

Thursday, 14 May 2026

1

2 (10.05 am)

3 LADY SMITH: Good morning, and welcome back to our case
4 study hearings in Phase 10 in which we're considering
5 the provision of residential care for children by local
6 authorities, either in places that they ran themselves
7 or in places that were run by other people, but the
8 local authorities used for the placement of children.

9 Now, today, and -- well, through all the witnesses
10 today, we will be looking at Park Lodge, as I understand
11 it, and we'll be starting with witnesses in person.
12 I'll turn to Mr MacAulay to explain what's going to
13 happen.

14 Mr MacAulay.

15 MR MACAULAY: Yes, good morning, my Lady. That's absolutely
16 correct. Today, for the day, the intention is to focus
17 on Park Lodge, which was a children's home in Calderwood
18 Road in Glasgow. It's -- in its existence, it straddled
19 three local authorities; Glasgow Corporation,
20 Strathclyde Regional Council and latterly Glasgow City
21 Council.

22 It opened in 1969 and, according to the Section 21
23 response from Glasgow City Council, it closed in 2008
24 but there is other evidence that it closed at least for
25 a period in 1998.

1 LADY SMITH: All right. Thank you very much.

2 MR MACAULAY: So the council have been asked for
3 clarification on that point.

4 According to the Section 21 response, it had
5 capacity for about 23 children, mixed and different
6 ages, but the numbers dwindled over time so that by
7 April 1998 there were only two children being
8 accommodated there.

9 We have photographs of the establishment,
10 INQ-0000001296. As your Ladyship will see, as we've
11 seen in other cases, it's a fairly substantial mansion
12 house.

13 LADY SMITH: I think that's quite typical of that part of
14 Glasgow; probably Victorian properties, late Victorian.

15 MR MACAULAY: Yes, quite residential.

16 And the focus of the evidence will be on both
17 sexual, physical and emotional abuse. Now, all I want
18 to say at this stage, my Lady, is that someone who
19 worked there by the name of Alistair Findlay has -- was
20 convicted of, in 2018, of seven charges, and four of
21 those related to sexual abuse at Park Lodge.

22 The total period covered for the Park Lodge charges
23 was from 1979 to 1983 and he was sentenced to four years
24 and six months, and Mr Findlay, who was born on [REDACTED]
25 1959, he died on 12 February 2021 and he died, as

1 I understand it, in prison.

2 LADY SMITH: Thank you.

3 MR MACAULAY: He had previous convictions prior to the 2018
4 conviction, not apparently related to Park Lodge. He
5 was convicted in November 1999 for a charge of
6 conspiracy to rape and that charge spanned a period from
7 January to April 1999. He was sentenced -- he was given
8 an extended sentence of 12 years, with six years'
9 custodial -- being the custodial part.

10 LADY SMITH: Thank you.

11 MR MACAULAY: He was also convicted at Glasgow High Court on
12 13 December 2004 on two charges of possession of
13 indecent photographs of children, covering a period from
14 May 2003 to August 2003 and he was sentenced to three
15 years' imprisonment for that.

16 He was also convicted on a sheriff and jury
17 appearance on two charges, one being lewd, indecent and
18 libidinous practices and the other indecent assault, and
19 that covered a period from 1 January 1981 to March 1983
20 and that conviction was on -- in December 2016 and he
21 was sentenced to two years' imprisonment for that. And
22 that -- those are his previous convictions.

23 LADY SMITH: Were they all Scottish convictions?

24 MR MACAULAY: They were.

25 LADY SMITH: Including the first one you mentioned there

1 with the 12-year sentence?

2 MR MACAULAY: That is a Scottish conviction.

3 LADY SMITH: Thank you.

4 MR MACAULAY: It has to be said that in 1984, he faced eight
5 charges, mainly involving indecency, including two
6 charges by complainers who were at Park Lodge, and one
7 of these complainers is an applicant who's to be read in
8 under the pseudonym 'Rita'. The period covered by the
9 charges was 1980 to 1983 and he was acquitted of all
10 charges.

11 LADY SMITH: Thank you.

12 MR MACAULAY: So the plan today, my Lady, is to lead two
13 oral witnesses, one this morning and one this afternoon,
14 and then to read in four applicants.

15 LADY SMITH: Thank you very much.

16 MR MACAULAY: And the first witness is 'Cameron', and
17 my learned friend Ms MacLeod is to lead 'Cameron'.

18 LADY SMITH: Thank you.

19 MS MACLEOD: Good morning, my Lady.

20 LADY SMITH: Good morning.

21 MS MACLEOD: Yes, the first witness this morning is
22 an applicant who will use the pseudonym 'Cameron'.

23 LADY SMITH: Thank you.

24 'Cameron' (affirmed)

25 LADY SMITH: 'Cameron', thank you for coming along this

1 morning to help us with your evidence in person. I do
2 already, of course, have your written evidence and
3 that's in the red folder that you've got ready in front
4 of you there, but we'd like to explore some aspects of
5 it directly with you and it does make an enormous amount
6 of difference for me to hear from you in person. It
7 will do, I know that's what we're going to get here.

8 Some simple things, I hope, for you. First of all,
9 if you want a break at any time, just say. That's not
10 a problem.

11 A. Okay.

12 LADY SMITH: Because I do understand that what we're asking
13 you to do here is not easy.

14 A. Yeah.

15 LADY SMITH: You're coming to a public hearing and we're
16 going to talk about what happened to you when you were
17 a child, long ago.

18 A. Yeah.

19 LADY SMITH: And what happened to you in circumstances that
20 were not only not easy but I know, from reading your
21 statement, were very distressing at times.

22 A. Yeah.

23 LADY SMITH: So a break is fine, a pause is fine and please,
24 if you find it upsetting to talk, don't worry.

25 A. Okay.

1 LADY SMITH: I'm quite used to that.

2 A. Yeah.

3 LADY SMITH: Otherwise, if you've got any questions, do
4 speak up, do tell us.

5 A. Righto. Yeah.

6 LADY SMITH: If you don't understand what we're asking,
7 that's our fault, not yours.

8 A. Yes, okay.

9 LADY SMITH: We're not making ourselves clear enough. And
10 if you're ready, I'll hand over to Ms MacLeod and she'll
11 take it from there.

12 A. Okay, Yeah.

13 LADY SMITH: Ms MacLeod.

14 Questions from Ms MacLeod

15 MS MACLEOD: My Lady.

16 Good morning, 'Cameron'.

17 A. Hello.

18 Q. I don't need your date of birth, but just to give
19 a timeframe, can you confirm that you were born in 1971?

20 A. I was.

21 Q. You've provided a statement to the Inquiry and there's
22 a copy of that statement in the red folder, and part of
23 the statement will also come up on the screen in front
24 of you.

25 A. Okay.

1 Q. If I could just first of all ask you to turn to the
2 final page of the statement, and that's really just to
3 confirm that you signed it.

4 A. Yes, that's my signature.

5 Q. And in the very last paragraph, 'Cameron', do you say:
6 'I have no objection to my witness statement being
7 published as part of the evidence to the Inquiry.
8 I believe the facts stated in this witness statement are
9 true.'

10 A. Yes, that's correct.

11 Q. Okay, thank you.

12 Now I'll go back to the beginning of the statement
13 and ask you for some information about what you tell us
14 there and I'm just going to give the reference of the
15 statement for the transcript. It's WIT.001.001.1748.

16 Now, you provide a little bit of background,
17 'Cameron', about your life before you went into care.

18 A. Yeah.

19 Q. And I think you tell us that your father left the family
20 home in Glasgow when you were quite young; is that
21 right?

22 A. Yes, that's correct, yes.

23 Q. And indeed, I think you tell us that you understand that
24 your parents divorced when you were maybe 7 or 8 months
25 old?

1 A. Yes, uh-huh.

2 Q. And you go on to tell us that your mother struggled
3 after that, bringing up the family on her own?

4 A. Yes.

5 Q. And you have an older -- you had an older brother and
6 sister?

7 A. Yes, uh-huh.

8 Q. And that you remember attending primary school at that
9 time?

10 A. Yes, uh-huh, yeah.

11 Q. Now, you tell us that when you were around 8 years old
12 that your mother spent a period of time in hospital?

13 A. That's correct, yes.

14 Q. Can you just tell me a little bit that, what you
15 remember about that?

16 A. The only part I remember was that she wasn't very well.
17 And I think she believed that she was going in there
18 only for a very short time and we would be going into
19 a children's home for a very short time. And she went
20 in there and, really, she was in there for a very long
21 time. So, yeah.

22 Q. And that's what you tell us in your statement,
23 'Cameron', that you believe your mother thought she was
24 going into hospital for a short time and that while she
25 was in there, that you and your siblings went into care?

1 A. Yes, uh-huh, yes.

2 Q. And you tell us that you and your brother went to Park
3 Lodge Children's Home in Glasgow?

4 A. Yes, uh-huh, yeah.

5 Q. And you tell us in your statement that that was around
6 1979?

7 A. Yes, uh-huh, yeah.

8 Q. And from records recovered by the Inquiry, that also
9 indicates that that was indeed 1979 and that you were
10 there until around 1985?

11 A. Yes, uh-huh.

12 Q. Which is what you also tell us in your statement?

13 A. Yes, that's correct.

14 Q. So were you 8 years old or so, 'Cameron', when you went
15 into Park Lodge?

16 A. Yes, uh-huh.

17 Q. Okay. Now, what do you remember, if anything,
18 'Cameron', about being told you were going to Park Lodge
19 or how long you were going to be there, that sort of
20 thing?

21 A. At the time I believed it was only going to be for a few
22 days, maybe a week, and then everything would be back to
23 normal. But that six years was a long time.

24 Q. Would you be okay with me putting a photograph of the
25 building on the screen?

1 A. Yes, I think, yes.

2 Q. Could we look at INQ-0000001296, please.

3 Now, this may be a more modern photograph of the
4 building, but do you recognise that as the building?

5 A. Absolutely, yes.

6 Q. And could we also look at INQ-0000001299, please.

7 Is that an aerial photograph of the building?

8 A. Yes, uh-huh, yes.

9 Q. And does that look quite similar to how it looked when
10 you were there, 'Cameron'?

11 A. Yes, uh-huh, yes.

12 Q. Now, in your statement you provide the Inquiry with some
13 detail about your own memories of the building?

14 A. Yeah.

15 Q. And the layout and that sort of thing. Can you remember
16 who took you to Park Lodge?

17 A. My social worker at the time. I think his name was Andy
18 Girvan. That's how I remember.

19 Q. Do you remember arriving there?

20 A. Not really, no.

21 Q. What are your memories of the building?

22 A. That it was this massive, like, mansion, in my eyes at
23 the time. When going in, it was just massive. There
24 was a -- you could see the massive staircase as you
25 walked in. That's the sort of -- the sort of first

1 thoughts, that this was this massive building.

2 Q. I think you tell us in your statement, 'Cameron', that

3 there was a downstairs part of the building and

4 a separate part upstairs --

5 A. Yes.

6 Q. -- that kind of housed different children in each part?

7 A. Yeah.

8 Q. And did the downstairs and the upstairs have their own

9 living rooms and that sort of thing?

10 A. They did, yes, uh-huh, yes.

11 Q. And which part of the house were you in?

12 A. I was in the top.

13 Q. And did the top have a particular name?

14 A. Erm, there was Kintyre and Kintail. I seem to remember

15 Kintyre being the top one.

16 Q. Who was in charge of the home?

17 A. Erm, Mrs Elizabeth -- I can't -- Stewart.

18 Q. And I think you tell us this a little bit further on in

19 your statement, at paragraph 50, 'Cameron'. Yes, and

20 indeed you say Miss Elizabeth Stewart.

21 And was there a deputy as well?

22 A. Yes, erm --

23 Q. I think you mention --

24 A. Chris McEwan, I think it was?

25 Q. Yes, I think that's who you say in your statement. And

1 what was their role? Did they live on the premises?

2 A. Erm, Mrs Stewart lived in the bungalow that was on -- in

3 the grounds, that was her permanent. And in that there

4 was a spare bedroom, and the deputy, if they were

5 staying, if they were on a nightshift then an early

6 shift, would stay in the spare bedroom in the bungalow,

7 so they were on call if anything happened overnight.

8 Q. And otherwise, were there residential -- were care staff

9 running the home?

10 A. Yes, uh-huh, yes, in the home.

11 Q. And did they live elsewhere and just came in to do their

12 shifts?

13 A. Yes, uh-huh, yes, that's right, yes.

14 Q. And did that include dayshifts and nightshifts?

15 A. Early, late and night shift there was.

16 Q. Okay. Now, when you first arrived at Park Lodge,

17 I think you tell us that you recall the first bedroom

18 that you were allocated?

19 A. Yes, uh-huh.

20 Q. Can you just tell me a little about that, where was that

21 in the house?

22 A. The first picture we looked at, it was on the top floor

23 on the right-hand side, the bay, where the pointer is

24 pointing at the moment.

25 Q. So that's the right-hand side as we look at the

1 photograph?

2 A. Yes, uh-huh, yes, uh-huh.

3 Q. Did you share that room with some other boys?

4 A. Yes, there was four beds in that room.

5 Q. And was your brother with you in that room?

6 A. At the beginning, yes, uh-huh.

7 Q. And I think you tell us that as your stay progressed at

8 Park Lodge, you moved rooms; children tended to move

9 rooms at certain points in time?

10 A. Yes, uh-huh, yes, yeah.

11 Q. And that was decided by staff?

12 A. It was, uh-huh.

13 Q. Where children moved and who they moved with?

14 A. Yes, uh-huh, yes.

15 Q. And you've told us that you yourself were in the home

16 around six years. I think you tell us in your statement

17 that your brother wasn't there for all of that time?

18 A. No, he wasn't, no.

19 Q. What's your recollection of the number of children

20 overall at Park Lodge at one time? How many children

21 were there?

22 A. Well, I always remember there was eight children

23 upstairs, 'cos there was four bedrooms (sic) in the

24 front room that I make reference to, there was three in

25 the back bedroom and there was also a single room which

1 was for those ones about 15/16, getting ready to leave
2 home, so they had their own space.

3 Q. Yes.

4 A. And I remember the same sort of number downstairs as
5 well.

6 Q. Okay. And was it a mixture of boys and girls in the
7 home?

8 A. Erm, downstairs it was, but not up, not upstairs.

9 Q. So upstairs, was that all boys?

10 A. Yes, it was, uh-huh.

11 Q. And downstairs was a mixture?

12 A. Yes, it was.

13 Q. What was the age range of the children?

14 A. Oh, anything from probably about 7 upwards to, you know,
15 16/17.

16 Q. So when you went in then, 'Cameron', aged 8, were you
17 one of the younger ones?

18 A. I was, uh-huh, yes.

19 Q. You tell us in your statement -- you provide some
20 information about the routine in the home in terms of
21 getting up and going to bed and all of that. Was there
22 quite a schedule to follow?

23 A. Yes, uh-huh, yes.

24 Q. And was that -- were you assisted by staff, for example,
25 when you got up in the morning and where you went?

1 A. Yes, uh-huh, yes. They would make sure you got up and
2 were getting dressed and there for breakfast.

3 Q. And I think you tell us there was, for example, a rota
4 for doing the dishes and things --

5 A. Yes, uh-huh.

6 Q. -- after breakfast?

7 A. Yes, uh-huh.

8 Q. And then would you head out to school --

9 A. Yes, uh-huh.

10 Q. -- after that? And you tell us I think that you got
11 your dinner when you came in from school?

12 A. Yes, uh-huh.

13 Q. After doing your homework?

14 A. Yes, uh-huh.

15 Q. And then you went to bed about 7.30?

16 A. Yes, uh-huh.

17 Q. In terms of the food side of things, 'Cameron', how did
18 you find the food at Park Lodge?

19 A. It was generally okay. Probably just as good as
20 I'd received at home.

21 Q. And I think you tell us the staff in the kitchen were
22 okay?

23 A. Yes, uh-huh, yes.

24 Q. That you were, for example, allowed to speak at the
25 table and there was no punishment for not finishing your

1 food?

2 A. No.

3 Q. You tell us a little about items that were available,
4 like toys and that kind of thing; do you remember there
5 being some things to do --

6 A. Yes, uh-huh, yes.

7 Q. -- for the children?

8 You also tell the Inquiry that you went out to
9 Scouts, an external club?

10 A. Yes.

11 Q. And that was something that you did yourself and --

12 A. Yes, uh-huh.

13 Q. -- you left the home to do that?

14 A. Yes, uh-huh.

15 Q. And you enjoyed that?

16 A. Yes, I did, yes.

17 Q. In terms of washing and bathing, you provide some
18 information about that also. I think you say that you
19 were told when you would be having a bath and it wasn't
20 every day, but it was fairly regular?

21 A. Yes, uh-huh.

22 Q. And you say you bathed yourself, other than those who
23 were very young and needed help?

24 A. Yes. Yes.

25 Q. And you say when you were having a shower you'd be in

1 there by yourself?

2 A. Yes, uh-huh.

3 Q. And before bed, if it was before bed, you would then get

4 a snack, maybe toast or hot chocolate before bed?

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

6 Q. Now, did you attend primary school -- a different

7 primary school while you were in Park Lodge?

8 A. Yes, uh-huh, yes.

9 Q. And I think you say that some of the children attended

10 different schools?

11 A. Yes, they did, yes.

12 Q. Depending on religious beliefs and that sort of thing?

13 A. Yes, and also needs.

14 Q. Needs?

15 A. Yes, uh-huh.

16 Q. And what about weekends? Was there any -- were any

17 arrangements made for children at weekends in Park Lodge

18 in terms of activities or things you could do?

19 A. Sometimes you were left to your own devices. Sometimes

20 they would arrange to go to a park further away and have

21 a picnic. So it did, it varied.

22 Q. And you would have had a number of birthdays, of course,

23 while you were in Park Lodge?

24 A. Yes, uh-huh.

25 Q. And I think you recall getting a few presents on your

1 birthday?

2 A. Yes, uh-huh.

3 Q. And that there would be a little celebration of

4 a birthday?

5 A. Yes, uh-huh, yes.

6 Q. A cake and that sort of thing?

7 A. Yes, uh-huh.

8 Q. And you tell us that Christmas was also celebrated at

9 the home?

10 A. Yes, it was, uh-huh.

11 Q. I think you were asked when you gave your statement, you

12 were asked some questions about bed-wetting?

13 A. Yes.

14 Q. And I think you say that you recall one boy who wet the

15 bed?

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

17 Q. And I think, do you recall how that was dealt with by

18 staff?

19 A. Yes, uh-huh. Yes, uh-huh. Yeah, you had a -- it was

20 like a metal mesh between two sheets and when it wet,

21 when he wet himself, an alarm went off and they would

22 come in and actually strip the bed and also arrange for

23 him to be washed and new pyjamas put on and that, and

24 then back to bed.

25 Q. And you recall that alarm and that --

1 A. Yeah, I do, yes, uh-huh.

2 Q. -- sort of thing happening?

3 A. Yeah.

4 Q. And you say you never -- you don't recall any punishment
5 or anything for that, for bed-wetting?

6 A. No, I don't, no.

7 Q. Now, in terms of visitors, did you have visitors when
8 you were at Park Lodge?

9 A. I had my mother come sometimes, erm, but actually she
10 was in the hospital as well at that moment in time. We
11 did have -- social worker would come and visit me every
12 now and then. That's sort of the only ones I sort of
13 really remember.

14 Q. And when your mother did come to visit you, how did you
15 find the visits in terms of -- did the home support you
16 with those visits?

17 A. They did try to. I was -- it felt -- I think with what
18 I was going through, I found it a bit strained to have
19 that sort of -- when you're sat in a living room, when
20 there's other people about, you can't be as affectionate
21 to your mother than you would do in a private moment.

22 Q. So you weren't -- there wasn't an opportunity to have
23 private meetings or visits with your mum?

24 A. No, no.

25 Q. Now, you've mentioned there visits from social workers.

1 Do you also recall sometimes attending review meetings?

2 A. Yes, uh-huh.

3 Q. And how did you, from your own perspective, how did you
4 find these at the time?

5 A. It was quite horrific, I found it quite horrific, being
6 included, but people talking about you like you actually
7 weren't there, so like they were talking about someone
8 else. So it just seemed as if you were observing,
9 rather than being any part of it.

10 Q. So you weren't able to contribute, for example, to the
11 meeting or --

12 A. No.

13 Q. And in your statement, indeed, 'Cameron', you say you
14 detested those --

15 A. Yes, uh-huh.

16 Q. -- meetings and that you didn't feel included?

17 A. No, I didn't.

18 Q. I now want to go on, 'Cameron', to that part of your
19 statement where you tell the Inquiry about the abuse
20 that you suffered --

21 A. Okay.

22 Q. -- when you were at Park Lodge.

23 And you tell us in your statement that you were
24 sexually abused at Park Lodge over a significant period
25 of time?

1 A. Uh-huh, yes.

2 Q. Who sexually abused you?

3 A. A person called Alistair Findlay.

4 Q. Now, first of all, can I just ask you, who was

5 Alistair Findlay and what was his role in Park Lodge?

6 A. Well, I was always aware that he was one of the

7 residential staff. Care staff in the home.

8 Q. So he was a member of staff who lived somewhere else but

9 came into the home to do shifts?

10 A. Yes, uh-huh, that's correct.

11 Q. And did he work different shifts in the home?

12 A. He only ever seemed to do a morning or a late, an early

13 or a late, never -- I think the nightshift, it was only

14 specific staff that did the night shift.

15 Q. What sort of age was he?

16 A. Round about 20 -- he was about 20-odd. It was really

17 difficult to -- when you're 8 and 9, it's -- people can

18 appear far older than you -- than they really are.

19 Q. Okay.

20 LADY SMITH: It's very difficult to judge when you're

21 a child.

22 A. Yes.

23 LADY SMITH: And even harder looking back now to judge it.

24 A. Yeah.

25 LADY SMITH: But the point was, he was one of the younger

1 people and he was employed there and he was working with
2 children.

3 A. Yes, uh-huh, that's correct.

4 MS MACLEOD: Could you tell me, 'Cameron', when was the
5 first time that you were abused by Alistair Findlay?

6 A. From recollection, the first time was when we went on
7 holiday to Lytham St Annes, erm, and I was made to share
8 a bed, a double bed with him, and I remember him
9 touching me when we were in that bed one night.

10 Q. How old, roughly how old were you or how long had you
11 been in Park Lodge at that time?

12 A. It would only have been a year or so. It was quite --
13 it was early on in -- when I was in Park Lodge.

14 Q. So you were still perhaps 8 or 9?

15 A. Yes, uh-huh.

16 Q. And were there a number of children and staff from Park
17 Lodge on the trip to Lytham St Annes?

18 A. Yes, it was near enough -- I think it was near enough
19 all the children had gone.

20 Q. And what sort of -- where were you staying, what sort of
21 accommodation was it?

22 A. It was like a house that had been all rented, the whole
23 house had been rented. There was upstairs, ground floor
24 and also there was some accommodation in the basement.

25 Q. And were you sharing a bed with Alistair Findlay for the

1 whole holiday?

2 A. As far as I can remember.

3 Q. And do you remember how that came about or why that was?

4 A. No, I don't. I only remember that's where I was.

5 Q. Did other staff know that he was sharing a bed with

6 a child?

7 A. I presume they must have. And I can only do -- be --

8 presume that. I wouldn't be aware of why.

9 Q. Okay. So you were on this trip and he was sharing a bed

10 with you. Can you just tell me what happened on the

11 first time that he abused you?

12 A. I remember being in the bed and he'd come into the bed,

13 and at some point I remember him putting his hand on the

14 outside of my pyjama bottoms, and I then remember him

15 putting his hand inside my pyjama bottoms.

16 Q. And making contact with your private parts?

17 A. Yes, uh-huh, yes.

18 Q. At the front?

19 A. Yes.

20 Q. And did that happen once on that trip or more than once?

21 A. I only remember the once, but that doesn't necessarily

22 mean that it didn't.

23 Q. And did he say anything -- do you remember if he said

24 anything when he did this?

25 A. No, I don't recollect really if he'd actually said

1 anything.

2 Q. And at the time, what was your own response or your
3 reaction?

4 A. I sort of froze, 'cos it's not something that had ever,
5 ever happened to me. You know, bearing in mind I hadn't
6 had me father with me up to that -- in a male part up to
7 that point, so it was -- I froze 'cos was it -- is this
8 what happens or is it not what happens?

