

Wednesday, 20 May 2026

1
2
3
4
5
6
7
8
9
10
11
12
13
14
15
16
17
18
19
20
21
22
23
24
25

(10.00 am)

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

Now, I just want to say one or two things that I mentioned yesterday, in case there are new listeners to the hearing today.

And obviously we're looking at Fornethy, Fornethy Residential School in Alyth, and we started the evidence about Fornethy yesterday and we'll continue it today, this week and next week.

I know there's a high level of interest in the evidence that we are hearing in relation to Fornethy and, for some people, this may be their first time here in the building.

Before we hear from today's oral witness, I'd like to mention the housekeeping rules that I mentioned yesterday. Now, providing evidence to a public hearing, a public inquiry hearing, particularly this public inquiry hearing, is not easy, because witnesses are

1 often having to speak about what happened a long time
2 ago, when they were young, vulnerable and they
3 experienced distressing events.

4 It matters greatly to me that they're afforded the
5 best opportunity to give their evidence without
6 unnecessary anxiety or distraction. And for that
7 reason, they need to be assured that their evidence
8 isn't being filmed or recorded by anybody in the public
9 seats.

10 It's also important for me and the stenographers to
11 be able to hear and concentrate on what witnesses are
12 saying. So the rule is that the only recording of
13 evidence which can and does take place is the recording
14 that's carried out by the two stenographers who are
15 sitting here beside me.

16 In due course, transcripts of the evidence are
17 published on our website, so anybody who would like to
18 read it later will be able do so.

19 Now, I appreciate also that sometimes people sitting
20 in the public seats may feel the need to have
21 a discussion or make or take a telephone call and in
22 that event, there are rooms available outside the
23 hearing room that you're welcome to use.

24 Also, if there are any queries that any members of
25 the public have, members of Inquiry staff are both here

1 in the public gallery and outside, in the area outside
2 the hearing room, so do feel free to approach them.

3 Now, Ms MacLeod, this morning's witness.

4 MS MACLEOD: Good morning, my Lady. The first witness this
5 morning is an applicant who wishes to remain anonymous
6 and will use the pseudonym 'Rose'.

7 LADY SMITH: Thank you.

8 'Rose' (sworn)

9 LADY SMITH: 'Rose', thank you so much for coming along this
10 morning to help us with your evidence. It's really good
11 to have the opportunity to hear from you in person, in
12 addition to the written evidence which I already have
13 from you. I'm really grateful to you for taking the
14 time and trouble to provide that, and it's in the red
15 folder that's on the desk there, so you'll have that
16 available to you if you want to refer to it when you are
17 giving evidence, and we'll bring parts of it up on the
18 screen as well as we refer to them.

19 Now, we're not going to go through it line by line,
20 don't worry, but there are some particular aspects of it
21 that we'd like to focus on if that's all right with you.

22 A. Yes.

23 LADY SMITH: Now, 'Rose', can I also say before we start,
24 I do know that what you've agreed to do here isn't easy,
25 coming into a public place to talk about things from way

1 back in your childhood that had a deep impression on you
2 at the time and clearly, from what's in your written
3 evidence, it wasn't exactly good. And you're going to
4 speak about them in public and sometimes our emotions
5 catch us unawares.

6 I'm well used to that. I do understand. Don't
7 worry if that happens to you. If you want a break,
8 that's absolutely fine, just say. If you want to pause
9 where you are, just pause. There are tissues there,
10 there's water and there's plenty of time for you to have
11 room to breathe. Please don't feel under pressure.

12 A. Okay.

13 LADY SMITH: If you've got any questions at any time, just
14 say and we'll do our best to answer them.

15 A. Thank you.

16 LADY SMITH: If you're ready I'll hand over to Ms MacLeod
17 and she'll take it from there; okay?

18 A. Okay.

19 Questions from Ms MacLeod

20 MS MACLEOD: My Lady.

21 Good morning, 'Rose'.

22 A. Good morning.

23 Q. You've provided a statement to the Inquiry and there's
24 a copy of that statement, as Lady Smith mentioned, in
25 the red folder in front of you. I'm just going to give

1 the reference for the transcript. WIT-1-000000782.

2 Now, before we begin, 'Rose', I don't need your date
3 of birth, but to give a timeframe, can you confirm that
4 you were born in 1959?

5 A. Yes.

6 Q. Could you begin, please, by turning to the very last
7 page of the statement and that's really just to confirm
8 that you signed the statement, 'Rose'?

9 A. Yes.

10 Q. In the very last paragraph, do you say:

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

15 A. Yes.

16 Q. Okay. Thank you for that.

17 Now we'll go back to the beginning of the statement
18 and I'll just ask you some questions, first of all,
19 about what you tell us about your early life.

20 And I think you tell the Inquiry in your statement,
21 'Rose', that you were born in the West End of Glasgow,
22 is that right?

23 A. Yes.

24 Q. And that both your parents worked?

25 A. Yes.

1 Q. And you say that you had a happy life, I think you tell
2 us, and that you never went without anything?
3 A. No.
4 Q. You tell us, for example, that you had holidays?
5 A. Yes.
6 Q. And an enjoyable time with your family in general?
7 A. Yes, yeah.
8 Q. Now, you mentioned that your mum worked hard, that she
9 had three different jobs?
10 A. Yes.
11 Q. And that your dad also worked?
12 A. Yes.
13 Q. And you say that your dad was hands-on in terms of
14 looking after the family?
15 A. Yes.
16 Q. And did things with you and took you out?
17 A. Oh, yeah. Yes, dear.
18 Q. And you tell us, 'Rose', that you had two older sisters?
19 A. Yes.
20 Q. And that you went to primary school?
21 A. Mm-hmm.
22 Q. And you go on to tell us, 'Rose', and this is what we're
23 going to be looking at today, that when you -- I think
24 it was when you were in Primary 7, aged around 11?
25 A. Yes.

1 Q. That a discussion came up about the possibility of you
2 going to a residential school?

3 A. Yes.

4 Q. Can you just tell me a little bit about that? How did
5 that come up?

6 A. Well, I went about with a girl called [REDACTED] and
7 she had said that she'd been to a residential school
8 before in Rossie, and she said it was really good and
9 she enjoyed it and she said she was allowed to take
10 a friend to Fornethy and did I want to go, and she said
11 it was because her mum was on her own and she was
12 a district nurse and she worked all the time. You never
13 seen her mother without her uniform on. So she said:
14 'Let's go, 'cos the last one I went to, they had a disco
15 and it was really good'.

16 And I thought, oh, just turned 11, and I thought,
17 oh, that sounds really good. So I asked my mum and my
18 mum wasn't keen, but I kept on and on and on at her and,
19 yeah, eventually my mum gave in and she says I could go.

