

Tuesday, 19 May 2026

1

2 (10.00 am)

3 LADY SMITH: Good morning, and welcome back to Phase 10 of
4 our case study hearings in which we're looking into the
5 provision of residential care for children in places run
6 by local authorities, and establishments run by
7 voluntary providers and others that were used by local
8 authorities to place children in care.

9 Today and over the course of the next couple of
10 weeks, we will be looking specifically at Fornethy House
11 Residential School.

12 I recognise that there's a high level of interest in
13 the Fornethy evidence and for some people, whether today
14 or in other days in the course of these hearings, it
15 could be their first time attending this public Inquiry
16 and I thought it might be helpful if, before we hear
17 from today's first witness, I mention some important
18 housekeeping rules.

19 Providing evidence isn't easy, particularly when
20 witnesses are having to speak about what happened a long
21 time ago when they were young, vulnerable, and
22 experienced distressing events. It matters greatly to
23 me that they're afforded the best opportunity to give
24 their evidence without unnecessary anxiety or
25 distraction and, for that reason, they need to be

1 assured that their evidence is not being filmed or
2 recorded by anybody in the public seats.

3 It's important for me and the stenographers to be
4 able to hear them as well, and concentrate on what the
5 witnesses are saying.

6 Accordingly, the rule is that the only recording of
7 evidence which can and does take place is the recording
8 carried out by the two stenographers who are here
9 sitting just beside me. In due course, transcripts are
10 published on our website, so anyone who would like to
11 read the evidence later will be able to do so.

12 I also appreciate that people in the public seats
13 may at times need to have a discussion or make or take
14 a phone call. In that event, there are rooms available
15 outside of the hearing room and they're welcome to make
16 use of any of those.

17 Further, members of Inquiry staff are seated in the
18 public galleries should anybody require assistance.
19 I hope that's helpful, but any queries, people should
20 feel free to raise with Inquiry staff. We'll do all we
21 can to help.

22 Now, I'd like to turn to Mr MacAulay to open the
23 evidence for today. Mr MacAulay.

24 MR MACAULAY: Yes, good morning, my Lady.

25 As your Ladyship has just said, the next two weeks

1 are devoted to looking at Fornethy House Residential
2 School, and can I just emphasise the reference to
3 'school' in that description.

4 It was located near Alyth in Angus, about 80 miles
5 from Glasgow. It opened in 1960 and it was opened by
6 Glasgow Corporation as a residential school and
7 thereafter, with local administration changes, by
8 Strathclyde Regional Council from 1975.

9 The original thinking was that it was to be
10 a residential school for Protestant convalescent girls
11 aged 5 to 12 and, when it opened, Fornethy could
12 accommodate up to 74 girls at a time. So it was a large
13 establishment.

14 To what extent it could be described as
15 a convalescent school is perhaps unclear, particularly
16 as the years went on, and there is evidence that girls
17 were sent there on the basis that they were going on
18 holiday.

19 In any event, the recorded aim was to aid pupils'
20 'social and education advancement and physical
21 wellbeing.'

22 The Section 21 response submitted by Glasgow City
23 Council suggests that by 1987, the term 'convalescent'
24 was no longer applied and it was now being designated as
25 being for primary school groups from areas of

1 deprivation, and from about 1991, the establishment's
2 aim was changed to the provision of leisure time,
3 outdoor opportunities, for girls and boys, and the
4 establishment closed in early 1993 as surplus to
5 requirements.

6 My Lady, can I say in comparison to other chapters,
7 there are no records to assist with dates. Clearly,
8 applicants have tried their best to provide as much
9 clarity as possible in connection with the dates, but we
10 are dealing with children, many of whom were very young
11 when they went to Fornethy.

12 LADY SMITH: And of course many of our applicants are now in
13 their 60s and 70s and it's very hard to be clear in your
14 own mind about the exact dates you were there when, as
15 you say, you were so young.

16 MR MACAULAY: Absolutely.

17 And the evidence that your Ladyship will hear will
18 cover a period from the early 1960s to the early 1980s.

19 Against that background, my Lady, can I then call
20 the first witness, who is an applicant. She wants to
21 remain anonymous and to use the pseudonym 'Julie' in her
22 evidence.

23 LADY SMITH: Thank you.

24 'Julie' (sworn)

25 LADY SMITH: 'Julie', thank you so much for coming along

1 this morning to help us with your evidence in person.
2 As you know, I've already got your written evidence and
3 it's been so good to be able to read that in advance, so
4 that we can focus on particular aspects that we'd like
5 to discuss with you, but also give you the opportunity
6 to add anything that you want to, now that you're here.

7 I think you're aware that the statement you signed
8 is in that red folder there beside you, and we'll also
9 bring it up on screen. You might find that helpful when
10 we're looking at particular parts of it.

11 I know that you've got your own notes. Feel free to
12 use those as well if you'd find them helpful. Anything
13 that makes it more comfortable for you to give evidence
14 is okay with me.

15 If you want a break at any time, just ask. The way
16 we schedule the morning is I'll run now until about
17 11.30 anyway and take a break then. Now, we may have
18 completed what we need to talk to you about in oral
19 evidence at that stage, but we'll certainly have a break
20 then if we haven't.

21 If you want a break at any other time though, that's
22 all right as well, so you must say if you need it.

23 If the questions we're asking you don't make sense,
24 that is our fault, not yours, and we're well aware of
25 the risk of, because of our backgrounds, talking in ways

1 that aren't necessarily the most helpful to witnesses.
2 So speak up and ask any questions you've got, please do.

3 If you're ready, I'll hand over to Mr MacAulay and
4 he'll take it from there. Is that all right?

5 A. Yes, thank you.

6 LADY SMITH: Thank you.

7 Questions from Mr MacAulay

8 MR MACAULAY: My Lady.

9 Yes, good morning again, 'Julie'. As you know,
10 I'm Colin, and if you don't mind, I'll refer to you as
11 'Julie'. Are you happy with that?

12 A. Yes.

13 Q. The first thing I want you to do, 'Julie', is to look at
14 the last page of your statement, and can you confirm
15 that you have signed the statement?

16 A. Yes.

17 Q. And do you say in the final paragraph:

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

22 Is that right?

23 A. Yes, yes.

24 Q. And if we go to the beginning of the statement, can you
25 just confirm to me the year of your birth? I don't want

1 your date of birth, just the year of your birth. And
2 were you born in 1957?

3 A. Yes, that's correct.

4 Q. Now just for the benefit of the transcript, I'm going to
5 provide a reference for the statement and that is
6 WIT-1-000001127.

7 Now, 'Julie', you begin by telling us what life was
8 like for you before going into care and I think you were
9 staying in Glasgow, at least initially, is that right?

10 A. Yes, yes.

11 Q. And you were staying with your parents and you also had
12 two brothers?

13 A. Mm-hmm.

14 Q. I think you say at one point your memory was -- memory
15 was rather hazy, but you were living in a tenement
16 building, you thought, in the Maryhill part of Glasgow;
17 is that right?

18 A. Yeah, my memory of that is quite clear.

19 Q. Yes. Okay. And what do you want to tell me about your
20 family background?

21 A. So my father, erm, he was from quite a wealthy, middle
22 class family. He was an only child and he met my mum
23 when she was 16 and they played tennis. My mum came
24 from a large family of sisters and one brother, and they
25 met and got married. My father then lost both his

1 parents when he was about 21 and that's when things went
2 wrong for him and for the family.

3 Q. And I think you -- we don't need to look at the detail,
4 but I think he had a problem with drinking and also with
5 gambling?

6 A. Yeah, and he became quite violent towards my mum and the
7 children in the family.

8 Q. And was it a consequence possibly of his gambling and
9 drinking that you'd tend to move house from time to
10 time?

11 A. Yes, yeah. My father started off, he was an accountant.
12 He had his own little practice, I believe. And then as
13 businesses failed, he'd have several jobs, and the
14 moving around was, I think, part of maybe escaping
15 debtors, maybe. I remember people coming to the door
16 looking for money.

17 Q. And so far as schooling is concerned, did that mean you
18 also had to move to different schools?

19 A. Yeah, yeah. I've got very little memories of schools.
20 Erm, I was at Cuthbertson School in Glasgow, I do
21 remember being there in Govanhill. But the other
22 schools, there's nothing.

23 Q. Now, can I take you to the lead-up to you going to
24 Fornethy because that's what we're going to talk about.
25 What's your recollection as to how it came to be that

1 you went to Fornethy?

2 A. Again, there's not a lot of factual stuff because nobody
3 said: this is what's happening. My dad was in and out
4 of the home due to him just leaving, and then popping
5 back and leaving.

6 A couple of weeks -- again, I haven't got a clear
7 timeframe, but in my little girl's memory it was quite
8 close to going to Fornethy, I'd been abused by
9 a friend's neighbour -- father, a neighbour's friend's
10 father, and that was very traumatic for me. And it was
11 shortly after that somebody came to the school and took
12 us out of school and said: 'You're going on this little
13 holiday'.

14 I remember having the medical in Glasgow, down to my
15 vest and pants and I remember being examined. Again,
16 I didn't really know why, because nobody really said:
17 this is what's happening to you.

18 So it was all a bit of, I guess, just being taken
19 from there into there and suddenly you're going on
20 a train with a little suitcase.

21 Q. And I'll come to that, but you mentioned something bad
22 that happened to you by a friend of your father's; is
23 that right?

24 A. No, it was my friend. We lived in a tenement block in
25 a square and then you had the bit in the middle with all

1 the bins, and it was the tenement to the right of me.
2 I'd gone upstairs to call on her and the father said:
3 she's not in, but do come in and you can play with her
4 dollies. And there was one particular little dolly that
5 I took to, and, er, then I was sexually abused by this
6 man.

7 Q. And did you tell your mother about that?

8 A. I went home and I mentioned it to her and she put me in
9 the sink, washed me down, and it was never spoken of
10 again.

11 Q. Was there any police involvement?

12 A. Not as far as I'm aware. Um, nobody certainly
13 interviewed me or said: 'What happened?'.

14 Q. Well, let's then look to going to Fornethy. What age
15 were you, do you think, looking back?

16 A. I was about 8.

17 Q. And so looking to your date of birth, that would be
18 around 1965, mid-1960s?

19 A. Yeah, roughly then, yeah.

20 Q. And how long after the sexual abuse was it, do you
21 think, that you were sent?

22 A. I don't know about time. I just know that it was close
23 together, because I can remember feeling: I'm being sent
24 away or I've done something wrong or I've been bad.
25 'Cos now, later on in life, you look back and you

1 realise there's a lot of shame involved, and that shame
2 makes you feel like you're the bad one.

3 Q. You mentioned a little while ago that you travelled from
4 Glasgow by train, is that correct?

5 A. Yeah.

6 Q. And where did you travel to?

7 A. So it was from Queen Street Station, I don't know where
8 we ended up, I just know that when I got off the train
9 after a very long journey, there was a minibus,
10 I believe, came and took me. I didn't have anybody with
11 me.

12 Q. That's what I was going to ask you: you travelled alone?

13 A. Yeah, yeah.

14 Q. And when you then got to your destination and to the
15 minibus, were there any other girls there?

16 A. I don't remember. I don't remember.

17 Q. And was it then in the minibus that you were taken to
18 Fornethy?

19 A. Yeah.

20 Q. Was the driver of the minibus a male?

21 A. I don't remember.

22 Q. One thing you say in your statement, in relation to how
23 long you spent at Fornethy, is that you were given some
24 information subsequently by your aunt, as to how long
25 she said you spent there?

1 A. Mm-hmm.

2 Q. What's your own sense, leaving aside your aunt's
3 recollection, as to how long you spent there?

4 A. Again, as a child, time is very different as to how time
5 is now. Erm, I've since learned that children were
6 there or girls were there between six and eight weeks.
7 I do remember when I came back home, my mum said I was
8 there for two weeks, which I knew wasn't true, because
9 every fortnight we had delivery of mail from our home
10 and I had a box of paper dollies, where you hung clothes
11 onto them and, every fortnight, I would receive more of
12 these little paper outfits to go on the dollies and
13 I had quite a lot of those. I do remember packing to
14 come home and I couldn't fit them in the little case
15 'cos I had so many, so I know that I was definitely
16 there for at least a couple of months.

17 Q. But did you have -- did you get some information from
18 your aunt as to what she --

19 A. Yeah.

20 Q. -- was saying about how long you spent there?

21 A. Yeah. My cousin, who's in the gallery at the back,
22 we've been speaking about lots of things and during that
23 time, my younger brother had gone to live with her and
24 he was there for a year. My older brother had gone to
25 another residential home for six weeks and then he went

1 to my granny's. I don't know what happened to me.
2 I remember it being really sunny and warm and having the
3 long walks. I also remember it snowing. But then that
4 might be the case if you're on top of a mountain and
5 you've got snow.

6 I just really don't know. I've got no records of
7 how long I was there, but in my mind it was a long, long
8 time.

9 Q. And did your aunt perhaps provide you with any
10 clarification as to how long you might have spent there?

11 A. No. This came through my cousin.

12 Q. Okay. But one thing you tell us about your aunt is that
13 she indicated that you'd been evicted from your home, is
14 that right, and that may have link -- that may have been
15 a link to you going to Fornethy?

16 A. Yeah, afterwards, you know, when you get into your 40s
17 and 50s and you start talking about these things, my
18 brothers and I met and we tried to fit all these pieces
19 of the jigsaw together, because I know that when I did
20 come out of Fornethy, I stayed with my aunt in Cardonald
21 for two years. So the home that I left, I didn't go
22 back there.

23 Q. I see.

24 A. And so the memories are just really hazy and the problem
25 I have is that my mum would never talk to me about any

1 of it. She couldn't. Whenever I tried to raise it or
2 when, say, the aunties came down from Glasgow to England
3 and we'd be sitting round, I'd say: oh, can someone tell
4 me more? And the conversation would just be hit dead.
5 It was a no-go area.

6 Q. Well, let's look then at your arrival at Fornethy.

7 Are you happy enough to look at a photograph?

8 A. Yes.

9 Q. This will come on the screen for you. It's at
10 INQ-0000001236.

11 So that's an aerial view of the building -- of
12 a building; do you recognise it?

13 A. Yes.

14 Q. As Fornethy?

15 A. Yes.

16 Q. And it was a pretty substantial building?

17 A. Yeah, yeah.

18 Q. And the next -- another photograph, perhaps,
19 INQ-0000001243. Again, we have a different view, but
20 again would you recognise that as Fornethy?

21 A. Yeah, that's the one that's in my memory, of the tall
22 white buildings and the windows, because my little
23 8-year-old self only ever stood against the back wall of
24 one of these buildings. I never went anywhere except
25 I just stood on that back wall and that's my memory, my

1 picture, yeah.

2 Q. Now, let's take you to your arrival there on the first
3 day. Did you meet any member of staff at that time?

4 A. My memory of arriving is through the big door and going
5 in and there being a staircase, and sitting down with
6 the case before being shown to the dorm. I don't
7 remember what happened at that point.

8 Q. Okay. But you were to be accommodated in a dormitory?

9 A. Yes.

10 Q. And can you remember what level that was?

11 A. Yeah, I went up to the first lot of stairs, turned left
12 and the dorm was just there on the right, and there was
13 a number of beds and I was the first bed on the right as
14 you went in.

15 Q. And just jumping ahead a little bit, were there -- did
16 you come to realise that the dormitory was -- also
17 accommodated other girls?

18 A. Yes. Yes.

19 Q. Were they the same age as you or were their ages -- was
20 there a range of ages?

21 A. I don't remember. I've got -- so much of my memory's
22 just -- I remember key things, but the details of much
23 of it, things like what you're asking me.

24 Q. I mean, can you tell me, for example, even broadly, what
25 sense you had as to how many girls were at Fornethy at

1 the time you were there?

2 A. No.

3 Q. Or the age range? I mean, for example, were there girls
4 there of your own age?

5 A. I remember the pinnies --

6 Q. Sorry?

7 A. I remember the pinnies, all having these pinnies, but
8 I don't remember faces.

9 Q. Pinnies was part of your dress?

10 A. Yeah, we had to wear the little flowery pinnies and
11 I can remember seeing those, but -- I know there was
12 other girls there.

13 Q. I think you do say in your statement that there is a lot
14 that you can't remember or you have blanked out from
15 your memory; is that what you think?

16 A. Yeah, yeah.

17 Q. One thing you say about your first day -- your first
18 night is that it was 'absolutely horrendous'.

19 A. Mm-hmm.

20 Q. Why was that?

21 A. So it was bedtime and I'd gone up to the dorm on the
22 first night. I pulled my sheet back, white sheets, and
23 there in the middle of it was an enormous poo. Enormous
24 poo. And I was -- I can remember the shock that -- just
25 confusion as to why that was there.

1 Q. And did you draw that to the staff attention?

2 A. Yeah, yeah.

3 Q. What happened?

4 A. I went and got a lady. I don't know if she was
5 an ancillary worker or, but I told this lady and she
6 came in and she slapped me round the head and blamed me
7 and said I had done it.

8 So she whipped -- she changed all the bed for me to
9 get into a clean bed, but that was just horrible on your
10 first night to see that poo. Horrible. And then to be
11 blamed for it and be hit round the head for it as well.

12 Q. When you say hit round the head, was that once?

13 A. Just slapped.

14 Q. Once or more than once?

15 A. I think just the once, yeah.

16 Q. Perhaps I can ask you about the people who worked there.
17 Do you remember any of the names of the members of
18 staff?

19 A. I didn't at the time. It was only after I met with
20 survivors that they said who the names were. There was
21 a Fletcher and there was a **LBD** and that brought back
22 the memory of the names. I just saw faces. So even
23 that kind of detail -- I don't know whether I was just
24 in my own little world, really.

25 Q. I mean, did you have any sense that there was somebody

1 who was in charge?

2 A. Yeah. Yeah, the lady with the funny hair. She always

3 had a little dog and a big necklace. I kind of got

4 a sense of this matronly-type figure. She was very

5 cruel.

6 Q. And I'll come on to some of that in a moment.

7 A. Yeah.

8 Q. You talk about bed-wetting.

9 A. Mm-hmm.

10 Q. There were children who wet the bed. Did you wet the

11 bed?

12 A. No. No, not as far as I can remember.

13 Q. No. And what happened to children who did wet the bed?

14 A. So, children that had wet the bed would be pulled out of

15 the bed. There was rubber sheets under all the white

16 sheets. They would be chastised and I remember there

17 would be a chair that would be put at the bottom of

18 their bed 'cos they were the bed-wetters, and they were

19 punished for wetting the bed as well: hit, and made to

20 stand in the corridor, and then made to sleep on the

21 rubber sheet, which, again, horrible.

22 LADY SMITH: So that was directly onto the rubber sheet?

23 A. Yes, yeah.

24 MR MACAULAY: When you say they were hit, was that by one of

25 the members of staff?

1 A. Yeah, yeah.

2 Q. And can you describe how they were hit?

3 A. Not really. I have thought about this. I just know
4 that like I'm under the covers scared and worried and
5 that they were being mistreated.

6 Q. What was your own reaction to this?

7 A. Terror. I was often crying myself to sleep every night
8 and if you did cry, you would be told to stop crying,
9 erm, otherwise you -- I don't know how many times they
10 said to me: 'You'll never see your mother again if you
11 don't stop crying'.

12 And so you cried quietly, inside you sobbed, because
13 you didn't want to be pulled out of bed, put into the
14 corridor, where you were told terrible things, ghosts in
15 the fireplaces. They told us things that would make us
16 frightened.

17 Q. And did that happen to you?

18 A. Yeah.

19 Q. What sort of things were said?

20 A. Just: 'If you don't stop crying, you'll never see your
21 mother again'.

22 Q. And why were you in the corridor, was that because you
23 were crying?

24 A. Because I was crying, yeah. They'd pull you out of bed
25 and just throw you into the corridor. And you had to

1 stand there --

2 Q. In your night clothes?

3 A. -- in your vest and pants. Yeah.

4 Q. And would you be standing there in the corridor?

5 A. Yeah, just standing, cold. And what I do remember

6 about -- I don't think it happened to me a lot, but

7 I remember the blue light above the outside of the dorm,

8 and that was the only bit of kind of light that there

9 was.

10 Q. And you're telling us what happened to you, but did you

11 see this happen to other girls?

12 A. I think I had -- I was aware that it happened to them,

13 they were being taken out the dorm, but again your

14 memories are -- it's only later on when you look back or

15 when you hear other people talking about it you think:

16 yeah, that confirms my sense of things. But you don't

17 necessarily focus in on that. You're thinking about

18 your own pain. Trying to protect yourself.

19 Q. Now, you talk about mealtimes and the food that you were

20 given, and in particular you had porridge for breakfast,

21 I think is one thing you say. And there was certain

22 food that you found difficulty in eating, is that right?

23 A. Mm-hmm.

24 Q. And I'll come back to that in a moment. But one thing

25 you also talk about is washing and bathing and what you

1 say at paragraph 28 is that you 'remember getting
2 scrubbed in the bath when I first arrived'.

3 So can you just explain to me what that involved?

4 A. So I remember we were all lining up to go to the area
5 where there was the bathing and being put into the bath,
6 and just felt like a scrubbing brush that your mum would
7 use to scrub the doorstep of the -- of her house. It
8 was a harsh brush and just that roughness really and not
9 kind of a gentle: 'Let's get you clean'. It was almost
10 as if you were really dirty, which, I don't believe we
11 were dirty.

12 Q. And was there a particular type of soap used?

13 A. Yeah, it was that Glasgow sort of carbolic soap that you
14 probably all remember.

15 LADY SMITH: With the very distinctive smell.

16 A. Yeah, yeah, yeah.

17 MR MACAULAY: And when you say this was -- you were scrubbed
18 with the sort of brush you have described, was that
19 uncomfortable?

20 A. Yes, yeah, yeah. It was harsh, yeah.

21 Q. And you began by explaining this process by saying 'we'
22 were getting ready; were there other girls then sort of
23 queuing up?

24 A. Yeah, we were all made to stand in a line, without
25 anything on as well.

1 Q. So were all the girls naked?

2 A. Naked, mm-hmm.

3 Q. And how did you feel about that?

4 A. Well, I was very shy as a young girl, quite timid. Just
5 as an aside, I remember, when I eventually came to
6 secondary school, wearing a swimsuit in the showers
7 before -- after PE and being made to take it off.
8 I didn't want to be naked. I was shy.

9 Q. And did you get any sense in respect of the other girls,
10 how they were feeling about standing there naked?

11 A. Not really, no. I think you're in your own world.

12 Q. And apart from that experience, did that bathing type of
13 process happen once or more than once?

14 A. After that, it was showers. I can -- I've only got
15 limited memory about the showers but I do remember one
16 occasion being made to go to the shower room in the
17 dark, it was nighttime, and having to go to the shower
18 room and being the only little girl in that shower
19 block, with a member of staff watching, and the water
20 was cold and just having to take a shower in a dark
21 place, with no light.

22 Q. Did that leave a lasting impression on you, being in the
23 dark?

24 A. Yeah, oh, absolutely. I'm absolutely terrified of the
25 dark, as my husband will testify. I don't like being at

1 home on my own and I don't like going to bed on my own
2 at night if my husband's away. I go into a freeze.
3 I have to get my daughter's dog. I just cannot bear to
4 be on my own in the dark.

5 Q. Now, you tell us a little bit about your leisure time,
6 if I can refer to it as that, and in particular that you
7 went on long walks?

8 A. Mm-hmm.

9 Q. Can you describe that for me?

10 A. They were bittersweet because I loved getting out of
11 that home and going off into the mountain. They were
12 long walks. They must have been a good five or six
13 miles, very long, and climbing up a hill and at the top
14 of the hill there was quartz-type rocks, like white,
15 beautiful rocks, and I can remember just feeling free.
16 And even to this day I love being outdoors. I love
17 being in the mountains. And so that was a more positive
18 experience.

19 Q. And would there be a number of girls?

20 A. Yeah, yeah. We were all -- we all went together. But
21 the bitter part was, you know, you had to hurry up and
22 you had these wellies on that would smart at the back of
23 your legs and, you know, they would be punishing you if
24 you weren't going fast enough: 'Move along'. Slapping
25 you.

