or MVF from coming in. I thought that
13 I might wake up and find them both in my room. I was
14 falling asleep at school because I wasn't getting any
15 sleep.

16 'There was another boy in Glenallan with me who
17 I think was also being abused by Gordon Knott. He was
18 small and had a gruff voice. I remember chatting to
19 him. He said, "At least I got to go to Gordon's house".
20 I said, "Why would you want to go to Gordon's house?"
21 And he just put his head down. He didn't say "because
22 it's great" or anything like that. I thought that was
23 pretty telling. I had the protection of my mum, but [he]
24 did not.

25 'My friend and I broke into a shop on Rose Street.

1 It's still there. It had scaffolding up the back of it.
2 I used to like going up on building roofs. It's like
3 being in a different world. I was walking past [the
4 shop] and there was a window open. I thought, "I bet
5 I could get in there". We were just going to grab a few
6 jackets and leave. I got a Berghaus jacket. I was
7 really proud of it.

8 'At Glenallan you could pull back the carpet in the
9 quiet room and there was a space that you could put
10 things. It was like a little hatch. We put the jackets
11 and body warmer down there. We had taken two jackets
12 and one body warmer. The body warmer was for my mum.
13 I saved up my pocket money to buy her trainers. I was
14 always trying to get her to take me home.

15 'One day I was going on the bus to visit a new home.
16 The new home was called South Gyle. I had stolen a red
17 Lacoste T-shirt from a shop and had hidden it in the
18 hatch along with the other items. Gordon Knott stopped
19 the bus and told me to get off the bus and go with him.
20 He took me back to Glenallan. He grabbed me from behind
21 and was pulling me by his arm around my neck. He called
22 the police about the stolen items.

23 'I did not report the abuse at Glenallan at the
24 time.

25 'The police got in touch with me in 1997 about

1 Gordon Knott. I was nearly 27 years old. I got a phone
2 call out of the blue and I think they left their number.
3 I was at work. When I spoke to the police they were
4 being pretty cagey. I was asking what it was about.
5 The policeman asked me if anything had happened to me.
6 I said "No".

7 'It has always bothered me that I never said
8 anything about what happened. I have thought about that
9 telephone call with the police and about Gordon Knott
10 ever since. I regretted not saying anything at the time
11 of the incidents or when the police contacted me.
12 I feel more able to talk about it now.

13 'I read the report on Gordon Knott's prosecution
14 a couple of years ago. I read a pdf article about what
15 happened. The police said their investigation had been
16 stifled by management and evidence had gone "missing".

17 'I don't believe for a second that there weren't
18 other people involved with Gordon Knott and **MVF**
19 together. I assumed when the trial came out that it
20 would involve **MVF** too. If you are into something
21 obscure like paedophilia, you find others who are
22 similarly minded. When I heard what had happened and
23 what Gordon Knott had been doing, I am sure he would
24 have done other stuff. He pounced on me when I was at
25 my weakest. I have no doubt that that scumbag could

1 have pounced on another small child.'

2 And he goes on to say that he moved to another home.

3 He left Glenallan on [REDACTED] 1985, so he would be aged

4 15 at the time of his departure.

5 LADY SMITH: Thank you.

6 MR MACAULAY: If I move on to paragraph 88, he talks about

7 spending time at Howdenhall and he was there certainly

8 in [REDACTED] 1986, according to the records. If I go on to

9 paragraph 93, he says that he had reviews when he was at

10 Howdenhall. He was supposed to have been there for six

11 weeks and that was extended for -- to about three

12 months.

13 If I could then go on to paragraph 98, he says:

14 'I went to see my social worker, Leslie. She gave

15 me a pot and a tin opener and sent me on my way. There

16 was no discussion about what I was to do or where to go.

17 I had no support from her or the home. It was two weeks

18 before my 16th birthday. It was a really important,

19 vulnerable time and I was just abandoned.

20 '[I was helped to] look through the local newspaper

21 and I got a bedsit. The flat I got was really near Tam

22 Paton's [REDACTED] [House]. He had all these

23 young laddies with him. I thought it was funny. Tam

24 Paton asked me if I wanted to live with him. I said no.

25 I had to sign on for benefits. I would do bits and bobs

1 of work on the side.'

