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Tuesday, 28 April 2026

(10.00 am)

LADY SMITH: Good morning, and welcome back to Phase 10 of our case study hearings in which we're looking into the provision by local authorities of residential care for children, both in places for which they were directly responsible or in other institutions that they used to fulfil their statutory responsibilities and use for placements.

Now, this morning we turn to a witness in person and I think she's from the City of Edinburgh Council; is that right, Mr MacAulay?

MR MACAULAY: Yes, good morning, my Lady. Yes, this is again Amanda Hatton.

LADY SMITH: Thank you.

And she was last here during Phase 8, I think, wasn't she.

MR MACAULAY: And also for Foster Care.

LADY SMITH: And of course for Foster Care, yes.

Amanda Hatton (affirmed)

LADY SMITH: Welcome back.

A. Thank you.

LADY SMITH: I'm grateful to you for coming to help us once more. When you were last here you were happy for me to use your first name; is that still all right?

1 A. Absolutely.

2 LADY SMITH: Thank you for that, Amanda.

3 You will remember that the red folders are where we  
4 put the written evidence that we've already been  
5 provided with on behalf of the council and I'm grateful  
6 to you for seeing to it that that's all there, including  
7 the addendum that's come in more recently.

8 You'll know that we're not going to drag you through  
9 it all page by page, but there are specific aspects that  
10 we'd like to look at.

11 Now, the system that we work to, I work to, has not  
12 changed. I'll sit from now until about 11.30 am for the  
13 morning break, unless you want a break at any other  
14 time, just let me know.

15 A. Okay.

16 LADY SMITH: And then we'll pause then and everyone can get  
17 a breather before we get back to your evidence, because  
18 I don't think we'll have finished it by 11.30 am but  
19 maybe Mr MacAulay will surprise me. No, I don't think  
20 so, probably not.

21 If you're ready, I'll hand over to Mr MacAulay and  
22 he'll take it from there.

23 Mr MacAulay.

24 Questions from Mr MacAulay

25 MR MACAULAY: My Lady.

1 Yes, good morning again, Amanda.

2 A. Good morning.

3 Q. You have given evidence before us, as her Ladyship has  
4 mentioned. In relation to foster care, you gave  
5 evidence on 8 November 2022 and that was Day 339 of the  
6 Inquiry, and just for the transcript, the transcript  
7 reference for that is TRN-10-000000087.

8 And you then again gave evidence on 28 January 2025  
9 and that was Day 518 of the Inquiry, and the reference  
10 for that is TRN-12-000000151.

11 And today, Amanda, you are here to represent City of  
12 Edinburgh Council, is that correct?

13 A. Yes.

14 Q. Now, you have already provided your personal details and  
15 indeed details of your CV, and just to summarise, you  
16 have a BA and MA in social and political sciences?

17 A. I do.

18 Q. And that was -- you graduated from the University of  
19 Cambridge?

20 A. I did.

21 Q. Since 1996, you have been a qualified social worker.

22 A. I have.

23 Q. Is that right?

24 A. It is.

25 Q. And your position now, at least it was last time you

1           came, was that of Executive Director, Children,  
2           Education and Justice Services, Edinburgh; is that still  
3           your position?

4    A.   I've had a slight title change since then.  I'm now  
5           Corporate Director of Children, Education and  
6           Communities.

7    Q.   Is that a different role?

8    A.   No.

9    Q.   And the -- your previous position you had held since  
10           2021?

11   A.   Yeah.

12   Q.   Previously you held senior positions, particularly with  
13           Blackpool Council and Lanarkshire?

14   A.   Lancashire.

15   Q.   And I think what you told us last time, Amanda, is that  
16           you believe that you have a proven record of  
17           significantly improving practice in relation to the care  
18           of children in the care system?

19   A.   Yeah.

20   Q.   And is that your mission in Edinburgh?

21   A.   Yeah, and it's a real passion of mine.

22   Q.   Now, when you gave evidence in the last occasion, in  
23           January 2025, your focus in particular was on Edinburgh  
24           secure services?

25   A.   Yeah.

1 Q. And that related to St Katharine's and Howdenhall, is  
2 that correct?

3 A. Yes.

4 Q. And I think also you may have spoken about Wellington  
5 but that was not within the secure services umbrella?

6 A. Yeah.

7 Q. And I think you told us last time that Edinburgh no  
8 longer provides secure services?

9 A. That's correct.

10 Q. So what is the position now with regard to residential  
11 care in Edinburgh?

12 A. So we have nine residential establishments within  
13 Edinburgh; eight of them are general residential  
14 provision and one is specialist provision for children  
15 who have got complex medical or physical needs.

16 Q. And I think the move has been on for some time, away  
17 from residential, large residential-type institutions  
18 into much more family home type of units?

19 A. So some of our buildings are still quite large, but  
20 we've got smaller numbers of children in those  
21 buildings, so we typically have four young people in  
22 a house now. And we've also turned one of our  
23 children's houses into an intensive family support  
24 edge-of-care provision and that's designed to be a kind  
25 of very short-term respite provision, but support

1 families to stay together, rather than children coming  
2 into the care system.

3 Q. And I think insofar as secure care is concerned then,  
4 I think I know you're not a fan of secure care, would  
5 that be fair to say?

6 A. Yeah. I think particularly secure care for children who  
7 have got welfare needs.

8 Q. Yes.

9 A. You know, it's -- children who have got very, very  
10 complex needs, need a wraparound package that gives them  
11 very intensive support. Putting them into secure care  
12 isn't that. You know, they quite often need really  
13 intensive therapeutic support, they might need mental  
14 health support, and that isn't what the secure estate is  
15 designed for. So it's a mismatch.

16 Q. But there has to be a secure estate?

17 A. Yeah, absolutely.

18 Q. Now, this chapter has had, as its focus, looking at  
19 Glenallan Children's Home and Clerwood Children's Home.

20 A. Yes.

21 Q. And you're here today because these were children's  
22 homes that were managed, if I put it generally, by  
23 Edinburgh?

24 A. Yeah.

25 Q. I fully appreciate that Edinburgh City Council did not

1           exist --

2   A.   Yeah.

3   Q.   -- during the life of these two establishments, but you

4           are the successor?

5   A.   Absolutely.

6   Q.   And you are, I think, though, in a position to speak to

7           certain aspects of the A to D responses?

8   A.   Yes.

9   Q.   And to the addenda that have been submitted --

10   A.   Yeah.

11   Q.   -- I think in November of last year?

12   A.   Yeah.

13   Q.   Can I remind you, Amanda, what you said when you last

14           gave evidence in January and what you said then was this

15           and I'll -- and I quote:

16                 'There was a widespread abuse of children in our

17                 care at the establishments.'

18                 And there, of course, you were focusing on in

19                 particular the Edinburgh secure care establishments.

20                 Can that be applied with equal force to Glenallan and

21                 Clerwood?

22   A.   Absolutely.

23   Q.   Because I think we know and you will be aware that in

24           relation to these two establishments, there were -- two

25           predatory sex abusers had positions of responsibility?

1 A. Yeah.

2 Q. And that was Gordon Knott, who was at Glenallan and  
3 Clerwood?

4 A. Yeah.

5 Q. And Brian MacLennar, who was at Clerwood?

6 A. Yes.

7 Q. And we know that they've both since been convicted of  
8 serious sex offences.

9 A. Yes.

10 Q. Now, you would also have had regard to the Edinburgh  
11 Inquiry Report, which was published in 1999 and it made  
12 a total of 135 recommendations. And I think information  
13 that Edinburgh have supplied to the Inquiry, those can  
14 be broken down to 97 that was directed at the social  
15 work department; is that your understanding?

16 A. Yeah.

17 Q. And can you just help me then with regard to the  
18 implementation of these recommendations? Can you give  
19 me an update?

20 A. Yeah. I think one of the challenges of Edinburgh has  
21 been that there have been a number of inquiries that  
22 have been implemented but not necessarily embedded, and  
23 I think the important -- and I think I said this last  
24 time: the important part, if you are sitting in my  
25 chair, is never to feel like you've finished the job of

1 implementing any of the recommendations in relation to  
2 an inquiry. It's about having a system in place that  
3 keeps children safe and moves with the requirements of  
4 changing practice and is professionally curious.

5 And I think the thing that comes out of the  
6 Edinburgh Inquiry for me, having re-read it again  
7 recently, is the lack of professional curiosity that  
8 runs through that inquiry. Children told numbers of  
9 staff what had happened and it wasn't acted upon or they  
10 weren't asked about what did they mean by that. So the  
11 poem is a really striking bit in there for me. You  
12 know, if a child had given you that poem, you would have  
13 gone back to that child and asked them about: what's  
14 that about? Why? What do you mean when you talk about  
15 'you don't know what's really happening'? Because you  
16 can read that poem in different ways but you need to  
17 have that relationship and have that conversation.

18 So we're doing lots of practical things and there  
19 are, you know, lots of reports that go up to our  
20 committees that are very much about kind of practical  
21 changes that have happened across social work practice  
22 generally in our residential provision in particular,  
23 and they are bearing fruit. You know, some of our  
24 residential provision now is excellent. We got an  
25 'excellent' for one of our children's houses, Drylaw in

1       its last -- its most recent inspection, which, you know,  
2       is brilliant. But it's also about a cultural shift,  
3       which is about having staff who are professionally  
4       curious and feel supported to be curious, supported to  
5       build relationships with children and young people. And  
6       that takes time, you know, and that needs work at all  
7       levels of the organisation.

8               We've got some brilliant practice in Edinburgh, but  
9       we all continue to need to be curious and need to  
10       continue to change.

11   LADY SMITH: Amanda, two things I just want to ask you about  
12       at this point. First of all, the poem that you're  
13       talking about is the one we referred to in evidence last  
14       week, I think?

15   A. Yeah.

16   LADY SMITH: And the girl doesn't say directly in the poem  
17       what it is that is making her record some quite  
18       troubling feelings and emotions if you think about what  
19       she's writing.

20   A. Yes.

21   LADY SMITH: We're on the same page with the poem. Thank  
22       you.

23               But separately, you said, having looked again at the  
24       Edinburgh Inquiry Report, it reminded you that since  
25       then there has been implementation of the many

1        recommendations that came from Kathleen Marshall, but  
2        what's been lacking, or what was lacking, was them being  
3        embedded?

4    A.    Yeah.

5    LADY SMITH:    Very briefly, how do you see the difference  
6        between implementation and embedding?

7    A.    So I think what's happened in Edinburgh historically is  
8        there's been an action plan, we've monitored the action  
9        plan, we've ticked and said, 'Yes, we've done that', and  
10       then we've missed that bit of the loop where we've gone  
11       back to check that we're still doing it. Or actually,  
12       should we be doing something different now because  
13       research and practice has moved forward.

14              So there's been a kind of belief that you have  
15       a plan and there is an end to that plan, and I don't  
16       think there is. I think it is about you implement  
17       something, but then you go back and check that you're  
18       still doing it.

19              So, you know, I'll give you an example. If you --  
20       if you've got a problem with children's care plans and  
21       the quality of children's care plans, you do a piece of  
22       work where you train lots of social work staff around  
23       improving the quality of care planning. You then do  
24       some odd activity that says your care planning is much  
25       better. Great. Tick. You've implemented that. But

1           then do you go back in six months' time and check that  
2           the care plans are still good? Do you talk to children  
3           and young people and say: actually, are the care plans  
4           achieving the outcomes that you want? Do you talk to  
5           frontline staff and say: is there something that's  
6           getting in the way of your care planning?

7           And that's the bit that I think has been missing,  
8           that we've not done that constant checking, that what we  
9           said we'd done, we're still doing, or are we still  
10          having the outcome that we wanted it to have in the  
11          first place. Because you can change a process, but it  
12          doesn't necessarily change an outcome, and I think  
13          that's been a problem.

14       LADY SMITH: Is that because if you're changing a system,  
15          which is what implementation of those sorts of  
16          recommendations is usually about, that's not a one-stop  
17          shop. You're doing something to a living, breathing  
18          process.

19       A. Yeah.

20       LADY SMITH: Day on day, there's a dynamism that you have to  
21          take account of and you have to be aware of that.

22       A. Yeah.

23       LADY SMITH: And the job is never done really, is it?

24       A. Exactly. Exactly.

25       LADY SMITH: I've got you. Thank you.

1           Mr MacAulay.

2   MR MACAULAY:  And if you don't take that approach then you  
3           don't develop meaningful, lasting change?

4   A.  Yeah, yeah.

5   Q.  Or indeed tangible improvement in practice?

6   A.  Yeah.

7   Q.  And I think you told us the last time how, for example,  
8           in the Gordon Collins Significant Case Review and indeed  
9           the McKinnon Report, how recommendations had been made,  
10          but not followed through?

11  A.  Yeah.

12  Q.  So is that something you are really actively working on?

13  A.  Yeah, it is.  And, you know, we have, we've made -- my  
14          team, my wider team, have made really, really  
15          significant progress in some areas.  You know, as  
16          I said, Drylaw got a six in their care inspection and we  
17          are really, really, really proud of that.  And  
18          consistently when young people are asked about the  
19          quality of residential care that they get, they talk  
20          about feeling loved, they talk about feeling safe, they  
21          talk about feeling happy.  You know, that's brilliant  
22          and that makes me really happy, and when I go out to see  
23          the children's houses, you can feel that.  You know, you  
24          can feel that those staff really care about those young  
25          people.

1           The young people tell you that it's much better.  
2           But it isn't perfect, you know, and we need to keep  
3           trying and making sure that we're asking ourselves the  
4           right questions, that we're hearing from young people  
5           who are telling us that we're still not getting some of  
6           it right.

7           You know, I met with the Champions Board a few weeks  
8           ago and they were telling me about the quality of  
9           information that they get when they come into care  
10          sometimes still isn't right. And it really made me  
11          think that, you know, I've taken children into care when  
12          I was a social worker and I remember having children in  
13          the back of the car, and that's a really stressful  
14          experience as a social worker, so I can only imagine  
15          what it's like as a child. And you have a leaflet and  
16          you give them the information and you tell them about  
17          coming into care, but when you're the child at the  
18          receiving end of that, all of that information doesn't  
19          necessarily compute, and of course it doesn't. When you  
20          think about it logically, of course that doesn't make  
21          any sense. So how can you give a child the information  
22          when they're coming into care that actually makes sense  
23          to them? You know, that is more than giving them  
24          a leaflet. How do you reinforce that?

25          So I think that's really important, that we're

1 constantly having those conversations with children and  
2 young people.

3 So one of the things that we're doing is we've  
4 developed or are in the process of developing an app  
5 which will give children and young people in care and  
6 care-experienced young people information, because  
7 that's the way that they need the information more than  
8 the way that I might have given it.

9 So I think it's that thing about never being  
10 complacent that it's okay. You know, things are better  
11 than they were, but they're not where we want them to be  
12 and we just need to keep trying.

13 Q. Can I look at the two establishments that this chapter  
14 has focused upon, that's Glenallan and Clerwood. And on  
15 the screen you will be able to look at the documents  
16 that I'm going to make reference to and the first  
17 document is the -- is part of the A to D response for  
18 Glenallan. It's at EDI.001.001.0096.

19 And if I could take you to page 6 of that document,  
20 and scroll down a little bit, can we see that you have  
21 provided some details about Clerwood?

22 A. Yeah.

23 Q. This is the Glenallan document, but I think you are  
24 covering all the children's homes that were the  
25 responsibility of Edinburgh at the time of the document.

1           And can we see that this establishment was  
2           established in January 1947 and we're provided with some  
3           information about it, but we see also that it closed in  
4           1981.

5   A.   Yeah.

6   Q.   And the reasons for that?

7   A.   I think that was about a change in practice and a move  
8           away from particular types of children's accommodation,  
9           so large children's accommodation into smaller  
10          children's accommodation. You know, looking at the kind  
11          of Time for Change programme that's referenced in here  
12          and starting to think about children needing a different  
13          kind of establishment that maybe wasn't run on such  
14          strict lines, was maybe more of a family-type  
15          establishment and could look at smaller groups of young  
16          people living in a situation that was more akin to  
17          a family situation, rather than an institutional  
18          situation.

19   Q.   And Glenallan was designed along these lines, wasn't it;  
20          it was to be more family orientated, as opposed to the  
21          larger institution that Clerwood was?

22   A.   Yeah, yeah.

23   Q.   If you look at page 9 of this document, and we scroll  
24          down, can we see that reference to Glenallan, and that  
25          was established in 1970, much more recently?

