

Wednesday, 29 April 2026

1

2 (10.00 am)

3 LADY SMITH: Good morning, and welcome back to Phase 10 of
4 our case study hearings in which we are hearing evidence
5 in relation to the provision by local authorities of
6 residential care for children, whether in places that
7 they ran themselves or places that were run by other
8 organisations, but the local authorities used to fulfil
9 their responsibilities.

10 Now, before we finished last night, it was indicated
11 that we would start with witnesses in person this
12 morning and that is what we're going to do, and I think
13 we have the first witness ready and waiting.

14 MR SHELDON: The first witness is ready and waiting,
15 my Lady. He's an applicant whose chosen pseudonym is
16 'Jack'.

17 LADY SMITH: Thank you.

18 'Jack' (affirmed)

19 LADY SMITH: 'Jack', thank you for coming along this morning
20 to help us with your evidence in person. I do already
21 of course have your written evidence and it's been
22 really good to be able to read that in advance. But
23 we'd like to, if we may, explore some aspects of it with
24 you today.

25 Your statement is in that red folder that you've got

1 in front of you there and we'll also bring parts of it
2 up on the screen as we go through your evidence, so
3 I hope you find that helpful.

4 But otherwise, so far as the way we operate is
5 concerned, I'll normally sit until now -- from now until
6 about 11.30. We think we'll probably have finished your
7 evidence by then and we'll take a break in any event,
8 but if you need a break at any other time, please will
9 you tell me?

10 A. Yeah.

11 LADY SMITH: It's not a problem.

12 A. Okay.

13 LADY SMITH: For whatever reason. And I also want you to be
14 aware that I know that what we're asking you to do isn't
15 easy. We're asking you to come here, talk about your
16 personal life, in public, and in particular about things
17 that happened when you were a child and vulnerable and
18 in difficult circumstances at times, if I can put it as
19 simply as that.

20 Sometimes people find they're surprised at how
21 upsetting it is to start to talk about their backgrounds
22 in these circumstances. I am well used to that and if
23 there's anything I can do to assist, whether it's just
24 pausing or giving you a break or anything else, you must
25 let me know, all right?

1 A. Okay.

2 LADY SMITH: The key is, I'd like to do anything I can to
3 make the daunting prospect of giving evidence as
4 comfortable as possible, if that can be done.

5 A. Okay.

6 LADY SMITH: If you're ready, I'll hand over to Mr Sheldon
7 and he'll take it from there.

8 Mr Sheldon.

9 Questions from Mr Sheldon

10 MR SHELDON: Thank you, my Lady.

11 Well, good morning, 'Jack'. And before we get into
12 the detail of your statement, there's a couple of pieces
13 of housekeeping for us to do. Please don't worry about
14 them. The first is just to read into the record the
15 reference for your statement, which is WIT-1-000001757.

16 And, 'Jack', if you could turn, please, to the very
17 last page of your statement, it's page 33. And you say
18 at the top of the page there:

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

23 And is that the case?

24 A. Yes, yes.

25 Q. And I think you've signed it and dated it 17 March 2026?

1 A. Yes.

2 Q. All right. Thank you.

3 So if we just turn back to the start of your
4 statement and the start of your story. First of all,
5 I can take from you, I think, that -- I don't need your
6 date of birth, but you were born in 1969; is that right?

7 A. That's right, yes.

8 Q. And you tell us in the first couple of pages of your
9 statement a bit about your early life, about your mum
10 and dad and your various siblings and in particular
11 a big brother. Again, we don't need his name, but
12 I think this is the brother who ended up in care with
13 you, is that right?

14 A. That's right, yeah.

15 Q. And you tell us that you grew up in Prestonpans, you
16 don't have particular memories of living there though,
17 and your parents split up and you go on to tell us
18 about, I think, various experiences of being in care,
19 foster care, back with your parents --

20 A. That's right, yeah.

21 Q. -- for a few years, and ultimately you found yourself in
22 care, first of all, at an unknown children's home in
23 Edinburgh, near Edinburgh, you say?

24 A. Yeah.

25 Q. And ultimately at Red House Children's Home in

1 Musselburgh, is that right?

2 A. That's right, yes.

3 Q. And would that be when you were about 9?

4 A. It would be 1977. I was born in 1969, so, yeah.

5 1977/1978.

6 Q. Okay. I think the dates that we've got from the records

7 is [REDACTED] 1978. Do you think it was earlier than

8 that?

9 A. No. It would be -- I remember [REDACTED] being on.

10 Q. All right.

11 A. 1978 [REDACTED].

12 Q. All right. Okay. And were you in the Red House by

13 then?

14 A. No, I was still at Sighthill then but it was shortly

15 after that.

16 Q. All right.

17 A. Because I remember vividly still walking about with the

18 [REDACTED], you know.

19 Q. Right. This was the [REDACTED], is that

20 right?

21 A. That's right, yes, [REDACTED].

22 Q. So if we can turn then to, I think it's page -- excuse

23 me -- yes, page 6 of your statement. And you go on to

24 tell us about Red House, that it's a detached building,

25 95 Millhill in the middle of Musselburgh, and that it

1 used to be a workhouse for children before it became
2 a boys' home.

3 Can I just ask you how that -- you have that piece
4 of information? Is that something that was known in the
5 community?

6 A. Er, just Googled it. You can Google it. It's on
7 Google.

8 Q. Right.

9 A. Yeah, because when I come out, you know, you get a bit
10 interested in your past, so I Googled it and this came
11 out, yeah.

12 Q. Thank you.

13 And you describe a bit about it and before we get
14 into the detail of that, perhaps I can show you a couple
15 photographs, would that be all right?

16 A. Yes, absolutely, yeah.

17 Q. If we can look, please, at, first of all,
18 RHH-0000001277. And is that Red House?

19 A. That's it, yeah.

20 Q. All right. And is that the front of Red House?

21 A. Yeah, that's the front door, yeah.

22 Q. All right. So when you're going along Millhill would
23 you see a gate and then this --

24 A. Yeah.

25 Q. -- path leading up to the blue door that we see there?

1 A. Yes, aye, it was just a short path, yeah.

2 Q. All right.

3 A. The door used to be red.

4 Q. Okay. Okay.

5 And if we look then at RHH-0000001278, please, and

6 is that just, as it were --

7 A. That's from the street.

8 Q. Okay.

9 A. At the -- yeah.

10 Q. So it's directly front-on to the --

11 A. Yes.

12 Q. -- building?

13 A. Yeah, yeah.

14 Q. Okay. So just with that photograph in front of you,

15 'Jack', perhaps you can just talk us through first of

16 all what the area around the outside of Red House was

17 like, and then about the interior of it?

18 A. Yeah. Well, there's obviously the front bits of garden,

19 but where the house on the left, that was a garden, had

20 a big apple tree in it. Had an oil tank for the central

21 heating there. Obviously that's been ripped out and

22 they put the houses in. To the right-hand side here

23 there was an extension called the school room. It was

24 like -- had a trampoline in it, had a pool table and

25 stuff. And then after that there was the yard where we

1 used to sort of play football and there was some sheds
2 and stuff at the back here, but -- and a couple of
3 garages.

4 Q. All right. So is that the side that fronts on to the
5 river?

6 A. Er, no. The back of the house.

7 Q. I beg your pardon.

8 A. Looks on to the river. Excuse me, I've got a sore
9 throat. That's better.

10 Yeah, so the back sort of was on the river.

11 Q. All right. So where was the yard that you were talking
12 about?

13 A. It's to the right-hand side.

14 Q. I see. All right.

15 A. Yeah.

16 Q. Thank you. Thank you. So that's the outside.

17 When you were there, did you use the front door to
18 access the place or was there another door?

19 A. There was one round the side of the yard we used to go
20 into.

21 Q. All right.

22 A. Er, that was sort of through the day but at nighttime it
23 got shut and if you were out a bit later, it was -- you
24 had to chap the door to get in.

25 Q. Okay. Would that be the front door then?

1 A. Yes, yeah.

2 Q. All right. So if you were to go in the front door, what
3 would you see, what was the layout of the place inside
4 like?

5 A. You went in the front door and there were steps going up
6 and there was, to the right-hand side was the office.
7 Er, you didnae want to go in the office. And to the
8 left was like the living room, we had the TV room.

9 Q. Okay.

10 A. And the windows above, that was bedrooms up the stairs.

11 Q. So was that the first floor?

12 A. That was the first floor, yeah, that was the bedrooms,
13 yeah.

14 Q. First row of windows?

15 A. Yeah.

16 Q. What about the floors above that?

17 A. The floor -- the third ones, I'm not 100 per cent sure,
18 I think that was staffrooms up there.

19 Q. Right.

20 A. And the top ones, the loft, if you like, they were empty
21 for years until girls started coming in and they went up
22 there.

23 Q. All right, okay.

24 A. Obviously, it was prudent to separate --

25 Q. Sure.

1 A. -- them to the top floor.

2 Q. We'll talk about when the -- the time when the girls
3 arrived a bit later on. That's a bit later on in your
4 stay at Red House.

5 So paragraph 37, page 7, you talk about the boys'
6 bedrooms. Can you just tell us about that. What were
7 the sleeping arrangements when you first arrived there?

8 A. When I first arrived, it was, that one on left-hand side
9 was the main bedroom. There was maybe, was it ten, sort
10 of eight to ten of us in that room. And it was -- yeah,
11 it was just a bedroom with beds and you had a wardrobe.

12 Q. Were there any partitions or anything like that?

13 A. No, it was just open.

14 Q. So it was just --

15 A. Yeah, it was just open.

16 Q. Okay, so not really any privacy, particularly?

17 A. No, no. No, no.

18 Q. You tell us that as you got older you moved into smaller
19 bedrooms, so what was the progression -- what age?

20 A. Well, less, not smaller, sort of less people in it, you
21 know. You'd come out the big one and then go into the
22 other one, you know, like two or three and sort of two
23 or three of yours in it, and then there was -- when you
24 got to a certain age there was a room that you got to
25 yersel and you were sort of 15 at a time when you got

1 that.

2 Q. Okay.

3 A. It actually had a lock on it as well.

4 Q. Right, okay. So there was a bit more privacy at that

5 stage?

6 A. Yes, yeah, but when I first went in, no, that was it.

7 Q. Paragraph 39, you say that when you first went, there

8 were 23 boys varying in age from 4 or 5 --

9 A. Yeah.

10 Q. -- up to 16?

11 A. Yeah.

12 Q. So some very young children in there?

13 A. Yeah, yes, aye.

14 Q. And with 23 in the house, how did it feel in terms of

15 the, if I can put it this way, the population? Did it

16 feel crammed, crowded, or was it all right?

17 A. At bedtime it was, because you had to obviously -- but

18 through, you know, through the day, we were all sort of

19 doing our own thing anyway, so. And you tended to have

20 your own -- sort of your own pals who you hung about

21 with and, you know, as had everybody, sort of thing.

22 But, yeah, it could be a bit crowded, especially if

23 there was summat on the big telly and everybody was down

24 there.

25 Q. And you then go on to tell us about some of the staff at

1 Red House. Perhaps you can just tell us in your own
2 words about the staff. First of all, the couple that
3 were principally in charge and any other members of
4 staff?

5 A. Right, yeah, yeah. The ones who actually SNR were Mr
6 and Mrs EWC-EWD, or EWC-EWD. Er, yeah, they were
7 sort of SNR -- well, she was SNR. He sort of
8 done along. And then you got the staff, who -- there
9 was a couple of them who were domestics who sort of went
10 over to be carers. Er, and then there was sort of
11 family members of Mr and Mrs EWC-EWD.

12 Q. Right.

13 A. Who were staff.

14 Q. Yes, I think Mr and Mrs EWC-EWD's daughter was there --

15 A. Yeah.

16 Q. -- when you were there?

17 A. Yeah, there were a couple of daughters in that top
18 floor, I think.

19 Q. Okay.

20 A. Again, it's --

21 Q. Was there only one of the daughters that -- because
22 I think you talk about one of the daughters, EWV, who
23 worked at the home as well?

24 A. Yeah. Yeah.

25 Q. Did the other daughter work as well or not?

1 A. I think -- I get the impression she just kind of helped
2 out if there were --

3 Q. Okay.

4 A. 'Cos I have sort of no memories of her being there sort
5 of all the time.

6 Q. Okay. You mention EWW being in her mid-20s when she
7 was working at Red House. What ages were the EWC-EWD,
8 Mr and Mrs EWC-EWD?

9 A. At the time we thought they were ancient, but probably
10 about 50s, 40/50s.

11 Q. Right.

12 A. But again, it's --

13 LADY SMITH: Of course, you were about 9 years old when you
14 went there?

15 A. Yeah, the perception of people's -- they just all seemed
16 a bit older.

17 MR SHELDON: Sure.

18 Again we'll come back to talk about Mrs EWD, who
19 I think made, if I can put it this way, a big impression
20 on you and we'll come back to --

21 A. Yeah.

22 Q. -- her and how she was. But I just want you to tell us,
23 please, about paragraph -- what you say at paragraph 43,
24 that thinking back, you say Red House was very
25 short-staffed. What makes you say that?

1 A. 'Cos you never really seen staff through the day or
2 anything. You didn't have much contact with them. It
3 was only sort of mealtimes or bedtimes and stuff, you
4 know, it was like task-orientated when they showed up,
5 sorta. We seen more of the cook than we seen, you know,
6 the staff.

7 Q. You say the cook was called Mrs Cook, appropriately?

8 A. Yeah.

9 Q. Yeah, you have told us at paragraph 41 that there would
10 be a couple of staff on at a time, perhaps four, and
11 that would include Mr and Mrs EWC-EWD?

12 A. Yeah.

13 Q. So that would be it, for a home with 23 boys?

14 A. Yeah, and Mr and Mrs EWC-EWD didn't do the sort of
15 day-to-day care if you like. The sort of -- Mr EWC
16 had more contact with us, I think, than Mrs EWD.

17 Q. Yes. Tell us about that, what was his contact with you?

18 A. He actually come out and played football with us, er,
19 you know, he'd socialise with us, he'd sort of hang out
20 with us if you like. He'd sit down and watch the telly
21 with us, that sort of stuff. So it was that day-to-day
22 contact that you had with him.

23 Q. And did that feel like quite a helpful interaction,
24 quite a pleasant interaction?

25 A. Yeah, yeah, at the time, yeah, it was quite -- I think

1 we were kinda drawn to him a bit.

2 Q. Sorry, say that again?

3 A. Sort of drawn to him a bit, you know, somebody taking

4 an interest in us.

5 Q. Okay. Did other staff take an interest in you?

6 A. Not really, not as such. Just if you showed up on the

7 radar sort of thing, you know, if you'd done something.

8 Q. You talk about the two domestics and that they were

9 latterly, when you were about 12 or 13, they became care

10 staff and you say their lack of training showed?

11 A. Oh, yeah.

12 Q. Again, can you tell us about that, please, what do you

13 mean by that?

14 A. They would sit in the TV room smoking. They would just

15 sort of, you know, there was -- they were just there to

16 guard, you know, just to make sure we didn't do

17 anything, 'cos basically they just sat there smoking,

18 watching the telly. And any interaction, it was very

19 much -- it wasn't a professional interaction, I would

20 say now. You know, you'd get snapped at. You'd get

21 snidey comments and stuff, you know. So, no.

22 I've actually been a carer for 30 years.

23 Q. Well, I was going to ask you about that later.

24 A. So I know what I have to -- what my standards have to

25 be, what my duties and tasks and stuff entail, and they

1 fell well short of those standards.

2 Q. All right. I was going to ask you about that later and

3 we will. But just briefly then, it sounds as though,

4 from what you know now, these just weren't providing --

5 A. No.

6 Q. These people weren't providing adequate care?

7 A. No. Nah, nah. I think they were just babysitters,

8 glorified babysitters, yeah.

9 Q. I mean, you actually describe them in paragraph 44 as

10 more like wardens?

11 A. Yeah.

12 Q. Do you mean prison wardens?

13 A. Well, just, aye -- well, I wouldn't say -- you know,

14 yeah, 'cos of the control, you know, what you done and

15 how you done it sort of thing.

16 Q. Okay. And you talked about snidey comments and --

17 A. Yeah.

18 Q. What sort of things would they say to you?

19 A. I mean, if there was something come on the telly, if we

20 were watching a racy -- you know, if something racy

21 happened on the TV: 'ah, look at yous all sitting

22 there', you know, 'enjoying it too much', sort of -- you

23 know, it was unnecessary.

24 Q. Over the page, page 9, you talk about your first day at

25 Red House, which you say that you remember very well,

1 and you tell us about an incident or an event that
2 happened when you arrived, that you were put in one of
3 the big Belfast sinks in the laundry and washed?
4 A. Yes, yeah, I remember that.
5 Q. And was that you and your brother?
6 A. Yes. They done us separately.
7 Q. Okay.
8 A. Yeah.
9 Q. And I take it when that was done you were -- you didn't
10 have any clothes on?
11 A. No, mortifying.
12 Q. All right. Was -- and this was by a female member of
13 staff. You give us what you think her name may have
14 been. Was she one of these two domestics or --
15 A. I think she was either a daughter-in-law or, you know,
16 she was some family member of the **EWC-EWD**, yeah.
17 Q. How did you get into the sink?
18 A. Lifted us.
19 Q. All right.
20 A. They were up about 4 or 5 foot, they were maybe
21 a foot-and-a-half deep. They werenae -- Belfast, they
22 were, you know, big old things. It was like a laundry
23 room.
24 Q. All right. And you'd be about 9 at this stage?
25 A. Yeah.

1 Q. If our dates are right. And your brother, older still?
2 A. Yeah, 10.
3 Q. How old would he be?
4 A. He'd be 10, he's a year older.
5 Q. Right. Okay. And you're sure in your mind that this
6 was Red House that this happened in?
7 A. Yes, oh yes.
8 Q. Rather than any of the other ones?
9 A. Yeah, absolutely, yeah.
10 (Pause)
11 LADY SMITH: You won't appreciate this, 'Jack', there is
12 a transcript being made and if people speak at the same
13 time, it becomes impossible for the stenographers to
14 note it. It's so easy to do, isn't it.
15 A. Yeah.
16 LADY SMITH: And you have to just discipline yourselves,
17 both Mr Sheldon and you and me. We'll all try and
18 remember. All right. Thank you.
19 MR SHELDON: Yes, it's my fault too, 'Jack', so please don't
20 worry about it.
21 Anyway, you were just telling us that you're sure
22 that this is something that happened to you at
23 Red House, the sink incident, if I can put it that way?
24 A. Absolutely, yeah.
25 Q. And you tell us that you felt very uncomfortable and

1 this is perhaps an obvious question, but why did it make
2 you uncomfortable?

3 A. Well, it's -- I was just naturally a shy person,
4 I think, at the time. I wasn't used to -- I was only
5 used to my brother, you know, in a very small family
6 setting.

7 Q. Did it strike you as an odd thing to do?

8 A. Absolutely, yeah.

9 Q. And looking back at it now, knowing what you know now,
10 what do you think of what happened then?

11 A. Oh, somebody would be in the jail, I would have thought.
12 You know, there would be -- I mean, they said it was
13 just to make sure you were clean so you didn't sort of
14 pass anything on to anybody else. That was their --
15 'cos we said why couldn't we go in the shower and they
16 says: 'No, we've got to check you'.

17 Q. Okay. So did you understand that they were checking you
18 for example for nits or something like that?

19 A. That was the implication, yes.

20 Q. All right. And did they use any particular kind of soap
21 to wash you with?

22 A. Oh, yeah, I can remember -- I think it's -- it's a brown
23 one. I can't -- is it Vosene one or summat? They also
24 make the shampoo, horrible shampoo. Tar, that was it.
25 It smelled of tar.

1 Q. Would it be carbolic soap, maybe?

2 A. Carbolic, was it -- yeah, it was very strong.

3 Q. Okay. It smelled of tar?

4 A. Yeah. I still cannae use that Vosene stuff to the day.

5 Q. Okay. At paragraph 49 you say that there were lots of

6 rules in Red House but nobody sat you down when you

7 arrived; you just kind of picked them up from other boys

8 over time. What about picking up the rules from staff

9 members?

10 A. No. No. It was -- you know, the other older boys would

11 sort of tell you: 'Oh, you'll get your lunch at 12.00'.

12 You know, but no, nobody -- there was no introduction to

13 it. You were sort of plopped into the middle. Sink or

14 swim, you know.

15 Q. You tell us quite a bit about your routine at mornings

16 and bedtimes on the next page, page 10, but you go on

17 then at paragraph 53 to talk about bed-wetting and that

18 you became a bed-wetter when you went to Red House

19 pretty soon after you arrived, and you remember being

20 quite surprised about that. Had you been a bed-wetter

21 before?

22 A. Occasionally, but no -- not all the time.

23 Q. All right.

24 A. Yeah.

25 Q. And how was this dealt with in Red House?

1 A. Well, in the morning they would -- when they come to
2 wake you up, er, they -- you'd get a hand shoved in
3 under the covers, which I thought was very strange now,
4 to check if the bed was wet or dry, 'cos you had
5 a plastic sheet and then you had a, what we call 'Kylie'
6 in the business, it was like a strip that goes over,
7 it's so the sheets didnae get wet, apparently.

8 Q. So a mattress protector or something of that sort?

9 A. Yes, but it was only sort of covering your waist.

10 Q. All right.

11 A. And if you did have a wet bed, the walk of shame, you
12 had to strip your bed and take it down to the laundry.

13 Q. At paragraph 53 you say that one of the rules was that
14 when you were in your beds you never got out, even if
15 you needed the toilet?

16 A. Yeah, it was frowned upon, yeah.

17 Q. Sorry, say again?

18 A. It was very frowned upon, yes, it was --

19 Q. All right.

20 A. You know, you had to go before your bed.

21 Q. How was it frowned upon? How was it made clear that
22 that was frowned upon?

23 A. Yeah, you just werenae allowed out your bed.

24 Q. What would staff do if you did get out of your bed?

25 A. Er, again, as I try to explain, Mrs EWD had a very

1 overpowering sort of power over people -- sorry, that
2 come out wrong. She had influence over you. You didn't
3 cross her, you know, it was made very clear that she
4 was SNR and what she said goes, regardless.

5 Q. Can you tell us a bit more about that, how did she make
6 that clear? What was it that she was doing or saying
7 that made it clear to you that certain things were not
8 allowed?

9 A. She just had this aura about her, this force, er, you
10 know, you didn't mess -- what she said went. That was
11 it regardless. And this is where I think Mr EWC come
12 into it. He was the hound, you know, if you were --
13 ultimately it was Mr EWC that dealt with you. It
14 wasn't a sort of physical thing. It was more of
15 a mental control rather than a physical control.

16 Q. Did you feel afraid of her?

17 A. Yeah, she had this -- yeah, she wasn't a pleasant woman.
18 I cannae try -- unless you've experienced the power
19 somebody can have over you like that, it was like you're
20 sort of brainwashed that she was SNR, that was it.

21 Q. You talk about an incident a little bit later in your
22 statement, but just to ask you about it just now, where
23 one of the boys in the home was very upset and he said
24 to her: 'I'm just a bit upset'. And she said something
25 like: 'Well, you'd better get downset then'?

1 A. Yeah, it was after, er, there'd been a fight or some --
2 couple of boys had had a scrap and the wee boy got a bit
3 upset, sort of thing, he was crying, nervous, you know,
4 yeah, and it was just a casual cruelty she said it
5 with.

6 Q. Was that typical of the kind of thing that she would do?

7 A. Yes, aye. There was no nurturing. No maternal instinct
8 or anything like that.

9 Q. Page 11, paragraph 59, you talk about the food, which
10 you say wasn't the best, that there was cereal for
11 breakfast, that sort of thing, and you give us a bit
12 more detail about some of the food that was given to
13 you, like a steak pie that you had to chew forever,
14 that's paragraph 61.

15 I just want to ask you about paragraph 62, that you
16 had to eat all your food and if you didn't, you weren't
17 allowed to leave the table?

18 A. Mm-hmm, yeah.

19 Q. So what happened to boys that couldn't eat all their
20 food?

21 A. You just had to sit there 'til you either forced it down
22 or it was bedtime. I think we used to go to bed about
23 half nine, so people would be sitting there for five
24 hours.

25 Q. Would the effect of that be that you then went to bed

1 without having had any food?

2 A. Yeah, yeah.

3 Q. And certainly at paragraph 64 you say you can't remember
4 anybody ever failing to eat what they'd been given, you
5 just persevered?

6 A. Yeah, just ploughed through, yeah.

7 Q. And you go on to say you knew there would be
8 repercussions but you weren't sure what they were going
9 to be. There was always a fear of what might happen.

10 A. Yeah, yeah.

11 Q. What sort of fear --

12 A. Again, it's hard to -- you know, you didnae want to get
13 in front of Mrs EWD, you know, to go into the office.

14 Q. And again at paragraph 65 you talk about her -- what you
15 describe as a 'disapproving intimidating manner'?

16 A. Yeah.

17 Q. What did she do to intimidate you?

18 A. Like, (tsk). You'd get the double (tsk tsk). And as
19 soon as she'd say, it was her catchphrase, 'You're on
20 a very sticky wicket'. You kind of knew you were close
21 to getting Mr EWC then.

22 Q. What would happen if Mr EWC became involved?

23 A. He would -- the only time this happened to me -- I was
24 thinking back after the meeting I had, you know -- you
25 got taken away -- you had this thing where, if somebody

1 was misbehaving, he would sort of crouch down and take
2 them down to the ground and sit on them until they sort
3 of either calmed down or he, you know, had a talk with
4 them, you know, to sort them out. And I seen him doing
5 that a couple of times. Never done it to myself as
6 such, but you think the threat was there, you know. If
7 it could happen to somebody else, it could possibly
8 happen to you. So yeah, that would be one of the
9 ultimate sanctions.

10 Q. So Mr EWC would take boys down to the ground and sit
11 on them. How did he take them to the ground?

12 A. Well, back then you had flared trousers, it was the
13 fashion, and he done this sort of technique where he
14 would just dive in, grab you by the ankles and down
15 you'd go and then he'd just sit on you. Again, it never
16 happened to me but I've seen it happen to a couple of,
17 you know, more of the argumentative guys.

18 Q. Sure. Isn't there an obvious danger in doing that if
19 you're tipping someone up, effectively?

20 A. Oh, yes, we had head injuries, there's broken shoulders
21 or any, you know, or even the fact somebody just sitting
22 on you, 'cos he was quite a -- he wasn't a stout -- he
23 was stout, he wasn't fat, but he was sort of stout. He
24 worked in the building trade so he was quite a big and
25 strong man.

1 Q. He was a solid individual?

2 A. Yes, oh, yes, aye.

3 Q. And did boys ever get hurt in those sort of incidents?

4 A. Never any memory of somebody, you know, going away to

5 the hospital and stuff, you know, but a couple guys had

6 bruises on them where they went down. One chap nearly

7 missed -- hit the pool table. That was a -- I seen

8 that, that was a close one.

9 LADY SMITH: 'Jack', was it only when Mrs EWD, having

10 threatened to get Mr EWC involved, got him involved,

11 that these incidents happened where he took boys to the

12 ground?

13 A. Yeah.

14 LADY SMITH: So he wouldn't be doing that off his own bat,

15 would he?