1 Q. How would you be punished?

2 A. Slapping you on the legs, yeah. So that was -- that was
3 not very -- very good, but going up was fine. It
4 was the coming back. If you think about some of those
5 girls would maybe be younger than me. They were long
6 walks.

7 Q. Yeah.

8 A. But they were freedom in my mind. I loved this expanse
9 and being away from that place.

10 Q. And how often did you go on these long walks?

11 A. I can't say it was every day, but it was -- they were
12 regular, yeah.

13 Q. And what about schooling? Did you have lessons?

14 A. Well, there was classrooms. I seem to remember they
15 were down at the bottom end. The classrooms had tables
16 and chairs and blackboard. We were given things to do
17 in the mornings. There were teachers, or a teacher,
18 erm, yeah.

19 Q. Were you in a class then --

20 A. With other girls.

21 Q. -- of girls of your own age?

22 A. Again, I don't know much about the other children.
23 I just know there was a lot of other girls in there with
24 me.

25 Q. And were you being taught primary school-type of

1 subjects like arithmetic, English and so on; can you
2 remember?

3 A. I don't know. I don't know what I was being taught. My
4 clear memory, I can see where I was sitting in this
5 classroom and we were able to write a letter home.

6 Q. I'll come back to that in a moment. But have you any
7 recollection at all of being taught sums and English?

8 A. No.

9 Q. No. When, during the day, would you be going to the
10 classes?

11 A. I believe it was the mornings, after breakfast.

12 Q. Does that mean it was in the afternoon you went on the
13 walks?

14 A. Yeah, I believe, that would make sense.

15 Q. You do tell us, 'Julie', that you had no visits from
16 family members when you were there; is that correct?

17 A. Absolutely correct.

18 Q. And did anybody else come to visit that you were aware
19 of?

20 A. I do have a very strong memory of one night there being
21 a bit of commotion outside, because my room was up to
22 the right of where the main entrance was, and several of
23 us got out of bed and looked down and there was a very,
24 very posh black car pulled up and a little girl with
25 dark hair got into the car and she was taken away. And

1 so for some reason she got to go home. In my mind
2 that's what I thought was happening. I don't know
3 whether that was right or not, but.

4 Q. But apart from that you have no recollection of any
5 other visitors coming to look at Fornethy?

6 A. There was a priest or a man of the cloth that came in.
7 No, but nobody else that I can remember. As I say, my
8 memories are terrible for lots of it, the day-to-day
9 routines and --

10 Q. Well, it was a long time ago, 'Julie', so I wouldn't be
11 too concerned about that.

12 A. Yeah, and --

13 Q. But if you can tell us what you can.

14 A. Yeah, the memories that I do have are probably the not
15 very nice ones.

16 Q. Yes. Was there a phone that you could use to phone
17 home?

18 A. No, no. Not that I remember.

19 Q. You mentioned letter writing. Can you just help me with
20 that: how was that managed?

21 A. So I remember being sat at the desk with a pen and
22 a piece of paper and we were told to write to our mums
23 and dads about Fornethy and about our time away and
24 I just remember writing: 'Mummy, this is a terrible
25 place, please come and get me'.

1 I can't say that's the exact words, but that was the
2 sentiment of it, and when they came round to collect the
3 letters, mine was read and she just went like that
4 (Indicating) and ripped it up in front of me and said:
5 'Now copy the letter off the blackboard'. Which was
6 a great betrayal, because at that point you just feel:
7 'How will my mummy know what's happening to me?'.
8 And the feeling still stays with me, that feeling
9 of ...
10 (Pause) You were helpless to do anything about your
11 situation and then you wrote the letter down and that's
12 what my mum would have got: 'I'm having a good time'.
13 Q. That's what was in the letter, that you were having
14 a good time?
15 A. That it was good, yeah.
16 LADY SMITH: So 'Julie', you said you were told to write or
17 copy the letter off the blackboard?
18 A. Yeah, word for word.
19 LADY SMITH: So was there a style of letter up on the
20 blackboard?
21 A. There was a letter written on the blackboard with chalk.
22 LADY SMITH: It wasn't personal to the individual child?
23 A. No, no, no. I don't know what happened to my letter.
24 If I could have got that letter back through some
25 archive, that would have been good, but I was never --

1 it was never spoken about.

2 MR MACAULAY: Can I then focus a bit more on abuse. You
3 have already mentioned your first night and the shock of
4 seeing the poo in your bed, and I think you said it was
5 quite a large poo?

6 A. Oh, it was -- in a little child's mind, you knew it
7 wasn't a little girl's poo, because it was huge, in my
8 mind. And maybe as a young girl, things like that would
9 look a lot bigger, maybe the shock of it, that your
10 memory remembers it as big, but I know that it was
11 a huge poo.

12 Q. And you've mentioned how you cried and you tell us in
13 your statement, really, you were crying every night?

14 A. Every night, terrible homesickness.

15 Q. And one thing you say is you were worrying about what
16 was happening to your mother. Can you explain that?

17 A. Well, that probably went back to before I went to
18 Fornethy, erm, 'cos my dad would hit my mum and beat her
19 and we would be physically beaten as well. So I was
20 wondering who was looking after her. Quite often, my
21 brother and I would get between her and my dad and say:
22 'No, leave mum alone'. So in my mind I'm worried about
23 who's looking after mum.

24 Q. And was it when you were crying that, I think as you
25 said before, that you were told that if you didn't stop

1 crying, you would never see your mother again?

2 A. Never see her, yeah. And I was close to my mum, because

3 my dad was in and out all the time, so she was my main

4 caregiver and she was, she was soft. She never raised

5 her voice, never hit us. And I believed that, you know,

6 she was -- I didn't know what was happening to her and

7 I believed that she needed me.

8 Q. And when you were taken into the corridor in your vest

9 and pants and you said it was cold, and I think you also

10 said you would be hit?

11 A. Mm-hmm.

12 Q. Where would you be hit?

13 A. Again, I can't really put something around that, you

14 just know what it feels like to be hit when you're

15 coming out of the bed, put into the corridor, being

16 told: 'Stop crying, you're never going to see your ...'

17 -- these are the memories I have. I don't always have

18 the context of what came first. Erm, it's hazy, but

19 I know that they were hitting us and saying there's

20 ghosts in the fireplace. Just really random, horrible

21 things to say to a child who's upset and needed

22 comforting, needed some compassion, but you were somehow

23 being punished for being upset.

24 Q. But the reference to ghosts in the fireplace, was there

25 a particular fireplace --

1 A. There was quite a lot -- yeah, there was a lot of big,
2 big ornate fireplaces there, beautiful wooden
3 fireplaces, which I've since seen, erm, in a video
4 that -- someone broke into Fornethy and took video, so
5 the dining room was there and other rooms. So you
6 think: yeah, I remember that.

7 And there was -- I believe there was sisters that
8 had died that owned the place who later on in memory --
9 not in memory, but we're told that, you know, these were
10 the ghosts of these ladies.

11 I don't remember that at the time, but you try to
12 fit it all in, don't you, as a big jigsaw, what was real
13 and what really happened and does your memory serve you
14 right. You just doubt yourself the whole time.

15 Q. Can I then bring you back to what happened at mealtimes,
16 because we touched upon that already. And you do
17 describe this at paragraph 41 onwards, and what
18 essentially you say is that you were force-fed?

19 A. Yes, yeah.

20 Q. Can you just explain what happened?

21 A. So I was sitting at the long tables, I remember I was
22 sitting towards the back of the dining room and there
23 was tables in front of me and then there was the hatch
24 where the meals came out, and I hated -- I hated milk
25 basically. Still do. And the porridge would arrive

1 with all the milk on the top and a dollop of apricot jam
2 and I would be picking at the jam, 'cos it was sweet and
3 that was okay. And they would come along. There
4 was the two main suspects and I remember just my hair
5 getting pulled back like that (Indicating) and the other
6 one putting the porridge in and I would just be gagging
7 and it would be coming up and then it would be having to
8 be swallowed back down again, eating what was coming up.
9 And that happened a lot, the force-feeding was regular.
10 And the same with the peach blancmange. Again, that
11 was the pudding. It was milky, it was made with milk,
12 and again I would be unable to eat it and again the head
13 would get put back: 'This is good for you'.
14 (Indicating). So that was particularly cruel.

15 Q. Did you see this treatment being meted out to other
16 children?

17 A. Well, I've heard that it happened to a lot of children.
18 I don't remember seeing it, because I was probably so
19 distressed in my own state, but I have heard that other
20 girls suffered the same. 'Cos that was the thing, you
21 know, you start to -- could that have happened? But you
22 know that it did and, I don't know whether it's
23 appropriate to say now that I do have a real choking
24 sensation that I still have that I can choke on food.
25 My husband will testify to that. It was only a matter

1 of years ago when my husband would say, you know: 'Why
2 do you always sit at the back of a restaurant, right at
3 the back with your body at the back?'. And I didn't
4 know I was even doing that, and I did it again last
5 night. We were sat at a table with the bar behind us
6 and I said: 'Oh, can I move over there, please?', and
7 I had to sit with my back. And I think that's
8 an unconscious behaviour of nobody can come behind me
9 and -- it's like my body says: keep yourself safe. And
10 you become aware of some of these behaviours that
11 stemmed back from this time, because it was the surprise
12 of your head being yanked back. So unconsciously, you
13 act that out.

14 Q. And I think you said, and I think you touch upon this
15 later in your statement, that you also sometimes choke
16 on your food?

17 A. Yeah.

18 Q. And you've been examined and there's no medical --

19 A. Yeah, I had a camera down my throat, everything, and
20 there was nothing wrong with my throat, but sometimes
21 I'll be eating food and I'll just start choking on it
22 and, like, it's not going down properly.

23 Q. You also tell us that when you were at Fornethy you had
24 a recurring nightmare?

25 A. Mm-hmm.

1 Q. Is that correct?

2 A. This is about the giraffe's neck?

3 Q. I'm sorry? Yes.

4 A. Yeah, that -- yes, that was a recurring nightmare that
5 started before I went to Fornethy, but it was at
6 Fornethy, it was real -- and even afterwards, up until
7 late teens that -- that nightmare.

8 Q. You may link that to what happened to you --

9 A. Yeah.

10 Q. -- when you were sexually abused. But at Fornethy,
11 would that cause you to wake up?

12 A. Well, I would have nightmares and -- again, my husband
13 will testify -- the night terrors, I would just sit up
14 screaming in bed, erm, frighten the life out of him:
15 'What's going on?'.
16 Those nightmares -- I don't remember screaming in
17 bed, I don't remember the screaming, but I'm guessing
18 I probably did.

19 Q. I mean, did you -- did anybody at Fornethy, any of the
20 staff, deal with you in any way in connection with these
21 nightmares?

22 A. I don't remember. I don't remember.

23 Q. I think you mentioned, particularly in relation to the
24 force-feeding, there's two particular women who were
25 involved in that process. At the time, did you know

1 their names?

2 A. No. I don't remember the names, even as the adult. It
3 wasn't until I met with other survivors that they
4 remembered the names and then I would be like: oh, yeah,
5 that's who -- that was what her name was.

6 But at the time -- maybe it wasn't important to me.
7 It was just the feelings and the experiences of those
8 ladies. But there was definitely two that were
9 particularly cruel.

10 Q. Because of the force-feeding, I think you tell us in
11 your statement that you suffered tummy pains?

12 A. Mm-hmm.

13 Q. Is that correct?

14 A. I think it was the milk. You know, I think milk didn't
15 agree with me.

16 Q. Now, if we come to when you came to leave Fornethy. As
17 you have already told us, you are not sure how long you
18 may have been there, but you reckon it was longer than
19 two weeks, I think is your own position?

20 A. It was -- oh, absolutely.

21 Q. What you say in your statement is that your aunt told
22 you that you were there for about a year. I mean, is
23 that something she said to you?

24 A. It was, she said it to my -- her daughter, my cousin,
25 who relayed it to me when we started discussing it.

1 She's dead now, so I wasn't able to corroborate that
2 statement. And given all the evidence that we do have,
3 that children were there for six weeks, it's probably
4 likely that it probably was six weeks.

5 Q. But it seemed longer?

6 A. It seemed longer, yeah.

7 Q. Now, when you came back to Glasgow, you were met by your
8 mother, is that -- I think at Queen Street Station?

9 A. Can I just take you back to before I left?

10 Q. Yes.

11 A. 'Cos it's really important. On the day that we were all
12 leaving, and I was allowed to pack my case, because
13 I remember packing it and I couldn't get these dollies
14 in without damaging them, and they were in a box, the
15 box was all broken, and we all went down into the --
16 where we arrived, obviously waiting on some transport,
17 all with our cases. And she said to me: 'You're not
18 going anywhere, you're staying'.

19 And I remember that feeling of: 'Maybe it's true,
20 maybe I'm not going to see my mum again, 'cos I'm not
21 going home today'.

22 I wasn't told: 'You're going to be here for another
23 week, two weeks', whatever. I had to go back to my dorm
24 and it was lonely and quiet. We weren't allowed to talk
25 to other children when we were there. We didn't make

1 friends. It was very much, you know, we were kept
2 apart.

3 And so that sense of abandonment that I now
4 understand what that feeling was, that I wasn't allowed
5 to go home on that day, was just unbearable for me.

6 Q. And were you kept back for a period of time?

7 A. Yeah, but I don't know how long.

8 Q. But eventually you were able to leave?

9 A. I remember going home on the train and shaking, and when
10 I got to the station at Queen Street, my mother was
11 there, and this is where I do have really strong
12 memories of legs collapsing, and I made a sound that was
13 like a wounded animal. I can still remember and hear
14 that sound in my head. I just collapsed. I couldn't
15 believe that I was home.

16 And so my mum sat us on a bench, you know, the
17 station benches, and we're sat there and I was shaking
18 and just couldn't believe that I was home and I told her
19 what a terrible place it was and she didn't believe me.
20 Maybe it was unbelievable. But she said, 'No, no', and:
21 'You were only there for two weeks'. And that was just
22 another pain really, that here I am, I'm home and
23 I'm not believed.

24 Q. Well, you go on, 'Julie', to tell us about your -- what
25 life was like after you'd been in Fornethy and in

1 particular what the situation was with your family, and
2 one thing you do tell us is that your family were
3 scattered for a couple of years, with your brother
4 staying with your grandmother and the other with another
5 aunt. Were you with your mother?

6 A. No.

7 Q. Were you with an aunt?

8 A. I went with my aunt in Cardonald. I believe it was up
9 to two years. She was working -- she actually worked in
10 social services and she was out working all day and, do
11 you know, I don't even remember the school that I was
12 in. I don't remember. And I must have gone to school
13 but I don't remember any of it. All I can remember is
14 walking home, there's lots of hedges and seeing the
15 little caterpillars on the leaves. That's my memory.

16 But then, I don't know if you want me to continue
17 about what happened when I was there, or?

18 Q. I'll come to that. But before you do -- and I think
19 what -- you described your sense at the time as being
20 one of being traumatised?

21 A. Yes.

22 Q. And is that -- was that --

23 A. I remember my mum visiting my aunt's home in Cardonald.
24 I remember her coming to see me. I can remember my
25 auntie running me a bath in that home and how lovely it

1 was to have a bubble bath. That's a memory, because my
2 Auntie █████ was very kind to me. I can remember the
3 lovely bubble baths, probably as a contrast. And I
4 slept in the bed with her and her husband. I had a --
5 shared a bed with them, and she had lovely jewellery
6 that I could look at. These were the sort of nice
7 memories. But school life, nothing at all.

8 Q. But a turning point, I think you tell us in your
9 statement, was when you moved away from Glasgow, and
10 I think you moved to Corby?

11 A. Yeah.

12 Q. Was that a turning point?

13 A. Absolutely, yeah.

14 Q. Can you help me with that? Why was that?

15 A. So my dad apparently had come down to Corby to the
16 steelworks and got a job there and he was there for
17 a period of time, so they were obviously working
18 something out together, that they would move the family
19 to Corby and it would be a fresh start again.

20 And so we came down to Corby in the November and it
21 was very foggy and we lived on a brand-new estate, in
22 a three-storey house. It was a bit like a rabbit
23 warren. Erm, the school was close by. I do remember
24 that school.

25 And we were only there for three weeks and my dad

1 left again and he went to London to work. So my mum was
2 left with three children. She had to go out and find
3 a job quickly, so she could look after us. So we became
4 very responsible. I was just almost 11 at that time and
5 we had to do a lot of things, take responsibility.

6 Q. But you do tell us about your schooling and in
7 particular a particular teacher, who sort of took you
8 under his wing; is that right?

9 A. That's an amazing story, because when I joined this
10 school, erm, a little primary school near to where
11 I lived, I met this lovely boy called [REDACTED], who
12 I'm still friends with to this day. But again, I always
13 stood with my back to the wall and he would come up to
14 me and say: 'Come and play, come and play'. But no,
15 I had to be safe. So he would say: 'No, you can come
16 away from the wall'. And this teacher, Mr Thomas, he
17 used to say to me: 'Come and clean the paint pots'. And
18 he would give me 50 pence. And I trusted him. He was
19 kind, he was Welsh.

20 And later on I went back to work at that school as
21 a [REDACTED] and we had a reunion, I think it was
22 a 25-year reunion, and Mr Thomas was there and I called
23 him into my office and shut the door and I just said:
24 I just want to say thank you, because you don't know
25 what you did for me when I came to Corby.

1 And he just said: 'Can I say something to you?', he
2 said: 'You were a very broken child. You were very
3 broken', he said: 'And I took it upon myself to build
4 you up'.

5 That just meant so much, to have that personal link
6 to: this is how I was and here I am now back at this
7 school as a citizen and a worker, and getting the chance
8 to say thank you to him, because that was very special.

9 Q. And you go on and tell us about certain aspects of your
10 life, about your family life, your married life and your
11 own children, and how you became involved in looking at
12 self-help books and being motivated by a certain person?

13 A. Well, it goes before that. When I was about 11, I did
14 walk into a local church and there I met lots of other
15 young people of all different ages, similar ages to
16 ourselves, but young people. My husband was part of
17 that group. We formed great bonds. I was in the choir.
18 I was helping out in the Sunday School. And it's really
19 important to mention this, because joining this church
20 was my physical salvation, because there I was able to
21 see how families could be, mothers and fathers and
22 children and loving families, and I was able to have
23 bonds with other children, which I never really had
24 friends when I was in Glasgow, I didn't -- I was always
25 lonely.

1 So here I was having friends and we all had the same
2 things in common. We'd go camping. We'd -- just did
3 everything together. And I wasn't really interested in
4 school, I just wanted to be at my church and just loved
5 it. And I just turned my back on Glasgow. I shut the
6 door: that's gone now, I'm closing that door. And I was
7 happy.

8 And then -- because it is important that I do
9 mention this, because when my oldest daughter was 8,
10 that's when it all started to unravel.

11 Q. Yes.

12 A. Because everything -- the genie was out the bottle and
13 everything was flooding back and my husband would say:
14 'Let's get you some help'. We went to Victim Support to
15 help me and begin that journey, really, of the childhood
16 stuff's now interfering with my life. Because I want to
17 protect her and seeing her at 8 made me realise: gosh,
18 what you went through as an 8-year-old was horrendous.
19 And I would never wish that on her and I became very
20 overprotective of my daughters. I have two daughters.

21 They weren't allowed to go to sleepovers and my
22 husband would say, you know: 'You can't let your trauma
23 interfere with their lives'. And it's a real shame
24 because it was only a matter of weeks ago my eldest
25 daughter said to me, we talk about things and she said:

1 'Mum, you brought me up in fear. I think that's really
2 sad: you brought me up in fear'.

3 So as part of my development and when I worked at
4 the schools, particularly, people always came to me and
5 would ask me -- tell me their problems, ask me advice
6 and I guess they just sensed something in me, and so
7 I started wanting to know more about myself. Was I mad?
8 Was often a question that I had. Am I okay as a person?

9 And yes, the person I mentioned in my statement was
10 I started going to some Jack Black seminars in Glasgow.

11 Q. But he inspired you in a way, I suppose?

12 A. Yeah, yeah, because he was a social worker in Glasgow.
13 He had to leave because he saw his colleagues having
14 heart attacks through stress and he was on his journey
15 and Mindstore was about achieving your potential, and
16 I thought: that's what -- I want to do that, I want to
17 find out more about my potential. And I had the
18 Christian family that I wanted. That was all I wanted
19 was a Christian family and a good husband and to belong
20 to my faith group. But here was more exploration.
21 I still wasn't healed.

22 And so I started on this journey of going to
23 seminars, reading books, anything to find ways to feel
24 better about me.

25 Q. But you did counselling training?

1 A. And then from that I began to -- 'cos people often came
2 to me with their problems, I thought I really need to
3 know a bit more about how to help people.

4 And so I began my counselling training, six years,
5 I did a degree in counselling and psychotherapy, and all
6 the way along, my tutors were telling me: you're really
7 bright, you write well. And I realised I was never
8 stupid. I was just traumatised. I was actually okay.
9 I had a brain and I could learn.

10 And so that period of my life, I was actually chosen
11 as a mature learner, I won an award for the most
12 improved learner through the Leicester University,
13 because --

14 Q. You ended up with your own therapy business,
15 essentially?

16 A. Well, I'd had -- I'd been to different therapies as well
17 myself. I'd had various opportunities to go to rape
18 counselling for a good period of six to eight months.
19 I did a lot of work on myself.

20 Q. But one of your achievements, and this is quite
21 impressive, is that you actually climbed Kilimanjaro?

22 A. Yes. Did I mention that? It's a bit of a standing joke
23 with my family because they play Kilimanjaro bingo.
24 That was a real proud moment because that was the moment
25 at which -- I'm not going to be eaten by lions, as my

1 mum told me. I'm not going to die out there. I had to
2 go against everything my mum told me not to do in order
3 to say: 'I can'.

4 And so I went off there on my own with other people,
5 raised money for a charity, and that was a moment of
6 breakthrough, getting to the top and knowing that I can
7 achieve whatever I want.

8 Q. You have mentioned already that you have had some
9 involvement with the Fornethy ██████████ Group?

10 A. Well, that was quite an amazing thing as well, because
11 on the very first day that I started my training, with
12 the -- with the ██████████ you start ██████████, because
13 I didn't know whether I'd imagined all this. My mum
14 telling me it never happened. And I was actually
15 ██████████ 'Abernethy', which was a biscuit, and it was
16 never Abernethy, it was Fornethy.

17 And so I went ██████████ the Glasgow ██████████ and I found
18 people were asking: 'Oh, did anybody go to the
19 residential schools?', and Fornethy was there. And so
20 I eagerly ██████████: 'Yes, I was there. I was
21 force-fed porridge. It was a terrible place'. Just
22 like a synopsis. And then lots of people were replying,
23 saying: 'Oh, yeah that happened to me'. And that was
24 long before Fornethy ██████████ were an entity. That was
25 just people ██████████ their stories.

1 Q. But this developed into there being a -- I won't call it
2 official, but a [REDACTED] group?

3 A. Yeah, it did, yeah.

4 Q. And were you a member of the group?

5 A. I was, yes. I was a member of the Fornethy [REDACTED]
6 Group, but I'm not keen on [REDACTED], so I didn't want to
7 be on [REDACTED] 'cos I found it quite traumatising. So
8 I made a decision. I had a few people there that I was
9 in contact with, but I didn't want to be -- and I did do
10 some [REDACTED]. I came up to Glasgow on several
11 occasions. I've been to Holyrood on several occasions.
12 I'm in contact with the MSPs regularly.

13 So I've had a different kind of involvement.
14 I don't want to be in the press. I don't want to be in
15 the media.

16 Q. And of course you want to be anonymous as well?

17 A. Yes, yes.

18 Q. But looking then at aspects of the impact of being in
19 Fornethy have had on you, you have told us already about
20 that you still gag on certain food?