1 A. Yeah, yeah.

2 Q. And, why opened, and we need the text, it was opened as  
3 a family group home, and I think we had evidence that it  
4 could possibly house 12 children?

5 A. Yeah.

6 Q. From families --

7 A. Yeah.

8 Q. -- accommodated there.

9 And, why closed? As you have just been pointing  
10 out, the review reports emphasised a need to change to  
11 community-based care for children and a reduction in  
12 residential places. So that was the drift?

13 A. Yeah.

14 Q. And while we have that document on the screen, if we  
15 could turn to page 58. There, a heading,  
16 'Establishment', towards the top third of the page and  
17 you are being asked some questions as to the number of  
18 persons employed in some capacity. This is at  
19 Glenallan.

20 A. Yeah.

21 Q. And what you say there is:

22 'The unit operated in 1970. We are unable to give  
23 exact staffing numbers for the staff grouping for the  
24 period 1970-75.'

25 That's what is said there, so you don't have that

1 information?

2 A. No, and one of the -- so our record-keeping hasn't  
3 always been as good as it should have been, and also  
4 what has not been clear from some of the more historical  
5 information is where staff -- which particular house  
6 staff were employed to, because sometimes staff worked  
7 across a number of houses, so it's not exactly clear  
8 which house that they were working at.

9 Q. Okay. What we do learn in the next paragraph is that,  
10 we'll just read:

11 'Little information was found about the employees.  
12 Eight years into Glenallan's existence there was  
13 a review of staffing into residential establishments.  
14 Glenallan was noted as having no night cover.'

15 So there was a shortage of staff?

16 A. Yeah.

17 Q. And I think that's pointed out in the Edinburgh Report?

18 A. Yeah.

19 Q. Now, there is a section in the A to D response that  
20 deals with leadership. If I could turn in the document  
21 you have in front of you to page 71, there is a section  
22 towards the bottom of that page dealing with leadership  
23 and the question is asked: how was the establishment  
24 managed and led? And as we've observed, it was to be  
25 a family group home. And if I turn to the next page,

1 page 72, are we told towards the top that Glenallan was  
2 a local authority home run by the three senior staff,  
3 who would have comprised of officer in charge, depute  
4 officer in charge and third officer in charge?

5 A. Yes.

6 Q. And at a point in time Gordon Knott became the officer  
7 in charge?

8 A. Yes.

9 Q. And indeed that's what you go on to say at (ii):

10 'Little information found, although Gordon Knott had  
11 originally been appointed as depute in 1977. In 1979,  
12 he was appointed officer in charge and remained such  
13 until the unit closed in 1985.'

14 A. Yes.

15 Q. There's a question next: what was the oversight and  
16 supervision arrangements by senior management within the  
17 establishment? And what you tell us is this:

18 'No specific information could be found on the  
19 supervision regime at Glenallan, although the Director  
20 of Social Work at that time said he fully agreed with  
21 the Edinburgh Inquiry Report.'

22 Now, did that report indicate that there was a lack  
23 of supervision and is that what's being confirmed there?

24 A. Absolutely, yeah. I think supervision in terms of the  
25 term 'supervision' in social work, which means that kind

1 of one-to-one debriefing, but also supervision in terms  
2 of people visiting the houses and external eyes into the  
3 housing.

4 Q. And the text goes on to say:

5 'He explained to the inquiry that work pressures and  
6 the management of "huge budget cuts" since  
7 reorganisation had meant that the frequency of such  
8 visits had been reduced.'

9 So resources played a part?

10 A. Absolutely.

11 Q. And if we look at the equivalent Clerwood section, this  
12 is a different document and I'll give the reference for  
13 it, EDI.001.001.0002.

14 So this is the A to D response in respect of  
15 Clerwood and I want to take you to page 75, and towards  
16 the bottom of that page there's a section dealing with  
17 leadership.

18 We're told that initially Clerwood was managed  
19 within a structure which contained a matron and then  
20 houseparents, and there's references to that in minutes  
21 that you make mention of there.

22 A. Yeah.

23 Q. And then on page 76, do we essentially see the same sort  
24 of regime as existed at Glenallan, namely an officer in  
25 charge, a depute officer in charge and a third officer

1 in charge?

2 A. Yes.

3 Q. And if we read on in the next section, where you are  
4 asked about the names and qualifications, in the second  
5 paragraph do we see that written communication between  
6 Clerwood Children's Home and Edinburgh Corporation in  
7 1976 notes the following senior staff: Mr B MacLennan,  
8 who was the third officer in charge?

9 A. Yes.

10 Q. So again, just to refer to this, he had a position of  
11 some responsibility in Clerwood?

12 A. Yes.

13 Q. Can I just touch upon some of the material that gives us  
14 a little bit of background about those two people,  
15 that's Gordon Knott and Brian MacLennan. If I could put  
16 this on the screen, this is the Edinburgh Report.  
17 SGV-000024049.

18 If I could turn to page 20, and moving towards the  
19 bottom of the page first of all, can we see the section  
20 headed 'Profiles of the accused'?

21 A. Yes.

22 Q. And at 3.14 we're given some information about  
23 Gordon Knott and in particular at the age of 19 he went  
24 to Clerwood as what's called a nursery assistant; do you  
25 see that?

1 A. Yeah.

2 Q. And then in 1974 he became an assistant housefather and  
3 in 1976 he became a housefather?

4 A. Yes.

5 Q. And then in November 1977 he was appointed as a depute  
6 at Glenallan and in March 1979 he became the officer in  
7 charge there?

8 A. Yes.

9 Q. So do you have any comments to make on this person's  
10 background and in particular going to what appears to be  
11 a position of some responsibility at the age of 19?

12 A. It is very young to be working in residential provision  
13 and it is quite a fast rise through the ranks. That  
14 doesn't -- but it's hard to comment on something that  
15 happened such a long time ago without knowing the person  
16 and knowing, you know, some people can be absolutely  
17 brilliant at 19 and particularly young people who have  
18 experienced the care system themselves, who, you know,  
19 bring something different to care. And, you know, some  
20 people move into leadership positions quite quickly.  
21 But that does appear to be an unusual career trajectory.

22 Q. So far as Brian MacLennan is concerned, if we go on to  
23 page 21, at paragraph 3.18, the report provides us with  
24 some background material for him. He left school at 15  
25 with no qualifications. He trained as a plumber and

1 worked in manual occupations until 1971 when he and his  
2 wife emigrated to Australia.

3 And then the report goes on to say:

4 'There he appeared to have worked with young people  
5 with learning difficulties, a field in which he claimed  
6 to have received some training and on returning to  
7 Scotland, he was appointed to his position at Clerwood.'

8 And although I think it's noted here that he gave  
9 his Australian employers as referees, and a request for  
10 a reference was sent to them by Lothian Region, no reply  
11 appears to have been received.

12 That's the profile that's been sent out.

13 A. Yeah.

14 Q. And you do provide some information in the Section 21  
15 response in connection with Mr MacLennan and I'll just  
16 take you to that, it's a different document.

17 EDI.001.001.1385 -- I'll give the reference again:

18 EDI.001.001.1365.

19 This is one of the -- this is the Clerwood A to D  
20 response.

21 A. Yeah.

22 Q. And if you could turn to page 155, if we just scroll  
23 down a little bit to the bottom half, you'll see there's  
24 more information provided here in connection with  
25 Mr MacLennan. It repeats what was set out in the

1       Edinburgh Report. About halfway down the paragraph, can  
2       we read:

3             'It was subsequently reported in the Evening News  
4       (December 1997) that he had been employed as a crane  
5       operator and hospital porter during his time in  
6       Australia.'

7             So -- and going on:

8             'Following his resignation from Dean House, it is  
9       reported in the press that he secured a senior  
10      management position at a care establishment for the  
11      mentally handicapped.'

12            And he was dismissed from that role.

13            So there's a suggestion there that -- or there could  
14      be an inference that he may have misled --

15   A. Yeah.

16   Q. -- Lothian at the time when he made the application to  
17      work at Clerwood; there's that sort of inference there,  
18      isn't there?

19   A. Absolutely, yeah.

20   Q. Just going back to the issue of staff shortages. Again,  
21      I think I took from you, that was highlighted by the  
22      Edinburgh Report and if I could go back to that, that's  
23      at SGV-000024049. And if I could take you to page 29.

24   A. Okay.

25   Q. And scrolling down a little bit to 3.53, can we see that

1 it's been reported that:

2 'We were told how staff rotas and sleeping  
3 arrangements facilitated this abuse. Because of staff  
4 shortages, Knott did lots of shifts and encouraged other  
5 staff to go off early. Sleepover staff were reduced in  
6 number from two to one. Knott insists that the  
7 employment of night staff meant that he was not alone on  
8 duty.'

9 But is there a clear message here that really Knott  
10 appeared to have easy access, if I can put it that way,  
11 to children who were in his care?

12 A. Definitely.

13 Q. Was there an expectation that committee members would  
14 visit these establishments?

15 A. Yeah.

16 Q. And if we go back then to the Glenallan response,  
17 EDI.001.001.0096. And if we could turn to page 61.

18 A. Is that 61 or 51?

19 Q. 61. Yes, if you scroll down towards the bottom of the  
20 page, (vi):

21 'What visits were made by the governing body to the  
22 establishment?'

23 And what's been reported is:

24 'There are records of visits to establishments from  
25 as early as July 1949. Committee members visited the

1 establishments and reported back to the committee.  
2 Which establishments they visited, and when, has not  
3 been recorded.'

4 A. Yeah.

5 Q. So you know visits took place --

6 A. Yeah.

7 Q. -- from your records, but you don't know to what  
8 institutions?

9 A. No.

10 Q. And turning on to the next page, page 62. Again, at  
11 (ix), scroll down a little bit, would there be  
12 an expectation that if committee members visited, then  
13 they would speak to children?

14 A. Yeah, absolutely. It is difficult to -- you know, if  
15 children don't know who the committee members are and  
16 don't have a relationship with them, you know, young  
17 people might not want to speak to somebody that they're  
18 not particularly sure about. But the expectation would  
19 be that yeah, over time they would build a relationship  
20 and they would have conversations with young people.

21 Q. And in a way, that would hopefully provide some degree  
22 of oversight?

23 A. Yeah.

24 Q. And the question there is:

25 'Were children interviewed or spoken to by members

1 of the governing body during such visits?'

2 And your response is:

3 'There are no available records from the earlier  
4 visits so we can't confirm whether children were  
5 interviewed.'

6 A. Yeah.

7 Q. That's the position with Glenallan and indeed with  
8 Clerwood?

9 A. It is.

10 Q. Part C of both responses, the Glenallan response and the  
11 Clerwood response, are really very much in identical  
12 terms and they deal with the review -- a comprehensive  
13 review of policy up to the date of the response; that's  
14 what Part C does, it's a very lengthy section?

15 A. Yeah.

16 Q. Of course, that's long after the -- I think it's up to  
17 2017 -- that's long after the closure of the two  
18 establishments?

19 A. Yeah, yeah.

20 Q. If I could go to Part B of the document that's on the  
21 screen. That's at page 82. This is a section that is  
22 asking the provider whether there's to be  
23 a retrospective acknowledgement, admission, and in  
24 particular of abuse. And there's no dispute that  
25 serious sexual abuse was perpetrated at both these

1 institutions.

2 A. Absolutely not.

3 Q. At halfway down, if we scroll down, you talk about the  
4 Edinburgh Inquiry and that the inquiry made a number of  
5 recommendations which were all accepted and implemented  
6 and we've already just discussed that?

7 A. Yeah.

8 Q. But what you also say here at this point in time, and  
9 I'll move on from this in a moment:

10 'There is no acceptance that abuse other than that  
11 related to Knott and MacLennan occurred in Clerwood or  
12 Glenallan. It is not accepted that systemic  
13 organisational failure resulted in the abuse which  
14 occurred.'

15 So that was the position that was being taken at  
16 that time by the council?

17 A. It was.

18 Q. Why was that position being taken at that time?

19 A. I'm not sure why that position was taken at that point  
20 in time. I think it's because there was a view that  
21 Knott and MacLennan were acting as individuals and it  
22 wasn't taking into account necessarily the culture in  
23 which they were operating. I think if you take  
24 a cultural perspective on how it must have felt as  
25 a child to live in those establishments, you'd take

1 a different view.

2 Q. Can we see then what's been said in the addendum for,  
3 first of all for Glenallan. I'll put that on the screen  
4 for you. EDI-000006049. And if we can scroll down  
5 a little bit, this is again Part B we're looking at.

6 A. Yeah.

7 Q. And I think this narrative begins in a similar sort of  
8 way as the narrative that we looked at in the earlier  
9 Part B. But if we turn on to the next page, page 2,  
10 I think you elaborate upon the position and about  
11 a third of the way down from the top you say:

12 'Sexual abuse was not the only issue at Clerwood.  
13 Some former residents who spoke to the Inquiry talked  
14 about being forced to eat food out of the "trough" if  
15 they misbehaved. The "trough" contained a mixture of  
16 all kinds of food and ingredients. If they did not eat  
17 it, their heads and faces were pushed into the food on  
18 the trays. One former resident also reported being  
19 beaten with a stick and dog lead by a member of staff.'

20 So this is new information you've provided based on  
21 what was contained in the Edinburgh Report?

22 A. Yeah, absolutely.

23 Q. And you then go on to say:

24 'There are also some examples of physical abuse and  
25 other abusive practices taking place at Clerwood in the

1       1970s. In one child's records, there is evidence of  
2       a child being spanked for fighting, being given a kiss,  
3       causing the child to be shocked, being dragged out of  
4       his room and being made to stand facing the wall until  
5       he decided he was going to sleep, and having pressure  
6       applied to his ear when he would not get up in the  
7       morning.'

8                That's something you've taken from records?

9    A. Yeah.

10   Q. So that presumably was after the original submission of  
11       the Part B?

12   A. Yeah.

13   Q. And you go on to talk about a member of staff being  
14       dismissed due to mistreatment of children in 1976. And  
15       what was the mistreatment, do you know?

16   A. I think that relates to the trough incident.

17   Q. And then at the very bottom of the page you are asked  
18       the same question as before:

19                'Does the organisation/establishment accept that its  
20       systems failed to protect children cared for at these  
21       establishments between 1930 and December 2014 from  
22       abuse?'

23                And now the answer is 'yes'?

24   A. Absolutely.

25   Q. And what you do now, moving on in the following pages,

1       you set out the reasons why that view is now being  
2       taken. Is that --

3   A. Yeah, and I think it is also about, as I said a moment  
4       ago, taking that -- taking a child-centred view of what  
5       must it have been like to be a child who was living in  
6       that environment, and to be living in that environment  
7       would have been living in an abusive environment.

8   Q. But clearly there's been a sea change between the  
9       writing of the 2017 response and the 2025 response?

10  A. Yeah.

11  Q. And can you -- I just want to understand how that -- is  
12       it to do with different authors, or what's the position?

13  A. I think it's about a lot of work that we've done on  
14       understanding what has happened historically in  
15       Edinburgh. You know, I mentioned last time in my  
16       evidence the amount of work we've done looking at  
17       historic files, understanding the experience of  
18       children, and reflecting on what that meant. So part of  
19       it is that, you know, as you've said, there's more  
20       evidence, we've looked at more files.

21       But I think part of it as well is a shift in, you  
22       know, that kind of cultural shift, that practice shift  
23       around: what's it like -- what's the lived experience of  
24       this child like in this place today? Which is something  
25       that we talk about a lot more. You know, it's much --

1           that's the way that social work should be practising  
2           now.

3           And when you look at it through the lens of a child,  
4           you can't deny that living in that environment was  
5           abusive and was systematically abusive. And as we've  
6           detailed in there, there were systems that were in place  
7           that were not serving the children. You know, the  
8           recruitment issues, the rota issues, the external  
9           oversight. So it's clear that systems failed and the  
10          environment in which those children lived was abusive.

11 Q. And you set out the reasons. We needn't look at the  
12          detail of them. You've mentioned recruitment, rotas,  
13          external oversight, lack of training, caseload -- social  
14          worker caseloads running away. In fact, that was  
15          something that was highlighted particularly in  
16          connection with Clerwood, which should be a red flag?

17 A. Yeah. And it's back to that professional curiosity  
18          point that we talked about before, you know, and having  
19          a relationship with children. If children are running  
20          away, why are they running away, you know, and having  
21          somebody that that child feels safe enough with to tell  
22          them why they're running away and what's going on.

23 Q. We needn't look at Clerwood but I think you've set out  
24          the same position in the Clerwood addendum?

25 A. Yeah.

1 Q. Can I now look then at that part of the response that is  
2 Part D, that deals with -- it's headed 'Abuse and  
3 response'. That begins at page 135. And that's for  
4 Glenallan.