2 And then he looks at 'Life after Care':

3 'When I lived in the flat at [REDACTED], I was
4 always broke. I worked at odd jobs. I went to London
5 with a friend and became a stone-cleaner for a while.
6 I went to stay with my mum for a fortnight, but things
7 were very strained.

8 'My friends were beginning to move on. They all
9 went to college. I was the only one who was living on
10 my own. I thought I was going to go to art college, but
11 I persuaded myself out of it. I kept putting it off.
12 My teachers at school thought I would have been able to
13 get in even without my exams on the strength of my
14 portfolio.'

15 And he goes on to talk about getting into trouble
16 with the police and also being -- going to jail. And
17 then, in paragraph 104, he looks at the impact and he
18 says:

19 'I was always in bother with the police. I was
20 either stealing because I couldn't budget or I would get
21 into fights. I felt constantly wound up, tense, with
22 butterflies in my stomach. I would react emotionally.

23 'I was focused on day-to-day survival during my time
24 in care. I did well in my prelims but I failed my
25 proper exams. I was sleeping with my clothes on in case

1 I was abused, so I had other things on my mind.
2 I didn't do my homework. I remember a girl at school
3 saying "He didn't do his homework", and the teacher
4 said, "You wouldn't either if you were in a home".

5 'I identify as a second-class citizen. It stems
6 from being in care since my childhood. All the way
7 through school I felt different to the others. During
8 my teenage years I felt a real stigma of being a child
9 in care. I didn't want it to be public knowledge that
10 I was in a home. I missed out on a lot of normal
11 children stuff and family. I never had a mum to look
12 after me.

13 'From the age of about 13, I have had grown men come
14 on to me. I was a bit like a magnet as soon as they
15 found out I was in care. As a result, I am very
16 overprotective of my son. I am sure it is because of my
17 experiences.

18 'I can't trust authority, especially the judiciary
19 and the police.

20 'I don't feel like a victim. I got away with it.
21 I was lucky. I think that if my mum hadn't been
22 visiting me I would have been in a lot more trouble.
23 I think that Gordon Knott saw my mum and her boyfriend,
24 who was a joiner and ex-sprinter with long legs and big
25 shoulders, and kept himself from doing worse.'

1 He goes on to talk about his health condition and,
2 at 111, he says:

3 'I don't see my mum anymore. I saw her once working
4 at the gym I went to. She was the receptionist.
5 I didn't realise that it was her. I was just chatting
6 to her and her eyes started welling up.

7 'I saw [my brother] five years ago. He was the one
8 I was closest to. He went to a Barnardo's home.
9 I [didn't see any of] my other siblings.

10 'I never reported the abuse to the police at the
11 time or subsequently.'

12 Then at 'Lessons to be Learned' at paragraph 115:

13 'I think that care home staff, especially in the
14 initial stages, should be young females. They're easier
15 to trust for young children. Kids gravitate towards
16 them. Paedophiles are mostly male.

17 'People never get a job in a care home if they have
18 a criminal conviction. Paedophiles are only found out
19 after the event. If you want access to vulnerable
20 children then you go for a job like working in
21 a children's home. It would be good if there could be
22 some tests to listen to their heart rate to see if they
23 react sexually to children. These paedophiles had
24 access to me and my files. They could work together and
25 help each other.

1 'When I went down and told Pat about Gordon Knott
2 pulling the curtain back in the shower, Pat didn't
3 report it. I was so innocent that I didn't realise it
4 was sexual. I think it is important that events like
5 that are reported and investigated.

6 'When I left care aged 15, I didn't have any money
7 to do anything. It was a crucial time in my development
8 and life. I was abandoned. If I'd had training or
9 further education, I might have kept out of trouble.
10 The macho kids tend to go to jail. It's [all] the same
11 thing everywhere.

12 '95 per cent of people that work in care homes are
13 decent people, but there is definitely a certain element
14 in there for the wrong reasons.'