16 A. That was not my impression. Again, if I can just --

17 with the office being where it was, there was a door

18 from the office to the school room so if they were in

19 the office they could hear any goings on and they were

20 right out, sorta.

21 LADY SMITH: Right.

22 One practical thing, could I ask you, can we get the

23 microphone a little bit more in line with where you're

24 speaking.

25 A. Is that better?

1 LADY SMITH: That's much better. Thank you.

2 MR SHELDON: Did Mr EWC use any other techniques to take
3 boys to the ground or was that his favoured method --

4 A. That was his favoured. I did see him grab -- scruff
5 somebody once. It was -- I cannae mind -- he was
6 a Teddy Boy, he had his hair slicked back, I remember
7 'cos it was an unusual style back then, and he put his
8 head back on -- and for some reason Mr EWC just took
9 umbrage to this and just scruffed him, he says: 'Dinnae
10 mess up the chair'. Just lifted the guy up.

11 Q. Lifted him up by his hair?

12 A. Yeah, by the scruff. No, by the scruff of the -- just
13 (whistle).

14 Q. And what did he do with him then?

15 A. He just said, you know: 'Dinnae lean back on the chair'.
16 And just let him go and sorta wandered off.

17 Q. Right. Were boys ever taken to their room or shut in
18 their room for misbehaving?

19 A. Yeah. You were sort of kept in. You were sent to your
20 bed, you know, put up the stairs. Would miss a meal,
21 that would be the other one.

22 Q. Sorry, I missed that?

23 A. You'd miss a meal. If you were put upstairs you missed
24 your meal. Yeah.

25 Q. All right, thank you.

1 We'll talk a little bit more about the arrival of
2 the girls later on, but when the girls did come to the
3 home, did Mr EWC or anyone else ever do this sort of
4 thing to the girls?

5 A. Not that I seen, no. No.

6 Q. All right. You saw it happen to boys?

7 A. Yeah.

8 Q. But not to girls?

9 A. Oh, yeah, not to the --

10 Q. I want to ask you now about leisure time and what you
11 say about that. This is pages 13 and 14 really of your
12 statement. You give us quite a bit of detail about
13 that, but the impression that I get from what you say is
14 that there really just wasn't very much to do, is that
15 right?

16 A. I mean, there was. In the school room there was
17 a trampoline and the pool table -- table football, and
18 sometimes in the winter we'd put the trampoline on its
19 side and have five-aside, or three or four-aside
20 football, with like a foam ball, that we used to play
21 there. But yeah, we organised it all ourselves, you
22 know, there was no staff input to that at all.

23 Q. Yes, there was no direction?

24 A. No, no, no, no.

25 Q. You say there weren't many books?

1 A. No, no.

2 Q. And at paragraph 75 you say something quite striking,
3 you say that basically you were feral?

4 A. Yeah.

5 Q. What do you mean by that?

6 A. It was school holidays, that was it, you got up, got
7 your breakfast and met up with your pals. That was it.
8 Had no connection with the home at all. We just done
9 our own thing basically, yeah.

10 Q. You were just expected to get on with it?

11 A. Yeah, aye, yeah. There was -- I mean, there was
12 a summer camp that we used to go to. That was quite
13 popular.

14 Q. All right, I was just going to ask you, did the home
15 ever arrange activities?

16 A. No, no, no. It was ma school friend that says: 'You
17 should come along to the summer camp'. Used to go down
18 Yellowcraigs and stuff, but used to go back and say:
19 'Look, I'm going down to Yellowcraigs'.

20 Q. You tell us that initially school was all right, this is
21 page 15. But a time came when you say you got bored,
22 this is paragraph 80 of your statement. And your
23 education suffered badly. Can you tell us about that,
24 please, and what, if anything, the staff at the home did
25 about that?

1 A. Yeah, like I say, there was -- school just wasnae
2 interesting at the time. So there was like three or
3 four of us that used to basically skip school. Used to
4 go in in the morning, take your registration, that would
5 be you. We'd just, we'd do whatever we wanted after
6 that. And there was nothing fae Red House at all.
7 I mean, obviously the school I thought would have been
8 in contact, 'cos we got what was called a 'skip card' at
9 the time. You had to get it signed by every teacher.
10 But again, I used to go and get it signed by the teacher
11 and away to the toilet and wander off.

12 So there must have been, I think, some sort of
13 communication with Red House regarding that 'cos it was
14 official, but nothing was ever said. You know, I wasnae
15 sat down and discussed why I was skipping school,
16 anything, you know.

17 Q. Looking back as an adult, 'Jack', if, for example,
18 a child was skipping school in this way persistently,
19 would you expect a parent to talk to them about it?

20 A. Oh, yes. Yeah. I've got two kids myself. Yeah.
21 I know they'd be -- you know, it would have been dealt
22 with.

23 Q. So Mr and Mrs **EWC-EWD**, in this instance at least, weren't
24 really acting as parents?

25 A. No, oh no. Never even thought of them as parents, as

1 anything but.

2 Q. Did they ever act like parents?

3 A. No, no. To be honest -- with my history, ma parents,
4 they didn't really act as parents as such, so I didn't
5 know really what to expect from Mr and Mrs EWC-EWD. But
6 looking back, from my experiences, no, no. There was no
7 maternal, there was no empathy, there was no -- they
8 called it 'care'. There wasn't any care.

9 Q. And just going back to the issue of school, they weren't
10 chasing you -- the staff weren't chasing you about
11 homework or anything like that either?

12 A. No, no, no.

13 Q. Okay. In relation to healthcare, this is still page 16,
14 you talk about going to see a GP, someone called
15 Dr George, and you describe him as being a very nice man
16 but that this is another example of EWD's control.
17 She knew, you say, that 'if anything needed to be fed
18 back to her about any of us boys, Dr George would do
19 so'.

20 A. Yeah.

21 Q. So first of all, how do you know that's what happened?

22 A. From my perspective -- I never ever -- any times
23 I seen -- I never seen any other doctors except
24 Dr George.

25 Q. All right.

1 A. It was just expected that -- I believe he was on the
2 trust, board of trust.

3 Q. I see. All right.

4 A. But I mean, nine years I was there, whatever length of
5 time I was there, never seen any other doctors and my
6 perception was you went to see Dr George, 'cos obviously
7 they made the appointments.

8 Q. Right. So what sort of things might be fed back to
9 **EWD** ?

10 A. Just whatever illnesses we picked up or what was wrong
11 with us.

12 Q. Okay.

13 A. Looking back now, I know, probably not allowed to do
14 that. You know, data protection and stuff like that.

15 Q. Yes. Might it have been that Dr George was the doctor
16 assigned to the home? He was the home's medical
17 officer, as it were?

18 A. Yeah, possibly, yeah, possibly. But my experiences
19 after was when you went to a surgery for a doctor,
20 whatever one was available. And it seemed to be that
21 Dr George was the only one available to us.

22 Q. All right. But the connection, the relationship wasn't
23 ever made clear to you?

24 A. No, but we knew he was on the board of trust, yeah --

25 Q. All right, he was one of the trustees?

1 A. Yes, yeah.

2 Q. You do talk about a number of trips and holidays that
3 you had from Red House. This is page 17. And trips,
4 for example, to Somerset, to Filey and St Andrews. On
5 the whole, were these quite good experiences?

6 A. Er, once we got there, yeah, but the travel down was
7 a nightmare. We had this Bedford van thing, it had sort
8 of benches either side. No seatbelts. So I mean, it
9 was about -- we usually travelled overnight.

10 Q. Okay. So not particularly easy to get some sleep, and
11 nothing like that?

12 A. No, no. And everybody was in the van, Mrs EWD,
13 a couple of members of staff that went down and
14 everybody else was piled into the back.

15 Q. Yes. But once you got there --

16 A. Yes. We got our keys from the chalet and that was it,
17 sorta, gone. We got £5 a day, I remember that, to
18 spend. So we used to get our money, get our breakfast
19 and that would be us away, Skegness for the day.

20 Q. And you were just -- sorry.

21 A. Yeah, we went to Butlins, went to Skegness, so, yeah,
22 you can imagine, there was lots for us to do there, so.

23 Q. Okay. So on the whole, quite good memories of that?

24 A. Yes, yeah, absolutely. Yeah, we had a lot of fun.

25 Q. Okay. Page 18, you mention Christmases and birthdays

1 and so on. Were Christmases and birthdays observed,
2 were they celebrated at Red House?

3 A. Yes, yeah, yeah, aye. I tended to go to my
4 grandparents' for Christmas.

5 Q. But did you ever spend Christmas at Red House?

6 A. I think it was once, my gran wasn't well. And it was
7 a standard Christmas, you know. You got the turkey. We
8 got the presents, they were in a -- I always remember --
9 it was a big bin liner. That's how your presents came.
10 They weren't wrapped or anything. They were sort of
11 popped into a bag for you.

12 Q. Okay.

13 A. Basically everybody got a different variant of the same
14 toy, if you like.

15 Q. Okay. Did it feel a little bit standardised?

16 A. Yeah, aye, yeah, but we kind of thought, well, all these
17 guys here, can you imagine having to go and buy
18 individual presents.

19 Q. You talk about visitors to the home at page 19, and in
20 particular I want to ask you about social workers.
21 Should we understand from your statement that social
22 workers did come to the home and visit you specifically?

23 A. Yes, yes. Me and my brother.

24 Q. All right. How often did that happen?

25 A. Maybe once or twice a year. I was thinking about this

1 the other day and I cannae remember any individual
2 names. You know, there's no name that pops into my
3 head, so they didn't have that much influence on the --
4 if I didn't remember their names at all.

5 Q. Okay. Well, I was going to ask you, was it always the
6 same social worker --

7 A. No.

8 Q. -- or was it different people?

9 A. Er, it was generally sort of younger -- we got the
10 impression they were always very young, rather than sort
11 of older. They came down and didn't actually do much.
12 One of them used to take us out for a meal, but looking
13 back I think he maybe done it for the expenses rather
14 than -- 'cos he never talked about anything, to us about
15 anything, you know, how we were doing and if there were
16 any concerns or any, you know -- stuff that you would
17 ask naturally now.

18 But no, I've not got good impressions of social
19 workers at all.

20 LADY SMITH: Do you remember whether you were told in
21 advance that there was going to be a visit from your
22 social worker?

23 A. Yes.

24 LADY SMITH: How much --

25 A. We were told don't -- maybe the day before. You were

1 told not to wander off.

2 LADY SMITH: Ah, right.

3 MR SHELDON: Did the same social worker then come more than
4 once?

5 A. Yeah, one or two sort of came, like I say, the one that
6 used to take us out for a meal. But the last social
7 worker, she was maybe about 23, you know, so. Again,
8 they werenae much cop to us at all, they didn't -- not
9 that it was physically, you know, I could see that they
10 were actually doing anything for us.

11 Q. Were they people that you felt you could talk to?

12 A. No, no. They were strangers.

13 Q. So if something was wrong, and I think you tell us that
14 some things were wrong --

15 A. Yeah.

16 Q. -- did you feel able to tell them about it?

17 A. No, again, they were strangers and, yeah, they didnae
18 seem that interested, to be fair.

19 Q. You say that when the social worker did come, this is
20 paragraph 103:

21 'They might ask, "Are you all right?", but there was
22 no real interest in finding out whether we were or not.'

23 A. Yeah.

24 Q. Can you just expand on that a little for us, please?

25 A. Yeah, it was -- I suppose it was maybe our fault as well

1 because we were obviously desperate just to get back out
2 and do what we were doing; they interrupted our day, if
3 you like. And as soon as, 'Are you all right?', we'd
4 say, 'Yeah, we're fine'. Again, I knew they wouldn't
5 actually do anything -- I didn't get the impression they
6 could do anything anyway, 'cos they couldn't -- in my
7 mind, they couldn't usurp Mrs EWD's power. So if
8 they were doing anything, they werenae going to fix it.
9 So we just says, you know, whatever, fine, 'Everything's
10 fine'.

11 LADY SMITH: 'Jack', you said they came to see you and your
12 brother.

13 A. Mm-hm.

14 LADY SMITH: Are you telling me they always saw the two of
15 you together?

16 A. Yes, aye. All the way through Red House it was seen as
17 RJZ -- , my brother and me. Yeah, it was --

18 LADY SMITH: So, if one of you wanted to tell the social
19 worker something that was private and you didn't want
20 each other to know, you didn't have an opportunity to do
21 that?

22 A. No, no, not at all.

23 LADY SMITH: Thank you.

24 MR SHELDON: Over the page you talk about inspections and
25 that you weren't aware of any inspections all the time

1 you were at Red House. And you say you think it would
2 have been very obvious if somebody was coming to inspect
3 the place. Why do you say that?

4 A. Well, that's probably with hindsight, 'cos I've actually
5 worked residential, so I've worked in units with people
6 who acquired brain injuries, and SSSC, they do
7 an inspection. We knew, 'cos everything, the paperwork
8 we had to get all checked and everything, you know,
9 medication was all sort of checked, stuff like that.
10 There was certain stuff that had to be in place.

11 Q. Yes.

12 A. So, yeah, there was nothing -- there was no extra staff
13 on. No telling SSSC 'cos overtime goes through the
14 roof. There was nothing like that.

15 I can't remember anybody asking me questions or
16 checking up, stuff like, you know, stuff that we would
17 do now wasn't done.

18 Q. You certainly weren't aware of, as it were, strangers
19 wandering around the house?

20 A. No. No, oh, no, no, it was very obvious if somebody was
21 in. We were conny laddies, you know, naturally nose if
22 somebody was there.

23 Q. And it's not a particularly big house?

24 A. Not really -- no, you would notice if somebody was
25 there, yeah. Yeah, definitely, yeah. Just the way --

1 there was only one door in and one door -- no, two doors
2 in.

3 Q. Yes.

4 A. So, and usually they came through the front door. And
5 the TV room, you can see people coming in, through the
6 windows.

7 Q. You already mentioned Dr George who you say was on the
8 board of trustees and that he would come occasionally.
9 Did he ever speak to you or any of the other boys so far
10 as you --

11 A. Not that I'm aware of.

12 Q. -- were aware of?

13 A. No.

14 Q. So you assumed that he was just there for a medical
15 reason?

16 A. Yeah, he'd maybe got a call out for somebody, yeah.

17 Q. At page 21, you say that, paragraph 111:

18 'There was surprisingly little bullying between the
19 boys.'

20 Can we just unpick that a little?

21 A. Yeah.

22 Q. Why 'surprisingly little'?

23 A. Well, you had all these dysfunctional kids from all over
24 the country, you know, so you would think with that
25 number there would be a percentage of somebody trying to

1 be the top dog and picking on other people. I mean,
2 there was guys who didnae get on, but I think that was
3 more of a personality clash rather than one of them
4 wanted to dominate the other one.

5 Q. But on the whole, you say the boys got on all right with
6 each other?

7 A. Yeah, there'd be, again, there'd be the occasional
8 fisticuffs, you know, somebody falling oot, but I mean,
9 that's natural. Look, with talking to the guys after it
10 -- you know, you find out what their history is, you
11 think, well, no wonder you were like that, sorta thing.

12 LADY SMITH: You said there, 'Jack', that there were boys
13 from all over the country there.

14 A. Yes.

15 LADY SMITH: Which gives me the impression they weren't just
16 boys from Edinburgh or East Lothian, is that right?

17 A. Oh, no, no. There's a chap who come from Fife
18 I believe. A couple of them came over from Fife. They
19 had a funny accent. And we found out later on, that's,
20 you know, the -- yeah, but I think there was one from
21 England as well. But, no, it wasn't all locals.

22 LADY SMITH: Thank you.

23 Mr Sheldon.

24 MR SHELDON: Thank you, my Lady.

25 And at paragraph 115 you say there was a nice

1 balance between the boys, but then, when you were 14,
2 girls were admitted to the home --

3 A. Yeah.

4 Q. -- and I think you are telling us that things changed
5 a bit?

6 A. Yeah.

7 Q. How did things change when the girls came into the home?

8 A. They seemed a bit -- they were a bit wilder than -- you
9 know, they were a bit more free spirit than, especially
10 the guys that had been there for a while, you know, we
11 had been sort of indoctrinated if you like. And they
12 didn't have any fear in Mrs EWD and they were -- and
13 then you got the relationships, you know, the girls
14 going out with the boys and the boys -- you know, you
15 get all that going on as well. Because before it was
16 just quite -- not an even keel, but everybody just got
17 on with life generally.

18 And I'm no blaming the girls in any way or shape or
19 form.

20 Q. Sure.

21 A. It was just nature and this is what happened.

22 Q. You say that the girls were a bit wilder, a bit more
23 free spirited?

24 A. Yeah, maybe not so wild, but yeah, I --

25 Q. How did that come out?

1 A. If Mrs EWD sort of tried to ground them and that,
2 they would just say: 'Look, I'll just climb out the
3 window then'.
4 You know, there was no -- they don't -- they didn't
5 care about repercussions.
6 Q. And if they didn't conform to what Mrs EWD wanted
7 them to do, were there repercussions, were there
8 consequences?
9 A. There was threats of going to what we called a List D
10 school at the time, er, 'borstal' if you like. And
11 I heard that word getting bandied about a bit. But the
12 girls seemed to move on a lot quicker than the boys.
13 I don't know about the reason -- rehome or foster, you
14 know. They generally didn't stay a lot longer than,
15 than what I perceived anyway.
16 Q. And did the girls -- I mean, I think you've told us that
17 particularly during leisure time, weekends, holidays and
18 so on, the boys would spend a lot time outside the home
19 and, as it were, running around in the community?
20 A. Yeah.
21 Q. Were the girls like that too?
22 A. Yeah, yeah, I believe they were out with school friends
23 or, you know, the other girls in the -- yeah, they just
24 used to go out.
25 Q. All right. You talked about the girls having

1 relationships with some of the boys, that was boys in
2 the home?

3 A. Mm-hmm, yeah.

4 Q. Did they ever have relationships with boys or others
5 outside the home?

6 A. I suspect they did, yeah, but that was their business,
7 you know.

8 Q. You didn't know about that or ask about that?

9 A. No, they had their own lives sort of thing, yeah.

10 Q. Looking back, again from the perspective of what you
11 know now, would you have had any concerns about boys and
12 girls being allowed, as it were --

13 A. In the same building?

14 Q. Sorry -- allowed free access and unsupervised time in
15 the community like that?

16 A. Oh, absolutely, yeah, yeah. I mean, it might sound
17 quite sort of old fashioned if you like, but it's
18 a disaster mixing teenage boys with teenage girls. It
19 was never ending well, particularly as it had always
20 been boys, you know, and then they threw this in the
21 mix. So, yeah.

22 Of course again, there was lots of relationships,
23 there was lots of sneaking about and stuff like that, so
24 not something I would expect these days, not without
25 some kind of supervision.

1 Q. All right. And so far as you saw, so far as you were
2 concerned, there wasn't really adequate supervision in
3 the home at least?

4 A. No, I wouldn't say so, no, no.

5 Q. You do say though, and this is page 22 of your
6 statement, that as time went on, when you were about 14,
7 you noticed staff actually became more professional.
8 It's paragraph 119.

9 A. Yeah.

10 Q. When -- roughly when did that happen and how did it come
11 out? How did you notice that things were changing in
12 that way?

13 A. Well, there was two that came and they were very -- just
14 from their whole demeanour, you know. They would speak
15 to you like an adult, as an equal, and if they asked
16 you, 'Are you okay?', they would actually hold eye
17 contact with you as if they're looking for, you know,
18 the answer, if you like, a proper answer. And they
19 were -- yeah, the word I would use is 'professional'.
20 They were very calm when they spoke to us. There was no
21 screaming, there was no snidey comments, there was --
22 you know, from before, yeah.

23 Q. So was that rather different to the way that, for
24 example, the social workers had spoken to you when they
25 visited?

1 A. Yeah, absolutely, they were -- yeah, you trusted them,
2 I think is the word I would use, yeah.

3 Q. All right.

4 A. You felt you werenae going to, you know, do any -- you
5 always think you're in the wrong, you know, before you
6 even opened your mouth, sort of thing. But these two
7 kinda treated you, like I said, like an adult and they
8 listened to what you said.

9 Q. Okay. Would you say you felt safe with them?

10 A. Trusted them, yeah, so, yeah, I would say, yeah.

11 Q. Okay. And would they have been people that you could
12 have confided in if there was something wrong?

13 A. No. By that time you were so closed down, you know.
14 They were staff. Even though we, you know, we got on
15 with them, they were still staff and there was a line in
16 the sand. So, no, you wouldnae -- well, personally
17 I wouldn't, no. I was too shut down by then.

18 Q. Okay. So this was an improvement on what had gone
19 before, but still not people that you could properly
20 confide in?

21 A. No, no. I think sort of by that time we were
22 institutionalised a bit.

23 Q. You tell us a bit about discipline at page 23 and then
24 at page 24 you go on to look at the issue of abuse.

25 You've told us a bit about Mr EWC and the

1 techniques or technique that he would use to really
2 control boys, to restrain boys, as I think we would say
3 now.

4 What about Mrs EWD, did she raise a hand to
5 anyone?

6 A. I never seen -- personally I never seen. I heard other
7 people saying, but I -- I'm sworn in and that, so no,
8 I can say hand on heart I never experienced that
9 first-hand.

10 Q. Okay.

11 A. In my mind, she didn't really need to. You know, she
12 had 100 per cent control, so.

13 Q. And that was just by the force of her personality, as it
14 were?

15 A. Yeah, yes. Yeah.

16 Q. So we've talked about Mr and Mrs EWC-EWD. You also
17 mention EWV as being someone who was sometimes
18 physical?

19 A. Yeah.

20 Q. Tell us about that, please.

21 A. Yeah. She was a bully. But she was a typical bully,
22 she would pick on the younger ones. She wouldn't dare
23 pick on the bigger boys that would stand up to her.

24 Q. What would she do?

25 A. She'd nip. She give them a nip or a wee slap or -- she

1 was quite a stout woman so she would just walk towards
2 them and sort of skittle them out the road. Things like
3 that.

4 Q. So a nip where?

5 A. What we used to call a 'cuddy bite'. A wee, you know,
6 flick of the ear or -- just to show them that she was
7 there and she could, if she wanted.

8 Q. Right.

9 A. Yeah.

10 Q. You use the expression, this is paragraph 133, that she
11 would give a backhanded slap across their heads?

12 A. Yeah, yeah.

13 Q. How did that -- how was that -- how did she do that?

14 A. There didn't need to be a reason, you know, she'd just
15 sort of walk by -- she'd laugh it off, you know, she --
16 and then: 'Oh', you know, 'Was that sore?'. Again,
17 typical bully stuff. But like I say, it was always the
18 smaller children, smaller boys, rather than, you know, a
19 big sort of stout, grown teenager.

20 Q. Was this -- so was this a slap on the face or on the
21 head?

22 A. The back of the head. It was more of a technique to
23 show her dominance over the younger sorta ones. She did
24 threaten one of the bigger, you know, older boys and he
25 says: 'I'll just knock you oot'. So she didn't mess

1 with him anymore, sorta.

2 Q. How did she threaten him?

3 A. She said: 'I'll give you a slap'.

4 Q. Okay.

5 A. And he just, again, looked her in the eye and ...

6 Q. Did she ever restrain children?

7 A. She'd send the younger ones up to their bed, stuff like

8 that, which -- as such, but she would follow them up.

9 Rather than, you know, if Mr EWC says, 'Right, bed',

10 you went. She would follow them up.

11 I think she tried -- she tried to be or wanted to be

12 Mrs EWD. She perceived that that's how you dealt

13 with boys, you know, you bullied them and --

14 Q. So you thought effectively she'd learned this behaviour

15 from Mrs EWD?

16 A. Yes, the technique, yeah, of intimidating, yeah, I would

17 say.

18 Q. Except that EWV was more physical than Mrs EWD?

19 A. Yeah, yeah. She didn't have the force of personality,

20 if you like.

21 Q. You also talk about -- and I think are these the two

22 domestics that you mentioned before?

23 A. Yes.

24 Q. The ones who used to smoke in the TV room?

25 A. Yes, aye.

1 Q. And that they, you say, were a pair of bullies. How did
2 their bullying come out?

3 A. The same intimidation. I think they probably learnt
4 from EWW. You know, there'd be the wee snidey
5 comments, the wee nips.

6 Q. You say they pushed boys around?

7 A. Yes. One of them, I believe it was -- again, it wasn't
8 until after -- she tried to lock somebody in one of the
9 wee bathrooms, 'To talk to them', like she said. But --
10 I can't remember who it is, but he was quite a skinny
11 lad, but he managed to sort of get by her, if you like.
12 But he was quite intimidated. But he was quite a quiet
13 soul anyway, I think. So, again, she knew what ones to
14 pick on. There's no way she'd have picked on some of
15 the bigger lads.

16 Q. Can you just describe for us how they would push boys
17 around; what was that like?

18 A. Well, if you've gone down the corridor and they were
19 coming the other way, they would purposely brush against
20 you, or: 'Oh, sorry, I never seen you'. You know, sort
21 of basic intimidation. It wasn't done jokingly, like
22 you would do with your friends or stuff. There was
23 a purpose.

24 Q. Okay.

25 A. And we didn't -- we couldn't think why, because we

1 hadn't done anything to them.

2 Q. So these were more like body checks than shoves, like
3 that?

4 A. Yeah, yeah. But it was still, you know, unwanted
5 contact with somebody for a reason.

6 Q. Are these the only examples of physical abuse that you
7 saw at Red House?

8 A. Yeah, there was nothing -- there was nothing sexual that
9 I knew of and nothing -- I never heard anybody saying
10 that somebody had done anything inappropriate to them.
11 It was just mainly the, you know, bumping into, you
12 know, the intimidation tactics rather than anything
13 sexual, if you like.

14 Q. Okay.

15 A. That's not to say, I don't know any -- no, it might have
16 happened to somebody else. It didn't happen to me and
17 I never heard anything about it, from anybody else.

18 Q. You then come to a time when you leave Red House. You
19 say at paragraph 136, page 25, you never knew how long
20 you were going to be in Red House.

21 So no one ever talked to you about how long you were
22 going to be there, what was going to happen afterwards?

23 A. No. My brother would still laugh at it, we were sorta
24 temporary for eight years, eight/nine years, 'cos they
25 always said: 'Oh, yeah, you're just going in here

1 temporary'. That was the sort of party line, if you
2 like.

3 Q. So were you fairly constantly thinking that a time might
4 come soon when you might be out of Red House?

5 A. Yeah. Yeah, I believe there was talk about fostering
6 myself and my brother, but my dad put a halt to that, so
7 that was us, we were -- 'cos back at the time they done
8 something on Radio Forth about, you know, the young kids
9 they would foster out, they would get them in the studio
10 and stuff. They tried to get that going, but I think
11 that was -- I don't know who done that, but nobody ever
12 spoke about it to us. It was done behind our backs, if
13 you like.

14 Q. All right.

15 A. We had no knowledge. It wasn't until I was an adult
16 I found that out from somebody, another family member.

17 Q. Right. Page 26, you talk about a period when you were
18 in a -- what was called the annexe, that was a flat at
19 Red House?

20 A. Yeah.

21 Q. Was that a flat within Red House or attached to it in
22 some way?

23 A. I think you would probably call it a servants' house,
24 back in the day, you know, when they had the Georgian
25 house, is probably where the -- and it was, to the

1 right-hand side there was a main gate and a wee wall and
2 it was there. It's actually on the main road if you
3 like, on Millhill itself.