9 Q. Okay.

10 LADY SMITH: So you hadn't had family life with a father
11 present.

12 A. No, I hadn't.

13 LADY SMITH: And this was the nearest you'd ever got,
14 I suppose.

15 A. Yes, uh-huh, yes.

16 LADY SMITH: Have I got that right?

17 A. Yes.

18 LADY SMITH: Thank you.

19 MS MACLEOD: So this happened on the trip, and do you
20 remember if he said anything afterwards to you, over the
21 next few days, or did he --

22 A. I don't remember anything being said.

23 Q. No. And did he continue to share a bed with you for the
24 remainder of the trip?

25 A. As far as I can remember, it was for the whole time. I

1 don't ever remember sleeping in any other bed on that
2 holiday.

3 Q. And when the trip came to an end and you were back in
4 Park Lodge, did further abuse take place?

5 A. Yes, it did.

6 Q. What's your memory of the next thing that happened after
7 the trip?

8 A. Erm, to do with the abuse part?

9 Q. Yes.

10 A. I remember being told to come -- go into me bedroom and
11 he took me into -- well, when I say my bedroom, I mean
12 the bedroom at the front, and he sat down on the floor
13 with his back against the door and he pulled down his
14 trousers and he told me to take my trousers and pants
15 down, and he told me to actually sit on him, and
16 I was -- he was sat, as I say, on the floor, and I was
17 sat with my back against him, and he told me to sit down
18 there.

19 Q. So did he have his trousers and pants down?

20 A. Yes, uh-huh.

21 Q. And he asked you to take your trousers and pants down?

22 A. Yes, uh-huh. I would say he told me more than asked me
23 to --

24 Q. Told you to?

25 A. Yes.

1 Q. And once -- and he asked you to sit on him as you've
2 described, with your back to him?

3 A. Yes, uh-huh.

4 Q. And what happened, what happened next?

5 A. That first time, I remember just feeling at that point
6 a hard object sort of just pressing between me buttocks,
7 and that's the sort of thing I sort of start to
8 remember.

9 Q. And if you can remember, what was going through your
10 mind at that time, 'Cameron'?

11 A. For me, it was -- I felt trapped at that moment in time,
12 because I knew there was no way out. I was of the sort
13 of upbringing that you did as you were told, so if
14 someone is telling you, who is superior to you, to do
15 something, you do it. And that's, as I say, I felt
16 trapped. Couldn't -- couldn't escape out of it.

17 Q. And how did that incident come to an end on that first
18 occasion that that happened?

19 A. Erm, on that occasion, I only felt that it came to
20 a natural end on that. But there was -- it happened
21 multiple times. So at different times it ended by him
22 ejaculating, or someone knocking on the door, wanting to
23 get in.

24 Q. So the incident you've described there, as the first
25 incident you recall of that abuse at Park Lodge, did

1 that become something that happened on quite a number of
2 occasions?

3 A. Yes, uh-huh, yes.

4 Q. Are you able to assist with how often it happened?

5 A. From my recollection, it happened every few weeks, from
6 what I can remember. It wasn't like every single week
7 or every day or so, but it certainly happened regular.

8 Q. And on each occasion, did he take you to that bedroom?

9 A. Yes, uh-huh, yes.

10 Q. And did he have his back to the door?

11 A. Yes, uh-huh, yes.

12 Q. Now, you've said that on that occasion it came to
13 a natural end; on other occasions that he ejaculated?

14 A. Yes, uh-huh.

15 Q. In your statement I think you explain that the behaviour
16 escalated?

17 A. Yes, mm-hmm.

18 Q. Can you tell me about that?

19 A. From what I can remember is his erection, he was pushing
20 it at the perineum, at -- and naturally, I know it's
21 that now, but as a kid I didn't know. It was just
22 really painful as he was pushing against it. And then
23 on other times he actually was trying to penetrate me as
24 well.

25 Q. And did he penetrate you?

1 A. He -- it got in part of the way.

2 Q. And is that something that happened on a number of
3 occasions?

4 A. It did, yes, uh-huh.

5 Q. And again, are you able to assist me with even roughly
6 how often the abuse escalated to that?

7 A. In my mind, I remember at least three occasions where he
8 was trying to penetrate me or penetrated.

9 Q. And how old were you when this -- you said you might
10 have been 8 or 9 when it started; how old were you while
11 this was going on?

12 A. I must have been about 9 or 10 when, sort of -- I'm sure
13 I must have been about 10 when it actually all stopped.

14 Q. And how long over a period of time, how long do you
15 think the abuse went on?

16 A. It must have been over a year.

17 Q. Now, 'Cameron', these things you've told me about were
18 happening to you when you were, let's say, 9, or
19 8/9 years old. How was this impacting you at the time
20 in Park Lodge, this happening to you in this way? What
21 impact was that having on you?

22 A. I became very insular, keeping -- but that might be also
23 to do with just being in the home, the way the home was
24 set up. But I started running away from the home at
25 times. You know, once I got all the way to Largs, erm,

1 and had to be fetched back. So it certainly -- I wanted
2 just to be in meself and just sort of be left alone.

3 Q. Outside the incidents of the abuse you've been telling
4 the Inquiry about, did you see or have contact with
5 Alistair Findlay in other ways in the home? Did you see
6 him around the home?

7 A. Yes, uh-huh, yes.

8 Q. And on the occasions that you saw him, how did he relate
9 to you?

10 A. Like, just like a normal care worker looking after
11 children.

12 Q. And you told me about the first occasion where he asked
13 you to come or told you to go to the bedroom?

14 A. Yes.

15 Q. Is that the format that it took each time, that he asked
16 you to go to the bedroom?

17 A. Yes, I -- yes.

18 Q. And then he would abuse you in the way you have
19 described?

20 A. Yes, uh-huh, yes.

21 Q. Did he take you anywhere outside the home?

22 A. I remember him taking me to a scrapyard when he damaged
23 the -- his car, 'cos the door had opened and it had hit
24 a lamppost, so -- damaging the door, so he wanted to go
25 to the scrapyard to get a -- and I remember he took me

1 with him to try and get a door off another car to put on
2 it.

3 I know that once or twice he took me to see my child
4 psychologist, it was in Yorkhill way in Glasgow. So --
5 and actually, we would have gone swimming and things
6 like -- like that.

7 Q. And on these occasions, how was his behaviour towards
8 you?

9 A. Just normal. It was, as I say, just like a normal care
10 worker.

11 Q. Did he ever speak to you about the abuse, and by that
12 I mean did he say not to tell anybody or anything like
13 that?

14 A. Only the times when he got disturbed, saying about --
15 that 'You don't say anything about this'.

16 Q. And you mentioned that earlier, 'Cameron', that
17 sometimes, I think you said, the incidents of abuse
18 would come to an end because somebody might knock on the
19 door?

20 A. Yes, uh-huh.

21 Q. Is that something that happened quite a few times?

22 A. In my mind I remember twice, at least twice, when it
23 actually happened.

24 Q. So could we maybe just look at what your memory is of
25 those times. So what happened on those occasions?

1 A. So he would have been with his back against the door and
2 someone would have been trying to get in, but 'cos none
3 of those -- the doors were ever locked, the person was
4 saying, 'Who is it?', trying to get in, and he'd turn
5 round and said, 'I'm just giving PPP [REDACTED] into trouble,
6 I'll be a minute', while he's trying to get himself
7 dressed again and saying to me to pull my pants and
8 trousers up, while still trying to stop the door from
9 being pushed open.

10 Q. And was it a staff member who was at the door?

11 A. Yes, uh-huh, yes.

12 Q. And did -- and I think you remember another time as
13 well, a similar thing happening, someone coming to the
14 door?

15 A. Yes, uh-huh.

16 Q. Was that also a staff member?

17 A. Yes, uh-huh.

18 Q. Was that a similar situation?

19 A. Yes, uh-huh, yes.

20 Q. And what did Alistair Findlay say to the staff member on
21 that occasion?

22 A. He said that, 'I was just giving PPP [REDACTED] into trouble'.

23 Q. And what did he say to you on those occasions about what
24 you were or were not to say?

25 A. Sorry, say that again?

1 Q. What did Alistair Findlay say to you? Did he say
2 anything to you on those occasions?

3 A. Just I wasn't to -- when thingmy -- you're not to say
4 anything.

5 LADY SMITH: So is your memory that he was saying, 'I'm just
6 getting this boy into trouble'?

7 A. No, I was giving him into trouble.

8 LADY SMITH: You were getting him into trouble?

9 A. No, no, he was telling -- he was telling the staff
10 member, the other staff member trying to get in, that he
11 was giving me -- so telling me off for something.

12 LADY SMITH: Got you, right. Thank you. Yes, thank you.

13 MR MACAULAY: Do you know if it was the same staff member on
14 both occasions or not?

15 A. I can't remember that, sorry.

16 Q. Did any staff member ever come to you after such
17 an occasion to ask you what had happened, what was
18 happening in the room?

19 A. No. No, they didn't, no.

20 Q. While you were at Park Lodge, did you tell anybody what
21 Alistair Findlay was doing to you?

22 A. No.

23 Q. Did you consider telling anybody?

24 A. No.

25 Q. And could you just assist me with what -- was that

1 something that you just thought wasn't possible to do?

2 A. Erm, I was told not to say anything. And I said earlier
3 that when I was -- I was of the upbringing that if you
4 were told by someone older than you, like not to say
5 anything, or do this, then you did it.

6 Q. Did Alistair Findlay take you to his parents' house?

7 A. Yes, uh-huh, yeah. I think we were going to Queen's
8 Park, I remember going in via his parents' house.

9 Q. And what do you recall about being at his parents'
10 house?

11 A. Erm, I recollect that he had to get something from the
12 house on the way there. Erm, I remember him taking me
13 in, which I presume was his bedroom or something like
14 that, and he took out a picture. And from my
15 recollection I remember him saying, 'This is a picture
16 of [REDACTED]', and I remember that -- I can't remember
17 whether it was that the skirt of the girl was up, and
18 I can't honestly remember whether it showed her in her
19 pants or whether there was no pants on the girl.
20 I can't remember, I can't remember exactly, but I
21 distinctly remember the picture and the girl's skirt
22 being up.

23 Q. And what did you think about that at the time?

24 A. I thought it was a -- for me, I thought it was a very
25 strange thing to be showing, you know. At that time

1 I was more interested in trains and that, so I found it
2 very strange that he'd shown me that picture.

3 Q. Now, I think you said that the abuse from
4 Alistair Findlay went on for maybe a year or so?

5 A. Yeah.

6 Q. And that it came to an end?

7 A. Yes.

8 Q. What made it come to an end?

9 A. He just disappeared. He didn't come back. He didn't
10 come back on -- didn't appear on a shift and that's when
11 it ended, naturally, 'cos he was no longer appearing.

12 Q. So it had been going on right up until the time that he
13 disappeared?

14 A. Yes, uh-huh, yes.

15 Q. Okay. Were you told anything at the time about why he
16 was no longer at Park Lodge?

17 A. No, I wasn't.

18 Q. And of course you remained in Park Lodge for a number of
19 years after --

20 A. Yes, I did.

21 Q. After that.

22 Now, you tell us in your statement, and you've
23 already described in evidence, that some of the abuse
24 was very painful?

25 A. Yes.

1 Q. And did you have injuries?

2 A. Well, at -- I've always -- from recollecting, I've
3 always had seepage from my back passage. It's always
4 known that I used to, as a young adult, I used to put
5 toilet paper so that it didn't seep out into me pants
6 and onto me trousers, 'cos it had done on a previous
7 occasion, and it's always, always had it. So I'm a firm
8 believer that something was done, because I'm pretty
9 certain it was not like that before I went to the home.

10 Q. Now, you describe in your statement that there was
11 bullying in Park Lodge from -- between some of the
12 children?

13 A. Yes, uh-huh, yeah.

14 Q. And that you were -- I think you had some friends in the
15 home but they left?

16 A. Yes, that's right, yes.

17 Q. And that that was very difficult for you?

18 A. It was, yes, uh-huh, yes.

19 Q. And that the staff noticed that that was difficult for
20 you?

21 A. Yes, uh-huh, yes.

22 Q. And after that I think you say that you were more
23 insulated?

24 A. Yes, uh-huh, yeah.

25 Q. And a point you make here, you say that when you're in

1 a home and staff or other children leave, it's as if
2 part of your family --

3 A. Yes, uh-huh.

4 Q. -- leaves?

5 A. Yes, uh-huh.

6 Q. If they're people you get on with?

7 A. Yes, uh-huh.

8 Q. Now, while you say there was some bullying between the
9 children, I think you say that the other staff generally
10 were okay?

11 A. Yes, uh-huh, yes.

12 Q. And that the bad part, you say, of Park Lodge was
13 Alistair Findlay?

14 A. Yes, uh-huh, yes.

15 Q. Now, when you were 14, in 1985, is that when you left
16 Park Lodge?

17 A. Yes, uh-huh, yes.

18 Q. And where did you go?

19 A. I went to foster parents in Alloa.

20 Q. And you were there, you say, for the next two years --

21 A. That's right, yes.

22 Q. -- or so.

23 And about that, you say it was good to be part of
24 a family, but that you did find it quite difficult to
25 fit in?

1 A. Yes, uh-huh, yes, I did.

2 Q. And did you visit your mother regularly while you were
3 in foster care?

4 A. Yes, I did, yes.

5 Q. And were you attending a high school at that time?

6 A. Yes, I was, uh-huh.

7 Q. Now, when you were 16 and that foster placement came to
8 an end, were you then put into supported accommodation?

9 A. I was, yes.

10 Q. Was that by the social work department?

11 A. Yes, it was, uh-huh.

12 Q. And I think you tell us that you did some training with
13 a youth training scheme programme?

14 A. Yes. Yes.

15 Q. And that you stayed in that supported accommodation for
16 about two years?

17 A. Yes, that's right, yeah.

18 Q. And then did you move back to your mother's house?

19 A. I did, yeah.

20 Q. And from there you got a job which you enjoyed?

21 A. Yes.

22 Q. Now, you say that when you were around 17 or so that you
23 visited -- well, I think you continued to visit Park
24 Lodge sometimes?

25 A. Yes, uh-huh, yes.

1 Q. To see the staff?

2 A. Yes, uh-huh, yes.

3 Q. And that when you were around 17 or so that you found
4 out something about perhaps why Alistair Findlay had
5 left the home?

6 A. Yes, that's correct.

7 Q. Can you tell me about that, and who told you?

8 A. I can't remember who, I wasn't sure if it was a staff
9 member or one of the other residents that was there, but
10 they told me that he had been -- he had previously been
11 charged and had a -- there was a court case against him
12 for abusing girls in the home.

13 Q. And that was the first time you'd been given any sort of
14 reason as to why he'd left?

15 A. Yes, uh-huh, yes.

16 Q. And you say this was told to you by somebody there, but
17 that you didn't tell them what happened to you?

18 A. No, I didn't, no. I hadn't even told me mother at that
19 point.

20 Q. When was the first time, 'Cameron', that you told
21 anybody about the abuse you suffered?

22 A. The first time was, it was a -- I can remember it being
23 a Sunday, um, uh -- when I was in the flat with me mum,
24 me mum's flat, and it was a Sunday -- one of the Sunday
25 newspapers I opened, and there was an article with

1 Alistair Findlay. Erm, er, it was an article over him
2 trying to procure, erm, underage girls, asking
3 prostitutes to do them, and about him being caught and
4 being sent to prison, being convicted and sent to prison
5 about it, and that's when I'd actually said to my
6 mother, because I was in, I remember, in the kitchen
7 reading the paper.

8 Q. And is that when you told your mother --

9 A. Yeah, it was.

10 Q. -- that you had been abused by Alistair Findlay?

11 A. Yes, uh-huh, yeah. And she sort of said -- I don't
12 think it was meant the way it possibly came out was --
13 she sort of said, 'I'm not surprised'.

14 Q. And at that time, did you tell her the extent of the
15 abuse?

16 A. No, just that I'd been abused.

17 Q. That you'd been abused. And other than telling your
18 mother that, did you tell anybody else at that stage?

19 A. Not at that stage, no.

20 Q. And I think in your statement you explain that you told
21 your wife later on?

22 A. Yes, that's correct.

23 Q. And your GP?

24 A. Yes.

25 Q. And you came forward to the Inquiry in 2017?

1 A. That's correct, yeah.

2 Q. And at that time, you explain that at that time no one
3 knew the extent of the abuse?

4 A. That's correct, yes.

5 Q. That they knew -- you told them you'd been abused?

6 A. Yeah.

7 Q. But that was really all?

8 A. Yes.

9 Q. So when you came forward to the Inquiry and told the
10 Inquiry about the extent of the abuse and what you've
11 told me today --

12 A. Yeah.

13 Q. -- was that the first time you had -- you had reported
14 the abuse in full?

15 A. Yes, uh-huh.

16 Q. And following on from speaking to the Inquiry, did you
17 report the abuse to the police?

18 A. Yeah. The following day I went for an interview with
19 a detective sergeant and a detective constable at
20 Tollcross Police Station in Glasgow.

21 Q. And ultimately, did that lead to you giving evidence in
22 the High Court the following year, in 2018?

23 A. Yes, it did. Yes, it did.

24 Q. At the trial of Alistair Findlay?

25 A. Yes.

1 Q. And was Alistair -- was your evidence accepted by the
2 jury?

3 A. It was, yes.

4 Q. And was two of the charges of which Alistair Findlay was
5 convicted, related to his abuse of you?

6 A. Yes, it was, yes.

7 MS MACLEOD: My Lady, I don't need to put the indictment on
8 the screen but I will give the reference for the
9 transcript.

10 LADY SMITH: Thank you very much, that will be helpful.

11 MS MACLEOD: JUS-000000316.

12 And I think that was in the latter part of 2018 that
13 you provided that evidence to the court, 'Cameron'?

14 A. Yes, I did, yes.

15 Q. And Alistair Findlay was sentenced the following year,
16 2019?

17 A. Yes, he was, uh-huh.

18 Q. You've told me about some of the physical symptoms that
19 you have, which you relate back to your abuse?

20 A. Yeah.

21 Q. But do you also have -- I think you describe that you
22 have anxiety --

23 A. Yeah.

24 Q. -- issues?

25 A. Yes.

1 Q. And that that can become heightened at certain points?

2 A. It can, yes, uh-huh.

3 Q. For example, I think you tell us that if you walk down

4 the street and see someone who looks like

5 Alistair Findlay, that that can trigger your anxiety?

6 A. Oh, yeah, it just takes me straight back to it.

7 Q. Or if you smell aftershave, that reminds you of him?

8 A. Yes, it's a certain smell. As soon as I smell it.

9 Q. And you say, 'It just comes to the front of my mind'?

10 A. It does, yes.

11 Q. And that was something you told the Inquiry in 2017 and

12 is that still the case, 'Cameron'?

13 A. Oh, yes, uh-huh, yes.

14 Q. Now, I just want to now come on to the final sections of

15 your statement, where you provide the Inquiry with some

16 points you wish to make and I think one thing you say

17 is, this is at paragraph 68:

18 'Although it's quite endemic with some people, it's

19 unfair to blame all the staff, but there are some

20 individuals who have done some horrible things to

21 children.'

22 A. Yeah.

23 Q. So I think the point you're making there, and indeed you

24 make it throughout your statement, is that in general

25 the staff were okay?

1 A. Yes, they were, uh-huh.

2 Q. But that even one individual, such as Alistair Findlay,
3 can have the impact on somebody that it clearly has
4 had -- the abuse has had on yourself?

5 A. Yes. Yes, uh-huh.

6 Q. And you say:
7 'It's difficult, if you're in a children's home, to
8 feel you can speak out.'

9 A. Yes, uh-huh, certainly at the time that I was in
10 a children's home, yes.

11 Q. You say:
12 'Because you feel they're more in control than you
13 are and that you won't be listened to.'

14 A. Yes, uh-huh, yes.

15 Q. That's how you felt at the time?

16 A. Yes, uh-huh.

17 Q. And you say:
18 'Hopefully there's more protection put in place for
19 kids in care.'

20 A. Yes.

21 Q. 'So that people like Alistair Findlay can't slip through
22 the net and do what they do.'

23 A. Yes, uh-huh.

24 Q. Now, is there anything else that you'd like to add
25 today, 'Cameron', to what you've provided there in your

1 statement?

2 A. Erm, the only thing is that I'm left with a life
3 sentence now. It doesn't go away at any point. Um,
4 yeah, I take strong anti-depressants to make it through,
5 but I can wake up in the middle of the night and I can
6 see it in me head exactly as it happened, nearly
7 45 years ago. So I have to live with it and I would
8 hate for anyone else to go through what I've gone
9 through.

10 MS MACLEOD: My Lady, I don't have any further questions for
11 'Cameron' and I can confirm there's been no applications
12 for questions.

13 LADY SMITH: Thank you very much.

14 'Cameron', just one thing I was wondering, and you
15 spoke about bullying in Park Lodge and it being bullying
16 to the extent it could be 'terrifying' at times; I think
17 that's the word you used in paragraph 47.

18 A. Yeah.

19 LADY SMITH: And you didn't feel you could tell a social
20 worker about that.

21 A. Yeah.

22 LADY SMITH: Do I take it that you didn't feel able to go to
23 a member of staff and talk about it?

24 A. No, they generally, the way it was, the dynamics of the
25 place was that you don't -- you didn't talk about stuff

1 like that.

2 LADY SMITH: Yes. Do you think the staff knew it was
3 happening?

4 A. I think -- I think possibly they did, but that's
5 a difficult one. It could be that certain staff knew it
6 was happening and other staff didn't.

7 LADY SMITH: Let me put it this way: do you remember any
8 efforts being made by staff to make it clear to children
9 that bullying was not acceptable?

10 A. I never heard anything like that.

11 LADY SMITH: Okay.

12 'Cameron', thank you. You have indeed added value,
13 great value, to your written statement by being here
14 today and I'm sorry we had to explore difficult areas
15 with you, but thank you for dealing with it in the way
16 that you have done and as properly as you have done.
17 I'm sure it wasn't easy and I'm sure you won't feel
18 energised by it as you leave here, if I can put it that
19 way.

20 Have a restful day, what's left, and please be aware
21 that you've done great service by coming here and adding
22 your evidence to what we're gathering together in this
23 Inquiry.

24 A. Thank you.

25 LADY SMITH: So thank you, and do feel free to go whenever

1 you're ready.

2 A. Okay.

3 (The witness withdrew)

4 LADY SMITH: Now, I think we've probably got time for
5 a read-in before the break, have we? Or would it be
6 easier for you if I had a break now and then go on to
7 read-ins?

8 MS MACLEOD: I think to have the break now might work well,
9 my Lady.

10 LADY SMITH: Right, let's do that, then.

11 I was just going to say before I rose, yes, names as
12 usual. We used names in the course of evidence of
13 people involved at the time of the events we're talking
14 about, including people whose identities are protected
15 by my General Restriction Order, and one name was used
16 here and it was the name **PPP**. At one point the
17 applicant very helpfully just used his own name, but
18 that's not to be used outside this room and the
19 applicant is not to be identified in connection with
20 that name; he's only to be referred to as 'Cameron'.
21 Thank you.

22 (11.08 am)

23 (A short break)

24 (11.30 am)

25 LADY SMITH: Mr MacAulay.

1 MR MACAULAY: My Lady, we now have some read-ins.

2 LADY SMITH: Yes.

3 MR MACAULAY: And the first is from an applicant who wants
4 to remain anonymous and to use the pseudonym 'Rita' in
5 her evidence.

6 LADY SMITH: Thank you.

7 MR MACAULAY: Her statement is at WIT-1-000000753.

8 LADY SMITH: Thank you.

9 'Rita' (read in)

10 MR MACAULAY: She begins by telling us that she was born in
11 1969 and goes on to provide some information about her
12 family and her background and goes on to say:
13 'I have been told that when I was nearly 3, my
14 mother went into hospital to have my brother. My dad at
15 that time was in jail so me and my two older sisters
16 went to temporary foster carers.'

17 And she then goes on to tell us that she went back
18 to live with her mother and that she remembers going to
19 the nursery in Easterhouse.

20 She then talks about an incident when she was
21 sexually abused by the father of a friend and over the
22 page, at the end of that paragraph, she says:
23 'I never told anyone about what the girl's dad did
24 to me.'