15 Then in 121:

16 'I hope others might read my statement and recognise
17 **MVF** and Gordon and come forward. I'm doing this for my
18 son really. If it was my kid that had been touched by
19 men like that, I would hope someone would speak up.'

20 And he says:

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

25 'Jim' has signed the statement on 1 February 2019.

1 LADY SMITH: Thank you very much.

2 MR MACAULAY: So, my Lady, I'll go on to the statement of
3 another applicant who wants to be anonymous and to use
4 the pseudonym 'Anne' in her evidence.

5 LADY SMITH: Thank you.

6 'Anne' (read in)

7 MR MACAULAY: And her statement can be found at
8 WIT-1-000000811.

9 'Anne' tells us that she was born in 1969 and she
10 tells us about her life before she went into care,
11 essentially that she had no memories of life before
12 going into care:

13 'I now know that my parents were drug abusers.'

14 And she goes on to say that he murdered somebody
15 after she was born.

16 She talks about her siblings at paragraph 3 and at
17 4:

18 'My dad was put in prison when he was convicted of
19 murder and my mum put us into care because she didn't
20 want us. I am not aware if there were any social work
21 involvement with the family before that. [My brother]
22 came into care with me. I was nearly 3 years old.'

23 She then talks about being admitted to Clerwood.
24 She was admitted, according to the records, on [REDACTED]
25 1971, so she'd be under 2 when she was admitted:

1 'Clerwood Children's Home was in Clermiston,
2 Edinburgh. It had a big dark brown door. Inside the
3 door on the left was a living room/playroom and on the
4 right was a room with two cots. The next room was what
5 I thought was the nurses' room. There was a cupboard
6 before the stairs, which took you up to the next level.
7 On the ground floor level was the dining room, kitchen
8 and [past I think that should be] that were stairs which
9 led to the staff living room. Upstairs was a sort of
10 square landing which led to the girls' bedrooms. Beside
11 them was an office. At the back of the house were
12 swings. In the grounds were stables.

13 'I am not sure how many children were in Clerwood,
14 but I was one of the youngest. I am not sure what age
15 the oldest children were. The only staff that
16 I remember were Gordon Knott, a woman who I think was
17 a nurse, a male cook and another man who had
18 olive-coloured skin. I think Gordon Knott was in charge
19 of the home. One of the staff members had a dog.

20 'I don't have many memories of the routine at
21 Clerwood. For me, it is like seeing a series of
22 photographs. I have memories from each image but they
23 don't always flow together.

24 'I remember going there in a car. The car had wood
25 around the windows. [My brother] was in the car with

1 me. I remember looking out of the car window wondering
2 where we were going. My first memory of the house was
3 being in a cot in a small room and [my brother] was in
4 another cot. I was crying.

5 'There were four single beds in my bedroom, but
6 I can't describe anything else in it. It was all girls
7 in my room, but I can't really remember anything about
8 them. We got up at about 8 o'clock and went down for
9 our breakfast in the dining room. I'm not sure what
10 time bedtime was.

11 'We all sat in the dining room at the same table and
12 had all our meals together. There were about six tables
13 which were full of children. It was cereal or porridge
14 for breakfast. The food must have been okay and there
15 were only issues if there was food that you didn't like
16 or couldn't eat. When I started at school I had lunch
17 there and not at the home.'

18 And she talks about washing and bathing, and then at
19 12:

20 'At the weekend we would just run about and play in
21 the playroom or watch the television in the living room.
22 We used to play a game called Postman's Knock. In this
23 game you would sit in a circle and someone said
24 something. You had to chase that person and kiss them.
25 Gordon Knott taught us this game and he was there when

1 we played. If any other adults came in the room we just
2 carried on playing. We played outside in the grounds
3 quite a lot. I played on a small red tricycle. We had
4 shots [of] going down the hill and someone sat on the
5 back. There wasn't any supervision by staff when we
6 were out in the grounds. I never ran away and [I can't]
7 remember hearing about anyone else running away.'