4 Q. Right, so was that quite close to what you called the
5 school room?

6 A. Yes, well, you come out -- yeah, you could actually see
7 it from the school room. It was actually sort of backed
8 onto the yard as well, if you like.

9 Q. Right. So you were put there, and this is a flat remote
10 from the main house?

11 A. Yes.

12 Q. And was it you living there on your own or was your
13 brother there?

14 A. It was myself and my brother and there was one other
15 chap that stayed in the room down the stairs --

16 Q. Okay, and you are 14 or 15 at this stage?

17 A. Yes, yeah.

18 Q. Okay. You say that staff would come over now and again
19 to check on you and there was an older resident. How
20 did you feel about that arrangement at the time? Do you
21 remember feeling safe and secure?

22 A. Yeah. Not at first, because, you know, you had all your
23 needs -- well, not all your needs, but, you know, you
24 weren't responsible for anything and suddenly you had to
25 do your own cooking. Nobody showed us how to cook. We

1 just sort of learnt ourselves. And you got an allowance
2 that was for your food and stuff, but of course, Pot
3 Noodles, you know, when you were that age there was
4 no -- there was nobody to teach -- I think they thought
5 it was there to teach us how to live in the world, but
6 there was nobody there to teach you what to do. You
7 kinda scrambled yersel, if you like, trial and error.

8 Q. Okay. So there weren't any staff who would come and
9 help you with shopping, help you with cooking?

10 A. No. Oh, no. No, no, no, no.

11 Q. Nothing like that?

12 A. Nothing like that, no.

13 Q. So looking back now, how do you feel that was as
14 a preparation for going out into the world?

15 A. It's a nonsense. Yeah, it was just, you're plucked out
16 of somewhere where -- it was a bit like, I think, being
17 in jail, you know, if you were let out of the jail:
18 'Right, just get on with your... ' That was the
19 impression, you know? We had no life skills at all.
20 And we were still only teenagers, you know, we're still
21 vulnerable young boys, if you like.

22 Q. Paragraph 141, you say that you left Red House in 1986
23 and that really was the year that Red House closed, it
24 stopped operation?

25 A. I believe so, yes, aye, yeah.

1 Q. And you tell us that they never even told -- they never
2 told you that the place was shutting. So how did it
3 feel to have the place, as it were, shut?

4 A. Yeah, that was our home, for want of a better word, you
5 know. That's where all of our stuff was, that's where
6 your friends was, even your school was, your
7 schoolmates. So, yeah, there was no gentle letdown.

8 We kinda -- I think we knew because more and more
9 people were going away, if you like. And then we sort
10 of asked the staff, you know, what's happening, and they
11 says: 'Well, the building's been sold', or something,
12 you know, 'It's closing down'.

13 Q. Sure.

14 A. But we had to ask, rather than sat down and told.

15 Q. You tell us then that you had, I think, a short period
16 in Ravelston Dykes Children's Home?

17 A. Yes, that was just for a few months, yeah.

18 Q. And you're then in a flat; was that back in Musselburgh?

19 A. Yes, yeah.

20 Q. All right. And at that time, this is page 28, you say
21 that there was no contact from social work?

22 A. No. The only contact I had was from Castlerock.

23 I don't know if he was -- I think he was more of
24 a housing officer rather than a social worker, but no,
25 there was no -- 16-year-old, that was you, you were out

1 the system.

2 Q. I was going to say, you're still 16 at this stage; is
3 that right?

4 A. Yeah. Yeah.

5 Q. And living on your own or with anyone else?

6 A. There was another chap there but he was a bit strange.
7 He was never in. I don't think I seen him that often,
8 to be fair.

9 Q. And at all events you stay there for a couple of years,
10 you get some work, first of all as a joiner, I think?

11 A. Mm-hm.

12 Q. And you later retrained then as a care worker?

13 A. Yeah.

14 Q. Can you tell us about that and why you decided to go
15 down that particular line?

16 A. Er, well, I done my apprenticeship and back then, if you
17 finished your apprenticeship, you went to another
18 company. You know, you went out on your own, if you
19 like. The housing market just dropped. There was no
20 jobs for joiners at the time in the building trade at
21 all.

22 I went to one of those courses at the DWP, you know,
23 if you want your money, you have to come and do this
24 'back to work' thing, and one of the chaps says, you
25 know, you try -- train as a carer. And I thought, yeah,

1 okay, yeah, but. At the time I thought put something
2 back to the system. Ironically enough. And I done
3 a two-year course at Dalkeith College to get my
4 qualifications.

5 Q. And you did then, I think, go on to work in various
6 different --

7 A. Yes, I worked in residential. The nursing home that
8 I done my placement in, I worked there for a few years.
9 And the kids were getting a bit older, so I kinda needed
10 more money, so I had to sort of look for other jobs as
11 well, 'cos it wasn't well paid.

12 Q. Did you ever work in residential with children?

13 A. No.

14 Q. Or was it always with adults?

15 A. No. My qualifications only restricts me to adults. My
16 PVG.

17 Q. All right. But I suppose the question that -- and
18 you've mentioned this really in your evidence already,
19 but with the training that you had and looking back on
20 your experiences at Red House, how would you describe,
21 or how would you describe the level of care, the
22 adequacy of the care that you received at Red House?

23 A. I would say, as I said at the -- I think we were treated
24 a bit like cattle, you know, farm animals. We were
25 watered, we were fed, we were sheltered. Anything else,

1 you know, do yourself. There was no empathy. There was
2 no emotional support.

3 The one thing as well, the education, I'm quite
4 galled about that, because when I went back to college
5 I found out that I'm actually quite intelligent. But
6 that was never nurtured in any way. You know, if I'd
7 been pushed, say, in the right direction, you know,
8 I might have been onto other things in life. So that
9 sort of restricted me a bit.

10 There was no planning for any sort of day-to-day
11 stuff. Stuff that we would do now as residential care
12 workers, if you like, you know, there would be a care
13 plan in place, we'd have to follow those care plans. We
14 would ask the clients. It's all personal-centred now,
15 kind of work. Back then it was just all lumped in
16 together: you will eat what everybody else eats
17 regardless. You know, it was that. But, yeah --

18 LADY SMITH: 'Jack', when you went to college, I think you
19 said it was Eskbank, was it?

20 A. Yes.

21 LADY SMITH: Did you get any help with the fees?

22 A. I had to get a bursary, but I organised that myself.

23 And I had a part-time job as well.

24 LADY SMITH: Thank you.

25 MR SHELDON: You may not be able to answer this, but how do

1 you feel that training, such as the training you got --
2 and I suppose that may be transferable in some respects
3 anyway to different care sectors?

4 A. Yeah.

5 Q. How did you feel that the training affected the way that
6 you interacted with people that you were caring for?

7 A. Er, yeah --

8 Q. How did it help, in other words, you as a carer?

9 A. Yeah. I think to be a carer you have to have some kind
10 of empathic, you know, a vocation for it anyway so that,
11 you know, to be able to work with people.

12 But we, again, after working certain policies and
13 procedures, but in the procedures and -- you know,
14 you've got dignity stuff, you know, all the basics
15 stuff.

16 It's hard to say when you're --

17 Q. Yes, I'm sorry, I'm putting you on the spot.

18 A. Yeah, no, no. No, but I would say I'm naturally
19 a caring person, but, you know, that helps with the job.
20 But I was just saying before I came in here, I've been
21 doing it 30 years now and I'm getting a bit burned out
22 now.

23 But -- well, my manager says I'm good at my job.
24 I've never been dragged in. Every -- you get
25 supervision every year and it's always positive. I fill

1 out all my training, I do all my training courses, you
2 know, and I get good feedback fae the clients, so, you
3 know, yeah.

4 Q. You go on then to talk about the impact of your
5 experiences on you and your life after care. And
6 I think you're telling us, but please tell me if
7 I'm wrong, that it affected your relationships in some
8 respects?

9 A. Oh, yes. Yeah.

10 Q. Particularly with your ex-wife?

11 A. Yeah. It might be some kind of Freudian thing, but my
12 ex-wife is a very -- what's the word -- not intimidating
13 but she's controlling. She was very controlling.
14 Particularly financially as well as emotionally. And
15 I would say in the same mould as Mrs EWD .

16 Q. But for your part you say:

17 'I wasn't a very affectionate person because
18 I didn't know how to be affectionate.'

19 A. Yeah, absolutely, yeah. Hand up to that, yeah.

20 Q. Why do you think that was?

21 A. 'Cos we didn't get that kind of -- even the basics, you
22 know, a cuddle or a hug or a pat on the back, you know,
23 the basic stuff that people get as they grow up from
24 parents. And it probably affected my relationship with
25 my two kids as well, 'cos again, they didnae really get

1 much physical contact, you know, hugs and stuff, 'cos
2 I didn't -- even, and it's strange to tell, but even now
3 I have to really trust somebody. My present partner,
4 she's very bubbly and outgoing and she's very
5 affectionate, so she's sort of brought me out a wee bit
6 now.

7 Q. Did you get very much physical affection, positive
8 physical affection, when you were at Red House?

9 A. No. Oh, no. None. No. Not even physically, you know.
10 Somebody saying: 'Oh, you done a good job there'. You
11 know. Or: 'You're looking well'. There was nothing
12 like that.

13 Q. You go on to say at page 31 that you ultimately did get
14 some counselling?

15 A. Yeah.

16 Q. And that that, you felt, helped?

17 A. Yeah.

18 Q. How did it help?

19 A. Well, before, when you're not emotionally available
20 you're not really verbally available either, so I didn't
21 know how to articulate these, you know, these issues
22 that I had. Hence this. This, you know, coming, going
23 through the whole process also helps with that as well.
24 'Cos you suddenly realise that you're talking about
25 things. It does actually help, rather than keeping them

1 bottled up and cramming them down.

2 Q. And at paragraph 169 you go on to say:

3 'I've never reported my experiences as a child to
4 anybody. I suppose I didn't think of it as abuse at the
5 time and it was only when I spoke to my brother that he
6 asked me to think about my work and what abuse is, that
7 I had a lightbulb moment. All the things that we don't
8 do, can't do and wouldn't do in my work was done to us
9 on a daily basis.'

10 Can I just ask you, 'Jack', what sticks in your mind
11 the most about the experiences that you had,
12 particularly at Red House?

13 A. Well, at the time we thought we were quite lucky because
14 we were getting -- from the situation I came from with
15 my family, I actually thought it was, you know, that was
16 stability. And looking back I just think, yeah, it was
17 just basically a jail, you know.

18 I came out of the -- loneliness, I think, would --
19 you know. And a bit of shame, actually, because I let
20 this woman control me for years. I felt sort of weak as
21 well, you know, that somebody can just do that to you
22 for -- just to control you.

23 Q. Yes. Yes, one of the things that you say earlier in
24 your statement is about being made to feel that you'd
25 done something wrong when you didn't think you had?

1 A. Oh, yeah, yeah. Guilty until proven otherwise, yeah.
2 Oh, yeah, you were always -- if something had happened,
3 it wasn't: 'Oh, what's happened?', 'What have you done
4 now?'. It was always that sort of situation.

5 Q. What effect do you think that had on you in later life?
6 A. Yeah, self-esteem was just -- sometimes it even sneaks
7 back now, you know, if summat goes wrong, kinda: 'Well,
8 that's my fault'. And it blatantly isn't.

9 Q. So on the last page of your statement, page 32, you talk
10 about lessons to be learned and you've already said to
11 us, and it's a very striking thing to say, that you felt
12 you were treated like farm animals at Red House. And it
13 wasn't perhaps until later that you realised just how
14 difficult things had been?

15 A. Yeah.

16 Q. At paragraph 172 you say:
17 'I know it was a while ago now, but nobody should
18 have the amount of control over people that Mrs EWD
19 had.'

20 Can you just explain that for us, please?

21 A. Well, it's making -- how can you say that -- it's
22 just -- how can I put it now. It's -- yeah, somebody
23 shouldn't be able to just control people out of their
24 own whim.

25 I think she seen it as having to control

1 23 overruly, you know, we had to be pushed down and
2 controlled, rather than being nurtured and, you know,
3 showing somebody a bit of kindness and, you know.

4 Q. But so far as you were aware or so far as you
5 experienced, there was no one there to check her or to
6 check on her?

7 A. No, she was SNR, yep. Ultimately, yeah. In my
8 perspective. I mean, other people have different, you
9 know.

10 Q. Did Mr EWC ever do anything or say anything that you
11 saw that might have acted as a check on her?

12 A. Not in public. Not in public, no, no. We used to have
13 meetings, you know, but, er ...

14 Q. And you go on to say at paragraph 174:

15 'People looking after children must be properly
16 trained and must be specialised.'

17 And I think you told us that when these two new
18 members of staff came to Red House towards the end of
19 your time there, that things did improve, and was that,
20 in your view, did that seem to be because they were at
21 least partly better trained?

22 A. Yeah, absolutely, yeah. Like I said, I didn't realise
23 at the time. It was, like, again, it's hindsight, you
24 think to yersel: yeah, they've actually trained, they
25 done their job properly, up to a different, you know,

1 level compared to sitting there, smoking a cigarette,
2 you know, watching TV. They would come in and sit down
3 with you, interact with you, you know. They actually
4 took an interest, which kinda made you feel a bit:
5 really? What do you want?

6 Q. All right.

7 And that was quite a contrast to the way that you
8 felt with Mrs EWD ?

9 A. Yeah.

10 Q. Because she, I think we understand, just made you feel
11 as if you'd done something wrong all the time?

12 A. Yeah, oh, yeah.

13 Q. Well, 'Jack', thank you. I've nothing else that I want
14 to ask you. Is there anything that you want to add to
15 what you've told us already?

16 A. No, no. Everything's been pretty clear, yeah.

17 I'll probably go home and go: 'Oh, damn, I should
18 have said that'.

19 MR SHELDON: Well, thank you.

20 A. Thank you.

21 LADY SMITH: 'Jack', let me add my thanks. It's been so
22 good to hear you in person in addition to having your
23 written statement. It's really brought to life some of
24 what was happening in Red House during the period you
25 were there from 1979. I'm really grateful to you and

1 I hope you're able to have a relaxing time for the rest
2 of today. Do feel free to go whenever you're ready.

3 A. Lovely. Thank you.

4 (The witness withdrew)

5 LADY SMITH: Now, before I rise for the morning break, there
6 are a few names I want to mention and these are names
7 that we've used in the course of evidence but they are
8 of people who must not be identified as referred to in
9 our evidence outside this room. And that was Mr EWC
10 or EWC, Mrs EWD or EWD, EWV and there
11 was also mention of the applicant's brother's first name
12 . He's not to be identified either.

13 So I'll stop now until the morning break when there
14 will be another witness in person to come.

15 (11.25 am)

16 (A short break)

17 (11.47 am)

18 LADY SMITH: Ms Forbes.

19 MS FORBES: Good morning, my Lady. The next witness is
20 an applicant who is anonymous and is known as 'Ghillie',
21 spelt G-H-I-L-L-I-E.

22 LADY SMITH: Thank you.

23 'Ghillie' (sworn)

24 LADY SMITH: 'Ghillie', thank you so much for coming along
25 this morning to help us with your evidence in person.

1 It's going to be very good to hear from you, in addition
2 to the written evidence I already have, and that's in
3 the red folder in front of you there. Thank you also
4 for providing that in advance.

5 One or two other practicalities, the plan is that
6 we'll start your evidence now. I expect it will be
7 finished by about the time of the lunch break at
8 1 o'clock, but you mustn't feel under pressure. It can
9 take as long as you need it to take. And if, for
10 example, you want a break at any time, please just say.
11 It's not a problem, you just tell me.

12 A. Thank you.

13 LADY SMITH: Or if you want a pause just sitting where you
14 are, equally that's not a problem.

15 Essentially, 'Ghillie', I know what we're asking you
16 to do here, which is give evidence, in a public place,
17 about things that are very personal to you and in
18 particular things that happened long ago when you were
19 a young child and weren't exactly good things that
20 I'm going to ask if we can explore with you.

21 People may be surprised themselves at how upsetting
22 it can become, even if you think you're prepared. I am
23 well used to that so don't worry about it and if there's
24 anything I can do to assist in any way, you must just
25 let me know, all right?

1 If you're ready, I'll hand over to Ms Forbes and
2 she'll take it from there. Thank you.

3 Ms Forbes.

4 Questions from Ms Forbes

5 MS FORBES: Thank you, my Lady.

6 Good morning, 'Ghillie'.

7 A. Good morning.

8 Q. 'Ghillie', you've given a statement to the Inquiry,
9 which is in the red folder in front of you, and it will
10 also appear on the screen. Now, you don't have to refer
11 to either the screen or the folder, it's up to you, but
12 it's there if it helps you.

13 'Ghillie', we give that statement a reference number
14 for our records so I'm just going to read it into the
15 transcript so that we know that this is the reference
16 for your statement. It's WIT-1-000000576.

17 'Ghillie', if I could ask you to turn to the very
18 last page of the statement in your red folder, that's
19 page 30. And we can see that there's a paragraph there,
20 paragraph 131, and there's a declaration that's made
21 there, I'm just going to read it out. It says:

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

1 And then you've signed that and it's dated

2 16 December 2020, is that right?

3 A. That's correct.

4 Q. Is that still the position?

5 A. Yes, it is.

6 Q. So if we could just go back to the very first page again

7 of your statement, but again you don't have to have it

8 in front of you if you don't want to.

9 'Ghillie', you tell us you were born in 1947, is

10 that right?

11 A. That's correct.

12 Q. You then go on to tell us in your statement about your

13 life before you went into care, so I'm just going to

14 turn now and ask you some questions about that, if

15 that's okay.

16 I think you tell us you were born in Edinburgh, is

17 that right?

18 A. That's correct.

19 Q. And you have one brother who is two years younger than

20 you?

21 A. Yes.

22 Q. And whilst you go on in your statement to tell us about

23 your parents, I think it's fair to say that this is

24 information that you found out later on in life, is that

25 right?

1 A. Yes.

2 Q. But what you tell us you found out is that both your
3 parents worked, but again you don't have any memories of
4 them or your childhood before you went into care, but
5 what you were told is that your mum went away with
6 another man, essentially, and left your father with you
7 and your younger brother. Is that right?

8 A. That's correct.

9 Q. So your father then had to care for you and your younger
10 brother after she left?

11 A. Yes.

12 Q. I think you tell us, 'Ghillie', that your dad was
13 a farrier in the army and then when he came home from
14 the army, he worked with horses in the Co-op delivering
15 milk and also delivering beer for a brewery?

16 A. That's correct.

17 Q. That was his background. And what you know is that when
18 your dad then had to look after you and your brother,
19 there was a small terraced house that you lived in, very
20 little money and he was having to go out to work and
21 care for you at the same time; is that right?

22 A. Yes.

23 Q. 'Ghillie', you tell us that you had an illness at one
24 point and ended up in hospital and you think that that's
25 when your father realised he couldn't cope looking after

1 you and had no choice but to put you and your brother
2 into care?

3 A. That's right.

4 Q. You then tell us, 'Ghillie', about Templedean Children's
5 Home in Haddington, so this appears to be the first
6 place that you remember being put into care; is that
7 right?

8 A. That's correct, yeah.

9 Q. And 'Ghillie', you tell us about Templedean between
10 paragraphs 4 and 41 of your statement, and we have that
11 there in detail. Now, in front of you on the screen,
12 that part of your statement is redacted. And I think
13 you understand that that's because today in this Inquiry
14 we're looking at Red House. But that doesn't mean that
15 we are ignoring that part of your statement or --
16 everything you tell us about Templedean is there for us
17 as the Inquiry to consider.

18 So today we're not going to focus on your time in
19 Templedean, but I think we need to really summarise when
20 you were there and how you then came to get to
21 Red House.

22 So, I think you tell us 'Ghillie', that Templedean
23 in Haddington was essentially a girls' home, is that
24 right?

25 A. That's correct, yeah.

1 Q. And you're not sure really how your father organised it
2 for you and your brother to go there, because obviously
3 you were boys, but you believe you were sent there in
4 1952, so you would have been about 4 or 5 at that time;
5 is that right?

6 A. Yes.

7 Q. And your brother would have been two years younger. So
8 both very young when you first went into care, is that
9 right?

10 A. I actually remember going there on -- that time, yeah.

11 Q. Secondary Institutions - to be published later



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18 A.

19 Q.

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22 A.

23 Q.

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25 LADY SMITH: 'Ghillie', I mean, we're not going into the

1 details of Templedean today but I have read your
2 evidence about that. Secondary Institutions - to be published later

3 Secondary Institutions - to be published later
4

5 A.

6 LADY SMITH: Secondary Institutions - to be published later

7 A. Secondary Institutions - to be published later
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20 LADY SMITH: Secondary Institutions - to be published later

21 Secondary Institutions - to be published later
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24 A.
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Secondary Institutions - to be published later

7 LADY SMITH: Thank you very much.

8 Ms Forbes.

9 MS FORBES: My Lady.

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Secondary Institutions - to be published later

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A.

Q.

17

Secondary Ins. I think you also tell us that you seem to have been aware that when you got to a certain age, you would have to move from Templedean; is that right?

18 A. Yes, that's correct, yeah.

19 Q. And the concern that you had about that was leaving your brother behind?

20 A. Yes.

21 Q. And I think you tell us that when you spoke to the woman in charge there about that, she told you that you

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1 wouldn't have to leave your brother behind, but you
2 would have to move on?

3 A. I think that was possibly some sort of contract that
4 they had with my father when -- my father was a veteran
5 and I think that's what he used, and I'm not sure if it
6 was a veterans' association that introduced him to
7 Templedean, but I think that was the idea, that we'd be
8 kept together as long as possible.

9 Q. Secondary Institutions - to be published later



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12 A.

13 Q.

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17 A.

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25 Q. And you then tell us, 'Ghillie', that you were indeed

1 moved on and you were able to go with your brother, and
2 this is the part of your statement where you tell us
3 about going to Red House in Musselburgh.

4 The part of your statement that deals with that is
5 from paragraph 44 onwards.

6 Now, I know that you don't have any records,
7 'Ghillie', but whilst we've not been able to recover any
8 of your records specific to you, we do have a register
9 from Red House and I think you're aware of the fact that
10 there's a record of you being admitted there and
11 discharged.

12 So the dates that we have, that you were admitted to
13 Red House, are [REDACTED] 1956. So you would have been
14 about 9?

15 A. Yes.

16 Q. And I think that's the age you thought you were in your
17 statement, is that right?

18 A. Yes.

19 Q. And ultimately it has you being discharged from
20 Red House on [REDACTED] 1963. So you would have still been
21 15 --

22 A. Yes.

23 Q. -- at that time, turning 16 later on in the [REDACTED]. Is
24 that right?

25 A. Yes.

1 Q. So you were there overall just under seven years,
2 six-and-three-quarter years?

3 A. Yes.

4 Q. So quite a significant period of time at Red House.
5 Now, 'Ghillie', I'm just going to go on now and ask
6 you about your time at Red House if that's okay?

7 A. Yes, that's fine.

8 Q. Okay. You tell us a bit about Red House and we have
9 already in the Inquiry seen a couple of pictures. You
10 tell us it was an old Victorian house. You're not sure
11 if it was operated by either the local authority or the
12 church. And you go on to tell us about the layout of
13 the house in paragraphs 44 and 45. And you give us
14 quite a lot of detail, which is very useful. I'm not
15 going to go through all of that today, but we have it
16 there to be able to look at, to get our bearings as to
17 how the house was laid out. But I think essentially, am
18 I right in saying that there were about three floors and
19 then an attic area?

20 A. That's correct, yeah.

21 Q. And you do tell us there was a laundry. There were --
22 there was a scullery. There were toilets outside
23 downstairs, is that at the back of the building?

24 A. They were outside at the back, yes.

25 Q. And there were dormitories, some were bigger than

1 others, is that right?

2 A. Yes.

3 Q. And the attic then had two smaller bedrooms; that was
4 right at the top of the house?

5 A. That's correct.

6 Q. You also tell us, 'Ghillie', about a superintendent's
7 quarters and I think, from what you say in paragraph 45,
8 there was an assistant superintendent's quarters and
9 then up the stairs from there, there was the
10 superintendent's quarters, and then above that was the
11 attic area?

12 A. That's right, yeah.

13 Q. So there were staff who stayed and lived on the
14 property, in the premises?

15 A. Yes.

16 Q. And at paragraph 44, 'Ghillie', you mention a Mr FSK
17 and his offices and the fact that they were at the
18 bottom. Was that the first floor then of the house?

19 A. Sorry?

20 Q. Sorry, 'Ghillie', it's the way I've asked it.
21 At paragraph 44 you tell us:
22 'In the building at the bottom was a dining room,
23 furnace, scullery kitchen and a corridor which led to
24 the offices of Mr FSK.'

25 A. That's correct, yeah.

1 Q. So was that on the first level then?

2 A. That was on the first level, yeah.

3 Q. And then you give us some more detail about the layout
4 after that.

5 You tell us at paragraph 45, 'Ghillie', that the
6 whole house was well heated and always felt warm?

7 A. Yes, it did. There was a furnace at the back end of the
8 kitchen, just before the main stairs up. There was
9 a separate room that had -- it was a boiler room
10 essentially.

11 Q. Okay. And I think you also tell us that the attic that
12 we've talked about, which had the two smaller bedrooms,
13 were used at the time you were there by the older boys?

14 A. Yes.

15 Q. So once you got to a certain age, that was maybe
16 somewhere where you could be trusted to be on your own?

17 A. Yeah.

18 Q. 'Ghillie', you tell us a little bit about the outside
19 area and the fact that there were gardens, allotments,
20 there was a large concrete area at the back of the
21 house, which was a playground, and again we've mentioned
22 the outside toilets at the back door.

23 You say there was a big shed full of wood for the
24 boiler. Is that the furnace that you've talked about?

25 A. Yes.

1 Q. And there was a series of smaller sheds with gardening
2 implements and tools?

3 A. Yes.

4 Q. You then go on to tell us a little bit about some of the
5 staff that you remember and this is at paragraph 47.

6 So Mr FSK was SNR , is that right?

7 A. Yes.

8 Q. And he was SNR of Red House from --

9 A. Yeah, he would .

10 Q. You tell us about kitchen staff. There was a Mrs Bryce
11 and her husband and two other ladies, and Mrs Bryce
12 didn't live inside the main house, but in a house
13 to the home?

14 A. Yeah, that's correct.

15 Q. And then occasionally there was a temporary SNR
16 SNR who came in, but that was only after
17 you'd been there for a few years, and that person, you
18 say, was eventually replaced by the permanent SNR
19 SNR called FRT ?

20 A. That's correct.

21 Q. So if we've got Mr FSK as SNR , at
22 a point in time then we've got this permanent SNR
23 SNR of FRT , and that's who you
24 recall; is that right?

25 You describe him, 'Ghillie', as being a small man

1 but a strict disciplinarian?

2 A. Very much so, yes.

3 Q. And you say he was ex-navy?

4 A. I remember him as being ex-navy, but I can't remember
5 where I got the information from.

6 Q. And we've mentioned the quarters of the assistant
7 superintendent and you say that his quarters were just
8 down from the boys' dormitory?

9 A. Just down from the boys' dormitory, and from the main
10 door up, it's one flight of stairs up to his rooms, so,
11 yeah.