21 A. Mm-hmm.

22 Q. That's something that still happens. And that the
23 experience of being force-fed has stayed with you.

24 You tell us at paragraph 103 that you have
25 flashbacks?

1 A. Mm-hmm.

2 Q. Can you just tell me a little bit about that? What do
3 you see?

4 A. It's more -- it's less visual but more visceral. For me
5 the flashbacks are feeling the memories, I think. There
6 are some visual ones, definitely, the standing in the
7 corridor, the scrubbing, the force-feeding, they're very
8 much imprints on my brain. But there are feeling
9 memories that I have and then it takes me a little while
10 to realise what they are and how they're coming from the
11 younger part of me; that she's still there responding to
12 things on the TV. For example, when you see stories of
13 abuse, and there's so many of them, I can sense myself
14 shutting down and kind of going offline a bit and
15 feeling out of sorts for a few days. But because
16 I've got good self-awareness, I know that this is
17 something I have to take care of. I can't just ignore
18 it.

19 Q. And one thing you say, this is at paragraph 106, is that
20 the -- being at Fornethy did impact upon your
21 relationship with your mother?

22 A. Yeah, yeah, it did.

23 Q. And you weren't able to speak to her about it or she
24 wouldn't speak to you about it?

25 A. That was the hardest part really. It must have been

1 awful for a mum to know that -- to know those things,
2 but at the same time I felt anger because I'd had to do
3 so much hard work and if she'd only said to me: 'I'm so
4 sorry that you had to go through that. I'm so sorry
5 that I wasn't there for you'. That would have just
6 soothed the younger part of me. But she just couldn't
7 go near it.

8 And I was saying to -- what's your name again?

9 [REDACTED]! I know [REDACTED] very well -- that when my mum
10 first went into dementia, which was several years ago,
11 and I do feel a little bit bad about this, but I did say
12 to her one day when she was less filtered: 'Mum, do you
13 remember that place I went to at Fornethy?', and she
14 immediately said: 'Oh, that was the worst thing I ever
15 did. That was a terrible place that you went to'. And
16 I stopped the conversation there. I just said: 'Oh,
17 it's all right now'. Because I didn't want her to be
18 upset or, in her demented mind, be --

19 Q. But she confirmed --

20 A. She confirmed it and that meant so much to me, but
21 I felt bad that I had to -- it was just on the day,
22 I thought, I'm just going to ask her. We were looking
23 through old photographs of Glasgow. She loves anything
24 to do with Glasgow books. And it just came out and --
25 but it's hard to be angry with a mother, isn't it,

1 because we're not supposed to be feeling bad about our
2 mothers, but that's just the reality. It tainted it.
3 I just couldn't believe things after that.

4 Q. Okay. You tell us at paragraph 111 that you have not
5 officially asked for records, but I think you have been
6 advised to get your records. Have you recovered any
7 records?

8 A. This is a nightmare. Glasgow City Council, part of the
9 fight that I've had with them in being the [REDACTED] is
10 that they've said there weren't any records. And time
11 and time again: 'The records were burned, they're not
12 there'. And I've made a very close relationship with
13 one of the survivors and she, because she lives in
14 Glasgow and I don't, she's been getting Freedom of
15 Information requests to go into the Mitchell Library and
16 other places and she's amassed thousands of pieces of
17 evidence, in boxes, about Fornethy.

18 But the actual personal records, like through my GP,
19 they only go back to when I came to Corby. I've got
20 nothing before that. So I've got no access to my
21 medical, my records, nothing, which is really
22 frustrating, erm, because we need those records.

23 Q. And the other matter that I think you've been involved
24 to some extent, we don't know the detail of it because
25 I know you want to be anonymous, but it's to do with

1 redress for Fornethy Survivors, and I think, to put it
2 shortly, there's a [REDACTED] --

3 A. Yes. Yeah.

4 Q. -- which will probably be looked at after the -- after
5 this election.

6 A. After, sorry?

7 Q. After the -- we've just had an election.

8 A. Yeah, I mean, I do want to say some things about the
9 [REDACTED], if that's okay, because that's been a big
10 part --

11 LADY SMITH: Please do.

12 A. That's been a big part of my healing journey, is that
13 because I lived so far away from Glasgow and I couldn't
14 really do much, and because of the job I do, I didn't
15 really want to be out there in front of people,
16 I thought, well, I can do this [REDACTED] the
17 survivors, not just the -- there's about three different
18 groups out there, if not more. And so I thought, I can
19 do this.

20 [REDACTED] and a lot of my
21 work has been around putting in submissions to the
22 Scottish Government and working with the [REDACTED]
23 group, there's a group of people who are working on our
24 behalf, to hear our submissions. And if I may, I just
25 want to tell you a little bit about that.

1 So there's over 50 pieces of evidence now on the
2 Scottish Parliament website about Fornethy. My friend
3 ██████, who does the research, ██████ done 14 pieces of
4 research and submissions that we've given to the
5 Scottish Government pleading for redress, pleading to be
6 included in Scotland's Redress Scheme, because up till
7 now, we've not been included in the Redress Scheme. And
8 so we've been treated very differently to the other
9 people who have been in care and have suffered abuse.
10 Whether you're abused for a day, a week, a year, the
11 effects are the same. You're never the -- you never see
12 the world again the same way. Your view of the world
13 changes forever, and that's the key thing.

14 There's been a couple of submissions from Glasgow
15 Council and there is this argument going on at the
16 moment that really, the government and the Glasgow
17 Council need to work together to sort this out. Why
18 should we have to be going down legal routes and
19 struggling to get our case heard? That's really
20 exhausting and frustrating.

21 And so, you know, it's just been hard having to keep
22 on going and all the different deputy first ministers
23 that come and go. We've had four in that few years and
24 so you have to start again and it goes into the long
25 grass and you are constantly having to bring new

1 Q. Yes.

2 A. Yeah.

3 Q. Well, thank you for that, 'Julie'.

4 And you provide us also with some insight into what
5 lessons you consider ought to be learned from your
6 Fornethy experience, and that begins at paragraph 122.

7 And we can read a number of these things for
8 ourselves, but towards the bottom of the page, 127, you
9 say:

10 'Fornethy was not fit for purpose.'

11 Does that sum up your conclusion in relation to
12 Fornethy?

13 A. There's so much I could say about this. Some evidence
14 came to me only on last Friday from my colleague and it
15 was about a pilot project that took place in 1945 by the
16 director of education, who said that Fornethy was
17 designed to be -- to make a valued contribution and make
18 us into good citizens, observing the moral examples of
19 our teachers, living and acting as good citizens should.
20 And I've got that evidence. The residential experience
21 was going to fix us.

22 There's another document that talks about a pilot
23 project of school-age girls, 14-year-old girls, to go on
24 a work placement to Fornethy, not from Alyth or from
25 round about there, but from Glasgow schools, for Glasgow

1 schools. And the document that we read, that was
2 produced in 1988, outlined the aim and the work of these
3 group of senior schoolgirls, who had expressed a career
4 in the caring services:

5 'Prior to future visits, it would be wise to have
6 a meeting with the girls on the course, advice and
7 guidance is necessary about their role, about the
8 dangers of becoming emotionally involved, and certain
9 hygiene points which are important in dealing with
10 children from these deprived backgrounds. Great care
11 needs to be taken in choosing girls. There is no
12 denying in ways that the experience can be traumatic.
13 Some of the girls found it disturbing, especially at
14 shower time. The evidence of neglect was very apparent.
15 It is essential that the girls remain emotionally
16 detached.'

17 Now, these are documents that I've got the evidence
18 of those.

19 So another piece of research by KPMG Management, and
20 I won't go on too long but I do feel it's important, in
21 the learning outcomes:

22 'The major objectives for the project was to improve
23 educational attainment. Reduce crime and fear of crime.
24 Improve mental health and reduce social isolation.
25 Experience the environmental and recreational aspects of

1 the Scottish countryside.'

2 So when you ask me, was it fit for purpose, we were
3 set up to fail. We were being sent to be fixed and
4 I think we were to blame.

5 Now, in thinking about lessons to be learned, you
6 know, the state who sent us there actually manipulated
7 parents into sending us there. It was going to be
8 a holiday. That it would provide a better experience
9 for us. We would become better citizens.

10 I really take offence at that. I was not a bad girl
11 before I went into the home. I was not unwashed.
12 I didn't have lice. I was fed. You know, this is
13 an insult, and it shows the attitude towards children of
14 that time.

15 Little girls at Fornethy had different needs. They
16 had different backgrounds, different circumstances. But
17 we were treated with these labels. That was the
18 attitude. It wasn't reparative. It was damaging. It
19 wasn't fit for purpose.

20 The language above is not compassionate. It doesn't
21 say: 'I'm really sorry you're homesick, let me give you
22 a cuddle'. It doesn't say: 'Hear, hear, talk to me
23 about your feelings'. There was none of that. It was
24 damaging further. There was isolation. We weren't
25 allowed to make friends. And it just showed the

1 attitude towards the carers that were there as well.

2 What we get instead is, from the government is: 'Oh,
3 here's all these agencies that you can go to and they'll
4 help fix you'. But a lot of them are not
5 trauma-informed. Yeah, you can sit and you can talk,
6 and I've been to these agencies, you can sit and talk,
7 but nobody says: 'You were traumatised'. Nobody tells
8 you what's happening in your brain.

9 So there's more joining up that's going to be needed
10 by those holding multiple responsibilities. Yes, we've
11 got safeguarding now and that's great, and I've been
12 through all that training myself. I know what's
13 involved. But there needs to be more joining up.
14 Better care. More trauma-informed policy around
15 institutional abuse. Accountability.

16 Glasgow Council have not taken any accountability
17 for what happened to us. It's getting passed between
18 the two organisations. Nobody's actually saying: 'Come
19 on, we need to sort this'.

20 We need to make sure that kids that have been in
21 these situations have proper care afterwards, because
22 it's not what happens to you necessarily, it's how
23 you're treated afterwards. I wasn't believed; yeah?
24 That's what happened to me afterwards. That's what
25 caused more damage. And it has a ripple effect on the

1 lives of families.

2 My husband's been an absolute rock to me. If
3 I hadn't have had a husband like him and the good
4 influences that I had, coming to Corby, I don't know
5 what would have happened to me. I might have become one
6 of these crime statistics, or part of a domestic abuse
7 situation. But, no, I chose to repair my past.

8 The journey has been long and arduous. I hadn't
9 appreciated how long this would be, but I'm really
10 grateful to have been able to come here today and have
11 this voice, for my little girl inside, for my fellow
12 survivors, for them. Trust is sacred, isn't it? That's
13 always -- that's my motto. In every submission it goes
14 at the end: trust is sacred. And our trust was broken.
15 And divide-and-silence cannot work any longer.

16 So thank you for bringing this together, so that we
17 can speak.

18 MR MACAULAY: Well, thank you for these important words,
19 'Julie'. And that's really all I have -- I'm going to
20 ask you today.

21 Is there anything else you yourself would like to
22 add to what you've just said?

23 A. I have got a lot of evidence that has been amassed.
24 Quite a lot of evidence of things that did happen, how
25 Fornethy was run. It was always education staff that

1 were there. People are arguing about: was it a holiday
2 home, was it rehabilitation, was it school? It was
3 a residential school. And that's the sticking point
4 really about whether we can be included for redress.
5 That is the point really.

6 There were classrooms. There were teachers. There
7 was no nursing staff there. If we were sick children,
8 where were the psychiatrists? Where were the people to
9 give us what we needed, if we were from these terrible
10 backgrounds?

11 I was a victim of my circumstances and I have a lot
12 of compassion for my parents, because my dad didn't have
13 access to counselling when he lost his mum and dad. He
14 ruined all his money and everything he had. We were
15 a victim of that, you know?

16 Hopefully now with more counselling available,
17 people can be picked up from falling through that net
18 and be helped and families can be helped. But I am
19 calling on the government and the council to get their
20 act together and sort this, and stop making us have to
21 go through this pain of being re-triggered and
22 re-traumatised over and over again, 'cos that's what's
23 happening.

24 MR MACAULAY: Now, if you have evidence that you feel will
25 be of interest to the Inquiry, then please feel free to

1 send it to us, 'Julie'.

2 A. Yeah, I'll scan it to -- there's quite a bit there of
3 different things that's interesting to read, which
4 there's not enough time today to --

5 MR MACAULAY: Well, but if you do have that sort of
6 material, then please send it on to the Inquiry.

7 Very well. Thank you again, 'Julie', for coming to
8 give your evidence.

9 My Lady, I can say that I haven't been sent any
10 questions to put to 'Julie'.

11 LADY SMITH: Thank you.

12 'Julie', please let me add my thanks. As I said at
13 the beginning, I thought it was going to be very helpful
14 to hear from you yourself and it certainly has.

15 I'm sure it's taken a lot out of you, because we have
16 covered a lot of ground and we've dragged you back to
17 your childhood, when things were not easy, not to put
18 too fine a point on it, but that's contributed to the
19 work we're doing here and it's added value.

20 A. There is just one more thing that --

21 LADY SMITH: What?

22 A. -- if I could mention, if that's okay? I had some
23 hypnotherapy a while ago and in that hypnotherapy
24 session I had a flashback of -- or I told the story of
25 being taken to a place and where there was a lot of men

1 smoking and being put into a small room at the side of
2 this place. I know we didn't bring that up, but it's
3 come back to my mind.

4 I think it is important, and I remember saying to
5 the therapist, I don't know what that was about, this
6 journey of coming out of, you know, where I was and
7 going into this room and being put into this little
8 room. But it was only in the last 18 months that
9 survivors have been coming forward and saying they
10 believe they were taken from the home at night in their
11 beds, being drugged and taken to a place, up a stairs
12 and being sexually abused.

13 Now, I don't have that particular memory, but
14 I think that is definitely worthwhile looking into in
15 the Inquiry with other victims or survivors, because
16 that came out in hypnotherapy long before these stories
17 came about, and I don't know where that sits in terms of
18 what happened to me, whether it was at Fornethy or
19 elsewhere. But I know my body says something happened,
20 because I'm so scared of being alone at night, and will
21 somebody come and take me.

22 I think it's just worthwhile mentioning that.

23 LADY SMITH: Thank you, 'Julie'.

24 When did you have that hypnotherapy? I know you
25 mention it in your statement. Remind me.

1 A. It was -- I can't remember the exact date.

2 LADY SMITH: Approximately?

3 A. Four -- well, she's been dead -- because when I tried to
4 contact her to get -- she's been dead about two years.

5 LADY SMITH: Okay.

6 A. She'd died and there was no records. It's probably
7 about four years.

8 LADY SMITH: Okay.

9 Well, thank you, and my thanks to your husband for
10 supporting you today. It's obviously been important to
11 you to have him here too, and I hope you both have
12 a safe, relaxing journey home.

13 A. Thank you very much.

14 And thank you to everyone who came at the back.

15 (The witness withdrew)

16 LADY SMITH: As promised, I will rise now for the morning
17 break but before I do that, a couple of things I want to
18 mention.

19 In the course of her evidence, 'Julie' referred to
20 somebody with a name **LBD** as being somebody who was
21 involved in the abuse she was describing. That
22 individual's identity is protected by my General
23 Restriction Order and they're not to be referred to --
24 identified as having been referred to in our evidence.

25 Also, just towards the end of her evidence, 'Julie'

1 talked about the [REDACTED] and
2 at one point she said, '[REDACTED]', and she
3 referred to a particular date a few years ago. She is
4 not to be referred to outside this room as being
5 anything to do with the doing of that [REDACTED], nor
6 indeed is anyone to try and do any jigsaw identification
7 and work out who that might have been, because she is
8 anonymous in the Inquiry proceedings and is not to be
9 identified elsewhere.

10 So. We'll stop now for the morning break and
11 I'll sit again afterwards. Thank you.

12 (11.35 am)

13 (A short break)

14 (11.51 am)

15 LADY SMITH: Ms MacLeod.

16 MS MACLEOD: My Lady, the next witness is an applicant who
17 will use the pseudonym 'Susan'.

18 LADY SMITH: Thank you.

19 'Susan' (affirmed)

20 LADY SMITH: 'Susan', thank you for coming along this
21 morning to help us with your evidence in person. As you
22 know, I already have your written evidence and it's been
23 really helpful to me to be able to see that in advance.
24 But we would like, if we may, to explore some particular
25 aspects of it with you.

1 It's in the red folder, your written evidence.
2 We'll also bring parts of it up on the screen as we're
3 looking at it, so they're there for you to use if you
4 want to, but you don't have to.

5 The plan is that I'll sit now until 1 o'clock for
6 the lunch break and if we haven't finished your
7 evidence, we'll pause then until this afternoon. But we
8 may have completed it by 1 o'clock --

9 A. Okay.

10 LADY SMITH: -- we'll see how it goes.

11 But that said, you mustn't feel under pressure and
12 if you want a break at any time, please tell me.

13 A. I will.

14 LADY SMITH: Because it's important to me that I do anything
15 I can to make what I know is a really difficult task as
16 comfortable as in the circumstances it can be, so just
17 speak up.

18 A. Thank you.

19 LADY SMITH: Any questions?

20 A. Not at the moment.

21 LADY SMITH: Just ask if you've got any at any time.

22 A. Okay.

23 LADY SMITH: Or if the way we ask our questions doesn't make
24 sense, you tell us, because it's our fault, not yours,
25 if that happens.

1 I'll hand over to Ms MacLeod and she'll take it from
2 there.

3 Ms MacLeod.

4 Questions from Ms MacLeod

5 MS MACLEOD: My Lady.

6 Good morning 'Susan'.

7 A. Good morning.

8 Q. I don't need your date of birth, but to give a
9 timeframe, were you born in 1958?

10 A. I was, yes.

11 Q. You've provided a witness statement --

12 A. Mm-hmm.

13 Q. -- to the Inquiry and there's a copy of it in the
14 folder. I'm just going to give the reference of that.
15 That's for the transcript. WIT-1-000001082.

16 Could I ask you, 'Susan', first of all, to turn to
17 the very last page of the statement, and that's really
18 just to confirm that you've signed it?

19 A. Yes, I did.

20 Q. And in the last paragraph, which I think is actually on
21 the foot of the previous page, paragraph 98, do you say:

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

24 I believe the facts stated in this witness statement are
25 true.'

1 A. That's true, yeah.

2 Q. Thank you.

3 Now we can go back to the beginning of the
4 statement.

5 You tell us, 'Susan', a little bit about your early
6 life --

7 A. Uh-huh.

8 Q. -- and your family circumstances and I think you tell us
9 that your mum worked as a chemistry -- a researcher, is
10 that right?

11 A. That's right, yeah.

12 Q. And that your father was in the Merchant Navy?

13 A. Yeah, he was a ship's captain, yeah.

14 Q. As a family, were you based in Glasgow?

15 A. We were.

16 Q. And I think you tell us that you had an older brother
17 who was about 18 months older than yourself?

18 A. That's right, yeah.

19 Q. And indeed, 'Susan', you tell us that you had a happy
20 childhood?

21 A. I think so, yes.

22 Q. Did there come a time when your parents' marriage broke
23 down?

24 A. Yes. I mean, my father was at sea nine months out of
25 the year and he met somebody in South Africa and the

1 marriage broke down. I think they were divorced when
2 I was around about 5.

3 Q. And did that mean that your mother was then left to
4 bring up the two children --

5 A. The two kids --

6 Q. -- on her own?

7 A. -- in the 1960s on her own, yeah.

8 Q. And indeed you explain in your statement that that was
9 very difficult for her?

10 A. It was. It was difficult for her.

11 Q. And did your mum go on to -- you say she tried to find
12 jobs where she could, and that she went on to do
13 a four-year college course?

14 A. That's right, and she did the extra Froebel course and
15 became a specialist in infants. She eventually became
16 a headteacher, years later. But she needed a job where
17 she would be around for us during school holidays and
18 things like that.

19 Q. And did you and your brother go to a local
20 primary school at that time?

21 A. Yes.

22 Q. And how did you find that?

23 A. Fine. I was always either first or second in the class.
24 Not to boast or anything, but, yeah, I liked
25 primary school.

1 Q. And was it the headteacher of the primary school,
2 'Susan', that first raised --

3 A. That's right.

4 Q. -- the suggestion that you might go to --

5 A. Yes.

6 Q. -- a residential school?

7 (Pause)

8 A. Sorry.

9 LADY SMITH: There's no need to apologise. What we all have
10 to remember, I'm as much at fault as anybody, is that
11 the stenographers can't write down two things at the
12 same time.

13 A. I should have known better, I used to be one of them
14 myself.

15 LADY SMITH: Ah, well. We all have to put a zip on it
16 sometimes. Okay, thanks.

17 A. Okay.

18 LADY SMITH: Thanks.

19 MS MACLEOD: So, was it the headteacher at your
20 primary school, 'Susan', that first raised the
21 suggestion that you might go to residential school?

22 A. That's right, yes.

23 Q. And what was your understanding at the time as to what
24 that meant and why it was being suggested that you
25 should go there?

1 A. It meant that I was going away to school in the
2 countryside for six weeks, my brother and I, he was to
3 go somewhere else, which was to give my mother a break
4 in order to get her head down and study for exams, which
5 were coming up.

6 Q. And you tell us that, I think, the suggestion was made
7 by the headteacher to your mother, and your mother
8 agreed?

9 A. Yes.

10 Q. And did you and your brother go to different residential
11 placements or what happened there?

12 A. I went to Fornethy. My brother didn't go anywhere
13 because he decided to have his tonsils out at that time.

14 Q. And you went to Fornethy?

15 A. I went to Fornethy.

16 Q. How old were you?

17 A. I was 7.

18 Q. And I think you tell us, 'Susan', in your statement that
19 this was in 1966?

20 A. Yes, that's correct. I think it was [REDACTED]
21 1966.

22 Q. And indeed you explain that you remember going for
23 a medical examination --

24 A. Yes.

25 Q. -- before you went to Fornethy?

1 A. Yes.

2 Q. And was that in the [REDACTED] of 1966?

3 A. It must have been, yeah. I think it might have been the

4 [REDACTED].

5 Q. The [REDACTED]. Okay.

6 And following the medical, 'Susan', do you then

7 remember being taken to Queen Street Station?

8 A. I do.

9 Q. And was it your mother who took you to Queen Street?

10 A. Yes.

11 Q. And at that time, your understanding -- did you

12 understand at that time that you were going to Fornethy

13 for six weeks?

14 A. Yes. I understood I was going to school in the

15 countryside for six weeks.

16 Q. Okay. And did somebody meet you at Queen Street

17 Station?

18 A. Yes. There was a lady. I'll never forget her. She was

19 dressed in tweed from head to toe. I reckon she was in

20 her 40s. She met me and there was a few other girls,

21 and we all got on the train together.

22 Q. And the other girls, 'Susan', were they a similar age to

23 yourself?

24 A. Yes.

25 Q. And how were you feeling at this time, 'Susan', going on

1 the train with these girls?

2 A. I was quite excited until I got on the train and saw my
3 mother on the other side, and then I got a bit weepy, as
4 any child would.

5 Q. And was this the first time that you'd been away?

6 A. The first time in my life I'd been away from my mum,
7 yeah.

8 Q. You tell us a little bit in your statement, 'Susan',
9 about the lady in the tweed outfit. You say that she
10 was nice to you?

11 A. She was.

12 Q. And took your hand?

13 A. Yes.

14 Q. And tried to comfort you by saying you'd see your mother
15 in a few weeks, that sort of thing?

16 A. That's right, yeah.

17 Q. And I think in particular you remember that she gave you
18 some Edinburgh rock?

19 A. I do. First time ever I'd tasted it.

20 LADY SMITH: Do you remember what you thought of it?

21 A. I thought it was a bit strange, the crumbly texture, it
22 was a bit peculiar to me, 'cos I at that age thought
23 rock was the usual sticky rock, you know?

24 LADY SMITH: And it used to taste of perfume.

25 A. That's right.

1 LADY SMITH: Yes.

2 MS MACLEOD: You explained, 'Susan', that the train
3 eventually got to Blairgowrie.

4 A. I don't know what station it was, I just -- but
5 I assumed it was Blairgowrie or thereabouts.

6 Q. So the train got to a station?

7 A. Uh-huh.

8 Q. And can you tell me what happened?

9 A. We got off the train. There was somebody else there to
10 meet us. The lady in tweed disappeared and we all
11 went -- I can't remember if it was -- I think it must
12 have been a minibus or something that took us to
13 Fornethy.