25 At paragraph 4 she says:

1 'I didn't have a particularly happy childhood. My
2 mother was an alcoholic.'

3 And at 5 she tells us that her mother and
4 a neighbour got involved in a fight and it ended up by
5 her father going into jail.

6 And picking it up at paragraph 6:

7 'We stayed for a while in Pollok. My two sisters
8 stayed with our aunt. Me, my mum and [brother] stayed
9 with my gran. I remember going to McGill
10 Primary School, but I didn't have a great time there,
11 but in a way I did enjoy it. I had difficulty because
12 I was hard of hearing and I was bullied and picked on by
13 other children and they said I was a tramp. In class
14 I did the work, but I just didn't take it in, probably
15 because I didn't hear properly. I got fed at school and
16 the food was good. At home we were treated a bit better
17 when we were at our granny's house, because she was
18 there so my mum was a bit more careful. My dad didn't
19 live with us because he didn't get on with my gran or my
20 aunt.'

21 And then she talks about moving in to a new house in
22 paragraph 7, and at 8:

23 'Problems really started in 1978 when my dad died.
24 I was 8. [My brother] and I had been out shopping with
25 my dad because he had won some money in the bookies and

1 was going to buy me new clothes. The shop was shut so
2 he went to the pub instead and [my brother] and I waited
3 outside. When he eventually came out, he sent us ahead
4 to get fish suppers and take them home. My dad didn't
5 appear home and later two girls came to the door and
6 told me my dad was lying on a bridge. I went with my
7 mum and got him home. An ambulance came for him but he
8 died. It was horrific. We never had any social work
9 involvement up to this point as far as I am aware.'

10 And then she goes on to say how things went from bad
11 to worse when her mother was left to look after them.

12 And she says:

13 'One day when [my brother] and I came home from
14 school, we couldn't wake mum up. She had overdosed and
15 ended up in hospital for weeks. [My brother] and I were
16 looked after by my granny and my aunt while my mum was
17 in hospital. When mum got out of hospital things just
18 deteriorated and she was drinking more than usual.
19 There wasn't always food for us and sometimes weeks went
20 by and I never even saw her. She got together with
21 another man who lived in the street and he too was an
22 alcoholic. Between their two houses they had eight
23 children and we were all dirty, neglected and not
24 getting looked after, while they were away doing their
25 own thing.

1 'At some point, mum's boyfriend battered my sisters.
2 They told someone and the cruelty officers were
3 contacted. They got involved that night and things
4 changed immediately. Social work used emergency powers
5 and removed us all.'

6 Two -- she and two sisters went to Park Lodge -- two
7 sisters went to Park Lodge, and her and her brother went
8 to another children's home. And she says this was in
9 1979 when she would have been aged about 10.

10 And then she talks about the children's home that
11 she was taken to at that time, and then moving on to
12 paragraph 18 she says:

13 'I knew that our stay at that home was only
14 temporary and that [my brother] and I were going on to
15 Park Lodge, which is where our sisters were, when space
16 became available. [My brother] and I were taken for
17 a visit one Sunday afternoon before we moved. We saw
18 round Park Lodge and I saw my sisters.'

19 And this was the first time she had seen her sisters
20 since she had been put in the previous home:

21 'Within a few weeks, as soon as beds became
22 available, we were moved to Park Lodge.'

23 And according to records, she was admitted to
24 Park Lodge on [REDACTED] 1980, so she'd be aged 10 when
25 admitted.

1 LADY SMITH: Do we have a date for her discharge from
2 Park Lodge as well?

3 MR MACAULAY: We do. And I'll just move on and -- yes, she
4 was discharged on [REDACTED] 1986, so she would have
5 been aged 17.

6 LADY SMITH: 17 by then. Yes, thank you.

7 MR MACAULAY: So moving on to paragraph 19, she provides us
8 with a description of Park Lodge and describes it as
9 a big Victorian-style house and that out the back was
10 a bungalow and a garage. And she provides some
11 information about the inside space.

12 She goes on to talk about the matron, the matron was
13 Elizabeth Stewart and she was in charge and ran the
14 home:

15 'She lived in the bungalow within the grounds. The
16 head of the social work department at the time worked
17 from the Crookston head office and was responsible for
18 the children going in there.'

19 And she talks about other members of staff. She
20 said:

21 'Some staff were dayshift and some were night shift.
22 It was always the same people who were night shift and
23 the same ones that were day shift, but they changed when
24 there were days off. Alistair Findlay was a member of
25 staff responsible for the upstairs group and looked

1 after the children there. I didn't really have very
2 much to do with him.

3 'The children at Park Lodge were from babies right
4 up to teenagers. There were boys and girls. Girls were
5 in one room and the boys in another. I think there were
6 12 children downstairs and 12 upstairs.'

7 She then talks about the routine at Park Lodge at
8 paragraph 22 and in particular describes her first day.
9 She tells us that her bedroom was downstairs next to the
10 bathroom. There were four beds in this room:

11 'Initially I shared the room with my brother, along
12 with [two others]. We were the youngest so we were put
13 in this room. After seeing round the house, I went into
14 the garden with my sisters and we played.'

15 And then she talks about aspects of routine, again
16 mornings and bedtime, and about food. In relation to
17 food, at paragraph 24 she says that:

18 'We sat wherever we wanted and the food we got was
19 always lovely and wholesome.'

20 Moving on, she talks about washing and bathing and
21 clothing, and there is a section of paragraphs dealing
22 with leisure time as well, and then at paragraph 29:

23 'I had a few holidays when I was at Park Lodge. The
24 first one was to Islay and I remember going in a big
25 boat and we stayed in a lovely big house.

1 Alistair Findlay, a member of staff, was on this trip.
2 At other times we also went to Culzean, Montrose and
3 Anstruther. I enjoyed these holidays and always looked
4 forward to them.'

5 She talks about her schooling. She says:

6 'I made friends at school and in primary school
7 there was never any issue with the fact that I was in
8 care. Secondary school wasn't quite as easy. We were
9 given homework which I did back at Park Lodge. If I had
10 any difficulties the staff were always there to help me,
11 and staff signed the school jotters to let the teacher
12 know that they had seen my homework. I was given yearly
13 report cards which I read on the way home and then
14 passed them on to the matron. She never sat down with
15 me and went over the report card.

16 'The only sex education I got was at school. The
17 staff at Park Lodge never explained anything to me about
18 my periods or anything like that. I didn't really have
19 anyone that I could ask about any personal issues.

20 'I remember the local GP from Merrylee saw everyone
21 in the home. I needed a lot of medical care because
22 I was often unwell. The doctor was often called into
23 Park Lodge to see me. I was quite poorly as a child.
24 My poor hearing was only picked up on one of my hospital
25 visits when I was around 12. The staff always came with

1 me to these appointments. It wasn't until I was 14 or
2 15 that I got my first ear operation then not long after
3 that I got a hearing aid.'

4 And then moving on to paragraph 34, she talks about
5 chores:

6 'We had a rota in Park Lodge for all the household
7 chores. These included washing dishes and Hoovering the
8 living room after dinner.

9 'Birthdays and Christmases were great at Park Lodge.
10 I remember my first Christmas there because I got
11 a whole bag full of stuff. It was really exciting to
12 find a bag with my name on it. That was the first time
13 I had experienced anything like this. On our birthdays
14 we got a cake, everyone sang "Happy Birthday" and there
15 were parties. On your birthday you were made to feel
16 special.'

17 She talks about visitors at paragraph 37:

18 'Initially when my mum visited everything was fine,
19 but then she started coming in drunk. Sometimes she
20 came more regularly than other times. It just depended
21 what she was doing. Sometimes, if she went off the
22 rails and was drinking, she missed a few visits.
23 Occasionally she was drunk when she visited us and
24 I didn't like that. She became quite emotional and
25 would cry because she had let us down and couldn't look

1 after us. Staff tried to stop her coming when she was
2 drunk or encouraged her to leave and come back another
3 day.

4 'Generally, we knew when she was going to visit us
5 because the staff told us. When she came round she
6 would sit in the living room with the four of us. The
7 staff didn't stay with us. She was sometimes nasty but
8 never violent or aggressive when she came. I knew that
9 I didn't want to go home and live with her. When I was
10 older and after the time that I went home to try and
11 live with her, I was always given the choice whether
12 I saw my mum or not when she visited [us].

13 'Social workers came and visited us maybe once
14 a month, sometimes more. It was usually the same social
15 workers who came until they moved on.'

16 And she talks about two of those social workers:

17 'It was quite relaxed when they visited. They
18 usually asked how we were getting on, how school was and
19 if there was anything concerning or worrying me. We
20 might also have discussed the last review that I'd had
21 and how I felt about it. I found these visits quite
22 positive but can't really say that they achieved
23 anything. Some of my school friends came to Park Lodge
24 to visit me.

25 'I remember going to a few meetings when they were

1 deciding what was the best for us. At these meetings
2 was my social worker, my key worker and my mum. It was
3 at one of these meetings when I was 11 they decided it
4 would be best if I went back to live with my mum. [My
5 brother] and I went home for a short while but it didn't
6 work.

7 'I am not aware of any external inspections or
8 anyone coming in to see how Park Lodge was being run.

9 'I didn't wet the bed but my brother did. He had
10 a buzzer which went off when it happened and it woke
11 everyone in the room. A member of staff would normally
12 come in and take him to the toilet and changed his bed.
13 There wasn't an issue made about him wetting the bed and
14 he wasn't punished. [My brother] wet the bed before we
15 moved to Park Lodge.

16 'I don't remember being told any of the house rules
17 when I was there. I just picked up on things as we went
18 along. The staff weren't that strict. We were allowed
19 to go out of the grounds if we wanted, as long as we
20 told the staff where we were going. Sometimes at
21 bedtime we would muck about or be cheeky to the staff
22 and they would punish us by making us stand in the hall
23 outside the room for a little while. We were never hit
24 and they never got physical with us. Sometimes you
25 might just be sent to your room for a while or be

1 grounded and not allowed out to play for a few days.

2 'I had only been in Park Lodge for a few months
3 before the abuse started. I would have been maybe 10 or
4 maybe just 11. It was before our first holiday to
5 Islay. I remember I was walking up the back stairs
6 within the building. Alistair Findlay came out the door
7 at the top of the stairs and he asked me to go with him
8 so he could show me something. He led me into the
9 staffroom, which was halfway up these stairs. He then
10 locked both doors to the staffroom. He took my pants
11 down and put his finger inside my vagina. He asked me
12 if it felt good, but I shook my head. He told me that
13 I should practice to make it easier and then he stopped.
14 He pulled my pants up and he let me leave the room.

15 'When we were on our holiday at Islay,
16 Alistair Findlay was one of the members of staff who
17 came with us. I remember when he was in the garden he
18 liked picking the girls up and tickling them. One time
19 I was with him, he touched me over my clothes and he
20 asked me if I had been practising like he had told me.
21 I just said "no" and ran away. I would still have been
22 only 11.

23 'Later that summer I would have been 12 when I broke
24 my arm and had to get help getting bathed and dressed.
25 Me and my siblings had been out this day and when we got

1 back Alistair Findlay was on duty covering my group.
2 I told him that I needed to get help to get bathed and
3 he said he would help me. I told him that I didn't want
4 that and that I wanted a girl to help me. He tried to
5 insist but I was adamant that I wanted a girl. I went
6 into the bathroom and was just sitting there on a stool
7 becoming more and more upset. An older girl, who was
8 a couple of years older than me, came down and by that
9 time I was crying because I was frightened of Alistair
10 and what he was going to do. She asked if I was okay
11 and if Alistair had done anything to me. I told her
12 that he hadn't that day, but he had done before. She
13 then helped me get bathed, then left.

14 'A short while later, another member of staff from
15 upstairs came into the bathroom. The other girl had
16 obviously told this member of staff what I had said, as
17 she slapped me across the face and called me a liar.
18 Nothing else was said again about this incident and
19 I never spoke to the girl about it again -- spoke again
20 to the girl about it.

21 'A long time after this, Alistair said that he was
22 going out for ice-cream and asked me if I wanted to go
23 with him and he said he would meet me outside in his
24 car. I assumed that others were going with us. It was
25 only when he pulled up in his car that I realised it was

1 just me with him. I got in the car and he didn't go the
2 way that I knew was the way to get to the shop. He
3 drove out the back gate then took me on a detour and
4 stopped the car. He took my trousers down and put his
5 tongue in my vagina. He did this for a few minutes.
6 I was terrified, shaking and was telling him that
7 I wanted to go home. He stopped, then sat up and took
8 his penis out and started masturbating. He told me to
9 do it for him but I told him I didn't want to and that
10 I wanted to go home. He carried on himself for a few
11 minutes but I don't think he finished. He then drove
12 round the corner and let me out of his car. I went back
13 home but never told anyone.

14 'The only other abuse which I suffered when I was at
15 Park Lodge was that my care wasn't appropriate as my
16 needs weren't getting addressed properly. By that,
17 I mean that I was the victim of sexual abuse and
18 I didn't get any support from anyone after the police
19 became involved.

20 'Overall, I would say that my time at Park Lodge was
21 a good experience, spoiled only by Alistair Findlay.
22 I think I was well looked after, the food was good and
23 I was comfortable. After Alistair Findlay left, my time
24 at Park Lodge was good.

25 'I never told anyone about these incidents because

1 I just couldn't understand what had happened. I didn't
2 even know that part of my body was there. I didn't know
3 what to think. I tried to ignore it and distract myself
4 by getting on with things and put it to the back of my
5 mind. I assume that [the staff member] and other staff
6 knew what was going on with Alistair, but that didn't
7 appear to be the case because no one ever talked to me
8 about it. I never told anyone about the incident in the
9 car. I was visited by the social worker but I just
10 couldn't tell them because I didn't understand what had
11 happened and didn't know how to talk about it. I never
12 talked about it to any of the other girls.

13 'About a year later, when I was still at Park Lodge,
14 I was taken to the sitting room and I was interviewed by
15 two male CID officers. None of the staff stayed with me
16 while I gave this statement. I would have been 13.
17 They wanted to speak about Alistair Findlay so I gave
18 them a statement. I didn't tell them about the other
19 incidents, just the one when I was in his car. A few
20 weeks later, I had to go to an identification parade to
21 pick out Alistair Findlay. I saw other girls from my
22 school who were there for the same reason.
23 Alistair Findlay would have got to know these girls
24 through church groups, youth clubs and homework clubs.
25 He was involved in clubs within and outwith the school.

1 The police told us we shouldn't discuss what happened to
2 us with each other.

3 'Some time later, after giving a statement to the
4 police, early one morning the matron, Elizabeth Stewart,
5 told me that I wasn't going to school that day. I would
6 have been 14 by then. She told me I was going to court
7 and she came with me. I had never seen a citation. It
8 was a terrible experience and I was terrified. I gave
9 evidence and I was made out to be a liar and wasn't to
10 be believed. At the end of the trial, later that week,
11 the verdict was announced as not proven.'

12 And this was the trial in 1984 when Alistair Findlay
13 was acquitted on all charges.

14 LADY SMITH: So this is the one you referred to first thing
15 this morning?

16 MR MACAULAY: It is:

17 'No one at Park Lodge ever talked to me again about
18 what happened. Alistair Findlay left Park Lodge at some
19 point, but I can't remember exactly when this was
20 because I wasn't in his group, but it was before the
21 trial. I was never told why he left. I heard from
22 others that the head of the social work department came
23 to Park Lodge as Alistair Findlay was being investigated
24 outwith Park Lodge and Alistair Findlay had been asked
25 to leave.

1 'In my social work file it is recorded in a letter
2 that the matron, Elizabeth Stewart, told my social
3 worker that Alistair Findlay leaving Park Lodge had
4 nothing to do with me and it was because of things that
5 happened outside the home. Elaine Johnston, my social
6 worker, told her boss and he had told her to be quiet
7 and not do anything with the information. This shows
8 that they knew what was going on and didn't do anything
9 about it.

10 'None of the staff or social workers ever gave me
11 any support after I spoke to the police or during or
12 after giving evidence at the trial. I don't think any
13 of the staff apart from Elizabeth Stewart knew what
14 Alistair Findlay had done to me. No outside
15 organisation ever spoke to me or told me what to expect
16 or what could happen at court.

17 'Me and my brother were sent back home to live with
18 mum, probably about halfway through my first year at
19 Park Lodge. I was still only 11. Social workers made
20 this decision and I can't remember if I was given any
21 choice in the matter. I remember I didn't think that it
22 would work out, but they were keen for me to try. My
23 sisters refused to go so they stayed at Park Lodge. My
24 mum lived in Drumoyne by that time and had a new
25 boyfriend. My mum mistreated me. [My brother] got all

1 the attention and I was left to do all the cooking and
2 housework and I wasn't getting fed properly. I never
3 had any visits from the social work department after
4 I went home.

5 'I was only home for a few months and I decided
6 I couldn't continue to live there. One day I just left
7 and walked back to Park Lodge. I told them about my mum
8 mistreating me and that I didn't want to stay there
9 anymore. Elizabeth Stewart, the matron, was fine and
10 she took me back in. I presume she cleared it through
11 the social work department. After that, [my brother]
12 got removed from our mum's and he came back to
13 Park Lodge. After that, my mum hated me for what I did.
14 She continued to visit but the visits went downhill.
15 She was obviously drinking more and more and only
16 visited us occasionally.

17 'When I turned 16, I did a YTS course so I was out
18 most days at college. At that age I was moved into the
19 bedroom on the half-landing where you learn a bit more
20 about independent living. I did my own washing and
21 cooking. This was all to prepare me for moving out. At
22 17 I moved to a flat in Cowcaddens with three other
23 girls. This was organised by my social worker and the
24 social work department.'

25 As I mentioned earlier, my Lady, she left on

1 [REDACTED] 1986, when she would have been 17.

2 LADY SMITH: Of course.

3 MR MACAULAY: She then talks about aspects of her life after
4 care and entering into what she describes as a bad
5 relationship with a boy, and at 61 she tells us that she
6 had a child when aged 20. She goes on to tell us about
7 becoming involved in illegal drugs and again falling
8 pregnant and having a second child.

9 And then at 62 she says:

10 'I managed to get myself off drugs and went back to
11 college and did an HNC in social care. My kids have
12 always lived with me. They have never been in care.'

13 And she talks about aspects of her health and trying
14 to get a job.

15 Then in relation to impact, at paragraph 63 she
16 says:

17 'I was grieving for my dad when I went into care.

18 Secondary Institutions - to be published later

19 Secondary In [REDACTED] I never believed for a while that my father had
20 died and I was really confused.

21 'After the last incident with Alistair Findlay
22 I started having dreams, more like horrible nightmares
23 about him.'

24 And she says that when she was in London she had
25 a breakdown and took an overdose and required to get

1 psychological help. And at 66 she says, paragraph 66:

2 'My life in care was better than my home life. It
3 was a positive experience and I made friends there.
4 I was given a good grounding and I was given a chance to
5 grow. It was a good care home and it was well run.

6 'The abuse I suffered from Alistair Findlay was
7 dreadful and traumatic for me. It felt dreadful because
8 I wasn't believed. I never had any support either. At
9 the end of the first trial I felt that it was me that
10 had done something wrong and no one ever tried to
11 convince me otherwise.'

12 And she goes on to talk about treatment that she's
13 received and then at paragraph 70 she says:

14 'In 2017, I learned from a friend about an appeal on
15 the radio looking for people who had been in Park Lodge.
16 One day I saw it on the news, an appeal for people who
17 had been in Park Lodge from 1979 to 1986 to come
18 forward. I went to the police station and
19 I subsequently spoke to a policeman. He asked if I had
20 been abused and I told him that I had, by
21 Alistair Findlay. The next day I gave a statement.
22 They knew I had previously given a statement and were
23 trying to find the transcript for the original trial.

24 'At the end of 2018 and into the beginning of March
25 2019, the case went to trial and I gave evidence by

1 videolink. I dealt with Victim Support the whole way
2 through and in the whole process I felt believed by
3 everyone. I was able to phone the police at any time if
4 I had questions. The whole experience was completely
5 different to the way it was dealt with when I was at
6 Park Lodge.'

7 And she learned that a person, a certain individual
8 who had been at Park Lodge when she was there, had
9 initiated the investigation:

10 '... and I was really thankful that he did. I was
11 there in court for the verdict and Alistair Findlay was
12 found guilty. He was sent to prison and given
13 a lifetime restriction order.'

14 And he was convicted on a charge where 'Rita'
15 was the complainer.

16 LADY SMITH: Good.

17 MR MACAULAY: Then, moving on, my Lady, to 'Lessons to be
18 Learned', she provides some information from
19 paragraph 75 onwards and what she says at that
20 paragraph:

21 'Things might have been different for me if I'd been
22 able to phone my social worker at the time when things
23 were bothering me. It would have been better than
24 having to wait until the next time she visited. I think
25 it is important for social work contact and support to

1 continue for a while after leaving care.'

2 She goes on to say:

3 'Children must be heard. When I was in care we did
4 not have a big enough voice. If things happen, children
5 need to be given time to adjust, to work things through,
6 and they must be given good support. It can be a long
7 process and they need support from start to finish.
8 This support should be given by the social work
9 department, especially if there are no parents.

10 'Children have to be able to speak to someone they
11 trust in a less structured, less formal setting.
12 Children are more likely to open up and discuss things
13 if they are more relaxed, and possibly more so if this
14 person is independent and detached from the care home.

15 'I hope that by me coming forward, this stops what's
16 happened to me happen to all other children. A place of
17 safety should be exactly that and children shouldn't be
18 further abused. It is not the child's fault that they
19 are in care and they should be given the right treatment
20 and support.'

21 LADY SMITH: The point she makes about not having the
22 ability to call a social worker herself is quite
23 interesting, because she is very fair about the social
24 work visits in paragraph 39. She said she found these
25 visits quite positive and the social workers did visit

1 and they only changed when the social worker's job
2 changed and they move on. But she couldn't really say
3 they achieved anything. And you can readily understand
4 how, if something bad happens, but if a child can't get
5 in touch with somebody who will listen sympathetically
6 at the time, time passes, the social worker, who's fine,
7 whose visits are positive, isn't there for maybe a few
8 weeks, a month, the child's not going to raise it then.

9 MR MACAULAY: No. The points are very valid.

10 LADY SMITH: It has to be two ways and the child has to have
11 some means of safe communication, safe and secure
12 communication, at the time an incident occurs.

13 MR MACAULAY: And she -- the final point she makes at 79:

14 'There has to be stricter procedures for disclosure
15 to ensure abusers can't sneak through. Part of this
16 process should include an interview rather than just
17 filling in a form with the right answer. Vetting must
18 be stricter. I learned through the criminal trial that
19 Alistair Findlay wasn't vetted properly and that he got
20 his job at Park Lodge with no qualifications and was
21 there because he was a friend of Elizabeth Stewart.'

22 And she indicates that she's currently writing
23 a book about her time in care and she ends by saying:

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

1 I believe the facts stated in this witness statement are
2 true.'

3 And your Ladyship will see that 'Rita' signed her
4 statement on 14 July 2021.

5 LADY SMITH: Thank you very much.

6 Ms MacLeod.

7 'Kim' (read in)

8 MS MACLEOD: My Lady, the next statement to be read in is
9 that of an applicart who will use the pseudonym 'Kim'.
10 The statement can be found at WIT-1-000001248.

11 Parts of 'Kim's' statement were read in to the
12 transcript during Phase 8 of the Inquiry, Phase 8,
13 Chapter 7 on 11 July 2024, which was Day 461 of
14 evidence. That related to Cardross and the transcript
15 reference is TRN-12-000000094 and 'Kim's' evidence can
16 be found at pages 145 to 158 of that transcript:

17 'My name is "Kim". I was born in 1970. I was born
18 in Glasgow. At the start, I lived with my mum and dad
19 and my older sister. My sister is three years older
20 than me.