20 Q. Okay. And that was to go to Fornethy?

21 A. Yes.

22 Q. And at that time, 'Rose', what understanding did you
23 have about what Fornethy was?

24 A. They said it was a holiday for [REDACTED], because her mum
25 worked all the time and she didn't have a dad.

1 Q. And do you know who it was that made the arrangements
2 for you to go to Fornethy?

3 A. No.

4 Q. And I think that you tell us in your statement, PLP
5 PLP, that the next thing really was that there came
6 a time quite shortly after that that you were on a bus?

7 A. Yes.

8 Q. With your friend?

9 A. Yes.

10 Q. Going to Fornethy?

11 A. Yes.

12 Q. Did you know at that time how long you were going to be
13 in Fornethy for?

14 A. No, never. Even when I was there, I never knew how long
15 it was going to be.

16 Q. Okay. And your older sisters, they didn't come with
17 you?

18 A. Oh, no.

19 Q. They stayed at home.

20 A. No.

21 Q. Now, did you go into Glasgow, into the city centre to
22 get onto the bus?

23 A. Yes, Buchanan Street Bus Station.

24 Q. And can you tell me, 'Rose', what are your memories
25 about the bus, arriving at the bus, and who was there at

1 that stage?

2 A. There was lots of wee ones and their mums and I was
3 pretty shocked when I seen the wee ones. They weren't
4 like [REDACTED] and I.

5 Q. In what way? What made you shocked?

6 A. Well, you could see they were poor. And they came from
7 districts I'd never been to. They were saying they were
8 from Possil and Springburn and I'd never been there so
9 I didn't know where it was.

10 Q. And were the other girls younger than you and [REDACTED]?

11 A. Yes, all of them were younger than [REDACTED] and I. We were
12 the eldest.

13 Q. What sort of age were the other girls?

14 A. There was lots of 5 and 6-year-olds and 7 and
15 8-year-olds and the odd 9/10, and then [REDACTED] and I.

16 Q. Okay. And in total, are you able to help me with
17 roughly how many girls there were that went onto the
18 bus?

19 A. About 15.

20 Q. Okay. And did the parents then leave the bus station --

21 A. Yes.

22 Q. -- and the girls went onto the bus?

23 A. Yes.

24 Q. And do you remember if there was anybody on the bus with
25 you, adults on the bus?

1 A. Yes, yes, there was someone there, yeah.

2 Q. Okay. And I think in your statement, 'Rose', you
3 mention in particular two younger sisters?

4 A. Yes.

5 Q. A pair of sisters --

6 A. Yes.

7 Q. -- who were on the bus?

8 A. Yes, they were 5 and 6.

9 Q. Okay. And I think we'll look at them a little bit more,
10 because they were girls that you became close to when
11 you were in Fornethy.

12 A. Oh, yes, yes.

13 Q. Now, you were on the bus then with these girls. What
14 was going through your mind at this time? How were you
15 feeling about where you were going?

16 A. Oh, it was -- I was excited. I thought this is going to
17 be great, not having my mum and my big sisters and --
18 but I thought I was only going for a week at the most.
19 I didn't know I was going for six weeks.

20 Q. Okay. Now, I think you tell us in paragraph 13 of your
21 statement that you remember there being a road traffic
22 accident?

23 A. Yes.

24 Q. On the way?

25 A. Yes. It was really bad. And they stopped the bus for

1 ages and -- God, for about over an hour we were stuck on
2 the bus. And then they told us to all put our head down
3 as they drove by the accident and we all thought
4 somebody had maybe died in the road accident and that's
5 why we were to hide.

6 Q. Okay. And in terms of a date, 'Rose', I think you have
7 quite a clear memory, do you --

8 A. Yes.

9 Q. -- of when you went to Fornethy?

10 A. Yes.

11 Q. Can you help me with that?

12 A. Yes, my sister turned, my eldest sister, turned 15 on
13 ██████████ in 1970 and that's the date I left.

14 Q. Okay.

15 Now, if we can now look to the bus arriving at
16 Fornethy and your first time arriving at the building.
17 What were your initial impressions and thoughts when you
18 got there?

19 A. Oh, the building was huge and it was quite frightening,
20 but, yeah, I was still excited.

21 Q. Okay. Would you be okay if I put a couple of
22 photographs --

23 A. Yes.

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

25 A. Mm-hmm.

1 Q. Could we look first of all at INQ-0000001236, please.
2 Do you recognise that, 'Rose'?

3 A. Yes.

4 Q. Is that an aerial view of Fornethy?

5 A. Yes.

6 Q. And then at INQ-0000001243, please.

7 A. Yes.

8 Q. Do you recognise that as the building --

9 A. Yes.

10 Q. -- at Fornethy? So quite a large --

11 A. Yes.

12 Q. -- substantial building.

13 You provide some information in your statement about
14 the inside of the building and, again, can you just help
15 me with that. What was that like when you arrived,
16 'Rose', what was the inside of the building like to you?

17 A. Oh, cold, scary. Wooden floors. Horrible atmosphere.
18 It was just an awful, awful place.

19 Q. And you've told me about how you were feeling in the bus
20 and excited that you were going somewhere -- something
21 like a holiday?

22 A. Yes.

23 Q. When did that realisation hit you that that wasn't going
24 to be the case or that things were going to be different
25 to what you'd anticipated?

1 A. When we went into the building, she told us to sit on
2 long benches and they were quite low and I was quite
3 tall. And then I always remembered the door banging and
4 just the whole atmosphere, everything, and I knew then
5 I'd walked into something really bad.

6 Q. Okay.

7 LADY SMITH: 'Rose', have you any memory of how it smelt?

8 A. Not the building, but the people, yes, I have memories
9 of the teachers. Well, one particular teacher, the
10 smell of her.

11 LADY SMITH: Okay, we'll maybe get to that.

12 A. Yes.

13 LADY SMITH: It's just some people have memories of
14 smells --

15 A. Smells.

16 LADY SMITH: -- at about the time you were there.

17 A. No, maybe I focused too much on this teacher.

18 LADY SMITH: Okay. Thank you.

19 MS MACLEOD: So you mentioned that a particular person asked
20 you to sit on the long benches; who was that?

21 A. I think it was a housekeeper.

22 Q. And the housekeeper, do you recall her name?

23 A. No, dear.

24 Q. And I think we'll go on to look at that, the housekeeper
25 was somebody that you had dealings with --

1 A. Yes.

2 Q. -- during your time there.

3 A. Yes.

4 Q. Who was in charge of Fornethy?

5 A. Fletcher. I don't call them by Miss or Mrs. I've never
6 ever called them. None of the girls did. 'Cos they
7 weren't human, so that would be making them out to be
8 a human being, which they weren't. We actually, behind
9 their back, called them 'Bitch Fletcher', 'Bitch
10 Robertson'.

11 Q. Okay. So when you were addressing them directly, did
12 you call them Mrs --

13 A. No, we never talked to them.

14 Q. You didn't talk to them. Okay.

15 So Fletcher then, who was the headmistress, can you
16 tell me, was she an older lady? What was she like?

17 A. Well, she was the oldest of them and she was just so
18 frightening. She was just horrible, the way she talked
19 to you, the way she looked at you. The first time I met
20 her was that night, going to the tuck shop.