5 I'll give you the reference, EDI.001.001.2172. And  
6 page 135.

7 A. Yep.

8 Q. And this is -- the purpose of this section is to focus  
9 upon what knowledge the provider may have in relation to  
10 abuse and the response to abuse. And you provide some  
11 information from page 136, this is towards the bottom of  
12 the page, about the note, and in particular the note  
13 that was passed under the door. That's something that  
14 came out of the Edinburgh Inquiry?

15 A. Yeah.

16 Q. Can you just recap on that? I mean, what was your  
17 understanding?

18 A. I've found this, erm, really difficult, actually, to  
19 think about the note, because what you've clearly got  
20 there is a child who's trying to tell somebody what's  
21 happening to them and then ends up being interviewed by  
22 the person that they've addressed that to, who then  
23 doesn't stop it happening to them. And I think, you  
24 know, the fact that the abuse started again almost  
25 immediately after that note is really shocking and

1           really distressing.

2   Q.   And we heard evidence about the note.  Mr Knott has

3           a particular version, but the other version is that this

4           was a note that made an allegation of abuse against

5           Mr Knott.

6   A.   Yeah.

7   Q.   And it was viewed not just by Mr Knott, but by other

8           people --

9   A.   Yeah.

10  Q.   -- at the establishment and the boy was --

11  A.   And placed in the records.

12  Q.   Yes.  And the boy was, according to evidence, persuaded

13           to retract the allegation.

14  A.   Yeah.

15  Q.   And that was the end of it.

16  A.   Yeah.  And I think that's -- and it does say in one of

17           the reports, you know, in the inquiry, why it's so

18           important to maintain evidence of any allegation, even

19           if it's retracted, because children retract for a whole

20           host of reasons and, you know, it's back to that

21           professional curiosity point.  We need to understand why

22           children say these things.  Even if they retract them,

23           we need to take it seriously.

24  Q.   If I could move on then to page 156 of this document.

25           Towards the top you're asked the question about impact:

1           what is known about the impact of abuse on those  
2           children cared for at the establishment that were abused  
3           or alleged to have been abused?

4           And I think you've set out a number of bullet  
5           points. Can you perhaps just go through these for us?

6   A. Yeah. I mean, we know that the trauma that these young  
7   people experienced can, for some young people, for some  
8   people, have life-long impact. You know, I've recently  
9   done a face-to-face apology and it really struck me how  
10   impactful these kinds of experiences are on people. So,  
11   you know, and that can be for your whole life, in all  
12   aspects of your life. You know, it can be about ability  
13   to form relationships. It can be a need to  
14   self-medicate to dull the pain with other means, you  
15   know, which can lead to all kinds of addiction issues.  
16   So people who are often traumatised at the point at  
17   which they come into care are then re-traumatised in the  
18   care system, and that's a lot of trauma to carry with  
19   you.

20           You know, and those are the things that impact  
21   people who have got care experience. I do think it's  
22   really important to say though that, you know, there are  
23   lots of people who are care experienced who've had  
24   horrendous experiences but who manage to overcome those  
25   experiences and, you know, do go on to have incredible

1 lives, despite the trauma, and you know, and I think  
2 it's important to acknowledge that, actually, that's  
3 possible too --

4 Q. And I think the Inquiry has seen evidence of that.

5 A. Yeah, absolutely.

6 LADY SMITH: And Amanda, do we need to note that your six  
7 bullet points are only examples --

8 A. Absolutely.

9 LADY SMITH: -- of what you're aware of? For example, we've  
10 heard so often that people simply cannot trust  
11 authority.

12 A. Yeah.

13 LADY SMITH: Any form of authority.

14 A. Yeah. That's an issue, and feeling 'other'. You know,  
15 when I talk to young people who have been through the  
16 care system, there's that feeling like you're different.  
17 You know, the low self-esteem, but also being made to  
18 feel different.

19 You know, one of the things that young people often  
20 talk about is they don't want their social workers  
21 coming to see them at school because they're then  
22 different at school. You know, they understand why it  
23 might be that if they want to go and stay at their  
24 friend's house, we have to check out their friend's  
25 parents, but it makes them feel different. So that

1           sense of being different, that sense of being 'other' is  
2           something that people often carry -- carry through.

3   LADY SMITH:  And some things just aren't curable, such as  
4           not being able to enter into chat about what people are  
5           doing with their families during school holidays.

6   A.  Yeah, yeah, yeah.

7   MR MACAULAY:  And then there's a section in Part D that's  
8           dealing with specific complaints and if I can take you  
9           to that, same document, at page 158.

10           And if you just scroll down a little bit, it's  
11           question 5.9.  And:

12           'As at this time, have you noted under reference to  
13           the question how many specific complaints of abuse of  
14           children cared for at the establishment have been made?'

15           And at that time, in relation to Glenallan, you say  
16           there is a record of eight complaints?

17   A.  Yes.

18   Q.  Of alleged abuse?

19   A.  Yes.

20   Q.  At that time?

21   A.  Yeah.

22   Q.  And if I could turn -- and then you do set out some  
23           details of those who made the abuse and the nature of  
24           the --

25   LADY SMITH:  Made the allegations?

1 MR MACAULAY: They made the allegations, and the nature of  
2 the allegations.

3 If you could turn to page 159, (xi) about halfway,  
4 can we read there, we talk about the Edinburgh Inquiry  
5 and then:

6 'All the known victims of Gordon Knott received  
7 a letter from the then Director of Social Work stating:

8 "I now wish to express deep regret to you for what  
9 you have suffered as children and am saddened that you  
10 did so under arrangements which were called  
11 'childcare'".'

12 So that apology has been made?

13 A. It has.

14 Q. And if we turn to page 167 of the document, towards the  
15 top of that page, do you tell us that the organisation's  
16 litigation records show that two civil actions have been  
17 brought against Edinburgh?

18 A. Yes.

19 Q. For example, the first one mentioned there, there  
20 appears to have been a settlement reached. If you  
21 scroll down a little bit, at (viii)?

22 A. Yeah.

23 Q. Then if I go to the addendum to get an update on that,  
24 and that's at EDI-000006049, this is for Glenallan, and  
25 if we turn to page 7, you are asked the same question

1 about specific complaints, and you there make reference  
2 to one complaint. Is that then an additional complaint  
3 to the previous complaints?

4 A. I think so.

5 Q. Yes. And you're asked about who made the complaint and  
6 you provide some information about that.

7 A. Yeah.

8 Q. And then on page 9 towards the top, at 5.10, do you now  
9 tell us that the organisation's litigation records show  
10 that five civil actions have been brought against the  
11 organisation?

12 A. Yeah.

13 Q. And that two have previously been provided. Does that  
14 mean a total of five actions?

15 A. Yes.

16 Q. Including the previous two?

17 A. Yeah.

18 Q. So can I then do the same exercise with Clerwood and  
19 look at the Part D section for it, and that's at, begins  
20 at EDI.001.001.1365.

21 LADY SMITH: And then the page number?

22 MR MACAULAY: It begins at page 132, but if I can move to  
23 page 157. Again, the question about specific complaints  
24 towards the bottom, 5.9. Can we read here that you have  
25 a record of 21 complaints of alleged abuse of children

1           cared for at Clerwood?

2   A.   Yes.

3   Q.   And if we move on to the next page, just to pick this  
4       up, 158, (ix), do you say:

5           'Gordon Knott was convicted of 11 crimes committed  
6       at Clerwood.'

7           In fact, it's both Clerwood and Glenallan.

8   A.   Yeah, it is.

9   Q.   And you go on to set out details of the complaints from  
10       page 158 onwards and at page 174, towards the top,  
11       dealing with civil actions, do you tell us that the  
12       litigation records show that four civil actions have  
13       been brought against the organisation relating to  
14       alleged abuse of children at Clerwood?

15  A.   That's right.

16  Q.   And the addendum then for Clerwood is at EDI-000006047.  
17       I think pages 1 to 6 are in similar terms to the  
18       addendum for Glenallan.

19           If I could take you to page 7, towards the top, in  
20       relation to specific complaints, do you say that:

21           'We have traced two records of complaints of alleged  
22       abuse of children cared for at Clerwood.'

23           And again can I ask you: is that in addition to the  
24       21?

25  A.   Yeah.

1 Q. You then have a section dealing with the complaints and  
2 who made the complaints, and if I could just pick up  
3 what's said in the rest of that page, because at (iii)  
4 you've identified a handwritten letter in microfiche  
5 with no date about this complaint; is that what's being  
6 set out here?

7 A. It is.

8 Q. And the microfiche letter that you have says this:

9 'Clerwood wasn't a very nice children's home because  
10 of [a person] who was responsible for my big brother's  
11 bruises because of the beating up [he was given].'

12 That's what broadly speaking has been recorded?

13 A. It is.

14 Q. Is this something that they came across -- clearly it  
15 wasn't put forward with the original section D response  
16 in 2017, so is this -- are these records that you have  
17 come across since then?

18 A. Yeah, I think this is -- as I said before, a lot of  
19 work's been done on going back through historic records  
20 and I think this has come to light as part of that work.

21 Q. The report goes on to say in the microfiche that  
22 residential workers have documented several instances of  
23 what appears to be inappropriate behaviour or physical  
24 abuse by staff. These are quoted below as context:

25 'I gave him a spanking tonight as he was fighting.'

1           Then:

2           'I gave him a kiss tonight just before I turned out  
3           the light. He was shocked to say the least.'

4           The next day, the same worker gives him 'a packet of  
5           crisps found in our cupboard no one had claimed'.

6           The next reference is:

7           'Dragged him out of his room and made him stand  
8           facing the wall until he decided he was going to sleep.'

9           And then:

10          'He wouldn't get up in the morning even after  
11          I applied pressure to his ear.'

12          So clearly, the records were there to indicate that  
13          inappropriate behaviour, along the lines set out, was  
14          being perpetrated?

15         A. Absolutely.

16         LADY SMITH: Amanda, do I take it though that there's no  
17          indication in the records that anybody other than the  
18          author of these entries was reading them?

19         A. It's not clear. It is clear in some of the records that  
20          other people have read them, but I don't know about  
21          these specific, specific examples. I think it is clear  
22          in the inquiry though that people told people about  
23          information and nothing changed and nothing happened.

24         LADY SMITH: But I was thinking, for example, this record  
25          about the child being given 'a kiss tonight', and then,

1 'he was shocked', and, 'the next day a packet of crisps  
2 found in our cupboard nobody had claimed', that that  
3 worker gave to the child, that all seems to have come  
4 from the worker noting that?

5 A. Yeah.

6 LADY SMITH: What would you expect to have been done or be  
7 done today if somebody in any supervisory position read  
8 that?

9 A. Well, what's unusual about this is, and it speaks to the  
10 culture of the place, is that workers have felt  
11 comfortable writing that down in a record. Because that  
12 suggests that that's, you know, that's the way you do  
13 things there. So it suggests that that's kind of normal  
14 practice. Because to write that down if you thought you  
15 were doing something wrong, if you thought that was not  
16 okay, that's -- so that suggests to me a culture where  
17 this happens and this is normal.

18 So you wouldn't expect that to be what happened in  
19 residential care. That's not appropriate. You know,  
20 it's not care. And then, as you say, you would expect  
21 somebody who is observing that behaviour, who is working  
22 with people who are behaving like that, to do something  
23 about that and, if people aren't listening, to keep  
24 speaking out until something changes and something  
25 happens. And, you know, I'm only confident that would

1       happen today. I have had staff come to me, fairly  
2       recently, to talk to me about what has happened  
3       historically in homes that they've worked in, because  
4       they want to tell me about what's happened and they want  
5       to tell me about how different it is now, you know. And  
6       I would -- any staff that have worked for Edinburgh or  
7       are still working for Edinburgh who want to come and  
8       talk to me about any of that, I would absolutely  
9       encourage them to come forward.

10    LADY SMITH: If we move on to the page 208, 14 December 1977  
11       entry:

12               'Dragged the child out of his room. Made him stand  
13       facing the wall until he decided he was going to sleep.'

14               I wondered whether what we're seeing here is  
15       an element of the worker recording something so that if  
16       any concern about it is raised later, they can point to  
17       the recording being made at the time and nobody telling  
18       them they shouldn't be doing that?

19    A. Possibly.

20    MR MACAULAY: Moving on then to page 8 and looking at  
21       another complaint, at (ii), just below halfway. The  
22       name has been redacted. The inquiry clearly knows who  
23       it is and it's somebody who was a complainer in the  
24       second trial that Gordon Knott had.

25    A. Yeah.

1 Q. And it would appear this is a complaint, at (iii),  
2 that -- or complaints -- that were made to the council  
3 on 22 December 2023 as part of this person's pastoral  
4 support when accessing his records; do you see that?

5 A. Yeah.

6 Q. And his complaint is directed in particular against  
7 Gordon Knott, but also social workers. And the nature  
8 of the complaint, we read at (v):

9 'Sexual abuse by Gordon Knott. Inaction by social  
10 workers when reported.'

11 And what this person said in 2023 is this:

12 'He said that he told staff three times about being  
13 molested by Gordon Knott. They only called the police  
14 the first time and he remembers being shouted at and  
15 told he could have lost that man his job.'

16 Now, that's quite devastating, isn't it?

17 A. It is, yeah. It's very difficult to read.

18 Q. Because that appears to have been a contemporaneous  
19 report of abuse?

20 A. Yeah.

21 Q. That involved the police?

22 A. Yeah. And that comes through, you know, that comes  
23 through the inquiry, doesn't it? That children --

24 Q. Sorry?

25 A. It comes through the inquiry that children, you know,

1 talk about telling people regularly and not being heard.

2 Q. But I think this is even information that wasn't before  
3 the Edinburgh Inquiry.

4 A. Mm.

5 Q. And he then implicates the social workers, because he  
6 says in the next paragraph:

7 'He said that he told his social worker what was  
8 happening and that she and her senior knew that  
9 Gordon Knott was abusing them and they did nothing.'

10 A. Mm-hm. Again, that's devastating to read.

11 Q. And it goes on to say:

12 'He recounts a member of staff. He said he warned  
13 her about Gordon Knott and she told him ...'

14 Something about Gordon and it would appear that  
15 nothing happened?

16 A. Mm.

17 Q. And he told the council that:

18 'Three days after he was molested, he [REDACTED]  
19 [REDACTED]. He said he wasn't seriously injured.'

20 So you can see there a direct impact on this  
21 individual?

22 A. Absolutely, yeah.

23 Q. Now, in relation to the position with regard to civil  
24 actions in connection with Clerwood, if you turn to  
25 page 10 of the addendum, question 5.10, I think you are

1           now telling us that the litigation records show that ten  
2           civil actions have been brought?

3   A.   That's correct.

4   Q.   And that includes the previous four?

5   A.   Yeah.

6   Q.   And thereafter there's information provided as to the  
7           state of play in relation to these actions.  Some are  
8           ongoing, some have settled, and some have been rebuffed?

9   A.   Yeah.

10  Q.   Very well, Amanda.  That's really all I propose to ask  
11       you about Glenallan and Clerwood.

12           Just picking up a couple of points from your  
13       previous evidence to see whether or not you can perhaps  
14       help us with this.  Previously you told us about the  
15       systems that were in place at Edinburgh, the Swift  
16       system and moving on to the Mosaic system.  What's the  
17       update on that; is that complete?

18  A.   Not quite.  We're nearly there.  We are transferring  
19       data, because obviously there's huge amounts of data  
20       that needs to be transferred over to the new system.  
21       We're in the process of doing that.  We're doing the  
22       training for social workers at the moment and we'll be  
23       going live at the beginning of June.

24  Q.   Okay.  And you think, judging by what you said in your  
25       evidence, that that was going to make quite

1 a significant difference to your record-keeping?

2 A. Yeah. It will make it -- it will make a difference from  
3 two perspectives. One is it's much easier to use as  
4 a social worker, it's much more intuitive. It works  
5 through a kind of work flow of how you would be working  
6 through the system. So it's just much easier to use.  
7 But it's also much, much easier as a young person who is  
8 looking at your own records, or when you come back to  
9 get access to your records, to make sense of what's  
10 happened, because it's all in the same place and there  
11 is a logical flow to it.

12 It's also easier to sit and work with a family to  
13 kind of co-create and co-write the records, rather than  
14 they'll be seeing something that -- you know, council  
15 records, because they're not, they're the child's  
16 records and they should be something that a child feels  
17 a sense of ownership with.