21 'Growing up, I was going to primary school. To me,
22 everything at home was all right until my dad left, when
23 he and my mum split up. I think I was 9 or 10 when that
24 happened. I don't remember what life was like after he
25 left until my mum got a new boyfriend, and that was when

1 things started to go wrong. I didn't get on with him.
2 I would fight and argue with my sister all the time. He
3 would keep me in all the time and I was always grounded.
4 'One time he said I'd taken money out of his pocket
5 and I remember [my sister] stuck up for me. I don't
6 know how she knew I hadn't been near the cupboard that
7 morning, but she was saying I hadn't done it, to the
8 point that [she] ran out of the house. She did the
9 smart thing and went out of the house and ran round the
10 back and he ran after her, but he went to the front and
11 she was hiding round the back. The whole place was in
12 uproar. My aunties were there and everyone was so upset
13 because [my sister] hadn't been seen for two hours.
14 I don't think I was back at my mum's house after that
15 and I spent a lot of time in Govan at my sister's and at
16 my dad's. I just kept running away and going back
17 there.
18 'I remember my dad coming over on a Sunday night and
19 taking me back to my mum's. Then the two of them agreed
20 I would stay there for a week at my mum's until my dad
21 got a school sorted for me and then I would be going to
22 live with him. That week was a nightmare. I just
23 didn't get on with my mum's boyfriend at all when he was
24 living in the house. I think I was 12 when I went to
25 live with my dad.

1 'Social work became involved when I went to see them
2 myself. I'd met up with one of the girls from my mum's
3 area. We were desperate for a fag so we decided we
4 would take the 50 pences out of the gas and electric
5 meters. We managed to break into a meter and took
6 a pound out of it and that was enough for ten fags back
7 then. I didn't get caught and my dad never noticed.
8 Maybe a week later I did it again, and when he found out
9 I can remember him being angry. My dad had never laid
10 a finger on us but I can remember saying: I'm not going
11 back there.

12 'I went to the social work department in the town
13 hall and it was only a couple of minutes away from my
14 dad's. I told them I wasn't going back. One of them
15 took me back round to his house and I remember her and
16 my dad agreeing I would go into care. I kept saying
17 "I'm not staying here" because I thought he was going to
18 kill me. I was young and I didn't think and I just
19 thought I'd be there for a week, then my dad would come
20 and get me. It never happened. Basically I put myself
21 into care. I didn't know what care was. I always
22 remember the social worker's name. She worked at Govan
23 Town Hall.

24 'I remember sitting in my dad's living room with the
25 two of them and I don't remember anything else until

1 I was actually in Park Lodge. I don't remember anyone
2 taking me there. I just remember being there.

3 'I think I was 12 years old when I went into
4 Park Lodge. I felt like I was there for a lifetime but
5 I think I was just in there for a few months. Maybe
6 six months at the most.'

7 My Lady, records indicate that the applicant was
8 admitted to Park Lodge in [REDACTED] 1984 when she would
9 have been 13, coming up 14, and that she was there until
10 the end of [REDACTED] 1985, when she was 14, so around
11 four-and-a-half months.

12 LADY SMITH: Thank you.

13 MS MACLEOD: 'It was like a big house. When we came in the
14 door there was a room with a dining table and it was
15 also the living area. There was another room and when
16 I was first in there, the boys were in that room. Next
17 to that was a kitchen and then you went through a wee
18 area and it took you through to the laundry room. On
19 the other side of the living room was our bedroom. We
20 did eventually swap and I don't know the reason why.
21 Then you went through and out the back door.

22 'I remember the big stairs being in the middle and
23 as you went up on one side there was a small bedroom.
24 There was a family of three children in the home and the
25 older one had a wee cupboard that they made into a room.

1 At the top of the stairs was the office. I don't
2 remember if there was anything else, but there must have
3 been bedrooms somewhere up the stairs because there was
4 a couple of people up the stairs. I just can't picture
5 those bedrooms.

6 'My bedroom was downstairs. That was a big room
7 with three beds in it. I don't remember how many beds
8 were in the boys' room. The toilet was between my
9 bedroom and the living area.

10 'It was a home for boys and girls. I can remember
11 some of their names. There was one particular boy,
12 I don't know if he was Italian as he had sallow skin.
13 He got the same bus as us to school. I think he was
14 about my age, maybe slightly younger.

15 'There were some bedrooms up the stairs.

16 'I don't think the children spoke to each other
17 about why [we] were in the children's home.

18 'I don't remember staff. I try to picture the staff
19 and I just can't do it. I've tried so hard. Someone
20 has said I've blocked the memories for a reason. There
21 was an office up the stairs. Now that I'm older and I
22 realise more about mental health, there was another boy
23 and he had really bad mental health and they paid more
24 attention to him. He was always in the office with
25 them.

1 'I remember one lady but not what she looks like.
2 I remember her being really nice. She must have lived
3 near Park Lodge. I remember asking her when she was
4 next on night shift, because nothing bad ever happened
5 when she was there. She'd tell me what nights she was
6 on. I remember leaving the home when I shouldn't have
7 been out at the time of night, and going along the way
8 to meet her. That's how I [know] she lived quite
9 nearby.

10 'The staff weren't very nice. I remember coming
11 down the stairs and somebody had hold of my hair. That
12 was quite early on. From the start, I was off. I woke
13 up just once feeling happy in there and it was because
14 my mum had come to see me. I remember being happy that
15 day. If my mum hadn't been coming that day, I would
16 have been miserable and I would have been away.

17 'I can still smell Park Lodge.

18 'I don't remember getting woken up in the mornings,
19 if we woke up ourselves or if they woke us up to go to
20 school. I don't remember what happened in the evenings
21 and how we got to bed. A lot of the time I wasn't
22 there.

23 'I remember sitting at the dining table when I first
24 went in and I had soup. I have no memory of sitting at
25 that dining table in Park Lodge again.

1 'Toilet doors were never locked. The locks were
2 always broken on them.

3 'I don't remember having clothes in Park Lodge or
4 where I would have kept them in my bedroom.

5 'I remember going to the bus stop to go to school.
6 I was at Govan High School. Most of the time I went to
7 the bus stop, and when they got off the school bus I got
8 off and went to meet my friends. I wasn't attending
9 school much.

10 'I'm assuming it was on a Saturday we used to get
11 money, it was something like £1.50, and I remember
12 walking towards Shawlands. Every time I got the £1.50
13 I used to buy a sandwich and a pack of crisps and
14 a carton of juice and that was my dinner. That was
15 every week.

16 'I never saw toys or books or comics for kids.
17 These things could have been there and I just don't
18 remember.

19 'I don't ever remember seeing a social worker in the
20 home. I must have had one but I don't remember. The
21 first social worker I had when I left my dad's was
22 called -- [I remember her name but] I don't remember
23 seeing her after that.

24 'My mum came up once. My dad didn't come and he was
25 probably still angry at me. My sister didn't come to

1 see me at Park Lodge. I didn't get any home leave from
2 Park Lodge.

3 'I only remember one person in Park Lodge getting
4 home leave. She was a girl I shared a room with. Her
5 dad used to come and see her and I remember her going to
6 stay with him. I didn't see anyone else's family
7 members coming into the home.

8 'I remember running away a lot. I went to places
9 like Govan Underground most nights. There were bushes
10 and I could hide from people passing by. My dad lived
11 in Govan and his close had two wee sets of stairs going
12 towards the back door and I slept there a lot. I knew
13 if anything happened I could scream and my dad would be
14 there. I knew I'd be safe there. I never chapped his
15 door when I was there.

16 'I think he saw me a few times. I'm not sure if
17 I was running away from Park Lodge or if it happened
18 later. I knew a lot of people in the area and I'd stay
19 at their house, and he'd see me a few times and pointed
20 at me and I'd run, because I'd get taken back to a place
21 I didn't want to be.

22 'I didn't run away with anyone from Park Lodge.
23 Sometimes as soon as I was taken back to the home
24 I would be off again the same day. It was almost daily.
25 When I was caught by the police they would take me back.

1 Sometimes they put me in a cell at the police station
2 until social work or whoever could come to collect me.
3 It wasn't always the police who took me back. I wasn't
4 in the police station overnight. I was happy enough in
5 the cell because it meant I wasn't on the street and
6 I wasn't in a place where people did bad things to me.

7 'When I got taken back to Park Lodge I don't
8 remember what happened to me. I assume I just left out
9 another door. I don't recall any punishment for running
10 away.

11 'One night I was in Shawlands, I must have been
12 going back to the home or I'd just been walking around.
13 I remember it was really dark and the buses had stopped.
14 I remember a man pulled me into a close and there were
15 two wee sets of stairs for the bins. I remember him
16 pinning me down there, but somebody came out of their
17 flat and that's when I ran, and I ran right to the place
18 that I was in danger from. I ran back to them.

19 'They got the police out, which I was surprised at.
20 The police took me back to show them what close it was.
21 They chapped on the doors and it was a lady at the top
22 that said she'd heard a noise and went out to check.
23 She probably saved my life. I just remember the staff
24 at Park Lodge saying, "Don't worry, they'll get you next
25 time". It was a lady that said that.

1 'I remember going right back out the door when the
2 police left and I took myself back out of the building.

3 'When I was running away from Park Lodge nobody
4 asked me why I was running away. I was classed as a bad
5 child and a bad runaway. In the end I got sent to
6 Cardross to get assessed. I wasn't a bad child and
7 I was running away because of the things that happened.

8 'I can't remember anything about the general
9 discipline used in the home. I used to hear people
10 crying at nighttime and as I got older I wondered what
11 was happening to them. They could have been upset that
12 they were away from their family.

13 'I remember having one bath the whole time I was
14 there. Somebody came into the room and I remember
15 I asked them to get out. I don't know if it was a staff
16 member or if it was a resident. I'm 98 per cent sure it
17 was a staff member. They didn't hold me under the
18 water, but they pushed my head under the water. I never
19 took another bath. I think the person that did that was
20 female but I'm not 100 per cent sure. It happened quite
21 early on in my time there.

22 'I remember I was getting pulled down the stairs by
23 my hair. That was by staff. That was definitely by
24 a female. I don't know what led up to that happening.
25 I probably ran away after it, but I don't remember.

1 I don't remember getting up from the stairs and what
2 happened after it.

3 'I remember one night being thrown into the wee
4 laundry room. It had the big dryers that you see in
5 hospitals. I can see myself dancing about in the room.
6 The next thing I was picked up and put inside one of the
7 dryers. It was switched on for a couple of seconds, but
8 it felt like a long time. The dryer stopped. I pushed
9 the dryer door open and as I got out, the light in the
10 room went out as whoever did it left the room.

11 I remember just standing in the laundry room staring at
12 the door, shaking and crying. I don't know where I went
13 after that. I did get out of the room and probably
14 straight out the front door.

15 'There were some boys at Park Lodge. One boy
16 I remember, now I know more about mental health, he had
17 something wrong with him. He was quite angry a lot of
18 the time. A lot of people, me included, wouldn't go
19 into the living room if he was sat in there. It was
20 always what he wanted on the TV. I can't see him
21 putting me into the dryer. I don't think he could have
22 done. I didn't see who it was. They came from behind
23 me. There was two people when I went into the dryer
24 that night. I don't think two children could have
25 lifted another child and put them in. That's why

1 I think it was staff who did it.

2 'I was considered to be a bad child and a runaway.
3 I don't know how I got to Cardross. It was
4 an assessment centre. I don't remember actually leaving
5 Park Lodge. I don't remember going to any
6 Children's Panel before I went into Cardross.'

7 Between paragraphs 48 and 82, the witness speaks
8 about her time at Cardross and that's previously been
9 looked at by the Inquiry.

10 Between paragraphs 83 and 108, the witness speaks
11 about her time at Dr Guthrie's List D school in
12 Edinburgh.

13 Between paragraphs 109 and 124, the witness speaks
14 about her time at Snowdon in Stirling.

15 Between paragraph 125 and 135 the witness speaks
16 about her time at Alva Children's Home in Pollok in
17 Glasgow.

18 And from paragraph 136, the witness speaks about her
19 life after care.

20 And I'll move to paragraph 139 where she provides
21 some information about the impact her time in care has
22 had on her. At 139, the witness says:

23 'It's affected my relationships with my family.
24 I pushed my sister away and I try not to be like that.
25 I lost contact with family members because I was so

1 volatile, and my relationship with my sister has only
2 been rebuilt [in more recent times].

3 'My behaviour and the path I took in life, I blame
4 on what happened to me as a kid. I just always went
5 down the wrong road. My sister went one way and I went
6 miles in the other direction. I try to be a good person
7 but I just can't be with other people. I feel that it
8 all stems from what happened to me. I'd mentioned it to
9 my ex-partner and my kids know something [about it,
10 what] happened to me, but not the details.'

11 At paragraph 142 the witness says:

12 'I've been diagnosed by my GP with anxiety and
13 depression for years now.'

14 At paragraph 143 she says:

15 'Every relationship I had with partners was always
16 bad. Sometimes when I look back and I wonder if
17 I thought at the time that was all I deserved. I can't
18 explain how I went for the bad ones and stayed with the
19 bad ones.'

20 At paragraph 145 the witness says:

21 'When I had to fill in a form I get very agitated
22 and I didn't know how to do it because [my sister] had
23 always filled in forms for me. I get very agitated over
24 emails as I'm not great with links and someone has to
25 email me first before I can contact them. It could be

1 that I'm just daft or it could be that I wasn't taught
2 in these places I was in. I just don't have
3 an education.'

4 At paragraph 148 the witness says:

5 'I feel anger that someone could treat me the way
6 they did when I was in care. As the years pass I feel
7 angry that nobody's going to be brought to justice.
8 I can't remember what they looked like so nobody's going
9 to pay for it. The anger gets to the point I hardly
10 even speak to anybody. I feel like it's ruined my life
11 more now than it did back then. I've just been so angry
12 at the whole world.

13 'I've not made any formal report of abuse to the
14 police since leaving care.

15 'My sister told me she had contacted the Inquiry on
16 my behalf. I was worried about making a report because
17 I was embarrassed to talk about things I'd kept hidden
18 for 40 years, and now I feel I'm just telling one or two
19 people. I feel ashamed of what happened to me and where
20 it happened. I've always assumed nobody would believe
21 me anyway.

22 'I've not seen my records from my time in care.'

23 In the final section the witness speaks about
24 'Lessons to be Learned' and 'Hopes for the Inquiry' and
25 I'll read that from paragraph 152:

1 'Just about everything about my time in care needs
2 to change. I don't know what the care system is like
3 now. People should be checked before they [get] to work
4 in these places. I have to be checked for my job in
5 a hospital.

6 'Who would you go to talk to at that age when you're
7 12 or 13 years old in a home in a strange part of your
8 city? Plus, I was in a strange area in Park Lodge and
9 I didn't know the area or anybody there. My way of
10 dealing with things was just to run away all the time.
11 Even when I was brought back I knew I could just run
12 away again. The staff should be talking to someone who
13 is running away that much. Nobody talked to me until it
14 was somebody at Dr Guthrie's who asked me why I was
15 running away.

16 'I don't remember seeing a social worker through all
17 my time in Park Lodge and I don't remember seeing anyone
18 in my time in Cardross. I can't think of any social
19 worker in Dr Guthrie's. I don't know if social workers
20 have been there and I don't remember but people's social
21 workers need to come to see them.

22 'I'd like somebody to pay for what they've done to
23 me, but it happened a long time ago and it's probably
24 not going to happen. That's now what makes me angry.
25 I'm not so much upset any more, I'm angry. I'm angry

1 that I didn't talk up at the time.

2 'I hope that I'll feel better for having given this
3 statement to the Inquiry and it's time for me to have
4 the life I should have had 40 years ago. It might not
5 help, but I'm hoping so. I hope I might be able to get
6 some counselling now. I don't think it's going to help
7 anyone else now giving my statement because it was
8 a long time ago and these people might not even be alive
9 now.

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

14 'Kim' signed her statement on 15 May 2023.

15 LADY SMITH: Thank you.

16 'Torrance' (read in)

17 MR MACAULAY: Now, my Lady, this is another read-in from
18 an applicant who wants to remain anonymous and to use
19 the pseudonym 'Torrance' in his evidence, and his
20 statement can be found at WIT-1-000000828.

21 Now, 'Torrance' was read in for Chapter 8 in Phase 8
22 on 15 August 2024 and that was Day 469 of the Inquiry
23 and his evidence can be found at TRN-12-0000006102
24 (sic), pages 71 to 84.

25 LADY SMITH: Thank you.

1 MR MACAULAY: And indeed significant sections of his
2 statement were read in, particularly in connection with
3 St Philip's, where he had been a resident.

4 LADY SMITH: Yes, that was where he was finally in care, I
5 think.

6 MR MACAULAY: That was his last care accommodation.

7 So starting with his age. He was born in 1979 and
8 in paragraphs 1 to 6 have been read in almost verbatim
9 previously. What he says at the end of paragraph 2 is
10 that:

11 'I don't have any unhappy memories from my early
12 childhood.'

13 At paragraph 7 he talks about his time at Alva
14 Children's Home when he was very young and then he moves
15 on to talk about Park Lodge.

16 He was admitted to Park Lodge, according to the
17 records, on [REDACTED] 1989, when he would be aged 10
18 and he left Park Lodge on [REDACTED] 1993, when he was 14.

19 He describes the premises in a way that's already
20 been described, Victorian sandstone building and it was
21 like a mansion. At paragraph 9, he says:

22 'I don't remember any staff structure and can't say
23 who was in charge.'

24 He does provide some information about there being
25 a staff member, and, for example, he mentions the cook

1 and he describes another staff member.

2 At 10, he says:

3 'I'm not sure what organisation ran Park Lodge but
4 it may have been Glasgow City Council.'

5 And he thought he might have been 6 or 7 when he
6 went there, but he's not sure and, as I've said,
7 according to the records he was 10. He ends that
8 paragraph by saying:

9 'The age range of the children was roughly from 7 up
10 to 11.

11 'I don't remember the day I was taken there. I had
12 a room to myself and I don't think anyone ever shared it
13 with me. We were supposed to make our own bed, but
14 I got into trouble with the staff quite a lot for not
15 doing it.'

16 Then he talks about mealtimes and he ends up by
17 saying:

18 'I don't remember where we ate our meals and can't
19 even say what the food was like.'

20 He then describes aspects of the routine, including
21 related to washing, bathing and leisure and at 16 he
22 says:

23 'When we weren't doing the occasional activity in
24 the evening I spent most of my time in my bedroom.
25 I would usually be playing with my computer. I didn't

1 sit watching television and didn't really socialise with
2 other children.'

3 He mentions trips and holidays and in relation to
4 schooling he said he went to Merrylee Primary School:

5 'I used to walk to primary school. At some point
6 I moved to Bellarmine Secondary School. All I remember
7 about that was that when everyone else went to their
8 classes, I went to a remedial centre. It was just me
9 and the teacher. I got quite a hard time from all the
10 other children because I was in this class.'

11 He talks about healthcare in the next couple of
12 paragraphs and then at paragraph 21, he says:

13 'The only chore I remember doing was washing the
14 minibus. We might have got money for it. I had posters
15 on the wall in my bedroom and had my own computer
16 games.'

17 Birthdays and Christmases, he talks about that:

18 'I'm not sure if Christmases were celebrated because
19 I don't remember there being decorations or a Christmas
20 tree in the house. It could be I didn't spend
21 a Christmas there and may have been on the run. I got
22 a present for my birthday. I remember one year we went
23 to the shops in Shawlands and I bought my first ever
24 record from Woolworths. I am not sure if this was for
25 my Christmas or for my birthday.

1 'My mum visited me two or three times when I was at
2 Park Lodge and I think that was in my early days there.
3 My sister may have come once, but I don't remember any
4 of my other brothers or sisters visiting. I don't
5 remember any social workers visiting me here or at any
6 other place that I was in care. My dad died when I was
7 in Park Lodge. Staff came and told me when I was in my
8 room. I don't think I accepted it very well.

9 'Margaret Gray, the social worker, visited me. The
10 previous social worker before her brought in chocolate
11 bars for us. When we told Margaret Gray this, she
12 aggressively said she wouldn't be bringing us chocolate
13 and instead would bring us an apple.

14 'I was never told what was happening or how long
15 I was going to be at Park Lodge. I was still going to
16 children's hearings. The hearings were always very
17 one-sided and I don't think there was anything I could
18 have said that would have changed anything. I am sure
19 there were some hearings held and I wasn't even present.
20 My mum and my social worker were usually with me when
21 I went to hearings. I am not sure how frequent the
22 hearings were, but they seemed to be quite regular.

23 'My brother was at Park Lodge when I was there.
24 I can't remember if he was already there when I was put
25 there. We got on as brothers do and we probably fought

1 quite a lot.

2 'I hated Park Lodge and I didn't want to stay there.
3 I didn't like being bullied, sat on, stamped and
4 restrained. I ran away a lot. I ran away when I was
5 missing my mum. I was also running away from the abuse.
6 I used to go home and, as soon as I got there, I was
7 returned straightaway. The police usually caught me and
8 they took me to the police station to wait for the
9 standby team who were social workers and they took me
10 back. The staff at Park Lodge were never happy with me
11 when I was returned. I probably ran away about twice
12 every week. It started off more often, but as I settled
13 it got less.

14 'There was one time I ran away and I was away for
15 about a week. There was an article in the newspaper for
16 people to look out for me as they were concerned for me.
17 Part of that week I stayed at a campsite with people who
18 were protesting about building a motorway near Pollok
19 House. Some of the time I spent in the cellar in the
20 block of flats where my mum stayed. I changed the locks
21 so that it locked from the inside. I often saw the
22 police going up to my mum's to look for me. I don't
23 think it was very healthy in there.

24 'One time when I had run away, I slept outdoors and
25 it was January or February. I ended up with pneumonia

1 and I thought I was going to die. I ended up in
2 hospital, but can't remember who took me or how I got
3 there.

4 'There was one time when everyone else, apart from
5 me, absconded. The staff weren't there and I don't know
6 where they were. The other kids broke into a room where
7 the safe was kept and took all the money from the safe,
8 walked out and went to Ayr. The cook was still there
9 and he told me he would cook something for me, anything
10 that I wanted. I can't remember what I had to eat.
11 Over the next couple of days the kids came back in dribs
12 and drabs and filtered back in. I think all that
13 happened to them was that staff gave them a row. I have
14 no idea how old I was when this happened.

15 'If you needed staff for any reason they were never
16 there for us. You had to find them and they were always
17 in the locked office. You had to knock on the door and
18 the conversation you had with them was through the door.
19 There was no supervision. All the staff were bullies.
20 They always told us that if they asked us to do
21 something we would do it. **GLK** was the
22 only one in there who was remotely friendly, but not all
23 the time. If I ever wanted anything I would always wait
24 and ask her. She was a care worker, but later on may
25 have become a manager.

1 'One time my brother and I were in a member of
2 staff's car. She was the manager at Park Lodge but
3 I can't remember name. GLK [REDACTED], another
4 member of staff, was in the front passenger seat and we
5 were in the back. I must have been doing what annoying
6 children do and kept asking if we were there yet. All
7 of a sudden, she slammed on the car brakes and stopped.
8 We were on a dual carriageway and she yelled at me "Get
9 fucking out the car". She shouted it several times at
10 me. GLK [REDACTED] tried to tell her that she
11 couldn't do that, but she was told that she could get
12 out too if she wanted. [My brother] and I had to get
13 out of the car and we walked all the way back to
14 Newlands. It was quite a distance. I may have been 12
15 or 13 when this happened. I know now that this was
16 Hillington Industrial Estate.

17 'When we went to Great Yarmouth on holiday, we
18 stayed in a caravan. One time I was in the caravan with
19 a member of staff from Park Lodge. She was getting
20 changed. I think she may have been wearing a bra on her
21 top half or her boobs were out. She may have told me to
22 turn my head away or to not look. All of a sudden,
23 there were people looking in through the window and they
24 were cheering, presumably at her state of undress.
25 I turned round and got into trouble for looking at her.

1 She skelped me across the back of the head.

2 'Under the stairs in Park Lodge was a cupboard. It
3 was a cubbyhole used by the cleaners to store stuff.
4 I used to get pushed in there and the door was locked.
5 This happened to me several times. Sometimes I wandered
6 in there or I was tricked to go in and someone would
7 shut and lock the door so I don't know who it was.
8 Other times I would just get pushed and locked in. I am
9 not sure who did this to me, whether it was staff or
10 other children. I think I was in there 20 minutes some
11 times.

12 'One Christmas or birthday I was given a gift of
13 an electronic personal organiser. I got it wet so
14 I thought it would be a good idea to take it apart but
15 when I opened it all the buttons fell out and went all
16 over the place. When the staff saw it, they called me
17 "fucking worthless, useless bastard". Then "fucking
18 waste of space". This really crushed me. I can't
19 remember which staff said this.