21 Q. Okay. And we'll come to look at that in a moment.

22 And as well as Mrs Fletcher, who else was -- who
23 else do you remember?

24 A. Robertson, PWH, RHB and a student.

25 Q. And if we look at Robertson then first of all, what was

1 her role in the school?

2 A. Oh, she was the main, she was the main one. She was
3 with us most of the time. And then it was PWH, then
4 it was RHB and then the student.

5 Q. I think in your statement you mention that a Robertson,
6 that she may have been second in command --

7 A. Yes.

8 Q. -- to Mrs Fletcher?

9 A. Yeah, she was, but she was with us the most.

10 Q. She was with you the most?

11 A. Yes, Fletcher basically stayed in the office or wherever
12 she was.

13 Q. And Mrs Robertson then, in terms of what sort of age she
14 was at the time, can you assist me with that?

15 A. Well, I thought she was in her late 20s but I found out
16 she was 22.

17 Q. And I think in your statement you describe her as
18 wearing suits?

19 A. Yes.

20 Q. And PWH then, was she the next in line, as it were --

21 A. Yes.

22 Q. -- after Robertson?

23 A. That was Robertson's best friend. They two were very
24 pally together.

25 Q. And from your memory, was she a similar sort of age to

1 Robertson?

2 A. Yes, yes.

3 Q. And then you say that the other staff came after?

4 A. Yes.

5 Q. After PWH in the chain of command --

6 A. Yes.

7 Q. -- as it were. You mentioned RHB ?

8 A. Well, I -- yes, I thought it was RHB or RHB, but

9 it's not, it's actually RHB.

10 Q. RHB ?

11 A. Mm-hmm.

12 Q. Was that a teacher?

13 A. Yes.

14 Q. Mrs RHB ?

15 A. Yes.

16 Q. Yes, okay. And you also mentioned a student?

17 A. Yes, I don't -- I can't remember her name.

18 Q. Okay.

19 Now, you've told me just a few moments ago about

20 when you were asked to sit on the long benches when you

21 arrived by the housekeeper, and that you knew that

22 things were going to be different to what you thought?

23 A. Yeah.

24 Q. Around that time, did you get talking to a girl who had

25 been in -- who was in Fornethy --

1 A. Yes.

2 Q. -- and was perhaps coming up to her time to go home?

3 A. Well, the teachers went away with the woman from the bus
4 and obviously they must've had tea, and they told us to
5 go out the back door. And we met a girl who was maybe
6 a couple of months older than [REDACTED] and I, and she told
7 us everything. And I couldn't believe what she was
8 saying.

9 Q. What did she tell you?

10 A. She told me we weren't allowed to talk to each other.
11 She told us to hide our food and not to leave any food.
12 And she told us if we ran away, they would send us home.
13 And she told us they were violent and all sorts and
14 I just -- I couldn't believe it.

15 Q. So what was going through your mind at this time,
16 'Rose'? You'd thought you were going somewhere that you
17 were going to enjoy, you arrived and got a bad feeling
18 about it, and then you were being spoken to and being
19 told these things --

20 A. Mm-hmm.

21 Q. -- by a girl of similar age to yourself. What was going
22 through your head?

23 A. Oh, I didn't believe it at all, 'cos I'd never seen
24 anything like that. I'd never -- I'd never been round
25 teachers that were bad, because my mother worked all the

1 time, she had three part-time jobs, I was in nursery
2 since I was 2. So I had nursery teachers, so I was used
3 to teachers, and because I was a member of the church,
4 I had Sunday School teachers, I had the elders' wives
5 and then my primary school teachers. So I never had
6 seen or heard of people doing what she was telling me
7 that these teachers were doing.

8 Q. Were you allocated to a particular dormitory within
9 Fornethy?

10 A. Yes.

11 Q. And how many girls, roughly, were in your dorm?

12 A. I would have said eight, maybe six, but I think it could
13 be eight. But I can't -- I'm not sure about all that.
14 But I remember definitely six of us.

15 Q. And was your friend [REDACTED] with you in the dorm?

16 A. Yes.

17 Q. And were some of the younger girls from the bus?

18 A. Yes.

19 Q. Including the 5 and 6-year-old sisters?

20 A. Yes. Yes, dear, yeah.

21 Q. And were there other dorms also in Fornethy --

22 A. Yes.

23 Q. -- with other girls in them?

24 A. Yes.

25 Q. Looking at the school as a whole, do you know roughly

1 how many girls were there?

2 A. Oh, about 70 maybe.

3 Q. And the age range?

4 A. They were from 5 to myself, just turned 11.

5 Q. So you were amongst the older girls there?

6 A. Yes. There were hardly any older girls at the time.

7 Q. So were you shown then to your dormitory shortly after

8 you arrived?

9 A. Yes.

10 Q. Who took you up to your dormitory?

11 A. That housekeeper.

12 Q. The housekeeper. And when you got to the dormitory,

13 what was the next thing that happened? Did you have

14 a suitcase with you?

15 A. Yes. She told us which bed to go to and she opened my

16 suitcase and she said: 'What do you think your mother

17 was thinking buying you all them clothes?'. And I was

18 just shocked, the way she was talking: 'Your mother must

19 be crazy buying as much as that'. And she took them --

20 half of them away. I don't even think I got half of the

21 stuff back.

22 Q. Okay. And you touched on this already, but during your

23 first evening at Fornethy, you mentioned that there was

24 a tuck shop, that you went to the tuck shop?

25 A. Yes.

1 Q. Can you tell me about that?

2 A. Yes. Fletcher was in the tuck shop and she -- we had to
3 line up and she shouted my name, and I went in and she
4 started laughing. And I was just so scared of her. And
5 then she said: 'I find it funny that -- your name, and
6 you're so skinny'. And I was just shocked and she says:
7 'I've never seen anybody so skinny. I thought you were
8 going to be a big fat thing with a name like that'. And
9 then she said: 'Get out, you're not getting any sweets'.

10 Q. So that was your first encounter --

11 A. Yeah.

12 Q. -- with Mrs Fletcher.

13 A. Yeah.

14 Q. Were you introduced on your first day or early on in
15 your time to singing, song-singing --

16 A. Yes.

17 Q. -- in Fornethy?

18 A. Yes. Then, after the tuck shop, they all went into this
19 like an assembly room, playroom, but there was nobody
20 playing in it and they were all singing songs.

21 Q. The girls?

22 A. The girls, and they all knew them off by heart. And it
23 was about kissing Fred, seven little girls sitting in
24 the back seat kissing and a-cuddling with Fred, and one
25 of them said: 'Come up and sit beside me'. And

1 I'm like: what kind of songs are these? Because I'd
2 always --

3 LADY SMITH: Yes, I think that was a pop song in that era --

4 A. Was it, darling?

5 LADY SMITH: -- by a group called The Avons.

6 A. Well, see, I'd never heard of it.

7 LADY SMITH: I think so.

8 A. 1980s? No, this was 1970s.

9 LADY SMITH: No, no, I said --

10 A. Oh, 1970s.

11 LADY SMITH: -- in that era.

12 A. Right. I'd never, ever heard --

13 LADY SMITH: Yes, a group called The Avons, and it was --

14 A. Yeah. And then -- yeah, they were all different songs.
15 But I just thought --

16 MS MACLEOD: I think you tell us in your statement, 'Rose',
17 that you had been used to, for example, singing songs in
18 church.