14 Q. Do you remember arriving at Fornethy?

15 A. Yes.

16 Q. What were your first impressions?

17 A. It was a big house. We walked in the front door. There
18 was wood panelling everywhere. There was a staircase
19 going up to the left, and along this wall down here
20 there were pegs for kids to put their coats on. And
21 that's it, basically.

22 Q. Would you be okay if I put a couple of photographs of
23 the --

24 A. Sure.

25 Q. -- outside of the building on the screen?

1 A. Yeah.

2 Q. They'll come on the screen in front of you. The first
3 is INQ-0000001236, please.

4 This is an aerial view of a building.

5 A. Mm-hmm.

6 Q. Does this -- do you recognise this?

7 A. More or less. I recognise the bit on the left more
8 than -- the one on the right that seems to have
9 a corrugated tin roof, I don't remember that. But,
10 yeah, that's Fornethy.

11 Q. I'll put the next photograph on, which is
12 INQ-0000001243, please.

13 A. Mm-hmm.

14 Q. Do you recognise that as Fornethy?

15 A. Yes, yes.

16 Q. Now, we can take the photograph off the screen now.
17 Thank you.

18 You tell us in your statement that there was a long
19 drive leading up to the house, is that right?

20 A. I seem to remember a drive, yeah.

21 Q. And you've told us already about the staircase.
22 Were there a number of dormitories inside Fornethy?

23 A. Yes, upstairs there were dormitories.

24 Q. And was there also a dining room?

25 A. Yes, I believe that was on the ground floor.

1 Q. From your memory, how many girls do you think were at
2 Fornethy when you were there?

3 A. I have no idea. 60/70 -- I've really no idea. I mean,
4 I was only 7.

5 Q. And in terms of the age range of the girls, could you
6 help me with that?

7 A. I think they ranged from about 5, I would say, to 10 and
8 slightly -- there was a few girls older than that.

9 Q. Were you allocated to a particular dormitory?

10 A. I was.

11 Q. Do you remember the name of the dorm?

12 A. Ogilvie.

13 Q. And were you there with a number of other girls?

14 A. Yes.

15 Q. Of similar age to yourself?

16 A. Yes. There was one girl who was older, I think she was
17 about 10. But to me she was grown up at that age.

18 Q. Who was SNR of Fornethy, 'Susan'?

19 A. A Mrs LBD; SNR, I believe.

20 Q. What was she like?

21 A. I was terrified of the woman. She seemed -- if my
22 memory serves me correctly, she seemed to have been in
23 her -- middle-aged, possibly reaching retirement age.
24 White, whitish, pinkish hair. Always wore a suit and
25 court shoes. And she was terrifying.

1 Q. Was there another teacher called Mrs Fletcher?
2 A. Yes.
3 Q. And what was her role?
4 A. I've no idea, apart from sadist.
5 Q. And I think you tell us in your statement that she was
6 maybe a little bit younger than Mrs LBD ?
7 A. Yes, I think she was in her 40s.
8 Q. And you mention another teacher, PWH ?
9 A. I don't -- that wasn't her name, but for some reason
10 God comes into my mind with regard to her
11 name. Yeah. She was younger as well. I'd say she was
12 in her 30s, short, dark hair, plumpish.
13 Q. There was also domestic staff --
14 A. Yes.
15 Q. -- you mention. And were you able to engage and
16 interact with the domestic staff?
17 A. No, we weren't allowed to talk to the domestic staff and
18 they were not allowed to interact with us.
19 Q. You mention also, 'Susan', a younger woman who you
20 describe as possibly being in teacher training?
21 A. Yes, I think there was a trainee teacher there towards
22 the end of my stay.
23 Q. Okay. Now, one of the things you mention in your
24 statement, 'Susan', is how vividly you remember the
25 smell --

1 A. Oh.

2 Q. -- of Fornethy.

3 A. I do.

4 Q. What was it like?

5 A. Not to put too fine a point of it, the place smelled
6 like carbolic soap and vomit. It was absolutely foul.

7 Q. Now, you've told us a little bit about the building and
8 your memories of the first time you saw the building.
9 Can you tell me what happened, as far as you can recall,
10 when you went inside, in terms of who met you and
11 what -- where you were told to go, that sort of thing?

12 A. Well, we went inside and then we lined up in the hall.
13 Our suitcases were taken away from us and then we were
14 taken upstairs. There was a room with I think three
15 baths in it, and we were stripped, checked for head
16 lice, et cetera, and we were given baths, two or three
17 girls to a bath. Big, old-fashioned, cast-iron things.

18 And I remember there was a domestic, a lady in her
19 50s with one of those white, cotton overalls that they
20 wore in the 50s and 60s. She was on a chair next to the
21 bath. She scrubbed me down with carbolic soap and
22 a cloth, and then when it was time to get out of the
23 bath, and I remember distinctly standing on the edge,
24 I gave her a fright. She yelled at me, grabbed my hand
25 and she said: 'Don't do that or you'll fall', you know.

1 The next thing, Fletcher was standing in the doorway
2 and she called me over and when I got to her, she
3 grabbed me by the wrist and yanked me up and started
4 beating the hell out of me, saying: 'You'll never do
5 that again, will you?'

6 Now, I don't even think I cried. I think I was just
7 trans -- in a state of shock. I had no idea what was
8 going on.

9 Q. And you had only just arrived?

10 A. I'd only just -- this was within a couple of -- well,
11 less than an hour after arriving.

12 Q. And indeed you tell us in paragraph 40 of your
13 statement, 'Susan', you say it wasn't soft blows, this
14 was a real leathering?

15 A. No, this was -- this was a real -- they all, every time
16 we -- every time they hit us it was very hard.

17 Q. And was it her hands, or something --

18 A. It was her hands, yeah.

19 Q. And which part of your body was she --

20 A. My backside, all over really. My head, backside, legs.

21 Q. And you describe that you had come out of the bath. Had
22 you got dressed by this point?

23 A. No, no, I was naked.

24 Q. You were naked?

25 A. Mm-hmm.

1 Q. And later on that day, again on your first day, once you
2 were in bed, how -- what was going through your mind and
3 how were you feeling at this time?

4 A. Despair. I remember -- sorry. It's all coming back to
5 me. But I remember crying a lot and a girl came over to
6 me and told me to 'Shut up because then we'll all get
7 it. You're only feeling homesick. We'll all get it,
8 just shut up'.

9 I honestly thought I'd been sent to jail.
10 I'm sorry.

11 Q. Please take your time, 'Susan'.

12 A. God, I haven't cried over this for months, sorry.

13 LADY SMITH: Please don't apologise, 'Susan'. I really do
14 understand. Just pause as long as you want.

15 A. That was it, I thought I'd been sent to jail. I thought
16 I'd done something terrible.

17 MS MACLEOD: You tell us a bit about the meals at Fornethy
18 and I think you say that all the meals were provided in
19 the dining room, is that right?

20 A. Yeah, that's right.

21 Q. And how did you find the food, what was it like?

22 A. Just like normal school dinners in those days, stodgy.

23 Q. And did you have to eat the food or --

24 A. Oh, yes, we had to eat every last morsel.

25 Q. And was there a particular member of staff in charge of

1 the dining room or making sure that children were eating
2 the food?

3 A. I remember that woman PWH being around there a lot at
4 mealtimes. I'm calling her PWH. I don't know if
5 that's her name. PWH maybe, I don't know.

6 Q. And you say that you had to eat your food. How was that
7 made clear to you, that you had to eat your food?

8 A. I saw a girl, one day there was a girl at another table
9 who didn't want to eat her food, and it was force-fed to
10 her to such an extent that she threw up onto her plate.
11 And instead of leaving it at that, they force-fed her
12 the vomit on her plate. And when I saw that I thought:
13 that's it, I'm eating everything, no matter what the
14 hell they put in front of me.

15 Q. And you did eat everything, you tell us?

16 A. Of course I did.

17 Q. Do you remember which member of staff or members of
18 staff was involved in that force-feeding of the girl?

19 A. No, no, I was just so shocked and terrified at the time
20 that --

21 Q. Okay.

22 Now, you've told us, 'Susan', about the bath that
23 you were put into on the first day you arrived. After
24 your first day, were baths available to you or was it
25 showers that you had?

1 A. No, it was just showers we had after that. Maybe once
2 a week.

3 Q. And in terms of how the shower layout was and how that
4 operated, was there -- did you have privacy when you
5 were showering?

6 A. No, no. There were no shower curtains or doors on the
7 shower cubicles, which were along the left-hand side of
8 the wall.

9 Q. And would a number of girls be showering at the same
10 time?

11 A. Yes.

12 Q. Naked?

13 A. Yes.

14 Q. And you were able to see each other because there was no
15 privacy?

16 A. Yes, yes.

17 Q. Now, you tell us in your statement, 'Susan', that your
18 own clothes were taken away from you --

19 A. Yes.

20 Q. -- when you arrived and you were provided with other
21 clothes?

22 A. Well, I think we were allowed to keep a skirt and
23 a jumper of our own. I think that was it. But we were
24 given sort of pinafore things, printed cotton that went
25 round us and tied on the back, and we wore them every

1 day.

2 Q. And they were changed around once a week?

3 A. Once a week, I think, yeah.

4 Q. You also mention that -- something that I think your
5 mother reminded you of later, or something you told her
6 about your pants --

7 A. Yes.

8 Q. -- when you were in Fornethy. Can you tell me about
9 that?

10 A. Seemingly after I got home from Fornethy, a couple of
11 weeks later my mum walked into the living room and I was
12 sitting there on the floor playing very quietly. And
13 I looked up at my mum and seemingly I said: they
14 wouldn't let us change our pants and I felt very dirty.
15 And then went back to playing.

16 My mum said that's the only thing I ever told her
17 about Fornethy.

18 Q. At paragraph 24 of your statement, you describe parties
19 that some of the staff had. Was that something that
20 happened at the weekends?

21 A. I think it was the weekends.

22 Q. And can you just tell me a little bit about that? What
23 were these parties about?

24 A. I don't know what they were about, but I remember the
25 adults would be up there and I remember sometimes the

1 minister would be there, and there would be men and
2 women. I remember the floor was made of black-and-white
3 tiled linoleum and there were chairs here. There was
4 a record player up there somewhere, and I always
5 remember the song 'My Boy Lollipop' was always playing.
6 Some of the girls were dancing. And I remember
7 distinctly sitting in a chair, looking at my feet and
8 hanging on to the edge of the chair and desperately,
9 desperately trying to disappear into the chair, and
10 I'm saying to myself: 'Don't look up, don't make eye
11 contact or they'll pick you'. And I was terrified. And
12 I don't know why I was terrified of being picked for
13 whatever. I think my mind actually has shutten off
14 a lot of, but I remember that distinctly, desperately
15 trying to disappear into this chair and not wanting to
16 meet anybody's eye.

17 Q. And indeed, you talk about that in your statement,
18 'Susan', you say you just wanted to remain invisible.

19 A. That's it.

20 Q. At those times.

21 A. I see that now, yeah.

22 Q. Were you provided with any schooling or education at
23 Fornethy?

24 A. No. The only time we ever saw a classroom was on
25 letter-writing day, as far as I remember.

1 Q. So do I take it then you don't remember any maths
2 classes or English classes?

3 A. No, no arithmetic, no English classes, nothing like
4 that.

5 Q. And you mentioned there being in a classroom on
6 letter-writing?

7 A. Yeah.

8 Q. Letter-writing days.

9 And we'll look at the letter-writing in a few
10 moments.

11 Was there a tuck shop at Fornethy?

12 A. Yes, there was a very small tuck shop, a little
13 cupboard, with a small table and a chair in it, where
14 Mrs LBD would sit with a big ledger in front of her
15 and there was shelves on the right that had things like
16 comics and little sweets and things. And on a Saturday
17 morning we would visit the tuck shop. She would look in
18 her ledger and tell us: 'You can have tuppence,
19 thruppence', whatever.

20 Q. And on what basis was she deciding who got what?

21 A. I've no idea. Just whatever suited her, I suppose.

22 Q. And you tell us that your mother told you later that
23 she'd sent in a postal order for --

24 A. Every week, 5-shilling postal order. And I never --
25 I certainly didn't get 5 shillings a week, I can tell

1 you that.

2 Q. Now, you tell us that because Mrs LBD was in -- she

3 was the person in the tuck shop -- that you were

4 frightened of her?

5 A. Mm-hmm.

6 Q. And I think you say that you shook with fear?

7 A. I did.

8 Q. When you saw her.

9 You describe an occasion in paragraph 29, 'Susan',

10 when you say one day that Mrs LBD opened the ledger

11 and told you you weren't getting anything. Can you help

12 me with that? What did she say?

13 A. She just said -- I remember the words clearly: 'Your

14 bitch of a mother hasn't sent any money this week so

15 you're getting none'. And she told me that my mother

16 obviously didn't care.

17 Q. And that message --

18 A. Yes.

19 Q. -- of telling you that your mother didn't care, is that

20 something that was said to you?

21 A. That was something that was said often. Not just by

22 LBD, but other teachers as well. It was like

23 brainwashing. It was reinforced throughout my stay:

24 'Your parents don't want you, why do you think you're

25 here? They're trying to get rid of you'.

1 Q. And at the time, 'Susan', what impact was that having on
2 you?

3 A. It was devastating. You have to remember that my father
4 had already left, and if you're told often enough as
5 a child that your father left because you were bad, you
6 believe it, right? So -- and my -- because the place
7 was so bad, I thought: my mother wouldn't have sent me
8 here unless she thought I was bad and didn't want me.
9 I honestly thought I was in prison.

10 LADY SMITH: And, 'Susan', you were only 7 years old.

11 A. Yeah.

12 LADY SMITH: As you say, your father had left.

13 A. Yeah.

14 LADY SMITH: You wouldn't understand anything to do with
15 your mother needing to study for exams.

16 A. I did, actually, because she would have -- every day she
17 would have the books at home --

18 LADY SMITH: Okay.

19 A. -- on the dining room table and she would say: 'Shush,
20 I'm studying, I've got exams coming. Shush, I'm
21 studying'.

22 LADY SMITH: But maybe at 7 years old you wouldn't quite
23 understand the need to have the total peace and freedom.

24 A. Well, I did.

25 LADY SMITH: Would you --

1 A. Actually I was quite bright.

2 LADY SMITH: -- or not?

3 A. I was quite bright.

4 LADY SMITH: Oh, good.

5 A. Believe it or not. I knew what was happening. But even
6 at 7, even though I knew what was happening, I still
7 couldn't stop playing around with my brother and making
8 noise and, you know.

9 LADY SMITH: Yes. And then you've got other adults telling
10 you: 'The truth is your mum doesn't want you'.

11 A. Yes.

12 MS MACLEOD: Did you get visitors when you were at Fornethy?

13 A. No.

14 Q. Do you remember if visitors came in to see children, did
15 parents come to visit or anything like that?

16 A. Nobody came to visit. The only thing I can remember is
17 one day we were all lined up, ready to go out on one of
18 our walks, and the staircase was on the left here and we
19 heard this awful kerfuffle, and a woman came down the
20 stairs dragging her, I assume her daughter, behind her.
21 And I'll never forget it. To me she was very exotic,
22 she had a black beehive and a leopard-print coat
23 and pair of heels, and she was shouting and swearing at
24 the teachers who were up on the landing, swearing that
25 she was going to get the police onto them. And we all

1 stood there and watched this spectacle and she took off
2 with her kid and I remember thinking: that wee girl's
3 mother came for her. I wonder if somehow I can get my
4 mother to come for me.

5 Q. And from that, did you try to get a message to your
6 mother?

7 A. I did.

8 Q. What did you do?

9 A. On letter-writing day, right, we had to copy what was on
10 the board, basically.

11 Q. So was a style letter put on the board?

12 A. It was a style letter, right. And my letters to my
13 mother, after what happened the first time I wrote
14 a letter, my letters to my mother every week started:
15 'Dear Mummy, I love residential school'.

16 But on this particular day I thought, damn it.
17 I put: 'Dear Mummy, I do not like residential school,
18 please come and get me'.

19 Now, that's when that student teacher I talked about
20 was there, and as she was going round picking up
21 everybody's letter, she saw mine and she winked at me
22 and put her hand on my shoulder and put my letter in her
23 pocket. My mother never got that letter and I think
24 this girl, God bless her, got rid of it.

25 Q. And you have mentioned there, when you were explaining

1 what happened on that occasion, you mentioned the first
2 time that you wrote a letter to your mother?

3 A. Yeah.

4 Q. Could you tell me what happened on that first occasion?

5 A. On the first occasion, letter-writing day, and PWH was
6 in charge of the class, there was a letter up on the
7 board that we had to copy, but I was used to writing
8 letters. I wrote letters to my dad all the time and
9 I wrote wee stories and all -- so I knew what I was
10 doing. And I started: 'Dear Mum, I don't like
11 residential school. The teachers hit us'. Right? And
12 I started doing such and such and just writing down what
13 the place was like. And at the end of it, PWH came
14 round to pick up all the letters and she picked mine up
15 and looked at it, and she just glared at me and stuck it
16 in her pocket.

17 Then the class was dismissed and she said, 'Except
18 you', pointing to me, 'You come with me'. And she took
19 me into this room, it was like a study, there was a desk
20 at the top. And then she disappeared and I'm standing
21 there for ages wondering what was going on. The next
22 thing, she and Mrs LBD came in. And Mrs LBD was
23 coming towards me and taking her shoe off and
24 I remember -- this is really silly -- I remember
25 thinking: why is that lady taking her shoe off? And

1 when she got to me, she beat the hell out of me with her
2 shoe.

3 And she said: 'If you're told to do something,
4 you'll do it'. And I remember: 'Don't you ever say
5 anything derogatory about Fornethy'. And it was the
6 first time in my life I'd ever heard the word
7 'derogatory'. And she beat the crap out of me.

8 Q. With her shoe?

9 A. So after -- with her shoe. And after that: 'Dear Mummy,
10 I love residential school'.

11 Q. And when you say that she beat the hell out of you with
12 her shoe, what exactly did she do, where was she hitting
13 you?

14 A. All over. Again, all over. The backside, top of the
15 legs, back, head, you name it, everywhere.

16 Q. And did PWH witness --

17 A. She stood there with her arms folded, watching it.

18 Q. Did you ever try to run away from Fornethy?

19 A. Yes, yes.

20 Q. Could you tell me about that, 'Susan'?

21 A. There was one time we were -- all the girls were lined
22 up ready to go out again, and there was a little girl
23 crying and another one beside her. It turns out they
24 were sisters. And I asked one of them: 'Why are you
25 crying?' And the other one said: 'We've been here now

1 ... ' -- I think she said for about six, seven weeks or
2 eight weeks or something -- '... we were supposed to be
3 going home soon and we've just been told we'll be here
4 for another three months'. And I remember my stomach
5 turning over and my heart sinking. I thought: my God,
6 I'm going to be here forever. And I said to them: 'We
7 need to get out of here'. You know, I was 7.

8 So they took us out. Again, I remember being up on
9 a hill and we were ankle-deep in snow and I said to
10 these girls, there was three of us, there was me, those
11 two sisters and another girl and I says: 'What we'll do
12 is -- this is a 7-year-old's logic. I says: 'We'll go
13 halfway down the hill and we'll lie down and they won't
14 see us and then, when everybody goes back to school, we
15 can get up and run'.

16 The other three, they didn't bother, they came down
17 the hill and then they crapped out. But I lay there.
18 And I remember being in the snow and it was very cold.
19 And then I heard footsteps and it was PWH. I just
20 remember looking up and seeing her feet and her ski
21 pants and I thought: oh, God.

22 And she said: 'What are you doing down there?', and
23 I said: 'My coat got caught in the heather'.

24 So she got me up to the top of the hill. She told
25 me to take my coat off, which I did, and by this time

1 she had all the other teachers and the kids in
2 a semicircle. Told me to take my coat off, which I did,
3 and then she told me to take my pants off and I wouldn't
4 do it, and she went on until eventually -- and then
5 I had to turn round, bend over, and once again she beat
6 me. And she beat me so badly that -- and I was so
7 terrified that I actually wet myself.

8 And I'm thinking: my God, the humiliation of having
9 your backside shown to everybody is bad enough, but to
10 actually wet yourself in public.

11 So after that, we just all put the coat on and back
12 to the residential school as if it was all perfectly
13 normal.

14 Q. You describe at paragraph 41 of your statement, 'Susan',
15 an occasion when you were in the showers.

16 A. Oh, yes, I remember that.

17 Q. And Mrs Fletcher was there.

18 A. Yeah, as I say, the showers -- the cubicles were on the
19 left and there was a bench on the wall over there.

20 Mrs Fletcher was sitting on that bench and she had
21 a pile of towels next to her. I remember there was
22 girls in the showers, but I remember there was one girl
23 and she was older, because she had pubic hair and she
24 was starting to develop, so she must have been 14/15,
25 and I remember her trying to cover herself up.

1 Anyway, all the kids, we were all running round, no
2 clothes on. Mrs Fletcher was over there and for some
3 reason she was smiling. She was actually in a good mood
4 and I thought: oh, my goodness. And she saw me and
5 beckoned me over and I went trotting over and as soon as
6 I got to her, she threw me over her knee and started
7 thrashing me on the backside for absolutely no reason,
8 smiling while she was doing it.

9 I think she was in a good mood and wanted to thrash
10 somebody and I just happened to be in her line of sight.
11 She was the school's resident sadist. That's all I can
12 say about her. And I wish she was still alive.

13 Q. In paragraph 45, 'Susan', you tell the Inquiry about
14 an occasion when you were getting ready for bed.

15 A. Oh, yeah.

16 Q. And I think you say that a little girl had said --

17 A. Yeah.

18 Q. -- that you -- had told that you had said a bad word,
19 which you hadn't?

20 A. I hadn't.

21 Q. And I think you describe that without looking into it or
22 asking any questions, that Mrs Fletcher --

23 A. She just grabbed me by the ear and pulled me along the
24 corridor, into one of the bathrooms. I remember her
25 rubbing carbolic soap under the tap and sticking it in

1 my mouth, telling me to eat it. And of course I threw
2 up. And she did it again to wash out the vomit, calling
3 me a filthy little so-and-so.

4 Q. I think in your statement she called you a 'filthy
5 little bitch'?

6 A. Yeah.

7 Q. You say also that, I think when she was taking you out
8 to the corridor, that she may have torn the skin under
9 your ear?

10 A. Yes. I had, when I got -- all through my stay -- well,
11 within a couple of weeks of being at Fornethy, I had
12 hacks all over my body and there was one under my ear,
13 and I think she ripped it even more. I mean, it took,
14 I'd say, a good two or three months for that to heal.

15 Q. You have mentioned being outside on the walk you
16 described when you tried to run away and you were beaten
17 by PWH. Long walks and being outside, was that
18 a recurring theme?

19 A. Every day. Every day we were outside. I think we spent
20 more time outdoors than we did in, inside.

21 Q. And in terms of the sorts of walks you were taken on,
22 you say that even adults would struggle with the walks?

23 A. I would -- I know I would, but then again I've got
24 a walking stick, but, yeah, they were long, long walks.

25 Q. In all weathers?

1 A. In all weathers. I mean, this was [REDACTED] 1966.
2 It was pretty -- let's just say blustery.

3 Q. Now, you've mentioned already the narrative that was fed
4 to you about your mother not wanting you and your father
5 having left.

6 A. Uh-huh.

7 Q. In paragraph 49 -- 48, sorry, you talk --

8 A. Oh yeah.

9 Q. -- about a letter-writing --

10 A. It was in the letter-writing class, yeah.

11 Q. With PWH, when she made you stand up. Can you tell me
12 about that, 'Susan'?

13 A. I don't know how we got onto the subject of our parents,
14 but at one point PWH made me stand up in front of the
15 class and told everybody that my daddy had left the
16 family because I was such a horrible, bad child and he
17 couldn't stand it anymore, and he had to leave to get
18 away from me.