18 So I'm quite excited -- sounds a bit sad, but I'm  
19 quite excited about Mosaic because I think it will make  
20 a big difference to young people and to staff.

21 Q. And Mosaic is in place with other local authorities --

22 A. Absolutely it is. Yeah, it's the most used system in  
23 Scotland.

24 Q. I had to read your evidence in relation to the  
25 proliferation of committees more than once because it's

1 quite a complicated picture?

2 A. It is.

3 Q. I think in response to her Ladyship, you were to provide  
4 us with what was referred to as organogram.

5 A. Yeah.

6 Q. Have you done that?

7 A. Yeah, I think you've had a number of different versions  
8 of that, which kind of speaks to the point of how  
9 complex it is.

10 Q. So you have sent us that?

11 A. Yeah, yeah.

12 MR MACAULAY: Very well, Amanda.

13 My Lady, I haven't been -- I haven't received any  
14 questions to put to Amanda.

15 And, Amanda, is there anything else you would like  
16 to say before you leave us?

17 A. No. I just think -- yeah, it's obviously my third time  
18 here, but it has been really difficult to read back some  
19 of the information for this chapter, and actually to  
20 read the testament of people that have come forward and  
21 how brave they've been in coming forward and telling  
22 their stories, and I just wanted to say that, you know,  
23 that it does make a difference and it is appreciated.

24 MR MACAULAY: Very well. Thank you for coming.

25 LADY SMITH: Amanda, thank you. We've made better progress

1 than I thought we might. It's been really good to be  
2 able to hear you again this morning, and thank you for  
3 the updates you've given us on your work with the  
4 council.

5 I take particularly from that what we discussed  
6 briefly about needing to recognise that it's all an  
7 ongoing process. The job's never done, is it?

8 A. Absolutely.

9 LADY SMITH: Well, thank you for sticking with it and for  
10 all the work that you do do for the protection of  
11 children in Edinburgh.

12 Please feel free to go.

13 A. Thank you.

14 (The witness withdrew)

15 MR MACAULAY: Now, my Lady, that is it for this morning and  
16 indeed for this chapter.

17 This afternoon the next chapter, which will be  
18 looking at Red House, will begin, and that will be  
19 managed by the highly organised team of Mr Sheldon and  
20 Ms Forbes.

21 LADY SMITH: Very well.

22 So you're inviting me to rise now until 2 o'clock  
23 this afternoon and then we move on to Red House.

24 Well, thank you very much. Thank you.

25 (11.13 am)

1 (The luncheon adjournment)

2 (2.00 pm)

3 LADY SMITH: Good afternoon. Now, as promised, we change  
4 gear, we go to a different institution and I turn to  
5 Mr Sheldon.

6 MR SHELDON: That's right, my Lady. We're looking for the  
7 next couple of days at Red House Children's Home in  
8 Musselburgh. Red House was open from 1931 to 1986. It  
9 initially catered only for boys, but began to admit  
10 girls, a fairly small number of girls, from around 1980.

11 Red House was located in a substantial sandstone  
12 house overlooking the River Esk in Musselburgh on  
13 Millhill, which is just behind the high street.

14 LADY SMITH: Hence its name. The sandstone would have been  
15 red; the house being called Red House.

16 MR SHELDON: Indeed, my Lady, quite so. We've got a couple  
17 of photographs. We can show those tomorrow when we have  
18 witnesses.

19 The plan is to have an afternoon of read-ins today.  
20 There are, I think, seven read-ins altogether and then  
21 we have two applicant witnesses in person tomorrow  
22 morning, and the organisational witness for the  
23 Red House Home Trust is on Thursday morning.

24 LADY SMITH: Yes. Thank you.

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'Jack' (read in)

MR SHELDON: So, my Lady, with that I'll turn to the first of the read-ins, which is a witness statement of 'Jack'. 'Jack's' statement has been previously read in on two occasions, firstly in Phase 2, hearings on the Sisters of Nazareth, and then in Phase 4, in the Christian Brothers' section. So those were Days 51 and 129 respectively. The transcript references are TRN.001.003.0617 at page 85, and TRN.001.006.0143, page 52.

My Lady, 'Jack' was born in 1951. He was sent to initially -- he was born in St Francis Maternity Hospital and sent initially to Nazareth House in Kilmarnock at a very young age, aged just about 2. And he talks in some detail about his time at Nazareth House and that, as I say, has been read in already, so I'll leave that and go to page 9.

It seems that 'Jack' left Nazareth House in around [REDACTED] 1957 but his dates, according to the records, at Red House are [REDACTED] 1960 to [REDACTED] 1962 and it's perhaps unclear what was happening in the interim period, my Lady. But certainly the records suggest 1960 to 1962 are his dates at Red House.

LADY SMITH: So he's about 9 years old then when he arrives there.

1 MR SHELDON: Yes, my Lady. 9 or 10. Certainly he says,  
2 paragraph 57:

3 'I was sent to Red House from the age of 10 until  
4 13.'

5 And reading on:

6 'It was boys only. There was no religious element  
7 to the home. It was a weird place. It was a lonely  
8 place. It didn't look or feel like a home.

9 'I really can't remember anything about the routine  
10 at Red House. I know we went to school but I can't  
11 remember the details. I can't remember having any  
12 visits from family or social work. My sisters had all  
13 remained at Nazareth House. I can't remember the food  
14 or the healthcare. I can only remember the abuse.

15 'We would have a shower every night at Red House.  
16 We would line up in a queue. There were shower cubicles  
17 with swing doors on. The doors had large gaps at the  
18 top and the bottom. You could see into the cubicle if  
19 you wanted to. The showers were supervised by one  
20 member of staff. The staff worked on a shift system.  
21 It was not always the same staff member on duty.

22 'There was a care worker who was called LHB  
23 I think his surname was LHB. I think he was about  
24 26 years old. He would supervise the showers when he  
25 was on duty.

1           'He would watch us in the showers. He would be  
2 touching himself. It was very obvious. He didn't try  
3 to disguise it. He never touched us physically.

4           'When he was on shift, he would keep me back until  
5 the end of the line. There was another boy who was five  
6 years older than me that would be kept back too. The  
7 boy's name was Robert Black. I always knew what was  
8 coming when I was kept back.'

9           And I should pause there to note, my Lady, that the  
10 Robert Black he's talking about went on to be convicted  
11 of a number of murders in 1994 --

12 LADY SMITH: Yes.

13 MR SHELDON: -- and 2011, and was suspected of multiple  
14 other murders of children during the period 1969 to  
15 1987.

16 LADY SMITH: I think all his victims were children, have  
17 I got that right?

18 MR SHELDON: That appears to be right, my Lady.

19 LADY SMITH: Yes, or at least under 18 years old.

20 MR SHELDON: Yes. He goes on:

21           'LHB [REDACTED] would put Robert into my shower cubicle  
22 with me. Robert would act upon the instructions of  
23 [REDACTED]. [REDACTED] would tell Robert what do to me.  
24 Robert would begin by touching me with the soap.  
25 [REDACTED] would be watching.

1           'On one occasion Robert forcibly entered me anally.  
2           It was on LHB's instructions. I was screaming with  
3           pain. I was bleeding a lot from my back passage.  
4           LHB was trying to keep the noise down because I was  
5           screaming so much.

6           'I was only raped on that one occasion.

7           'After the rape, I ran away. The police picked me  
8           up in Edinburgh. I was 10 years old and walking about  
9           Edinburgh at 11.00 pm. I must have stood out. I don't  
10          know how I had managed to get there from Musselburgh.'

11          My Lady, I pause there again to note that there's  
12          vouching for that matter, that chapter in the records,  
13          it's at GLA.001.001.6416, at pages 3 and 7.

14   LADY SMITH: Thank you.

15   MR SHELDON: 'The police asked me why I had run away.

16           I told them that I didn't know. I didn't know how the  
17           home would react if I had told the police. In those  
18           days you didn't speak about those kind of things.

19           'The home did not want the police turning up and  
20           asking questions. So from that moment, the home was  
21           very keen to get rid of me. That is when I was sent to  
22           another home.

23           'I'm not sure if LHB had threatened me  
24           to keep me silent. I know that I was scared of him. I  
25           did not tell anyone what had happened. I did not report

1 it to Red House staff, the police or the social work.

2 'I did make a report to CID in Dalkeith six years  
3 ago. It was after Robert Black had been found guilty of  
4 multiple child murders. I think the police went to  
5 speak to him whilst he was in prison in England.'

6 He goes on, my Lady, to talk about a short period at  
7 Bellsford House, where he says nothing happened and he's  
8 then sent to St Ninian's in Fife, and again that chapter  
9 has been read in already, my Lady, so if we can turn to  
10 page 16.

11 My Lady, the section on impact has already been read  
12 in, but I just want to pick up two particular points.  
13 At paragraph 101, where he notes that:

14 'The impact on my mental health has been  
15 devastating. I have learnt not to trust anyone. I have  
16 no confidence.'

17 And he goes on in paragraph 102 to say:

18 'I've been diagnosed with historic, post-traumatic  
19 stress disorder. It's been attributed to the abuse  
20 I suffered in care, the abuse at Red House in  
21 particular.'

22 And if we then pass to page 18, please, where 'Jack'  
23 gives other information, paragraph 113:

24 'I know that LHB [REDACTED] went on to work in  
25 other places where there were vulnerable boys. I met

1 him again in Edinburgh in a place called Ponton House.  
2 It was a hostel for young boys who had come straight out  
3 of care. The hostel was supposed to help the boys with  
4 finding a job.

5 'LHB [REDACTED] left Ponton House under a cloud for some  
6 reason. I then saw him working at a place [REDACTED] Secondary Institutions

7 [REDACTED] Secondary Institutions - to be published later

8 [REDACTED] Secondary I couldn't believe it. He must have  
9 deliberately sought out jobs where there were vulnerable  
10 boys or boys from care.'

11 And he goes on to say:

12 'I hope the Inquiry fulfils its purpose. If there's  
13 anyone still working in care abusing children, I hope  
14 the Inquiry finds them. I hope the Inquiry stops them  
15 from ruining anyone else's life.'

16 And he's made the usual declaration and signed the  
17 statement, my Lady.

18 LADY SMITH: Thank you.

19 MR SHELDON: And again, I just pause to note that the matter  
20 relating to [REDACTED] LHB [REDACTED] at Ponton House is supported  
21 by another applicant whose evidence we've heard read in  
22 and that was Trevor Swistchew, whose evidence was read  
23 in on Day 507. The transcript reference is  
24 TRN-12-000000140, and records place [REDACTED] LHB [REDACTED] at  
25 Ponton House from around 1965.

1           My Lady, with that, I'll hand over to Ms Forbes who  
2           has another read-in.

3   LADY SMITH: Thank you.

4   MR SHELDON: Ms Forbes reminds me that the witness statement  
5           reference for 'Jack's' statement is WIT.001.001.3887.

6   LADY SMITH: Thank you.

7           (Pause)

8   MS FORBES: Apologies, my Lady.

9   LADY SMITH: That's all right.

10   MS FORBES: The system's just starting up.

11           My Lady, the next statement is from an applicant  
12           who's anonymous and is known as 'Stewart'.

13   LADY SMITH: Thank you.

14                         'Stewart' (read in)

15   MS FORBES: And the reference for 'Stewart's' statement is  
16           WIT-1-000000343.

17           My Lady, 'Stewart' tells us that he was born in 1952  
18           and talks about his life before going into care from  
19           paragraph 2 onwards. He tells us he was born in Leith.  
20           His dad was a seaman and worked on the trawlers. And he  
21           lived initially with his parents in a camp full of  
22           Nissen huts at Lochinvar which was in Granton and he  
23           says he doesn't remember that.

24           But he had a sister who was a year older than  
25           her (sic). However, his parents then went on to have

1       nine other children.

2             He tells us that his sister went to a convent and  
3       the first time he remembers seeing her was when he was  
4       about 16, and all of his siblings were brought up in  
5       care, some all their lives and some for shorter terms.

6             'Stewart' tells us at paragraph 3 of his statement  
7       that they were very poor, his parents often argued and  
8       fought. They drank, but his mum was the heavier drinker  
9       and with that she was -- 'came her cruelty, laziness and  
10      violence', he says.

11            He tells us at paragraph 4 that when he was 6 weeks  
12      old, he was dumped on a step at a children's home in  
13      Canning Lane, Edinburgh. He doesn't know how long he  
14      stayed there for. And then he believes he was taken to  
15      foster carers in Fife and his memories aren't clear,  
16      just distant in relation to that time.

17            He then talks about foster care in Fife from  
18      paragraphs 5 to 22 and he tells us that he suffered  
19      abuse there from his foster carer and some sexual and  
20      physical abuse from a girl who was older, who was  
21      staying at the same foster home.

22            If we then go further in his statement, from  
23      paragraph 23 onwards, he tells us that he was 5 or 6  
24      when he was taken away from -- or removed from that  
25      foster care and he was taken back to his parents' house,

1 and he says that it was just him living back with them  
2 at home. And he says they were in Niddrie Mains in  
3 Edinburgh by then and living in a house.

4 He talks about the fact that he was suffering from  
5 severe malnutrition at that time and he tells us some  
6 information about the papers being involved and him  
7 having his picture taken, this is at paragraph 26, and  
8 that he was so skinny, and there's some kind of  
9 investigation that took place in relation to his care  
10 with the foster parent.

11 He tells us though, life back home was not good.  
12 This is at paragraph 27. Things turned sour very  
13 quickly and he was taken from primary school away to  
14 Redhall House in Edinburgh. He says he was only at  
15 school for a matter of weeks before he was removed and  
16 he says he thinks his mum had gone on the drink again  
17 and he ended up going back and forward between Redhall  
18 and the family home. And he thinks he was returned home  
19 when his mum would come off the drink and it was  
20 a back-and-forward thing and he never knew if he was  
21 coming or going.

22 Paragraph 28, 'Stewart' tells us every time he went  
23 home it was the same. He was made to do all the  
24 housework, make breakfast, light the fire, run messages  
25 and clean up and he was regularly beaten by his mother,

1 and when the other siblings came along, he had to do all  
2 the looking after of them, and he says that was  
3 confusing for a child of his age.

4 He then tells us about Redhall House in Edinburgh  
5 between paragraphs 29 and 57 **Secondary Institutions - to be published later**  
6 **Secondary Institutions - to be published later**

7 And then if we go on to paragraph 58 of his  
8 statement, he thinks he was 8 years old by the time he  
9 finally left Redhall House and he says that that was  
10 without any warning or explanation and he was put in  
11 a room and taken in a car to Red House.

12 'Stewart' then tells us about Red House from  
13 paragraph 59 and we know from his -- from the records,  
14 sorry, the register from Red House, which seems to be  
15 very complete and has the details of all the admissions  
16 and discharges of residents, he was admitted on **[REDACTED]**  
17 1962. He would have been aged 10. And he was  
18 discharged on **[REDACTED]** 1964 and by then he would have  
19 been aged 12.

20 LADY SMITH: Thank you.

21 MS FORBES: 'Stewart' then says from paragraph 59:

22 'Red House was in Mill Lane, Musselburgh. It was  
23 **SNR** by **FSK** and his wife **FSE** who was **SNR**  
24 **SNR**. They had a son and daughter. Mr **FRT** worked  
25 there and Mr Clark was **SNR**. Mrs Bryce

1 was the cook and I believe she and Mr FRT lived on  
2 the premises, as did Mr FSK and his family.

3 'It was a private house in a walled garden with  
4 a vegetable patch. It had a tarmac yard with a couple  
5 of workshops. There was a school shelter and a sandpit.  
6 The older boys had a building with a games room with  
7 snooker and billiard tables. There was a house that the  
8 cook, Mrs Bryce, stayed in near [REDACTED]  
9 [REDACTED]. There was an outside toilet with a urinal  
10 and cubicles and if you were out in the yard, that's  
11 where you were expected to use.

12 'Inside, there was a washroom with rows of sinks and  
13 toilets. Down a corridor led to the recreation room and  
14 dining room. Past the dining room there was the kitchen  
15 on the right. There was a sitting room used by Mr and  
16 Mrs FSE-FSK. There was a winding staircase that led to  
17 a linen room, then a dormitory, and through that led to  
18 another dormitory. Staff working overnight stayed in  
19 a room nearby. There was a spiral staircase which led  
20 to a dormitory and staffroom. FSK had his rooms  
21 up there too. There were also attic dormitories each  
22 containing five beds.