19 A. Yes, dear.

20 Q. And that this sort of song was very different to the
21 sort of song that you were used to hearing?

22 A. Yes, yes. And I'd never heard that song as a pop song,
23 although I heard pop songs, my sisters were teenagers,
24 but they were Beatles, so.

25 LADY SMITH: Yes, and you were about 11 at that time, were

1 you?

2 A. Yes, I wasn't into Beatles.

3 LADY SMITH: At 11 years old, were you older than most of

4 the children that you were with at Fornethy?

5 A. I was the oldest.

6 LADY SMITH: Thank you.

7 MS MACLEOD: Now, in terms of being in the dormitory and

8 looking at the sort of daily routine, getting up in the

9 morning and that sort of thing, were staff involved in

10 coming into the dormitory and helping children get out

11 of bed and get dressed, that sort of thing?

12 A. No.

13 Q. And were you expected to help the younger children in

14 the dorm?

15 A. Yes, yes. We did everything for the younger ones.

16 Q. So when you say you did everything for them, can you

17 just explain to me what sort of things you are referring

18 to there?

19 A. We helped dress them and we brushed their hair. We made

20 their beds. We showed them in to brush their teeth.

21 And then I would go into another dorm and do it again

22 with other ones.

23 Q. And are you able to recall whether this is something

24 that you were asked to do, or whether this was

25 instinctive just to help the girls?

1 A. No, they told us to do it.

2 Q. You mentioned that the girls -- all the girls were
3 expected to take their pants off and leave them beside
4 the bed?

5 A. Yes. We weren't allowed to wear pants to bed.

6 Q. And would the staff then come in and do a check and put
7 the lights off?

8 A. Yes. Yeah, they would check, yeah, and then a blue
9 light would come on in the hall and nobody was allowed
10 out of bed and nobody was allowed to talk.

11 Q. And if somebody, for example, did talk, what happened?

12 A. They would come in, drag them out of the bed.

13 Q. Who would come in?

14 A. Robertson mostly, or PWH, and take them to the
15 library.

16 Q. Did that happen to you?

17 A. Yes.

18 Q. So can you just explain then for me, 'Rose', looking at
19 those occasions when that happened to you, what
20 happened? Was it Robertson who took you out of the
21 dormitory?

22 A. It wasn't at night, it was during the day she done it.
23 She heard me talking and she said [REDACTED] and I were
24 talking, and she told us to strip to our pants and stand
25 in the library facing the fireplace.

1 Q. Yes, and I think you tell the Inquiry about that,
2 'Rose', in paragraph 82 of your statement. So that was
3 an occasion where -- during the day, was it, where you
4 and [REDACTED] were talking?

5 A. Yes, yes.

6 Q. And Mrs Robertson took you to the library?

7 A. Yes, yes.

8 Q. And can you tell me about the library and what the girls
9 knew about the library and what the stories were at the
10 time about the library?

11 A. Yeah. I don't know if it came from the teachers, but
12 all the girls had said that the two spinsters that owned
13 the house had been buried behind the fireplace in the
14 library. And when we had to stand there for hours,
15 naked, we were so scared, 'cos we thought there were
16 dead bodies behind the fireplace. And there was
17 a picture of them above it.

18 Q. So there was a picture of these two people above the
19 fireplace?

20 A. Yes, yes.

21 Q. And -- I see. And at the time -- and your understanding
22 was that they were somehow buried --

23 A. Yeah.

24 Q. -- behind the fireplace?

25 A. They buried -- they said that they'd buried them behind

1 that fireplace.

2 Q. And that incident that you're telling me about, 'Rose',

3 is that -- being taken to the library by Mrs Robertson

4 in that way, did that happen to you once or more than

5 once?

6 A. Oh, it happened to me more than once.

7 Q. Okay. And on each of the occasions, were you asked to

8 strip, to --

9 A. Yes.

10 Q. -- take your clothes off? And were you allowed to keep

11 your pants on --

12 A. Yes.

13 Q. -- or were you completely naked?

14 A. No, pants.

15 Q. Pants.

16 A. We could keep our pants on.

17 Q. Was it cold in the library?

18 A. Oh, yeah, very cold.

19 Q. And were you then left by Mrs Robertson in the library?

20 A. Yes. Yes, for hours.

21 Q. And was that until she came back? Did you have to --

22 A. Yes.

23 Q. -- stay there until she decided to come back?

24 A. Yeah, and then she told -- she would come back, tell us

25 to get ready and go and do dishes or clean the floor.

1 Q. And could you be in there for hours?

2 A. Yeah.

3 Q. On each of the occasions you were taken into the library

4 in that way, were you with your friend?

5 A. Yes.

6 LADY SMITH: Was it always Robertson?

7 A. No, it was Fletcher sometimes.

8 MS MACLEOD: And when it was Fletcher, was the process the

9 same?

10 A. Yes.

11 Q. Taken in and asked to remove your clothes?

12 A. Yes, and remove your clothes --

13 Q. Stand?

14 A. -- and stand in your pants. They did it to other girls

15 also, not just [REDACTED] and I.

16 Q. And at the time, how were you aware that it was

17 happening to other girls as well?

18 A. Because when you heard them going: 'Go to the library',

19 they would shout: 'Strip off'.

20 Q. So, going back then to the dorm at night and if children

21 were speaking in the dorm, you mentioned that they would

22 be removed --

23 A. Yes.

24 Q. -- in a similar way and taken to the library?

25 A. Yes.

1 Q. So although it didn't happen to you at night --

2 A. No.

3 Q. -- it happened to other children --

4 A. Yes.

5 Q. -- at night?

6 A. Yes.

7 Q. And was it Mrs Robertson or Mrs Fletcher who was

8 involved in this at night?

9 A. It was either of them. And PWH . She -- and RHB .

10 All the teachers, they all had the same routine.

11 Q. I see. And looking at your own experience, 'Rose', on

12 the occasions you were taken to the library, were

13 RHB and PWH sometimes involved too?

14 A. Yes.

15 Q. So all four of them?

16 A. Yes, yes.

17 Q. Individually?

18 A. Yes.

19 Q. So am I understanding that this was a sort of regular,

20 standard punishment for children?

21 A. Yes, yes.

22 Q. And that at least those four members of staff knew that

23 the others were doing it and were participating in it --

24 A. Yes, yes, and we knew what to do, if we got caught

25 talking to each other.