8 And at 13, she goes on to say:

9 'I'm not sure how I had money, presumably we were
10 given pocket money. We used to go down to the shops
11 with some of the older children. Sometimes we went to
12 the swimming pool and we managed to sneak in without
13 paying. Other times we went up the back of the zoo and
14 managed to get through the exit-only turnstile gate.
15 None of the staff came with us and I am not aware of
16 telling them we were going out. There was very little
17 supervision.

18 'I went to a nursery before I went to primary
19 school. The nursery was very near the zoo. We got
20 taken in a white minibus and I got dropped off first at
21 nursery and then the older ones got taken to other
22 schools. As I got older, I went to primary school.'

23 And she talks about healthcare:

24 'The nurse used to comb our hair once a week to
25 check for head lice and dealt with minor things like

1 bumps and scratches. One time my brother dared me to
2 jump off the swing. I did and broke my wrist. I was
3 taken to the hospital and my arm was put in a cast.
4 I don't remember seeing a doctor at any other time.
5 I don't remember ever being injured and needing medical
6 attention as a result of being abused.

7 'There was a big Christmas tree put up and there
8 were balloons and other decorations. We had a big
9 pantomime at Christmastime and I was an angel. Santa
10 came and gave us a present which we were allowed to
11 keep. Toys were usually kept in the playroom so were
12 shared with the other children. I can't remember my
13 birthday being celebrated. It might have been.
14 Occasionally, at other times, there were parties, which
15 must have been for someone's birthday.

16 'I didn't get any family visitors. I later found
17 out it was because my mum didn't want us. There were
18 times when potential future parents came in and visited
19 the other children. No one came for me. A female
20 social worker came to visit me, but I can't remember who
21 it was, when I was at Clerwood. She introduced us to
22 families who might have been interested in taking us but
23 that never happened. I saw [my brother] every day and
24 more or less when I wanted. We were not kept apart.

25 'If you were given food that you couldn't eat,

1 Gordon Knott would put it in a dog bowl that was on the
2 floor. He would make you go on your hands and knees and
3 eat the food from the dog bowl like a dog. He put
4 scraps from other people's plates in there too. It was
5 humiliating. He did this to me and he did it to anyone
6 that didn't eat their food.

7 'I wet the bed. When it happened, Gordon would slap
8 me with a slipper. Everyone who wet their bed would
9 stand in a line on the landing. Gordon would be sitting
10 down then slap everyone on the backside with a slipper
11 or a sandal. He would always tell everyone why we were
12 being slapped. To begin with, it was over the clothes.
13 Then often it was on the bare backside. I am not sure
14 if he struck me more than once each time. There wasn't
15 any other punishment for bed-wetting. At other times,
16 if someone had done something other than bed-wetting he
17 would line everyone up, whether they had done it or not,
18 and he would skelp everyone on the backside. Gordon was
19 very moody and if he was in a bad mood you had to keep
20 out of his way. It was like walking on eggshells. He
21 shouted a lot and slammed the doors when he was in
22 a mood.

23 'The sexual abuse by Gordon Knott started some time
24 after Easter. He had helped me find the hidden Easter
25 eggs because he said I was too little and it would be

1 too hard for me. We got to eat what we found.
2 Gordon Knott used to take me upstairs and he told me it
3 was to do some cleaning. He would take me into the
4 staffroom, which was right at the top of the building,
5 and locked the door. I think the first time I was taken
6 in there I would have been 2.

7 'I will never forget what happened. I thought I was
8 privileged, almost special. I was getting some
9 attention and he wasn't smacking me. He pushed himself
10 upon me and I could smell his bad breath. He put my
11 hand on his private parts and forced me to touch him.
12 I didn't know what was going on. It started off over
13 his clothing, then it was under. I pulled away at some
14 point and he got angry. He went on to touch me under my
15 clothes. He said everyone did what we were doing and if
16 I told anyone, no one would believe me because I was
17 only a child. He told me it was what special people do
18 and my mum and dad did it. I thought it was all just
19 part of life.

20 'Gordon Knott would make me touch him and kiss his
21 private parts. The first couple of times, it didn't
22 last long and I remember the sticky stuff from him.
23 Afterwards, he would clean me up and before I left the
24 room, he would remind me that I had been helping him
25 clean the room and that was all. I always thought it

1 was just me that did this with him. I wasn't really
2 aware of any other girls being taken up to his room.