19 Q. And how did you respond?

20 A. You know, at that age you think the world revolves
21 around you, okay. When my dad left finally for the last
22 time, there was a wee bit inside of me that thought, oh,
23 it must be my fault. 'Cos, you know, kids think
24 everything is. But it just made me -- I was so
25 humiliated and so despairing, thinking that maybe she

1 was right.

2 But I do remember none of the girls laughed, which
3 I thought was quite strange. Little girls, you know, at
4 that age would laugh at something like that, but none of
5 them did.

6 Q. And you say:

7 'What she said hurt me so much.'

8 A. Oh, yeah.

9 Q. And following on from that, you explain that there was
10 a time where you received an aerogramme from your dad?

11 A. Yeah.

12 Q. Can you tell me about that?

13 A. Yes, we used to get our mail after dinner or lunch or
14 whatever, and an aerogramme had come from my dad.

15 I mean I could read his writing perfectly well and his
16 letters always started: 'Dear sweetheart, I miss you',
17 blah, blah, blah. And I got this and I thought: oh,
18 I could prove to her that my daddy does love me.

19 So I called her over and I told her I couldn't read
20 the looped-up writing and would she please read it for
21 me. And she started off and she -- I'll never forget
22 it. She went, 'Dear sweetheart', and then -- and then
23 she crumpled it up and threw it on the table and said:
24 'Read it yourself'.

25 Q. And that's PWH?

1 A. That was PWH. See, when she said, 'Dear sweetheart',
2 there was girls at the table that all heard it, so they
3 knew.

4 Q. Now, in paragraph 50, 'Susan', you say that PWH,
5 LBD and Fletcher were the ones who made your life
6 hell --

7 A. Yes.

8 Q. -- in Fornethy. You say that PWH was more into the
9 psychological terror.

10 A. Yeah.

11 Q. Although you say she did beat you up when you tried to
12 run away --

13 A. Yeah.

14 Q. -- and we've looked at that.
15 You say that Fletcher and LBD 'loved beating the
16 girl.'

17 A. Yes.

18 Q. That Fletcher was 'the main instigator of the physical
19 abuse, but they were both nasty, horrible, cruel,
20 sadistic pieces of work.'

21 A. Yeah.

22 Q. In terms of how Fletcher and LBD conducted
23 themselves on a day-to-day basis, you say that they
24 would 'just clout you round the ear.'

25 A. Yes.

1 Q. Was this in passing or --

2 A. Just in passing, (Indicating).

3 Q. Did you see other girls being treated in this way?

4 A. Of course I did, yeah.

5 Q. You say, 'It seemed to happen just about every day.'

6 A. Every day, yeah.

7 Sorry, I've just seen paragraph 52. The teachers

8 made us all learn the song 'Nobody's Child', which is

9 particularly heinous, I think.

10 Q. And in what -- in what context were you made to learn

11 that? Was that in a classroom or the whole school?

12 A. Yeah, just in the class -- all girls together: 'Right,

13 let's sing, we're going to learn "Nobody's Child"'.
14 Q. And you were asked to sing that?

15 A. We had to sing that. Can you imagine -- sorry. Can you

16 imagine the psychology of an adult that would come up

17 with that? It's just -- it's beyond me. Sorry.

18 Q. Now, in terms of the other children in Fornethy and how

19 you interacted with them, what you tell us, 'Susan', is

20 that generally you played on your own?

21 A. I did, because --

22 Q. Carry on.

23 A. I just shut down. I went offline. I just wouldn't

24 interact with anybody.

25 Q. You tell us that, in your statement, that you were

1 focusing on surviving?

2 A. Yeah.

3 Q. And getting out of there?

4 A. Mm-hmm, at the age of 7.

5 Q. You tell us that you were attracted to a large tree in

6 the grounds?

7 A. Yes, I remember this vividly, vividly. There was a tree

8 that had a lot of surface roots and I would play at the

9 base of this tree. I remember getting a little twig and

10 that was supposed to be me -- remember I was 7 -- and

11 I would put it at the base of the tree and all round

12 these roots I would gather pebbles and build little

13 walls around it, and that was me in my house with all

14 these walls within walls. No doors, just walls.

15 And I remember one day a little girl came along and

16 wanted to join in and she moved one of the walls and

17 I went crazy.

18 Now, looking as an adult, looking back at that

19 child, it is so obvious that I was shutting off and

20 building walls against the outside world.

21 Q. Now, when it came time to leave Fornethy, 'Susan',

22 I think you tell us that shortly before you left you

23 were -- it was time to go to the tuck shop?

24 A. Yeah, the day before.

25 Q. Were you given half a crown?

1 A. I was given a big, shiny, silver half-crown to buy
2 presents for my mum and my brother.

3 Q. And was it in that context that you were told you were
4 going home?

5 A. Yes.

6 Q. And you say you're not sure if other girls left with you
7 because, as you've already told us, you had shut down by
8 that point?

9 A. I had shut down by then, I mean, really.

10 Q. And indeed, you tell us you can't actually remember
11 leaving?

12 A. I can't remember leaving. The only thing I remember was
13 getting off the train at Queen Street, I suppose.

14 Q. And if I can ask you then about getting off the train at
15 Queen Street in Glasgow, what do you remember about
16 that?

17 A. Vividly, I remember running down the platform. I had
18 little Mary Jane shoes on, white socks, I had a red
19 coat, and I remember seeing my mum and running down the
20 platform and throwing my hands up, 'Mum', for a hug and
21 then, my arms down: bad girls don't get hugs. Running
22 a wee bit with my hands up. And all the time I was
23 talking to God, saying: God, I will be good, I will be
24 so good. And I'm running along the platform, I don't
25 know, like a demented penguin, getting to my mum. And

1 I remember she put her arms round me and I remember her
2 saying: 'Oh, my Jesus Christ'.
3 Q. Why do you think she said that?
4 A. Because of the state I was in.
5 Q. What state were you in?
6 A. I was covered in sores from head to toe, ears bleeding,
7 bruised.
8 Q. I think you tell us, 'Susan', that your mum took you to
9 the doctor?
10 A. She took me to the doctor, yes, Emile Glasser, family
11 doctor, and he was extremely angry. He said he -- my
12 mum tells me that Emile said he was going to report it,
13 but whether he did or not, I don't know.
14 Q. Now, at that time did you tell your mother what --
15 A. No.
16 Q. -- the experience at Fornethy had been like?
17 A. No, I kept schtum.
18 Q. Did you tell anyone about it?
19 A. I didn't tell a single soul, because I thought if I had
20 said anything, I would be put right back in there.
21 Q. And did you go back to the primary school --
22 A. I did.
23 Q. -- you'd been at previously --
24 A. Yes.
25 Q. -- when you returned home?

1 I think you tell us that your mother had tried to
2 get you into Hutchison's Grammar School?

3 A. She did, yeah.

4 Q. And did you sit an entrance exam?

5 A. I did.

6 Q. And what happened at the entrance exam?

7 A. I deliberately failed it.

8 Q. Why was that?

9 A. Because, when I walked into Hutchison's Grammar School,
10 the walls were all wood panels et cetera, and I panicked
11 and thought this was another Fornethy and my mother was
12 trying to send me away again.

13 Q. And I think you tell us your teacher at primary school
14 had been disappointed that --

15 A. Mrs Sloan, yes. She couldn't believe I'd failed.
16 Nobody could believe I'd failed.

17 Q. I think you tell us you'd been top of the class?

18 A. Mm-hmm.

19 Q. How was your relationship with your mother when you
20 returned from Fornethy?

21 A. Not good. I never trusted her. And the older I got,
22 the worse it got. But mind you, most teenage girls
23 don't get on with their mothers, but I mean, with me it
24 was particularly bad.

25 It was strange, there was this dichotomy, right.

1 One thing was, I thought, on the one hand I thought she
2 doesn't like me, she hates me, she's trying to send me
3 away, blah, blah, blah, blah. Right? And then on the
4 other, I was terrified of losing her. It was just -- it
5 was very strange. We didn't get on well.

6 As I say, I didn't trust her after that.

7 Q. And I think you left school at 16?

8 A. Mm-hmm.

9 Q. And went to the Isle of Arran for a period?

10 A. Yeah. As I say, I went to sea.

11 Q. And did you then do a secretarial course?

12 A. Yeah.

13 Q. And have various jobs before you eventually moved to the

14 Middle East?

15 A. That's right.

16 Q. And you have since returned?

17 A. Yes.

18 Q. To Scotland?

19 A. Yes. Everybody was so disappointed in me when I did

20 a secretarial course: 'You could have done this, you

21 could have done that'.

22 Anyway, going to work in Saudi for 15 years was

23 a blessing. I bought a house and, yeah.

24 Q. Now, you provide some evidence in your statement about

25 the impact, both physical and otherwise, you consider

1 your time in Fornethy has had on you and I just want to
2 explore some elements of that with you.

3 You've already told us about the, I think you put it
4 as the state you were in when you returned home and that
5 your mother took you to the GP?

6 A. Yeah.

7 Q. And you say you had hacks all over your body?

8 A. Mm-hmm.

9 Q. I think you say your mother at the time thought it may
10 have been because of exposure to cold weather?

11 A. Yeah, but the doctor actually diagnosed impetigo, which
12 is from poor hygiene.

13 Q. And you say both your ears had cuts below them, one was
14 particularly bad?

15 A. This one. (Indicating)

16 Q. And did it take quite a while --

17 A. It took months for it to heal properly. I had bruises
18 under my fingernails. Bruises all over my body.

19 Q. And while you were describing what happened to you when
20 you were in Fornethy, you described what staff there and
21 particularly Mrs [LBD] had reinforced to you about
22 your mother not wanting you?

23 A. Mm-hmm.

24 Q. And you say that you firmly believed that and that's
25 stayed with you?

1 A. Stayed with me all my life.

2 Q. You go on to say that you consider that in some ways
3 Fornethy ruined your life?

4 A. Oh, I think so. There's no doubt about it, yeah.

5 Q. Do you think about it often, your time there?

6 A. No -- well, no. I never thought about it at all until
7 I think my mum had seen something in the paper, a few
8 years ago, about the Fornethy ██████████ Group. And she
9 said: 'You went to Fornethy, didn't you?', and at that
10 point everything came rushing back. I had buried it so
11 deep that I never thought about it.

12 I try not to think about it now, because it's done
13 and dusted. There's absolutely nothing I can do about
14 it. There's no point on dwelling on it.

15 Q. And you speak about that at paragraph 87 of your
16 statement, 'Susan'. You say that the first time you
17 told anybody was in September 2021?

18 A. Oh, yeah, yeah, that would be it. That would be the
19 time when my mum told me about the article in the paper,
20 I think.

21 Q. And that's exactly what you say there. You say that
22 there was a newspaper article and you were with your
23 mum.

24 A. Yeah.

25 Q. And everything came flooding back. And you say that

1 your mother thought you were having a heart attack?

2 A. Yeah. It must have been quite scary for her. I just
3 went berserk. It was like, I don't know, like
4 a flashback. All these images and sounds just suddenly
5 came into me. It was really strange.

6 Q. And you say that you had suppressed it for 56 years?

7 A. Yeah.

8 Q. And was it after that that you spoke to the police about
9 what happened to you in Fornethy?

10 A. Yes, I think it was the next day. Having seen the
11 article about the Fornethy ██████████ Group, I thought:
12 I need to go to the police about this. So I did.
13 I went to my local police station, was sat there for
14 over an hour, before I was told nobody could see me.
15 Then went home. And then the next day I got a call from
16 a detective, right, okay, and then the next day, two
17 young constables came round to take a statement.

18 Q. And you say that was the first time you'd ever opened
19 up --

20 A. Yes.

21 Q. -- and told anyone everything that went on --

22 A. Yes.

23 Q. -- at Fornethy.

24 Now, you tell us at paragraph 76, 'Susan', that you
25 were very young, and indeed it was shortly after you

1 came out of Fornethy when you were 8, that you started
2 thinking about death and dying?

3 A. Yes.

4 Q. And again, you say that you were convinced by this time
5 that your mum didn't want you and wanted rid of you?

6 A. Yeah.

7 Q. And you tell the Inquiry, 'Susan', that you attempted
8 suicide --

9 A. When I was 14. That was the first attempt.

10 Q. And again at 24?

11 A. And at 24, yeah. And again -- it's not in the
12 statement, but again at one point in my 30s, which
13 I never told anybody about.

14 Q. And I think you tell the Inquiry that you've had some
15 help and psychiatric input, have you, and counselling?

16 A. In Saudi Arabia, I did. The so-called psychiatric
17 'help' I got in this country was laughable. When I was
18 14, I was kept in hospital overnight. My mother and
19 I both saw a female psychiatrist separately and
20 afterwards the psychiatrist told my mother that I had
21 tried to commit suicide because I wanted attention and
22 didn't like my mother's boyfriend at the time. Now, how
23 she came up with this is beyond me, because when I was
24 with the psychiatrist, I never opened my mouth.

25 The second time was when I was in my 20s and I think

1 I was on the verge of a nervous breakdown. I was crying
2 all the time. My GP sent me up to Leverndale and I saw
3 a psychiatrist and it's like something out the movies,
4 I kid you not. This guy in his 30s; black hair, beard,
5 the John Lennon specs, pipe, the Fairisle jumper,
6 I mean -- and the goatee beard, I mean it was Freud all
7 over. And he was asking me these very inane questions
8 like: 'How old are you?', '24'. 'Are you married?',
9 'No'. 'Why not, are you a lesbian?', 'No'. And he was
10 asking me about my work.

11 Now, at that time I was an executive assistant to
12 the MD of a photographic equipment place, and all the
13 sales guys and my boss had been down in Birmingham at
14 an exhibition, and while they were gone, I got a phone
15 call from a potential customer to whom I sold £55,000
16 worth of a step-and-repeat machine; right? When the
17 guys got back from Birmingham they couldn't believe
18 I had done this.

19 I got a box of chocolates and the commission on it
20 went to the salesman for that area, so I was a wee bit
21 miffed about it and according to this psychiatrist,
22 that's why I tried to do myself in. As if!

23 So that was the psychiatric 'help' I got in this
24 country.

25 When I went to Saudi Arabia, I actually saw

1 a psychiatrist out there after a while and she was
2 fantastic.

3 Q. At paragraph 79 you tell the Inquiry, 'Susan', that
4 there's no doubt that the biggest impact on you, from
5 being at Fornethy, was that it made you feel worthless?

6 A. Yeah.

7 Q. And I think you -- you say that you're intelligent and
8 could have gone on to achieve much more in life?

9 A. I think I could, yeah.

10 Q. You tell the Inquiry that when you were at school, for
11 example, you wanted to go to art school but that you
12 stopped because of --

13 A. Didn't think I was good enough, even though all the art
14 teachers said: 'You must do it'.

15 Also writing. The amount of people that have said
16 to me I should be a writer. I used to work for BP for
17 the law department in Glasgow and my boss there said:
18 'For God's sake, what are you doing here? You should be
19 writing, you should be doing this, you should be doing
20 that'. But I never thought I was good enough. That's
21 why I stuck with -- nothing against secretaries, but
22 that's why I-- any job that had promotion or managerial
23 status, whatever, I was always terrified to -- I would
24 never apply for it, thinking I was no good. And yet
25 when I went to Saudi I had a (Indicating), straight up.

1 Q. Towards the end of your statement, PGS, you
2 provide some information about lessons which you
3 consider could be learnt and hopes for the Inquiry, and
4 I just want to pick up a few of the points you make
5 there.

6 At paragraph 93, you say you would like to see more
7 inspections carried out of places like Fornethy?

8 A. Spot inspections. I don't want anybody to know that the
9 inspectors are about to arrive, and I want them to
10 arrive at all times of the day and night. Yeah.

11 Q. And a related point, you say that during or after stays
12 children should be spoken to appropriately and asked --

13 A. Yeah.

14 Q. -- what happened to them, did anything make them
15 unhappy, that sort of thing?

16 A. Yeah.

17 Q. Did anybody speak or ask you anything like that when you
18 were in Fornethy?

19 A. Definitely not, no.

20 Q. And you also make the point that there should be
21 thorough background checks of all the staff?

22 A. Yes, that's what I said in 2022 or whenever it was, but
23 I mean, they do have background checks and people still
24 slip through the net, so where's the point? I'm sorry,
25 I'm very cynical nowadays.

1 Q. And in terms of your hopes for this Inquiry, you say
2 that you hope that the findings of the Inquiry are
3 published in full?

4 A. Yes.

5 Q. And you say it's time that everyone bites the bullet and
6 starts being honest about things that have gone on in
7 the past?

8 A. Yes, and are still going on, I might add.

9 Q. You say:

10 'We should look at what has gone wrong, start
11 afresh, fix the problems and find ways to stop things
12 from going wrong again.'

13 A. Yeah.

14 Q. And you provide some additional information, 'Susan', at
15 the very end of your statement and I think that relates
16 to some information that you may have been provided with
17 later in life.

18 You mention in your statement that you were given
19 milk, I think, to drink while you were at Fornethy?

20 A. I had forgotten about that, yes.

21 Q. And I think later on in life you were told or it was
22 suggested to you that the milk --

23 A. That it was drugged, yeah.

24 If I can say, when I was a little girl, I mean,
25 I was a bit mad. I would get into bed at night and sing

1 my head off, even though I can't sing. I would make up
2 wee stories. I would never go to sleep right away.
3 Yet, when I was in Fornethy, every night we were given
4 a plastic mug with warm milk and a digestive biscuit,
5 and I always remember the milk tasted a bit off.
6 I'd get into bed and I'd be out like a light. That
7 never happened. And then later on I met somebody
8 from -- a couple of people from the Fornethy [REDACTED]
9 Group who suggested that they thought the milk was
10 drugged.

11 Q. And what you say is:

12 'I don't know if there's any truth in it or not, but
13 it does make sense.'

14 A. It does make sense, yeah.

15 Q. Now, that completes the questions that I have for you,
16 'Susan', but I just want to give you the opportunity now
17 to add anything else that you would like to, before we
18 complete your evidence?

19 A. I don't think you're going to like it. I mean --

20 LADY SMITH: That's perfectly all right. Go ahead.

21 A. This Inquiry, I believe, started in 2015, is that
22 correct?

23 LADY SMITH: Well --

24 A. Or the Scottish --

25 LADY SMITH: 2016, it was announced in 2016.

1 A. So it's been going for about ten years. At the end of
2 which, yet another report will be written and everybody
3 will wring their hands and say how awful it was and that
4 lessons will be learned. Lessons are never learned. We
5 only have to look at the state of humanity nowadays to
6 see that lessons are never learned.

7 As for the so-called victims, survivors, whatever
8 you want, if any of us are still alive then, what
9 difference is it going to make? Okay?

10 I mean, in the words of John Swinney, and I hate to
11 say this, on a conference call with Scottish legal
12 boffins, 'They'll get nae effing money out of us',
13 referring to Fornethy Survivors; okay?

14 Now, we are getting no compensation, nothing like
15 that, and do you know why? Two reasons. Number one, we
16 were not abused long enough. Okay? Now, I'm sorry to
17 use this language, but to a 7-year-old, one blow job is
18 the same as 100 blow jobs. One beating is the same as
19 a thousand beatings. We were abused. It doesn't matter
20 how long it went on for. We were abused.

21 The second thing is, other children in other
22 residential schools, who were getting compensated, they
23 were saying: but they were kept from their parents.
24 They had no interaction with their parents.

25 Excuse me, so were we in Fornethy. We were not

1 allowed to write letters home. We had no visitors. We
2 were coerced into writing fictitious stuff about
3 Fornethy. So you tell me how that comes about.

4 And I'm sorry, I'm really, really angry and really
5 cynical now. I think nothing is going to come of this.
6 If, in the future, the people from Fornethy are given
7 compensation, I think it will be too late. I think most
8 of us will be dead and I think that's -- and the powers
9 that be, that's what they're hoping for, that we will
10 all die off in the meantime and get nothing.

11 I'm just sick to the back teeth of the way society
12 has treated us and other survivors, as if we're the bad
13 ones.

14 I'm sorry, I've vented. It had to come out.

15 MS MACLEOD: Thank you very much, 'Susan', for adding that
16 to the evidence you have already provided, much
17 appreciated.

18 My Lady, I haven't received any more questions to be
19 put to 'Susan'.

20 LADY SMITH: Thank you.

21 'Susan' --

22 A. Sorry.

23 LADY SMITH: -- for the second -- well, the third time,
24 please don't apologise. I'm listening. I know
25 exactly --

1 A. I believe you are.

2 LADY SMITH: I know exactly what you mean and actually
3 you're not the only person I have encountered in the
4 years I've been doing this who's feeling exactly the
5 same as you.

6 A. Mm-hmm.

7 LADY SMITH: Really --

8 A. I'm sick and tired of the powers that be paying lip
9 service to the --

10 LADY SMITH: Yes.

11 A. Not you, but certain people, like politicians --

12 LADY SMITH: I know.

13 A. -- I mean, in Edinburgh for instance, who to your face
14 will say: 'Oh, that's awful, that's awful'. And as soon
15 as you're out of sight they don't give a damn.

16 LADY SMITH: Well, I don't know if you are aware of the
17 number of volumes I've published already, 'Susan'.

18 A. I know you've done some of them.

19 LADY SMITH: Well, 16 so far.

20 A. Wow.

21 LADY SMITH: The 17th will be out quite soon.

22 A. Do you get a medal at the end of it?

23 LADY SMITH: We keep going.

24 That's not what I'm looking for. I think people are
25 listening and I won't give up, I promise.

1 A. Thank you.

2 LADY SMITH: Now, I hope the rest of today is easier for you
3 than the beginning has been.

4 A. Hopefully.

5 LADY SMITH: But go knowing that it's made a huge difference
6 to me hearing from you myself, in person, not just
7 reading what's in your statement.

8 A. Thank you.

9 LADY SMITH: So thank you for that.

10 A. Thank you for listening to me.

11 LADY SMITH: That's what I'm here for.

12 (The witness withdrew)

13 LADY SMITH: I have another name of somebody who is not to
14 be identified as referred to in our evidence outside
15 this room and that's PWH or Mrs PWH, possibly, and
16 that's it until 2 o'clock.

17 MS MACLEOD: My Lady, I think I may have used the
18 applicant's name by mistake, for which, if I did,
19 I apologise.

20 LADY SMITH: Well, if you did, I may have missed it, but let
21 me put it this way: this applicant can only be referred
22 to by the name that we used when she was introduced and
23 that's the name 'Susan'. So, thank you very much.

24 I'll stop now for the lunch break and I'll sit again
25 at about 2 o'clock.

1 (1.04 pm)

2 (The luncheon adjournment)

3 (2.00 pm)

4 LADY SMITH: Good afternoon. Now, Mr MacAulay.

5 MR MACAULAY: Yes, my Lady. The next witness is
6 an applicant. She wants to remain anonymous and to use
7 the pseudonym 'Margaret'.

8 LADY SMITH: Thank you.

9 'Margaret' (affirmed)

10 LADY SMITH: 'Margaret', thank you so much for coming along
11 this afternoon to help us with your evidence in person.
12 I do, of course, already have your written evidence and
13 that's in that red folder that's in front of you. We'll
14 also bring up parts of it on the screen. But we'd like,
15 if we may, to explore some particular aspects of it with
16 you today.

17 As we do that, I do appreciate that what you've
18 agreed to do here isn't straightforward. It's not easy
19 to come into a public place and talk about yourself,
20 particularly when you're talking about your childhood
21 and distressing things that happened to you during your
22 childhood.

23 If at any time you want a pause or a break, that's
24 not a problem, please just let me know. I will take
25 a break anyway around 3 o'clock in the afternoon, so if

1 we're still taking your evidence at that point, you can
2 rely on getting a breather then, but it's fine if you
3 want a breather at any other point.

4 If you've got any questions at any time, please ask.
5 We don't always ask our questions in as clear a way as
6 possible, and if that happens, that's our fault, not
7 yours. Or there may be things that you're keen to tell
8 us about that we aren't asking you about, so let us know
9 if that happens.