1 Q. Can I ask you now, 'Rose', about the food at Fornethy.
2 What was the food like?

3 A. It was horrible. Just awful.

4 Q. And were the girls -- did the girls all eat together in
5 a dining room?

6 A. Yes.

7 Q. Were you able to eat the food?

8 A. Not always, no.

9 Q. Were you supposed to eat your food?

10 A. Oh, yes.

11 Q. If you couldn't eat your food, what did you do?

12 A. I'd have a napkin and I would put it in the napkin,
13 either put it up my sleeve or down my pants.

14 LADY SMITH: And I think you told us that the girl that
15 talked to you when you arrived had said to hide the food
16 if you didn't like it?

17 A. Yes. Yes, my Lady, yes.

18 LADY SMITH: So is that what you were doing?

19 A. Yes.

20 MS MACLEOD: And if children didn't eat their food and
21 didn't hide their food and the food was left on their
22 plate, what happened?

23 A. Fletcher and Robertson, or PWH and RHB, but mostly
24 Fletcher and Robertson, one of them would hold their
25 head by their hair, back, and the other one would get

1 the food and force it into their mouth. Then you would
2 see sick coming down their nose and vomiting and they
3 would just still -- and it was on their plate and they
4 fed them the sick.

5 Q. Was that something you saw happening to other children?

6 A. Oh, it happened every single -- the only time it never
7 happened, when the minister came in on a Wednesday
8 night, because they hid all that from him.

9 Q. So that was the only day it didn't happen?

10 A. Yes.

11 Q. And could this involve children as young as 5 and 6?

12 A. It was mostly 5 and 6-year-olds that couldn't finish
13 their dinner, 'cos it was maybe too much for them.

14 Q. Can I ask you now a little about the washing and bathing
15 arrangement. Were there baths and showers at Fornethy?

16 A. Yes, yes.

17 Q. And in general, was it the older girls who used the
18 showers and the younger girls who used the baths?

19 A. Yes. The wee ones weren't allowed to go in the showers
20 in case they slipped.

21 Q. And in the shower area, would you be showering at the
22 same time as other girls?

23 A. Yes.

24 Q. And was the showering facility such that you could see
25 other girls?

1 A. Yes, there was no shower curtains.

2 Q. So could girls see other girls naked?

3 A. We all stood in a line naked out in the corridor before

4 we went in.

5 Q. So there was no privacy?

6 A. No.

7 Q. And how did you find that at the time, being one of the

8 older girls?

9 A. Oh, my mother was such a prude, so I had grown up with

10 a mother that hid everything and wouldn't even let my

11 dad walk about in the house with his pants on. She was

12 always screaming: 'Put your housecoat on!'. And then to

13 go in there and everybody was naked, I'd -- I just --

14 I was -- I was shocked and I hated it. I hated it.

15 Q. I think you mention that you were 11 and, at that stage,

16 you were very self-conscious?

17 A. Oh, yes, yes.

18 Q. And that sometimes there could be staff --

19 A. Yes.

20 Q. -- around; is that right?

21 A. Yes.

22 Q. Were there any particular members of staff who were

23 around in the showering area?

24 A. Apart from the teachers, there was PWI, the

25 caretaker.

1 Q. And what was he doing in the showering area?

2 A. He would just stand there watching us and wave to us.

3 But we never -- although we hated it, we all loved

4 PWI, so. But it was -- you know? But he was the

5 only kind -- kindest person in that place.

6 Q. And was he regularly in the showering area?

7 A. Yes, every time we got showered, he would pass.

8 Q. And in your statement, 'Rose', you say:

9 'I didn't want to be standing there with a lot of

10 strange girls and an old man going by.'

11 A. No, I didn't.

12 LADY SMITH: What was the name that people used for him, was

13 it just PWI or was it something else?

14 A. No, it was PWI.

15 LADY SMITH: PWI, thank you.

16 MS MACLEOD: Now, we have looked already at pants, in the

17 sense that people had to take -- children had to take

18 their pants off before they went to bed. You also tell

19 us in your statement, 'Rose', at paragraph 35, that

20 girls weren't allowed to change their pants --

21 A. No.

22 Q. -- on a daily basis?

23 A. No.

24 Q. Can you tell me about that? Who told you that and how

25 was that managed?

1 A. Oh, the housekeeper. That's why we had to leave our
2 pants on the chair at night. I thought it was just in
3 case we wet the bed and then they would have to give us
4 another clean pair of pants, but we were -- we had to
5 wear them for three days.

6 Q. And were you given any reason for that?

7 A. No.

8 Q. And what did you think of that at the time?

9 A. Oh, God, I was disgusted. I hated it. So the second
10 day, [REDACTED] and I used to turn our pants outside-in and
11 wear them, and then come the third day, we would go to
12 the toilet and we would get the soap and wash them and
13 wring them out and put them on damp, but at least they
14 were clean.

15 Q. And you tell us, 'Rose', that you had plenty of pants
16 with you in Fornethy?

17 A. Oh, yes, yes.

18 Q. So it wasn't a case of not having enough pants?

19 A. Oh, no, I had loads.

20 Q. Were there any toys or books or that sort of thing?

21 A. No. They had one swing. They had two swings, but they
22 took one of the swings down, so there was only one left
23 for the whole school. So we -- that was the only toy
24 thing that we had. And the older ones wouldn't go on it
25 because we kept it for the wee ones, and we used to push

1 them and then we'd get another one and give them
2 a wee -- so that was the only one. One swing.

3 Q. And apart from that, 'Rose', do you remember -- do you
4 have any memories of children playing or having fun,
5 anything like that?

6 A. No, no.

7 Q. I think you describe in your statement at paragraph 37
8 that you 'were like robots'?

9 A. Yes.

10 Q. Can you just develop that for me? What do you mean by
11 that?

12 A. Well, when I arrived I was -- I felt it really strange
13 that all those children were outside playing, and nobody
14 was playing. They were all just walking about and
15 looked so sad and I just couldn't -- I couldn't believe
16 it. And then two weeks later I had become that person,
17 just going about doing what I had to do, stand in the
18 queues, strip, do this, do -- and it was just like being
19 a robot by the end of it.

20 Q. And you say that any spare time you had was spent
21 cleaning?

22 A. Yes.

23 Q. Was that something that you were asked to do, to clean?

24 A. Yeah, we were told to do it.

25 Q. Who told you to clean?

1 A. The teachers.

2 Q. And were all the children expected to clean?

3 A. No, just the eldest.

4 Q. And what were your cleaning duties?

5 A. As soon as we arrived, they told us, it was this [REDACTED]
6 weekend, and they said that two of the domestics were
7 off with the flu. But now, as an adult, I'm thinking
8 maybe it was just because they were off for the [REDACTED]
9 weekend. And they told [REDACTED] and I to go up to the
10 kitchen and do washing and drying the dishes. So that's
11 when it started.

12 Then we had to go on our hands and knees, er, with
13 a cloth and clean all the library floor and the dorm
14 floors with a cloth on our hands and knees.