3 'He took just me to his mum and dad's house quite
4 a lot. Their house was in Edinburgh. It was a small
5 compact flat with two rooms. His was one of the rooms.
6 The kitchen was off the living room. His mum and dad
7 were sometimes there and I remember his mum used to be
8 in the kitchen with his dog. Gordon had sex with me.
9 Afterwards, he would take me to the sweet shop and buy
10 me sweets or a toy. One time he bought me a Barbie
11 doll. I thought this doll was the best thing ever. She
12 was a ballerina and had bendy legs. I didn't really
13 know at the time that this was him bribing me. When
14 I got back, [my brother] used to be jealous of my sweets
15 and he would take them [off] me.

16 'Gordon Knott even forced my brother to have sex
17 with me. After that, we thought it was a natural thing
18 to do and we had sex at other times.

19 'Gordon Knott sexually abused me from the age of 2
20 all the time I was there until I left at the age of 7.
21 Because of what he did to me, I thought it was perfectly
22 normal to have sex with boys. In a way, I knew it was
23 wrong and we hid it from the staff. I used to go to the
24 building which used to be the stables, where there was
25 a room with mattresses in it. I started going there

1 probably from the age of 4 and I had sex with boys in
2 there. Some of the boys were much older. I sometimes
3 had sex in a cupboard under the stairs. I had sex in
4 lots of places in the house.

5 'One day, Gordon had told me and [my brother] that
6 my mum was coming to visit us. I sat at the window all
7 day watching for my mum coming, but she never did.
8 Gordon had just told me this out of spite or for some
9 other reason. I was sad when I realised that she wasn't
10 coming to see us. Gordon did this to us quite a lot. I
11 cried a lot of the time because I wanted my mummy. No
12 one ever explained to me why she never visited or why we
13 couldn't live with her.

14 'The nurse wasn't particularly friendly. She combed
15 our hair with the nit comb once a week and she yanked at
16 it and it was sore. Clumps of hair sometimes came out.
17 Another time I burst my nose and it was bleeding. She
18 started shouting and screaming at me, because the blood
19 made a mess.

20 'I was put in the cupboard under the stairs but
21 I'm not sure what I had done. This was a punishment.
22 It was pitch dark and I was screaming and crying my eyes
23 out. Another time, I was locked in a wardrobe. I'm not
24 sure who it was that put me in these places.

25 'Gordon Knott often told us that if we told anyone,

1 no one would believe us. He said no one would believe
2 a child before an adult. He also said that if I told
3 anyone, my brother would be taken away from me. [My
4 brother] was everything to me at this time. I never
5 told anything to the social worker that visited, because
6 there was always the fear that [my brother] and I would
7 be separated. No one ever asked me how I was getting on
8 at Clerwood or if I had issues. Even if they had asked,
9 I probably would have been too frightened to say
10 anything.

11 'One time, I was in the room within the stables with
12 other children. There were other girls there too and we
13 were having sex with the boys. We were swapping
14 partners. The nurse came in and caught us. She was
15 furious and was shouting at us all. I was taken to
16 hospital, but I can't really remember what happened in
17 there. I am not sure why I went to the hospital.
18 I don't recall being spoken to by the police.
19 Afterwards, I was taken back to Clerwood, but nothing
20 changed. All the boys and girls that had been there
21 were still there. It just carried on as before, as if
22 nothing had ever happened.

23 'It was probably a month or two after the nurse
24 caught me having sex at the stables that I got moved.
25 I'm not sure if it was anything to do with that

1 incident. I can't remember being told that I was
2 leaving and no one told me why. I felt I was at
3 Clerwood one minute and the next I was at Glasclune
4 House in North Berwick [and she says] I was 7 when
5 I left Clerwood.'

6 And according to the records she left on [REDACTED] 1976
7 when she was probably aged 6 rather than 7, but she had
8 a short period in foster care before she went to North
9 Berwick and it may be that she's correct in saying, as
10 she goes on to say, that she had celebrated her eighth
11 birthday in North Berwick.