20 'There was one time in the kitchen when one of the
21 other boys threw a lump of ice and it hit me. It nearly
22 dislocated my shoulder. Another time my brother threw
23 a butter knife and it hit me in the chest. I have
24 a scar there. These are just examples of how poor the
25 control and supervision was at Park Lodge. There was

1 never an adult there to stop things like that happening.

2 'They restrained you at Park Lodge, even if you
3 hadn't done anything. I regularly got restrained. If
4 you disagreed with a staff member, didn't make your bed
5 or weren't getting ready fast enough, they did it.
6 Almost all of the staff did this, certainly most of the
7 guys did it.'

8 And he mentions a particularly big guy who did this:

9 'They put me on the floor and held me there to break
10 my temper, but it wasn't in a reasonable way. I was
11 pinned to the floor and they would sit on top of me.
12 They always twisted my fingers or pushed my arms up my
13 back. I have a lump on the palm of my hand which I have
14 had since Park Lodge and I think it's from being
15 restrained. Everybody in Park Lodge got restrained.
16 I saw it happening.

17 'When I was restrained my face was red and I was
18 often in tears and just felt completely broken. They
19 broke my spirit. There were usually three people lying
20 on me and it only ended when I stopped struggling and
21 calmed down. It felt like it happened nearly every day.
22 Even when I was returned by the social workers after
23 I had run away they would restrain me. There was one
24 member of staff who restrained me inappropriately. He
25 had me pinned on the floor and would be stroking my

1 head. I am not sure if he thought this would calm me
2 down, but it made me even more angry.

3 'There was bullying between the children. Staff
4 were never there to stop things happening. The whole
5 time I was at Park Lodge was terrifying for me. The
6 place was daunting and it was scary. I don't remember
7 ever feeling wanted or supported at any time. I think
8 the staff probably didn't want me to be there as much as
9 I didn't. I hated it.

10 'One time I was accused of killing the next door
11 neighbour's cat by putting it in the tumble dryer.
12 I didn't do anything to the cat. The staff and everyone
13 else in the home blamed me, but I didn't know anything
14 about it and I don't even remember seeing a cat. That
15 stuck with me for a long time.

16 'The incidents of abuse I have described are just
17 the tip of the iceberg of the examples of the way that
18 Park Lodge was run. It really broke my spirit and my
19 soul. There was never anything positive that came from
20 the staff, nothing that would be considered to be normal
21 human interaction. There was no proper structure or
22 discipline and the staff didn't control any situation
23 when it developed. All they knew was to do restrain
24 people.

25 'One time I was at Shawlands arcade when the police

1 spoke to me. For some reason he had a D lock for
2 a bicycle and the policeman rammed it into my side.
3 I was winded. Another time when I was there,
4 a policeman threw a police baton at me and it hit me on
5 the leg. Another time when I was on the run, an older
6 policeman caught me. He slapped me across the face with
7 black leather gloves. I think he was trying to teach me
8 a lesson.

9 'When the police caught me when I had run away, they
10 never asked me why I was running away. They didn't
11 care. I never told anyone else.

12 'I don't remember any lead up to me leaving
13 Park Lodge or any transition between Park Lodge and St
14 Philip's School or Johnston Resource Centre. No one sat
15 down with me and explained what was happening. I think
16 I was just taken straight from Park Lodge to
17 Johnston Resource Centre. My feelings now are that
18 Park Lodge couldn't cope with me any longer because
19 I was disruptive. [My brother] didn't come with me. He
20 went to Ballikinrain. I'm not sure why we were
21 separated and no one ever told me why.'

22 And he left, as I mentioned earlier, my Lady, on [REDACTED]
23 [REDACTED] 1993 when he was aged 14.

24 He then goes on to talk about his time in Johnston
25 Resource Centre and St Philip's. And if I could perhaps

1 move on to paragraph 78, where he talks about his life
2 after care. And he left care, we mentioned this date,
3 on [REDACTED] 1995, so he would have been 16 then, that's
4 when he left St Philip's and he talks about his life
5 after care:

6 'When I left care, I felt that I wasn't prepared for
7 life. As a result, I became involved in a number of
8 support groups for children leaving care.'

9 And he mentions some aspects of that.

10 Paragraphs 81 to 86 have already been read in
11 verbatim. And if I can move on to paragraph 87, where
12 he talks again about Park Lodge. He says:

13 'In Park Lodge, one of the members of staff listened
14 to Scottish music all the time. When I hear any
15 Scottish music now it takes me back to my time at
16 Park Lodge and my horrific time there. I hate it and
17 can't tolerate it. I have to switch the music off or
18 move to where I can't hear it. I relive moments of my
19 time in care every day. I thought about it yesterday
20 and it will be there again tomorrow and the day after.'

21 Then he talks about how he started drinking heavily
22 and had difficulty in keeping a job and being in prison
23 on a number of occasions.

24 Paragraphs 91 through to 95 have been mostly read in
25 verbatim and if I could perhaps go up to paragraph 101,

1 where he mentions a song or songs that the staff at
2 Park Lodge used to regularly walk about singing and
3 chanting and I'll just read out the first song:

4 'They say in Park Lodge the staff are mighty fine
5 'They lock you up in cupboards and have a randy time
6 'Gee boy, I wanna go home but the staff won't let me
7 'Gee boy, I wanna go home
8 'You ask for 20 Regal and they give you ten Woodbine
9 'You ask for a bottle of vodka and they give you
10 turpentine.'

11 It seems to rhyme a bit and he mentioned another
12 song at paragraph 102 and he tells us at 103 there are
13 more verses, but that's just an example what went on
14 there and he says:

15 'The staff and all the children were encouraged to
16 learn it and sing along. This shows the mentality and
17 lack of mentoring and leadership shown by the staff at
18 Park Lodge. Both these songs are inappropriate.'

19 LADY SMITH: That's an understatement.

20 MR MACAULAY: Indeed. He goes on to say:

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

25 And 'Torrance' has signed this statement on

1 15 October 2021.

2 LADY SMITH: Thank you.

3 Is the time between now and 1 o'clock going to be
4 enough for this read-in?

5 MS MACLEOD: I think it is, my Lady.

6 LADY SMITH: Right, thank you. Let's go for it then.

7 'Raymond' (read in)

8 MS MACLEOD: This is a statement of an applicant who will
9 use the pseudonym 'Raymond'. The statement can found at
10 WIT-1-000000754. Parts of this statement were read in
11 already during the Phase 8 of the Inquiry's hearings and
12 Chapter 5 thereof on 30 April 2024, that was Day 441 of
13 evidence. The transcript reference is TRN-12-000000074
14 at pages 36 to 56 and that related to 'Raymond's' time
15 in Ballikinrain and Geilsland, which was part of that
16 case study looking at the care provided by CrossReach:

17 'My name is "Raymond". I was born in 1979. My
18 contact details are known to the Inquiry.

19 'Before I went into care I lived in Glasgow with my
20 family, my mum and dad and I have six siblings.

21 'From a very young age I was aware of my family
22 being outsiders in the neighbourhood and it wasn't
23 a good environment for us to grow up in. As a wee boy
24 I can remember lit fireworks being posted through our
25 door. We'd go outside to play and bigger boys would

1 grab me and rip my trousers off me. There was generally
2 bullying behaviour towards us. From what my sisters
3 have told me it was a neighbourhood problem and not just
4 a few individuals. I can remember there being lots of
5 people standing outside the property and shouting about
6 us. I feel my younger life was quite traumatic and I'm
7 aware that my mum was drinking a lot of alcohol as a way
8 of coping with the environment she was in.

9 'My dad had been in the army and then became unwell
10 and was unable to work. He spent time in hospital with
11 mental health issues. My mum worked in Glasgow in
12 an art gallery. It meant us children were often indoors
13 in the house with my dad being unwell and my mum would
14 be out at work while there was antisocial behaviour
15 going on outside. [There] was a lot to deal with and
16 the things we were seeing and hearing had an impact on
17 our behaviour. I can remember seeing my mum crying and
18 drinking. I think we went into care because the things
19 that were happening to us were too hard for her to deal
20 with. I can remember I was going to primary school and
21 I wasn't going very often and I was falling behind.

22 'There were Children's Panels held about us and
23 I can remember some of them. There was talk of lack of
24 parental control over the weans. I think that the way
25 that people in the neighbourhood behaved to us meant

1 that it was very hard for my mum to cope. I can
2 remember some stuff but no detail as I was so young at
3 the time. I can remember walking down the street with
4 my mum and people were saying things to her. I can
5 remember my dad running out of the house because of the
6 behaviour of other men, but I can't recall detail.
7 I believe people in the neighbourhood did abusive things
8 to one of my sisters and other weans. There were gangs
9 too.

10 'There were children's meetings and I sat in on
11 some. I can recall the focus was on the parents and not
12 on us. That suggests to me that my mum was finding it
13 hard to deal with her life and the things that people
14 around her were doing. I can recall at some stage we
15 moved from one address to another. I believe I was aged
16 8 when I was put into residential care as I can picture
17 a birthday cake with 9 on it and I was in a children's
18 home.

19 'I was placed in Park Lodge with my twin brother and
20 we had a social worker called Margaret Gray.'

21 Records indicate that the witness was in Park Lodge
22 from [REDACTED] 1989, when he was aged 10, to [REDACTED]
23 1992, when he was aged 13, so around three years in
24 total.

25 LADY SMITH: Thank you.

1 MS MACLEOD: 'We were placed in Park Lodge and I think it
2 was a local authority home or may have been run by the
3 Church of Scotland. Once me and my brother went into
4 care I was in a different world from where I had come
5 from and I had no idea what was happening with my
6 siblings.

7 'Children came in and went away from the home and
8 I would estimate that there were ten children at the one
9 time. Me and [my brother] were split up and put into
10 the different bedrooms. They didn't have a room
11 available for two people. I think in the time we were
12 there we moved rooms a couple of times. I shared with
13 other boys and there [was] a lot of other children.
14 I remember there were another three sets of siblings.
15 I think there were three or four rooms up the stairs and
16 three or four rooms downstairs. I always shared with
17 other people.

18 'Me and [my brother] were the youngest or almost the
19 youngest and we did our own thing. The staff wore their
20 own clothes and not a uniform. There was a number of
21 older children too and they were doing more adult
22 orientated things. We younger ones shouldn't have known
23 about these things. There was a staff member called
24 GIV who was a bully, both physically and mentally to
25 the children and to me in particular. As a wee boy I

1 went swimming at the pool at Silverburn one night at
2 9.00 pm. It was an organised activity. There was
3 a minor disagreement in the car between me and GIV .
4 On the way home he put me out of the car and made me
5 walk in the dark to Newlands. This was a long, dark
6 country road with no houses. I didn't know where I was.
7 It was dark night and I just started walking and it was
8 a scary environment for me. I managed to walk back to
9 Park Lodge and the home in darkness. GIV wasn't
10 even on duty any more and the night staff were in
11 charge. The door was locked. No one was walking about.
12 I can't remember how I got into the building. The staff
13 didn't even know I was gone and weren't looking for me.

14 'The staff were okay but they were not really in
15 control of things or dealt with it in a way they should
16 have. I liked my key worker, who was called Norman, and
17 he was interested in me. I can remember thinking at the
18 time that I felt I could speak to him and we had a good
19 relationship. He would take me out for haircuts and to
20 buy new clothes. He was a good key worker. There was
21 a woman on staff called Edna who would put me down and
22 look down on me. I remember she told me I was
23 disgusting for having mud on my trousers. I remember
24 there was a manager or as assistant manager who came in
25 to see us sometimes and she appeared to be strict and I

1 didn't think she was very nice. The staff underneath
2 her were people you could talk to. I thought that there
3 were enough staff members for the number of weans in the
4 home.

5 'I don't remember what time we got up in the
6 morning. The bedtime was probably at a set time.
7 A member of the night staff would come in and the lights
8 on the landings outside the bedrooms went out. I don't
9 think there was much time difference between the
10 children and their bedtimes, if any. There was a man
11 who came to do night shift and I think he had an office.

12 'I didn't get to see him very often but on the
13 occasions when I was up in the night the landing would
14 be empty. I would see other children going from one
15 room to another. There was just the one staff member at
16 night, but children were still moving between rooms and
17 I can imagine him in the office drinking tea and
18 watching telly [and] not checking on the children. They
19 would do what they wanted to when he was away.

20 'In the morning we'd get a wash and shower in the
21 morning. I can't remember if the showers were
22 individual.

23 'I remember on the first day in the home I didn't
24 know where the bread and butter was when I wanted to eat
25 a piece. A male staff member was telling me I was a

1 daftie when I didn't know where they were, even though
2 I'd just come into the home. I remember big breakfasts
3 of sausage and eggs. I got up to look and was impressed
4 by the breakfast and I thought it was good. I got told
5 off for it and told to sit on my arse and just eat my
6 breakfast. I can remember we had to set the tables for
7 meals in the big dining room and put plates out. The
8 food for dinner was set out in the middle of the tables
9 and we could help ourselves. We could sit anywhere we
10 wanted. The food was good and there was a variety
11 available and we were encouraged to eat healthily. The
12 chef was called Tommy or Tam and we got to know him and
13 we could talk to him about the meals. He always had
14 a story for us and he'd have something good to say.

15 'There was a school uniform that was always clean
16 and with regards to clothes the staff took us to buy new
17 clothes and shoes and to get a haircut.

18 'I went to primary school with my brother and we
19 walked from Park Lodge to the school. At the time
20 I felt different when we were in school as I was now in
21 care. They put me and [my brother] in different
22 classes. I felt very different to the others and got
23 into fights. Before I went into the home there was
24 a lot of disruption and I'd missed a lot of school.
25 I was behind with learning when I first started at

1 [primary] and had to do some catching up.

2 'I went on trips with the children's home and we
3 went on holiday to do camping and canoeing. When we
4 were in the home, staff took us to the park and took us
5 swimming. They had a minibus. The staff took us away.
6 I can't remember their names, but I think there was
7 a very short woman who was called Margaret and she would
8 always talk to us. There was also a big guy, I don't
9 remember his name, who was nice and good at offering
10 guidance and had something to say to me. Another boy
11 told me the big guy was gay and I think the boy just
12 made it up because he was being told off for doing
13 something he shouldn't have. There was an incident
14 where the staff member sat on me, not to restrain me,
15 and stroked my hair and was behaving in a camp manner.
16 I remember I felt uncomfortable.

17 'With regards to any chores or work I think we were
18 expected to do the dishes maybe or make our own beds and
19 put our clothes away. My space was always tidy and
20 I would put things away.

21 'I had personal possessions that I could keep in my
22 room, but some things got stolen or thrown out by older
23 children. Staff knew that sort of thing happened and
24 would not do anything or show any sympathy.

25 'With regard to religion, we didn't have to go to

1 church and we didn't have to say prayers before meals.

2 We were not told anything about church.

3 'With regard to healthcare, the staff would take me
4 to the dentist or doctor if required. I think they were
5 on top of healthcare issues. I never had any health
6 issues that required hospital treatment.

7 'My mum came for two or three visits. One visit was
8 for a short time and she brought me a bag of sweets.
9 The second visit was to tell me that my dad had passed
10 away. Nobody spoke to me about it after she left. One
11 time she came with one of my sisters and another time
12 with two sisters. I didn't get contact with any of my
13 siblings otherwise. I saw my social worker who
14 continued to be Margaret Gray. She was also [my
15 brother's] social worker. I remember many years later
16 when I was 17 and I had a job in a shop she came in to
17 buy something and recognised me.

18 'I can remember having a birthday cake when I was 9
19 and when I was 11 at Park Lodge. The staff gave
20 presents to the children at Christmas as well.

21 I believe the staff got an allowance for each wean to
22 buy presents. I got to keep my presents. There were
23 decorations up for Christmas too and we could help put
24 them up.

25 'I can remember there were plastic sheets on the

1 beds on top of mattresses. I can't remember bed-wetting
2 myself. I wasn't aware of anyone else wetting the bed.
3 I didn't think about running away from the home.
4 I'd come in from a [bit of a] bad situation with my
5 family and [I] didn't think about running away.

6 'With regards to discipline, I don't feel that this
7 was done in an appropriate way. If a child persisted
8 they would have had a treat or pocket money withdrawn.
9 Looking back I think the staff should have had some
10 training on how to manage relationships between the
11 children. Minor physical punishment was common such as
12 a clip round the ear and pushing and shoving. There was
13 verbal abuse and I was told I was stupid and dirty.
14 There was physical restraints used and the staff sat on
15 you. I was picked up by a staff member by one arm and
16 dropped. That was a common thing. The staff member
17 called GIV was very forceful.

18 'I was aged 10 or 11 and the older children were 12
19 and 13 and were involved in more adult things. One of
20 the older children would be going into another person's
21 bedroom. Somehow that was common knowledge in the unit
22 and I heard it from being talked about. An older boy
23 came into my room who was about two years older than me
24 and was asking me to touch him and touch me back and do
25 other things for his own self-gratification. I was too

1 young to be aroused. He got frustrated and took me into
2 the other bedroom where there were other boys and girls.

3 'There was sexual stuff going on in the bedroom
4 between the older boy and one of the girls. The boy
5 touched the girl in a sexual way and she touched him.
6 He thought he needed to demonstrate something to me.
7 From what I knew it was an ongoing thing and consensual,
8 but I was worried about the girl. There were other boys
9 and girls involved. I didn't understand it at the time,
10 but knew I wanted to be out of the room. I prefer not
11 to name any of the boys or girls involved in the
12 incident and there were some other children in the room.
13 One of the girls in the room drew sexual pictures at
14 some time afterwards and staff threw away what she had
15 drawn and dismissed it. I feel that the staff knew
16 about it and should have done something about it. One
17 of the female members of staff tried talking to me about
18 it and she called me a dirty bastard and said something
19 was wrong with me.

20 'The end result of that conversation with the staff
21 was me and my brother going to the park and playing on
22 the swings and not talking about it again. Once I was
23 out of the situation I went back to being a boy and
24 playing with toys and on the swings with [my brother].

25 'I didn't report it formally to staff. I think they

1 knew a lot of what was going on. There was consensual
2 sexual things between boys and girls and staff knew
3 about it, but didn't deal with. I feel the older boys
4 and girls of 15 and 16 in the home had filtered their
5 more natural behaviour down to the boy who wanted me to
6 go into the bedroom with him and who was aged about 12.

7 'I think the staff knew a lot about what was going
8 on in the home. I think they should have separated the
9 boys and the girls better than they did. There were
10 rooms on both the ground floor and the first floor. The
11 older children could have gone up the stair and the
12 younger ones would not have been allowed up there at
13 certain times.

14 'When I was old enough to go to secondary school I
15 went to school that was in an area that was either in
16 Hillwood or House Hillwood. It was next door to the
17 Park Lodge home. I was a bit different at school and
18 was struggling to settle in. I still felt I was behind
19 with school because of the disruption [with my education
20 previously].

21 'There was a wee guy in the school who was a popular
22 one in the class and felt he was the top man and
23 I didn't like that for some reason. I thought he was
24 a bully and we had a fight and I won and put him in his
25 place. After a couple of weeks it was decided that the

1 school wasn't right for me and I was sent to residential
2 school instead.'

3 Between paragraphs 34 and 73, the witness speaks
4 about his time at Ballikinrain Residential School.

5 Between paragraphs 74 and 109, the witness speaks
6 about his time at Geilsland School in Beith.

7 From paragraph 110 onwards, the witness speaks about
8 his life after care and I'll just read some of the
9 paragraphs there, my Lady. It is coming up to
10 1 o'clock, but I do not have long to go:

11 'When I left Geilsland, an appointment was made for
12 me to see a careers adviser at Bellahouston Academy in a
13 mainstream school. It all felt foreign to me and I was
14 clueless about what I was going to do next but smart
15 enough to see I had no education or qualifications. He
16 had nothing for me and he agreed with me that there was
17 nothing I could do with the jobs he was telling me
18 about.

19 'By the time I went back to live with my mum she had
20 got a new property to accommodate herself and her boys
21 coming home and had decorated it. It was a new start
22 for her. [My brother] came to live there too and
23 I'd been seeing him at weekends. I discovered being
24 with my mum wasn't as important to me as it had been
25 when I first went into care aged 8.

1 'My pal had a job delivering milk and I [had a job]
2 with him for a while. I left my mum's and got my own
3 property. I had no guidance as to how I would manage
4 myself. I did everything for myself. I had practical
5 skills. Not long after I moved in with her I developed
6 health issues and had problems to deal with.

7 'I saw an advert for joining the Marines and
8 I joined up when I was 18 and did training with them.
9 The staff sergeant told me if I wanted to progress
10 I would require qualifications in maths and English and
11 others and I didn't have that. He pointed out how poor
12 my grades were and if I wanted to be a sergeant I'd have
13 to go to college to do my O-Grades. I spent two years
14 in the Marines before leaving when I started a family
15 with my partner.

16 'My mum passed away and I took over her property.
17 I was in the house by myself with my pal. Because of my
18 time in Geilsland I still had no confidence or education
19 or guidance for myself. Now I'm in the Reserves. In
20 the last few years I have taken as many army tests as I
21 can and passed them. And I now have my HGV licence from
22 the army. I've been building up qualifications that I
23 should have had years ago as a boy in school.

24 'I continue to feel the impact of being a young boy
25 in the care system who was neglected, not educated and

1 put down and insulted by people who were meant to care,
2 who then sent me out into the real world with no help or
3 preparation. I still have my faith and have had
4 a religious belief from being a youngster and it has
5 been one constant that has always been there for me and
6 got me through.

7 'Police Scotland contacted me in 2021 as a result of
8 my involvement with the Inquiry and asked me to give
9 a statement about my time in care at Geilsland.

10 'I have never looked at my records and I would not
11 know what to do with them.'

12 'People in jobs taking care of kids need to be the
13 right people. They should be assessed working with
14 children for two days at least and assessed in that
15 environment before they get employed. Having the
16 facilities in children's homes is one part of it, but
17 the staff who take care of children need to be vetted
18 and scrutinised before being put in a position of
19 responsibility.

20 'I hope that the Inquiry will change what has
21 happened in the past and achieve a higher standard of
22 care that is adhered to.

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

25 I believe the facts stated in this witness statement are

1 true.'

2 'Raymond' signed the statement on 12 July 2021.

3 LADY SMITH: Thank you very much.

4 Well, we'll pause now for the lunch break and
5 I'll sit again at 2 o'clock and we have a witness in
6 person coming then, as I understand it, yes?

7 MS MACLEOD: We do, my Lady, yes.

8 LADY SMITH: Thank you.

9 (1.05 pm)

10 (The luncheon adjournment)

11 (2.12 pm)

12 LADY SMITH: Good afternoon. Now, we return to oral
13 evidence in relation to this part of Phase 10 and we
14 have a witness who's ready, is that right?

15 MR MACAULAY: We do, and this will be the last witness for
16 this little chapter.

17 LADY SMITH: Thank you.

18 MR MACAULAY: This witness is an applicant. He wants to
19 remain anonymous and to use the pseudonym 'Daniel'.

20 LADY SMITH: Thank you.

21 'Daniel' (affirmed)

22 LADY SMITH: 'Daniel', thank you for coming along this
23 afternoon to help us in our investigations and gathering
24 evidence, by providing oral evidence in addition to the
25 written evidence that we already have from you. It's

1 been so helpful to have everything in advance, and that,
2 of course, is your signed statement that's in the red
3 folder there, but also all the documents that you handed
4 in very recently, which I've also been able to look at
5 before today, so thank you for putting me as fully in
6 the picture as you've been able to do.

7 Now, you'll probably be aware, 'Daniel', that in
8 this section of what we're doing in the public hearings,
9 we're focusing on one place in particular.

10 A. Yeah.

11 LADY SMITH: And it's particularly that aspect of your
12 statement that we would like to talk about this
13 afternoon with you. But don't worry, we'll make sure
14 that it's put in the right context --

15 A. Yeah.

16 LADY SMITH: -- for our purposes and hopefully for yours,
17 and to assure you that it's not that I'm not interested
18 in everything that you feel is relevant to your early
19 life at all, so please don't be offended if we're
20 focusing on a small part of that.