23 'I believe Red House could take up to 30 boys, but  
24 there was rarely that many and a lot were not there  
25 long-term. There were no girls at this place. The boys

1 ranged in age from 7 or 8 years old up to 15 years. You  
2 had to leave by the time you were 16.'

3 Then he lists some of the boys he remembers by name  
4 and by nickname, and he says they were all aged about 14  
5 or 15.

6 He tells us then about younger boys his age and  
7 gives us their names and nicknames.

8 He tells us further on in paragraph 62:

9 'I don't think you could make strong friendships in  
10 a place like this because people were always being moved  
11 either back home or elsewhere.'

12 And he tells us about another boy who was put in  
13 there when his mum went on holiday. He says that that  
14 boy's dad was a solicitor and that he heard in later  
15 years that he'd committed suicide but he doesn't know if  
16 that's the case or not.

17 He goes on at paragraph 63:

18 'There was a school register which was blue in  
19 colour and was also used to record pocket money and good  
20 behaviour. There was also a punishment register which  
21 was similar, but it was a separate book.

22 'FSO [REDACTED] came to work after I arrived. He had  
23 been in the Argyle and Sutherland Highlanders and used  
24 to tell us stories about Pearl Harbour and fighting the  
25 Japanese. He had all the names of those in his platoon

1 tattooed on his shoulder. He used to play cricket and  
2 rounders with us, but everything he did was in  
3 a military style. He had also been in a prisoner of war  
4 camp and would have us marching around the yard army  
5 style.'

6 He goes on to talk about routine and his first day  
7 from paragraph 65. 'Stewart' says:

8 'I was given a number [and he tells us the number]  
9 when I started there, although the staff referred to me  
10 by my surname. My towels, toothbrush and towel peg had  
11 [his number] on them. My dormitory was at the top of  
12 the stairs in the first room you came to and my bed was  
13 third on the right. The beds were made up army style  
14 and I was shown once how to fold the bedding into  
15 a bundle and wrap a blanket round it. It had to be  
16 right. The blankets had to be square with the folds all  
17 the same as the one underneath. You had to fold the  
18 mattress up and then put your bedding on top of it just  
19 like you would do in the army. This was how the whole  
20 place was run. It was all very regimental.

21 'We were awoken at 6.30 am every morning and  
22 FSK would inspect the dormitories every day. He  
23 would throw your bedding off the bed if it wasn't right  
24 and you had to remake your bed repeatedly until he was  
25 happy with it. It was a very strict regime. If you got

1       it wrong, you were never shown how to do it correctly.  
2       You just had to keep remaking it and sooner or later you  
3       would get it right. There was also a small locker at  
4       the side of the bed and if it was dusty, he would push  
5       it over and you would have to sort and polish it. Each  
6       locker had a torch within it.

7                'We went to bed at 8.00 pm but the older boys got to  
8       stay up until 9.00 pm.

9                'Breakfast was porridge in the winter and cereal  
10       such as cornflakes during the summer. Mrs Bryce was  
11       a good cook so there were no problems with the food.

12               'Every Sunday was washing night and we would all  
13       have a shower. When I first went there they had  
14       a couple of baths and rows of sinks, but about  
15       six months or so later it was altered and four showers  
16       were installed.

17               'We had to wear a black woolly jersey, khaki shorts,  
18       T-shirt, ankle socks and rubbers, which were gym shoes.  
19       Once you were 13 or 14, you got to wear long trousers.  
20       The home was called the "jaggy jersey home" by the  
21       locals because of the woolly jerseys we wore and the  
22       locals would threaten their children if they didn't  
23       behave they would be sent to the jaggy jersey home.  
24       I didn't know this at the time. It was something  
25       I learned when I was older. I only knew we were called

1 the home boys when I was staying there.

2 'When I was 10 or 11, I got to sit a first aid  
3 course and got an extra shilling pocket money when  
4 I passed the course.

5 'We got to go swimming at the pool at Loretto School  
6 and got to do our swimming badges and earned medals too.

7 'When you were 9 or 10 years old, you got to go out.  
8 I could go to the pictures or go fishing. Different  
9 staff came in, including a younger man just out of  
10 university, who was tall with curly black hair. I could  
11 sense things were changing as it became more relaxed and  
12 we got to play cricket and badminton. Even FSK  
13 became softer. It wasn't all bad, especially as you got  
14 older, but some staff like FSO kept up the  
15 regimental treatment.

16 'We also had pen friends in the USA and had to sit  
17 and write letters every three months. The letters were  
18 censored and if you didn't write anything good, staff  
19 would write a letter on a sheet of paper for you to  
20 copy. It was often difficult to know what to write as  
21 we didn't have a lot to tell them.

22 'Now and again, FSK also used to have classes  
23 making things with balsa wood. I also used to go to the  
24 Boys' Brigade. When FSO came, he had us playing  
25 cricket and rounders and was always handing us out

1 pennies.

2 'Most of the time there wasn't a great deal to do  
3 and we sat about reading old comics. John Merrilees,  
4 who was the Chief Constable of the police, and was on  
5 the board of governors for the school, gave us a black  
6 and white telly in 1962 and we got to watch that from  
7 7.00 pm until 8.00 pm.

8 'When I was 9 or 10 they had us doing archery with  
9 real crossbows. I could hardly pull the string back.  
10 FSK would be filming us. He filmed us a lot  
11 doing things when we were on holiday. In the winter  
12 nights we would all watch these films. In hindsight,  
13 the archery was just dangerous, as there was such a lack  
14 of supervision.

15 'The Musselburgh Rotary Club would organise a trip  
16 to Troon each year and they would take us in their cars  
17 for the day.

18 'We had annual camp for three weeks each year to  
19 Thorntonloch, Cockburnspath. It was tough but they  
20 encouraged you to do things. I would go away and make  
21 up fishing lines. I was already a loner and for me it  
22 was just another regime.

23 'I went to Musselburgh Primary and Musselburgh  
24 Grammar, but I didn't do well, although I never had any  
25 bad reports. I sat my Eleven Plus there, but they made

1 a mistake and had me sitting it when I was 10 instead of  
2 when I was 11 years old. No adult took an interest in  
3 my schooling and I don't feel there was any  
4 encouragement to do well or help with homework.

5 'If I needed to see a dentist, I would be taken into  
6 town to see a local one. The doctor would come in and  
7 give us a check-up now and again. We were given castor  
8 oil, cod liver oil and syrup of figs once per month.

9 'I remember in the first week after I arrived, we  
10 were taken to the gasworks by Fisher Row to play  
11 football. In those days it was leather boots and  
12 a leather ball and I got knocked out when the ball hit  
13 my face. I had concussion and had to be carried back to  
14 the home. I didn't get any medical check as a result of  
15 this injury, other than by FSE SNR

16 'We went to church every Sunday and had no choice  
17 about this. We walked in twos in crocodile style. At  
18 church we had to each sit next to two members of the  
19 congregation. There was no other religious instruction.

20 'All the chores were done by the boys. We had to  
21 polish the floors using great big buffers which I could  
22 hardly push. We did all the dusting and cleaning and if  
23 you didn't do it right, you had to do it again. They  
24 didn't have cleaners so the kids did it all. The chores  
25 were mainly done at weekends and nights.

1           'We did earn pocket money and the amount depended on  
2 your age.

3           'Christmas was a horrible time. I was the only  
4 person staying in the place for a couple of years and  
5 there was no tree or decorations. One year I was taken  
6 to the house of someone from the church for Christmas  
7 dinner. They were good people with their own family.  
8 They had a tree and I got a present of an Airfix  
9 battleship. Birthdays were never celebrated.

10          'We would hear that someone would be coming for  
11 a visit to the home, but it was always when we were out  
12 and it would be the staff they would speak to. I never  
13 spoke to anyone who asked how I was doing or how I was  
14 feeling.

15          'When I was 8 years old my mum came to Red House.  
16 She was at the gates at the front door and she was  
17 drunk, shouting my name. I had been in the yard.  
18 I didn't go and see her. I felt I didn't know my  
19 parents and never classed them as my mum and dad ever.

20          'I had no personal possessions to take with me.

21          'Some guys did run away, but there was nowhere to  
22 go. The police would spot them by the clothing they  
23 were wearing. They would be punished by having their  
24 pocket money or activities stopped. They may have also  
25 been given chores. I never saw anyone being caned for

1 this.

2 'The place was run very strict and regimentally.  
3 Often, if you did something like a chore and didn't do  
4 it properly, you were made to redo it until it was done  
5 to the standard they wanted. Although it was tough  
6 living there, they did also try and get you to do other  
7 things, like the first aid course. These type of  
8 activities were a choice.

9 'When Mr FRT and some of the older boys left,  
10 things were definitely changing with the regime. Most  
11 of the new staff were softer and I even sensed  
12 FSK was becoming more relaxed. FSO, who  
13 came after Mr FRT left, treated us like we were in  
14 the army, having us marching around the square.

15 'I wet the bed a few times over the course of about  
16 six months and some other boys were persistent  
17 bed-wetters. They had a system with an electric bell  
18 with a rubber mat that went on to the mattress with two  
19 clips that were attached. If you wet the bed, this bell  
20 went off. It was so loud and sounded like a fire alarm.  
21 It ran off a battery and I am sure you would get a shock  
22 off it [I think it should say] when it went off.

23 'If you wet the bed then, no matter the time, you  
24 had to get up and take your sheets off the bed and wash  
25 them in the washroom basins or bath before putting them

1 on a pulley at the back of the building. Once the  
2 showers were installed, you then washed your sheets  
3 under the shower. You would need to bathe or shower and  
4 you would then be given fresh sheets. This all upset  
5 the other kids and staff who would be disturbed from  
6 their sleep as the lights were put on until the sheets  
7 had been washed and the bed remade. I only did it once  
8 or twice. Bed-wetters were ostracised and called names  
9 like "pee the bed". There was no help if you were  
10 a bed-wetter. They just thought the bell would sort  
11 it.'

12 'Stewart' then talks about abuse at Red House from  
13 paragraph 95, he says:

14 'Nighttime was a scary time in the dormitory.  
15 Mr FRT and a couple of the older boys would sneak  
16 into the dormitory and I would hear them taking someone  
17 out from the small dormitory nearby and upstairs.  
18 I could hear them creeping about and whispering.  
19 I would lie on my stomach and pretend I was sleeping.  
20 The next day you would know who it had been as they were  
21 crying. I learned that some of them couldn't deal with  
22 it and in later life in a chance meeting [and he names  
23 a person he met with] he told me his brother had  
24 committed suicide. Mr FRT and these older boys had  
25 such a hold over the place and the kids. I was never

1 abused in the dormitory, but the abuse was talked about  
2 amongst the boys, whispering in twos and threes. We  
3 were too frightened to tell anyone and I don't know if  
4 any other staff were involved in it. There was  
5 insufficient supervision, so the abusers had nothing to  
6 fear.

7 'Some of the older boys hung about outside the  
8 exterior toilet block.'

9 'Stewart' then says he knows that one boy, who he  
10 names, was grabbed and abused in there. He then names  
11 two other boys he says were involved in this and he  
12 says:

13 'So was Mr FRT .'

14 And he goes on at paragraph 96 to say:

15 'Mr FRT smoked with them and he knew what was  
16 going on and was part of it, although he didn't do  
17 anything during the day, it was only at night for him.  
18 I avoided the outside toilet and Mrs Bryce would  
19 question why I would go inside to use the toilet. Once  
20 I went in to use the outside toilet and [then he names  
21 another boy and he says he] came in and tried to push  
22 the door open. He pulled his trousers down but I got  
23 past him and into the yard.

24 'At summer camp when I was about 8 years old, I was  
25 promoted to help in the linen room with Mrs FSE .

1 This involved sorting out clothes and putting them into  
2 pigeonholes. As she climbed up a ladder, I could see  
3 she was not wearing any underwear. I had previously  
4 heard stories from the other boys that she used to run  
5 around with no underwear on, but this was the first time  
6 I had witnessed it. She didn't like me after that and  
7 I found her to be quite twisted. She told Mr FSK  
8 that I had called her a cow and I got six of the cane  
9 across my bare bum. Mr FSK used to carry a cane  
10 around with him. I know he recorded this punishment as  
11 I saw him write it down. The cane was long, with  
12 a handle, although he had three or four of them.  
13 I think the thinner it was, the sorer it was. I cried  
14 for three days with the pain, but that was the way it  
15 was and no staff tried to comfort me. Mr FSK also  
16 had a leather belt which he kept over his shoulder,  
17 hidden by his jacket. He also had a yellow duster in  
18 his jacket pocket, which he used to fold over your wrist  
19 when he belted anyone over the hands.

20 'Every Sunday when we were showering, the showers  
21 would continually be deliberately switched off and we  
22 would be hosed down by a cold water hose connected to  
23 the outside tap. It would be Mr FRT or one of the  
24 older boys who would do this. This happened a lot and  
25 you would come from the hot shower to suffering freezing

1 cold water. I am also aware that [another boy who he  
2 names] who was a persistent bed-wetter would be hosed  
3 down every night when he was washing out his sheets.  
4 I could hear him screaming as the dormitory was almost  
5 above the shower room. It was horrendous to hear this  
6 and I felt powerless to help. FSO continued this  
7 cold shower regime when he came to work at the home.

8 'Robert Black was in Red House the same time I was  
9 there. I have read his story and even met him by chance  
10 years later in a pub when he was a young man. He was  
11 waiting on a train to go to London. I believe it  
12 started out that he was abused, but he became an abuser  
13 with [and he names the two other boys] and I saw him  
14 hanging around the toilets with them, following boys  
15 inside.

16 'FSO used to put a brush pole over your neck  
17 and would have us all in competition to see who could  
18 stand the longest. We had to remove our shirt top and  
19 had no choice whether to take part. Whoever won got  
20 a penny, but I just thought it was barbaric. I knew  
21 nothing about prisoner of war camps, but when I was  
22 older I could see the similarities to how he treated us.  
23 He also told us horrific stories about when the warships  
24 were sunk and how they had to survive by eating seagulls  
25 and when the ammunition ran out, how they had to kill

1 their comrades. He also spoke of how he survived in  
2 a Japanese prisoner of war camp. He spoke of a women's  
3 prisoner of war camp where the women would be getting  
4 their fingers and skin cut off and how they would make  
5 things like lampshades with their skin. I was only  
6 8 years old and it was horrendous. He also had us  
7 standing holding a medicine ball out to see who could  
8 last the longest.'

9 He names another boy then, he says, who had been in  
10 the home with him and he says:

11 'He told me years later that FSO had been taken to  
12 court for doing something to some of the boys at Red  
13 House, although I never saw him doing anything. I think  
14 this happened after I left.

15 'One night at summer camp, I found a rabbit that had  
16 been hypnotised by a weasel. Me and this boy [who he  
17 names, gives his surname], who was the same age as me,  
18 took the rabbit to Mr FRT and he told us that we  
19 could sleep in beside him in his hut that night. [The  
20 boy] and I slept next to each other in separate camp  
21 beds. I woke up to find [the boy] lying on top of me  
22 kissing me. I threw him off and never spoke to him  
23 again.

24 'I am aware that one of the boys told FSK  
25 what was going on at nighttime. I think this was about

1 a year after I arrived. I wasn't present and I learned  
2 of this when I got back from school that day. Mr FRT  
3 was gone when we got home and some of the older boys  
4 were gone about the same time. I heard they were caught  
5 and it was widely spoken about by the rest of the boys,  
6 but the staff never told us anything.

7 'I also believe that Mrs Bryce overheard us talking  
8 about the abuse going on when she was supervising us in  
9 the recreation room. I think she went to FSK  
10 about it and he asked me if anything had happened to me,  
11 but I said no. I don't think FSK was aware of  
12 any of the sexual abuse that was going on.

13 'I left Red House when I was 11 and I can only  
14 assume that my mother managed to convince the welfare  
15 she was fit and capable to look after me.'

16 'Stewart' then talks about his life after being in  
17 care from paragraph 105 onwards and he says that when he  
18 went back home, he was the oldest child and he talks  
19 about his two younger brothers being there and that it  
20 was a full-time job for him to look after his brothers  
21 and do all the housework, as his mum was still drinking  
22 heavily. And he tells us from paragraph 105:

23 'I was always either late for school, as I had to  
24 get up at 4.00 am to make dad's breakfast and light the  
25 fire, or my mum kept me off school to look after my

1 brothers. When I was late for school, I would get six  
2 of the belt. I don't know if my dad was aware just how  
3 much school I missed as he was away working. He just  
4 thought I was an imbecile.