12 LADY SMITH: I see. Thank you.

13 MR MACAULAY: And she goes on to say:

14 'My brother came with me to [North Berwick].
15 I'm not sure why we went to North Berwick.'

16 Now, thereafter, in her statement, and I should have
17 mentioned this at the beginning, 'Anne' goes on to talk
18 about her experience in foster care and she gave
19 evidence in the Foster Care case study on 18 August
20 2022.

21 LADY SMITH: Thank you.

22 MR MACAULAY: That was Day 317 of the Inquiry, and that
23 evidence is at TRN-10-000000055 and in giving her
24 evidence in foster care, she covered quite a significant
25 section of the remainder of her statement.

1 So if I go to paragraph 73, that's when she was told
2 that she was going to stay with a particular couple, but
3 also that she and her brother were to be split up and
4 she says:

5 'I was really upset. [My brother] was distraught
6 and when I was being driven away, [my brother] was
7 jumping all over the social worker's car and had to get
8 dragged away.'

9 Then she talks about her experiences in foster care
10 and if I go on to paragraph 149, she now looks at what
11 life was like after being in care and, in particular, at
12 paragraph 151, she tells us that she had a child with
13 a partner when she was 19 and, at that time, the child
14 was put into the care of the partner's mother.

15 Now, she goes on, at paragraph 153, to say:

16 'In 1997 I gave evidence at the trial of
17 Gordon Knott, who had abused us at Clerwood Children's
18 Home. When I left Clerwood, I vowed never to talk to
19 anybody about what went on, but there I was in court
20 talking about it. I saw him when I was giving evidence
21 in court. He sat there with his arms folded looking at
22 me as if I was nothing. I felt sick. Following the
23 trial, I was in a bad place. The following few years
24 were bad for me. I just wanted to black it out.
25 I turned to drugs.'

1 And she tells us that she and her husband separated
2 in 2021.

3 LADY SMITH: 2001 I think she says.

4 MR MACAULAY: 2001, you're right. And then under reference
5 to 'Impact', again part of this has already been read
6 in, but she says at 155:

7 'All through my childhood all I wanted was my mum.
8 I never even saw a picture of my mum and dad. Until
9 I met my sister, I never knew if I looked like anyone
10 else in the family. I have never had a relationship
11 with my mother and I don't even know if she is alive or
12 dead. I wouldn't care if she was dead. She gave me up
13 because she didn't want me. When I moved back to Ayr
14 when I was 16, that's when I decided I wanted to know
15 a little bit more about my family and who I was.

16 'If I had been left at home with my own family
17 I would have been a different person today. I would
18 have had friends, a better education, and I might have
19 had the job that I've always wanted and that was to be
20 a nurse. I have thought about doing an Open University
21 or college course, but I just can't concentrate.'

22 And at paragraph 159 she says that:

23 'Every school that I went to I found it really hard
24 to concentrate because of the things that were happening
25 [to her].'

1 At 161 she says:

2 'Because of the times I was locked in the cupboard
3 under the stairs at Clerwood, I am now afraid of small
4 spaces. I don't have any friends. I have been on my
5 own for a long time because I don't trust anyone.
6 I want to be a normal person and have friends, but
7 I can't. I want to do what everybody else does. If
8 I try, I am just used, then dumped. The only reason I
9 leave my house is to walk my dogs. Sometimes I find it
10 really hard to go out with my dogs.

11 'At Clerwood Children's Home, Gordon Knott made me
12 have sex with my brother and we didn't realise it was
13 wrong.'

14 And at 163, she says that:

15 'After I left care, I didn't see my brother for
16 a long time. We only met up after we spoke to the
17 police about what had happened at Clerwood Children's
18 Home.'

19 At 164, she says:

20 'My brother passed away in 2020.'

21 And at 169, she goes on to say:

22 'In 1997, I was involved in the court case against
23 Gordon Knott from my time at Clerwood Children's Home.
24 This was horrific and was the worst day of my life and
25 after the trial [as she had already mentioned] I started

1 abusing drugs. I ended up running away.'