12 Q. You mention a junior assistant who came in at one point,
13 a Ronald Smith, who was in his early 20s, and he came to
14 help for a holiday at Thorntonloch, is that right?

15 A. That's correct. Yeah, a very friendly young man, really
16 helpful, but he didn't stay with us very long.

17 Q. Okay. I think you say he was really good but
18 disappeared after five or six months?

19 A. Yes. Aye. We used to go on walks with him and have
20 chats with him and he was one of the few people we could
21 talk to. But I think he -- I'm not sure, but looking
22 back, I think he fell out with SNR and
23 was released.

24 Q. And if we're thinking about the number of boys there,
25 you tell us at paragraph 49 there was about 30 boys

1 altogether. The age range was from 5 up to 15?

2 A. Yeah, that's correct. I think the numbers changed.

3 I think a maximum of 30.

4 Q. Okay. And you tell us there was a regular turnover of

5 children?

6 A. Yes.

7 Q. And there were boys who would run away and then you

8 wouldn't see them again?

9 A. That is correct.

10 Q. And you were often told that they'd gone to an approved

11 school?

12 A. Yes.

13 Q. You tell us that there was a girl, but she was

14 Mrs FSE ' daughter, so she wasn't a resident

15 technically at the home?

16 A. We would see her occasionally, but not very often.

17 Q. Yeah. And Mrs FSE also had a son who was there too,

18 but essentially, the way you have described it is you

19 didn't really mix with him?

20 A. No, they didn't mix very much at all.

21 Q. 'Ghillie', you tell us that most of the boys had

22 nicknames, some were disparaging, you say, but some were

23 not. Was that names that you made up between each

24 other?

25 A. Yes, yes.

1 Q. But you say that Mr FSK always called you by your
2 first names?

3 A. Always. I was always called PKL.

4 Q. And Mr FSK was the one who spent a lot of the time
5 supervising the boys?

6 A. Yes.

7 Q. Mrs FSE also worked at the home, is that right?

8 A. She did. She had a separate room of her own, like
9 a sewing room, and the laundry used to go up there and
10 we used to go up there and help out occasionally with
11 her.

12 Q. And you describe her, 'Ghillie', as spending most of her
13 time doing admin work, supervising the kitchen staff,
14 clothes in the laundry?

15 A. That's correct.

16 Q. You go on to tell us about some of the boys you can
17 remember and you give us their names, and I think you
18 give some of the -- a little bit of the nicknames as
19 well. But one of the people you mention, one of the
20 boys you mention as being there, is Robert Black?

21 A. Yes.

22 Q. And that's Robert Black who you've said you know became
23 the child serial killer?

24 A. Yeah, we called him 'Boy Blue' at the time. That was
25 a --

1 Q. Did you say Boy Blue?

2 A. We called him Boy Blue, it was a nickname we gave him at
3 the time.

4 Q. Boy Blue.

5 A. Yes.

6 LADY SMITH: Why?

7 A. I think just because his name was Black and we were just
8 kids, changing the name, yeah.

9 LADY SMITH: Witty?

10 A. Yeah.

11 MS FORBES: In relation to you, is he older or younger?

12 A. I think he was younger, but I'm not 100 per cent sure.

13 Q. Okay. And I think you tell us, 'Ghillie', that nobody
14 liked him and you say he smelled. He regularly wet the
15 bed and he was ostracised for that?

16 A. He was. He had a very ammonia smell from him all the
17 time and the other boys didn't -- he was always crying
18 and he wasn't very clean, tidy. I think the other boys
19 just rejected him, yeah.

20 Q. And you tell us, 'Ghillie', that the age range of the
21 boys in Red House was quite wide, because it was
22 essentially from 5 or younger to up to 15?

23 A. 15, I think, yeah, is about the oldest.

24 Q. 'Ghillie', you go on to tell us what you remember about
25 arriving at Red House and getting there, at

1 paragraph 51. And you say that you remember
2 Miss Campbell from Templedean telling you it was time to
3 move on and you felt quite lost and confused at that
4 point; is that right?

5 A. Absolutely. I don't actually remember the journey from
6 Haddington to Musselburgh, but I do remember being
7 completely disorientated, not knowing quite what was
8 about to happen to me, **Secondary Institutions - to be published later**
9 **Secondary Institutions - to be published later** So it
10 was like being thrown into an abyss. I had no idea what
11 was going to happen.

12 Q. And I think we can see you had been at Templedean for
13 about, by that point, four years or so, is that right?

14 A. Yes.

15 Q. And as we have already gone over, 'Ghillie', your
16 childhood memories really start at Templedean, is that
17 right? So that's all you've really known?

18 A. Yes. I can't remember too much before that, just vague
19 glimpses of things, yeah.

20 Q. You tell us that your brother came with you and you
21 insisted on this and it would appear that that was
22 allowed to happen?

23 A. Yes.

24 Q. There were no issues with that.

25 And when you arrived at Red House, you tell us you

1 went up to the front door and you were met by Mr FSK ,
2 SNR , and you tell us that --
3 a description of him. He was over 6 feet tall with
4 ginger hair?
5 A. He was a very imposing person, quite slim, tall. He was
6 ginger but bald. He had huge hands. That's what
7 I remember. But very dominating and very domineering,
8 yes.
9 Q. And you tell us that he took you and your brother into
10 his office and sat you down?
11 A. Yes.
12 Q. And 'he told us' that that was your home now and that
13 you should settle in?
14 A. Yes. I got the impression very early on it was run on
15 sort of Victorian lines, a lot of discipline involved,
16 certain rules and you had to do it or you were punished,
17 that was it. Yes.
18 Q. And did he tell you that or did you just then form your
19 impression from seeing what was going on?
20 A. No, I think he gave the -- he sort of said that as soon
21 as we arrived: 'This is your home now and you will abide
22 by certain rules and I am the authority here'. And that
23 essentially was it. It was quite frightening and
24 I still remember sitting down then, yeah, and like
25 I say, I was disorientated, quite frightened, and not

1 quite sure what was going to happen.

2 Q. Yeah. And you're still only 9 years old at this time?

3 A. Yes.

4 Q. And your brother would have been only 7?

5 A. 7, yes.

6 Q. And I think you say as well, 'Ghillie', you were very
7 apprehensive because you didn't know what really you
8 were moving into?

9 A. Yeah.

10 Q. And you then went to meet his wife, Mrs FSE, and she
11 took you up to a big laundry room and gave you clothes;
12 is that right?

13 A. Yes.

14 Q. And then showed you to your dorm. And you say then you
15 met the other boys for the first time when you were in
16 the wash house getting ready for bed.

17 Were you and your brother able to stay in the same
18 dorm together?

19 A. Yes, initially, yes, yeah.

20 Q. Okay. And, 'Ghillie', you tell us you were initially in
21 the biggest dorm and then as you got older, you moved to
22 a smaller dorm downstairs and you describe the set-up.
23 You say they had single beds with blankets. You would
24 get up between 6.45 and 7.00 in the morning. Mr FSK
25 would come in, put the lights on and pull the covers

1 back. I think you say he would pull the covers back of
2 'the known skivers'?

3 A. Yeah.

4 Q. Was that the people who didn't want to get up to go to
5 school?

6 A. People that didn't want to get up or were ill.
7 Sometimes some of the boys would get ill and the initial
8 impression from anyone there is if you were ill, you
9 were 'swinging the lead', as we used to say in the navy,
10 and you really had to be unable to move before it would
11 be believed.

12 Q. So he didn't stand for that?

13 A. No.

14 Q. You tell us then, 'Ghillie', that the routine would be
15 you'd get washed, dressed, go for breakfast, but the
16 boys who had wet the bed would have to go to the end of
17 the queue outside the dining room?

18 A. Yeah. The dining room I think was an addition to the
19 house and we used to queue up outside the dining room
20 where the staff would go in, the kitchen staff, and
21 there was a huge big pot of porridge normally. And then
22 we were led in, and the boys that had wet the bed, they
23 were last in. And he had a book and he would put
24 against their names a tick or whatever it was for how
25 many times they had wet the bed. Yeah.

1 Q. Okay. I think you go on to tell us a bit later about
2 what happened to bed-wetters, so we'll come to that
3 a little bit later in your statement --

4 A. Yeah.

5 Q. -- if that's okay, but there was a punishment, you tell
6 us?

7 A. Yeah.

8 Q. So this queuing outside the dining room would be then
9 until Mr FSK called you in?

10 A. That's correct.

11 Q. But certainly if you were a bed-wetter, you had to go to
12 the back?

13 A. Yes.

14 Q. 'Ghillie', you go on to tell us that bedtime was
15 8.30 pm. Before you went to bed you would go to the
16 kitchen and from a biscuit tin you would get a slice of
17 buttered bread and a cup of tea, so that was a kind of
18 supper?

19 A. That was supper for us, yes.

20 Q. But you tell us the kitchen ladies would try to slip you
21 some things like cakes, but Mr FSK didn't like that?

22 A. Yeah. They'd try and do it surreptitiously but -- they
23 were very friendly, but they weren't there permanent.
24 They changed over quite quickly, but they were very sort
25 of helpful to the boys where they could be, yeah.

1 Q. So that's a little bit of kindness you remember from
2 them?

3 A. It was, yeah.

4 Q. And I'm sure that was much appreciated --

5 A. Absolutely.

6 Q. -- at the time.

7 You tell us, 'Ghillie', that once everyone was in
8 bed, Mr FSK would do a patrol round the rooms and
9 make sure everyone was settled and switched the lights
10 off and then he would go to his room. But occasionally
11 he would come out through the night for a patrol to
12 check no one was mucking about?

13 A. Yes. He'd come round with a torch and check the boys
14 were in their beds, yeah.

15 Q. And you say that if you became unwell through the night,
16 there was no one you could go to. You just had to wait
17 until the morning?

18 A. No. What would happen if younger boys had been sick or
19 something, it was just left, and the younger boys would
20 go to one of the older boys and try and get some help,
21 but normally it was just left until the next morning.

22 Q. So there was no specific night staff that were there?

23 A. There was no night staff whatsoever.

24 Q. Okay. And you tell us that everyone went to bed at the
25 same time, with the exception of the oldest boy who was

1 sometimes allowed to stay up later and go to the library
2 and read. And you explain, 'Ghillie', that that might
3 happen if a member of staff had gone out and needed to
4 be let back into the house?

5 A. Yes.

6 Q. So that boy would be in charge of letting them in when
7 they got back to the house?

8 A. Normally the older boys, yeah.

9 Q. And I think you tell us that you got to do that later on
10 and that's where you got your love of reading from?

11 A. That's correct. They had quite an extensive library.
12 Everything from novels to natural history, et cetera,
13 yes.

14 Q. So the library was something that you enjoyed and was
15 well stocked?

16 A. I did enjoy it. I enjoyed reading and I would read
17 anything from, you know, from John Buchan to Scott to
18 some of the natural history stuff and just, I'd go
19 through every book and try and read it, yeah.

20 Q. 'Ghillie', you go on to tell us that once a month when
21 you were waiting in the queue to go to the dining room
22 for breakfast, you'd be given Epsom salts and castor
23 oil, so that was a monthly routine?

24 A. That was a monthly routine, yes.

25 Q. And at mealtimes you all sat on bench seats at big long

1 tables?

2 A. Yes.

3 Q. And you would pick up a plate on the way in, go to
4 a trolley, where you would get a spoonful of porridge
5 and a jug of milk, and you say it was usually porridge
6 that you got for breakfast?

7 A. Yes.

8 Q. When you were at school, you had to come back from
9 school to the home for lunch, is that right?

10 A. It was quite a long trip, but we didn't get school
11 dinners or anything like that. We had to run back to
12 the home to get a snack and then turn around and then
13 head straight back up to school again, yeah.

14 Q. That was both primary school and secondary school?

15 A. Primary school wasn't so far away, it was just along the
16 river slightly, the Burgh School. I first went to
17 Fisherrow but that closed down, which was over the
18 river, and then transferred to Burgh School, which was
19 only a few hundred yards away from the home. The
20 grammar school was up the hill slightly and through
21 a place called Manse Lane. It was like a tunnel up
22 through it and if you were quick, you could get there in
23 about 15 minutes, back and forward.

24 Q. But it certainly didn't give you a lot of time to have
25 lunch?

1 A. No, not at all.

2 Q. You tell us that Wednesday was called something like
3 SMT?

4 A. SMT. We always called it SMT, yeah.

5 Q. What does that stand for?

6 A. It was soup, mince and tatties, no pudding, yeah.

7 Q. But you say the no pudding on a Wednesday suited you
8 because you didn't like the puddings there?

9 A. I think being purged with hot milk and castor oil, any
10 milk puddings just were a no-no for me.

11 Q. You tell us, 'Ghillie', that you initially struggled
12 when you went there with the porridge because it was
13 thick and salty, but you did get used to it?

14 A. Yeah, you just had to get used to it, yeah.

15 Q. You tell us though that if you didn't eat your meal,
16 because you didn't like it, it would be taken to the
17 kitchen, a label put on it and then it would be served
18 to you for your next meal?

19 A. That's what happened, especially with breakfast. If you
20 couldn't handle the porridge, it was just taken through
21 to the kitchen, your name was put on it and you got it
22 for your next meal, cold.

23 Q. And you say that if you didn't eat it on the third
24 occasion, you were punished in the laundry?

25 A. That's correct.

1 Q. Again, we'll go on to talk about what the laundry
2 punishment was, but certainly you didn't get away with
3 simply not eating?

4 A. No.

5 Q. But you tell us, 'Ghillie', that the food was quite
6 basic, but filling. It was often things like stews or
7 macaroni?

8 A. Yeah, it was quite wholesome. There was nothing
9 special. Like soups. We did have fish on a Friday,
10 erm, but that was it, yeah.

11 Q. And the kitchen ladies that you've mentioned you say did
12 baking, so often you would have cake and custard?

13 A. Occasionally, yes. Yeah.

14 Q. So was that a positive thing, from your point of view,
15 was that a pudding you liked?

16 A. Yeah, yeah, quite looked forward to that, yeah.

17 Q. You tell us, 'Ghillie', that Mr and Mrs FSE-FSK never ate
18 with the boys. They ate in a room off the kitchen or in
19 their own quarters and the staff took food to them?

20 A. Yes --

21 Q. 'Ghillie', you go on to tell us about washing and
22 bathing and you say that you bathed once a week. It
23 would be Mr FSK who would fill the bath up, but when
24 you explained what that meant, it was never filled more
25 than the length of his scrubbing brush?

1 A. No, he had a small scrubbing brush, probably 5 or
2 6 inches. He'd hold it in the bottom of the bath and
3 when it reached the top, that was it, that was your
4 bathwater for the day. Yep.

5 Q. You say if he found that the bath had been overfilled,
6 he would pull the plug out and let the water out?

7 A. Yeah, that was it, yeah.

8 Q. And you would have to get washed under the taps?

9 A. Yeah.

10 Q. In the bath or the sink?

11 A. A bit of both, yeah. You just had to splash yourself
12 over as much as possible. And if you hadn't cleaned
13 yourself properly, 'cos you had -- there was a certain
14 way they inspected you. You started with your hands,
15 turned them over, then showed them your knees, turned
16 your back to them, showed the back of the knees,
17 et cetera, and if you were -- you hadn't cleaned
18 yourself properly then you were normally -- he'd give
19 you a bit of a slap and tell you to go back and clean
20 yourself properly.

21 Q. So you would be inspected after you washed?

22 A. Inspected. The boys would line up after the wash and
23 he'd inspect everyone separately.

24 Q. And there was a physical punishment if you weren't
25 washed to his satisfaction?

1 A. Yes. Yes.

2 Q. And you were told to go and do it again?

3 A. Yeah.

4 Q. I think you tell us, 'Ghillie', there was showers.

5 However, this was a communal areas with four showers; is

6 that right?

7 A. That's correct, just off the bath, yeah.

8 Q. Was there any privacy then at all?

9 A. No privacy at all.

10 Q. And as you've told us, the age range was 5 to 15 so

11 there could be boys of largely differing ages?

12 A. Yeah, yeah, and you just accepted that, yeah.

13 Q. But you tell us those showers were cold, occasionally

14 lukewarm?

15 A. Yeah, mostly -- yeah, I don't think it was freezing

16 cold, but they weren't hot at all. The boys wanted to

17 get in and out fairly quickly.

18 Q. You tell us that that was because Mr FSK didn't like

19 the steam?

20 A. No, he used to wear glasses and it used to steam them up

21 and he used to get annoyed if the water was too hot,

22 yeah.

23 Q. And if you had a shower would they be supervised by any

24 members of staff?

25 A. No member of staff. He would either be where the basins

1 were, just by the door, and check all the boys. You
2 formed a queue once you had finished your wash and then
3 get inspected by him before you went out.

4 Q. And I take it this inspection regime, are you naked when
5 that's happening?

6 A. Yes.

7 Q. You tell us, 'Ghillie', that most of the time and every
8 day you had what was called a strip wash and that was
9 where you took your clothes off, down to your pants, and
10 washed at the sink?

11 A. Yeah, that was it, yeah.

12 Q. And you've mentioned the inspections that would be
13 carried out and you say that was after the evening wash?

14 A. Yes.

15 Q. And it would be Mr FSK ?

16 A. Most -- yeah, nearly always Mr FSK , yeah.

17 Q. Can you remember anyone else carrying those out?

18 A. I think later on, erm, Mr FRT would be there, but he
19 had a slightly different routine, yeah.

20 Q. Can you remember what that was?

21 A. He was more involved with the boys. He didn't do the
22 inspection so much, but I -- it's difficult going back,
23 but I just remember him being amongst us more than
24 Mr FSK was, yes.

25 Q. When you say 'amongst us more', are you talking about in

1 the shower --

2 A. Yeah, yeah. I mean, he was obviously clothed but he
3 would take more interest in the boys in the shower and
4 in the bath. He seemed more interested that way, yes.

5 Q. 'Ghillie', you go on to tell us about clothing and
6 I'm not going to go through that in any great detail.
7 But essentially I think you say that there was some
8 hand-me-down things, some kind of grey-type clothing?

9 A. Yes.

10 Q. And the only new clothing you ever got was
11 a hand-knitted jumper which came in a box from
12 New Zealand?

13 A. That's correct. And they were unique jersey and I'm not
14 100 per cent sure, but there was either some boy or
15 there was some connection between New Zealand and
16 Red House and I'm not sure what it was, but they sent us
17 these hand-knitted jerseys and each had a Maori sort of
18 design on them, and they're beautiful jerseys. And we
19 were given them and you selected your jersey and that
20 jersey was always yours. It didn't need a name on it or
21 anything, you just recognised the design, yeah.

22 Q. They're all different designs and that --

23 A. All different designs, yeah, all hand-knitted, yes.

24 Q. So that way you knew which one was yours?

25 A. Yes.

1 Q. But you say that was the only new clothing that you had?

2 A. That was the only new stuff we ever got.

3 Q. 'Ghillie', you tell us that in the evenings there would
4 be an hour of homework, so was that something that was
5 set down?

6 A. That was something you set down. The bottom room at the
7 bottom end of the corridor before you went outside was
8 called the classroom, and it was a sort of playroom, but
9 they had tables in there where you did your homework.
10 And you had to tell Mr FSK what your homework -- what
11 homework you had been given, and you sat down and
12 completed it to his satisfaction before you could move
13 on.

14 Q. Were you given any help with the homework?

15 A. None at all.

16 Q. So just really left to your own devices?

17 A. You were left to your own devices, yes.

18 Q. But I think as you say, it had to be to his satisfaction
19 that it was completed?

20 A. Yes.

21 Q. You say, 'Ghillie', there was a dispensary where any
22 ailments could be dealt with by Mr FSK, and you go on
23 to tell us that after that, in the evening, unless it
24 was your turn to darn the socks, that you could go out
25 and kick a football about for half an hour?

1 A. Yes.

2 Q. And I think you tell us a little bit more about the
3 socks. That was one of the chores essentially, was that
4 right, darning the socks?

5 A. The good thing about it, it taught you how to darn
6 socks. You were given one of these plastic-type
7 mushrooms and you were given a pile of socks and the
8 ones with a hole in them, you had to learn how to darn
9 them. And Mrs FSE would inspect the darning and if
10 it wasnae up to her standards, she would just take the
11 scissors and cut it out and you were -- there was no
12 homeward-bounders, you had to do it properly, yeah.

13 LADY SMITH: When you refer to plastic-type mushrooms, are
14 those the ones that were often pink and the stalk could
15 be unscrewed and you could store your darning needles in
16 the stalk?

17 A. That's correct, yeah, absolutely.

18 LADY SMITH: I know exactly what you're talking about.
19 Thank you.

20 MS FORBES: I take it these socks were just socks belonging
21 to the various boys?

22 A. Yes, mostly they were school socks, grey socks, sort of
23 knee-length socks. And you would get holes, the boys
24 would get holes in the ankles and sometimes the toes and
25 you had to deal with them, yeah.

1 Q. 'Ghillie', you say that there were some boardgames
2 inside that you could use if you wanted to and that at
3 a point later, when you stayed there in your last couple
4 of years, a TV was donated to the home, and that was
5 something you could watch for half an hour if everything
6 else had been done, so if all the chores had been done?

7 A. Yes.

8 Q. And homework had been done?

9 A. Only a few of the boys could go through. The television
10 was set up in the library and if you completed
11 everything, half a dozen of the boys could go through.
12 But there was no channel -- it was just switched on, you
13 were watching something you had never seen before. So,
14 yeah.

15 Q. You tell us as well, 'Ghillie', that you latterly became
16 involved with the air training corps, the ATC, and you
17 would go there for an hour once every three weeks and
18 you say you went twice and did some -- sorry, you went
19 with them twice and did some flying at Turnhouse?

20 A. That's correct, yes.

21 Q. So was that quite a positive thing, then, that you got
22 to do?

23 A. It was a very positive thing for me. I got to know one
24 of the boys at school and I asked to join the air
25 training corps. I didn't get as much involvement as

1 I would like. It was a walk from where the Musselburgh
2 Racecourse is now, we used to walk from the home to --
3 they had a hut just off the racecourse and you'd walk
4 down there. It was ex-RAF types there and it was just
5 instruction really, on flying, et cetera. And, erm,
6 I wouldn't go down there very often. I was given
7 a uniform but I never got a chance to wear it very often
8 either, yeah.

9 Q. And again this is where you tell us a bit more about
10 reading and you say that comics and books were always
11 available in the home. You were encouraged to read?

12 A. We were encouraged to read, yes.

13 Q. But you didn't need that because you loved reading, as
14 you've said?

15 A. Yes.

16 Q. And as we've talked about, the library was
17 comprehensive?

18 A. Yes.

19 Q. You tell us, 'Ghillie', that on a Saturday two boys
20 would be selected by Mr FSK to go into Musselburgh to
21 the bakery and get a wooden tray of rejected cakes?

22 A. That is correct, yes.

23 Q. So that was something that was donated to the home from
24 the bakery?

25 A. Yeah. The bakery, they had an arrangement with the

1 bakery, you'd walk through town with one of these wooden
2 baking -- and it would have broken buns et cetera on it.
3 The problem with you going through town, some of the
4 town boys could meet up with you and it usually ended up
5 you're fighting for your cakes and, yeah.

6 Q. So that was one of the problems that you faced, but
7 I think you also say that sometimes you could have some
8 of the cakes yourself on the way back, as long as there
9 was enough for the other boys?

10 A. You would take advantage of when you could, yeah. You
11 know your favourites. It didn't matter if they were
12 bashed, yeah.

13 Q. You tell us about organised games on a Saturday and you
14 say:

15 'We might play cricket or baseball using
16 a fisherman's cork as a ball.'

17 A. Yeah.

18 Q. And occasionally you played football and Mr FSK
19 refereed?

20 A. Yeah. They had football pitches just down -- near
21 Musselburgh Racecourse. We'd go down there and play
22 football but it was a bit chaotic. The playground at
23 the back of the home was all concrete, so if you were
24 playing cricket or baseball or whatever, like I say, it
25 was a cork wrapped in masking tape, so you couldn't hit

1 the balls over the roof. But it was all well organised
2 and you'd usually end up in a bit of chaos, yeah.

3 Q. And in the afternoon you say you were allowed to go into
4 Musselburgh for two hours, so that was the Saturday
5 afternoon, is that right?

6 A. Saturday afternoon, yeah, you were allowed to walk in.
7 You were given a couple of hours but you had to be back.
8 But sometimes -- you were given some pocket money, but
9 if you had had any misdemeanours through the week, that
10 was withdrawn and your couple of hours in Musselburgh
11 was withdrawn also.

12 Q. Okay. So that was a sort of privilege, along with the
13 pocket money, that could be taken away?

14 A. It was a privilege, yes.

15 Q. And on Sundays you would put on your Sunday clothes and
16 go to church, which was a small walk along the river,
17 and after that there was a Sunday School and Bible class
18 and you say church was compulsory?

19 A. Church was compulsory. They spread the boys about the
20 church. My brother and I sat beside two old ladies who
21 were really friendly and used to give us some sweets and
22 sit down and give us some coins for the -- to put in the
23 tray that came round. And the services seemed to go on
24 forever and they were long services and I think the
25 Reverend Patterson was the minister and he liked the

1 sound of his voice, yeah.

2 Q. And after, you say, lunch, it would be a long walk and

3 Mr FSK would walk with the younger ones and give the

4 older ones one of a number of routes to follow, and that

5 you would have to follow the route he gave you because

6 he would randomly appear?

7 A. That's correct.

8 Q. And he would check that you weren't taking any

9 shortcuts?

10 A. Yeah. One of the longest walks was called Fa'side Walk.

11 We used to go an old castle called Fa'side Castle, which

12 is well outside Musselburgh, and we used to do that

13 route, but he would take a shortcut and just check that

14 you did the whole route. It was a long, long walk but

15 it was quite interesting.

16 Q. I think you say one of the walks was around

17 two-and-a-half hours?

18 A. Yes, yeah.

19 Q. You also say one Saturday a month you went to the cinema

20 in Musselburgh and you say you went along there

21 crocodile style?

22 A. Yeah.

23 Q. And they would let you in for free?

24 A. Yeah, the Hayweights cinema was very good to us. They

25 used to invite us in. The problem with it was we had to

1 be back in the home before 4 o'clock, so a lot of the
2 time you're missing the last reel of the movies.

3 So I remember a lot of the movies but not how they
4 finished, you know. Yeah.

5 Q. And you say the cinema sometimes gave you free ice
6 creams, so they were good to --

7 A. That's correct, that was -- Hayweights looked out for
8 us. I think it was a private cinema and they had, yeah,
9 when they had seats empty, they would give them to us.

10 Q. And aside from that, you tell us once a week on
11 a Wednesday, St John's Ambulance would come in and they
12 taught you first aid?

13 A. We did quite comprehensive first aid training with
14 St John's. They used to do it in the library and they'd
15 test us on a weekly basis how to treat patients, first
16 aid, and quite realistic at times, yeah.

17 Q. I think you say it was to quite a high level and you'd
18 be tested?

19 A. It was quite a high level. Yeah, you were doing not
20 just -- you were treating various casualties from
21 accidents, various accidents, broken bones, stress, just
22 about everything you could cover, yeah.

23 Q. Did you see that as quite a positive thing?

24 A. I did see it as positive. I felt I learned quite a lot
25 about it and you also got a chance to interact with some

1 of the local community, which was quite good, and they
2 were always very helpful to us, especially if we showed
3 an interest.