10 If you're ready, I'll hand over to Mr MacAulay and
11 he'll take it from there. Okay?

12 A. Okay.

13 LADY SMITH: Mr MacAulay.

14 Questions from Mr MacAulay

15 MR MACAULAY: My Lady.

16 Yes, good afternoon, 'Margaret'.

17 A. Good afternoon.

18 Q. The first thing I would like you to do for me is to look
19 at the last page of your statement and can you confirm
20 that you have signed it?

21 A. Yes.

22 Q. And if you look at the final paragraph, do you say:

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

25 I believe the facts stated in this witness statement are

1 true.'

2 Is that correct?

3 A. Yes.

4 Q. Now, if you go to the beginning of the statement,
5 I don't want your date of birth, just the year of your
6 birth, and can you confirm that you were born in 1962?

7 A. Yes.

8 Q. Now, I want to give a reference to the statement for the
9 transcript, and that's at WIT-1-000000861.

10 Now, you begin in your statement, 'Margaret', by
11 telling us about your life before you went into care,
12 and so far as being in care is concerned we'll be
13 looking at Fornethy.

14 But you tell us that you were born in the Gorbals
15 area of Glasgow?

16 A. Yes.

17 Q. And you provide some information about your family. It
18 was a large family?

19 A. Yes.

20 Q. And I think one of the children in the family was
21 an adopted child?

22 A. Yes, that's right.

23 Q. And at that time, I think, because of the adoption
24 process, there was social work involvement with the
25 family?

1 A. Yes.

2 Q. What memories do you have of life at home when you were
3 young?

4 A. Quite happy memories at home, even though there was nine
5 of us, nine children, and my mother did go to work and
6 she was on her own. There was no father figure, and
7 I don't, I don't really remember a father figure there,
8 so it's just -- it was just my mother.

9 And I remember going to work with my mum. She used
10 to take the whole lot of us and we would go to her work
11 and it was in a college. So we would -- she would give
12 us wee jobs to do and we'd do our wee jobs while she was
13 doing her job. But I always remember it being quite
14 happy times.

15 Q. Yes. But did there come a point in time when you and
16 indeed some of your siblings, sisters, went to Fornethy?

17 A. Yes.

18 Q. Can you remember the background to that?

19 A. Yes.

20 Q. How did it come about?

21 A. Yes. My mother, there was something wrong with my mum's
22 back and I think that's the reason that they sent us, to
23 give her a wee break, after she'd been in hospital and
24 came home fae hospital. And they took some of us, not
25 all of us, but I think it was to just give her a wee

1 break, and we went to Fornethy.

2 Q. And you went and I think you went with a number of your
3 sisters?

4 A. Yes.

5 Q. Because, of course, it was only girls that went to
6 Fornethy?

7 A. Yes.

8 Q. And were you the youngest of the sisters?

9 A. No, no. There was one younger than me who went so there
10 was [REDACTED], myself --

11 Q. Yes, you needn't give us the names.

12 A. Oh, right, sorry. We went four at a time, and one time
13 there was five of us went. That was the second time.

14 Q. Yes. Of course you were there twice, I think --

15 A. Yes, I was there twice.

16 Q. -- we can see from your statement.

17 A. Yes. And I was also at another residential school
18 called Southpark.

19 Q. Yes. But I think that was on the Isle of Bute, is that
20 right?

21 A. Yes, that's right.

22 Q. But you think then that this was really to give your
23 mother a break, that you're being sent to -- you're
24 going to Fornethy?

25 A. Yes, yes.

1 Q. Do you remember if you had to go for a medical
2 examination?

3 A. We did, yeah, we did go for a medical. I can't remember
4 where we went in the town, but I know we went into the
5 town, erm, and that's where we got the medical.

6 Q. Okay. And what you tell us in your statement is that
7 you may have been about 5 or 6 years old when you went
8 to Fornethy?

9 A. The first time, I was 5.

10 Q. Yes. Well, that would be in around about 1967 or
11 thereabouts?

12 A. You're probably right.

13 Q. If you're born in 1962, then, we're looking -- I mean --

14 A. Aye, '67.

15 Q. -- we can't be precisely accurate?

16 A. Yeah.

17 Q. And I think you said that there was one other sibling,
18 one other sister who was younger than you?

19 A. Yes.

20 Q. And did you know at the time when you were sent, and
21 I appreciate you were only 5, how long you were to be
22 there for?

23 A. I never asked the question, but I knew how long we were
24 there for.

25 Q. And on that first occasion, how long were you there for?

1 A. Six weeks.

2 Q. And I think you went to Fornethy a second time?

3 A. Second time for six weeks.

4 Q. And what was the gap in between the two periods?

5 A. I think it was two years.

6 Q. Yes.

7 A. I think the next time I went was when I was 7.

8 Q. And at that time, when you went the second time, did

9 some of your sisters also go with you?

10 A. Yes.

11 Q. Was it the same sisters or was it different?

12 A. The same sisters and an older one, an older one.

13 Q. Okay. And I think what you tell us in your statement,

14 at paragraph 12, which will come on the screen in

15 a moment, that between the two visits to Fornethy, that

16 there's not much of a change and that sometimes you

17 confuse one with -- visit with another?

18 A. Yes.

19 Q. Now, you tell us in your statement that you went to

20 Fornethy in -- by bus, by coach?

21 A. Yes.

22 Q. And apart from your own sisters, were there other girls

23 on the coach?

24 A. Yes.

25 Q. Was there somebody in charge?

1 A. I think the person who was in charge of the bus was --
2 am I allowed to say the name of the person?

3 LADY SMITH: Well, you don't need to, but.

4 MR MACAULAY: No, you don't need to.

5 A. It was a lady from Fornethy.

6 Q. Okay.

7 A. SNR .

8 Q. And then was the coach quite full?

9 A. Yes.

10 Q. And what was your feelings at the time? You're on the
11 bus with a number of, quite a number of other girls,
12 heading to a somewhat -- somewhere strange?

13 A. Well, the first time I was quite excited, because we
14 were going to the country and it was -- I thought it was
15 going to be like a holiday.

16 Q. Yes.

17 A. Erm, so I was quite excited the first time.

18 Q. And the second time, if we just run the clock forward
19 a little bit?

20 A. I didnae want to go.

21 Q. No. I think we'll find out why --

22 A. Aye.

23 Q. -- in a moment.

24 But let's just look at the time when you arrived at
25 Fornethy. Were you met by a particular person?

1 A. Yes, we were met by the teachers.

2 Q. Was there a SNR [REDACTED] that you can remember?

3 A. Yes.

4 Q. And what was SNR [REDACTED] name?

5 A. LBD [REDACTED].

6 Q. And as far as you were concerned then, was she SNR [REDACTED]

7 SNR [REDACTED] ?

8 A. Yes.

9 Q. Now, you tell us that the accommodation that was

10 provided was by way of dormitories?

11 A. Yes.

12 Q. And you slept in a particular dormitory. Can you tell

13 me how many girls were in the dormitory?

14 A. I think there was ten. I think -- it was between eight

15 and ten.

16 Q. And what about your sisters? Any of your sisters --

17 A. We were all in the same one.

18 Q. All in the same one.

19 A. We -- they kept us in the same one.

20 Q. And did you form any sense as to how many girls might

21 have been there that first time that you went to

22 Fornethy?

23 A. Do you mean altogether?

24 Q. Yes, numbers?

25 A. I really -- I really don't -- I couldnae tell, I

1 couldnae say, I wisnae really taking that in to be
2 honest, but the bus was full, so --
3 Q. And there was a lot of girls there?
4 A. Yes.
5 Q. Were you amongst the youngest?
6 A. Yes.
7 Q. And you've mentioned SNR [REDACTED], Mrs LBD [REDACTED]. Do
8 you remember the names of any other members of staff?
9 A. Uh-huh.
10 Q. Can you tell us?
11 A. There was Mrs Fletcher.
12 Q. Before you move on, what was her role?
13 A. She was like just [REDACTED] Mrs LBD [REDACTED].
14 Q. Right, right.
15 A. Maybe SNR [REDACTED], I would say. And there was
16 Ms RBZ [REDACTED], who was a teacher. Mrs Robertson, who was
17 a teacher. They're the -- they're the main four ones
18 that I remember.
19 Q. And do you know if any of them stayed on the premises?
20 A. I think -- I think Mrs Fletcher and Mrs LBD [REDACTED] and
21 Mrs Robertson stayed on the premises.
22 Q. But can I then just ask you a little bit about some
23 aspects of the routine. And you tell us that you were
24 woken up quite early in the morning at about 7.30, I
25 think you say, and after breakfast you went for a walk?

1 A. Yes.

2 Q. Can you just tell me about that?

3 A. Well, they would -- you would get changed and you would
4 put a big pair of welly boots -- you'd put a big pair of
5 welly, Wellington boots on that were very uncomfortable
6 because your -- see, the top of the welly boot made
7 a ring on your leg, because there was nothing on your
8 leg to, er -- it was because you were walking and there
9 was nothing -- so I had rings round my legs.

10 Q. So you're not wearing large woollen socks, for
11 example --

12 A. No, no, no.

13 Q. -- which might have helped?

14 A. No, no. No, no. No, no. And you were -- it was
15 like -- it wisnae like a nice, leisurely walk. It was
16 trudging and you had to keep up wi' the teachers' pace.

17 Q. And if you didn't?

18 A. You'd get pushed fae behind to move, erm, or you would
19 get dragged, and she would take you right beside her so
20 that -- a lot of the wee ones couldnae keep up, you know
21 the wee-er ones, but if they had a bigger sister there,
22 erm, or a big -- if there was somebody, maybe like the
23 buddy, they would try and keep the wee-er one, you know,
24 in line.

25 Q. And you were one of the wee-er ones, of course, at that

1 time?

2 A. Yes, I was.

3 Q. So did you struggle to keep up with the --

4 A. I did struggle to keep up, yeah.

5 Q. And what happened to you then personally for that to

6 happen?

7 A. You'd just get pushed along.

8 Q. Who pushed you?

9 A. The teacher.

10 Q. And was there a particular teacher who would be leading

11 the walk?

12 A. Yeah. Well, Mrs Robertson would be at the front and

13 Miss RBZ would be at the back.

14 Q. Okay. And how many children would be involved, would

15 all the children --

16 A. It'd be the whole lot of us, yeah.

17 Q. And have you any sense of what -- the distance you had

18 to travel?

19 A. No, but it felt like miles and miles, erm ...

20 Q. And did this happen on a regular basis?

21 A. That happened nearly every day.

22 Q. What about the weather? Let's say it was raining; would

23 you still have to go and walk?

24 A. I was there in the winter and I was there nearer the

25 summer as well, so it didnae matter whether it was rain,

1 sleet, snow, a nice day. You went.

2 Q. And did you form any impression as to, apart from the
3 exercise, I suppose, why you had these walks?

4 A. I just felt it was part of the punishment.

5 Q. I mean, apart from that, being outside walking, did you
6 play outside?

7 A. No. No, no, we werenae allowed to play. There was park
8 -- there was a roundabout there. There was a swing
9 there. There was grounds, 'cos it was a big, big house
10 so there was lovely grounds there. But we werenae
11 allowed to play outside.

12 Q. And you mentioned the ring or the rings that the
13 Wellingtons would cause.

14 A. Yes.

15 Q. On your legs.

16 A. Yeah.

17 Q. Were you offered any cream for that?

18 A. No, I had to get that when I got home.

19 Q. So did you still have the marks when you got home?

20 A. Yeah. Yeah.

21 Q. And what about inside, then, did you have some leisure
22 activities in the premises?

23 A. Inside, the leisure activity was they would -- you would
24 watch a film. I don't remember what kind of film.
25 I don't remember, or, you know, what film it was at all.

1 I just remember sitting there and they put, they would
2 put the telly on and this film would come on.

3 Q. And when you were inside, during the daytime --

4 A. Yeah.

5 Q. -- would you be mixing with the other girls?

6 A. You'd be sitting in rows, erm, and you would be
7 listening to whatever the teacher was telling you. So
8 you werenae really allowed to talk to the other girls,
9 like in a leisurely, you know, like in leisure or
10 anything like that. The only time you could talk to
11 them was maybe when you went into your bedroom, when you
12 were -- at bedtime.

13 Q. Now, I can put a photograph or a couple of photographs
14 onto the screen for you, if you wish. Do you have any
15 difficulty with that?

16 A. No.

17 Q. No. So the first photograph I want to put up is
18 INQ-0000001236.

19 A. Mm-hmm.

20 Q. Now, that's an aerial view of a building. Do you
21 recognise that?

22 A. Yeah, that's Fornethy.

23 Q. And we can see from the photograph, it was
24 a significantly large building.

25 A. Yeah.

1 Q. Did you -- were you restricted to a particular part of
2 the building?

3 A. The only -- the part that we went in was -- or that
4 I went in was my dormitory and into the TV room, and
5 down to where we put our boots on when we were going out
6 or when we came in, that's where you would take your
7 coats off, boots off, or coats on, boots on.

8 Q. And what about for mealtimes, did you have a dining
9 area?

10 A. And the dining room. That was beside the TV room. But
11 where in that picture, I wouldnae be able to tell you
12 where it was in that picture.

13 Q. No, no, I'm not asking you that.

14 And the other photograph, if I can put this up, is
15 INQ-0000001243. And again do you recognise that --

16 A. Yeah.

17 Q. -- as Fornethy?

18 A. Yes.

19 Q. And I think you told us that there were -- there were
20 beautiful grounds?

21 A. Aye, it was lovely, yeah.

22 Q. You mentioned the dining room. Can I just talk then
23 about mealtimes and how that was managed?

24 A. Mm-hmm.

25 Q. What was the food like?

1 A. Er, I don't remember really ever having any problem with
2 the food. I don't remember there being a problem.

3 Q. Did you have to eat the food?

4 A. You had to eat the food, yes.

5 Q. And even if you didn't like it, you had to eat it?

6 A. Yes, yes.

7 Q. Now, were you ever made to eat the food?

8 A. No.

9 Q. Did you see anybody being made to eat food?

10 A. Well, my sisters were made to eat stuff that they didnae
11 like --

12 Q. And so --

13 A. -- but I wasn't.

14 Q. And -- well, what happened to your sisters?

15 A. The ones that didnae want to eat it?

16 Q. Yes.

17 A. They were forced to eat it.

18 Q. Well, how was that done?

19 A. The teacher would make them eat it. She would actually
20 spoon it into their mouths, yeah.

21 Q. And did that happen to other children?

22 A. That happened to other children, yeah.

23 Q. What about washing and bathing? When you first got to
24 Fornethy, did you have to have a bath?

25 A. Yes.

1 Q. And can you tell me about that?

2 A. It was more showers. It was like a big communal shower,
3 I would say.

4 Q. Okay.

5 A. And from what I can remember, it was like against a wall
6 and there was like -- it was an open cubicle, it wisnae
7 all, you know, it wisnae individual, it was like open
8 and there was like maybe five heads, shower heads, and
9 that's where you'd get washed. And you all stood in
10 there, you know, it wisnae just five people at a time.
11 There was maybe two or three at each section.

12 Q. Yes. And would you all be naked?

13 A. Yes.

14 Q. So there was no privacy?

15 A. No, there wisnae any privacy.

16 Q. And I think what you tell us in your statement actually
17 is that that didn't bother you so much because you were
18 small at the time?

19 A. Aye, I didnae bother me. But it would have bothered me
20 if I was one of the older ones.

21 Q. Yes.

22 A. But.

23 Q. Did you have any visits from anybody when you were
24 there?

25 A. No.

1 Q. And were you conscious of anybody coming to visit?

2 A. No. My mother did -- my mother came once, but we
3 weren't told she was coming. She was coming to take my
4 sister away, because there was a court case in Glasgow
5 that my sister was a witness to. But I don't, I don't
6 know what the court case was about or -- but they didn't
7 tell us that my mother was there. They didn't tell us
8 my sister was going home with my mother. And it was
9 when -- they told us after they had left that my mother
10 had been and taken my sister away home.

11 Q. When you say 'they', who told you?

12 A. The teacher.

13 Q. Any particular teacher?

14 A. Mrs LBD .

15 Q. Mrs LBD . So you didn't have visitors, but were you
16 able to write home?

17 A. You could write letters, yeah.

18 Q. And how was that managed?

19 A. Well, you had to write what they told you. You couldnae
20 just start writing a letter, you know, you --

21 Q. And what were you told to write?

22 A. That you were enjoying your time there and that it was
23 good, um.

24 LADY SMITH: And what if that wasn't true? What if you
25 weren't enjoying your time and you didn't think it was

1 good?

2 A. Well, your letter didn't get sent, it just got tore up

3 in front of you, 'cos a lot of girls did obviously try

4 and write, you know, they were writing what happened,

5 but you couldn't, so it was tore up in front of you.

6 MR MACAULAY: Now, I think certainly the first time, if we

7 focus on that, you were -- went to Fornethy, it was

8 during the school term, is that right?

9 A. Yes.

10 Q. Did you receive any schooling when you were at Fornethy?

11 A. I don't remember getting any schooling.

12 Q. Did you go into classrooms?

13 A. I think there was classrooms there, but I don't remember

14 going into any classroom.

15 Q. Does that apply to both your times when you're --

16 A. Yes, yeah.

17 Q. Now, you tell us about an incident where somebody said,

18 'Pass the salt, please'. Do you remember that, in the

19 dining room?

20 A. Yes.

21 Q. Can you tell me about that?

22 A. Yep. I'll just have a drink.

23 (Pause)

24 It was dinnertime one evening and we were sitting --

25 it was big round tables that you sat round, and we were

1 sitting round a table. Erm ...

2 (Pause)

3 And my sister closest in age to me was sitting
4 opposite me. And then, in a funny way, she was trying
5 to put a posh accent on and she said to me, 'Pass the
6 salt, please', but in a very posh accent she said it,
7 which I started to laugh at. And we were giggling, and
8 then two of the teachers came and one grabbed my sister
9 and one grabbed myself from behind. I'm sorry.

10 (Pause)

11 And they dragged us into the -- from the dining room
12 chair, they dragged us into where the telly room was.
13 And they got us in there and closed the door and they
14 battered lumps out of us.

15 They were holding us and, just with one hand, and
16 battering into -- just slapping into us, into our legs
17 and your -- kinda your back, but in your bottom. And it
18 just felt as though they were never going to stop. And
19 none of them said: 'What are you doing? Why are you
20 doing that?'. Nobody said anything. They just -- two
21 big adults and that's what they done and they just
22 continued. And then they just stopped and made us sit
23 on the seat in the TV room. We didn't -- we werenae
24 allowed to go back into the -- we werenae allowed to go
25 back into the dining room to join or to finish our

1 dinner.

2 Q. Can you say how long this lasted?

3 A. It was like maybe three or four minutes. Sorry.

4 Q. No, carry on. Take your time.

5 A. (Pause)

6 I would say maybe three or four minutes it lasted.

7 Q. And who were the teachers then that were doing this?

8 A. It was Mrs Robertson and Miss **RBZ**.

9 And in the meantime, my sister, my older sister, was

10 sitting still at the dining table and she knew what was

11 happening and she tried to get up to come in but they

12 wouldnae let her come in to, you know, to see us. So

13 when anybody says, 'Pass the salt', it trig -- it's

14 a trigger right away for mysel.

15 Q. Even now?

16 A. Even now, yeah. We don't really say, 'Pass the salt'.

17 I don't say it, because it just -- it upsets me and it

18 takes me back to the dining room.

19 Q. I mean, generally were you allowed to talk in the dining

20 room?

21 A. No, we were -- no, no. No, we werenae allowed to talk.

22 That's why when we were laughing and, you know, and we

23 couldnae -- we were giggling. That's why they took us

24 in there and done what they done.

25 Q. And did you suffer any injuries from what happened?

1 A. We just had their hand marks on us.

2 Q. Where were the hand marks?

3 A. On wir legs.

4 Q. And did this happen on your first occasion or the second

5 occasion that you were at Fornethy?

6 A. The second.

7 Q. The second occasion.

8 A. Yeah.

9 Q. Did you see something, similar to what happened to you,

10 happening to any other girls?

11 A. Yes.

12 Q. Can you tell me a bit about that?

13 A. You just -- the girls were ridiculed. They were called

14 names, not for any reason. They werenae being -- nobody

15 was being what you would say naughty or doing anything

16 wrong, because you knew better. You knew you werenae to

17 do anything, so you didnae do anything. It was just --

18 I don't know, it seemed to -- I don't know if it was

19 a bit of control they had. I don't know what somebody

20 like that gets out of, you know, doing that to kids.

21 I don't understand it. I don't understand, so, I don't

22 know.

23 Q. What sort of names were children being called?

24 A. Well, they were ridiculed for their, you know, whatever

25 their hairstyle was, which probably in they days it

1 wisnae a hairstyle, it was like your hair was just cut
2 short, you know, most of the time. And ...

3 (Pause)

4 I don't know. Just -- it was just the teacher's
5 way -- I don't know, maybe she shouldnae have been in
6 her job, I don't know, because -- I don't know, I don't
7 know.

8 Q. Did you witness girls being hit the way that you were
9 hit in the incident you've told us about, the passing
10 the salt incident?

11 A. Yeah, well, at bedtime, that's when we did talk to the
12 other girls. You would see the teacher would come in
13 and drag whoever it was that, you know, was caught
14 talking and they would get dragged out. You might not
15 have seen everything that happened but you knew it was
16 happening 'cos it was outside the door. That happened
17 all the time. It happened in the morning. It happened
18 at night. And then it would happen if you wet the bed.
19 You were ridiculed. And people did wet the bed.

20 Q. And I'll come to that, but just the dragging of a child
21 out of the dormitory.

22 A. Yes.

23 Q. Would you see what happened to the child when the child
24 was outside the dormitory?

25 A. No.

1 Q. Would you hear something?

2 A. You would hear them. You would hear the scuffle, yeah.

3 Q. And would the child be crying?

4 A. Aye, yeah.

5 Q. Did that happen to you? Did you get caught talking and
6 get removed from the dormitory?

7 A. I didn't, but my sister did.

8 Q. Okay. And was there a particular teacher that was
9 involved in this or was it more than one?

10 A. It was more than one, yeah.

11 Q. Okay.

12 Can I then ask you about bed-wetting, because you
13 just mentioned that a moment ago. How were bed-wetters
14 treated?

15 A. Really bad.

16 Q. Can you just elaborate upon that?

17 A. The teachers let everybody know. If you wet the bed,
18 everybody would know. They tried to ridicule -- they
19 ridiculed you, er, and they would hang the sheets up,
20 the wet sheets, they would hang them up and say:
21 "Margaret" done that last night and this is what's
22 going to happen if you do this'. But they didnae
23 realise that it was them that were making the people do
24 it - the kids - wet the bed even more.

25 Q. In the sense that they were frightened?

1 A. Yes. It was terrifying. It was absolutely terrifying
2 come bedtime because you knew you would maybe wet the
3 bed, and if you wet the bed, you didnae get anything to
4 drink at suppertime. You didnae get any milk or a drink
5 of water or anything, but you still wet the bed. It
6 never really made any difference 'cos you still wet the
7 bed. But it was because you were terrified.

8 Q. And did you yourself wet the bed?

9 A. Yes.

10 Q. So did that happen to you?

11 A. Yes.

12 Q. Would children be hit because of the bed-wetting or
13 would --

14 A. Yes.

15 Q. Were you hit?

16 A. No, I wasn't hit. I was ridiculed.

17 Q. You also say something about children who wet the bed,
18 some of the children who wet the bed wouldn't get any
19 tuck?

20 A. That's right.

21 Q. Can you just explain that to me?

22 A. The tuck was like, you would have maybe -- there was
23 a tuck shop and Mrs LBD was in charge of the tuck
24 shop, and every day, you would be able to go to the tuck
25 shop and spend a penny or two pennies if you had any

1 money -- if you had any money that your parent had gave
2 you before you went. And you were allowed to buy, it
3 was a sweet, a sweetie. But if you wet the bed you
4 didnae get -- you didnae -- you werenae allowed to buy
5 a sweetie. If you had no money you couldn't buy
6 a sweetie. So, erm, maist of the time nobody had
7 sweeties.