15 Q. And is that sort of cleaning something that you had to
16 do during your whole stay at Fornethy?

17 A. Yes, yes.

18 Q. And it was the teachers who --

19 A. Told us to do it.

20 Q. -- told you to do it. And did they monitor what you
21 were doing or check?

22 A. No, they would leave us to do it and then come back to
23 see if we'd done a good job or if we'd missed a bit or
24 whatever.

25 Q. And if they considered that you hadn't done a good job

1 or that you'd missed a bit?

2 A. Oh, they would tell you to do it again.

3 Q. At paragraph 38 you provide some evidence about Saturday
4 nights in Fornethy and what would happen on a Saturday
5 night. Can you just tell me a little bit about that?

6 A. On a Saturday night they would bring in friends, so it
7 was women, men and children. Some of the children were
8 around about the same age as myself. And during the
9 trial, one of the girls -- one of the teachers said that
10 she'd went there and called Mrs Robertson 'Auntie Pat',
11 so I thought it was their family, but it all made sense.
12 They were friends of Fletcher's.

13 Q. So they were adult and child -- adult friends --

14 A. Yeah.

15 Q. -- of Fletcher's?

16 A. And their children, yes.

17 Q. And their children?

18 A. And they would call Robertson 'Auntie Pat'.

19 Q. I see. And when you mention the trial, that's the trial
20 of Patricia Robertson, which we'll come on to look at --

21 A. Yes.

22 Q. -- a little bit later.

23 Okay, so on a Saturday night, these people who
24 weren't in -- they weren't -- they didn't live in
25 Fornethy but they'd come in --

1 A. No, they only came in on a Saturday. Their children
2 would go and get sweeties out of our -- the tuck shop
3 and they would sit and watch a film with us in the --
4 where we were watching the film. They all sat like --
5 we would sit this side and they would all sit on the
6 other side. (Indicating)

7 Q. So the children who were --

8 A. They never --

9 Q. -- resident at Fornethy were separate?

10 A. Yes, and their children never spoke to us.

11 Q. Okay. And can you help me with what -- how did you feel
12 about these events, were they -- on a Saturday night?
13 What -- at the time, what were your thoughts?

14 A. I got upset because they were so nice to those children
15 and they were horrible to us, and I thought: I wish
16 I was one of their kids and they would be nice to me.
17 And I used to sit looking at them and just think, oh,
18 look how nice Robertson is to that girl and whatever,
19 and oh, it was just -- it upset me terrible. I just
20 wanted to be one of their friends.

21 Q. Can I ask you about schooling and education, 'Rose'.
22 Were you provided with any school --

23 A. Yes.

24 Q. -- classes?

25 A. Yes.

1 Q. So can you tell me about that? Were there classrooms in
2 Fornethy?

3 A. Yes.

4 Q. And who taught in the classrooms?

5 A. Well, Robertson taught us.

6 Q. And did she teach a particular subject or was it like
7 a primary school sort of teacher?

8 A. Yes, a primary school, but it was only like adding up
9 and things, and getting us to write letters home to our
10 parents.

11 Q. Now, we'll come on to look at letter-writing in
12 a moment, but aside from letter-writing, what do you
13 remember being taught? As in, was it maths or --

14 A. Nothing -- mostly maths. But we weren't taught it. She
15 just gave us things to add up to or divide or whatever.
16 We already knew all of that. There was nothing -- she
17 never taught us anything.

18 Q. And were you in a class on a daily basis or --

19 A. Yes, during the week, yes.

20 Q. And do you remember if that was all the children or --

21 A. It was all the children, but there were different -- two
22 classrooms.

23 Q. Two classrooms. And was it divided by age or something
24 else?

25 A. Yes, age.

1 Q. And you've mentioned there that you didn't learn
2 anything and indeed you say that in your statement, that
3 you say there were lessons but that you didn't learn
4 anything new?

5 A. Oh, no.

6 Q. Once you arrived there?

7 A. No. And they weren't for the whole day, because we were
8 out walking most of the day.

9 Q. Perhaps we'll then look at the walking now then.
10 When -- which part of the day were you taken out
11 walking?

12 A. In the morning.

13 Q. And was that most -- did that happen most days?

14 A. Yes.

15 Q. After breakfast?

16 A. Yes.

17 Q. Was that the whole school?

18 A. Yes.

19 Q. And who took you out?

20 A. Well, Robertson and PWH, or RHB.

21 Q. And what were these walks like that you were taken on?

22 A. They were horrendous.

23 Q. How long were they?

24 A. Oh, God, like seven, ten miles.

25 Q. And how -- did that take most of the morning?

1 A. Yes.

2 Q. And did that include all the children --

3 A. Yes.

4 Q. -- from age 5 up to your own sort of age?

5 A. Yes, they walked the same as us, all the 5-year-olds.

6 Q. And was that in all weathers?

7 A. Yes.

8 Q. So what, were you given any inf -- understanding -- what

9 was the purpose of the walk, other than --

10 A. To get us fresh air that we wouldn't have got in scummy

11 Glasgow; that's what they told us.

12 Q. And what happened then on the walks? Can you describe

13 for me, were you in lines?

14 A. Yes, we were in lires, pairs, like [REDACTED] and I would walk

15 together and we would have the wee ones near us.

16 Q. Okay. And was a teacher at the --

17 A. At the front.

18 Q. At the front.

19 A. And sometimes they had one at the back, but sometimes it

20 was only one teacher.

21 Q. And did the teacher set the pace or did you go at the

22 children's pace?

23 A. Oh, no, they set the pace and if we didn't keep up, they

24 would bang our heads together.

25 Q. And what was the pace, what sort of pace was it, from

1 your memory? Was it a comfortable pace?

2 A. Oh, God, no, no. And it was harder for the wee ones, so
3 we had to take their hands.

4 Q. And you speak about the walks in some detail at
5 paragraph 71 of your statement. And you've mentioned
6 there, if children didn't keep up, their heads were
7 banged together.

8 A. Yeah.

9 Q. Who did that?

10 A. The teachers.

11 Q. And is that something that -- did children often not
12 manage to keep up?

13 A. I couldn't -- I couldn't believe that she'd done it to
14 [REDACTED] and I, and we were the eldest. And I thought I was
15 doing well, so I think she just done it just for the
16 sake of doing it.

17 Q. And who did that to you?

18 A. Robertson. And PWH, another time, yeah.

19 Q. Okay. So if there's -- most of the girls are on this
20 walk, the teacher at the front, and if the girls start
21 falling behind, was the teacher continuing the pace,
22 continuing the walk?

23 A. No, some -- mostly there would be one -- the teacher at
24 the end and she would shout and whatever, and then the
25 next thing Robertson would come down and she just got

1 █████'s head and my head and went (Indicating). But they
2 done it to other girls all the time. I don't know --
3 sometime -- I mean, to say that me and █████ weren't
4 keeping up the pace, I just -- that -- I don't believe
5 that. I think that could have been after we had ran
6 away and she was just really annoyed at us and she just
7 wanted to grab us, and ...