4 Q. And there was some free time, you say, and you would
5 kick a ball about. There were toys that you could play
6 with and you talk about a wall outside with grips and
7 you could have a challenge to see how far you could
8 climb up it, like a climbing wall; is that right?

9 A. No, it wasn't actually a climbing wall. It was the way
10 the house was built and it had some -- the corner had
11 some -- it's difficult to explain -- some big bricks,
12 and it was like a challenge to the boys to see how -- no
13 health and safety of course -- see how high you could
14 climb up. I mean, if you had fallen off it would have
15 been pretty dangerous. But if we were caught doing it,
16 then we're into the laundry, yeah.

17 Q. And you say if you were caught, it was the laundry for
18 punishment?

19 A. Yeah.

20 Q. In relation to trips, 'Ghillie', you say you don't
21 remember any day trips from Red House but there was the
22 holiday that we've mentioned earlier to Thorntonloch.
23 And you say that was an old army camp with corrugated
24 iron huts, concrete floors, and you say that you would
25 arrive there, go to the local farm and fill your -- is

1 it palliasse?

2 A. The palliasses, yeah.

3 Q. Fill it full of straw and essentially that would be your
4 sort of mattress, is that right?

5 A. That was the mattress, yeah. You learned to really fill
6 it up as far as you could, because after sleeping on it
7 for a couple of days it became totally flat. So the
8 older boys always said make sure it's well stuffed
9 before you tie it up. Yep.

10 Q. These huts were near the beach and you tell us that
11 these were -- you had a great time there. Mr FSK set
12 up a flag system and you could explore the beach and if
13 he wanted you back, he would put the flag up on top of
14 the hill?

15 A. Yes.

16 Q. Then you knew you had to get back?

17 A. Yes.

18 Q. And you describe that time away as being more relaxed,
19 although you would still have your cleaning duties to do
20 and laundry?

21 A. Yeah, it was more relaxed, because you were -- the
22 corrugated huts were next to the beach. You had a field
23 and then the beach and the field like a playfield, and
24 then the beach. But half of us were doing duties, i.e.
25 cleaning, et cetera, while the other half were allowed

1 to have some free time. That was the way it worked.

2 Q. And you tell us that those holidays would be for
3 a month, so quite a long time?

4 A. Yes.

5 Q. But certainly do you remember those as being good times?

6 A. I felt I learnt a lot there about, just on the beach.
7 We were allowed to explore, allowed some time on our
8 own. But the -- I enjoyed my time there, but it was --
9 the hard work was -- you got time off but it was --
10 there was no staff there as such. There was one person
11 came in to do cooking and that was it, but you did all
12 the cleaning and washing and everything after that,
13 yeah.

14 Q. And I take it this would be during the summer holidays
15 or something like that?

16 A. Yes, yeah.

17 Q. You've mentioned already, 'Ghillie', about schooling and
18 you said that there was an initial primary school and
19 I think that got closed down and you went to another
20 one, the Burgh Primary School. And I think you
21 mentioned that one was a bit closer to the home?

22 A. Yes.

23 Q. And then you went on to Musselburgh Grammar School and
24 you tell us that you remember the staff. Is this at the
25 primary school? You say the staff were very friendly

1 and knew that -- they knew you were from the home, but
2 there was no big deal made about it?

3 A. Yeah, that was -- primary school there was no big deal
4 at all.

5 Q. And you say you were given a red and white tie and you
6 were quite proud to wear that?

7 A. Yeah, the first tie I'd ever had -- yes.

8 Q. And you say occasionally the other children at school
9 would bring up the fact you were from the home, but it
10 wasn't made a big deal of?

11 A. I think the children there weren't really aware of the
12 difference. You were regarded as someone slightly
13 different, but it was no big deal to them.

14 Q. You tell us then about going on to Musselburgh Grammar
15 and the fact that you loved schooling. I think you say
16 maths was the only thing that you had a slight struggle
17 with. And you say there were some issues with the other
18 children there because they expected you to be tough
19 because you came from a home?

20 A. Yes.

21 Q. And you got a few beatings. Is this from the other
22 children?

23 A. Yeah, some of the older boys would always want to
24 challenge you. You were regarded as a tough person
25 because you wore boots and you were from the home so you

1 were always -- you were fighting a bit for your -- yeah,
2 a few fights, yeah.

3 Q. And you say that in a way this toughened you up a bit?

4 A. It did. You had to, or you would just give in to it, so
5 if you were challenged you just had to -- you learned to
6 stand up to the challenges and fight it.

7 Q. But you recall there being some good teachers there and
8 you mention some of them by name and you say there were
9 teachers who encouraged you, especially in English and
10 history?

11 A. Yes, absolutely, yeah.

12 Q. And at that time you got the belt at school and you say
13 some of the teachers didn't hold back in giving you it?

14 A. Yeah, it was very painful. I still remember now getting
15 the marks above my wrist. Their aim wasn't particularly
16 good. I think I resented it if there was a fight
17 et cetera that I hadn't instigated. I was always
18 regarded as the instigator, whether I was or not. So
19 I resented that, but that was the way it was.

20 Q. And why do you think that was?

21 A. I think because you were different. You were a home
22 boy. And you'd get the girls that would try and sort of
23 annoy you, et cetera, and when you turned round, then
24 the boys would turn on you and, yeah, and a fight would
25 ensue and you'd be regarded as the instigator, so you

1 ended up getting the punishment.

2 Q. You mentioned the term 'home boy'. Is that something
3 that was used to describe you?

4 A. Yeah, yeah.

5 Q. You tell us that you sat your mock exams at Musselburgh
6 Grammar and did very well, but that you had to leave
7 Red House and the school just after, so you didn't get
8 the chance to do any exams, and we'll come on to why
9 that was. But essentially that meant that you finished
10 your education without qualifications?

11 A. No qualifications at all.

12 Q. But certainly from your mock exams, you were on course
13 to do well?

14 A. Yes. The teachers all said I'd done well in the mocks,
15 yeah.

16 Q. You go on to tell us again about Mr FSK and the sort
17 of dealing with ailments and you say that he had a box,
18 some kind of medical box, which had the initials 'ARP'
19 on it and a red cross. And you have a feeling that
20 Mr FSK may have been a medical assistant when he was
21 in the army and he would be the one that would deal with
22 any minor ailments, but if not, you'd have to be seen by
23 the local doctor or taken to hospital?

24 A. Yes, that's correct.

25 Q. But I think we've mentioned already that Mr FSK

1 wouldn't believe people if they said they were ill. He
2 would think they were trying to skive, and so people
3 would just not bother saying if they were ill and just
4 go to school?

5 A. A lot of the time, with some of the minor ailments, like
6 we had boils sort of thing, he would use a kaolin
7 poultice, very hot, and all the minor ailments like
8 that. Stitching, he even did some minor stitching, but
9 there was no disinfectant.

10 So I think he had some medical background but
11 I don't know much about that.

12 Q. I think, 'Ghillie', you tell us that you had to get
13 an operation when you were around 11 or 12 on your legs
14 and you ended up getting metal plates and pins in your
15 feet at Princess Margaret Rose Hospital in Edinburgh,
16 but you don't know why that was, you don't know how that
17 came about?

18 A. I really don't, and I remember being told that if the
19 operation -- if I hadn't had the operation, I'd be
20 a cripple by the time I was 30. So it must have been
21 something serious. I think they actually broke my right
22 leg purposely to do something to it and there's a plate
23 in there. I remember the surgeon's name, it was quite
24 a famous surgeon, was Mr Stirling, and I remember waking
25 up with plasters up to my thigh on both sides and

1 a metal bar between my legs to hold them apart. And
2 there was -- I woke up, there was a nurse monitoring the
3 blood that was still coming out, so that was quite
4 scary. But I had no idea why it was happening. It was
5 obviously quite a major operation.

6 Q. So you don't remember anybody explaining to you why --

7 A. Nobody explained it to me at all.

8 Q. And you've not been able to find out since?

9 A. No, no.

10 Q. You tell us that there was a need for obvious
11 recuperation after that and that took place at
12 a different hospital, and you explain in your statement,
13 'Ghillie', that you had to learn to walk again really
14 back at Red House. But you were away from Red House
15 getting that treatment or recuperating for about nine
16 months?

17 A. I said nine months but I'm not -- it just felt a long
18 time.

19 Q. Okay.

20 A. Yeah, I was in a wheelchair with two planks of wood so
21 my feet were straight out in front of me. We used to
22 drive -- the recuperation hospital was the
23 Astley Ainslie and I used to -- it was all adult --
24 mostly adult male, and I used to drive round the
25 hospital with the wheelchair. It wasn't until they put

1 the rockers on that I had to learn to walk again. So
2 the plasters were cut down to just below the knee and
3 I had rockers on after that.

4 Q. 'Ghillie', you tell us about work that you had to carry
5 out or chores at Red House from paragraph 78 and we
6 touched on this earlier. There was a rota of chores for
7 the boys. It would change on a weekly basis, is that
8 right?

9 A. Yes, that's correct.

10 Q. And this would be things like setting the tables before
11 meals, cleaning the pots and the scullery, cleaning
12 toilets, cleaning the outside play area and, as we have
13 already mentioned, darning socks?

14 A. Yes.

15 Q. And you say that Mrs FSE was the one who would
16 supervise the socks being darned and check your work and
17 you wouldn't be allowed out until the socks were done to
18 her satisfaction.

19 A. That's correct.

20 Q. And you tell us that when you became the oldest boy, you
21 looked after the furnace, and that meant you had to get
22 up early, about quarter past six in the morning, made
23 sure it was lit and get it going and to heat up the
24 house, so that was your responsibility?

25 A. That was my responsibility, yeah.

1 Q. You've mentioned pocket money, 'Ghillie', and you said
2 you were given 3p pocket money a week and there was
3 a ledger kept, and you have mentioned that that was
4 a privilege that could be taken away from you?

5 A. Yes.

6 Q. And you tell us that your father visited you and before
7 he left, he would give you a coin, maybe a 10p, but you
8 didn't get to keep that?

9 A. No, we were always asked when we returned -- not that it
10 happened very often -- but they always asked if we were
11 given any money and it was confiscated.

12 Q. So you wouldn't see that again?

13 A. No.

14 Q. In relation to birthdays and Christmas, 'Ghillie', you
15 say that Christmas was celebrated at Red House. There
16 was a Christmas tree, you made your own decorations
17 which were put up in the classroom. But there weren't
18 decorations throughout the whole house, is that right?

19 A. That's correct, yes.

20 Q. And there was a Christmas dinner and you think it was
21 a very large chicken and a nice pudding, but you don't
22 remember getting a present?

23 A. No, there was no presents given.

24 Q. But you do have fond memories of two organisations who
25 would put Christmas parties on for you, as we have said,

1 you have described yourselves as 'home boys'?

2 A. Yeah.

3 Q. The Labour Club and the Hearts Supporters Club. And

4 they would give you a present and you would have food

5 and you say that you were made a fuss of at these

6 parties and that was something that you --

7 A. Yes.

8 Q. -- you were always really appreciative of?

9 A. Yes, always.

10 Q. And you say these were special times?

11 A. They were special times, yeah.

12 Q. And you remember a visit from Chief Constable Merrilees

13 and he gave you all a 10 shilling note, but again that

14 was taken from you; is that right?

15 A. He was, I think he was -- I mean, he's well known. He

16 was a celebrity at the time as far as we were concerned,

17 and he made a fuss of the boys and he went round -- we

18 were in the dining room and he handed us all

19 a 10 shilling note each just before he left. He came

20 over as a very friendly person. He had an entourage

21 with him. It was a big deal for us. But when he left,

22 the money was confiscated.

23 LADY SMITH: 10 shillings was a lot of money at that time,

24 wasn't it?

25 A. It was a lot of money, yeah. We had never seen

1 anything -- I had never seen a florin or a 10 pence
2 piece, yeah.

3 LADY SMITH: And you got one of these brown paper notes
4 worth 10 shillings?

5 A. Yeah, I'd never seen one.

6 LADY SMITH: Lots you could have done with it.

7 A. Yeah, it was all just confiscated. We had hold of it
8 for about half an hour and that was it.

9 MS FORBES: 'Ghillie', I think you say you were told it had
10 gone in your bank, but you say you doubt that was the
11 case. Did you ever get access to any bank account?

12 A. I never had access to a bank, none of the boys had.

13 Q. So that's something that you never got back again?

14 A. Never saw it again, no.

15 Q. And you tell us birthdays weren't celebrated?

16 A. Birthdays were never celebrated.

17 Q. Okay. In relation to visits, 'Ghillie', you tell us
18 that your dad, your father, would visit you maybe once
19 every two or three months and you say your mother also
20 visited a couple of times, and you would go out to
21 a local cafe, sit and chat and then go back. But you
22 explain that you had difficulties connecting with your
23 mother because you had seen so little of her?

24 A. Yeah. I mean, for the whole time I was there, I think
25 she visited me twice, but that was it. She took me out,

1 maybe just on her conscience, I don't know. I never
2 really connected with her. I always liked to see my
3 dad. I didn't see him very often, but he did come down
4 and he'd take us out and just go for a walk. Sometime
5 he'd take us to the cafe but he never had very much
6 money anyway.

7 Q. And I think you say there you never had a social worker
8 and there was no contact with anyone from outwith
9 Red House?

10 A. No. No one.

11 Q. And you say you felt very alone in there after things
12 started to go badly?

13 A. Yes.

14 Q. There was no support and no one you could turn to for
15 help?

16 A. No one at all.

17 Q. You mention the people that used to organise the 'Honest
18 Lad' and 'Honest Lass', and that's something particular
19 to Musselburgh, is that right?

20 A. That's correct, yes.

21 Q. And you say that some people from the Rotary Club and
22 that organisation used to visit the home. You say there
23 were also other people who you think worked for the
24 local authority that came to the home too, but you say
25 you thought there was something not quite right about

1 them and we'll go on to talk about them in a minute.

2 A. I say about the local authority, I was never

3 100 per cent sure, I just had that impression that

4 that's who they were, yeah.

5 Q. You say Mr FSK was an elder of the Church of Scotland

6 and you feel that the church had something to do with

7 the running of Red House because there were people from

8 the church coming in on a fairly regular basis?

9 A. Fairly regular, that's correct, yes.

10 Q. 'Ghillie', you tell us that you and your brother were

11 fairly close when you were at Red House but he had his

12 own group of friends too, but you say that one time he

13 even stuck up and helped you to win in a fight?

14 A. Yeah. Again, there was one of the other boys.

15 I suppose we used to challenge each other and it came to

16 a fight outside and, erm, it was proper fisticuffs and

17 I think I was just about to be on the losing side when

18 my brother came out and sort of supported me and I

19 eventually walked away. But if you were the oldest boy,

20 you had to keep -- you had to keep the challenge there,

21 'cos everyone's wanting to challenge you, yeah.

22 Q. So the oldest boy in the home --

23 A. Yes.

24 Q. -- would have to stick up for himself?

25 A. Absolutely.

1 Q. You tell us, 'Ghillie', some of the boys would run away
2 and if you ran away twice, on the third occasion you
3 would be sent away?
4 A. We would never see them again.
5 Q. And this was the -- you were told they went to the
6 approved school?
7 A. Yes.
8 Q. And you say you ran away once after an incident, but at
9 that point you were getting ready to leave anyway?
10 A. Yeah. I -- a bit at the end of my tether. I wasn't
11 quite -- I had nobody to turn to. I wasn't even sure
12 what I was doing. I just sort of -- I'd go out and not
13 quite sure what I was going to do.
14 Q. And you say you were aware of the police sometimes
15 bringing boys back who had run away?
16 A. Yes.
17 Q. So it was something that happened at Red House, boys
18 running away?
19 A. Oh, it was a fairly regular occurrence, yes.
20 Q. And in relation to bed-wetting, we talked about that
21 a little bit earlier and the fact that the boys who had
22 wet their beds would have to go to the back of the
23 breakfast queue. You say they had to fill in a book as
24 well, and if any of the boys had three entries in the
25 book for bed-wetting then they were told to go through

1 to the laundry, where Mr FSK would give out
2 punishment?

3 A. Yes, that's correct.

4 Q. And you say that he would beat them?

5 A. Yes. He had a cane, which was about the thickness of
6 your finger and about 3 foot long and very, very whippy,
7 and the punishment was administered. You would go into
8 the laundry either on your own or as a group and you
9 were told to bend down, touch your toes and he'd give
10 you half a dozen. If you put any newspaper down or
11 comics down there and he found them, then it was on your
12 bare backside or your back. And it left marks and it
13 was pretty painful.

14 Q. So that would be boys trying to put comics or newspapers
15 down their pants to stop it being so sore?

16 A. Yeah, to try and stop the pain, yeah.

17 Q. You tell us, 'Ghillie', that in relation to punishments
18 for bed-wetting, that didn't happen to you but it was
19 common knowledge that that's what would happen to the
20 bed-wetters?

21 A. Yes.

22 Q. And you say later they were all put into the smaller
23 dorm with six beds, and there was rubber sheets fitted
24 and they had aluminium strips on them and if the sheet
25 got wet, an alarm went off?

1 A. Yeah, it was quite a loud alarm, yeah.

2 Q. You make the point that that had little effect because
3 by the time the alarm went off, the bed had been wet?

4 A. Yes.

5 Q. So it didn't prevent bed-wetting?

6 A. No, it just kept everybody awake, yeah.

7 Q. You tell us that your brother ended up being in that
8 dormitory?

9 A. I think my brother was, got quite stressed for a period
10 of time and I think -- I've never spoken to him about
11 it, but I think that's what caused his bed-wetting.
12 I'm not sure about the other boys at all.

13 Q. 'Ghillie', I'm now going to move on to a part of your
14 statement where you tell us about abuse at Red House.
15 We've talked about the fact that Mr FSK was
16 incredibly strict.

17 A. Yes.

18 Q. And you mention here in your statement that Secondary Institutio
19 Secondary Institutions - to be published later
20 Secondary Institutions - to be published later, is that
21 right?

22 A. Yes.

23 Q. And you say Mr FSK was a big man, he was very
24 dominant and he had a very strict routine and was
25 a disciplinarian. And you tell us, 'Ghillie', that one

1 of the things that happened to you was that you hated
2 rice pudding and if it was served to you, you just
3 couldn't eat it. Is that right?

4 A. Yeah, yes. It actually made me physically sick, yes.

5 Q. And as you mentioned before, if you didn't eat a meal,
6 it would be served to you again at the next meal?

7 A. Yes.

8 Q. And if it wasn't eaten after three meals, you would be
9 sent to the laundry for punishment. And you've
10 mentioned this. This is Mr FSK dishing out the
11 punishment with his cane, is that right?

12 A. Yes, that's correct.

13 Q. And is that the same punishment as you've described that
14 would happen to the bed-wetters?

15 A. Exactly the same, yes.

16 Q. And you say that happened to you and you saw it
17 happening to other boys as well, with different food,
18 they didn't eat?

19 A. Yes.

20 Q. And you say that sometimes you would go to school with
21 bits of food in your pocket to try and get rid of it
22 from your plate?

23 A. That did happen, yeah.

24 Q. And you say that this laundry was where Mr FSK took
25 the boys to get beaten and it could be for wetting the

1 bed three times, or other misdemeanours like fighting,
2 arguing, talking back, not eating your food, not doing
3 your chores properly or anything like that?

4 A. Yeah, any misdemeanours, it was -- he'd just say
5 'laundry' and you knew exactly what was going to happen.

6 Q. And you have mentioned that this was sore and left marks
7 on your body?

8 A. It was extremely painful, yeah. You'd think you'd get
9 used to it after a while but you didn't, you knew what
10 was coming and it was very painful.

11 Q. Separate from that, though, 'Ghillie', you tell us that
12 there was punishment that would take place in his
13 office. That was a strap on the hands with a leather
14 tawse?

15 A. Yeah, he had a tawse, very similar to the -- to what the
16 school used to use.

17 LADY SMITH: So that's the Lochgelly strap?

18 A. Yeah, the Lochgelly strap. The one he had was actually
19 leather coloured, where some of the teachers' were
20 black, yeah. So his were leather coloured and it looked
21 about half an inch thick. It was very heavy, so when
22 you got it, you really knew you had it, yeah.

23 LADY SMITH: Did it have tails on the end?

24 A. It had two tails on the end, yes.

25 MS FORBES: And this would be six strokes, is that right?

1 A. Six, yeah.

2 Q. And again, would that be something if you'd done
3 something wrong?

4 A. Yeah, you laid your hands out like this (indicated), you
5 took three on that and then three again, yeah.

6 Q. So I think what you have indicated, 'Ghillie', there, is
7 one hand on top of the other for three straps?

8 A. You took three and then you swapped hands over, yeah.

9 Q. So is that so that both hands got it?

10 A. Yes.

11 Q. And you tell us also though that if you were doing
12 something he didn't like, that sometimes he would just
13 slap you with his open hand across the head?

14 A. Yeah, he had a very quick temper. He had very large
15 hands and when he hit you with it, you didn't see it
16 coming. Yeah, it really, really hurt you and because it
17 was unexpected as well. If you'd said something wrong
18 or disagreed with something he said, he'd just -- yeah.

19 Q. You've described him, 'Ghillie', as being quite a tall,
20 imposing character?

21 A. He was, yes.

22 Q. And you say that it felt that he could have knocked your
23 head off with the hands, with his hands?

24 A. Yeah. I think the unexpectedness of it when it happened
25 really caught you off guard and it was very painful and

1 it really sometimes knocked you over it was so hard,
2 yeah.

3 Q. And he was someone who you say was quick to lose his
4 temper and sometimes he would cane or strap you when you
5 were on your own, but other times he would do it to
6 several of you at the same time in front of one another?

7 A. That's correct, yeah.

8 Q. You go on, 'Ghillie', to tell us about Mrs FSE and
9 you say that she was quite devious, in that she would
10 sometimes be very friendly to you and you thought you
11 were speaking to her in confidence, but you might blurt
12 out something that you'd done or not done and then she
13 would feed that back to Mr FSK and you would suffer
14 the consequences of that?

15 A. Yeah, you realised that quite quickly because sometimes
16 you could implicate other boys and find them getting
17 punished, so you were very wary of what you said to her
18 after a while. Yeah.

19 Q. And this caning in the laundry room, you say it became
20 a fairly regular occurrence for you, probably once
21 a week, and there was rarely a day went by that no one
22 got caned. So it was frequent?

23 A. Yeah. I mean, I remember he'd use a word to me, I never
24 understood it then, he said I had a supercilious
25 attitude and he was going to punish me for it. I had no

1 idea what 'supercilious' was and I didn't know how
2 I could change it. So my supercilious attitude got me
3 into a lot of trouble, yeah.

4 LADY SMITH: 'Ghillie', I said earlier that we would
5 normally break at about 1 o'clock, which is the norm,
6 and I know we've got a little bit of your evidence still
7 to go and it's your choice: do you want to carry on and
8 finish your evidence now, or would it work better for
9 you if we had a break and returned to your evidence just
10 after 2 o'clock? I could do either.

11 A. I would prefer to just carry on.

12 LADY SMITH: If you're okay.

13 A. Yes.

14 LADY SMITH: If you change your mind, just tell me. All
15 right?

16 MS FORBES: Thank you, my Lady.

17 LADY SMITH: Ms Forbes.

18 MS FORBES: 'Ghillie', I'm just coming to a part of your
19 statement where you tell us a bit more about the
20 [REDACTED], [REDACTED]. And you say
21 that there were men who visited the home and they
22 appeared to be drinking buddies of his and you think,
23 you're not sure exactly who they were, but you believe
24 they had something to do with the local authority, but
25 you don't know why you thought that.

1 A. Yes.

2 Q. That was your impression?

3 A. I remember I'd gone into town to spend some pocket money
4 and there was a pub -- if you know Musselburgh, it was
5 opposite Luca's ice-cream parlour. I can't remember the
6 name of it. I was walking past there and I saw him in
7 there, which was unusual, with some people that
8 I'd known that had visited the home. He saw me and
9 I think that sort of triggered something and from then
10 on I realised I was a marked person.

11 Q. In relation to these boys, you say -- sorry, these men,
12 sorry, you say you felt that these men had more interest
13 in the boys than they should have, and this worried you?

14 A. It did worry me, because one or two of the younger boys
15 had come up to me and said: listen, they were concerned
16 that these people were trying to be very friendly,
17 but -- and very tactile and touching et cetera. The
18 boys didn't say it that way, but they just felt
19 uncomfortable, and with me being the oldest boy, they
20 asked me what I could do and could I report it up the
21 line. But I was out of my depth. I had no real idea
22 what was going on or what to do about it.

23 Q. You tell us about a boy in the home, 'Ghillie', who was
24 English and you give us his name; I'm not going to read
25 it out.

1 A. Yes.

2 Q. But you say he was about 12 or 13, he was English and
3 his time at Red House was probably made very difficult,
4 because he was English, by other boys?

5 A. Yes.

6 Q. And he latched on to the SNR [REDACTED],
7 FRT [REDACTED], and then you were told by other younger
8 boys that he was procuring some of the boys for these
9 men who were coming in to Red House.

10 So, just so I understand what you're telling us
11 there, 'Ghillie', when you say 'he was procuring some of
12 the boys for these men', do you mean FRT [REDACTED], or
13 do you mean the boy who was English?

14 A. Yeah -- no, the English boy, I think we drove him that
15 way because we treated him so badly, when I look back on
16 it, and I think his -- I think Mr FRT [REDACTED], when he went
17 to him, treated him really well and I think he became
18 a conduit between FRT [REDACTED] and the other boys, especially
19 the younger boys, and I think he was looking for boys
20 that were susceptible. I think that's the way it
21 happened.

22 Q. Okay. And you tell us these men, that you thought were
23 connected to the local authority, were coming into the
24 house at strange times of the day, especially when the
25 SNR [REDACTED] wasn't there and when FRT [REDACTED] was

1 SNR the house. And I think you tell us that's
2 when the younger boys came up to you and told you about
3 these strange men hanging about in the bathroom and
4 watching the other boys?

5 A. Yes.

6 Q. And you tell us, 'Ghillie', that you knew there was
7 something not quite right about FRT . You say
8 he spent too long in the showers supervising the boys,
9 but I think you say you never really thought anything
10 about it initially until the younger boys started to
11 tell you things?

12 A. Yes.

13 LADY SMITH: When you say younger, how much younger were
14 they?

15 A. 7/8, 7/8/9 was probably -- younger than that, the --
16 yeah. I think that was about the age group, yeah.

17 LADY SMITH: Thank you.

18 MS FORBES: 'Ghillie', were you about 15 at this point?

19 A. I was 15, I think then, yeah.

20 Q. 'Ghillie', you go on to tell us that two of the younger
21 boys came to you and one of them in particular was upset
22 and they said that they'd been in the office and the
23 visitors -- I take it that 'the visitors' are these men
24 from the local authority -- had been trying to touch
25 them up?

1 A. Yes.

2 Q. And they were coming to you, hoping that you could do
3 something about it and keep these men away from them.
4 But as you've explained, you didn't know what to do, you
5 were out of your depth and you didn't really have any
6 authority over these men?