8 Q. You've mentioned a Mrs Robertson and a Mrs LBD . If
9 we look at Mrs Robertson, was she a large lady, small
10 lady? Can you -- are you able to describe her?

11 A. She was quite a tall lady wi' dark, bouncy dark hair.

12 Q. And did you form any sense as to what age, or it is
13 difficult when you're a child?

14 A. It is difficult, but when I was there I would say she
15 was in her 20s.

16 Q. And Miss RBZ , who you've also mentioned?

17 A. Same, but she was small and blonde.

18 Q. And what about Mrs LBD , SNR ?

19 A. Mrs LBD was small, grey, kinda pepperpot hair or
20 peppery hair, kinda in a bun.

21 Q. And was she older?

22 A. Yeah, she was much older, and Mrs Fletcher was quite
23 glamorous to look at. She was blonde, quite -- dressed
24 quite glamorous, I would say. Where Mrs LBD had the
25 tweeds and, you know, like a tweed skirt and a tweed

1 jacket on. Aye.

2 Q. And did girls talk amongst themselves about running
3 away?

4 A. Mm-hmm.

5 Q. Did you talk with other girls about doing that?

6 A. Yeah.

7 Q. Did you ever run away?

8 A. No. I would have been too scared.

9 Q. Did anybody run away in your time?

10 A. Not that I remember.

11 Q. No. Now, when you were at Fornethy, I think you tell us
12 you couldn't tell anybody about what was going on when
13 you were there. But when you went back home, the first
14 time, did you tell your mother? What about your sister?

15 A. No, none of them said anything to my mum.

16 Q. If I could take you to your statement, perhaps this is
17 more relevant to the second time that you were there,
18 you say at 64:

19 'When we were driven back to Glasgow on the bus
20 after the second visit there' --

21 A. Yeah.

22 Q. 'Mrs LBD came with us.'

23 A. Yeah.

24 Q. 'My mum was standing at the pick-up point with other
25 parents, waiting to pick us up.'

1 A. Mm-hmm.

2 Q. 'My sister managed to jump off the bus as soon as it
3 stopped' --

4 A. Yeah

5 Q. -- 'and told my mum about how we were treated there.'

6 A. Yeah.

7 Q. Do you remember that?

8 A. Yes, I do remember.

9 Q. That was the second time, but the first time you
10 arrived, your mother wasn't told?

11 A. No.

12 Q. And had she been told, do you think you'd have gone back
13 for a second time?

14 A. I don't think my mum would have sent us back.

15 Q. No. Anyway, she wasn't told.

16 A. No.

17 Q. And you were sent back.

18 A. Yes.

19 Q. Now, what happened then? I think your mother tried to
20 speak to Mrs LBD ?

21 A. My sister got off the bus very, very quickly and she
22 went and told my mum what she could, and my mum then
23 went to try and speak to -- she was going to go and
24 speak to Mrs LBD . And the official person who was
25 there, I don't know what this person was, said: 'Mrs,

1 please don't, your children will get taken off you if
2 you kick up a fuss, so please don't.' And so my mother
3 didnae get speaking to Mrs LBD .

4 Q. Did you hear what your sister said to your mother? Do
5 you know what she said?

6 A. No.

7 Q. But it was something bad about Fornethy?

8 A. She told my -- she told my mother what had happened to
9 myself and my sister and what was -- what had happened
10 to other people as well.

11 Q. And I don't think you were ever sent back to Fornethy
12 after that?

13 A. No. No.

14 Q. Now, you did mention that you were in a children's home
15 in Bute, is that right?

16 A. Yes.

17 Q. After that?

18 A. Yes.

19 Q. And I -- we're not looking at that today so I'm not
20 going to trouble you with that. But when you had been
21 in that place, I think you went back to school and your
22 normal life after being in care?

23 A. Mm-hmm.

24 Q. And how was life after that?

25 A. Well, it was better, because we werenae at Fornethy.

1 Q. Yes. And I think your mother moved to London, is that
2 correct?

3 A. Yes, we did.

4 Q. What age were you when you moved to London?

5 A. 14.

6 Q. And you tell us in your statement that you stayed in
7 London and you got married and you had your family?

8 A. Yes.

9 Q. If I could take you to paragraph 75/76, there you talk
10 about the impact being in Fornethy had on you and the
11 main point you make really is with this 'pass the salt,
12 please' episode. That's really what you remember the
13 most?

14 A. Aye, yes.

15 Q. Now, you have been in touch with the police about
16 Fornethy --

17 A. Yes.

18 Q. -- more recently, is that --

19 A. Yes.

20 Q. So far as records are concerned, have you ever sought to
21 see your records, to see any records?

22 A. As far as I know, our records have been -- you know,
23 they're not available to us.

24 Q. So you've been told there are no records?

25 A. Yeah.

1 Q. Is that something you would want to see if they existed?

2 A. I would love to see 'em.

3 Q. And the last -- second-last paragraph of your statement,

4 'Margaret', you, at paragraph 80, you talk about

5 'Lessons to be Learned' and you say:

6 'I know it is a minority that abuse kids, but

7 I don't think there will ever be a guarantee that kids

8 in care will be safe, because people will all slip

9 through the net.'

10 And that's your view?

11 A. Mm-hmm.

12 Q. But you say adults should talk to kids, and ask them

13 about their experiences?

14 A. Yes.

15 Q. Well, very well, 'Margaret', thank you very much indeed

16 for answering my questions. I don't have any more

17 questions to put to you.

18 Is there anything further you'd like to say to us?

19 A. No.

20 MR MACAULAY: Well, thank you again for coming to the

21 Inquiry.

22 A. Thank you.

23 LADY SMITH: 'Margaret', let me add my thanks. As I said,

24 I knew it wouldn't be easy, but I really appreciate

25 having been able to hear from you in person. Thank you

1 for that.

2 Now you're free to go and I hope the rest of the day
3 is more relaxing than it has been so far for you.

4 A. Thank you.

5 (The witness withdrew)

6 LADY SMITH: Now, just before we move on, a couple of other
7 names of people who are not to be identified outside
8 this room as referred to in our evidence by these names,
9 and that's a Miss RBZ and [REDACTED], who was also a child
10 at Fornethy at one point.

11 Where does that take us now, Mr MacAulay?

12 MR MACAULAY: It may be worthwhile considering an early
13 break.

14 LADY SMITH: Oh, I think I am being reminded of somebody
15 else. Oh, Mrs LBD again. I have already mentioned
16 Mrs LBD a few times, yes, same thing as before.

17 Yes.

18 MR MACAULAY: We have -- we can now go into read-ins.

19 LADY SMITH: Yes, certainly.

20 MR MACAULAY: Perhaps have an early break and then come
21 back.

22 LADY SMITH: Well if that would work best, let's do that.

23 (2.45 pm)

24 (A short break)

25 (3.01 pm)

1 LADY SMITH: Ms MacLeod.

2 MS MACLEOD: My Lady, I'll read in the statement of
3 a witness who wishes to remain anonymous and she will
4 use the pseudonym 'Lyn'.

5 LADY SMITH: Thank you.

6 'Lyn' (read in)

7 MS MACLEOD: The statement can be found at WIT-1-000001012:
8 'My name is ["Lyn"]. I was born in 1930. My
9 contact details are known to the Inquiry. My statement
10 is in respect of my daughter, ["Susan"], who went --'
11 And I should say, 'Susan' is a pseudonym:
12 '-- who went to Fornethy House in 1965 for six
13 weeks.
14 'My daughter ["Susan"] was born in 1958 and at the
15 time I was married to her dad who was a merchant seaman.
16 She has a brother who is almost two years older than
17 her.
18 'I was first married in 1953 and at the time I was a
19 [REDACTED] in a lab in Maryhill in Glasgow. It
20 was a firm called Cooper, McDougall and Robertson who
21 specialised in agriculture chemicals. I stopped working
22 there in January 1954 and went to work in the
23 Sick Kids Hospital in Glasgow, where I did the chemistry
24 for a research doctor. I did this for a year, but the
25 firm I'd previously worked kept asking for me to go

1 back, which I did in 1955.

2 'I worked there until shortly after our son was born
3 in 1956 and shortly thereafter, my husband went back to
4 sea on a long voyage and didn't return for almost
5 a year. When he returned I was pregnant almost
6 immediately again and ["Susan"] was born in 1958.

7 'My husband would be at home for a short while, then
8 go back to sea for long spells, but it turned out that
9 he was an alcoholic. This made things at home very
10 difficult financially as well as in other ways. By
11 1963, I had had enough and told him to leave and by that
12 time he was working for a South African company. He was
13 first mate with one of the company's liners so moved to
14 South Africa and that was it.

15 'He did send financial support for the first few
16 months but it wasn't much and was typical of how he had
17 been with financial support throughout our marriage. At
18 the time, ["Susan"] was just starting school but I found
19 it difficult to get back into the industry I had worked
20 in prior to getting married. In those days, a woman
21 with two kids was never going to be taken back into the
22 work I had previously worked in as a single woman.

23 'I decided that I would apply for a teaching course
24 in Jordanhill College, Glasgow. I got accepted onto the
25 course and started my studies there in September 1964.

1 I was due to be sitting my first exams the following
2 spring and the children's headteacher, Mrs Fisher, of
3 Annette Street Primary School in Govanhill, called me in
4 to see her.

5 'She knew that I was studying to be a teacher and
6 said that she knew I had exams coming up and understood
7 the sort of stress I would be going through because of
8 the exams and taking care of my children all on
9 a student grant. She suggested that the children should
10 go to these residential schools to allow me the
11 necessary time to study for my exams.

12 'I wasn't very happy with the idea of the kids going
13 away for that length of time, but thought it over for
14 a couple of weeks before agreeing with the suggestion.
15 As it turned out, my son didn't go. He was supposed to
16 go somewhere down the Clyde coast, Seamill, but
17 developed tonsillitis so stayed at home with me.

18 'Miss Fisher spoke about ["Susan"] going to Fornethy
19 House in Perth which was a place I had never heard of.
20 In fact, I hadn't heard of residential schools at all.
21 As far as I was aware, it was only ["Susan"] who was
22 going to go there from her primary school. From it
23 being first suggested to when ["Susan"] actually went
24 would have been least a month.

25 'The only information I was given was from

1 Miss Fletcher [sic] and that was that, although it was
2 a school, most of the children's time would be taken up
3 with recreation and would involve walks and things like
4 that, but that they would keep up to date with reading
5 and writing and such things. There was no social work
6 involvement and ["Susan"] was in good health at the
7 time.

8 'Although things were difficult financially at home,
9 the children had a good life, though ["Susan"] had
10 become very quiet after her dad had left and seemed to
11 think his leaving had somehow been her fault. It's
12 difficult to explain but she didn't really know her dad
13 as he was at home so seldom during her early life and
14 was away at sea most of the time. I think the longest
15 she saw him was when he was sitting his master's
16 certificate and was home for about three months.

17 '["Susan"] went to Fornethy House in Perth in around
18 [REDACTED] 1965 and I remember that before she went, one
19 of my friends had to take her for a medical examination
20 to make sure she was well enough to go. I assumed that
21 that was something that those at Fornethy House insisted
22 on happening. I was unable to get away that day, which
23 is why my friend took her. The results of the
24 examination was that ["Susan"] was perfectly fit, as
25 I had expected she would be.

1 'I took ["Susan"] to Queen Street Station on the day
2 she went to Fornethy and ["Susan"] told me that a very
3 nice lady met her and several other girls at Queen
4 Street Station, and that they went by train from there
5 to Perth and then out to Fornethy. After being dropped
6 off there, ["Susan"] says she never saw that nice lady
7 again. That was the last time I saw ["Susan"] for the
8 next six weeks.

9 '["Susan"] sent me a letter every week saying what
10 she had been doing up in the hills and how they had been
11 snowboarding and doing other things and she seemed
12 perfectly happy. The letters from her arrived like
13 clockwork every Friday, though the strange thing was
14 that the letters were all very similar, which I found
15 unusual as ["Susan"] was a great writer with a good
16 imagination who used to love writing wee stories and
17 making up wee plays. I just thought the letters
18 I received from her were a bit stilted.

19 'Many years later I learned from ["Susan"] that she
20 had been told what to write in these letters. I also
21 wrote to her and sent her a postal order every week
22 which she would be able to spend in the tuck shop that
23 they had in the school. During the six weeks ["Susan"]
24 was away, these letters were the only form of
25 communication between us and nobody else spoke to me

1 with regards to how she was getting on.

2 'Six weeks later I then received a letter from
3 Fornethy saying that ["Susan"] would be arriving back at
4 Queen Street Station at about 7.00 pm on a Thursday.
5 I can still vividly picture meeting ["Susan"] that day
6 in my head. This wee creature with her wee scarlet
7 winter coat came rushing through the gates. I just
8 thought to myself, "What's wrong with her?". Her face
9 and her hands were the same colour as her coat.

10 'When she got up to me she was red raw, her skin was
11 weather-beaten like a man who had been out working in
12 the field. Her skin was so red and coming off her face
13 and hands, and she had a cut just under her right ear.
14 She looked to me as if she had been exposed to the cold
15 on a regular basis. Her skin was scarlet. It was awful
16 and her wee hands looked so painful.

17 'Her brother was at a friend's house who had just
18 had a new baby and my intention was to take ["Susan"]
19 there to see the new baby. After we left Queen Street
20 I took ["Susan"] to my friend's house as previously
21 arranged and they were absolutely shocked at her
22 appearance.

23 'When I was putting her to bed that night, she had
24 the beginnings of chilblains on her feet, which
25 I thought had gone away with children of my generation.

1 She actually slept well that night, probably because she
2 was in her own bed, but her skin looked awful in the
3 morning and it stayed that way for weeks.

4 'I took her to see the doctor and he was appalled at
5 the state of her skin. The doctor's name was Dr Glasser
6 and while he was very concerned about ["Susan's"]
7 condition, he didn't give a diagnosis of what was wrong
8 with her and just asked what had happened. He asked me
9 what I was going to do about it and I told him I was
10 going into Bath Street in Glasgow to make a complaint
11 about ["Susan's"] physical condition.

12 'After that, it became one thing after another with
13 ["Susan"] and I couldn't get her to heal. I kept having
14 to put cream on her skin and it took about six or seven
15 weeks before her skin and the cut below her ear healed.
16 When ["Susan"] eventually got her records, she looked at
17 that time of her life and the records went up to late
18 [REDACTED] that year, but there was nothing until the
19 following year.

20 '["Susan"] herself wouldn't speak to anybody about
21 how she had come to be in such a state. She went back
22 to school the following week and the headteacher was
23 very angry when she saw the state of her.

24 'I went to the educational offices at 129 Bath
25 Street, Glasgow to complain about ["Susan's"] physical

1 condition and although I spoke to somebody, I do not now
2 recall who that was, nothing ever happened. They said
3 they would get back to me but nobody ever did, and as
4 ["Susan"] started to recover, I didn't take it further
5 as I didn't want to upset her.

6 '["Susan"] wouldn't speak about her time in Fornethy
7 other than to say she was glad to be home, but she did
8 become very quiet and I thought that when she was ready
9 she would tell me, but she never did until recently.
10 The only thing I recall her saying occurred a few weeks
11 after she returned from Fornethy. She was sitting
12 reading a book when she suddenly said, "I felt dirty at
13 Fornethy. They would only allow us to change our pants
14 every Friday after having a bath". She also said that
15 the pinnies they made her wear smelled awful.

16 'It was only a few months ago that ["Susan"] spoke
17 to me about her time at Fornethy. She came in one night
18 and I had been reading a copy of [REDACTED] and there
19 was a picture of a woman at a demonstration in Glasgow
20 talking about Fornethy. There wasn't much written about
21 it, just a sentence. ["Susan"] was standing behind me
22 and I asked, "'Susan', isn't that where you were?"
23 I thought she was having a heart attack. She just
24 collapsed and thereafter it all came pouring out.

25 'She said that the first day she arrived at Fornethy

1 was the first time she was beaten. She then said that
2 she got the cut below her ear because the teachers
3 didn't just call them over, they dragged them by the
4 ears. She told me of the beatings she received from the
5 teachers and said that the slightest thing the children
6 did resulted in them being put over the teacher's knee
7 and thrashed.

8 'She said that the first real beating she got was on
9 the first Friday she was there. The children had been
10 put into a class to write letters home and ["Susan"]
11 wrote out a letter to me. She evidently wrote that she
12 wanted to come home and was thrashed for writing that.

13 'She said she had gone into the classroom and there
14 was a letter on the blackboard, and she thought that
15 must be for the girls who didn't know how to write
16 letters. ["Susan"] got a bit of paper and wrote down
17 her own letter. Of course the teacher read it and
18 immediately thrashed her and told her she was to copy
19 the letter from the board.

20 'When ["Susan"] told me about her time in Fornethy,
21 she spoke of how they would go for long walks in the
22 snow and that, after a while, she and one of the other
23 girls decided they were going to hide and then run away.
24 They did run away but were found and beaten within
25 an inch of their lives, and that this sort of treatment

1 went on and on during her time there.

2 'She said the only other person who was kind to them
3 was the lady who gave them their dinners, but she spoke
4 in whispers as if she was afraid of the other staff.
5 ["Susan"] said that the minister came in every Wednesday
6 to the school at night for his dinner and she remembered
7 on a Saturday night there was a party for the adults,
8 and said it was funny that she couldn't recall ever
9 seeing men at the school other than the minister.

10 'After ["Susan"] returned from Fornethy, she became
11 very withdrawn. On the surface, she seemed fine and
12 enjoyed school. She was very intelligent and her
13 headteacher at one point sent her to Hutchison's Grammar
14 School, though tonsillitis intervened, as she contracted
15 it at the time she was supposed to go to the entrance
16 exam. She went later on her own, but wasn't able to
17 make a good impression due to being so withdrawn.

18 'I had actually taken ["Susan"] to Hutchison's
19 Grammar School that day, but left her on her own as she
20 was going to be there all afternoon. She recently told
21 me that after I left that day, she thought I had
22 abandoned her for another school like Fornethy, and that
23 much of the decoration she saw within Hutchison Grammar
24 reminded her of Fornethy.

25 'She found it very difficult to make friends and

1 I would say it was two or three years later, she was
2 still very quiet. Her teacher, Mr Hamilton, was talking
3 to me and said, "[Susan] finds it very difficult to
4 trust people, doesn't she?". When ["Susan"] came back
5 from Fornethy, she still played with the friends she
6 played with before going there, but started to spend
7 more and more time in the house. I thought ["Susan"]
8 found it difficult to make new friends later and didn't
9 talk much to people.

10 '["Susan"] went to Queen's Park Secondary School but
11 didn't live up to her potential and I later discovered
12 that in her final year she had been playing truant. She
13 was not happy in school and I believe she was bullied.

14 'She was very tall and problems with her height
15 started at primary school. One day, the teacher told
16 all the pupils to stand and got them to draw lines
17 around their feet. ["Susan"] had very big feet and the
18 teacher picked up the drawing of her feet and said to
19 the whole class, "Whose is this?" That then followed
20 her throughout her time in school and she was bullied
21 because of it.

22 'I remember when she was a teenager, I was looking
23 all over the place for shoes for her and went into
24 a shoe shop in Glasgow. I asked for school shoes for
25 her and I think she was a size 7 at the time. The

1 fellow who was serving us burst out laughing, so I got
2 up and left the shop and later phoned his manager to
3 complain about him.

4 'When ["Susan"] left secondary school, she did have
5 some O-Grades but in no way fulfilled her potential. To
6 me, she should have been put into the art department and
7 would have been a brilliant artist. When she was very
8 young, I put together a collection of her drawings and
9 sent them to the art school as they had Saturday morning
10 classes, but she didn't go.

11 'I remember her coming home from school one day when
12 she was about 14 and she had been in the art class. She
13 had painted a copy of Munch's The Scream and put it in
14 front of me. I now realise at that time it was a cry
15 for help, but all I did at the time was praise her for
16 doing such a fantastic job of replicating the painting.
17 Why did I not realise that that was a cry for help?

18 'When ["Susan"] left school she went to Arran and
19 worked in a hotel that a friend owned for a few months.
20 Then she came back to college to do shorthand typing.
21 She then went into office work and excelled at it. She
22 continued doing secretarial work throughout her adult
23 life and worked for a long time for BT in the law
24 department.

25 'When they moved to Aberdeen she used to fly up

1 there on a Monday and fly back on a Friday, but couldn't
2 find up there that she could afford to buy a place and
3 stay. When she left BP, she worked for another few
4 firms and then, in 2002, she decided to go to
5 Saudi Arabia and work for an oil company and worked in
6 the law department for 15 years. Before she left there
7 she was an office manager in one of their research
8 departments.

9 'I never forgot that ["Susan"] had been in Fornethy
10 and it was always in the back of my mind, but I didn't
11 ever connect it to her behaviour. When she was 14 she
12 tried to commit suicide and was in hospital overnight
13 and a psychiatrist at the time put it down to her being
14 a teenager looking for attention.

15 'When she was 24, ["Susan"] attempted suicide again
16 and she has recently admitted to me that she made two
17 further attempts during her life, both of which occurred
18 when she was in Saudi. The only psychiatric help that
19 ["Susan"] has ever had was when she was in Saudi Arabia.
20 The psychiatrist there was very good and told ["Susan"]
21 to write it all down. She then started to do just that
22 so that things could be cleared up.

23 'When we were talking about this recently, she said
24 to me, "Do you remember when I ran across the platform
25 to you?" And when I said yes, she said, "All that was

1 going through my mind was, 'Please God, I promise that I
2 won't be bad again. Please don't send me back there
3 again. I'll never be bad again, please God'."

4 'She said that that was what had been going on over
5 and over in her mind. Staff in Fornethy had apparently
6 convinced her that the reason she had been sent there
7 was because she had been so bad, and that was why her
8 father had left, and that I hated her because her father
9 had left, which was why I had sent her away.

10 'I feel I should have made more of an effort with
11 ["Susan"] as I feel that our whole relationship as she
12 was growing up was unhappy. Her brother came up and
13 stayed with her for a while after all this came out and
14 I think it's likely that she has told him more than she
15 is willing to tell me and he's a great support to her.

16 'I remember when I got my first promotion teaching
17 post and the headteacher had arranged for one of the
18 girls to go to a residential school. This had nothing
19 to do with me, but I was taking the line of children
20 into class one morning when a mother came rushing into
21 school, grabbed her daughter and began screaming at me,
22 "You're not sending my kid to a residential school, no
23 way".

24 'I think back on that and wonder if that girl or her
25 mother suffered the way ["Susan"] had. She literally

1 grabbed the girl out of school and took her home.

2 'The fact that ["Susan"] was in Fornethy definitely
3 affected our relationship. We were never a cuddly
4 family, typically Scottish, I suppose. We never ever
5 kissed and cuddled as kids, so it wasn't a natural way
6 for us, but we were always there for each other and
7 always had fun together. After she had been to Fornethy
8 and endured the physical stuff she did, we just didn't
9 seem to talk so much. There were still bedtime stories
10 and things like that, but I found we weren't talking to
11 each other to the extent that we had before.

12 'As she got older, we all know what teenage
13 daughters can be like, but she was never one for telling
14 me if she had a problem. She was always independent but
15 I think she knew I was stressed and didn't want to worry
16 me with things. These days we might have the odd
17 argument but we get on fine together and she tends to
18 worry about me because of my age.

19 'I can't understand the secrecy of places like
20 Fornethy. The authorities must have known that such
21 things were going on, so why was it hidden? Why is it
22 still being denied that it happened? What I want to
23 know is have things changed, or are such things still
24 going on with councils and people in authority still
25 shutting their eyes to it?

1 'The Head of Education in Glasgow who retired
2 recently wrote to ["Susan"] saying that Glasgow Council
3 had nothing to do with her being sent to Fornethy, as
4 they didn't own the place. ["Susan"] took an extract
5 from her records that said "Fornethy Residential School,
6 Glasgow District Council" and sent it to them. Why did
7 they continue to deny it when it is all there in black
8 and white?