8 Q. And in relation to that banging of your heads, you say
9 that you 'never felt pain like' that?

10 A. Oh, God, it was awful. My head was so sore and
11 I thought, I'll never do that again. But I remember now
12 that PWH █████ done it to us another time out for a walk.

13 They had the same -- what one teacher done, they all
14 done. Nobody had a different routine. They kept to
15 that routine.

16 Q. What about the younger, or the very younger children,
17 let's say 5 and 6-year-olds, how did they cope on these
18 walks?

19 A. Oh, they were just -- they were already traumatised.
20 They thought they were never going home, and I used to
21 say: 'You're going to go home, you're going to see your
22 mum again'. But they were -- they were just traumatised
23 by it all. They didn't know -- you could see they were
24 confused the whole time. Their wee faces, it was
25 just -- it was heartbreaking.

1 Q. And if they couldn't keep up with the pace on the
2 walk --

3 A. I know.

4 Q. -- were they punished with their heads banged together?

5 A. Yes. They didn't care what age you were. A 5-year-old
6 got punched the same way as an 11-year-old got punched.

7 Q. Okay.

8 A. To them, we were scum.

9 Q. Now, if children were unwell and sick in Fornethy, were
10 you and [REDACTED] expected to become involved in that?

11 A. Yes. We -- the teachers wouldn't. If anybody had
12 an accident and wet their self, we had to clean the
13 floor. And if they were sick, [REDACTED] and I had to go and
14 get a bucket and clean it, get paper and then wash the
15 floor. The teachers never done -- they wouldn't. That
16 was beneath them.

17 Q. And I think you say that if something was -- if someone
18 was really ill and more help was required, it would be
19 [REDACTED] PWI, the caretaker, who --

20 A. Yes, he came one time with a bucket of sawdust and put
21 it over, 'cos I was quite surprised that she never got
22 us. That's how I knew [REDACTED] PWI had lived there, because
23 it was a Saturday night and I thought, what's [REDACTED] PWI
24 doing here, because I'd never seen him on a Saturday
25 night. And the next thing he was there with his sawdust

1 and cleaned it up.

2 Q. But apart from that, it was really up to you and [REDACTED] to
3 clean up if somebody had --

4 A. Oh, and [REDACTED] -- yeah, yeah. Yeah, me and [REDACTED] had to go
5 and get the buckets and do it all.

6 Q. In paragraph 43, 'Rose', you say that some children went
7 to church --

8 A. Yes.

9 Q. -- on a Sunday. And was there some sort of process of
10 selection of who was going or not going to church?

11 A. Yes. She would say -- there was only about eight went
12 and on a Saturday night before the film, Fletcher would
13 say who was going. She'd read out names and they would
14 know they had to get up on the Sunday and get dressed
15 and go to --

16 Q. And do you know how it was decided who would be going?

17 A. No.

18 Q. And were you ever chosen to go?

19 A. Never.

20 Q. And is that something you would have wanted to do?

21 A. Oh, yeah. Yeah, 'cos I was in church every Sunday.

22 Q. Okay. And you tell us in that paragraph, 'Rose', that
23 you prayed every night when you were in Fornethy.

24 And when you were in bed at night, 'Rose', you also
25 tell us that you could hear the younger children crying

1 in their beds?

2 A. Yeah. They were -- it was heartbreaking. And I was
3 crying too, but I couldn't cry in front of the wee ones,
4 because it's like when you see your mother cry it upsets
5 you, so if they saw me crying, it upset them more. So
6 I wouldn't cry in front of them, but I used to pray to
7 Jesus to come and help us, but he never came.

8 Q. I would now like to ask you, 'Rose', about writing home
9 and the process of writing home, and you talk about this
10 in paragraph 53 and 54 of your statement.

11 I think you say that it was on a Tuesday morning
12 after you'd arrived that Mrs Robertson asked you to
13 write a postcard?

14 A. Mrs Robertson wasn't there when I arrived. She didn't
15 appear till the Tuesday. So she must have had [REDACTED]
16 weekend off. And we all went to the classroom and that
17 was the first time I'd seen the woman. And I was
18 sitting at the back of the class and she handed out
19 postcards to everybody.

20 Of course, not knowing that I wasn't allowed to
21 write, I wrote to my mum, said: 'Get dad, get in the
22 car, come up and get me, this place is horrible and
23 I have to get out of here'.

24 And I'll always remember, mum had sent my sisters
25 and I to elocution classes and I thought, I'll go down

1 and I'll ask her at her desk to give me a stamp and
2 I'll give her my best pos -- posh voice so she'll like
3 me.

4 And I went down and I says: 'Please, Miss, can you
5 give me a stamp?'. And she just -- she never asked me
6 for the card, she grabbed it out my hand, read it, stood
7 up and with full force slapped me hard across the face,
8 and then tore it up. Said: 'Sit down'. And then she
9 pulled down the blackboard and started writing: 'This is
10 what you write to your parents'. And it said: 'We're
11 having a lovely time and I really love it'.

12 Q. And when -- this was your first encounter meeting
13 Mrs Robertson. When she slapped you full force in the
14 face, as you've described, what was your reaction?

15 A. I was crying. It was sore. And I was in shock.
16 I just -- I couldn't believe it. My own parents
17 don't -- didn't do things like that to me, and then this
18 was a stranger and this was the first time I'd seen her,
19 even spoke to her. And I thought I was giving her my
20 best elocution-classes voice, but obviously it didn't
21 work. I wanted her to like me.

22 Q. And you describe there that Mrs Robertson then wrote on
23 the board what she wanted you to write home?

24 A. Yes.

25 Q. And is that what she wrote?

1 A. She wrote that -- what, you know, we were to write:
2 'Dear mum, having a lovely time. I'm so happy to be
3 here and I'm having a wonderful time with all my
4 friends'. Things like that.

5 Q. Did you send a postcard to your sisters?

6 A. Yes.

7 Q. As well as to your parents?

8 A. Yes. The next time when I went to send, I thought --
9 well, they knew -- I knew then I wasn't allowed to tell
10 them how bad it was, so I didn't have to copy from the
11 blackboard. I just had to write I was having a great
12 time.

13 So I knew that. But I thought -- I said to one of
14 the girls: 'What do you do and that, to get message home
15 to your mum and dad and whatever, to say that it's
16 really, really bad?'. And that older girl that we'd
17 first met, she said: 'Write in it something that your
18 parents would think was strange'.

19 So I thought, well, mum, mum's too busy working all
20 the time, and I was the youngest of three and we were
21 quite close in age. My mother never really -- she'd got
22 fed up by the time she got to me. She'd done the 'I'm
23 the mother' with the two -- my two sisters. When she
24 got to me, she was like bored of it. So I thought, oh,
25 I'll write to my sisters, and they'll -- 'cos they

1 adored me, and I thought they'll see it and they'll get
2 in contact and they'll tell mum to listen.