7 A. Yeah, I was at a loss of what to actually do. The boys
8 were looking up to me.

9 (Pause)

10 Excuse me.

11 Q. It's okay. Don't worry.

12 A. Yes, the boys were looking up to me but I felt.
13 (Pause). I'm sorry.

14 Q. It's okay. Don't worry. There is nothing to be sorry
15 about, 'Ghillie'. Just take a minute.

16 LADY SMITH: 'Ghillie', are you sure it wouldn't be easier
17 to break now?

18 A. I'll be okay, thanks. I'll be okay.

19 MS FORBES: Are you okay?

20 A. Yeah, I'm good. I'm good.

21 Q. Are you okay for me to carry on a bit?

22 A. Yeah.

23 Q. 'Ghillie', you tell us that you approached the English
24 boy who you knew had this link to **FRT**, and you
25 spoke to him about this and you had it out with him and

1 you ended up having a bit of a barney, you describe it
2 as, with him?

3 A. Yes.

4 Q. And you think that you doing that was a mistake, because
5 things deteriorated for you after that?

6 A. Yes, indeed. I approached him because I thought it
7 was the right thing to do, because I felt I was letting
8 the boys down. In retrospect that was a mistake and
9 I think it put me in the firing line completely. But it
10 was the only recourse I felt I had at the time.

11 Q. And you say that after your confrontation with that boy,
12 he must have gone to FRT [REDACTED], and then after that,
13 FRT [REDACTED] started accusing you of things like
14 stealing and other misdemeanours that you hadn't done
15 and spreading stories amongst the boys about you, and
16 you say that you think that was the start of his attempt
17 to get you out of Red House?

18 A. That's correct. I started to get a lot of punishment
19 for things I hadn't done and I think, looking back, the
20 SNR [REDACTED] must have just believed, because I was
21 a boy that was a bit of a rebel and I was in trouble
22 regularly, and it just seems like he was believed, I was
23 disbelieved, and I got to resent really some of the
24 beatings I took for something I hadn't done.

25 Q. And so Mr FSK [REDACTED] was involved in punishing you for these

1 things and he didn't believe --

2 A. No.

3 Q. -- that you hadn't been involved. And I think you tell
4 us that you didn't tell Mr FSK what the younger boys
5 had told you about these men trying to touch them up.
6 You say in your naivety at the time, you didn't know
7 that these sort of things went on, you were a bit
8 sceptical of the two younger boys, you didn't know what
9 to do, but you knew that there was something not right
10 and you felt there was something sinister going on, but
11 you couldn't really figure out what it was?

12 A. I had no idea that older people could have interest in
13 younger boys. Like I say, I was very naive. I had no
14 idea of family life or what -- and I couldn't see what
15 the problem was, but the boys were telling me that they
16 were unhappy. I mean, I feel I let them down but --

17 LADY SMITH: 'Ghillie', you were still a child. You were
18 only 15 years old yourself and, as you said, had led
19 this life in care without exposure to many aspects of
20 life that might have made other 15-year-olds in effect
21 older than you. But the point is, you were still
22 a child.

23 A. Yes, but the older boys looked up to me.

24 LADY SMITH: Yes.

25 A. Sorry, the younger boys looked up to me, yeah.

1 LADY SMITH: But that just made it even harder for you. It
2 didn't mean you were older.

3 A. Yes.

4 MS FORBES: But, 'Ghillie', you do tell us you did try to do
5 something. You approached Mr FRT and you told him
6 that you knew what he was up to and that you were going
7 to report him, so that was quite a brave step that you
8 took.

9 A. Yeah. I felt it was the only route I had at the time.
10 Like, there was no -- there was no one else. Yeah, when
11 I look back, I was completely on my own with that.

12 Q. But you say you hadn't really thought through what would
13 happen when you did that and, looking back, you think
14 you made a mistake?

15 A. Yes.

16 Q. And you tell us, 'Ghillie', that a few days after you
17 had spoken to Mr FSK, you were approached by the
18 English boy who asked you to go up to the attic?

19 A. Yes.

20 Q. And so you went up and you say when you got up there,
21 there was an older man and two younger men there. Were
22 they men that you'd seen before at the home?

23 A. I'd seen one of them before in the shower room, watching
24 after the boys. But the other one I hadn't seen at all
25 before.

1 Q. And which of them had you seen before? I think you say
2 there was an older man and two younger men?

3 A. Yeah.

4 Q. Was it one of the younger men?

5 A. It was the older man that I had seen before, yes.

6 Q. So was he someone you felt was associated with
7 Mr FRT ?

8 A. Yes.

9 Q. You tell us, 'Ghillie', that when you got up there, you
10 were told to sit down and you thought they were going to
11 talk to you about something?

12 A. Yes, that's -- I -- the laundry was right at the top --
13 sorry, 'the laundry'. The attic was right at the top of
14 the house and the stair -- and there was two bedrooms,
15 one larger bedroom, one smaller one with a couple of
16 wardrobes in it, and there was some seating besides two
17 beds. And I went up there on the left-hand side and
18 then sat down, yeah.

19 Q. And the English boy went back downstairs, so at that
20 point you're left alone with the three men?

21 A. Yes.

22 Q. The older man and two younger men?

23 A. Yeah.

24 Q. And you tell us then, 'Ghillie', what happened next.
25 You say one of the younger ones slapped you?

1 A. Yes. Yeah, I remember being totally surprised. He was
2 coming up, I thought he was going to sit beside me
3 and -- and he slapped me really hard and said something,
4 but I can't remember what he said.

5 Q. Then I think you go on to tell us that he then held you
6 down; is that right?

7 A. Yeah. They put me on the bed.

8 Q. And you then go on to tell us that the other younger one
9 then sexually assaulted you?

10 A. Yep. They pulled my trousers down and, essentially,
11 raped me.

12 Q. And you say that it was firstly the other younger one
13 and then the other one, so they both did it?

14 A. Yeah, yeah. I had no idea what was happening. I knew
15 it was extremely painful. I was very, very frightened.
16 Frightened for my life really. And when they had
17 finished, the other guy picked me up and sat me down and
18 told me that that was deserved, and if I reported it, my
19 brother would have the same. And I -- I thought it
20 was the end of me.

21 Q. And when you say the other one, is that the older man
22 that said that to you?

23 A. Yes, yes.

24 Q. And that's the one you'd seen around before?

25 A. Yes.

1 Q. So he told you that you deserved it?

2 A. Yes.

3 Q. And if you told anyone, it would happen to your brother?

4 A. Yes, they threatened my brother with the same. I was

5 obviously very distraught, but -- I was in severe pain,

6 I was bleeding.

7 Q. Yes. I think you say that you were bleeding for days

8 afterwards?

9 A. Yes, yeah.

10 Q. And you tell us you couldn't tell anyone because there

11 wasn't anyone you felt you could tell?

12 A. There was no one, no.

13 Q. You give us a description of the men involved at

14 paragraph 106, 'Ghillie', and you say that one was

15 smaller and stocky and slightly balding and he was the

16 main instigator, and the other was slightly younger and

17 appeared to be getting led by the other one?

18 A. Yeah.

19 Q. And it was this older man who was the connection to

20 [REDACTED], and you think that [REDACTED] must

21 have told them that you were going to report what was

22 going on at the home and this was their way to get you.

23 A. That's what I feel it came from, from Mr [REDACTED]. It was

24 his -- I think it was his group. I'm not sure what sort

25 of group they were, but they were -- I don't know

1 whether they were drinking buddies or whatever, but he
2 must have felt that I was a threat to his position in
3 Red House and it was his way of punishing me.

4 Q. You say, 'Ghillie', that a couple of days after what
5 happened in the attic, you tried to tell Mr FSK . You
6 couldn't tell him what they'd actually done to you, but
7 you told Mr FSK what you thought was going on with
8 Mr FRT and you say you told him that Mr FRT was
9 allowing men into the house when he wasn't there and
10 that these men had an interest in boys and that it just
11 didn't feel right. But he didn't listen to you.

12 A. No, he did not.

13 Q. He told you you were a bad boy and you shouldn't be
14 saying these things?

15 A. Yeah.

16 Q. And you say he then lost his temper, ranted at you, then
17 beat you with his open hands, slapping you about?

18 A. Yeah, he pushed me right in the corner of the room and
19 he slapped me a few times, told me I was -- I had always
20 been a troublemaker and et cetera, and he was going to
21 get rid of me, yeah.

22 Q. And you say he told you that you were a liar and that he
23 didn't want children like you at Red House and you had
24 to leave?

25 A. Yeah, that's essentially what he said, yeah.

1 Q. And indeed arrangements then were made by him for you to
2 leave and you were told your bag had been packed; is
3 that right?

4 A. That's correct, yeah.

5 Q. And you were told you were going to Ponton House in
6 Edinburgh and again, as we've said, you were still only
7 15 at that time and you asked what was going to happen
8 about school. And he told you that you'd left school
9 and you weren't going back?

10 A. That's what he told me. I was just being transferred to
11 Ponton House and he no longer wanted to have anything to
12 do with me in Red House at all.

13 Q. And you say you were taken to Ponton House where you
14 were dumped, and this was a halfway house, you say, for
15 boys who didn't have any homes to go to. And you say
16 you were there for only a few days, because you told the
17 manager of Ponton House your situation. He managed to
18 get your father's address from Red House and you then
19 went to see your father and told him that you'd been put
20 out of Red House and that he needed to get your brother
21 out of there as well?

22 A. Yes.

23 Q. And you say that you told your dad you'd been thrown out
24 for being a disruptive influence and he was angry with
25 you, but you didn't want to tell him what had really

1 happened. But you did say to him it was dangerous and
2 that your brother wouldn't be safe and he would get
3 bullied by the other boys. And I think you say you
4 never told your dad about the threats the men had made,
5 that your brother was next, but he certainly knew that
6 your brother had to be taken out of there. Is that
7 right?

8 A. That's correct. The one thing about Ponton House is, as
9 you said, there was boys there, it was mostly adults
10 there and while I was there, I was obviously very
11 frightened but also very angry. And when eventually my
12 dad come and got me, I mean, he was living in a flat in
13 ██████████ and it was just one room at the top of the
14 house. And it had one bed and a radio and a small
15 cooker and that was it. It was not -- there was no
16 bedroom, et cetera. And he was living on his own there.
17 So it became quite fraught, because suddenly we were
18 dumped on him. But it was essential to get my brother
19 out of Red House, I felt that.

20 Q. So your dad got your brother out and I think you say you
21 were looked after by an aunt for a couple of days?

22 A. Yes.

23 Q. But you went and both stayed with your dad and then
24 eventually your dad got another flat and you both moved
25 in with him there. So quite quickly after you were

1 dumped, effectively, at Ponton House, you managed to get
2 your brother out of Red House as well?

3 A. Yes, that happened quite quickly.

4 Q. 'Ghillie', you go on to tell us then about your life
5 after being in care and I think you say your dad found
6 you a job in the building trade but you didn't settle.
7 You found it difficult and bounced from one area to the
8 next, but then you applied and were accepted for the
9 Marines and then subsequently transferred to the Royal
10 Navy and you were in the services for 39 years?

11 A. That's correct.

12 Q. And you say in the navy you continued studying English
13 and naval history, you managed to get your commission,
14 became a naval officer, progressed through the ranks and
15 finished your career as a high-ranking officer?

16 A. I wouldn't say high-ranking. I finished as
17 a lieutenant. I got my commission from the Queen, yes.

18 Q. So really, after leaving school with no qualifications,
19 you were able, through sheer determination and hard
20 work, to make your way through the navy and progress in
21 your career?

22 A. Yes.

23 Q. I think you tell us, 'Ghillie', that when you left the
24 services you became self-employed, but eventually had to
25 give up that business because it became too big, but you

1 are still employed; is that right?

2 A. That's right, yeah.

3 Q. And you work on a big estate?

4 A. I do.

5 Q. Is that right? And you also tell us that happily you

6 got married in 1971 and you and your wife have your own

7 children and grandchildren?

8 A. And now great-grandchildren.

9 Q. Great-grandchildren as well. So that's quite -- is that

10 quite a positive thing in your life?

11 A. Yes. Very much so.

12 Q. 'Ghillie', you go on to tell us about the impact your

13 time in care has had on you and you say in some respects

14 there was a positive impact because it toughened you up,

15 and I think you relate that to the fact that you were

16 able to fit in in the navy, in the services, very well,

17 because you had grown up in such a regimented

18 environment of Red House?

19 A. Yeah. I found basic training, which a lot of the young

20 lads found very difficult, six weeks of basic training

21 at HMS Raleigh in Cornwall, I found quite easy and had

22 to help quite a few of the boys through it, or some of

23 the men through it. But I found it fairly easy because

24 of my background.

25 Q. And I think you point out though, whilst you progressed

1 very well in your career, if you'd had qualifications
2 and if you'd managed to continue your education, you
3 could have gone potentially even further?

4 A. You can't look back on that. What happened, happened.
5 I have to live with that.

6 Q. I think you make point, 'Ghillie', that you thoroughly
7 enjoyed your job and you say it possibly didn't hold you
8 back, about your education, because you used the
9 opportunities in the services to further your education?

10 A. Yes, I did.

11 Q. 'Ghillie', you tell us at paragraph 122 of your
12 statement that one of the things, after you read through
13 your statement before signing it, you wanted to point
14 out is that you really wanted to emphasise how helpless
15 and alone that you felt when you were in care. And you
16 say there was a constant atmosphere of fear and the
17 intimidation and constant feeling of utter helplessness?

18 A. Absolutely.

19 Q. And you say:

20 'I was raped and I didn't even know what that meant
21 then. I had no idea what was going on or what was
22 happening. There was absolutely no one I could turn to.
23 There was no friendly face or friendly voice anywhere.'

24 A. I think at that age, 15, I was just so naive, yeah.

25 Q. And at the time of your statement, 'Ghillie', you said

1 you'd never told anyone about your experiences in care?

2 A. I haven't told anyone.

3 Q. And you say that you decided you had to close the door

4 completely and just get on with your life?

5 A. Yes.

6 Q. And in relation to lessons to be learned, 'Ghillie', you

7 talk about them from paragraph 126 and you say the

8 reason that you've come forward to talk to the Inquiry

9 is that you find it difficult to accept that the things

10 that you experienced could still be going on, and you

11 are giving your experience to the Inquiry, having never

12 told anyone before, so that it stops any other child --

13 from it happening to any other child?

14 A. Having a family and children and grandchildren made me

15 realise that -- how horrible it would be if something

16 like that happened to them.

17 Q. And you hope that by you coming forward it will have

18 some impact for children in care in the future.

19 Children shouldn't just be dumped in care and left to

20 get on with it and people who are looking after these

21 children must have some empathy with the children and

22 not just be doing it for a job?

23 A. Yeah, I agree with that, yes.

24 Q. And you say your biggest hope for the Inquiry is that

25 people start to listen to children. Essentially, is

1 that one of the things that you want to get across?

2 A. Yeah, if I'd had someone that I could talk to, someone
3 that listened, that would have made a big difference.

4 Q. You say you didn't have anyone like that for you and if
5 there had been someone like that for you when you were
6 in care, it would have made a big difference, you say,
7 to you and your later life?

8 A. Yes.

9 Q. You do give us a little bit of information, 'Ghillie',
10 about going back to Red House after you left. You say
11 you had a concern for one of the boys in particular.
12 This is at paragraph 129. And you say you went back to
13 Red House to check on him and he told you that Mr FRT
14 had been arrested and there had been a court case and
15 that Mr FSK wanted to speak to you. You didn't
16 really want to speak to Mr FSK, but you went to see
17 him and you say that he seemed to be quite contrite, but
18 you couldn't help feeling angry with him?

19 A. Yes. I remember he wanted to see me, but he was
20 a completely different person. I mean, I only heard
21 through a third party about a possible court case.
22 I've never checked up if that was actually true or not.
23 And, Mr FSK wanted to talk to me. I think he
24 possibly wanted to apologise, but I never gave him the
25 chance. I just told him that my time in here was done

1 and I felt that he had never offered me any help, any
2 support throughout my time there, and I left it at that.
3 But he was just a shell of himself. I could see that,
4 yeah.

5 LADY SMITH: Can you remember how long it was after you had
6 left that you went back?

7 A. It was just before I joined the services, so probably
8 a year or so afterwards, yes.

9 LADY SMITH: Yes, the boy you went to check up on had been
10 about the same age as you?

11 A. He was still there. Yeah, he was about the same age as
12 me. In fact, he was the boy that I had the fight with.
13 But eh -- I wouldn't say we were close, but when you
14 live that close together, I just wanted to see that
15 everything was okay with him, and because when I left,
16 I knew he would be the one that would be taking over as
17 the oldest boy.

18 LADY SMITH: Thank you.

19 MS FORBES: Certainly, 'Ghillie', when you went back,
20 Mr **FRT** wasn't working there anymore, that was your
21 understanding?

22 A. He wasn't. Like I say, the rumour, talking to the boys,
23 was that -- and it was just a rumour, I couldn't check
24 on it -- that there had been a court case and there had
25 been police investigation, but I never checked up on

1 that. I never -- wasn't able to confirm that.

2 Q. Was your impression that the court case related to
3 something that had gone on at Red House?

4 A. Yes.

5 MS FORBES: 'Ghillie', that's all the questions I have for
6 you, so thank you very much for bearing with me. I know
7 we have taken a lot longer than I initially said that we
8 would, but thank you very much for answering all my
9 questions.

10 Is there anything that you want to say that you
11 haven't had a chance to say or talk about?

12 A. I think the only thing, since I left the home and joined
13 the services, I had no idea -- the services were my
14 family. And it wasn't until I got married -- excuse
15 me -- I realised what family life was. And my wife has
16 been a support all the way through.

17 LADY SMITH: And you've now been married about 55 years, is
18 that right?

19 A. Yes. And I couldn't thank her enough. She gave me
20 family.

21 LADY SMITH: Yes.

22 'Ghillie', can I add my thanks to you. As I said at
23 the beginning, I'm very conscious of what we were asking
24 you to do and I can see that it has taken its toll of
25 you, but what you've given to the work I'm doing here is

1 of enormous value. So please go away knowing that,
2 knowing you have my thanks, my gratitude, and that at
3 the very least I hope the rest of today is easier for
4 you than the first half has been.

5 A. Thank you.

6 LADY SMITH: Do feel free to go when you're ready.

7 A. Thank you.

8 (The witness withdrew)

9 LADY SMITH: Well, I'll stop now for the lunch break, but
10 before I rise, three names that I think I probably have
11 already mentioned, probably yesterday, of people who we
12 have used today, but they're not to be identified as
13 having given evidence to the Inquiry outside this room
14 and that's -- I'm sorry, as having been mentioned in
15 evidence outside this room. That's Mr FSK,
16 Mrs FSE and Mr FRT. Oh, and PKL of course as
17 well was mentioned.

18 So I'll stop now and I'll sit again, certainly not
19 before 25 to 2 -- sorry, 25 to 3. It may be nearer
20 quarter to by the time we get organised.

21 Thank you.

22 (1.35 pm)

23 (The luncheon adjournment)

24 (2.45 pm)

25 LADY SMITH: Good afternoon. Now, turning to, I think, some

1 read-in evidence this afternoon. That's you,

2 Mr Sheldon, is it?

3 MR SHELDON: That's correct, my Lady.

4 LADY SMITH: Thank you.

5 'Don' (read in)

6 MR SHELDON: The first of the read-ins is that of another

7 anonymous applicant. His pseudonym is 'Don', D-O-N.

8 His statement reference is WIT.001.001.5459.

9 'Don' was born in 1959 and his dates at Red House,
10 we think, are [REDACTED] 1969 to [REDACTED] 1971.

11 And he tells us a little about his background,
12 including his family background, and notes at
13 paragraph 4 that his mother was unable to cope as their
14 father had left.

15 At paragraph 6, he says:

16 'I have a vague memory of being at the
17 Children's Panel. I remember it was like a court
18 set-up. After they had made the decision about us,
19 I remember my mother screaming and my brother and
20 I being pulled by the arms and taken away.'

21 They were initially taken to a home in Dunoon, the
22 Catherine Mary Home and he thinks this would have been
23 in 1968 or [REDACTED] 1969. They were taken there by
24 a social worker.

25 Taking that very short, my Lady, paragraph 9, he

1 notes being -- that he remembers being taken on the boat

2 Secondary Institutions - to be published later

3

4

5

6

7 Paragraph 11:

8 'One day the staff came and told [my brother] and I
9 to go and pack our stuff. I remember being really
10 excited as I thought that we were going home. We were
11 taken on the boat and then into a car. I remember the
12 feeling of dismay when we passed [I think that might be
13 Anderston in Glasgow] and realised that we were not
14 being taken home. We ended up going to the Red House in
15 Musselburgh. We were never told in advance or consulted
16 about where we were going.'

17 He says:

18 'The Red House Children's Home was for boys only and
19 was situated behind the High Street in Musselburgh.'

20 And he describes it and of course we saw photographs
21 of that this morning, my Lady.

22 He says:

23 'There were four dormitories and I think that the
24 home would have about 20 boys at any one time. There
25 was a communal dining room where we would eat. There

1 were four members of staff. Mr FSK was SNR
2 SNR with his wife, Mrs FSE.'

3 He thinks that they were in their 60s:

4 'There were two assistants, Mr HEZ, who I would
5 guess was about 40, and Mr HEX, who was 50. I think
6 that Mrs FSE did the cooking. They were the only
7 staff we saw in two-and-a-half years. There was no love
8 handed out from the staff. We had to call them "sir"
9 and "ma'am". I don't remember seeing other staff but
10 they may have been there when we were at school.

11 'I recall the first day being shown our beds where
12 we were to sleep. We were then introduced to the other
13 boys. The first week at the Red House was great. We
14 were shown around and everything seemed to be fine.
15 Then the violence started.'

16 And he goes on to talk about the daily routine and
17 I'll take that short and go to paragraph 16. He says:

18 'The boys under 8 years old had to be in bed at
19 8.00, while the older boys got to stay up until
20 9 o'clock. You were allowed to read your book in bed in
21 the summertime when there was still light.

22 'You were also required to do cleaning jobs in the
23 home. You did dusting and sweeping up. You had to do
24 some cleaning every day. It was more like a borstal
25 than a care home.'

1 He says:

2 'There were a number of leisure activities at the
3 home. You had a great place to play football. There
4 were table tennis tables. All the boys would help to
5 make a giant jigsaw of the world which we then mounted
6 in a frame. You were also able to use the bikes and
7 I remember staying a weekend when I could have been on
8 home leave to sit a bicycle exam with the police.
9 I managed to get a certificate for passing my National
10 Cycling Proficiency Test. We were able to watch
11 television in the dining room.

12 'The food was fine. You got a breakfast of cereal
13 and toast. Dinner was at 5.00 when you got back from
14 school. You also got something to eat before you went
15 to bed. There were some things I didn't like, but you
16 were forced to eat them.

17 'We attended the local school in Musselburgh. It
18 was great to get out of the home and into the school
19 where the bullying would stop. There was one occasion
20 early on when we first went to the local school. The
21 biggest boy tried to assert himself with us. I squared
22 up to him and kicked him between the legs. His nose
23 started bleeding. After that there were no issues and
24 other pupils at the school were giving me Action Men
25 toys and money. I didn't like being cast in the role as

1 a bully and I told the other pupils just to treat me
2 normally and that was that. School was really good as
3 we couldn't read or write when we first arrived and now
4 we were learning.

5 'We also went to the local church on a Sunday.
6 I remember you would get hit for talking in church so we
7 used to communicate by singing our conversation when the
8 hymns were being played. You would always be dressed in
9 your best clothes. You would then go for a walk in The
10 Grove, which was a local park.

11 'We would be allowed to go home every few months.
12 I think that we had about six or seven periods of home
13 leave the whole time we were there. We would be put on
14 a train in Edinburgh by a member of the staff and we
15 should have been met in Glasgow. As often as not, no
16 one met us and we were left on our own at the train
17 station. We were just young boys of 9 or 10.

18 'I can remember strangers taking us home in a taxi.
19 We were now living in Cowcaddens but we didn't know how
20 to get home. My brother met me a few times but we were
21 just expected to make our own way home. I presume we
22 knew what the address was as we usually managed to get
23 home.

24 'We never celebrated our birthdays at the home. We
25 were lucky if we got a card from our mother. Christmas

1 was celebrated in the home and they had a tree and
2 special food. I can remember watching the 1970 World
3 Cup match between England and Brazil because I was
4 football daft.

5 'I never saw any formal punishment like a school
6 belt or anything like that. You were just hit round the
7 head and that was it. The best way to avoid the
8 informal beatings you received was to avoid the staff
9 and keep out of their way.

10 'My granny came to visit me a few times but I don't
11 think that there were any other family members.

12 'In all the time I was in Red House, which was about
13 two-and-a-half years, I never remember any sort of
14 official inspection by the authorities. I don't even
15 remember a visit from our social worker.

16 'We had access to doctors and dentists. I remember
17 getting a tooth taken out at the dentist and they used
18 gas. I was at the hospital in Edinburgh on a few
19 occasions because of my asthma.'

20 And he goes on then to talk about abuse at the home.
21 He says:

22 'The first time I was hit was when we were playing
23 table tennis with one of the other boys. He hit the
24 ball under the net and said "underies". I hit the ball
25 back over the net and said "overies". The next thing

1 I knew I got this tremendous hit on my ear and head. It
2 was Mr HEZ that hit me. I was 10 years old. What
3 did I know about the other meaning of the word
4 "ovaries"? I had no idea why I had been hit, as it was
5 not explained to me.

6 'There was a time when I was being taken to hospital
7 by Mr HEZ for treatment for my asthma. Mr HEZ
8 was driving me and he asked me if I would like a shot of
9 driving. I got onto his lap and started to steer the
10 car. While I was on his lap I could feel his penis
11 becoming erect. I was wide enough to know what was
12 happening and so I leapt off his lap and onto the --'

13 LADY SMITH: 'Wide enough' or 'wise enough'?

14 MR SHELDON: It could be either, my Lady.

15 LADY SMITH: Could be either.

16 MR SHELDON: 'Wide' might simply mean that he's streetwise,
17 as it were.

18 LADY SMITH: Yes.

19 MR SHELDON: But it could go either way, as it were.

20 LADY SMITH: But the point is, he realised what was
21 happening, he said?

22 MR SHELDON: Yes. Yes, I mean, he certainly wised up to it,
23 if one wants to put it that way:

24 'I started to cry. Mr HEZ told me that if
25 I said anything to anyone at the hospital about what had

1 happened, he would kill me. When I got back to the
2 Red House I told Mr FSK who was SNR. He told
3 me that I was telling lies and never to say anything
4 like that again. He then told me I was dismissed and to
5 go away.

6 'One of the most harrowing things for me was to have
7 to lie in bed and listen to what was happening to [my
8 brother] every morning. [He] was a bed-wetter. Every
9 morning at about 6.30, Mr HEX would come to his bed
10 and ask him if he was wet. [He] would always say "No,
11 sir", but when Mr HEX put his hand to check he would
12 be wet and [he] would burst into tears. Mr HEX used
13 to hit him for being wet. He would be pulled out of bed
14 screaming and taken downstairs where he had to wash all
15 his bedclothes. He also had to hang them out in all
16 weathers. He was always very upset and crying. I was
17 in the next bed to [my brother] and so after about two
18 weeks of this, I got up and told Mr HEX to fuck off
19 and leave [him] alone. Nothing changed and I got moved
20 to a different dormitory. I felt helpless as there was
21 nothing I could do. [My brother] got assaulted every
22 day for two years.