9 'I hope the Inquiry obtains an acknowledgement of
10 the suffering. ["Susan"] tells me that of the group she
11 got involved with for women who had been in at Fornethy,
12 two of them have recently committed suicide because of
13 what they suffered there.

14 'I have no objection to my witness statement being
15 published as part of the evidence to the Inquiry.
16 I believe the facts stated in this witness statement are
17 true.'

18 'Lyn' signed the statement on 7 June 2022.

19 LADY SMITH: Thank you very much.

20 Mr MacAulay.

21 MR MACAULAY: Now, my Lady, this is the statement of another
22 applicant, who wants to remain anonymous and use the
23 pseudonym 'Mary'.

24 LADY SMITH: Thank you.

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'Mary' (read in)

MR MACAULAY: 'Mary's' statement can be found at
WIT-1-000001599.

'Mary' tells us that she was born in 1954 and that she was raised in the Blackhill area of Glasgow with her parents and older sister and younger brothers.

At paragraph 3:

'As far as I was concerned, I had a great childhood within the family home. I was enjoying going to school and had lots of friends there.

'When my brother was born, my mother started drinking. I think she was already suffering from postnatal depression, but not much was known about that in those days. By the time another brother was born [I think that should be "a few years later"], she was an alcoholic. When dad was home from work, there were lots of arguments in the house.

'I think I remember there were visits to the house from what we used to call the "green lady", an early version of the welfare officer. I am not sure if it was for mum and her ongoing issues or for my brother.

'I am not sure how it came to be that my sister and I were going to be spending some time at Fornethy House. I don't know if it was through the school or the social work department. It could even have been through her

1 doctor. I think in hindsight it was to give mum some
2 respite from looking after all the children with her
3 ongoing issues.

4 'When mum told us we were going to Fornethy, we were
5 told we were going on a holiday to the countryside.
6 I am not certain about the exact years we went, but
7 I think it was 1961 and again in 1962, although there
8 might be a chance I am a year out.'

9 That means she'd be aged perhaps, what, 7 or 8,
10 having been born in 1954:

11 'Before I went to Fornethy, my sister and I had to
12 go to Glen Bath Street Clinic for a medical. I am not
13 sure how long it was before we went to Fornethy, when
14 that medical was conducted. We must have passed the
15 medical for us to be able to go.

16 'My sister and I were at Fornethy on two separate
17 occasions. The first occasion was supposed to be for
18 six weeks, but was cut short as a result of illness.
19 The second occasion was for six weeks. I cannot recall
20 the exact dates we were there. My memory is a little
21 mixed as to during which visit specific incidents of
22 abuse took place.

23 'On both visits, we went to Fornethy House, I cannot
24 remember anything about the journey there. I am
25 thinking the first occasion I was there, I would have

1 been around 7 years old, but I am not sure what time of
2 the year it was.

3 'There were many members of staff, but the one I can
4 remember by name was Miss Fletcher. This was because
5 she was the one that was cruel to us all. I can only
6 remember that she had a long face and had big teeth.'

7 And then under the reference to 'Routine', 'Mary'
8 says at 14:

9 'When we arrived at Fornethy, I can remember it was
10 a big house. There was a small door separate from the
11 main front door. We went in that smaller entrance and
12 were put in a room. We were then told to strip out of
13 our clothes and were put into a bath.

14 'The dormitories were at the top of a set of stairs,
15 but I cannot remember how many of us were there. The
16 only thing I can remember about the dorms was that we
17 had a bed and a single wardrobe. The only light
18 available at night was the blue emergency light in the
19 ceiling. It was still so dark I was always scared.

20 'I do remember that during the night, we were not
21 allowed to talk or have a laugh. One night a friend and
22 I were giggling in our beds. Miss Fletcher came in and
23 dragged me out of my bed. She took me onto the landing
24 and told me I was to sleep on the floor there. I was
25 not even given a pillow or a blanket.

1 'I remember very little about the day-to-day routine
2 when I was at Fornethy on either occasion.

3 'When it came to our meals, we all sat at round
4 tables in the dining room. I was never allowed to sit
5 with my sister. At night, before going to bed, we might
6 have been given some milk in a plastic cup and
7 a biscuit. The rest of the food must have been okay as
8 I have no other bad memories other than the
9 force-feeding.'

10 And going on to paragraph 22 on the following page:

11 'There was no schooling of any kind when I was at
12 Fornethy.'

13 And she talks about healthcare and religious
14 instruction and then going on to paragraph 25:

15 'When I was at Fornethy, I started having a problem
16 with bed-wetting. I think it was because of all the
17 stress and fear. Whenever any of the staff found that
18 I had wet the bed, I was given a back-handed slap. This
19 could have been any of the domestic staff that hit me,
20 but I can't remember any of the names.

21 'I don't remember any people coming in to Fornethy
22 to check we were being looked after properly.

23 'The only contact I had with my parents was once
24 a week we had to write a letter home. The staff wrote
25 on a blackboard what we were to include in the letter.

1 You were not allowed to put anything bad into those
2 letters.

3 'After the first visit to Fornethy, we told mum
4 about some of the bad things that were happening to us.
5 She brought up that this was not what we were saying in
6 our letters. We explained what the teachers made us do
7 with the copying. Mum came up with a plan that if we
8 added a sentence saying we were asking after a certain
9 auntie, then she would know we were being hurt and she
10 would come and collect us. On the second occasion at
11 Fornethy, after again being abused, my sister did this
12 to her letters, but unfortunately mum never appeared.

13 'We often thought about running away, but we never
14 followed it up. I don't know if anyone else ran away
15 while we were there.

16 'I never liked turnip as a child and still don't to
17 this day. The first time it came as part of a meal,
18 there was a girl sitting next to me who enjoyed it.
19 I just scraped it over onto her plate. Miss Fletcher
20 saw what I did. She took my plate and returned with it
21 full of turnip. I told her I did not like it, but she
22 was not interested. She then scooped a pile on to
23 a spoon and then force-fed it to me. She never stopped
24 until I was sick.

25 'I brought the turnip back up and she was even more

1 annoyed. As I was covered in sick, she dragged me by
2 the hair from the dining room to the toilet to get
3 cleaned up.

4 'After this, I tried to eat the turnip to avoid the
5 force-feeding. I also had the same problem when we were
6 fed tapioca, although I can't remember if I needed to go
7 to the toilet to get cleaned up. The force-feeding
8 continued with other foods during both times I was at
9 Fornethy.

10 'One of the chores we might be tasked with was to
11 clean a small room which was used when we were visited
12 by the local minister. When it was cleaned, the chairs
13 would be lined up in rows. There was one day when me
14 and a friend were running about and messed up the lines
15 of chairs.

16 'Miss Fletcher caught us and took us to a side room.
17 She made us take our pants down and then smacked us so
18 hard with her hand on my bare backside. All this for
19 just moving a couple of chairs.

20 'We could not report anything while we were in
21 Fornethy House as there was no one apart from the staff
22 who were abusing us.

23 'On the first time at Fornethy, we were part through
24 our time there when I was diagnosed with mumps. As
25 a result, we were sent home. I don't remember anything

1 about the journeys home, other than it was a train with
2 no teacher with us. I presume mum picked us up at the
3 other end. I am unsure how long we were home after
4 having the mumps before we were sent back to Fornethy.

5 'When we were back home, we told mum about some of
6 the bad things that were happening to us. I am not sure
7 how much mum took in with her drinking.

8 'After our six weeks were up on the second visit to
9 Fornethy, we were all sent home.'

10 And she talks about being sent to another home in
11 Kilmarnock. And then under the heading 'Reporting of
12 Abuse', paragraph 42:

13 'After our second time at Fornethy ended, we told
14 mum again what had been happening. She went to the
15 social work offices at John Street to report it.
16 I don't know if anything ever happened as a result.'

17 She then goes on to talk about life after being in
18 care and impact, and at paragraph 44 she says:

19 'As an adult I now suffer from achalasia which is
20 where the muscles in the throat tighten when I get
21 stressed. I never had any issue before I went to
22 Fornethy and I believe all the force-feeding by
23 Miss Fletcher is the main cause of this problem.

24 'As a result of the dark dormitories at Fornethy,
25 I am still scared of the dark. I have to sleep with my

1 bedroom door open and a light kept on in the hall.

2 'Whenever I see a television programme involving any
3 kind of abuse, it brings back the memories of Fornethy
4 and I have some flashbacks at night.

5 'In 2021, I joined the Fornethy [REDACTED] Group and
6 they have been a big help in me coping with some of the
7 bad memories. I had always been of the belief that
8 I was the only person who had been abused. It was only
9 after joining them, I learned about all the others who
10 had also been force-fed, among other types of abuse.

11 'I remember going to meet some of them at a church
12 near The Barras in Glasgow. At that same meeting, there
13 were some [REDACTED] also present. As soon as they put
14 a picture on the screen of Fornethy, I broke down.
15 I was back to being that 7-year-old being abused.'

16 And at paragraph 50 under the heading 'Reporting of
17 Abuse':

18 'In 2021, I reported the abuse to the police. They
19 came to see me twice at my house. I think it was on the
20 second occasion that I got upset with something one of
21 the officers said. He told me that unfortunately in
22 those days, this was allowed. I tried telling him that
23 I had never been physically punished by my dad and if my
24 mother had to smack us, she never took our pants off.

25 'After noting all the information, they told me they

1 were passing the details on to the police in Dundee, as
2 they covered Fornethy. I have no idea what happened to
3 any investigations that were carried out.

4 'I did try to get my records. I made contact with
5 the NHS, but they told me that any records from then
6 would have been destroyed. I thought there might have
7 been something retained as there was an outbreak of
8 mumps and I am sure the local authority would have had
9 to be made aware of that.

10 'I really want to find confirmation of why we were
11 sent to Fornethy and who arranged it. I would also like
12 to fill in some of the gaps in my memories as to the
13 dates I was there and the dates I went to Kilmarnock.

14 'Our time at Fornethy should have been a time where
15 kids were being helped and given respite for their
16 family. It was not to be used as a facility to abuse
17 children they were looking after. We were all told this
18 was to be a holiday and it certainly was not that.

19 'I would like to know if the staff at Fornethy were
20 trained in looking after children and were they ever
21 vetted for those positions. There should have been
22 someone coming in to keep a close eye on the staff who
23 were dealing with children. Each child should have been
24 dealt with as a unique individual. Don't let what
25 happened to me happen to other children.

1 'My name is 'Joan'. I was born in 1957. My contact
2 details are known to the Inquiry.

3 'Prior to going into care, I was brought up in
4 Glasgow. I stayed with my mother and father. I had
5 four siblings, my older sister, younger brother and two
6 younger sisters.

7 'My father was employed for many years as a prison
8 warden and spent a lot of this time at Barlinnie. He
9 lost his job when he was caught selling some things to
10 the prisoners. He was a heavy drinker and there were
11 numerous incidents of domestic abuse where he would beat
12 my mother. My father was also a bully to all of us
13 children and in particular to myself and my older
14 sister.

15 'With dad and his drinking, there were lots of times
16 there was no money left in the house for food. We were
17 often sent to the bakers with a letter asking for credit
18 so we could get some food.

19 'When we stayed in the Douglas West area, there was
20 an incident I can remember. We were standing outside in
21 the street with some neighbours. As we stood there, he
22 was inside smashing the house up.

23 'There were times when my dad was due home from the
24 pub and mum would take me into her room. She was hoping
25 that when he came in and saw I was with her, nothing

1 would happen. There was one occasion this did not stop
2 him. I was lying on the bed and mum tried to wrap her
3 leg around me to stop him moving me aside. It was
4 obvious he had been drinking. This time it did not stop
5 him and he forced himself on mum while I lay next to her
6 on the bed.'

7 Paragraph 7, the next one is a paragraph in which
8 the witness wishes to make some changes to and I'll read
9 that paragraph as per the supplementary statement.

10 LADY SMITH: Thank you.

11 MS MACLEOD: 'There was a time when I was about 3 years old,
12 I remember lying in my bed. As I lay there, I felt
13 someone pulling my bedcovers down from behind. My bed
14 was against the window, which looked out on to the
15 street. I pulled them back up and almost immediately
16 they were pulled down again from behind. I pulled them
17 back up but was too scared to see who was there. I
18 screamed because I was so scared and when I opened my
19 eyes, my mum and dad were coming into the room as they
20 had obviously heard me screaming.

21 'Although my father was the one carrying out the
22 abuse, my mother would instigate a lot of it. She would
23 pick on us for any small thing going wrong and then
24 threaten us that she would have dad hit us for the
25 wrongdoing when he returned from work. There were many

1 times he would come home, be told by mum we did
2 something wrong and told to hit us, which he always
3 followed through.

4 'With all the incidents that happened with dad
5 smashing up the house, beating mum and us kids, there
6 must have been police involvement but I can't remember
7 it.'

8 The next paragraph is another one which I will read
9 from the supplementary statement, as there are changes
10 made to it:

11 'A short time before my eldest sister and I were
12 placed in care, we were both sent for a medical
13 examination. A few days later, we were in the social
14 work offices in Glasgow along with my mum. Later on in
15 life, I was told by my aunt that it was because my
16 sister was underweight and she was going into care to
17 build her up again. She said I went with her to keep
18 her company. I don't know why I was to keep her company
19 and even when I have been going through treatment with
20 my psychologist, they agree and see no reason for me
21 having to be with her.

22 'My other siblings, brother and two younger sisters
23 did not go into care. They were allowed to stay with my
24 parents.

25 'The only thing I remember about leaving the house

1 was we were taken in a black cab with no one to
2 accompany us other than the driver. I have never been
3 certain of the name of the place but I think we went
4 over a bridge, which I have always thought was the Forth
5 Road Bridge and then on towards Perthshire. From
6 speaking to people since, they have confirmed to me it
7 was Fornethy, but I would still like to see this in
8 writing in some sort of record for me to accept this.

9 'When we arrived at Fornethy Home, we got out of the
10 taxi and walked through the arched front door.

11 I remember there was a tower as part of the main
12 building. When we went in the door, we were told to
13 queue with the other girls just arrived. It was only
14 girls, no boys there.

15 'As we moved up the queue towards a counter, we were
16 told to strip off all our clothes and put our old
17 clothes in a box. I don't remember the names of the
18 girls behind the counter. We had to do this just
19 standing in the hallway in front of each other. We were
20 handed clothes which included overalls, aprons with
21 a blue floral pattern, black gym shoes. The girls all
22 had to wear the same overalls. It was two older girls,
23 I don't know their names, who were handing out the
24 clothes.

25 'We were then sent to the showers. The staff were

1 checking our hair for any nits and after showers, we got
2 dressed into the overalls. None of the staff introduced
3 themselves and I don't know any of their names.

4 'With regards to where we slept, I can't remember
5 anything about it. I can't tell where I actually slept.
6 I don't know whether there were a few girls in the room
7 or lots of girls and a large dormitory. I can't even
8 remember my sister being with me in the room.

9 'I am not sure what the routine was for us waking up
10 in the morning. I don't remember if we were woken with
11 a bell or whether staff woke us.

12 'In the dining room, there were large, round tables.
13 I think there were possibly six of those tables with as
14 many as eight [girls] at each of them. There was
15 a hatch where we were served our food. One incident
16 I remember was being fed boiled egg, which I do not
17 like. There was a teacher with purple hair who
18 force-fed me an egg by telling me in an aggressive
19 manner to eat it. She turned her back and I spat the
20 egg out under the table. She was the one teacher who
21 did this and caused me all the bother I suffered there.

22 'Most mornings, the breakfast consisted of porridge
23 and I ate that. The only time there was a problem was
24 when they served the boiled eggs.

25 'I don't remember anything about the lunches or

1 teas, but they could not have involved eggs or I would
2 have remembered that.

3 'For washing and bathing, there were showers
4 available. I'm not sure how often we used them. We
5 usually took turns for the showers as there were not
6 enough for everyone. We used basins in the morning for
7 washing.

8 'After we were finished breakfast, we were taken out
9 on really long walks. After the walks, it was lunchtime
10 and then back out for another long walk in the
11 afternoon. We had to wear our wellies for some of the
12 places [we were taken. It] was very muddy. It was the
13 teachers who took us on the walks.

14 'There was a time when I was at the tuck shop and
15 I bought a barley sugar sweet. The teacher with the
16 purple hair saw me leaving the tuck shop. She took the
17 sweetie off me and said, "You don't deserve that, you're
18 a bad girl". This was a regular thing for her to take
19 sweeties off me.

20 'The only teacher that I ever had any problems with
21 was the one I have mentioned with the purple hair.
22 I don't remember much about her.

23 'There were classrooms there, but I can't remember
24 any of the things we were being taught. I can remember
25 sitting at a desk but that's about it. I have no

1 memories of maps, books or stories. Nothing has stuck.

2 'I don't remember having to see a doctor for any
3 reason. I can't remember being given any injections or
4 the like. This was much the same as any visits to the
5 dentist.

6 'I did get a visit from my mum, grandpa and aunt.
7 When they came to see us, we had to sit in the dining
8 room for the visit and we were not allowed out of the
9 home. My sister and I were at the table and there were
10 members of staff that would be behind the serving hatch
11 supervising the visit. I remember when they were
12 leaving, I was screaming and hanging on to my mother's
13 coat. I told her she needed to take me home but she
14 couldn't. She said to me that she couldn't come back
15 for other visits. She actually said to me that if I was
16 to carry on like this, she would be coming back to see
17 me again.'

18 '... she would [not] be coming ...'

19 '... she would be coming back to see me again.'

20 LADY SMITH: I wonder if there should be a 'not' there.

21 MS MACLEOD: I wonder, my Lady.

22 LADY SMITH: It wouldn't make sense otherwise, would it; no.

23 MS MACLEOD: No, I think that must be the case:

24 LADY SMITH: Thank you.

25 MS MACLEOD: 'I did have a problem with bed-wetting.

1 I don't remember [my sister] being there, other than we
2 were definitely in the home together. I can't remember
3 what the home did about bed-wetting.

4 'The teacher who caused all my problems at the home
5 was the woman with the purple hair. She was elderly,
6 quite tall and reminded me of Dame Edna from the TV.
7 I think the reasons she was picking on me was because
8 I was so emotional during my time there. Whenever she
9 saw me, she would pick on me and verbally abuse me. She
10 would also slap and punch me anywhere on my body she
11 could reach all because I was always upset. She is the
12 only one I have a memory of who was nasty to me.

13 'In 1966, having been in the home for some months,
14 I remember playing on the swings and one of the young
15 teachers there, not the one with the purple hair, came
16 over to me. When she sat with me, she told me I was
17 going home. I think she was perhaps a trainee, but
18 I don't know her name.

19 'My mother did not really care much for us and my
20 dad would do as he was told. My mother would have us
21 carry out chores in the house like cleaning [when we got
22 home]. She would have Dad check it [when he arrived]
23 and beat us if it was not done properly. Even at the
24 weekends, I can remember we had to clean the whole
25 house. We would even have to make breakfast for them

1 while they stayed in bed.

2 'There was a time when I was skipping school and
3 when I was walking down the street, I was seen by the
4 lollipop lady. She phoned me dad and told him I was not
5 at school. When dad got hold of me, he was beating me
6 about my whole body with his fists. Even the knuckles
7 on my hands were bleeding. I was so scared about what
8 was happening, I managed to get out of the back window
9 of the house and climb over lots of rear gardens as I
10 headed to the water. When I reached the water, I jumped
11 in. It turned out the water was not deep enough for me
12 to drown and when I climbed out, I lay in the grass.
13 I lay there for a couple of hours and then walked
14 towards our house. I reached the telephone box and saw
15 my dad making his way into the pub. He saw me as well,
16 came over to see me and just sent me home.

17 'There was another time when I was off school as
18 I was having to look after some young kids of another
19 family and the RSPCC came out to the house.

20 'I got married when I was 17 after having fallen
21 pregnant the year before. I saw it as a way of getting
22 out of the house. I went on to have three kids. The
23 marriage was a big mistake, but I stayed with him for
24 38 years. I was glad when I eventually left him.

25 'At no time during my mother's life did she ever

1 make any attempt to make up with us for what she did.
2 I ended up hating my mother. I never wanted to, but she
3 wasn't interested in making amends.

4 'My father, on the other hand, did try to make
5 amends and I did try to forgive him for a lot of what
6 happened to me. I remember being with him in the pub
7 with [my sister] and we were talking about our time in
8 care. He was saying he did not know anything about us
9 being in care. This partly confirmed some information
10 we heard, that it must have been at the same time as he
11 left my mum and moved in with another woman. He said if
12 he had known, he would have taken us out of the home.
13 Before he passed away, I [looked] after him to nurse
14 him. According to my aunt, my dad did find out we were
15 in care and he was the one who made the efforts to have
16 us returned to the family home.

17 'I did try to find Fornethy Home and was searching
18 [REDACTED]. A person was talking about
19 having to go on the long walks and the last part
20 mentioned a teacher with purple hair, which was [some of
21 the same] memories I had of Fornethy.

22 'My husband and I visited the Fornethy building and
23 it was just the same as I could remember.

24 'Later, I was introduced to a girl who had also been
25 in Fornethy. Whenever we speak together, I'm quite

1 adamant for her not to tell me anything new about my
2 time there until I have actually remembered things
3 myself. I want to know the memories are mine and not
4 gaps being filled in by someone trying to be helpful.
5 During my time with her, she has carried out research
6 and found out the teacher with the purple hair was
7 called Miss LBD .

8 '[There was another girl from my time in Fornethy].
9 I went ██████████ Glasgow ██████████ and she ██████████ a picture
10 which stirred a memory of my time in care. We ██████████
11 ██████████. She was under a
12 similar impression to myself that the place we were in
13 care was called Abernethy. It was only after this that
14 we found it was Fornethy, and Abernethy was from a poem
15 we used to say in the home. It was about the Abernethy
16 biscuits and that is where a lot of my confusion over
17 the name stems from. She also confirmed that she knew
18 the teacher with the purple hair who was called
19 Miss LBD .

20 'Later in life as an adult, I received counselling
21 for mental health issues. I've been on different
22 medications to help me cope with those issues. Many of
23 those treating me have confirmed that the reasons for
24 going into care, to accompany my sister because she was
25 underweight, is completely wrong. During some of those

1 sessions, they tell me my lack of memory of my time
2 there is my brain acting like a coping mechanism to
3 block out the things that upset me.

4 'When I left the home and returned to stay with my
5 parents, I was scared of the dark. I would have had
6 nightmares and night tremors. I would have to have the
7 lights on in the house during the night. If they turned
8 all the lights off, I would wake and I'd be screaming
9 with fear.

10 'Because of the lack of the answers to the gaps in
11 my memory of my time in the home, I live with the bad
12 experiences each and every day.

13 'I think my experiences in care and the gaps in my
14 memory have affected how I treated my own children.

15 'When I went to the Mitchell Library to carry out
16 some research into some of the records I found -- some
17 of the records I found were records for my sister, but
18 nothing for me. I later learned that on some occasions
19 when siblings are taken into care and the records are
20 maintained under the eldest sibling and others may form
21 part of that record, but even she has gaps in the
22 medical records.

23 'I have tried to access my records from my school,
24 but I have been told they were destroyed in a fire.

25 'I have been to the Inquiry during the hearings and

1 found it to be such a large undertaking. It made me
2 feel that I was not alone in this situation, and that
3 there are many others. There are far too many people
4 that have been abused in care. I don't understand how
5 this was so common a practice during the 1960s.

6 'I hope the Inquiry can help me find the place and
7 confirm that I was there. I am not interested in
8 compensation as I just want to have the many gaps filled
9 in.

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 And, as I previously said, my Lady, 'Joan' signed
15 her initial statement on 6 January 2020 and her
16 supplementary statement on 14 January 2023.

17 LADY SMITH: Thank you very much.

18 MS MACLEOD: My Lady, that completes the evidence for today
19 and we begin at 10 o'clock tomorrow with a live witness.

20 LADY SMITH: Thank you very much. Well, I'll rise now until
21 10.00 tomorrow.

22 (3.53 pm)

23 (The Inquiry adjourned until 10.00 am
24 on Wednesday, 20 May 2026)

25

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