2 She talks about treatment and support at
3 paragraph 172 and she says:

4 'Before the trial of Gordon Knott, staff from the
5 court separately showed [my brother] and I around the
6 courtroom and told me who would be sitting where and
7 what would happen on the day. My husband [and] step-mum
8 supported me and she was the best support I could have
9 had.'

10 At 175, she says:

11 'I was 27 before I started to tell anyone about the
12 abuse I suffered in care. The first people I told
13 was the police.'

14 And that's in connection with the lead-up to the
15 Gordon Knott trial and she goes on to mention that again
16 and then at paragraph 180 under the heading 'Lessons to
17 be learned':

18 'I shouldn't have been forced to go to so many
19 different families and then made to call the foster
20 parents mum and dad. This was really confusing because
21 I already had my own mum and dad. They may not have
22 been the best parents in the world, but they were my mum
23 and dad. I didn't have the identity of belonging to
24 a family. I didn't even have a photograph of my mum.
25 We were also moved from pillar to post so often that

1 I didn't know what was happening. I was very unsettled.
2 There is no wonder that I ended up in front of
3 a psychologist.

4 'Someone should have explained to me why I was in
5 care, even from someone who had been in care like
6 myself, and experienced what I was going through. They
7 would be more aware of how the child was feeling and
8 what they were going through. Nobody ever explained to
9 me that my behaviour was wrong and I was never given any
10 lessons in life.'

11 And under the heading 'Hopes for the Inquiry':

12 'If, by coming forward, it saves one child from what
13 happened to me, then it will have been worth it. There
14 needs to be someone who is trained to identify the signs
15 of abuse and trained to speak to the children about it.
16 This would need to be someone that the children can
17 trust and who is independent, not a social worker.
18 Consistency is important so this person can't change,
19 because the child will feel like they are being passed
20 from pillar to post.'

21 And perhaps the last paragraph I should read at 184:

22 'Children should be treated with respect. I don't
23 believe that newly qualified carers should be put in
24 charge of older children. They may only be a few years
25 older than the children they are caring for and they

1 just don't have the experience of how to deal with
2 children who invariably have problems. Children must
3 also have someone they are able to trust to have
4 a one-to-one conversation with or even a cuddle when
5 required. Children need one-to-one attention sometimes
6 even if just to make them feel wanted.'

7 And 'Anne' says at the very end that she has no
8 objection to her witness statement being published as
9 part of the evidence to the Inquiry and she believes the
10 facts stated in the witness statement are true.

11 And your Ladyship, well she, 'Anne' signed the
12 statement on 16 September 2021.

13 LADY SMITH: Thank you very much.

14 Time for the afternoon break, but before I rise
15 there's been one name this afternoon we've used the name
16 **MVF**. His identity is covered by my General Restriction
17 Order. He's not to be identified as referred to in our
18 evidence outside this room.

19 MR MACAULAY: And before your Ladyship rises, this is the
20 last piece of evidence for today.

21 LADY SMITH: Oh, it is?

22 MR MACAULAY: It is, so we're having an earlier break.

23 LADY SMITH: Oh, sorry, I thought there was still another
24 one.

25 MR MACAULAY: Well, there is another one to come, but --

1 LADY SMITH: But not today.

2 MR MACAULAY: -- before that, we have to have an oral
3 witness. Tomorrow morning we have an oral witness and
4 then a read-in.

5 LADY SMITH: Of course, that's right. Oh well, that's good.
6 Lots of other work can be done this afternoon then.

7 MR MACAULAY: Yes.

8 LADY SMITH: Well, thank you very much. So that's us now
9 until 10 o'clock tomorrow morning.

10 (3.04 pm)

11 (The Inquiry adjourned until 10.00 am
12 on Wednesday, 22 April 2026)

13
14
15
16
17
18
19
20
21
22
23
24
25

I N D E X

1		
2		PAGE
3	'Fiona' (read in)	3
4	'Watson' (read in)	30
5	'Paul' (read in)	42
6	'Jim' (read in)	111
7	'Anne' (read in)	132
8		
9		
10		
11		
12		
13		
14		
15		
16		
17		
18		
19		
20		
21		
22		
23		
24		
25		