23 'Mr FSK used to have a wooden baton which he kept
24 up his sleeve. He called it "Auntie Bessie". He would
25 use the baton to hit you for any reason he saw fit. He

1 hit me one day on my elbow so hard that it caused it to
2 swell up. My elbow was put in a bandage and I was kept
3 off school. When I returned to school three days later,
4 the teacher asked me how my asthma was. I said it was
5 fine and then it dawned on me that Mr FSK had told
6 them that I was off school because of my asthma and not
7 through my injured elbow.

8 'There was a day I was being forced to eat rhubarb
9 and custard, which I did not like. It was making me
10 feel sick and I couldn't swallow it. Mr FSK told me
11 that he would give me half an hour to finish it or
12 I would be punished and sent to bed. I opened the
13 window and tipped my plate into the flowerbed below. He
14 came back and I was allowed to go. I was outside
15 playing when I heard Mr FSK shout my name. He took
16 me over to the rose bed and showed me where I had
17 emptied my plate. He then grabbed me and thrust my face
18 into where the rhubarb and custard had come to rest
19 among the roses. I was then sent straight to bed.

20 'I was walking to school and eating a pie. The pie
21 wasn't good, so I threw it over my shoulder without
22 looking where it was going. It hit a girl and
23 I apologised to her. I got back to the home and
24 Mr HEX told me that he wanted to see me. The girl
25 I had hit with the pie was his daughter. I tried to

1 apologise to him but he just set about me, hitting me
2 with his hand and fist on the head, knees and bottom.
3 I was again sent to bed after getting a doing.

4 'One day I accidentally bumped into Mrs FSE at
5 the medicine cabinet. It caused her to spill some
6 medicine. She then pulled down my trousers and pants
7 and hit me on the bare bottom. She had another trick
8 where she would make a fist and then grind her knuckles
9 into the top of your head. She would regularly do this
10 to you for any reason she saw fit.

11 'You were issued with a pair of trousers for school
12 and a pair for church on a Sunday. My school trousers
13 were too baggy and I was the butt of a lot of teasing.
14 I decided to change the school pair for the church pair
15 as they were a better fit. Mrs FSE found out and
16 ground her knuckles into the top of my head. I was also
17 sent to bed with no tea. If you were punished by being
18 sent to bed, you missed out on a meal.

19 'While I was off school with an injured elbow, I was
20 ordered by Mr HEX to clear the snow off the path.
21 I did most of it but I missed a very small area of about
22 a foot square. Mr HEX set about hitting me on the
23 head in the area of my ears. It was, as always, very
24 painful.

25 'I remember Mr HEX hitting me for no reason when

1 he thought I was swearing. All the boys had
2 an expression when someone was annoying them and they
3 called me a "bugatiser". Mr HEX thought I was
4 saying "bugger" and hit me again when I tried to explain
5 this to him. He just wasn't listening.

6 'You were being hit most days for very little
7 reason. There was just violence all the time and it
8 became part of everyday life. The only time you escaped
9 from it was when you were at school during the day.

10 'Mr HEX and Mr HEZ would give you a pair of
11 boxing gloves and tell you to fight one another. You
12 were not supposed to punch anyone in the face. They
13 matched my brother and I against each other. Of course
14 we didn't want to fight each other. Mr HEX and
15 Mr HEZ thought that this was funny. All I can
16 remember was [my brother] punching me in the face and
17 making my nose bleed. This seemed to amuse the staff.
18 It was pure bullying.

19 'I remember witnessing one of the other boys being
20 hit by Mr HEX. There was an apple tree which grew
21 over the wall from the neighbours. You were supposed to
22 hand the apples in, but this boy ate one and was caught.
23 He was beaten about the head by Mr HEX but he just
24 kept looking at him and refused to cry. He was only
25 about 7 years old. I think that this made Mr HEX

1 more angry.

2 'There was another boy at the home [and he names him
3 using a nickname]. He should not have been at the home
4 as he was 17 years of age and too old. I spoke to him
5 and he told me that they had nowhere else to put him.
6 He was sexually assaulting all the younger boys at the
7 school. [This older boy] used to sit in the garden shed
8 playing with himself. I think that is how he got his
9 nickname. If the football was kicked into the shed, no
10 one would go in to get it because you would be sexually
11 assaulted by [him]. Everyone at the home kept out of
12 his way.

13 'There were also a set of twins [who he names] who
14 were older boys of about 15. They were bathing all the
15 wee boys of age 6 and 7 and that should not have been
16 allowed. They were big lads who were very effeminate.
17 They took great delight in bathing the younger boys.
18 I sussed what was going on and kept out of their way.

19 'We were never able to tell the teachers at the
20 school what was happening to you at the Red House. No
21 one would believe you. How could you tell an adult that
22 another adult was doing wrong to you.

23 'I did try and tell my mother on one occasion when
24 I was home on leave. She told me not to talk about it
25 and just to accept what was going on. This had the

1 effect of me distrusting all people. I found forming
2 friendships very hard.

3 'When [my brother] told me what had happened to him
4 when he was raped, I went to the police to report it.
5 I found that telling the police about it started to
6 relieve the pressure. The police told me about the
7 Inquiry so I contacted you to give my statement. The
8 policeman I reported it to was at Midlothian Police, but
9 he moved. So I spoke to [another constable] who works
10 at Dalkeith Police Station. She was going to follow it
11 up but I've not had any further contact.

12 'The first I knew that we were leaving the Red House
13 Children's Home was when we were home on weekend leave.
14 My mother got a phone call from the home to tell us that
15 we didn't need to go back on Monday morning. Two men
16 arrived at the house with some paperwork and most of our
17 belongings. My mother signed the paperwork and that was
18 us finished with the Red House, thank God.

19 'I remember that after we left we never got back all
20 the small personal things that we had collected during
21 our stay there. I don't know where they went. I also
22 remember that my mother was given a bank book for each
23 of us with about £7 in it.

24 'I later found out that when we were in the
25 Catherine Mary Home in Dunoon, my mother had been told

1 to get her house sorted out and she would have us back
2 within six months. Unfortunately, she didn't manage to
3 do this, hence the reason we were kept in care and went
4 on to the Red House.

5 'I was 12 years old when I left the Red House
6 Children's Home. I went to school in Glasgow. I was
7 not aware of any social work involvement but there might
8 have been. I didn't attend any meetings. I was
9 experiencing freedom, and then the lassies came on the
10 scene and I was busy with them.

11 'I got married in 1984 and now have three children.
12 My oldest boy was 8 and was at my wedding. I was
13 engaged for 13 years before I got married. She is the
14 only woman I have ever been with and I met her when my
15 family moved to Drumchapel.'

16 In relation to impact, he says:

17 'At first and after a long time after, I closed the
18 door on what had happened to me in the Red House.
19 I never spoke about it. I didn't want to speak about
20 it. I think that I told my wife about it once. It was
21 a case of: "I am out now and free so forget about it".

22 'It took my brother 40-odd years before he could
23 tell me that he had been raped by one of the boys who
24 was in the home. He only told me about it a year ago.
25 I would definitely have done something at the time, as

1 I felt protective towards him. It's one of the things
2 that bothers me. It happened and I did not know about
3 it. When my brother told me, I immediately said he
4 should report it to the police. It also started to
5 bring back memories of what had happened and I was
6 getting flashbacks of my time there. I could hear my
7 brother screaming when he was being pulled out of his
8 bed.

9 'I have also been in touch with Sandra Toyer from
10 ICSSF who is helping with organising counselling and
11 trying to obtain the records of my time in care at the
12 Red House.

13 'I have an appointment to see a psychologist called
14 Amanda Locke, which is being arranged through my doctor.
15 About a month ago, I attempted suicide. I kept thinking
16 of all the things that had happened to me and I just
17 couldn't cope.

18 'I have been unable to sleep and have been
19 prescribed sleeping tablets which help with this.
20 I've been diagnosed with anxiety, stress and trauma.
21 I take anxiety attacks and have had a few recently.
22 I have always been a loner and find it hard to trust
23 people and form friendships.

24 'After what happened to me, I found myself taking my
25 children to school every day to make sure that they went

1 and couldn't be put into care. I tried to tell them
2 that it would ruin their lives if they dogged school.

3 'I intend to try and recover my records from my time
4 in care at the Red House. I think there is a group
5 called Future Pathways who will help me with this. It
6 is quite tricky to remember all the names of the people
7 that are helping me now.'

8 On 'Lessons to be Learned' he says:

9 'You need to look out for children. They shouldn't
10 be bathed by other boys. Older boys should be moved out
11 of care and shouldn't be exposed to younger boys. Why
12 are you sent to an establishment which is no better than
13 a prison for doing nothing more than missing school?

14 'My father died in 1993 and I attended the funeral.
15 I remember a boy and a girl being pointed out to me.
16 I thought they were my father's brother and sister, but
17 it turned out that they were his children to another
18 woman. My father was a bigamist and this was the first
19 time that we learned about it. It was very disturbing,
20 as he should have been guiding us through life.

21 'I think on reflection that the Red House was
22 a money-making scheme. The owners of the house were
23 raking in the money as the place was always full up.
24 The whole thing was corrupt and a very violent place,
25 where the staff neglected to show any love or care.'

1 And he's made the usual declaration, my Lady, and
2 signed the statement in -- I'm not sure quite what the
3 date is. I think it's July 2017, my Lady.

4 LADY SMITH: Thank you.

5 MR SHELDON: I'll hand over to Ms Forbes.

6 LADY SMITH: Thank you. (Pause)

7 Whenever you're ready.

8 'Bob' (read in)

9 MS FORBES: The next statement is from a witness who is
10 anonymous, an applicant who's known as 'Bob', and the
11 reference for 'Bob's' statement is WIT-1-000001227.

12 My Lady, 'Bob' was born in 1970. He talks about his
13 life before going into care from paragraph 2 onwards and
14 he says he was born in Blantyre. He says he lost his
15 mum when he was aged 6 and she died from a brain tumour.
16 She worked as a nurse in the local hospital. His dad
17 had worked at Ravenscraig steelworks and he tells us he
18 has two older sisters, one who is two years older than
19 him and one who is four years older, and after his mum
20 died, he lived with his dad and his sisters.

21 When he was 7, his dad introduced them to the family
22 he had had from his first marriage and he'd been married
23 before and had four other children. And 'Bob' tells us
24 that suddenly one of his half-sisters, who was an adult,
25 about 20 years old, came through and started taking over

1 the mum role and the next thing he knew, they were moved
2 through to Edinburgh and that's where his dad's previous
3 family were from. It was Niddrie in Edinburgh. And he
4 said that things went wrong from there.

5 He tells us about going to primary school there, but
6 having a Glaswegian accent and he wasn't welcomed in
7 school. He said he hardly ever saw his dad. It was
8 just this older half-sister, who was abusive to him and
9 his -- one of his sisters.

10 She would physically assault him and he provides
11 details of what she would do and this included grabbing
12 his testicles in the bath and squeezing them as hard as
13 she could. And he says she detested the fact that he
14 and his sister were there.

15 His older sister left and then he was on his own
16 with this half-sister and he says things got worse. He
17 says that this half-sister was in his life from when he
18 was just 7, and powered over them all the time. He was
19 going to school and being disruptive. And he said it
20 just got worse and there were a couple of times when he
21 didn't think he was going to get out of - get off the
22 bed after he had been assaulted by her. She'd be on top
23 of him with her hands and he couldn't breathe and it was
24 horrible.

25 He then tells us that -- about some other incidents

1 involving emotional abuse from this half-sister, that
2 his dad didn't intervene, and anything she said was
3 believed by his dad and anything he said wasn't
4 believed.

5 And he tells us that he had an auntie, this is at
6 paragraph 12, who tried to take him away, so there must
7 have been feelings in the family that something wasn't
8 right. But this auntie wanted him to go and stay with
9 her family for a few weeks, to see if what was being
10 said about him was actually true.

11 He then tells us there was an incident where the
12 half-sister had assaulted him and gouged the inside of
13 his mouth and there'd been an altercation in the house.
14 He then went to -- he says he got a hammering before he
15 went to school and when he got to school, he blew up,
16 knocked a desk and chair over and a teacher came and got
17 him and his sister and asked what was going on, and he
18 wanted to get the police involved because of the
19 injuries to the insides of his cheeks.

20 The social work got involved and he gave them
21 a statement and then he was taken to his dad's house,
22 made to get his clothing and he was then taken away. He
23 says that the social workers told his dad that they were
24 going to get the police if he didn't calm down, and that
25 his father was saying he was going to kill him if he

1 ever saw him again. And that, essentially, was the
2 beginning of his life in care.

3 The social workers took him to Calder Grove
4 Children's Home and he was told that that placement
5 would last five to six weeks. And he says the social
6 worker wanted these issues to go further with the police
7 but he never heard anything and nothing was said or done
8 about it, and according to the family in Edinburgh, it
9 was all his fault, and at that time he believed that
10 too.

11 He then tells us about Calder Grove Children's Home
12 in Edinburgh between paragraphs 17 and 77. He says he
13 thinks he was there for actually about nine or ten weeks

14 **Secondary Institutions - to be published later**

15 Going further then in his statement to -- from
16 paragraph 78 onwards, he tells us he ended up in
17 Howdenhall Assessment Unit in Edinburgh and that was
18 because **Secondary Institutions - to be published later**

19 **Secondary Institutions - to be published later** He tells us about his time there between
20 paragraphs 78 and 128 of his statement, and he talks
21 about emotional abuse and physical abuse from staff
22 there.

23 And if we go further in his statement then to
24 paragraph 129, he says he was in Howdenhall he thinks
25 for about seven or eight months and there was talk about

1 him going to Northfield and then he was going to
2 Red House in Musselburgh. He didn't get to go for
3 a visit. He was just told to get his stuff and get in
4 the back of the car and he thinks it must have been
5 summer when he was in Red House.

6 He then tells us about Red House from paragraph 131
7 and we know from the register we have that he was
8 admitted to Red House on [REDACTED] 1985. He would have
9 been aged 15 and then he was discharged on [REDACTED]
10 1985, still 15, so he was there just under six months.

11 'Bob' then tells us from paragraph 131:

12 'We pulled up outside it in the car and I thought it
13 was lovely. It was on the banks of the River Esk. The
14 staff were all women, apart from Mr EWC and
15 Mrs EWD, who [REDACTED]. Mr EWC would have
16 been in his 50s. When I went in there, there was six to
17 eight other boys and two lasses. When I first went in
18 I thought this was a great move.

19 'There were lasses there who were staff members.
20 There were also two boys and they were going from there
21 to the RAF. One was going as a military policeman and
22 the other one had joined the RAF. They were two
23 brothers. They got to have their meals beside the
24 staff. They had their own bedrooms. I had to share
25 mine. We were always held up against them and what

1 they'd achieved.

2 'I shared a bedroom at Red House. There wasn't much
3 of a routine for me as I wasn't attached to a school and
4 neither were any of the other boys. Breakfast was
5 between 8.00 and 9.00 in the morning. There wasn't
6 a set routine of having to be there for 8.00 am.

7 'At night, there was no real curfew. As long as you
8 were in for 11.30, nobody would say anything.

9 'At lunchtime, sandwiches were left on the kitchen
10 table and the staff had their dinner through there. The
11 kids ate at the table together. The staff got better
12 food, like chops and mince, and we'd get things like
13 stuffed marrow with bacon that nobody really liked, and
14 vegetable soup. We never seemed to get what the staff
15 got. If we didn't eat the food, there was no comeback
16 from that. We'd just go hungry.

17 'The boys' showers weren't in cubicles, they were
18 open. The night we came back drunk they stripped us and
19 there was just a bank of showers that were freezing cold
20 and we were pushed under them to sober up. You could go
21 in at your leisure, but it was like a long corridor with
22 loads of shower heads coming out. There was no privacy.
23 The water temperature wasn't the best and was always
24 cool. There was no bath. There was always someone
25 standing outside the shower room, but I think that was

1 to make sure you turned them off. You had to buy your
2 own toiletries.

3 'If you needed any new clothes, you had to go
4 through the staff for them to get in contact with your
5 social worker to get a clothing grant. They didn't give
6 it to you at the home. It was the same with pocket
7 money. You could only have what your social worker
8 could get you.

9 'I didn't go to school when I was at Red House.
10 There was no form of teaching within the home. During
11 the day I spent my time running away from the police.
12 There was nothing to do. There was a bar up the road
13 with a space invader game on the outside of the door and
14 you could put 50 pence in it and stand there for two
15 hours. The social work would have known I wasn't
16 getting any schooling.

17 'They had a big games room and there was a pool
18 table and a jukebox-type thing in the corner. We were
19 never allowed to put the jukebox on as it was too loud.

20 'I would have been at Red House for my birthday.'

21 I think we know, my Lady, that he arrived there the
22 day after his 15th birthday:

23 'I got £15 with a card from my social worker, Rona.
24 I told her I needed trainers so she felt sorry for me.
25 Then I got a £40 clothing grant.

1 'The social worker didn't come to see me to ask how
2 I was getting on, other than me telling her what was
3 going on outside the home. I didn't get any visitors
4 and there were no inspections of the home that I was
5 aware of.

6 'I just got the same basic check-up that you got
7 before you went into a placement. It was the same place
8 as before in Sighthill.

9 'I ran away and went through to Blantyre. I went on
10 the bus and found my auntie's house by chapping doors
11 and got a holiday from the home. Up until I was 7, my
12 best pal was [and he names him] and we grew up together.
13 My mum and his mum were best pals. I met up with him
14 and his family and they told me to go back to Red House.
15 They made contact with the social work department and
16 told them that they had no problem with me coming
17 through there at weekends to give me something to do.

18 'They let me go there on the bus and I spent Friday
19 night and Saturday night there. I got the Sunday bus
20 back. Then the next weekend I got the bus there and
21 I was standing there waiting for the bus from Blantyre
22 back to Red House and it went right past me. It was at
23 the underpass that separates High Blantyre from Low
24 Blantyre.'

25 And he says his friend's dad phoned Motherwell Bus

1 Station to say the bus had just driven past a young boy
2 who was in care. They sent an inspector out in his car:

3 'He then took me through to Musselburgh.

4 'It meant I got back late. The staff got on the
5 phone to the police to say I was missing. When
6 I arrived at Red House in the inspector's car, he pulled
7 up outside and gave me £1. I got out and he drove back
8 to Motherwell. I walked in the door and there was the
9 policeman known as "IEW [REDACTED]" wanting to know where
10 I'd been and what I'd been doing. I have given further
11 details about him later on in this statement. That was
12 my welcoming committee. It wasn't until the next day
13 that what had happened was all sorted out.

14 'There wasn't much by way of discipline. I would
15 say the cook was the sternest. You weren't allowed in
16 her kitchen at all and she'd chase you away. There were
17 no real rules, no shouting and no bawling. But as soon
18 as you got on the wrong side, that was it, there was no
19 coming back.'

20 'Bob' then talks about abuse at Red House from
21 paragraph 147:

22 'There was a laddie in there called [and he gives us
23 his name]. We went down to Musselburgh Racecourse.
24 I'd never been there before. We went for a wander. He
25 had a few cans of beer. I'd never tasted beer before

1 and I drank maybe four cans of beer. I was drunk and
2 pie-eyed. I went back to the children's home and as I
3 walked in the door, Mr EWC was there and wanted to
4 know if I'd been drinking. Somebody had phoned him to
5 say a couple of his laddies were at the racecourse and
6 drinking.

7 'They, Mr EWC, his wife and one of the lassies,
8 stripped me naked there and then and put me in
9 a freezing cold shower with [and he names the other
10 boy]. This was to sober us up. The next day my stomach
11 hurt like it had been cut with a razor blade because
12 I'd never drunk alcohol in my life. For dinner they
13 were having stuffed marrow with bacon. I told them that
14 if I put that into my sore stomach, it was going to come
15 straight back again. The staff weren't sympathetic.
16 They said: "Since you've been here you've bucked the
17 rules and pushed back". There was no big issue made of
18 it so I went away to my bed.

19 'The next day, walking down the high street,
20 a police car came up beside me with one policeman inside
21 it. He asked me if my name was [and it says his name].
22 I told him it was and he then asked if I was from Red
23 House. He then told me to get in the back of the car.
24 I got in and he reversed back to the police station, got
25 me out of the car, walked me through the front door,

1 opened up a cell, took me in and kicked the shit out of
2 me. Other policemen came in and opened the door, wanted
3 to know what the hell was going on and telling him to
4 get off me. He was the boyfriend of one of the staff.
5 I was seen as a troublemaker. The staff weren't going
6 to take me home, so she just told her boyfriend, who
7 happened to be a local bobby. How else would he know me
8 and my name? We hadn't caused any damage. He didn't
9 even tell me who he was.

10 'Afterwards [and then he names the boy from
11 previous] told me that the policeman's name was [IEW
12 [IEW]. Either his first name was [IEW] or his surname
13 was [IEW]. When I went in the home and spoke to the
14 staff I got worked up. There was an argument and one of
15 the young women just stood and laughed at me because
16 I'd crossed a line and that was what was going to
17 happen. The relationship there was rubbish.

18 'Again I was walking about thinking I was the bad
19 guy and this was being held against the two guys in the
20 home who went away to the RAF. Then there was the other
21 boy [he mentioned previously] from a broken home and
22 covered in tattoos. The locals didn't speak to us
23 because we were "scum" from the children's home and now
24 the staff were getting their boyfriends to knock your
25 face in in the local police station. Any time I went

1 out, he chased me for no reason. Even if I was just
2 going out for a walk along the beach.

3 'There were two lassies in their early 20s who
4 worked in the home and one of them was [REDACTED]'s
5 girlfriend. I don't know which one and I don't know
6 their names. His police car would be parked outside the
7 home when he was seeing his girlfriend. If they wanted
8 to discipline me for anything, the female staff would
9 phone up their boyfriend [REDACTED].

10 'I could still point out the cell in the police
11 station in Musselburgh where he took me and I'd never
12 been in that station before or after. The police
13 officer was in his 20s with black hair and very
14 aggressive. When he took me into the cell, he mentioned
15 the lassies in the home and I knew there was
16 a connection between them and it meant he had power over
17 me.

18 'I asked Rona to get me moved. I told her about the
19 policeman. I told her he was called [REDACTED].
20 Northfield was the only option as a home, but she wanted
21 me to go to foster carers in Bilston. She didn't
22 disagree with anything I said to her, but she wasn't
23 shocked either. She said the staff at Red House saw me
24 as a bit of a thorn in their side. I was in Red House
25 maybe three months in total.'

1 And I think we know, my Lady, it was longer than
2 that, it was six months.

3 'Bob' then tells us about going into foster care in
4 Bilston and he tells us about that between
5 paragraphs 155 and 160 and he talks about physical abuse
6 from the foster father there. He then tells us about
7 leaving foster care from paragraph 161 and he thinks he
8 was there maybe three months and he says at
9 paragraph 161:

10 'I was walking towards Red House and I was left to
11 it. About two-and-a-half hours later a police car
12 pulled up beside me and they knew my name and told me to
13 get in the car and they'd give me a lift. They took me
14 to Red House in Musselburgh. I went back there for
15 a couple of weeks. Red House was closing and they'd
16 kept my bed open because they didn't think that the
17 foster care thing was right for me because I was a young
18 buck who was just going to push back all the time.

19 'After Red House closed, I was bounced back to
20 Howdenhall in Edinburgh.'


21 He then tells us about Howdenhall Open Unit in
22 Edinburgh between paragraphs 163 and 180. And then he
23 tells us about leaving Howdenhall from paragraph 181.
24 And he says that he went to Southhouse for a visit. He
25 went there for the weekend and then permanently and they

1 wanted him to move into an adolescent unit because of
2 his age.

3 He says he was at Howdenhall the second time for
4 about three or four months and he says at that time it
5 was more of a children's home and it wasn't like the
6 assessment centre had been.

7 He then tells us about Southhouse from paragraph 184

8 **Secondary Institutions - to be published later**



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14 He says at paragraph 189 he had his 16th birthday in
15 Southhouse and his social worker told him that he could
16 legally leave care so he did. He went out and lasted
17 two weeks. He then came back and he was allowed to stay
18 for a couple of weeks to sort out accommodation and then
19 left permanently and at that point he never heard from
20 his social worker or anyone else again.

21 'Bob' then tells us about life after being in care
22 from paragraph 190 and says that there was no support
23 package back then. He was just put out the door. He
24 ended up in a bedsit in Edinburgh for about six to eight
25 weeks. Moved to Leith in another bedsit and was signing

1 on and not working. Another six to eight months passed
2 and he was still signing on and staying in bedsits and
3 it was a culture of bedsit land and spending time in
4 custody.

5 'Bob' then says he decided to break away from the
6 individuals he'd been in care with and was spending time
7 with. He moved up to Dundee, where his sister was
8 staying. He got a job in a factory and two years later
9 he was running half of the production and enjoying it.

10 He then moved to a company in Dalgety Bay and had
11 a factory to run himself. The travel became too much
12 and so he left and found another job in Dundee and was
13 responsible for a plant where he was working every day
14 and all day.

15 He tells us that his wife was one of the students
16 that they took on from university for weekend shifts.
17 That's how he met her. And he says that when her gran
18 took a stroke in Northern Ireland, he gave up his career
19 and his wife finished her studies so they could go over
20 there and look after her gran.

21 He says that they have two children at the time of
22 this statement, aged 6 and 8. He says he was working as
23 a production manager in Northern Ireland, but then took
24 a deep vein thrombosis in his leg, was treated and then
25 had two more and several blood clots in his lungs so

1 he's had to give up work through ill-health. And he
2 tells us doctors say it's probably down to smoking and
3 that's made life hard financially, but he gets to spend
4 time looking after his children.

5 'Bob' then tells us about impact from paragraph 194
6 and says:

7 'I was at times a very confused and at times angry
8 young laddie. The care system gave me a bed but it also
9 meant I got slapped a few times and my hand was put up
10 my back and I was humiliated. But it stopped someone
11 from gouging the inside of my mouth. It gave me a good
12 education in how not to treat someone. I'm not saying
13 I was an angel and all these other people were baddies.'

14 He tells us at paragraph 197, which is redacted in
15 the statement, Secondary Institutions - to be published later

16 Secondary Institutions - to be published later
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20 If we go forward in his statement, my Lady, to
21 paragraph 205, and he says since he was 22, he's
22 constantly been on anti-depressants and still is, but
23 he's not asked to go and see anybody for counselling.

24 He says:

25 'I don't feel I would get any benefit as I'm not the

1 sort of person to talk to someone and them talk to me
2 and then me going away. Speaking to the Inquiry to give
3 this statement, I felt like a weight has been taken off
4 my back. Having the chance to get names from 30 years
5 ago out of my head and say them has definitely helped
6 me.

7 'My wife says I'm too liberal with our children. I
8 let them make choices about what we watch on TV and what
9 we eat and I didn't have anything like that as a kid.
10 They tell me what they're having. I won't let them have
11 the life that I had. She says I don't back her up when
12 she chastises them. That's definitely a product of what
13 I've been through.'

14 He then tells us about lessons to be learned and at
15 paragraph 211, he says:

16 'The care system has to be fit for purpose. It's
17 there to take somebody away from something that's
18 extremely negative and potentially harmful and to
19 improve things. I lost my education and I came out of
20 care with really bad memories and nothing else.'