5 'No matter how bad life was in care, it was far  
6 worse at home. I was badly abused by my mother  
7 primarily, but my dad also treated me badly. I was  
8 regularly beaten and locked in the coal cellar. I had  
9 to have cold baths and we often had no electricity.  
10 I was sent to the chip shop to get my dad's dinner one  
11 evening and I lost a sixpence, which was what I had to  
12 pay for his chips. Mum had been drinking all day and  
13 she dragged me out of bed and hit me with the fireside  
14 brush, which split my head open. She threatened me not  
15 to tell my dad what she had done and when he came home,  
16 he just assumed I had deserved it anyway. I needed to  
17 be taken to the doctors and she told him I had fallen.  
18 I would say I was battered every day at the hands of my  
19 mum.

20 'The welfare visited once or twice over the first  
21 couple of weeks I got home and if I saw them, it would  
22 be with my mum and dad present. Mum and Dad argued  
23 regularly with each other, fighting, breaking windows  
24 and smashing up furniture. The police would come and  
25 they would arrest both of them. That's the only time

1 the welfare would get involved. My brothers were put  
2 into care in Glasgow for a short time as they were  
3 Catholic but I cannot remember where. I had never been  
4 baptised as I had been abandoned as a baby. That's why  
5 I got put into different places. It just went on and on  
6 with them living like that.

7 'One night on New Year's Eve, my gran came to see  
8 us. I had been in the cupboard and I stepped on a piece  
9 of glass and broke it. Mum and Dad had been drinking  
10 and all hell broke loose. I was tied to the settee  
11 having been stripped naked by my dad whilst my mum  
12 restrained me. Mum held my feet down whilst Dad  
13 repeatedly hit me all over my head and body with a big  
14 belt with studs on it. I was battered unconscious and  
15 the last I heard was my gran screaming whilst my mum was  
16 shouting at my dad to keep hitting me. The next thing  
17 I remember was waking up in my bed with stud marks and  
18 bruises everywhere. Years later when my gran was in her  
19 90s, she told me that she struggled to live with what  
20 had happened that night. At no time in my life have my  
21 parents ever acknowledged what they did or apologised  
22 for this.'

23 He then tells us about another time when he was  
24 looking after his brothers, and one of his brothers got  
25 a belt and assaulted the younger brother who was only 4

1 and hit him until he was black and blue, and that when  
2 his mum came in drunk, the brother who had done that  
3 said that it was him, it was 'Stewart', and he got  
4 a hammering for that.

5 He tells us then at paragraph 110 about another  
6 occasion where his mother picked up the poker from the  
7 fire and threw it at him. And he says he shut the door  
8 to protect himself and the poker came straight through  
9 the door and she nearly killed him.

10 And he explains that that was life back home,  
11 constant hammerings every day, everyone knew, the  
12 neighbours would hear everything that was going on, the  
13 police were always at the house arresting his mum.

14 He goes on to tell us more about his life and the  
15 fact that he would have to rake in buckets for clothes,  
16 stand outside pubs in the Grassmarket with his siblings.  
17 His mum would take him and his brothers to the houses of  
18 men where she would go into their bedroom and leave them  
19 sitting outside.

20 He would be standing outside pubs with a pram as  
21 late as 10.00 pm.

22 He then tells us that the school made a mistake with  
23 his age, so at 14 he had to resit another year, but as  
24 soon as he could, he left school and home. And he tells  
25 us at 15 he had various jobs and ended up on the streets

1 for five years, was sent to court in Edinburgh, was  
2 ordered to go home because he was not 16 and refused and  
3 then was sentenced to three weeks at a remand home in  
4 Gilmerton. Again he ended up on the streets and in a  
5 hostel in Grassmarket. He would sleep in Princes Street  
6 Gardens, in alleys or stairways. He would rake hotel  
7 bins for food and he couldn't claim benefits because he  
8 didn't have a permanent address. He would beg or steal  
9 to survive, but he says it was better than being at  
10 home.

11 And he says he tried to commit suicide once, ending  
12 up in hospital. He was seen by a psychiatrist who he  
13 says didn't have a clue and didn't seem interested or  
14 cared. He says regardless of how bad life was, he would  
15 never go back home.

16 'Stewart' then tells us he got into trouble and  
17 ended up at Wellington Farm Approved School between the  
18 ages of 16 and 17. And he says it was a horrible place  
19 where he had to fight to survive.

20 And he tells us he was able to get out of there  
21 early when he was 18 and he was moved to a prefab in the  
22 grounds, I think, at first. He worked at Peebles Hydro  
23 but the wages were paid to Wellington Farm.

24 And he goes on to tell us then that when he left  
25 Wellington Farm, there was a place in Edinburgh where

1 a couple looked after things and he got some money and  
2 clothes from a welfare person, and he was -- but he was  
3 given some -- he says he was still under the watchful  
4 eye of Wellington Farm, but there was a welfare officer  
5 helping him and giving him some support, and then that  
6 was him out of the Grassmarket.

7 'Stewart' goes on to say he worked as a miner and  
8 had an apprenticeship before the miners' strike, and he  
9 tells us he got an assistant manager's job in a hotel.  
10 He met his wife. Got married when he was 24. He got  
11 a house in Pilton. His wife already had a son who was  
12 3 years old and he considers him his son and brought him  
13 up as his own.

14 Him and his wife had three children together. And  
15 he says that there were incidents involving his mum  
16 where she came to his house, smashed the windows, and he  
17 talks about one of his brothers shooting the door off  
18 with a shotgun and he got the jail for that, and there  
19 were other incidents with his family and his mother, he  
20 says, eventually chased them out of Edinburgh and they  
21 moved to Fife.

22 He got a diploma in auto-engineering and had his own  
23 garage business for years. And he says his children  
24 have grown up and he's proud of them. And he says he  
25 came from nothing and has a beautiful family.

1           'Stewart' tells us that his children have never had  
2           to go through what he did. He says he's been  
3           overprotective. But he says things have taken its toll.  
4           He became an alcoholic. It nearly cost him his marriage  
5           and his family. And he says his wife knows that he was  
6           in care and he told her about the physical abuse and  
7           that his children are now aware, but not of the details,  
8           just that he was physically abused. And he's never  
9           spoken to his children or his wife about any of the  
10          sexual stuff.

11          He says his wife and kids put up with his drinking,  
12          he wasn't violent but was verbally aggressive and he  
13          says he realised he needed help. He saw his GP, was  
14          referred to a counsellor. And he said the counsellor  
15          couldn't handle what he told her, it would seem, and she  
16          sent him a letter to say that she couldn't cope with  
17          what he had told her and there were no further  
18          appointments.

19          'Stewart' tells us at paragraph 118 he came off the  
20          drink, got his act together, got a job, and he tells us  
21          that he's apologised to his children and that they know  
22          about his time in care, but he's not had any further  
23          counselling or support.

24          He's been diagnosed with a heart condition. He has  
25          a 75 per cent risk of stroke. He's on medication for

1           that daily, but he suffered -- he has suffered from  
2           depression, but he says he feels that he's in a better  
3           place, without hating.

4           He then tells us about impact from paragraph 121 and  
5           says:

6           'I feel I wasn't given the chance to be the person  
7           I should have been growing up and that this affected  
8           most of my adult life. I don't think anyone can  
9           understand what it is like growing up and then dealing  
10          with the consequences of childhood abuse unless you have  
11          experienced it. I have done well in my life, but it is  
12          always there. I have become a survivor. It took me  
13          years to stop hating my abusers and when I did, I feel  
14          I became a better husband and father. I don't forgive  
15          them, but I have found a way to stop hating them.  
16          Before then, I know my drinking and the bad behaviour  
17          that resulted from this stems from me not being able to  
18          cope with the abuse I suffered both in care and at home.

19          'I'm still a loner and don't really have friends.  
20          I like to work very hard and over the years I made lots  
21          of money. I don't think I can trust anyone except my  
22          immediate family. I believe that the people in charge  
23          were to blame. In care shouldn't mean your childhood is  
24          stolen. It should be safe.'

25          And then he tells us he's had no contact with his

1 family and most of his siblings he's not seen in over  
2 30 years, but he visits his father once every six years,  
3 but he has no love or bond with him, and he says he felt  
4 the same about his mother when she was still alive.

5 'Stewart' tells us he's never reported anything, as  
6 he says he was too busy surviving both physically and  
7 mentally. He says he tried to get his records but talks  
8 about the fact you have to pay for them. But he states  
9 that records would have filled in the gaps and it would  
10 have helped him remember more, and he would have loved  
11 to have seen the register for Red House as it would have  
12 allowed him to say who was who and what they did.

13 And he says that he went to an online -- sorry, he  
14 went to a reunion forum online and then he -- someone  
15 who was in Red House got in touch with him, and he names  
16 him, and he tells us that that individual is like he is  
17 and still trying to live with it to this day.

18 In 'Lessons to be Learned', 'Stewart' says from  
19 paragraph 127:

20 'I don't know what children's homes are like now,  
21 but [I think that should say] I would like to think they  
22 would be more open and would like to think there is more  
23 listening and believing children. I think that lots of  
24 good people work in these homes but not all are, and  
25 there needs to be a way to weed out the bad. We need to

1 get behind the scenes and see what's really going on.

2 We need to be more in touch with the kids.

3 'I hope that what I have told the Inquiry can help  
4 some other kids somewhere and give a full understanding  
5 of what life in care can be like. It won't change my  
6 life, but it could be used to help kids now growing up  
7 in care. We can learn from the mistakes of the past.  
8 I wish government bodies would understand what it is  
9 like to live with the torment as it's a living hell.  
10 A childhood is very precious and being brought up in  
11 abusive care means that childhood is stolen. If by  
12 coming forward I can help even one child in care, then  
13 I will have done something good with my life. I cannot  
14 change what happened to me or the other kids who were in  
15 care with me.

16 'Something that has always haunted me is that if  
17 they had stopped these people who abused the likes of  
18 Robert Black, who then went on to be an abuser, maybe  
19 they could have prevented the crimes he went on to  
20 commit. Even if they had dealt with the abuse he was  
21 committing in Red House, things could have been so  
22 different. Not only for the little girls he killed, but  
23 the kids who he and others abused when they were in  
24 Red House. Some of them went on to commit suicide as  
25 they couldn't deal with it in later life. If children

1 felt able to tell someone, staff were able to recognise  
2 the signs, if reports hadn't been swept under the carpet  
3 and if children had been listened to back then, maybe it  
4 was all preventable.'

5 Then 'Stewart' has made the usual declaration and  
6 he's signed his statement and it's dated 6 March 2020.

7 LADY SMITH: Thank you.

8 Is that a good point to stop for the afternoon  
9 break?

10 MS FORBES: Perhaps my Lady, yes.

11 LADY SMITH: I think we'll take a short break at this point,  
12 but just before I rise, one or two names that were used  
13 in the course of that read-in, a FSK [REDACTED], Mrs FSE [REDACTED],  
14 also FSE [REDACTED], FSO [REDACTED], Mr FRT [REDACTED], are not to be  
15 identified as referred to in our evidence outside this  
16 room.

17 So we'll take the afternoon break and then we'll go  
18 on to the next read-in after that, thank you.

19 (2.56 pm)

20 (A short break)

21 (3.07 pm)

22 LADY SMITH: Mr Sheldon.

23 'Mark' (read in)

24 MR SHELDON: My Lady, the next read-in is another applicant  
25 who is anonymous and his pseudonym is 'Mark'.

1 His witness statement is at reference

2 WIT.001.001.1568.

3 LADY SMITH: Thank you.

4 MR SHELDON: 'Mark' is another witness whose statement has  
5 previously been read in, this time in relation to his  
6 time at Larchgrove and Rossie. That was Day 428 and the  
7 transcript reference is TRN-12-000000060 at page 131.

8 Details of 'Mark's' early life, because of that,  
9 have already been read in, so suffice to say that 'Mark'  
10 had a childhood in which he suffered violence and  
11 neglect and found his way into the at-care system aged  
12 around 8.

13 The records indicate that he was admitted to  
14 Red House in [REDACTED] 1969, about [REDACTED] 1969, and  
15 discharged from there [REDACTED] 1971.

16 And if we then go to page 3, please, where he notes  
17 that his initial placement was in Dunoon, but that seems  
18 to have been a very short stay and he then found his way  
19 to Red House in Musselburgh.

20 And reading from there, he says:

21 'The Red House Children's Home is situated at the  
22 rear of Musselburgh High Street. It was called Red  
23 House because there was a garden completely surrounded  
24 by a red brick wall. It had a big blue gate and there  
25 was a playground area. It usually held about 20 boys at

1 any one time. I lived at Red House for a period between  
2 nine and 15 months. There were older dormitories which  
3 my brother was in and younger ones for me and my age  
4 group. I think there were six people per dormitory.

5 'I was very lucky to have my brother with me at the  
6 home.'

7 This was his older brother, my Lady, and he says:

8 'He was like my Ma and Da all rolled into one and he  
9 would look out for me. I looked up to him. We were  
10 just numbers there.'

11 And he tells us what the numbers were:

12 'The home was SNR by Mr and Mrs FSE-FSK Mr FSK  
13 was SNR . Mr FSK was quite  
14 old, as I remember that he had a walking stick. Other  
15 staff that I can remember were Mr HEZ and  
16 Mr HEX .

17 'There were other members of staff but I can't  
18 recall their names. The cook was Mrs FSE and the  
19 boys did most of the cleaning. I think that some of the  
20 staff resided on the premises.'

21 He goes on to talk about the routine at Red House  
22 and says:

23 'I was a bed-wetter and so my daily routine varied  
24 slightly from the other boys. The staff would arrive in  
25 the morning and ask me if I was wet. I would say "No,

1       sir", even though I was. They would then drag me by the  
2       hair from my bed. I would have to strip the bedclothes  
3       and take them downstairs to the washing sinks. They  
4       would make me stand on a bucket to wash the bedclothes.  
5       I would then be forced to strip off my pyjamas and stand  
6       there naked while I washed them. Some of the staff took  
7       advantage of this and would touch my privates. I used  
8       to miss breakfast a lot of the days. I even tied my  
9       penis up with a piece of string to try and stop me  
10      peeing the bed. I was always woken up about 6.00 in the  
11      morning, but the rest of the boys got up around 7.00.

12             'You would then tidy your room and have breakfast.  
13      We always walked to school on our own. We would have  
14      lunch at school. Once school was finished, you would  
15      walk back. You would get your tea and after that you  
16      would be able to play games like rounders. There was  
17      also a television room.

18             'You were required to do some cleaning of the living  
19      areas and the showers. If it wasn't cleaned properly,  
20      you would get a whack on the back of the head. The  
21      staff always inspected what you had cleaned.

22             'We used to have to go round the doors and collect  
23      for Dr Barnardo's Children's Homes. I was convinced  
24      that the money never went to the charity, but the staff  
25      put it in their back pocket. Why would they send out

1 boys that were in a home to collect for boys that were  
2 in another home?

3 'I can only remember the names of three other boys  
4 that were at the school.'

5 And he goes on to name some of them. He says that:

6 'I did see all these boys being hit at various  
7 times. Some of them were taken downstairs by the staff  
8 but I don't know why. There was no bullying amongst the  
9 boys.

10 'The food was okay. There were some things you  
11 liked and some that you didn't. It just depended what  
12 was being served. They did force you to eat the food  
13 and would push your head in it if you didn't.

14 'You had a bank book. You used to get a sixpence  
15 every day to buy tuck at the local shops.

16 'I attended the local school called Musselburgh  
17 Primary School. I loved the school. I was 8 years old  
18 and had never really been at school. I couldn't read or  
19 write. I was fascinated by the classroom and all the  
20 animal pictures on the walls.

21 'We also attended Sunday School at the local church  
22 when we weren't on weekend leave.

23 'Holidays were okay. I only got a couple of kicks.  
24 I remember on two occasions being taken to see the  
25 Military Tattoo in Edinburgh.

1           'You usually got weekend leave. Once or twice,  
2 someone would fail to show up to meet us at Glasgow  
3 Central Station. We were two little boys standing there  
4 crying. On one occasion, a lady took us to my mother's  
5 house in a taxi. My mother had moved house to  
6 Cowcaddens and we didn't know where she lived. There  
7 were labels attached to our bag with the address we were  
8 going to written on them. I can't remember how we  
9 travelled to Glasgow, but I know that my brother and  
10 I arrived in Glasgow unaccompanied.

11           'The only person that came to visit me was my  
12 grandmother. She came on about four occasions. We  
13 never, to my memory, had a visit from social work or  
14 anyone from the Children's Panel. There was a social  
15 worker involved, but I don't remember seeing her. At  
16 this time, my father had left my mother and my mother's  
17 house was just a party house. The only reason we were  
18 in care was because we were neglected and my mother  
19 wouldn't co-operate with the authorities.