21 A. Yeah.

22 LADY SMITH: The way we work is that I'll sit now until
23 a little bit after 3.00 and then I'll take a short
24 break. If your evidence is still going then I'll have
25 a break at that time in any event, but if you want

1 a break at any other time --

2 A. Yeah.

3 LADY SMITH: -- just tell me, will you? It's not a problem.

4 Or if you have any questions, please do speak up.

5 A. Yeah.

6 LADY SMITH: I'd like to know rather than you nurse them

7 quietly yourself.

8 If you're ready, I'll hand over to Mr MacAulay and

9 he'll take it from there --

10 A. Okay, thank you.

11 LADY SMITH: -- if that's all right.

12 Mr MacAulay.

13 Questions from Mr MacAulay

14 MR MACAULAY: My Lady.

15 Yes, good afternoon, 'Daniel'. I'm Colin and you're

16 'Daniel'.

17 As Lady Smith has just explained, in the red folder

18 in front of you --

19 A. Yeah.

20 Q. -- you'll see that we have your Inquiry statement, and

21 I'm going to give a reference of that for the benefit of

22 the transcript. You can ignore this. It's

23 WIT.001.002.5315.

24 Now, the first thing I'd like you to do for me,

25 'Daniel', is to turn to the last page of the statement,

1 if I could ask you to do that.

2 A. Okay.

3 Q. Can you just confirm that you have signed the statement?

4 A. Yes.

5 Q. And can I just read out to you what's in the final

6 paragraph?

7 A. Yeah, okay.

8 Q. It begins by saying:

9 'I have no objection to my witness statement being

10 published as part of the evidence to the Inquiry.'

11 And I think it's been explained to you that the

12 Inquiry practice is to publish these statements properly

13 redacted.

14 A. Mm-hmm.

15 Q. And are you happy with that?

16 A. Yeah, that's fine.

17 Q. And the other thing that is set out there is:

18 'I believe the facts stated in this witness

19 statement are true.'

20 And I think it is your position that broadly that's

21 correct, but there are other things that you wish you

22 had said when you gave your statement?

23 A. Yeah. 2019, erm, I had other issues ongoing in my own

24 life with other -- medical, suicides in family, other

25 things that I wasn't fully ready in 2019 to fully

1 divulge the whole, erm -- Park Lodge was only a small
2 part of what exactly happened to me and other members
3 within the extended family. And then in 2022, I came
4 forward and disclosed, with a mountain of evidence and
5 specifics of a timeline, of what exactly went on.

6 So now -- and this is exactly why I'm here today --
7 it was unfortunate that, 2019, I wasn't fully ready to
8 divulge every single detail, because I was still dealing
9 with my own trauma, things that was going on in my own
10 life and I just didn't -- wasn't ready for --

11 Q. That's perfectly understandable, 'Daniel' --

12 A. Yeah, okay.

13 Q. -- so I wouldn't be too concerned about that.

14 A. Yeah.

15 Q. But we have at least your signed Inquiry statement in
16 front of us and we'll work off that.

17 A. Yeah, yeah, that's fine.

18 Q. Now, the other thing I want to start, ask you at the
19 very beginning, is that just to confirm the year of your
20 birth. I don't want the date of birth because you're
21 anonymous.

22 A. Yeah.

23 Q. The year of your birth is 1982, is that correct?

24 A. Yeah, yes.

25 Q. If you go to the beginning of your statement, the very

1 first page of the statement, you begin by setting out
2 what your life was like before you went into care?
3 A. Yeah.
4 Q. And in particular what your family life was like?
5 A. Yeah.
6 Q. You begin by telling us that your family life wasn't
7 good, it was dysfunctional?
8 A. Mm-hmm, yeah.
9 Q. Is that correct?
10 A. Yeah.
11 Q. And in what way?
12 A. Erm, some of it was bordering on crimes against humanity
13 and there is, erm, with the torture and physical,
14 emotional and sexual abuse, incest rapes, and everything
15 else that went on and within the extended family, and
16 hence why I reported -- I whistleblowed and came forward
17 on 28 September 1993 and reported my mother in the first
18 instance, and that started the over 30 years I've been
19 doing this, speaking up for --
20 Q. So just to be clear, what you're saying there is that
21 there was abuse of you within the family context?
22 A. Yes, and other children, yeah.
23 Q. And when you say other children, are these children
24 related to you?
25 A. Yeah, yeah, yeah.

1 Q. And you said a moment ago that you reported this abuse;
2 was that to the social work department?

3 A. Yeah, it was.

4 Q. Okay. And was that then --

5 A. I was 11 years of age on 28 September 1993.

6 Q. And is that then how you first became involved with the
7 social work people?

8 A. Erm, round about that time, there was another couple --
9 a child in the family had been removed for abuse and
10 adopted out, erm, a cousin, so he -- so we were kind of
11 known to social services in the 1980s and in the 1990s
12 and things just spiralled out of control.

13 Q. And one of the things you tell us in your statement,
14 'Daniel', is that at about this time your mother died,
15 is that correct?

16 A. Er, after I reported her to social services in 1993,
17 [REDACTED] 1994 she committed suicide in front of her
18 children.

19 Q. And is that then the background to you going into care?

20 A. Yeah. That was -- I went into care, she died in [REDACTED]
21 and I went into care just after that period.

22 Q. And you tell us in paragraph 6 of your statement that
23 you had a number of foster care placements; is that
24 correct?

25 A. Yeah, I got moved from pillar to post. It was chaotic

1 moving around the care system at that time from
2 different children's homes to foster.

3 Q. And you go on to tell us thereafter about a particular
4 children's home that you were in, in Pollokshields in
5 Glasgow, and the records tell us that you were admitted
6 there on [REDACTED] 1994 when you were aged 12; would
7 that fit in with your own recollection?

8 A. Yeah, yeah.

9 Q. And I think you spent a number of months there and then
10 you were admitted to another children's home in Dumbreck
11 in Glasgow?

12 A. Yeah.

13 Q. And that was on [REDACTED] 1994, when you are still aged
14 12; is that correct?

15 A. Yeah.

16 Q. And in your statement, as you're aware, 'Daniel', you do
17 provide quite a lot of detail about your time at
18 Urrdale. Now, as Lady Smith has explained, we're not
19 looking today --

20 A. Yeah, yeah, I know.

21 Q. -- at Urrdale.

22 A. Yeah, there is other institutions, there is other
23 overlaps, but, yeah, we'll just focus on Park Lodge.

24 LADY SMITH: But thank you for the detail you have provided
25 about Urrdale in any event, 'Daniel', it's very helpful.

1 MR MACAULAY: If we then look at when you came to leave
2 Urrdale, if you turn to paragraph 62 on page 12. And
3 I think what you tell us in that paragraph is you left
4 Urrdale when you were 14, and that looks to be correct,
5 because the records tell us that you left on [REDACTED]
6 1996, when you would have been 14.

7 A. Yeah.

8 Q. That's --

9 A. The, erm -- the social work records is in such a mess,
10 it's very difficult to make heads or tails, because
11 there's obviously falsification of records, destroying
12 records, misplacing records, whatever with the records
13 until the present day. So hence why I typed up my own
14 report of over 500 pages with a clear and precise and
15 specific timeline.

16 Q. But that date would fit in with your own recollection as
17 to your age --

18 A. I would need to doublecheck, but I was there
19 approximately two years, but all the records are in such
20 a mess that --

21 Q. And I think we'll see there are different dates in the
22 records.

23 A. Yeah, along with everything else that I've highlighted
24 in my own report, regarding the records.

25 Q. And then looking at your care history thereafter, you

1 had what you described as two short-term foster
2 placements?

3 A. Yeah, that's right.

4 Q. Now, that then is the background I think to your going
5 to Park Lodge, and you deal with that at paragraph 67 of
6 your statement. And you say you were taken to
7 Park Lodge in Glasgow. How were you taken, how did that
8 happen?

9 A. Erm, after the two foster placements broke down,
10 I attemptedly, I ran away to my grandfather's house,
11 erm, running away seems to be a part and within the
12 social records -- but that broke down. It was old age
13 and he just didn't -- he had his own health problems and
14 whatever, so I was there temporarily until the placement
15 came up in Park Lodge and I left his house in 1997 to go
16 to Park Lodge.

17 Q. And the date for your admission to Park Lodge, according
18 to records, was [REDACTED] 1997?

19 A. That date, those dates -- it was approximately one year,
20 I think it was just short -- those dates are correct but
21 everything else is a piece of nonsense.

22 Q. So you agree with that date as being --

23 A. Yeah, I agree with that date.

24 Q. And you say you were 14?

25 A. Yeah.

1 Q. And you describe the premises. Are you quite happy to
2 look at a photograph for me?

3 A. Yeah, sure, on you go.

4 Q. This will appear on the screen in front of you and the
5 Inquiry reference is INQ-0000001296.

6 A. Yeah, that's Park Lodge.

7 Q. You do say in your statement, 'Daniel':
8 'Park Lodge also had a bungalow on the side which
9 housed other young people.'

10 If I could perhaps just ask you to look at another
11 photograph.

12 A. Yeah.

13 Q. It is INQ-0000001299. Now, that's an aerial view of
14 Park Lodge. Do you recognise it?

15 A. Yeah. I don't recognise the further-away building. How
16 old is this photograph?

17 Q. Well, that's a good question --

18 A. Because it looks really old and the bungalow didn't look
19 like that. It looks like an old shed in the
20 photographs.

21 Q. What about the building to the left; you don't recognise
22 that either?

23 A. The main building and the small bungalow, but I don't
24 remember it being in that style.

25 Q. Okay.

1 A. And the back out door, this looks like probably the
2 1980s, I don't know, it's a really old photograph, but
3 the shed -- it looks like some sort of annex at the
4 back. I don't recall seeing that and that, the --
5 I don't recall seeing that.

6 LADY SMITH: 'Daniel', which of those buildings do you think
7 was in the same position as the bungalow? Was it the
8 one that's to the left?

9 A. Yeah, that one --

10 LADY SMITH: Not the one behind?

11 A. Not the one behind. I think that may have been knocked
12 down. I don't recall seeing that. It could have been,
13 but I just -- because some of the children's homes had
14 bungalows next to them in the same kind of position.
15 Urrdale had a bungalow in that position also. So it's
16 just trying to recall. Fairfield, Glenrosa, Creagdu
17 didn't have bungalows, so it's trying to -- some had --
18 differentiate between Urrdale and Park Lodge exactly
19 where the bungalows were. But these were primarily used
20 for young people to live more independently.

21 MR MACAULAY: Okay. Now, can I just ask you a little bit
22 about the main building then. We can see from that
23 photograph it was essentially a mansion house that was
24 being used as a children's home.

25 A. Yeah.

1 Q. Was there a particular part of that building that you
2 would be accommodated in?

3 A. Upstairs, just at the top of the stairs on the
4 right-hand side. If I remember, the bungalow and the
5 main building, they didn't really interact. They were
6 older. There was different things happening with the
7 bungalow, maybe emergency situation. But the main
8 building, if you lived in there, you're up and down
9 stairs. I don't remember it being specifically
10 segregated, but sometimes, depends, management will say:
11 the top floor, that's your area and the bottom floor's
12 for the children downstairs. But again it depends on
13 the management at the time and staff came and went, so
14 I can't remember exactly. But, yeah, I could come and
15 go in the building as far as --

16 Q. Okay. And so far as your having a room was concerned,
17 did you have a bedroom that you shared or did you have
18 your own room?

19 A. Own room, but there was other young people in the home
20 that did share. Again, it just depends on room size and
21 again, availability of rooms and whatever.

22 LADY SMITH: I've heard about some rooms that could
23 accommodate, say, four boys in them. Was that the same
24 in your time?

25 A. Erm, it was probably -- I did see more girls in the one

1 room, not next door, 'cos that was the kitchen upstairs,
2 but there was an even bigger room there and I do recall
3 there might have been three girls, possibly four, in
4 that room. But again, it's to do with availability and
5 they swap people around and where there's room, and it's
6 regardless of the sex.

7 MR MACAULAY: And so far as the children who were
8 accommodated there when you were there for the year you
9 are going to tell us about, how many children do you
10 think were there in the main, the main building?

11 A. Again, the numbers fluctuated. It just depends on who
12 came in, emergency situations, and people moved on to
13 their own house or moved on back to their family home.
14 It was difficult to predict. But the numbers could --
15 I wouldn't say that there was any more than 15, 20 --
16 there was not 20 there, 'cos they had -- they had two
17 sitting rooms downstairs, so they ate up a lot of the
18 space, the two large, main rooms within the home, and
19 there was a big kitchen area, which you're going to
20 touch on, about the cooking.

21 Q. Okay. So --

22 A. So there wasn't -- maybe back, further back, there would
23 have been more rooms with more beds, but as time went
24 on, there was shower rooms and bathrooms built instead
25 of bedrooms, et cetera, so there was less rooms

1 available.

2 Q. And you already mentioned girls, so we take it that it
3 was mixed, there was boys and girls?

4 A. Yeah, yeah.

5 Q. And you were 14. What about the age range? Did you get
6 any sense as to what the age range was when you were
7 there, in the time you were there?

8 A. Well, I was aware that because of some of the homes were
9 under 12, and over 12 to 16, so I was in -- it was over
10 12s, I think, at the time.

11 Q. At Park Lodge?

12 A. Yeah, yep. It wasn't for younger children. It was
13 a mixed. It was -- some were for older kids, the homes,
14 and some were for younger. That's what I remember at
15 the time.

16 Q. And we may come on to this, but I think when you came to
17 leave Park Lodge --

18 A. Yeah.

19 Q. -- that was in [REDACTED] 1998, about a year later, the
20 records seem to suggest that you may have been either
21 one or -- one of the last to leave or the very last to
22 leave?

23 A. Yeah.

24 Q. So do I take it from that the numbers had dwindled down
25 to one or two?

1 A. Yeah. They were closing down the home. These big homes
2 were not fit for purpose, for obvious reasons. Erm,
3 they weren't, erm, providing care and they weren't --
4 support and whatever they were supposed to be. They
5 were just institutions that were badly run and managed.
6 So that was one that was to go. But there was a few of
7 them that went as well. **Secondary Institutions - to** a few of the
8 others all closed down, 'cos they realised all of these
9 kids in these big mansions and these communities and not
10 getting the proper care is not ideal. So they now build
11 smaller children's homes, up to eight people, round
12 about, currently.

13 Q. And I've asked you about the children. But what about
14 staff, can you help me with that?

15 A. Yeah.

16 Q. What sort of number of staff? By that I mean permanent
17 staff.

18 A. Usually, if I remember, there would be two on each
19 shift. During the day you might have a deputy and, erm,
20 a unit manager, residential care home unit manager and
21 a deputy during the day. Deputy would maybe do shifts
22 as well. The unit manager very rarely done shifts, they
23 would probably be in working hours.

24 And two night staff, if I remember, maybe three per
25 shift. Two or three maximum in the main building.

1 Q. So we're talking about a dayshift and a night shift?

2 A. Yeah, yep.

3 Q. And so far as you are concerned, at your time, do you

4 know who was in charge of Park Lodge?

5 A. It was different people came and go -- went. Hilda

6 Ewer. I think there was different -- Kenny, I think was

7 one of them.

8 Q. When you say that, even in your period of about

9 a year --

10 A. Yeah, different staff.

11 Q. -- the management changed?

12 A. Yeah, the management changed, yeah. There was always

13 staff coming and going in the homes. People moving

14 around the system for various reasons.

15 Q. And did you have -- I think you tell us later on in your

16 statement -- did you have what's sometimes referred to

17 as a key worker?

18 A. Yeah.

19 Q. And was that somebody you would be able to meet with

20 from time to time?

21 A. Yeah. All -- I think that's to present day. All

22 children within the care system had an allocated key

23 support worker, who dealt with their care plan and their

24 needs and their support package and moving on and

25 whatever else, but, yeah, there would be a key worker

1 provided within these homes, until the present day.

2 Q. And did you have a social worker allocated to you?

3 A. Yes, I did.

4 Q. And would that social worker remain in position

5 throughout your time at Park Lodge?

6 A. No. Erm, I had Sarah Agnew when I went -- first went

7 into care, 1994, and I had Sarah Agnew but she left and

8 -- probably I think in 1996. And then I had RMR

9 RMR, senior social worker.

10 Q. Was he an allocated social worker or was he more senior?

11 A. Erm, he was based at the local social work office, the

12 same office that I reported my mother in, in 1993.

13 RMR worked there. He took over from Sarah looking

14 after my case.

15 Q. Did you have a social worker though who would come and

16 visit you at --

17 A. RMR, the senior, who was dealing with my case.

18 Q. So RMR would come and see you?

19 A. Yeah, and attend meetings and deal with other incidents

20 that you'll touch on soon.

21 Q. And one of the things you say in paragraph 69 of your

22 statement, 'Daniel', is that -- this business about

23 being given money. And I think when you say --

24 A. Yeah, chaotic system, yeah.

25 Q. Well, when you say 'petty cash was no object', can

1 I just ask, what do you mean by that?

2 A. Yeah, so you got toiletry money, pocket money, poster
3 money, bowling money, cinema money, clothing money. So
4 the staff would be giving money left, right and centre
5 just so that young people could go out and do what they
6 liked with the money and not provide receipts. So it
7 was just to get us out of their faces. And then the
8 staff would need to face the consequences 'cos a lot of
9 these young people and children were coming back under
10 the influence of alcohol and drugs with the money that
11 they had given, and then things would escalate.

12 Q. One of the things that struck me about your statement,
13 'Daniel', is that you don't really mention schooling.

14 A. Yeah.

15 Q. You were of school age when you were at Park Lodge.

16 A. Yeah.

17 Q. Were you going to school?

18 A. Erm, sometimes. The staff didn't bother to wake you up
19 or you were allowed to come and go as you please, so
20 there was no structure. A lot of children within these
21 homes at the time, they didn't have much education, 'cos
22 the staff didn't care whether -- what you done. You
23 could be up all night. I mean, you could be taking
24 alcohol and drugs within the home and the staff
25 wouldn't -- it's just a free-for-all. There was no care

1 and support they were supposed to be doing.

2 Q. When you talk about -- let's go back to schooling. Did
3 you on a regular basis go to school or did you not?

4 A. Erm, I did go to school, but unfortunately I started
5 overdosing in school because of the abuse that I was
6 suffering within the children's homes. And my first
7 overdose was [REDACTED] at school and from there onwards.

8 Q. And that, of course, pre-dates your time at Park Lodge,
9 but when you were --

10 A. Yeah, but the self-harming continued until recently.

11 Q. But when you were at Park Lodge, did you regularly go to
12 school or not?

13 A. Yeah, I did some. I think at one point they tried to,
14 I said I would go to -- the college was well into --
15 I think it was maybe I switched from school to college.
16 But you can't focus on your education when you're living
17 in an environment within these children's homes at that
18 time. You're dealing with the trauma and the mental
19 health and everything else as a child that's life
20 completely destroyed up to the age of 12. You get into
21 the care system and you're currently in these children's
22 homes. It affects your education. So that's why in the
23 social work file, or what's left of it, I ran away
24 a lot, and it does --

25 Q. I'll come on to that.

1 A. Oh, right, okay, sorry. Yeah. But I did go, it was
2 just here and there. There was no consistency. Erm,
3 but unfortunately I was overdosing in school as well as
4 the children's homes like Park Lodge.

5 Q. Coming back to the point you make about money and petty
6 cash --

7 A. Yeah.

8 Q. -- you said, I think, that children were given money by
9 members of staff and they'd return to the home under the
10 influence of alcohol or drugs; is that correct?

11 A. Yeah.

12 Q. What then happened?

13 A. Erm, well, obviously a lot of the young people had their
14 own issues with whatever happened in their family life
15 and why they were in the care, and obviously the
16 conflicts with the staff, because the staff were kind of
17 brutal. So if you had -- if the staff were being
18 aggressive towards a child who's under the influence of
19 alcohol and drugs, things can escalate. And if a staff
20 member has done something to a specific child then
21 things can escalate as well. So there's different
22 scenarios. And the young people obviously had their own
23 traumas, they were obviously coming from whatever
24 backgrounds into these children's homes so, yeah,
25 there's --

1 Q. If I could focus on you.

2 A. Yeah, sorry, yeah, fine.

3 Q. Let's put other young people aside. Did you come back
4 into the home under the influence of alcohol and/or
5 drugs?

6 A. Yes, I did.

7 Q. And how were you dealt with?

8 A. Erm, well, I looked in the social work and all the other
9 records I have at my disposal and I don't see --
10 I wasn't -- at that time I probably drank alcohol but
11 I wasn't more into drugs, as far as what I can see with
12 the medical and all the different records.

13 I don't see me in any of the records -- I'm not
14 saying I'm an angel, but there was conflicts, and
15 obviously I probably got into conflicts with the staff.
16 But I don't see me -- I don't know --

17 Q. Can I ask you this: if you had come in, if you had come
18 in one day and you'd obviously been drinking, would the
19 staff say to you: "'Daniel", you shouldn't be drinking
20 at your age'?

21 A. No, no.

22 Q. No.

23 A. No. There's nothing in the records to suggest that or
24 anything of that.

25 LADY SMITH: What did you drink when you were out, 'Daniel'?

1 A. All different stuff. It was to black out the horrendous
2 life that I had and I just kept running away and
3 drinking, but it was the children's homes that supplied
4 me with the money.

5 LADY SMITH: Can you remember any particular drinks that
6 were your choice?

7 A. Ciders and spirits probably at the time. Stuff that
8 probably don't even exist, I don't know, some of these
9 cheap ciders.

10 LADY SMITH: Oh, I think cider and spirits are still out
11 there, 'Daniel'. Do you have any memory of how much you
12 would drink on one of these visits when you were out of
13 the home?

14 A. A lot, probably. At times it just depends if I remember
15 what was happening at that time, because I had so much
16 going on, like, until the present day, there's a lot
17 going on, so it's trying to --

18 LADY SMITH: Don't worry, 'Daniel', I'm not judging you.

19 A. Yeah, no, it's just -- I don't -- it wasn't every day.
20 I was probably more binge drinking, and it depends on
21 how much money you got off the home --

22 MR MACAULAY: Well, I was about to ask you --

23 A. So there was a financial aspect to it.

24 Q. Well, I was --

25 A. I couldn't pinpoint how many units or whatever.

1 MR MACAULAY: Of course there's a financial aspect to it,
2 but would the staff have been aware that the money that
3 you were being given was being spent by you on alcohol?
4 A. Well, it was obvious, yeah, yeah.
5 Q. Okay. Now, you've mentioned running away a couple of
6 times. Did you run away on a regular basis?
7 A. Yeah.
8 Q. I'll come back to the why in a moment, but where did you
9 go when you ran away?
10 A. All different places.
11 Q. Did you go home or to your grandfather's?
12 A. Erm, according to the social work out-of-hours standby
13 reports, I was cropping up here, there and everywhere.
14 Q. There again you are referring to the records that you've
15 looked at.
16 A. Yeah.
17 Q. But your own recollection, just using your
18 recollection --
19 A. Yeah, I would be at friends, maybe acquaintances,
20 ex-family members, all different places, yeah. That
21 ties in with where I was found by whoever.
22 Q. And when you were found, who would find you? Would it
23 be the police or would it be --
24 A. A combination. Sometimes I had to go to hospital for
25 different injuries. Sometimes I would go -- the

1 children's home always paid for the taxis, so that was
2 another financial. So if you had been out all night,
3 you could turn up in a black taxi or any taxi and they
4 would pay for it, so you could -- they would constantly
5 pay for these taxis, so that --

6 Q. And did you do that, did you use taxis?

7 A. Yeah, yeah, we all used. It wasn't just immune to
8 Park Lodge but that was widespread, it was the same. We
9 could just go home any time in taxis and fall out the
10 taxis drunk, with the money that they gave us.

11 Q. And you say you ran away on a regular basis.

12 A. Yeah.

13 Q. In a week, are you able to give me any sense of numbers?

14 A. It was a high volume, it was a high --

15 Q. A high volume?

16 A. Yeah, it was a high volume.

17 Q. Were you ever asked by anyone in a position of
18 responsibility, such as a social worker, or
19 a policeman --

20 A. Yeah.

21 Q. -- why you ran away?

22 A. Yeah.

23 Q. And what did you --

24 A. I had a psychologist called Moira Sugden at Fern Towers
25 Adolescent Unit.

1 Q. Did you tell her about running away?

2 A. I told her everything that happened within these
3 children's homes.

4 Q. What did you say to her as to why you ran away, what did
5 you tell her?

6 A. It was a combination. She was aware of the different
7 abuse that I'd suffered. That's why I was at the
8 Fern Towers Adolescent Unit.