21 And in relation to hopes for the Inquiry, he says at
22 paragraph 212:

23 'Make sure education is paramount, regardless of the
24 reasons for going into care or how long they're going to
25 be in care. It would be great to be here in 60 years'

1 time and see a care environment that's fit for purpose
2 and people are spoken to with respect and on the same
3 wavelength as opposed to adults getting frustrated.'

4 And he's made the usual declaration at paragraph 214
5 and he's signed his statement and it's dated
6 27 March 2023.

7 LADY SMITH: Thank you.

8 'Danni' (read in)

9 MS FORBES: And my Lady, there's one final statement now and
10 the statement is from an applicant who is anonymous and
11 is known as 'Danni'. The reference for this statement
12 is WIT-1-000001227.

13 My Lady, 'Danni's' statement has previously been
14 read in. It is a very long statement. It was read in
15 on 31 January 2025 and that was Day 519 during the Phase
16 8 key study for St Catherine's or Howdenhall.

17 (Pause)

18 It's my fault, apologies, it's WIT-1-000000485. And
19 the reference for that transcript is TRN-12-000000152.

20 My Lady, so, given that this statement has been very
21 heavily summarised already, I'm not going to summarise
22 it again and there's just small parts that I'm going to
23 refer to.

24 Essentially, my Lady, 'Danni' tells us she was born
25 in 1963. She says it's difficult for her to remember

1 where and when she was in the different places and she
2 tries to estimate in her statement but says she might
3 not be correct.

4 She tells us about her life before care between
5 paragraphs 2 and 5. She has two older brothers and she
6 heard different stories about her parents growing up.

7 However, the records we have, my Lady, say that her
8 mother took her own life and that seems then to have led
9 to 'Danni' being placed in various homes and placements.
10 At 6 months old, we know from the records, she went to
11 stay with her maternal grandmother, with her two
12 siblings, and from then on she stayed in various
13 different houses, children's homes, placements and group
14 homes.

15 And, my Lady, if we can go all the way down to
16 paragraph 343 of her statement, page 88, my Lady, this
17 is a time when she ended up being placed in Coventry for
18 a period of time. She was placed with the Richmond
19 Fellowship and this was on [REDACTED] 1981. She would
20 have been aged 17 from the records we have. She tells
21 us about that time between paragraphs 343 and 382.

22 And she then, from there, went to Red House in
23 Musselburgh and she starts to tell us about that from
24 paragraph 383. And we know from the records, my Lady,
25 that this was [REDACTED] 1981, so she would have been

1 aged 18 by this point.

2 LADY SMITH: Is that right? Yes.

3 MS FORBES: Yes, and so I suppose, my Lady, she was in Red
4 House --

5 LADY SMITH: She was no longer technically a child.

6 MS FORBES: She was no longer technically a child, she was
7 an adult. However, I think the relevance of what she
8 tells us is about what life was like there, what the
9 staff were doing and some of what she tells us involves
10 the presence of other residents as well, who would have
11 been underage, but I think we should note that she was
12 18.

13 So from the records we have, she was admitted twice
14 to Red House, the first on [REDACTED] 1981 and she
15 stayed there until [REDACTED] 1981. And then she was
16 re-admitted on [REDACTED] 1982 and she was discharged
17 finally on [REDACTED] 1982 when she would have been 19 by
18 then.

19 LADY SMITH: 19 by then, yes.

20 MS FORBES: So my Lady 'Danni' says:

21 'I was told that Red House was a local authority
22 place [this is from paragraph 383] but I remember it
23 being called Red House Children's Home Trust. I think
24 it was a trust that was still part of the local
25 authority. It was just off the High Street in

1 Musselburgh. It was right beside the River Esk. I was
2 probably about 17 when I was moved to Red House. That
3 was in about 1980. I was there for about
4 a year-and-a-half. I left when I was 18. That was in
5 about 1981.

6 'It was probably an older building, but it did look
7 like it was made up of flats. It was a big house with
8 a big red door. It had a little garden with a path that
9 led up to it. Red House was tiny in comparison to the
10 other places I had been. There were four floors.

11 'As you walked in, there was a stairwell to the left
12 and an office to the right-hand side. The office was
13 big. As you walked through, there was big playroom on
14 the right. It had a pool table in it and seat benches
15 where the windows were. Further along was the kitchen.
16 That was quite big. Further along to the left was
17 a dining room. To the right was a big sitting room with
18 some seats and a TV in it. On another floor was where
19 Mr and Mrs EWC-EWD, the people who SNR, had
20 their flat. The attic at the top of the building was
21 where we slept.

22 'On the outskirts of the grounds of the building was
23 a courtyard. There was a house off of that courtyard
24 where some of the staff stayed.

25 'There weren't many staff members there. I don't

1 remember all of their names, but I do remember some.
2 None of the staff members were assigned to me in a way
3 that was like a key worker. They were all just the same
4 to me.

5 'The people who SNR [REDACTED] were called Mr and Mrs
6 EWC-EWD. They were like [REDACTED]. They were a couple.
7 I never learnt their first names. They both lived in
8 Red House itself. They had a flat up the stairs in the
9 building. Mr EWC [REDACTED] was quite small. Mrs EWD [REDACTED] was
10 quite fat.

11 'EWW [REDACTED] worked in the home. She was Mr and Mrs
12 EWC-EWD's daughter. She was knee high to a grass hopper.
13 She stayed with her two dogs in the building that
14 was the other side of the courtyard next to the main
15 building.

16 'EWU [REDACTED] was another member of staff who worked in the
17 home. I don't remember what her surname was. There was
18 another female staff member, but I don't remember her
19 name. She was really nice to me. There was also a cook
20 and a cleaner. I don't remember either of their names.

21 'There were between 18 and 20 children in total in
22 Red House. The boys stayed in a different part of the
23 building to the girls. We were basically in the same
24 parts of the building, but the boys were the other side
25 of a wall that went down the middle of the building.

1 The age range of the children there was between 10 and
2 about 18-and-a-half.

3 'There were only three older girls there. There was
4 myself, one girl who was working and one girl who was at
5 college. The rest of the people there were all school
6 age. I was the only person in Red House who wasn't at
7 school, college or had a job. I remember thinking that
8 the older girls there were getting ready to leave and
9 thought that that would be me soon. I can't really
10 remember the names of any of the other children who were
11 there at the same time as me.'

12 And then she thinks she remembers one boy and gives
13 his name. At paragraph 393, she says:

14 'I think I went to Red House with a bad reputation.
15 When I arrived, I was told by Mr and Mrs EWC-EWD that
16 I wouldn't and couldn't get away with doing Secondary Institution
17 Secondary Institutions - to be published. I was told that they had heard
18 all about me and I had to behave. I just thought "fuck
19 you". I wasn't then shown around or shown where I was
20 sleeping.

21 'I remember that at the time I arrived, the other
22 children who stayed there were still at school. I was
23 basically just left on my own in the playroom. You
24 could smoke in there so that is what I did. The other
25 people who stayed in Red House started coming in about

1 lunchtime. When they came in, I was given some lunch.
2 That was probably about 1.00 pm. I remember that it was
3 only some of the people who stayed there came back and
4 they were all boys. I was separated from them until the
5 girls came back from school. I didn't find out where
6 I was sleeping until last thing at night. It was one of
7 the other girls who stayed there who showed me where
8 that was. I remember that it was shower time so I had
9 to take all of my stuff up the stairs.

10 'On my first full day, I had to go to the job centre
11 after breakfast. I was told that I had to go there and
12 come straight back. I had to find the place by myself.

13 Secondary Institutions - to be published later

14 Secondary Institutions - to be published later I had to try
15 to explain things to the people there all by myself.
16 I found that really hard because I am not very good at
17 explaining things. I was then given a cheque which
18 I had to hand to Mrs EWD when I got back to
19 Red House. I remember that the cheque was for £300.
20 I don't know why it was that much but there had to be
21 some sort of reason.

22 'I headed straight back to Red House after going to
23 the job centre. I did as I was told for once. I didn't
24 want to start off bad at the place. When I got back to
25 the home, I handed over the cheque and sat and did

1 nothing. I just sat in the playroom on my own because
2 everybody else wasn't there.

3 'I think EWU got us up at about 7.30 am.
4 Everybody had their breakfast together. The other
5 people there would then go to school, college or work
6 during the day. I would be left alone in the home after
7 they left. I would spend my days playing pool or
8 snooker in the playroom. None of the staff would try to
9 interact with me during the course of the day. I would
10 have my lunch and later my dinner in the home.

11 'I slept in a room in the attic with four other
12 girls. There was a room next to that, that slept four
13 girls. I stayed in the same room the whole time I was
14 in Red House. My bed was right by the door as you
15 walked in. It was the first bed. There was a little
16 window by my bed. Each bed in the room had a locker and
17 a little chair. I remember that when you took your
18 clothes off, you had to put them over your chair for the
19 next day.

20 'There were two set days for when you could have
21 a bath or a shower. It was Sunday and a Wednesday.

22 'Initially the cook made your breakfast for you in
23 the morning and all your lunches. You were also given
24 dinner in the evenings. The food at Red House was
25 pretty good. I can't really grumble about the quality

1 of the food. I remember that I found it edible. The
2 only thing I can complain about is that on a Wednesday
3 and a Friday I was only allowed a meat paste sandwich
4 for my evening meal. I was given that because they told
5 me that I was allergic to cheese so I couldn't have the
6 macaroni cheese that was served on a Wednesday. I was
7 also told that I was allergic to fish so I couldn't have
8 fish and chips when it was served on a Friday.

9 'Cheese and fish were, and are, the two foods that
10 I love. The staff just came up with me being allergic
11 to fish and cheese. I told the staff that I wasn't
12 allergic to cheese and fish but they just told me that
13 I was. I think they did that to cut costs or something
14 like that. I also think that because I remember that
15 there were always two people on each of the days who
16 weren't allowed whatever was served, because they had
17 allergies. They rotated that around the people that
18 stayed there.

19 'There was one occasion when I was watching the cook
20 making the porridge. I saw her spit into it whilst she
21 was making it. After she did that, she flicked her fag
22 into it. I remember seeing the fag in her mouth, the
23 ash getting bigger then her flicking it into our food.
24 I stood and watched her doing that. After seeing that,
25 I just couldn't eat the porridge.

1 'Towards the end of my time at Red House, they
2 decided that I should learn to cook. At lunchtime, the
3 cook would give me the ingredients to cook my own meal.
4 It would be things like a piece of chicken, some
5 potatoes, some vegetables and a pudding. There was
6 a little room that was like a larder off of the kitchen.
7 There was a table in the room with a little stove on it.
8 It was like a hotplate kind of thing. To begin with, I
9 got it all wrong. I didn't know how to cook. I was
10 made to eat whatever I cooked in that little room.

11 'When that started, I wasn't allowed to join the
12 other people in the home when they ate their meals in
13 the dining room. I remember Mr EWC saying something
14 like, "You will always be a loner and just you, so you
15 may as well get used to it now". He told me that
16 I would be a nobody. When Mr EWC told me that, I
17 wasn't bothered. I was that used to being called
18 things. It was like, "So what?" I think I just didn't
19 care because by that time I thought that was the way
20 that things were going to be. I thought I was going to
21 be in a home forever.

22 'I basically took over caring for EWW's two
23 dogs whilst I was there. I would walk them and feed
24 them. I was allowed to do that if I was behaving
25 myself. If I was seen to be behaving badly, I wasn't

1 allowed to touch them.

2 'I didn't get to see the money that I brought back
3 from the job centre, **Secondary Institutions - to be published later** I was
4 given pocket money out of it. I got given £10 every
5 Saturday.

6 'I wanted to go to college because I wanted to be
7 a vet. Mr **EWC** told me that I couldn't do that. He
8 said I wasn't brainy enough to become a vet. Me wanting
9 to become that was sort of shrugged off by all of the
10 staff. I was seen as being too stupid to be a vet. In
11 their eyes, I didn't have what it took to look after
12 animals. They thought that even though I had proven to
13 them I could do that over and over again. The way that
14 the staff members spoke to me started to make me think
15 that they might be right. I started to think that maybe
16 I was too stupid to become a vet. I started to believe
17 that I wouldn't be able to do what I wanted to do.

18 'Sometimes they would get a minibus and take a group
19 of us all down to the Longniddry Bents near Prestonpans.

20 We were allowed to run riot and be wild there. We were
21 taken there two or three times. Sometimes we were taken
22 a bit further afield and allowed to get chips. That
23 wasn't all the time.

24 'We all went on holiday for a week on one occasion.
25 I remember first thinking when we were going there that

1 we were all being taken to another home. In the end, we
2 went to a caravan site in North Berwick. We all had to
3 share caravans. The boys were in one and the girls in
4 another. I think the staff members had their own
5 caravans. We were basically just left to get on with it
6 whilst we were on that holiday.

7 'I can't remember anything surrounding Christmas and
8 birthdays. For some reason that is the same with most
9 of the places I was at.

10 'I never saw another social worker again after the
11 time I was dropped off at Red House. There was no
12 contact with social services over the whole time that
13 I was there. There was nothing like a review or
14 a children's panel hearing during my time there. There
15 was nothing like me being assessed or told by anyone
16 what was happening next over the year-and-a-half I was
17 there. I remember feeling like I was just going to be
18 there until I was 21 or even forever. I don't remember
19 ever seeing a light at the end of the tunnel whilst
20 I was there.'

21 She then talks at paragraph 412 about being taken to
22 see a female dentist and that the dentist was holding
23 a big needle and didn't explain what she was going to do
24 and she reacted and stuck the needle in the dentist's
25 hand. She said she didn't do it because she was being

1 bad but because she was scared.

2 She then goes on to talk about running away at
3 paragraph 413:

4 'The first time I ran away, there were three of us.
5 We only got as far as the golf course in Musselburgh.
6 There was a gully the other side of that where we all
7 hid. We weren't out overnight, but we were late when we
8 got back to the home. The next time I ran away, there
9 was three of us again. There was one boy, one girl and
10 myself. The boy and girl were younger than me.'

11 And she tells us what she thinks the boy was called.
12 She says:

13 'I took one of **EWV**'s dogs with us. I think I did
14 that because I wanted a reaction. I also think I took
15 the dog with me because it made me feel safe. We ran
16 away to a place near Longniddry Bents. It was where the
17 old railway station was near Cockenzie. It was perhaps
18 not as far as that. I think it was Port Seton. We
19 stayed out all night. The police were out looking for
20 us. I wasn't bothered by the police being called
21 because I thought I was too old by that stage for them
22 to care about me. I remember that I told the other two
23 to go back if they wanted. I wanted to stay out all
24 night and get away.

25 'The following morning, the boy and the girl who

1 were with me decided that they wanted to go back because
2 they were scared. I decided to go back with them.
3 I just couldn't leave them to go back on their own. To
4 me that would have been unfair if I'd done that. When
5 I got back to the home, I just thought, "what else could
6 happen?" Sadly, I found out later on what would
7 happen.'

8 Then 'Danni' talks about abuse from paragraphs 416:
9 'Mr EWC was an arsehole. He was a horrible man.
10 His wife, Mrs EWD, wasn't much better. After the
11 time I was taken to the dentist for the first time, EWW
12 EWW brought me back to the home and took me into the
13 office. That would have probably been about a month
14 after I first arrived at Red House. I remember that
15 I got into a lot of trouble when I came back because of
16 the way I reacted towards the dentist. EWW told
17 Mr EWC that I had really badly hurt somebody.
18 Looking back, I don't think the way I reacted could be
19 classed as really hurting somebody. In my eyes, the
20 dentist was going to hurt me so I had to defend myself.

21 'I remember that I was trying to explain to
22 Mr EWC, in front of EWW and Mrs EWD, that
23 the dentist was in my face, had this big needle and
24 I didn't know what she was going to do. All of
25 a sudden, without warning, Mr EWC went absolutely

1 ballistic and gave me a kicking. That was the first
2 time he did anything like that to me. I thought he was
3 just going to tell me off or explain what happened but
4 he went berserk. He slapped me, kicked me and punched
5 me. I remember that he punched me right in my temple.
6 I literally saw stars when he did that. He kicked me
7 right where my kidneys are. He called me a hooligan and
8 a thug because I had hurt somebody.

9 'I remember that after Mr EWC attacked me, I had
10 a massive fist-shaped bruise on the side of my head.
11 Everybody could see it. You would have had to have been
12 blind not to notice it. EWV went around telling
13 everybody that I had walked into the side of a wall.
14 That was what she said to the other children and the
15 staff. She said that to basically make sure that
16 I didn't say anything. There's no way that you could
17 walk into a wall and have a fist-shaped bruise on the
18 side of your face. Everybody knew what had really
19 happened. You could see the bruising.

20 'The next time I was assaulted was following the
21 first time I ran away. That was the occasion when we
22 ran away to the gully the other side of the golf course
23 in Musselburgh. I was blamed by Mr EWC alongside
24 another girl, because we were seen to be the
25 ringleaders. I can't remember the other girl's name.

1 We were taken one at a time into the office at
2 Red House. I should have known what was going to happen
3 because the people who came out of the office before me
4 were coming out crying. I was last or second last to go
5 into the office. Inside the office, was Mr and Mrs
6 EWC-EWD. When I went into the office, Mr EWC
7 physically assaulted me. It was like one guy fighting
8 another who couldn't fight. I was 6 foot but he was
9 only 4 foot with his hands in the air. It was
10 ridiculous. There were fists flying everywhere. I was
11 powerless and couldn't do anything. I couldn't hit
12 someone who was smaller than me. He punched me, slapped
13 me and kicked me. He spat in my face. He did
14 everything you could think of. I remember that
15 Mrs EWD stood there egging her husband on. She was
16 saying things like, "teach her a lesson".

17 'When I left the office I was black with bruises.
18 I was literally black from there being that many
19 bruises. I was taken by the scruff of my neck and put
20 into the laundry cleaning cupboard by Mrs EWD. It
21 was a little cupboard and I was locked inside. I really
22 tried to bash the door open but I couldn't get out.
23 There was a light in there but I couldn't find it.
24 I was in there for what felt like forever. In reality,
25 it was probably only two or three hours. I just sat

1 there in the corner thinking: "what am I doing?", "where
2 am I?", and: "why does this keep on happening to me?"
3 I remember that I needed the toilet on two occasions but
4 couldn't get out. I ended up having to pee in a bucket.
5 'In a way, being in that cupboard gave me some sort
6 of reality check, because I realised that what was
7 happening wasn't me. I came to the decision that I
8 either had to fight or I would die. I basically felt
9 that I was going to die in the hands of somebody else
10 rather than myself if I didn't fight back. When I got
11 out of the cupboard, I was sent straight to bed without
12 my dinner.
13 'Everybody knew what had happened after that
14 incident. I was in a mess after Mr EWC assaulted me
15 that time. I remember that the nice female member of
16 staff spoke to me. She asked me the next day who I had
17 been fighting with. I laughed and said, "There's not
18 far to look". I never said Mr EWC's name, but I did
19 say that. All she said was, "See you kids, you're
20 always fighting". I don't know whether she picked up on
21 what was actually happening. I suspect she did. Either
22 way she was nice to me.
23 'The next time I was assaulted by Mr EWC happened
24 after I returned to the home after the second time I ran
25 away. The boy and the girl who were with me were taken

1 into the office first. I remember hearing Mr EWC
2 shouting at them. It then came to my turn to go into
3 the office. When I got into the office, I saw that
4 Mr EWC, Mrs EWD and EWV were all there.
5 I thought, "Fuck it, I'm going to get a kicking, so
6 what?" I remember I was shaking whilst I was standing
7 there in the office. I was scared, cold and hungry.
8 Mr EWC then started to kick off. He was screaming at
9 me. He was shouting that loud that I couldn't actually
10 hear a word of what he was saying. It was all just
11 noise. I remember that EWV went on about her
12 dog. She was saying that I could have hurt the dog.
13 'Mr EWC then grabbed me by my T-shirt at the
14 front and flung me onto a chair. He then shouted, "You
15 will fucking listen to me". He then said that the boy,
16 [and she gives us the name she thinks he was called] had
17 said that we had run away and that he'd said that we had
18 had sex together. That was utter rubbish because I
19 later found out from [the boy] that he hadn't said that.
20 That wasn't why we ran away and that just didn't happen.
21 He kept on trying to drum into me that that was what had
22 happened. Every time I said no, he slapped me, punched
23 me or kicked me. He was so violent. He did that in
24 front of Mrs EWD and EWV. The assault went
25 on and on and on. I was sore. My nose, eye and lips

1 were bleeding. I think I was pleading from every part
2 I could actually bleed from. All he wanted me to say
3 "Yes, we had sex", but I refused to say that. I wasn't
4 going to lie to please somebody's sick brain. It must
5 have all gone on for about an hour. I still turned
6 round and denied what he was saying. I continued to say
7 that that never happened.

8 'After the assault, I ended up back in the cupboard.
9 It was Mrs EWD who put me there again. I was in that
10 cupboard sitting by myself in the dark for hours. They
11 all knew that I was terrified by the dark but that was
12 where they put me. I know I was in there a long time
13 this time, because we got back to the home about
14 lunchtime and I never got out of there until dinnertime.

15 'I never physically saw Mr EWC assaulting any
16 other people in the home. I think that was because when
17 he did that, it was always behind closed doors. You did
18 hear things happening from the other side of the door
19 when they happened. You just knew what was going on.
20 I don't remember the names of the other people who were
21 assaulted, but there were definitely other people there
22 who got the same treatment as I did.

23 'I hated EWV. She was a bastard. She was
24 there during some of the assaults I suffered at the
25 hands of Mr EWC. Looking back on the way she acted,

1 it wasn't what she did that was abusive. It was more
2 what she said. I remember her being really nasty to me.
3 I was always "all for the animals", everywhere that
4 I went. I just wanted to spend time with EWV's two
5 dogs. If I did or said anything, EWV would take it out
6 on the dogs. She would use the dogs to be cruel to me.
7 She would not let me play or talk with them. However,
8 EWV was that damn lazy that even if I had done
9 something really bad, she would still make me take her
10 dogs out for a walk or take them out to the toilet.

11 'There was only one incident with EWU. One night
12 I was in my bed sleeping. I didn't know I had done it
13 at the time, but I'd been sick in my sleep. I don't
14 know why I'd been sick in my sleep. I had been fine all
15 day. I had never ever done that before. The first
16 I became aware that I had been sick was when I was
17 rudely awakened by EWU. I don't know how she
18 discovered that I had been sick but she had obviously
19 been woken and had come to my bed. That must have been
20 at something like 2.00 am.

21 (Pause)

22 LADY SMITH: We'll just take a short break and we'll come
23 back and finish the statement after that.

24 (4.00 pm)

25 (A short break)

1 (4.06 pm)

2 LADY SMITH: Ms Forbes.

3 MS FORBES: My Lady.

4 We were at paragraph 429. 'Danni' says:

5 'I remember that EWU was standing over me. She
6 was absolutely screaming at me whilst beating the living
7 daylights out of me. She was going absolutely bananas.
8 She was punching, hitting, slapping and scratching me,
9 because I had been sick. I remember the other girls in
10 the room were woken, saw what EWU was doing and were
11 getting quite scared. They were screaming. EWU then
12 stripped my clothes off of me. I just didn't know what
13 was going on or what was happening. I was then dragged
14 out of my bed. It was nuts.

15 EWU then flung a T-shirt on me and that was it.
16 I wasn't allowed to go and get washed. I then went back
17 into my bed. I remember that the bed was stinking. It
18 was absolutely rancid. I had to stay in that bed all
19 night. When I woke up in the morning, I was really ill.
20 I couldn't hold my head up. I'd obviously picked up
21 a bug or something like that. I was then made to get
22 up. I was that ill that I just wanted to sleep.
23 I remember I wasn't allowed a bath but I was made to
24 have a wash. I couldn't face any food that day. EWU
25 tried to make me eat my breakfast. I couldn't do that

1 because of the way I was feeling, but also because it
2 was porridge. EWU then spoonfed me the porridge. The
3 staff in the home then made me stay up all day. I
4 wasn't allowed to go back to my bed and I wasn't allowed
5 to lie down. I remember that when I tried to lie down
6 on one of the benches in the playroom, somebody would
7 come in and make me get up.

8 'Looking back on everything that happened, I hadn't
9 actually done anything wrong. The only thing that had
10 happened was that I had been physically unwell from
11 a bug or something that I'd eaten. It wasn't like I had
12 been sick deliberately.'

13 'Danni' then goes on to tell us that she didn't
14 report any of the things that were happening to staff.

15 She tells us at paragraph 433, she did tell one of
16 the other boys what had happened after being attacked by
17 Mr EWC, after the visit to the dentist and that boy
18 just laughed and said, 'I take it it was EWC then'
19 and the boy then warned her not to let Mr EWC hear
20 her telling other people what he did.

21 She then says that she was told by the nice female
22 member of staff that she would be leaving soon and
23 getting her own place and that she should think about
24 getting her head screwed on and behaving. And she says,
25 looking back, she thinks being told what the female

1 staff member told her, frightened her and she started to
2 think that maybe she should commit a big crime to be
3 sent to prison.

4 She thought that because that's all she could see at
5 the time and so she ended up taking a knife from the
6 kitchen and she was considering stabbing someone so she
7 would go to prison, but in the end she didn't do
8 anything and flung the knife away.

9 But later, Mrs EWD told her that she was leaving
10 the next day and she was told that there had been
11 a meeting with the people at The Barony Hostel and she
12 says that she can't remember much about how she got from
13 Red House to The Barony Hostel the following day.

14 And, my Lady, I think we know that, from the
15 records, that she went back to Coventry for a period,
16 which isn't mentioned in her statement and then she was
17 back to Red House and then she went to The Barony Hostel
18 and the date for that was [REDACTED] 1982, when she was 19.

19 And she tells us about Barony Hostel between
20 paragraphs 439 and 443. I think she went to court
21 because she had been put on a supervision order before
22 and she was told that she was free and she could then
23 apply for a house and go to college. She was back in
24 Barony House for about six weeks and started college and
25 we know from her records she started college in [REDACTED]

1 1983 and by [REDACTED] 1983, she was living in her own flat.

2 My Lady, again, the rest of her statement, when she
3 talks about life after being in care, the impact, has
4 all been summarised and read in before, so if we could
5 just go to paragraph 504, she makes the usual
6 declaration and she's signed her statement and it's
7 dated 3 November 2020.

8 LADY SMITH: Thank you very much.

9 And that completes read-ins for today, doesn't it?

10 MS FORBES: It does my Lady, yes.

11 LADY SMITH: And tomorrow we'll resume evidence in person.

12 MS FORBES: That's right.

13 LADY SMITH: Now I've got a couple -- maybe three names,
14 that we haven't mentioned already, of people who are not
15 to be identified as referred to in our evidence outside
16 this room. There was a [REDACTED] EWU . There was somebody known
17 as [REDACTED] IEW , a Mr [REDACTED] HEZ , and a Mr [REDACTED] HEX and
18 I think that covers everybody. Everyone else that was
19 named, I've already given directions on, so do take care
20 not to identify them outside.

21 Very well. I'll rise now and sit again at
22 10 o'clock tomorrow morning.

23 Thank you all very much.

24 (4.12 pm)

25 (The Inquiry adjourned until 10.00 am

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