20           'I don't recall any other inspections or visits but  
21 I do remember the Hearts players of the day coming to  
22 the home to visit us. The players brought us presents.

23           'I don't recall going to see the doctor although  
24 there was one available. I did go to the dentist on  
25 several occasions.'

1 He goes on to talk about abuse and says:

2 'At Red House there was an older boy in the place  
3 [who he names, gives a nickname]. [This boy] had hair  
4 growing all over his face and looked like a caveman.  
5 I think that he was too old to be at the home and  
6 I don't know why he was there. He slept in a different  
7 dormitory to me. In later life, I learned that he was  
8 17 years old and should not have been there. He just  
9 wouldn't leave. I remember [my brother] telling me that  
10 he had caught him masturbating one day and [this boy]  
11 had offered him sweets to stay and watch. My brother  
12 told him to "fuck off" but we were always wary of him.

13 'There was one day when I was in the dormitory and  
14 was grabbed from behind. I managed to see that it was  
15 [this older boy]. He pinned me to the bed and I had my  
16 face in the pillow. I remember that I couldn't breathe  
17 which was the worst part. He raped me. The pain was  
18 excruciating and, after the event, I remember seeing the  
19 blood and feeling the pain. That night I cried myself  
20 to sleep. I didn't tell my brother about this until  
21 much later in life because [his abuser told him that he  
22 would kill his older brother]. This only happened on  
23 one occasion.

24 'Mr **HEX** was always the one who would drag me out  
25 of bed in the morning by my hair. He would make me

1 strip the bed and take the bedclothes downstairs for  
2 washing. He would make me stand on the bucket at the  
3 sink and cause me to take off my pyjamas and stand there  
4 naked to wash them.

5 'One day, [my brother] and I were mucking about in  
6 the playground. [My brother] threw a pie that he was  
7 eating and it hit Mr HEX's daughter. She went  
8 running off crying. The next minute, Mr HEX arrived  
9 in a temper. He attacked [my brother] and fractured his  
10 arm. He also gave me a good boot. He was very  
11 sadistic.

12 'One day, I opened one of the doors in the home  
13 which hit Mr FSK on the arm and knocked a bottle of  
14 turpentine out of his hand. He was so angry that he set  
15 about me with his fist and hit me on top of my head.  
16 I also remember another occasion when Mr FSK hit me  
17 with his stick on my toe, which caused extreme pain and  
18 has permanently damaged my toe. I received no medical  
19 attention at the time.

20 'The staff made up a boxing ring in the home. It  
21 was just a homemade ring with chairs. They made me and  
22 my brother fight each other. I didn't want to fight  
23 with my brother as he was everything to me and I tried  
24 to tell the staff this. I remember being forced to hit  
25 my brother in the face and I burst his lip and his nose.

1 This was just another example of the cruelty. They were  
2 total bastards.'

3 He names two other boys at Red House and says they  
4 were twins and about 14 years old:

5 'The staff allowed them to bathe the younger boys.  
6 They would touch you up with the soap. Thinking about  
7 this now, I can't understand how the staff allowed them  
8 to be bathing young boys at any time.

9 'Mrs FSE was the cook. If you didn't eat your  
10 food, you would have to stand in the corner and face the  
11 wall. If you looked round, she would hit you with  
12 a ladle and shout at you to face the wall. It was  
13 always done in front of the other boys who would be  
14 eating their meals.

15 'Mrs FSE was an evil, wee woman. She always had  
16 a small cosh on her which she used to call "Aunt  
17 Bessie". She used to hit you with this. I was always  
18 being hit because I was very clumsy.

19 'I remember my brother told me that he was being  
20 taken to the doctors by Mr HEZ in his car.  
21 Mr HEZ had asked [my brother] if he would like to  
22 drive. [My brother] had sat on his lap to steer the car  
23 and [my brother] said that he could feel his penis  
24 getting hard [I think he means Mr HEZ's penis]. He  
25 got off his lap and told him to "get to fuck". [My

1 brother] told me about this incident but I wasn't there  
2 at the time and didn't see it happening.

3 'I did not report the abuse I suffered at Red House  
4 as there was no one to report it to.'

5 He then goes on to say that when they left Red House  
6 in 1971 or 1972 -- I think we know it's 1971:

7 'We moved with my mother to a house in Drumchapel.  
8 It was the same old story, alcoholics, violence and rape  
9 occurring on a regular basis.'

10 And I should have said at the outset, my Lady,

11 I think that 'Mark' was born in 1960.

12 LADY SMITH: Yes.

13 MR SHELDON: And so he'd be between 9 and 11 when he was at  
14 Red House.

15 And on the topic of housekeeping, my Lady, I think  
16 I also omitted to read in the number of his statement,  
17 the reference for his statement.

18 LADY SMITH: Don't worry.

19 MR SHELDON: Which is WIT.001.001.1568.

20 Back to page 8, my Lady. He says that while staying  
21 with his mother, he started to abuse substances and  
22 there was an attempt at self -- serious self-harm. He  
23 was dogging school and ended up back at the  
24 Children's Panel and this is when he ended up in  
25 Larchgrove, my Lady, and that, of course, has been --

1           that section has been read in before.

2           But if we go to page 18, please, after he's been at  
3           Larchgrove and Rossie and reports abuse at both these  
4           places, he tells us at page 18, paragraph 91:

5           'I told everyone but told no one. I used to tell  
6           the doctors I saw at various times, but nothing ever  
7           happened as a result.

8           'There was a woman who stayed across the road from  
9           me [and he names her]. I told her everything that  
10          happened to me. She told me that I should get help from  
11          a psychiatrist. I did see a psychiatrist and all  
12          I remember the psychiatrist telling me was to go and  
13          read a book.'

14          As a result of speaking to his neighbour, he got  
15          a phone call from a woman from In-Care Survivors group:

16          'She was a great wee woman and she was a victim  
17          herself. She put me in touch with a counsellor. I went  
18          to a few of the meetings and was encouraged to contact  
19          the police. I didn't want to contact the police as  
20          I felt that it was hypocritical.'

21          And of course 'Mark' has indicated that he himself  
22          was involved in some level of criminality.

23   LADY SMITH: Yes.

24   MR SHELDON: But he goes on to say:

25          'It was only after I read about Jimmy Savile and all

1 the people who looked after children being done for  
2 offences that I changed my attitude to reporting what  
3 had happened to me.

4 'Both my brother and I reported the abuse at  
5 Red House to the police. We were told that our  
6 statements married perfectly and they believed what we  
7 had told them. I don't know how many of the staff or  
8 boys are still alive.

9 'The police came back to me and told me that there  
10 was nothing that they could do.'

11 And he says that, I think as a result of that, he  
12 took an overdose.

13 Over the page, paragraph 97, he says:

14 'I spoke to a lawyer about the time-bar on reporting  
15 and I know that there is a case ongoing with the  
16 Scottish Government to lift that bar. I only reported  
17 what went on at Red House, but I have not told them  
18 about the other institutions. The police said that  
19 I was to wait until the time-bar case has gone through  
20 the courts.

21 'My lawyer has told me that the case for the  
22 time-bar may take a further six months and then I could  
23 make my claim. If I had not been sexually assaulted at  
24 Red House, I think that Larchgrove would be the worst  
25 institution that I was in.'

1           And he goes on to talk about records and says  
2           a little about lessons to be learned, and at page 20  
3           makes the usual declaration and his statement was signed  
4           in April 2017, of course, just before the reform to the  
5           time-bar came in.

6   LADY SMITH:   Yes.

7   MR SHELDON:   And with that, my Lady, I'll hand back to  
8           Ms Forbes.

9   LADY SMITH:   Thank you very much.

10                           'George' (read in)

11   MS FORBES:   My Lady, the next statement is from an applicant  
12           who is anonymous and is known as 'George'.

13   LADY SMITH:   Thank you.

14   MS FORBES:   And his statement reference is WIT-1-000000092.

15           So 'George', my Lady, tells us that he was born in  
16           1968 and then talks about his life before going into  
17           care from paragraph 2 onwards. He says he was born in  
18           Haddington and lived with his mother and father. He has  
19           two brothers and one is a year younger and the other is  
20           two years younger. He says he also has three  
21           half-sisters, but he says he's had very little contact  
22           with his half-sisters.

23           He tells us that he knows his first family home was  
24           at Cockenzie in East Lothian but doesn't remember living  
25           there, and his father worked in Cockenzie Power Station

1 as a [REDACTED]. And his first childhood  
2 memories are being in Tenterfield Children's Home in  
3 Haddington. He would have been 3 or 4, he says, when he  
4 was there and he believes his parents got into debt.  
5 This led to them splitting up and that he and one of his  
6 brothers, the one who is a year younger than him, were  
7 put into Tenterfield Children's Home, and the other  
8 brother went to stay with foster parents at a farm in  
9 the Borders. And he says that the other brother who  
10 went to foster parents was only a baby at the time.

11 He tells us about his time in Tenterfield Children's  
12 Home in Haddington between paragraphs 7 and 34, Secondary Institu

13 Secondary Institutions - to be published later

14

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16

17 Secondary Institutions - to be published later

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. And he says  
he doesn't know what the circumstances were around him  
leaving, but he just remembers he and his brother going  
back to live with his mother in East Kilbride.

And he says at paragraph 37 that his mother was  
living in a council house. He thinks that East Kilbride  
was a newly built town at the time. His youngest  
brother was now back from foster care and also living  
with his mother, and at that time his mother was living

1 with a man he names who was her second husband.

2 He thinks he stayed with his mother for about  
3 two years and he went to primary school, and his brother  
4 who was a year younger went to school with him. He says  
5 it was daunting being back with his mother. He and his  
6 closest-in-age brother were left to do their own thing.  
7 He doesn't think they were well looked after and he  
8 doesn't remember getting a cuddle from his mum and says  
9 she was very cold towards he and his brother who was  
10 closest in age to him.

11 He says he was always hungry and would be looking  
12 for seconds at school at lunchtime, and he and his  
13 brother would steal money from his mum's purse to get  
14 something to eat. And if he was caught he would be  
15 punished and it would be his stepfather who would punish  
16 him. And he says that if he did something wrong, his  
17 stepfather would use his trouser belt on him as  
18 a punishment and he says there was an occasion he  
19 remembers, this is at paragraph 42, where his stepfather  
20 put he and his brother outside in the cold. He doesn't  
21 know how long they were there for and his mother then  
22 came and took them back inside.

23 He then talks about going to a foster home in East  
24 Kilbride with his brother who was a year younger. He  
25 tells us about that from paragraph 45. He thinks he was

1           about 7 when he went there. He still went to the same  
2           school, and he says everything was fine and he was maybe  
3           with them for about a year.

4           He says at paragraph 49 when he was with the foster  
5           parents he was relieved, it was almost like a normal  
6           family life and he was glad to be away from his mum's,  
7           as it wasn't a nice place to be staying.

8           He then tells us from paragraph 50 that he ended up  
9           being taken by a social worker to his father's new house  
10          in the west of Edinburgh. His father had married again  
11          and he and his wife had a baby girl and when he and his  
12          brother moved in, the baby was about 9 months old.

13          He says he was happy to be going there away from  
14          what he looked on as a dark time with his mother and  
15          stepfather. He tells us his dad was a chef working in  
16          a bar and he ended up having an affair with a barmaid  
17          and his wife left him with the baby. And after that,  
18          his dad was left looking after them on his own. He  
19          tried his best but struggled and he says that he and his  
20          brother were looked on as the scruffy kids at school.

21          The social work became involved with them again and  
22          he was told that he would be going to Red House Home in  
23          Musselburgh and he says at paragraph 55 that he was both  
24          devastated and annoyed. And he says:

25          'One day we came home from school and were told to

1 pack. The next day we were at Red House.'

2 And it was a social worker who took them there.

3 'George' then tells us about Red House from  
4 paragraph 56.

5 We know, my Lady, from the Red House records, from  
6 the register, that 'George' was admitted to Red House on  
7 [REDACTED] 1978, aged 10, and he stayed there until  
8 [REDACTED] 1986, aged 18.

9 LADY SMITH: Okay.

10 MS FORBES: And he tells us, from paragraph 56, the  
11 following:

12 'Red House was a bit of a strange building. It was  
13 next to the River Esk in Musselburgh. I think it used  
14 to be a private house. It was like a townhouse on three  
15 levels. There was a newer extension to the building.  
16 This part had a trampoline and snooker table. There was  
17 also a number of outbuildings in the grounds. The  
18 gardens were all manicured. You weren't allowed in this  
19 area.

20 'There was a main entrance for the home. This was  
21 never used by the boys. The main entrance was used by  
22 people who were visiting the home. The boys had to use  
23 the side entrance.

24 'There were three dormitories. These were all  
25 upstairs. Each of these dormitories had six to eight

1 beds. There were also staff rooms on another floor.  
2 These were for the nightshift when they stayed over.  
3 There were communal toilets and bath areas. The showers  
4 were fitted later.

5 'In the dining hall, the tables were set up for  
6 groups of four. There was a room off to the side of the  
7 dining room. This had a kitchen area and a place for  
8 the dishes to be washed.

9 'On the same floor, past the dining hall, was a room  
10 with pigeonholes where your spare clothes were kept.

11 'When I first arrived at Red House, it was all boys.  
12 There were about 18 boys aged between 7 and 14. Once  
13 I had been there a while, the home started to take girls  
14 in as well.

15 'Mr EWC [REDACTED] was SNR [REDACTED] of the home. He  
16 stayed there with his wife, Mrs EWD [REDACTED]. She also worked  
17 in the home. I always felt that Mr EWC [REDACTED] did his best.  
18 He always seemed to want the best for the boys.  
19 Mrs EWD [REDACTED], on the other hand, was a disciplinarian.

20 'There was a cook, who coincidentally was called  
21 Mrs Cook. Mr EWC [REDACTED]'s daughter, EWW [REDACTED], worked in  
22 the home as well. She started off as a cleaner, then  
23 ended up as a carer. The others I remember were  
24 Mrs Ritchie, the gardener and the handyman. I don't  
25 remember the names of the gardener or handyman.

1           'Mrs Horn was a social worker. She would regularly  
2 visit the home. Mrs Horn seemed to be attached to the  
3 home but I don't think she was actually a staff member.'

4           He tells us then about his first day at paragraph 65  
5 and the social worker dropping them off at Red House  
6 with the few belongings that they had, and he goes on to  
7 say:

8           'We were introduced to Mr and Mrs **EWC-EWD**.'

9           He says the social worker:

10          'Mr Vanderson didn't stay long before leaving. More  
11 or less the first thing that happened to me and [his  
12 brother] was that we were put into separate baths.  
13 Mrs **EWD** and **EWV** stood and watched us to make  
14 sure we washed ourselves. I think that this was just  
15 procedure for them to do this when anyone new arrived at  
16 the home. I found this to be totally inappropriate.  
17 Even now I don't know why they would think that it was  
18 okay to do this.

19          'After the bath, we were given clothes to wear. Our  
20 own clothes were taken away. All our belongings we had  
21 with us were just left in the living room. The other  
22 kids in the home started raking through our things.  
23 Inevitably things went missing.

24          'We were given a meal and then myself and [my  
25 brother] were shown a room where we would be sleeping.

1       There were four other boys in the room with us. In the  
2       room we each had a locker but you couldn't lock it.  
3       I had some toys with me that I kept in this locker.

4               'Nobody had spoken with us about why we were there  
5       or how long we would be at the home. It was all a bit  
6       of a shock. Some of the other boys there were quite  
7       intimidating. There was clearly a hierarchy there among  
8       the boys. I found this quite intimidating when we first  
9       arrived.

10              'One of the staff would normally get us up in the  
11       morning. I think that this was around 6.30 am.

12              'There were different bedtimes at night depending on  
13       your age. As a 10-year-old, I was in the middle group  
14       for going to bed. This was around 7.00 pm or 8.00 pm.  
15       You had a wash and brushed your teeth before going to  
16       bed. This would be supervised by one of the staff.

17              'There wasn't much choice with the food. In the  
18       morning, you could have toast or cereals for breakfast.

19              'If I was at school, I would have my lunch there.

20              'At night, the meal was normally meat. It was  
21       horrible and tough. It would go grey when you ate it  
22       but you couldn't swallow it. The staff would try and  
23       get you to eat it. If you didn't eat it, then you might  
24       get some of your pocket money taken away.