9 Q. And had you been referred there by Park Lodge?

10 A. No. I was referred there because of the overdoses in
11 school and stuff, er, prior to Park Lodge, but that
12 service was still ongoing.

13 Q. But I think you were still seeing her when you were at
14 Park Lodge, is that correct?

15 A. Yeah.

16 Q. And you're telling her --

17 A. Yeah.

18 Q. You were giving her information about what was happening
19 at Park Lodge?

20 A. Yeah. But it wasn't just her. Erm, I also turned up at
21 Glasgow City Council Senior Management Head Office.
22 I was also -- and I flagged up a mountain of issues to
23 them, er, which can be found within various records.
24 And I also flagged up a mountain of issues to Who Cares?
25 Scotland. And I also flagged up a mountain of issues to

1 Anne McGaughrin, Glasgow City Council Children's Rights
2 Officer, and many others.

3 Q. Okay. Can I then look at the issues that you have in
4 mind and there is a section in your statement where you
5 talk -- it's headed 'Abuse at Park Lodge' and
6 I'm focusing on Park Lodge.

7 A. Yeah.

8 Q. And at paragraph 72 you identify a particular person
9 whose name has been redacted, and you'll see that's the
10 position.

11 Now, I think the name that you provided to the
12 Inquiry previously was incorrect; is that correct?

13 A. Yeah, and I corrected it.

14 Q. And you've corrected that?

15 A. Yeah.

16 Q. And you mention this worker who was called

17 MTL [REDACTED]?

18 A. Yeah.

19 Q. You focus on him in particular. Was he a member of
20 staff?

21 A. Yes.

22 Q. What happened between you and him?

23 A. It's just a pattern, so it just -- it's
24 self-explanatory, but the pattern of behaviour, such as
25 grabbing me, throwing me down, choking me, sitting on

1 top of me, overstepped the mark all the times. These
2 incidents happened frequently. It was inappropriately
3 restraining, which ventured on to physical abuse. The
4 TCI techniques weren't done properly but MTL wasn't the
5 only one. It was widespread. Staff weren't trained
6 properly, and whatever else.

7 Q. And when you say physical abuse, apart from taking hold
8 of you and throwing you around, was there any other form
9 of physical abuse?

10 A. Yeah, just putting his knee in the back of my neck,
11 forcing me onto the ground, arms right a way up, nearly
12 breaking my arms. Sitting on top of me where I can't
13 breathe. Putting me in choke holds, like that
14 (indicating).

15 I didn't receive any scars from MTL's actions, but
16 I did receive scars from other staff members.

17 Q. But at Park Lodge?

18 A. No, not in Park Lodge. I just wanted to add that in.

19 Q. That's fine.

20 And you mentioned MTL and I think you
21 also mention other members of staff also indulged in
22 this behaviour towards you?

23 A. Not yet, not to the extreme. MTL towards me was at the
24 forefront of that, but I did see many staff carrying out
25 this type of abuse.

1 It wasn't restraint. I know what restraint is.
2 I've researched restraint and it wasn't restraint.
3 Q. And were you witnessing this in relation to other
4 children --
5 A. Yeah.
6 Q. -- who were there when you were there?
7 A. Yeah, and I documented this into a diary, because
8 I've been keeping a diary for over 30 years, which
9 I've been using towards the Inquiry.
10 Q. And I may not have asked you, but you were 14 at the
11 time that you were at Park Lodge?
12 A. Yeah.
13 Q. Age range, were there younger children than you?
14 A. Erm, mixed. I don't recall there being a 12-year-old,
15 but probably 13, 14, 15, 16, maybe 17.
16 Q. I think you did say --
17 A. I don't recall an 18-year-old.
18 You know what, yeah, I did -- yeah, there was. It
19 was just round about that bracket. No one under 12 'cos
20 it was over 12s only.
21 Q. And I think you did mention that earlier on in your
22 evidence.
23 A. Yeah.
24 Q. Okay. If I look at paragraph 73 where you say and
25 I'll quote:

1 'It was chaotic and riotous.'

2 A. Yeah.

3 Q. Can I understand what you mean by that, 'Daniel'?

4 A. Yeah, just with the amount of conflicts, the young

5 people not getting the care and the support, erm, not

6 being advised about the dangers of alcohol and drugs,

7 erm, preventive measures with the money situation. Not

8 getting them the right support, psychiatry, psychology,

9 medical, a whole wide -- encouraging them to go to

10 school, be more structured. All the staff seemed to do

11 is hand out money for young people and children to go

12 and get drunk and take drugs and then to get them out

13 their faces and then came in and be into conflicts with

14 young people. That's what I meant. It wasn't a stable,

15 loving, caring environment. It was chaotic.

16 Q. And you do tell us in that same paragraph that there was

17 a high turnover of staff at Park Lodge.

18 A. Yeah.

19 Q. Could you just explain, did staff come and go?

20 A. Yeah, there was a stable staff there, but staff members

21 did come and go, as I touched on earlier. Like in the

22 year, just under a year that I was there, they had

23 changed the unit manager, different people came and

24 went, and it's this moving staff around the system, erm,

25 because you have other staff members doing shifts here

1 and there, coming from other abusive establishments,
2 like Kerelaw in the 1990s. So, yeah, that also added to
3 the chaotic situations, because instead of Glasgow City
4 Council investigating staff members' conduct properly
5 within these institutions, they were turning a blind eye
6 and moving them round the care system and they ended up
7 in places like Park Lodge, where me, I went into care as
8 an orphan. I never went into care as a troublemaker.
9 And I certainly never went into care to be treated that
10 way.

11 Q. Thank you.

12 And one thing you also tell us, and I think you are
13 particularly anxious to tell the Inquiry about this, and
14 that is that the police would get involved with what was
15 happening at Park Lodge.

16 A. Yeah, so --

17 Q. Can you just tell me about that?

18 A. Sure. So I've touched on how chaotic in the environment
19 and the way that the home was managed and et cetera, but
20 the police, so, branded us all troublemakers. As
21 I says, I never went into the care system as
22 a troublemaker, I went in as an orphan, erm, and these
23 things happened.

24 So the staff would cover up for each other and they
25 would use the police as a weapon against children, erm,

1 and if children were being restrained, but really they
2 were getting abused and they didn't know the difference,
3 the staff members would phone 999 and say that the young
4 people, like myself, had assaulted them, when it was the
5 other way around.

6 This was widespread. This was not just immune to
7 Park Lodge. This is what they would do. The police
8 would come in and they would actually do similar
9 techniques of what the staff did, dragging these young
10 people out of the seven or eight children's homes that
11 I was in. Park Lodge, as I've clearly documented in my
12 over 500-page report and my statement to the Inquiry,
13 that was the only home that I witnessed where it was
14 rife, where child after child was getting dragged out in
15 handcuffs to secure establishments like Kerelaw,
16 St Mary's, Kibble. There's a list of them and I do know
17 the young people's names also.

18 Q. Okay, well, that's helpful, but can I ask you this: when
19 you were at Park Lodge --

20 A. Yeah.

21 Q. -- did the police get involved with you?

22 A. Yeah. I done a subject access request to Police
23 Scotland and I was able to cross-reference this
24 information against the thousands of other documents
25 I have collated over the years, and I could see the

1 pattern emerging of the false allegations against me as
2 an abused child is absolutely disgusting. And as part
3 of the punishment, erm, and because I was speaking up
4 and branded a troublemaker, but really I was
5 a whistleblower for children being abused in care, they
6 then decided to ship me off. I never went in handcuffs,
7 and the --

8 Q. Where were you taken to?

9 A. I was taken to Cardross.

10 Q. And did you spend some time there?

11 A. Yeah. I think it was between five days and a week. No
12 more than a week.

13 Q. And did you then go back to Park Lodge?

14 A. Yeah, because I spoke up for my rights as a child and
15 I wasn't being punished and put into a secure
16 accommodation for flagging up to Glasgow City Council
17 Head Office, Children's Rights, Who Cares? Scotland,
18 and my psychologist and many others that I was being
19 abused in Park Lodge, and that I was not accepting
20 Cardross as a punishment. So I was moved out of the
21 place and I was one of the lucky ones.

22 Q. And were you back to Park Lodge then, were you taken
23 back to Park Lodge?

24 A. Erm, yes, it was part of the year that I was there,
25 approximately year that I was there.

1 Q. Now, you've said on a number of occasions, 'Daniel',
2 that you did raise concerns about the way you were being
3 treated?

4 A. Yeah.

5 Q. You've mentioned Fern Towers as a example.

6 A. Yeah.

7 Q. And again I'm focusing on Park Lodge.

8 A. Yeah, sure.

9 Q. And you've also mentioned social worker staff. Can
10 you just tell me about that? First of all, so far as
11 Fern Towers were concerned, I think you mentioned the
12 lady that you saw and you told her that you were being
13 abused --

14 A. Yeah.

15 Q. -- at Park Lodge?

16 A. Yeah.

17 Q. Is that correct?

18 A. Yeah.

19 Q. And what did she do, if anything?

20 A. Well, I'm fortunate enough to find enough records, erm,
21 and Moira Sugden from Fern Towers was present at
22 meetings and was aware of the abuse, along with RMR
23 RMR, senior social worker, and senior management
24 from Glasgow City Council, like Beth Smith and others.
25 So they -- I did attend meetings and I did raise all of

1 these allegations about what happened to myself and
2 other children within Park Lodge, so Glasgow City
3 Council were aware of it.

4 Q. You mean by that the social work department?

5 A. Yes, at 100 Morrison Street before it moved to
6 India Street.

7 Q. And can you tell me who in particular within the social
8 work department was made aware by you that you were
9 being abused?

10 A. Les Brabinder, Marianna Surmani, Beth Smith, Romy
11 Langland, Deputy Director of Glasgow City Council, and
12 many others.

13 Q. Well, you have mentioned in your evidence so far a RMR
14 RMR who you had dealings with.

15 A. Yeah. Can I just say the records for Fern Towers have
16 unfortunately been destroyed, and Moira Sugden is still
17 working for Fern Towers, who are now in Balmoral Road in
18 Glasgow.

19 Q. Okay. But I was asking you that you have already
20 mentioned RMR --

21 A. Yeah.

22 Q. -- as a social worker that you had dealings with?

23 A. Yeah.

24 Q. Did you tell him about what was happening?

25 A. Yeah.

1 Q. And what happened?

2 A. Well, RMR [REDACTED], he turned a blind eye to all the
3 abuse within my own family and completely destroyed it,
4 and --

5 Q. That was before you went into care, is it?

6 A. During the time in care. See, he came on board in 1996
7 approximately, so he was -- he took over from Sarah
8 Agnew.

9 But he was, he also -- there was still abuse ongoing
10 within the extended family, which was flagged up to him
11 time and time again.

12 So anyway, let's go back to the time in Park Lodge.

13 RMR [REDACTED] had destroyed that to this mess also. He was
14 fully aware and the paper trail leads to his desk.

15 There is a mountain of evidence with his name wrote all
16 over it regarding abuse in Park Lodge and he was aware
17 and he turned a blind eye and allowed it to continue.

18 LADY SMITH: 'Daniel', I'm very well aware of the efforts
19 you've put into studying the records and tracking the
20 period over which RMR [REDACTED] was senior social
21 worker.

22 Can I just check this with you: did you yourself
23 have direct dealings with RMR [REDACTED] at any time?

24 A. Yes, I did.

25 LADY SMITH: At what point was that?

1 A. Face-to-face meetings at the social work office, but he
2 attended reviews -- review meetings.

3 LADY SMITH: Okay. I'm sorry to interrupt you. It's just
4 me being slow. Can I work out whether that was before
5 you went into Park Lodge or while you were in Park Lodge
6 or after you were in Park Lodge?

7 A. The procedure is children in care, and I think until the
8 present day, they have what they call review meetings.

9 LADY SMITH: Yes.

10 A. So these are held every three months or six months or
11 whatever throughout the year, so your social worker
12 would attend these meetings. They would also attend
13 meetings outwith that period if there were emergencies
14 or other incidents.

15 LADY SMITH: Was that after you had gone to Park Lodge?

16 A. It was from 1996 until 2002, RMR [REDACTED] was my senior
17 social worker.

18 LADY SMITH: Was he at these meetings himself?

19 A. Yes, he was at these meetings from Urrdale to Park Lodge
20 and throughout, so he was fully aware of what was going
21 on within the family and within these children's homes.

22 LADY SMITH: And these would be the meetings where there
23 would be quite a number of adults present --

24 A. Yes.

25 LADY SMITH: -- in addition to you?

1 A. At these meetings there would be, depending what the
2 situation was, you could have, as I've mentioned, people
3 like Beth Smith, who was Assistant District Officer at
4 Glasgow City Council. You might have had the Principal
5 Officer at the meeting, Les Brabinder. You might have
6 Anne McGaughrin, Children's Rights Officer; Moira
7 Sugden, psychologist. You may have Steven from
8 Who Cares? Scotland, amongst other people. And what
9 I'm saying today is what I was saying in 1997, word by
10 word, and it all matches up. So this, what I'm saying
11 today, is what I said at these meetings.

12 (Pause)

13 MR MACAULAY: I was moving on, 'Daniel', to ask you what
14 exactly were you reporting. What were you telling RMR
15 RMR and these other people about what was happening
16 at Park Lodge? Can you be specific about what you're
17 telling them?

18 A. Yeah. As I said, I kept a diary and I kept photographs,
19 I kept notes, which I've been doing to this day, which
20 has come in as valuable evidence. So, erm, any
21 incidents of any injuries I sustained, cuts and bruises,
22 unfortunately -- well, fortunate for me I didn't receive
23 any scars in Park Lodge, but I did in other places. But
24 any bruises, marks, I would document it.

25 When I turned up at 100 Morrison Street and had to

1 speak to RMR, I stormed into Les Brabinder and
2 Beth Smith's office. I refused to leave. I showed them
3 photographs of injuries. I showed them different --
4 different incidents, a log of different -- what I'd been
5 writing in my diary --

6 Q. If I can stop you there. But what had -- how had the
7 injuries been caused?

8 A. The abuse.

9 Q. But what events?

10 A. Physical abuse.

11 Q. So were you hit, were you kicked, were you hit with --

12 A. Dragged, choked, erm, forced to the ground, couldn't
13 breathe, stood on, inappropriately restraining
14 techniques, thrown any way, any shape or form, and the
15 way that they -- I mean, when I was 14, I was very slim.
16 I wasn't a big-built boy. So to be -- you could snap me
17 like a bone. I was so thin. You can see in one of the
18 photographs at the time how thin I was. So some of
19 these staff members were tall, big, burly 6-foot men.
20 To jump on a small 14-year-old's frame, you could
21 imagine what kind of injuries I sustained.

22 Q. Right. Okay.

23 And did you tell RMR and any others about
24 the police involvement with Park Lodge?

25 A. Yeah. Yeah.

1 Q. What did you say? What did you tell them?

2 A. Everything -- RMR was aware of everything and what had
3 happened within the home, but, erm, unfortunately,
4 instead of RMR assisting me, RMR then decided to --
5 I was referred to the department of psychiatry in
6 Glasgow. Erm, I have four pages here from the records
7 of my medical file, and these are missing from the
8 social work file. How convenient, like many other
9 documents I'm looking for.

10 But anyway, I managed to -- there seems to be
11 a pattern that certain documents and certain incidents
12 of abuse, whether it be family or children's homes
13 abuse, linked to RMR, has disappeared from my
14 social work file. So when I went to RMR and reported
15 everything that I've mentioned today and I was referred
16 to the department of psychiatry in Glasgow in May 1998
17 by RMR, the story gets better.

18 Q. Can I just pick you up on that.

19 A. Yeah.

20 Q. Because I have seen a copy of the document you are
21 referring to.

22 A. Yeah.

23 Q. Today, I think you handed it in today.

24 A. Yeah.

25 Q. It's a letter dated 6 May 1998 to Mr RMR.

1 A. Yeah.

2 Q. From the --

3 A. Consultant.

4 Q. -- department of psychiatry.

5 A. Yeah.

6 Q. And it refers though to a meeting or a consultation you
7 had with this doctor on 31 March, so it refers to a date
8 where you were still at Park Lodge.

9 A. Yeah, that's right.

10 Q. The letter is dated May after you'd left Park Lodge.

11 A. Yeah.

12 Q. But you're still at Park Lodge when the letter was --

13 A. Yeah, when I had the assessment.

14 Q. -- when you saw the doctor?

15 A. Yeah, they were still carrying the assessment.

16 Q. I think broadly what you're telling us in relation to
17 this sort of record is that it is a record which shows
18 that you were making -- you were telling the doctor that
19 you were suffering abuse?

20 A. Yeah, yeah.

21 Q. One thing you say in your statement, 'Daniel', this is
22 at paragraph 78, is that -- and I'll read this bit. You
23 say:

24 'While I was there [and that is at Park Lodge], we
25 were visited --'

1 LADY SMITH: This is 79, I think.

2 MR MACAULAY: I'm obliged, my Lady, 79:

3 'While I was there, we were visited by a woman from
4 the Care Commission in 1997. She came to see how things
5 were in the home. I flagged up issues to her. I can't
6 remember her name. I told her what happened to me.
7 I think she just happened to be in my room so I spoke to
8 her. I never heard anything more about it. She
9 possibly pointed me in the direction of someone else.
10 The staff got away with murder because the young people
11 were sent to secure units.'

12 And you have touched upon that.

13 Now, I want to put a document on the screen for you.

14 A. Yeah.

15 Q. The reference number is GLA-000004097. And I just want
16 to put this to you, once we've got it, to draw your
17 attention to the fact that this appears to have been
18 a letter from the registration and inspection unit of
19 Glasgow City Council and it's addressed to the District
20 Manager at Morrison Street; do you see that?

21 A. Yeah.

22 Q. And it's dated 24 February 1998, when you're still at
23 Park Lodge.

24 A. Yeah.

25 Q. Now, in your statement you talk about the Care

1 Commission, but can I just tell you the Care Commission
2 didn't exist in 1997 --

3 A. Yeah, it was the care -- I knew it was care inspector
4 but I was getting mixed up with -- I knew it was --

5 Q. No, no, that's understandable, but I just wanted to --

6 A. I knew that she existed and that that letter is crucial
7 evidence.

8 Q. Well, the letter begins:

9 'An unannounced inspection to Park Lodge Children's
10 Home on 23 February by [the names are mentioned] left
11 them concerned about the vulnerability of a young
12 person.'

13 And that's you, 'Daniel':

14 "Daniel" took the opportunity to voice a host of
15 complaints and concerns about his residency at
16 Park Lodge, including personal issues, poor and
17 intrusive relationships with staff, feeling very unsafe
18 and generally dissatisfied with the general standard of
19 accommodation.'

20 Now, is this then what you are really referring to
21 in your statement when you talk about the Care
22 Commission?

23 A. Yeah.

24 Q. Here we have a summary of your complaints. Can you be
25 more specific as to what else you might have said to

1 these individuals?

2 A. Yeah. So I've more or less covered everything that
3 I've been saying today. The female came into my room to
4 speak to me and I remember her vividly. There was two,
5 I think, and she came in. I thought it was the care
6 inspector, but if it was that long ago -- but it's
7 irrelevant. And she was asking me what was going on.
8 I told her it was chaotic, the staff are fighting with
9 all the young people, their inappropriate restraining is
10 abuse. They're phoning the police, blaming the
11 children, saying that they're troublemakers, getting
12 them out the home. They're getting took away in
13 handcuffs to secure. Obviously -- does it mention me
14 about self-harming there?

15 I mean, so it's basically, it supports everything
16 that I've been saying throughout and what the
17 complaints -- or what I've been saying today.

18 Q. The letter goes on, if you read the next paragraph:

19 'South District have reportedly been advised about
20 these concerns but 'Daniel' considers many of these
21 issues remain unresolved and states they are causing him
22 considerable anxiety.'

23 A. Yeah.

24 Q. So that I think reflects the fact that you had told the
25 social worker?

1 A. Not been listened to, never been believed and just
2 branded a troublemaker. All the abuse or anything that
3 ever happened to me was always brushed under the carpet
4 and I never had a voice.

5 And I can see that John Legg's name's on this so he
6 was also aware and I've mentioned his name.

7 And the simple twist of fate regarding this letter,
8 my own 500-and-odd-page report I done, there's a point
9 number -- this table of contents is 22 points. Point
10 number 11 is care inspector, whatever, and I have
11 mentioned this incident within that 500-and-odd page.
12 I didn't know that this letter even existed until Colin
13 had told me, so that ties up with my own records that
14 I did actually speak to someone.

15 Q. Yes, I think when we met yesterday --

16 A. Yeah.

17 Q. -- so that you wouldn't be taken by surprise, I showed
18 you this letter?

19 A. Yeah, because this letter was also missing from the
20 social work file.

21 Q. You mentioned missing records before.

22 A. Yeah.

23 Q. Is it your view then that there are -- I know you have
24 recovered lots of records?

25 A. Yeah.

1 Q. Many, many pages of records?

2 A. Yeah, I have.

3 Q. Is it your view that there are records still to be
4 recovered, or have just gone missing?

5 A. Yes, I'm not fully satisfied. I have been doing the --
6 I've been doing this for over 30 year and speaking up
7 for abused children. But in relation to the records,
8 I have been on the Glasgow City Council's back since the
9 1990s and then yesterday I see a letter, in 2026, that
10 I was told did not exist.

11 I done a subject access request. I got 126 pages of
12 my social work file. I then went back to Glasgow City
13 Council and demanded to know where the rest of my
14 records were.

15 On the second subject access request I received
16 1,026 pages, and I've now submitted a third 'cos I'm not
17 fully satisfied because of the falsification of records,
18 the destroying of records, the turning a blind eye of
19 child abuse and everything else, that I just, I wouldn't
20 trust them as far I could throw them.

21 Q. Okay. 'Daniel', I suspect that you and the stenographers
22 in particular would welcome a break?

23 LADY SMITH: I think we should take a break just now.

24 A. Okay.

25 LADY SMITH: Would that work for you, 'Daniel', if we just

1 take a short break now?

2 A. Yeah, that's fine, yeah.

3 MR MACAULAY: I can assure 'Daniel' we'll finish in the time

4 we've got.

5 LADY SMITH: We've nearly finished.

6 A. Yeah.

7 LADY SMITH: Let's do that, 'Daniel'. Thank you.

8 (3.13 pm)

9 (A short break)

10 (3.27 pm)

11 LADY SMITH: 'Daniel', I hope the break helped. Is it all

12 right if we carry on with your evidence?

13 A. Yes, sure, fire away. Round 2.

14 MR MACAULAY: It's not a boxing match, so don't worry!

15 A. No, sometimes it feels like that.

16 LADY SMITH: It's certainly not intended. Look, no gloves!

17 Okay. Mr MacAulay.

18 MR MACAULAY: My Lady.

19 One thing I did read in your longer statement --

20 A. Yeah.

21 Q. -- which you sent us recently, is that there was

22 an incident when your room at Park Lodge was vandalised?

23 A. Yeah.

24 Q. Can you tell me about that? What happened there?

25 A. I think I was out and then someone had broken in through

1 the bedroom window and vandalised, and if I remember,
2 they stole property belonging to me.

3 Q. So do you say someone -- is that someone who wasn't
4 connected to the home?

5 A. It was a resident's brother. It was the staff who
6 caught him going up the ladder or whatever they used to
7 open the window from the outside. I wasn't there, I was
8 out.

9 Q. Were you compensated for your loss?

10 A. Yes, I was, because I wasn't -- I think something might
11 have been sentimental value, I can't recall exactly,
12 but, yeah, I wasn't going to let certain things drop.

13 Q. Now, were you also, when you were at Park Lodge, sent,
14 at least for brief periods, to stay with your aunt?

15 A. Yeah.

16 Q. And that wasn't pleasant for you?

17 A. No.

18 Q. And should you have been sent there?

19 A. No.

20 Q. Why not?

21 A. Because RMR [REDACTED], senior social worker, who was my
22 cousin and aunt's social worker, he was aware that there
23 was abuse within that branch of the family also, because
24 my cousin, [REDACTED], he was her social worker also.