25              'You would be given toast and milk before going to

1 bed. You would have this in the kitchen, not the dining  
2 room.

3 'Football was a massive thing at Red House. There  
4 would always be a game going on between the boys. Even  
5 Mr EWC would get involved. He would come out and  
6 join in the game. There were a couple of floodlights  
7 outside. This meant that even when it was dark, we  
8 could play football. This was one of the positive  
9 things about Red House.

10 'You could play pool, table tennis or go on the  
11 trampoline in the games room. There was also a record  
12 player to play your music on. We would normally be in  
13 the games room if it was bad weather.

14 'During lunchtimes, I would go running. I realised  
15 that if I did this, it would stop me having the  
16 opportunity of getting into trouble. I also started to  
17 play chess.

18 'I would go fishing in my spare time. If I caught  
19 any fish, I would sell it to the local Chinese takeaway.  
20 I might get £2 per fish.

21 'When I was older, I was allowed to go out to the  
22 town. The curfew for being back in the home at night  
23 was 10.00 pm.

24 'I went to Musselburgh Primary School. I think  
25 I was in Primary 5 or 6. I was always called a "home

1 boy" at school. I felt that I was on the outside a bit  
2 because I was from the home.

3 'When I was old enough, I moved to Musselburgh  
4 Grammar School. It was a typical secondary school.  
5 Again, I was still known as a "home boy". By this time,  
6 I was beginning to be a bit rebellious. I would get  
7 into trouble for smoking and fighting. I was also  
8 drinking most weekends. If I did something wrong at  
9 school, I would receive the belt from the teachers.

10 'At school, I passed six O-Levels. I would say that  
11 this was despite of Red House, rather than because of  
12 them. I was never given any encouragement by the staff  
13 to do well at school. I did everything off my own back.

14 'If there was something minor wrong with you, then  
15 the staff would be able to carry out basic first aid.  
16 This side of things was okay. I do feel that overall  
17 though, the care provided for your wellbeing if you were  
18 ill was lacking.

19 'I had lots of chest infections. The place wasn't  
20 particularly warm. I think there was a bit of damp.  
21 Nobody seemed to bother about my chest infections until  
22 they were really bad. I would then be taken to the  
23 local doctor in Musselburgh. I was normally prescribed  
24 penicillin for these infections.

25 'When I was in care, my teeth were very bad.

1 I think that the first time I saw a dentist was when  
2 I stayed at Sighthill with my father.'

3 And then he says it was his father's -- his  
4 stepmother who took him. And he says:

5 'At Red House I was taken into town for regular  
6 check-ups at the dentist.

7 'You were expected to wash your own clothes.  
8 I think that someone showed me how to work the machine.  
9 There was also a rota to clear the dishes from the  
10 tables and wash them.

11 'I had to keep my own area around my bed tidy.

12 'The general cleaning around the home was done by  
13 the cleaners who worked there.

14 'Christmas was always celebrated at the home. I was  
15 given toys as presents and it was obvious the staff had  
16 spent a bit of money on these.

17 'I would go to my gran's for most of the Christmases  
18 when I was at Red House.

19 'There was occasional meetings between me, a social  
20 worker and a member of staff. Mrs Horn would always be  
21 there. Sometimes there might be a teacher from the  
22 school there as well. At these meetings, I might be  
23 asked what I wanted to happen with me. When I said  
24 I wanted to go back with my father, they would just tell  
25 me that this was a non-starter. These meetings, I would

1 say, were like a review of my time at Red House.

2 'I don't remember any inspections at Red House. If  
3 there had been I would have remembered this.

4 'My father visited me a couple of times over  
5 a period of around four years. Eventually he stopped  
6 coming. It seemed that he had just dropped me and [my  
7 brother] out of his lives.

8 'My gran would visit us occasionally. We would also  
9 be allowed to get the bus to go and see our gran and  
10 grandad at their house.

11 'Mrs EWD would threaten me with going to  
12 a List D school if I misbehaved. When she did this  
13 I would run away. I did this a few times. I would try  
14 to go to my father's or stay at a friend's for the  
15 night.

16 'I would either go back myself or the police would  
17 find me. If the police found me, they would accuse me  
18 of crimes in their area. They would try to get me to  
19 confess to these. I never admitted to anything as  
20 I hadn't been involved.

21 'I ran away a lot as a result of arguments with  
22 staff or having been involved in fights with other boys.  
23 It was an intimidating environment at Red House.  
24 I didn't want to be there, but I had no choice. No one  
25 ever asked why I ran away or sat me down to discuss

1 things.

2 'When I started to misbehave at the home and school,  
3 I would have my pocket money taken away from me. We  
4 were only given 5p a week. If you spoke out of turn or  
5 did something else wrong, you might get 2p taken away  
6 from this.

7 'There was no arbitrary person that you could speak  
8 to, to try and resolve things. I think that the staff  
9 were keen to show that they were disciplinarians.  
10 I basically fought back against this.

11 'Myself and [my brother] would wet the bed. This  
12 had started when we stayed with our dad. Around 6.30 am  
13 each morning, one of the staff would come into our  
14 bedroom and ask if you had wet the bed. They would take  
15 you on your word if you told them you hadn't. It was  
16 clear that the staff frowned upon bed-wetting.

17 'I had a rubber sheet put on my bed. There was also  
18 a machine which beeped if you wet the bed. I was never  
19 taken to the doctor to try and find out why I wet the  
20 bed.

21 'There would be some female members of staff, who  
22 would just come in, ask you if you had wet the bed.  
23 They would put their hands under your bedsheets and  
24 pyjamas. They would then touch you either on the  
25 genitals or bottom. This totally freaked me out.

1 I think that this was a punishment to humiliate you. It  
2 certainly humiliated me. The females who did this to me  
3 were EWV, a staff member, Mrs RGA and  
4 Mrs RCU, who was also a staff member. EWV  
5 is dead. She actually died whilst I was still at  
6 Red House. EWV was involved in a car accident. Her  
7 husband died in the accident. EWV had a serious head  
8 injury and was never the same. She eventually died.

9 'I don't know if any other staff members knew about  
10 the female staff members who would touch you.

11 'If I had wet the bed, I was made to strip it in  
12 front of the other boys. I then had to take my sheets  
13 downstairs to the laundry and wash them by hand. The  
14 washing powder was very caustic. This led to me having  
15 badly cracked hands. The other boys who wet the bed  
16 also had to do this. This went on for about a year.  
17 I think that eventually one of the staff noticed how the  
18 washing power affected our hands. After this, we were  
19 told to wash our sheets in cold water then put them in  
20 the washing machine. I never received any medical  
21 treatment for the rash on my hands.

22 'I continued to wet the bed until I was about 14. I  
23 just stopped doing it. I don't know if I just grew out  
24 of it.

25 'I was about 14 when the home started to take girls

1 in. The dynamics of the place changed a lot when this  
2 happened. This was just because of the whole girl and  
3 boy thing.

4 'I don't think the amount of boys changed when the  
5 girls came. I would say that the numbers were almost  
6 the same. The staff numbers also stayed the same.

7 'To me, the girls seemed to be treated differently  
8 by the staff. They always seemed to have better clothes  
9 than the boys.

10 'When I was about 15, I was moved to a room of my  
11 own. This had its own lock. This gave you a little bit  
12 of privacy as you got older. Mrs EWD had already  
13 told me that when I was 16, she could kick me out at any  
14 time. This gave me food for thought. I now knew that  
15 I had to plan for my life ahead.

16 'After a while, I was moved to a separate building  
17 next to the home. There were two separate bedrooms in  
18 this building. One bedroom was for two girls and the  
19 other was for two boys.

20 'I had my own front door and was given £25 per week  
21 to live on. I had to do my own cooking and cleaning.  
22 I was expected to budget the food I ate from the £25.  
23 I don't think that this was enough.

24 'When I was living at the other building, there was  
25 not much supervision from the staff. They might come

1 and see you now and again to see how you were getting  
2 on. I think the point of moving into the other building  
3 was to teach you how to be self-sufficient. I wouldn't  
4 say that you really got any help from the staff to do  
5 this.

6 'I would regularly see boys aged in their 20s  
7 visiting the girls who stayed in the same building as  
8 me. I didn't think that this was right. I could also  
9 smell marijuana being smoked.'

10 'George' then talks about abuse at Red House from  
11 paragraph 114:

12 'One of the staff, Mrs RGA, would punch me in the  
13 face for misbehaving. Mrs RGA, Mrs RCU and EWV  
14 EWV all started as cleaners in the home. All of  
15 a sudden, they had the power to punish you for doing  
16 things wrong. I could have told Mrs EWD but she was  
17 friends with them all. She would have immediately  
18 backed them up. The only person that I felt I might be  
19 able to speak with was Mr EWC.

20 'If EWV was dealing with something like  
21 being cheeky or answering back to staff, then she would  
22 sometimes bring her dog in. I'm not sure why this was.  
23 It might just have been that she felt intimidated. In  
24 any case, when she did this I was bitten by the dog on  
25 more than one occasion.

1           'When I was being hit or the dog had bitten me,  
2 I started to suffer from black moods. I would also feel  
3 depressed. The age I was at that time made it difficult  
4 for me to talk about these things. I would just go away  
5 and start drinking. I would either have my own pocket  
6 money that I had saved or maybe money that my gran had  
7 gave me. I would use this money to buy alcohol. My  
8 gran didn't know that I was using the money she had  
9 given me to buy alcohol.

10           'If I went home drunk, the staff wouldn't really say  
11 anything. They would just laugh and comment that I was  
12 drunk again. Nobody tried to sit me down and ask why  
13 I was drinking.

14           'It was the same with smoking. I would say that  
15 90 per cent of the children in the home smoked. The  
16 staff knew this but didn't bother.

17           'I told Mr EWC about Mrs RGA punching me. Not  
18 long after this, Mrs RGA was sacked and was gone from  
19 the home. I don't know if this was as a direct result  
20 of me having spoken with Mr EWC.

21           'I stayed in the accommodation next to the home  
22 until I was 18. This would have been 1985. I was told  
23 that Red House was going to be closing. At this time,  
24 I was preparing to sit my prelims for my Highers.  
25 I decided that I was going to sign up for the armed

1 forces. I joined up a few days after my 18th birthday.

2 'My brother ended up in a charity house in  
3 Musselburgh.'

4 'George' then tells us about his life after being in  
5 care from paragraph 123 and says:

6 'The environment that I had been used to within  
7 Red House helped me quickly adapt to life within the  
8 armed forces. I served for 12 years before leaving.'

9 He goes on to tell us that, since then, he's worked  
10 in a government post within the public sector. Whilst  
11 he was in the army or in the armed forces he met his  
12 wife. He has two daughters and he was married for  
13 17 years before they separated.

14 He says at paragraph 126:

15 'It all came to a head when one of my daughters was  
16 going through a hard time in her life and tried to take  
17 her own life. I couldn't cope with this. It brought  
18 back memories of Red House when I had witnessed some of  
19 the girls there self-harming. At the same time as this  
20 was happening, I had to deal with some very extreme  
21 circumstances at my work. This included finding someone  
22 who had attempted to take their own life. All of these  
23 things going on in my life led to me leaving my family.  
24 I later realised that at that time, I was suffering from  
25 undiagnosed PTSD. This was as a result of what I had

1       seen at my work.'

2           And then he says that since he split up with his  
3       wife, he's seen very little of his daughters and he  
4       tells us about what the relationship has been like  
5       between his wife and his daughters since then. And he  
6       tells us he couldn't understand why at the time why he  
7       walked away from his wife and children and that has gone  
8       against what he believed in, but he now knows why he did  
9       this and he needed to get away on his own and that he  
10      thought at the time if he didn't, he wouldn't be able to  
11      survive.

12           He says at paragraph 129:

13           'My father died from cancer a few years ago. I  
14      couldn't bring myself to go to his funeral. I still  
15      hated him for doing what he did that led to me ending up  
16      at Red House.'

17           He tells us he hasn't spoken with his mother since  
18      he was 16, but he keeps in touch with his youngest  
19      brother through Facebook and hears from him how his  
20      mother is doing.

21           In relation to impact, 'George' tells us about that  
22      from paragraph 131. And he says:

23           'I have always had difficulty with relationships  
24      involving females. I don't seem to be able to trust  
25      them. I found it difficult to be affectionate towards

1 my wife and two daughters. This was when the pieces  
2 around my life started to unravel. It wasn't a good mix  
3 to have in my life. I feel that I looked at sex as  
4 being more important than affection.

5 'I have suffered from flashbacks about the abuse  
6 that happened to me when I was in care. I have worked  
7 with people who have difficulties in life through things  
8 like trying to take their own lives and self-harming.  
9 I spoke to a counsellor at my work. They told me that  
10 I was suffering from PTSD. I needed to get some of the  
11 control back into my life that I had before.

12 'The resilience that I needed was to do what  
13 I needed for myself rather than others. I had  
14 previously always tried to appease others. Everything  
15 that happened to me at **Secondary Institution** Red House and with  
16 my dad to a certain extent has had an effect on my adult  
17 life.

18 'I suffer a lot from anxiety and I am depressed  
19 a lot. These feelings of blackness started when I was  
20 at Red House. I had never felt like that before going  
21 in there. I was prescribed anti-depressants. Both  
22 times I have attempted suicide was when I was taking the  
23 anti-depressants and drinking alcohol.'

24 And he tells us he's never reported the abuse he  
25 suffered to anyone other than when he told Mr **EWC**

1 about Mrs RGA assaulting him.

2 In relation to lessons to be learned, 'George' says  
3 from paragraph 137:

4 'There should be more education into why children  
5 self-harm when they are in care. I believe that there  
6 should be more money spent on educating staff and  
7 children in care.

8 'There should be a multi-team approach for children  
9 in care. Everybody needs to take responsibility. This  
10 includes schools and GPs to identify any issues.

11 'When I was in care, no one questioned my behaviour.  
12 Staff need to be able to identify issues. Nobody ever  
13 asked why I was drinking or smoking. They just let me  
14 get on with it. This should have been challenged and  
15 dealt with to find out the reasons why I was doing this.

16 'When children go into care, there should be  
17 something in place to prepare them. The child should  
18 know who to go to if they are feeling angry, down or  
19 just need to speak to someone. If there was  
20 a questionnaire for the child to complete when they  
21 arrive in care, this might help to identify any  
22 potential issues.'

23 He tells us then at paragraph 141 he's been  
24 diagnosed with PTSD by his GP. He managed -- he went to  
25 some counselling sessions and managed to speak about the

1 abuse he suffered. He started to have EMDR treatment  
2 and that's been very effective for him and -- sorry,  
3 my Lady, my computer has just stopped. It may be  
4 working again. It's decided to freeze. Sorry,  
5 I'll finish this paragraph, my Lady. I'm not sure if it  
6 will start working again.

7 But he says that this treatment has been very  
8 effective for him and he says that there are touchstone  
9 memories he's spoken about and this has included his  
10 experience at Red House and he's still having his  
11 treatment.

12 It's working again now.

13 'George' then tells us about hopes for the Inquiry  
14 from paragraph 142:

15 'I hope that the Inquiry will put in place systems  
16 that ensure no one who has harmed a child is able to  
17 work with children again. I feel that if someone  
18 working with children commits an offence, the punishment  
19 should be more severe for them when dealt with by the  
20 courts.

21 'There should be a recommendation that there should  
22 always be two staff to one child when in contact with  
23 them. This would be safer for the child and the staff.'

24 'George' then has made the usual declaration at  
25 paragraph 144 and he's signed his statement and it's

1           dated 6 January 2020.

2   LADY SMITH: Thank you very much.

3           Well, I think we should finish there for today and,  
4           as has already been mentioned, we go on to a witness in  
5           person to start tomorrow, is that right?

6   MS FORBES: Yes, at 10.00 am, yes, my Lady.

7   LADY SMITH: Yes, 10 o'clock. Before I rise, some names  
8           this afternoon of people who are not to be identified as  
9           referred to in our evidence outside this room. Two I've  
10          mentioned already, that was Mr and Mrs FSE-FSK . But  
11          there's also Mr HEZ [REDACTED], Mr HEX [REDACTED], EWC [REDACTED], Mrs  
12          EWD [REDACTED], EWV [REDACTED], Mrs RCU [REDACTED] and Mrs RGA [REDACTED]. I think  
13          that's everybody; have I got that right? Yes.

14          Thank you very much. Well, until 10 o'clock  
15          tomorrow morning.

16   (3.55 pm)

17                   (The Inquiry adjourned until 10.00 am  
18                   on Wednesday, 29 April 2026)

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