25 Q. And were you -- did you suffer --

1 A. And my cousin [REDACTED] was in Glenrosa Children's Home,
2 round the corner from Park Lodge.

3 Q. And did you suffer any harm when you were sent to this
4 placement?

5 A. Yeah.

6 Q. Who --

7 A. My aunt's partner, who's now also dead, he, erm, after
8 my mother killed herself in 1994, in 1995 while I was in
9 Urrdale -- I'll get to Park Lodge -- during being sent
10 up there, my aunt's ex-partner -- well, partner at the
11 time, nearly murdered my uncle [REDACTED] with a samurai
12 sword, and he splashed blood over us and said that he
13 was going to kill us next. And we had to give a police
14 statement and attend a Glasgow court.

15 Q. But was the social work department aware of that
16 environment --

17 A. Yes.

18 Q. -- when you were sent there?

19 A. During -- there was multiple incidents where police were
20 called to the property for domestic violence and abuse
21 within the household. And during my time in Park Lodge,
22 erm, [REDACTED] thought it was great that I should continue
23 to go up to that house and my aunt's partner hit me with
24 a hammer, which I have the scar on my left hand.

25 Q. And did you then go back to Park Lodge?

1 A. Erm, I think there's a reference that I had to go to
2 hospital, but -- in the social work file, which, it
3 stated that there was an incident there.

4 Q. But you went -- do you remember going to hospital
5 because of the injury?

6 A. Erm, I was forever going to hospital. I always --
7 I've always had lots and lots of injuries fae all
8 different people, so that's why my medical records is
9 quite high.

10 Q. So having been to hospital, did you then -- were you
11 then sent back to Park Lodge?

12 A. Yeah, and RMR sent me back up to the house again, and
13 again, and again.

14 Q. And was this in an effort to get you into the community?

15 A. I don't know.

16 Q. Was that why he was doing it?

17 A. Well, he was moving me from the chip pan to the frying
18 pan, back to the chip pan, to the frying pan. So he
19 seems to -- didn't seem to manage situations. He was
20 putting victims with perpetrators, perpetrators with
21 victims, and moving children that shouldn't be with that
22 child or that adult, within the family. Not really
23 investigating -- same with the children's homes, they
24 didn't seem to be managing these situations of abuse
25 within the family and the care home.

1 In all the reports I've seen, there's not one piece
2 of evidence or action that that man took, apart from
3 blame the child, which was me.

4 Q. Now, can I take you now to when you came to leave
5 Park Lodge.

6 A. Yeah.

7 Q. And that was in [REDACTED] 1998 so you'd been there pretty
8 well nigh on a year.

9 A. Yeah.

10 Q. And you talk about that in particular at paragraph 81
11 where you say:

12 'I left Park Lodge after about a year.'

13 I think then you went to another two children's
14 homes before you were released from care; is that right?

15 A. RMR moved me from Park Lodge to my sister's house.

16 Q. To your sister's house?

17 A. Yeah.

18 Q. But then you went, I think, on to other care homes?

19 A. Yeah. I went on to other care homes because my sister
20 was a victim who turned into a perpetrator, and after
21 I had been moved from Park Lodge to my sister's house --
22 and it's in the records that my sister had sexually
23 abused me, and RMR was aware of this also, in the
24 family home as a child, so I shouldn't have been moved
25 into her home in the first place.

1 But while I was there, my sister went on to abuse
2 her newborn baby and the police were called and I had to
3 go back to RMR and I get moved into Clevedon.

4 Q. And you tell us a little bit about that and --

5 A. My sister's also dead now.

6 Q. And another place called Blackthorn, or in
7 Blackthorn Street.

8 But can I look on with you, 'Daniel', to life after
9 being in care?

10 A. Yeah.

11 Q. Can I just ask you about that?

12 You go on about that, tell us about that from
13 paragraphs 91 onwards and in particular, at paragraph 94
14 you tell us that you did eventually get some education;
15 is that correct?

16 A. Yeah.

17 Q. And in particular you studied for SVQs and you got
18 a diploma?

19 A. Yeah, and then I had to keep dropping out of things. My
20 employment history is chaotic, with alcohol, drugs,
21 self-harming, suicide in the family, abuse, continuous
22 abuse that's just stopped not all that long ago, my
23 grandfather [REDACTED] because
24 Glasgow City Council accused him of being a paedophile,
25 so I had to leave work and deal with him. [REDACTED] was

1 next to my home.

2 I tried to pretend that my life was okay and
3 everything was normal, and that's why I says in 2019,
4 when I gave the statement to the Inquiry, that nothing
5 affects me, I'm just as if -- because look what
6 I'm having to disclose today. I wisnae ready to
7 disclose these things in 2019.

8 Q. Yes, and we have discussed that.

9 A. Yeah, so the -- yeah, so I did get some form of
10 education here and there, but it's been -- all of these
11 hospital admit -- all of these things, it's had
12 an impact, mental health. I have a lot of medical
13 conditions, erm, as you can imagine. I'm only human.

14 Q. So if we look at paragraph 96, the heading there is
15 'Impact'.

16 A. Yeah.

17 Q. 'I don't think it has really affected me because I don't
18 dwell on the past.'

19 But that you're underplaying, the impact?

20 A. Yeah, because when I went -- because I knew this tsunami
21 that was coming, and I knew that the current living
22 family members, how it would affect them and their
23 trauma about disclosing. And then there was all the
24 things about investigating children -- it was just a lot
25 for me to take on back to back.

1 But what I did do is before 2019 and after 2019
2 until the present day, I went out there and I carried
3 out my own investigations, which included education as
4 one of the 22 points, Care Inspectorate, social work,
5 family history, family tree, and I have touched on the
6 Scottish Child Abuse Inquiry in one of those sections.
7 And I explain the reasons I said I don't think this has
8 affected me was because I wasn't ready, and then when
9 you read the over-500 pages, with the thousands of
10 supporting evidence, you will see why, because I wasn't
11 ready in 2019, but I'm ready now, so.

12 Q. You say at paragraph 97 that you had no education as
13 such?

14 A. Yeah.

15 Q. And you've self-educated, effectively; that's I think
16 what you're telling us, 'Daniel'?

17 A. Yeah, I have self-educated myself. So that is only --
18 I have self-educated myself on --

19 Q. Can I ask you about the criminal conviction then that
20 you mention?

21 A. Yeah.

22 Q. And I think you have something to say about that.
23 I don't think that resulted from an event at Park Lodge?

24 A. Yeah. It was the system, and it was the system in place
25 of using the police against the children as a -- so it

1 was the social workers were always believed.

2 So 999, police would come out: 'Take him away. He's
3 done this, she's done that'. False allegations.

4 Some of the children were unruly and maybe deserved
5 to be put in more secure accommodation, but not the high
6 volume that I seen.

7 And so they tried it with me, with the police,
8 using -- getting the police onto me, but I would fight
9 back. Not physically, by speaking up, by using
10 Who Cares? Scotland, children's rights, senior
11 management, Glasgow City Council.

12 So in Park Lodge I touched on it, they done the
13 same. RMR [REDACTED] was aware. Police were phoned.
14 False accusations --

15 Secondary Institutions - to be published later
16 [REDACTED]
17 [REDACTED]
18 [REDACTED]
19 [REDACTED]
20 [REDACTED]
21 [REDACTED]

22 So, because I am very vocal and I have been trying
23 to hold Glasgow City Council to account for their
24 actions for some time, they were always going to try and
25 target me and come after me with a pack of wolves.

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12 MR MACAULAY: And the conviction then, it may have been
13 breach of the peace --

14 A. It's followed me, yeah, it's followed me, erm, and if
15 I didn't speak up and make complaints, I probably
16 wouldn't have that conviction.

17 I haven't just let that conviction slip, because
18 I have contacted First Ministers, Disclosure Scotland,
19 Peter Reid, the Procurator Fiscal, I have contacted
20 Police Scotland and many others, on raising the issue of
21 abused children being convicted.

22 Q. Am I right in thinking then that your issue here really
23 is, apart from your own conviction, which is on the
24 record books, at 16 --

25 A. Yeah, it is, yeah.

1 Q. -- there are other children who were in the care
2 settings, in care settings --

3 A. Yeah.

4 Q. -- who you would say have been convicted when they
5 should not have been convicted?

6 A. Yeah --

7 Q. And that hangs over them?

8 A. Yeah. What I found when I was doing the subject access
9 request and digging deep into the Police Scotland
10 records was, erm, I had other incidents that were
11 recorded from Park Lodge **Secondary Institutions - to be published later**
12 but there were -- the Children's Panel, no further
13 action.

14 And one -- in the Park Lodge, there was an incident
15 recorded and I flagged that up in my own report and
16 I think it might touch on it in the social work file,
17 where the deputy within Park Lodge, Corrie, Corrie-Anne,
18 I think her name was, had told the staff members that
19 **MTG** had been assaulted by the staff and you should not
20 -- 'I would not have actioned', I think in her words,
21 'I would not have actioned the police to be phoned on
22 **MTG** after he made an allegation of being physically
23 abused, assaulted', in one of the documents that
24 I found.

25 Q. I think you cover that in your large statement?

1 A. Yeah, yeah.

2 Q. In fact, it was --

3 A. I was accused of assaulting the staff on that occasion,
4 so this is what I mean, they were using -- the police
5 never believed children in care in the 1990s, in that
6 period. They always took the social worker's side
7 regardless, whether you were innocent or guilty.

8 The unfortunate thing is Peter Reid, he was
9 sympathetic to and he is aware of -- he's the Procurator
10 Fiscal, or was in the Glasgow area -- about that there's
11 no appeals process. So there's nothing whether you can
12 come forward. It takes two to tango. So all you need
13 is two social workers to lie for each other and then
14 that's you, you have the book thrown at you. There
15 is -- you have no voice, and that's how you get people
16 out the care system, 'cos that's what they done to me
17 and kicked me out on the street and I was homeless,
18 aged 16.

19 Q. Well, I want now -- and you are probably in a good
20 position to deal with this, to look at what you would
21 say the lessons to be learned are, from your own
22 experience, and you set this out beginning in
23 paragraph 102 of your statement.

24 And the first thing that you tell us there is that
25 there was a lack of staff training and lack of

1 resources:

2 'In my opinion, big units and institutions don't
3 work.'

4 And you have already touched upon that.

5 A. They realise that now. That's why a lot of these
6 institutions are no longer here and they are building
7 smaller units with a maximum of eight people, just
8 depending with the council. But I know that Glasgow's
9 opened a few already with their self-build purpose
10 children's homes, a much more caring environment than
11 having big mansions with 20 people or whatever. It's --
12 yeah, it took them a long time, but that does make more
13 sense. Big units and institutions don't work.

14 Q. The second point you make at the next paragraph is that
15 there also weren't enough staff, staff shortages:

16 'The use of restraining techniques has to be
17 reviewed.'

18 And you have told us about the way techniques were
19 being used at Park Lodge.

20 A. Yeah.

21 Q. And I think your position is, that was abusive?

22 A. Yeah. Yeah, and now that you have touched on that,
23 because on 24 March 1998, I wrote a letter to Beth Smith
24 who was the ADO, Assistant District Officer, social work
25 head office. This was prior to the psych -- department

1 of psychiatry assessment, this was after this, so this
2 letter was before the assessment.

3 And I had put into that all the -- you have a copy
4 of this letter in the report I gave you, that I sent to
5 Beth.

6 And it touched on about the -- 'To Beth Smith' in
7 the address, so she got it, she received the letter, so
8 she was aware, just like John Legg was aware from the
9 inspector, just like the department of psychiatry was
10 aware, and told Beth Smith and RMR, senior
11 management at Glasgow City Council, so everybody was
12 aware.

13 There's a paper trail and the letter to Beth Smith
14 said, with my own writing, it said:

15 'The bad TCI techniques in Park Lodge.'

16 As a child I wrote that.

17 Q. And the third major point you make, 'Daniel', at 104, is
18 that there has to be proper complaints procedure?

19 A. Yeah.

20 Q. Now, you made lots of complaints, from what you're
21 telling us.

22 A. Yeah, I did.

23 Q. But this didn't seem to come to very much?

24 A. No. Well, right up the chain of command, I met Romy
25 La -- so after I had met most of them in 100 Morrison

1 Street, and I think Glasgow City Council moved to
2 India Street, and there I met with Ann McGaughrin, the
3 Children's Rights Officer for Glasgow City Council, who
4 was really supportive and very helpful. Ann is still
5 around and she was aware of the abuse that I suffered
6 within these homes, and many other children. She
7 attended the meeting with me and Romy Langland, Deputy
8 Director of Social Work at India Street, and we flagged
9 up every issue again to -- that I've just mentioned
10 today.

11 Q. Okay. And the final point you make here, 'Daniel', is:

12 'I think it's important that more encouragement is
13 given to children in terms of their education.'

14 A. Sorry, I just touch on -- after everything, everything
15 was not upheld, not upheld, not upheld, not upheld, so
16 Glasgow City Council did not -- the mountain of work
17 I'd put in and photographs and diaries and document
18 collating and everything, proving that there was
19 an issue, nothing was ever done. It continued well
20 after I had left the care system. There was still
21 issues.

22 Q. And coming back then to education, you look upon
23 education as being important?

24 A. Yes.

25 Q. In care?

1 A. Yeah. Yeah. I meant to touch on earlier that staff
2 would allow young people to sleep all day and be up all
3 night. So you were allowed to lay in your bed and
4 whether they came and done a knock, you wouldn't hear
5 it, they wouldn't care. As long as you're given your
6 money, out of sight, out of mind.

7 So there was no proper structure in -- but the
8 education -- education, I had other things going on, as
9 I touched on. It was things at home. It wasn't like
10 I could just get up and have a normal day, because
11 obviously I have multiple medical conditions that's
12 been, thingmy, verified, because of this.

13 Q. And that's what you mean in relation to education: the
14 regimen has to be stricter, you don't lie in your bed
15 all day --

16 A. No.

17 Q. -- and expect --

18 A. No, they need to -- the staff need to encourage -- it's
19 about the love, the care, compassion, the empathy, the
20 support. Education is very important. There needs to
21 be stricter care packages, stricter regimes. Not
22 stricter regimes where you have to physically abuse
23 under the inappropriate restraining techniques. There
24 needs to be -- I don't know what the structure is just
25 now, but it's a lot better than what it was in the

1 1990s.

2 And also, erm, Police Scotland are aware of my
3 concerns regarding about police reports, about abused
4 children having fines, convictions, Children's Panels.
5 I've contacted everyone about these issues for a number
6 of years up and down the chain of command, and
7 I'll continue to do so, 'cos Police Scotland will not --
8 always believe the social workers, but unfortunately
9 I have that conviction, the only one on my record, from
10 1998, and it is a bit of a nightmare to get it removed
11 because there's no appeals process, whether you have
12 evidence or not. And that is an injustice that maybe
13 the Inquiry should look at, about how many abused
14 children have police reports and convictions. Whether
15 that was used as punishment, along with sending people
16 to secure accommodation for speaking up about being
17 abused.

18 MR MACAULAY: Well, 'Daniel', these are all the questions
19 I have for you and I'll come back to you in a moment.

20 My Lady, I haven't had any questions submitted to me
21 to be put to 'Daniel'.

22 And 'Daniel', as we offer to applicants who come to
23 give evidence, is there anything else you would like to
24 say at this point?

25 A. Yeah, I just want to go over a couple of points. In

1 relation to the records and the whole -- because I have
2 struggled time and time again. When Colin introduced
3 that letter that I'd been looking for, because I knew
4 that that female that I spoke to, in Park Lodge, in my
5 bedroom, regarding these issues that I'm raising today,
6 I was aware that she was going to pass it on to head
7 office, and I've been told time and time again by
8 Glasgow City Council and their solicitors, Clyde & Co,
9 that there is no evidence of abuse, no records of abuse
10 and that is the end of the matter, case closed. I don't
11 think so.

12 Glasgow City Council claims department, senior
13 management and data protection department state they
14 found no evidence of abuse whatsoever. So how come
15 Colin found this letter which I was looking for?

16 If you read Colin's letter and cross-reference with
17 my report under point 11, regarding the inspector coming
18 to Park Lodge, I have mentioned that I spoke to someone.
19 Some sort of inspector. I thought it was what -- the
20 Care Commission. So Colin's letter links up with my
21 report that was done before I seen Colin's letter, so
22 that is one incident that I can link up.

23 I want -- so I just want to, erm -- I've touched on
24 the letter of Beth Smith. Glasgow City Council are
25 aware of that, so they were aware of the abuse. There

1 is other documents that I've found and they were fully
2 aware of exactly what was going on and they knew
3 exactly. Some of the staff members have been under
4 investigation but they keep moving people round the
5 system.

6 I just want to touch on Kerelaw. Kerelaw, there was
7 a lot of things happened there, children not believed
8 and listened to. I touched on that earlier. These bad
9 apples from Kerelaw and other places that were under
10 investigation in the 1990s, where did those staff
11 members go to, Glasgow City Council? Because you put
12 some of these monsters into the children's homes, where
13 there was vulnerable people like myself who went into
14 care as an orphan and had to encounter these people
15 physically abusing children.

16 Secondary Institutions - to be published later
17
18

19 When I done a subject access request to Police Scotland,
20 I looked through that and there is a reference there
21 that I was abused in another children's unit, but also
22 Park Lodge.

23 So Colin's letter, all the other documents that
24 I've encountered, Beth's letter, the manager that
25 I wrote to regarding abuse in children's homes, and

1 Police Scot -- Strathclyde Police at the time's police
2 statement [Secondary Institutions - to be published later] also said
3 that I was abused in Park Lodge.

4 I also want to touch on the department of psychiatry
5 report that Colin referred to earlier, 'cos I think this
6 is really important.

7 Glasgow City Council, I think [RMR], when
8 I was looking for my social work file in the 1990s,
9 [RMR] signed off that he had the file. I have
10 his signature. All the abuse within my family, most of
11 it, and all the abuse within these homes and wherever it
12 happened to me while [RMR] was my senior social
13 worker, is all missing. And I was fortunate enough to
14 dig deep into all my medical records and I encountered
15 the assessment done by the department of psychiatry,
16 just like Colin found another letter, and everything's
17 all -- all of these letters are appearing.

18 I just want to read some of the paragraphs from the
19 department of psychiatry, so here goes. The report that
20 was done:

21 'While he voiced particularly critical and negative
22 views of the residential staff at Park Lodge, the
23 consultant did not feel that he voiced at any stage
24 actual paranoid delusions that suggested he felt staff
25 were in some plotting to bring harm or misfortune upon

1 him. However, in contrast, he very clearly feels
2 warranted in his accusations in having been the victim
3 of abuse by staff in the past. Although I chose not to
4 get into the detail of this in my assessment contact,
5 when I challenged MTG 's --'

6 Sorry:

7 '-- when I challenged [his] disinclination to want
8 to trust social work staff in a residential environment,
9 he not surprisingly responded by saying, "I have not
10 been looked after properly and it is the staff who have
11 done this to me".'

12 I want to go on to another paragraph because these
13 are really important. This document was missing from
14 the social work file and it's linked to RMR :

15 'There was no other evidence of other major
16 psychiatric disorders such as, say, psychotic disorder.'

17 The next -- I'll take another part fae here:

18 'While relatively settled at interview, he described
19 very clearly his conviction that he had been abused in
20 the past by a number of staff in a children's home. And
21 these comments apart, there was no evidence at interview
22 to suggest that he was experiencing any major act of
23 psychiatric disorder as such.'

24 So this part here:

25 'So the consultant spoke with RMR on the

1 phone about [my] immediate care and you have mentioned
2 that your plan was to move him in the interim placement
3 to live with his elder sister.'

4 So, again, why would they do this to me knowing the
5 history? Why is he moving victims and perpetrators and
6 all sorts here, there and everywhere?

7 So on this I want to say that, number one, so not
8 only did Glasgow City Council cover up child abuse,
9 number two, had moved children into secure accommodation
10 as punishment to silence them, and number three, they
11 also tried to create a narrative influence and diagnose
12 me that I was just being paranoid.

13 For your information, Glasgow City Council, paranoia
14 is linked to PTSD. This illness I have, you contributed
15 to this.

16 I just want to finish up with the next part, please.
17 It just gets better.

18 I am shocked but not surprised by Glasgow City
19 Council. Their social workers, like RMR [REDACTED],
20 senior social worker, and many others who falsified
21 records, wrote malicious reports, destroyed documents,
22 turned a blind eye to child abuse, not only in
23 Park Lodge, blamed the child, and the bad apples like
24 RMR [REDACTED] are still floating around the system.

25 RMR [REDACTED] is now on the Redress Scotland [REDACTED] looking

1 at applications for abused children.

2 I have a live complaint with Glasgow City Council
3 regarding RMR's conduct.

4 Glasgow City Council can hide behind Clyde & Co
5 Solicitors who agreed with their client and found no
6 evidence. But when I passed Colin the mountain of
7 evidence I collated, there was plenty of it, document
8 after document after document.

9 Glasgow City Council should apologise for what they
10 done to me, but they won't. When I look at the scars on
11 my body on a daily basis, the scars have Glasgow City
12 Council wrote all over them.

13 I just have the finishing parts, please, of this.

14 I hope all the children and young people get some
15 form of justice and remember those who were failed by
16 the system.

17 The Inquiry should get Glasgow City Council to
18 double check all records on the back of this, because
19 I am not fully satisfied that they have disclosed all
20 information or found all information.

21 I've touched on where did Kerelaw staff get moved
22 to, around the system, because, I mean, it's like RMR
23 RMR: you need to look about what children are linked
24 to these people, who were they in charge of, who did
25 they make decisions? If RMR turned a blind

1 eye to me and other family members, who else did he turn
2 a blind eye to? So his past should really be looked
3 into.

4 And I've touched on police and Procurator Fiscal and
5 the injustices, miscarriages of justices, and using
6 police and Procurator Fiscal as a weapon against abused
7 children, to brand them troublemakers, get them
8 convicted and thrown out on the street. I went into
9 care as an orphan and I came out of care a convicted
10 criminal.

11 And on the back of all of this, there should be some
12 sort of monument or remembrance garden of sort for the
13 thousands of victims that are out there. There should
14 be something for the generation after generation. There
15 should be something that the Inquiry should make
16 a recommendation, that there is something out there to
17 honour people's memory and who have been caught up in
18 all of this mess.

19 I think that's it.

20 MR MACAULAY: Well, thank you very much indeed, 'Daniel',
21 for that, particularly that final poignant, rather,
22 point that you've made. Thank you for coming to the
23 Inquiry.

24 A. Yeah.

25 LADY SMITH: 'Daniel', I just want to add my thanks once

1 more to you for coming here today and bearing with us so
2 patiently as we've questioned you on quite a number of
3 things. And thank you also for the very hard work you
4 have put into --

5 A. Yeah.

6 LADY SMITH: -- your own research, and in your preparation
7 for what you wanted to say today.

8 A. Yeah, I've done this not only for myself but other
9 people. It's very difficult to not dwell and go off
10 course, but I hope that the mountain of evidence that
11 I have passed over, and have plenty more, if required,
12 will go on to assist the Inquiry for anything as part of
13 their investigations. But, yeah, I think Glasgow City
14 Council's conduct and their records-searching and
15 everything needs to be re-looked at.

16 LADY SMITH: Thank you for your contributions, 'Daniel'. We
17 know where you are if we need anything else from you.
18 Thank you so much.

19 Now do feel free to go and have a restful time for
20 the rest of today.

21 (The witness withdrew)

22 LADY SMITH: There are a couple of names we've used this
23 afternoon of people who are not to be identified as
24 referred to in our evidence outside this room. And
25 I have noted RMR and MTL and

1 I'm just going to check, is that everybody? [REDACTED],
2 [REDACTED] and MTG as well. Yes of course, thank you very
3 much.

4 Now, that's us until tomorrow, I think, Mr MacAulay?

5 MR MACAULAY: That's us until tomorrow, and that's the
6 evidence for this chapter.

7 LADY SMITH: Yes.

8 MR MACAULAY: And tomorrow we turn to look at Eversley and
9 Downcraig.

10 LADY SMITH: Thank you very much. I'll rise now until
11 10 o'clock tomorrow morning.

12 (4.03 pm)

13 (The Inquiry adjourned until 10.00 am
14 on Friday, 15 May 2026)

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