3 So I put in it: 'How's the dog?'. We didn't have
4 a dog. And I thought, they'll be saying to mum: why is
5 she saying -- there's something wrong with 'Rose',
6 there's something wrong with her, mum. But they didn't.
7 They thought -- when I asked them when I came home, they
8 said they thought I was going crazy.

9 Q. Now, another -- you mentioned the older girl there who
10 you had met when you first arrived, and I think you have
11 already told us this morning that another thing she
12 mentioned to you was that if you ran away that you would
13 be sent home early?

14 A. Yes, yes.

15 Q. And did there come a time then, 'Rose', when you decided
16 that you would try to run away?

17 A. Oh, yeah, I couldn't take any more of it.

18 Q. And I think you tell us in paragraphs 55 onwards of your
19 statement, 'Rose', about a plan that you had to run
20 away?

21 A. Yes.

22 Q. Can you tell the Inquiry about that?

23 A. Yes. Well, we were 11, so we weren't stupid enough to
24 think that we could go back to Glasgow. And we were out
25 in the world, there was nobody about where we were. So

1 I thought, if we just make up a plan that we're running
2 away, they think that we're running away, then come
3 back, and they'll say: 'Well, they ran away, so let's
4 send them home'. Because that's what she told us
5 happens.

6 So [REDACTED] and I made up a plan that we were going to
7 do it and the school -- the other kids knew that we were
8 going to do it, because we had to go back on the line
9 when we were out for our walks.

10 So we had to tell them what we were up to. Well,
11 the two wee sisters werenae having it. They were like:
12 'No, we have to come with you, 'cos you can't get sent
13 home and us two to be here and we're going to have
14 nobody to look after us'.

15 And the other wee ones that we looked after too,
16 they werenae keen on us two going away, because we did
17 look after them, and they thought: 'You can't do that,
18 you can't leave us'.

19 So the two wee ones in our dorm said: 'Please take
20 us with'. And I said: 'We can't, because we'll get into
21 more trouble taking yous, and then, you're only 5 and 6,
22 you can't run fast', like [REDACTED] and I could run.

23 And they were crying and they were -- then they got
24 hysterical. Now, this was at nighttime when we were
25 planning it all. And they said: 'Don't leave us. Don't

1 leave us here. We can't -- you can't leave us 'Rose',
2 please don't'. And I thought, oh, we're going to be in
3 big, big trouble. So we decided, [REDACTED] and I decided to
4 stop them. We says: 'We'll take yous with us'. And,
5 oh, their wee faces, they were so glad that they were
6 going to get sent home along with us.

7 So [REDACTED] and I went for the milk the night before and
8 the biscuits, and we stole some biscuits and wrapped 'em
9 up in a tissue, and we were going to have our biscuits
10 when we ran away. And we were quite excited about it,
11 but frightened too, because you werenae allowed to talk,
12 never mind run away.

13 And we knew we'd be in big trouble, but we had to do
14 it, because I just couldn't -- this was two weeks.
15 I had to get home. I couldnae take much more of this.
16 Plus the stress of looking after the wee ones too. It
17 was just too much.

18 So on the day, the two wee ones were in front and we
19 kept going back, the four of us, to the very end, and it
20 was only one teacher at the front. And then eventually
21 we came to like a bank and we -- the four of us ran up
22 it. I had the 5-year-old and [REDACTED] had the 6-year-old by
23 the hand and we pulled them up it, and then we ducked
24 down. Oh, God what a relief. And we watched 'em walk
25 away and it was -- we were so happy. We were away from

1 that.

2 And we eventually -- we got our wee biscuits out to
3 have a wee picnic and we stayed there for about an hour,
4 maybe an hour-and-a-half, and then we got up and we
5 walked to see where -- to the school, so from
6 a distance, and we could see that the police had arrived
7 and we thought: oh, great, we'll go back and the police
8 are there, somebody from the outside is there, so we can
9 say to the policeman: 'Please take us home, this place
10 is horrible and they're basically kidnapping us and
11 they're keeping us there and telling us to tell our
12 family that it's wonderful. Please help us'.

13 So that was the idea of it. So the four of us
14 walked back. I had the 5-year-old, [REDACTED] had the
15 6-year-old. Policeman there. And Robertson saw us and
16 thought: no way are you telling anybody anything. And
17 the policeman said, I always remember, he was saying
18 about: 'What the hell are yous doing out there? There's
19 been murders in the moors'.

20 That must have been down in, was it Yorkshire or
21 something he was going on about.

22 And then she's: 'You shouldnae be out there on your
23 own and everything, it's too dangerous'. And then she
24 said: 'Get up to the dorm, the four of you'.

25 So we went up and we were, like, oh, this is great,

1 we're going to get sent home. The bus is here with the
2 new ones. We'll go home on that bus, back to Glasgow.

3 And the next thing, she come up with PWH, the
4 police had gone, and the wee one was crying, all upset,
5 so I'd went across to her bed and I was holding her and
6 cuddling her and saying: 'We're going to go home, we're
7 going home, we're going on the bus, we'll get our
8 clothes, we'll go'.

9 And she come in, saw me, grabbed me by the hair,
10 flung me down and started kicking into me, punching my
11 face, everything. I was black and blue.

12 And then she says: 'Everybody on the ground'.

13 Q. That's Robertson?

14 A. Yeah. And then she said to PWH: 'We need to tie them
15 up in case they jump out the window'. And I thought:
16 are these people stupid? We're one up. How the hell
17 are we going to be jumping out of any window to go
18 anywhere? And plus I was already -- I was crying and
19 I'd been beaten.

20 And then she said: 'What do you think we should tie
21 them up with?'. And PWH says: 'I don't know'. She
22 says: 'Oh, I know, I know exactly what we'll tie them up
23 with'. And she left and she came back with four
24 monitors' sashes, the sashes that the monitors used to
25 wear. And she got our hand -- our arms and she tied us

1 to our bed.

2 And I always remember, I'm sitting there on the
3 ground, looking at my arm and thinking, what the hell am
4 I doing here? Who are these people? This is crazy.

5 Q. So you were sitting on the floor?

6 A. Yeah.

7 Q. Tied to your bed?

8 A. Yeah.

9 Q. All four of you?

10 A. All four of us. The fact that she done it to the 5 and
11 6-year-old, pfft, really upset me. I thought: how could
12 do you that? They're babies and you're tying them.
13 I mean, even to me, to do that to me and [REDACTED]. But they
14 were doing it to kids half our age.

15 Q. And were the girls, the younger girls, were they crying?

16 A. Oh, God, they were hysterical. And then she just went
17 away and left us. And I kept having -- I just
18 remembered thinking, if my big sisters were here, they
19 would be talking to me and they would be saying:
20 'Everything's going to be all right'.

21 So I said to her, to the wee ones: 'Everything's
22 going to be all right. We're going to get sent home.
23 Just keep thinking that, we're no going to be here
24 anymore. We're going home. You're going to see your
25 mum, and I'm not going to let anything happen to you

1 and I will help you'.

2 And then they started -- one of them needed the
3 toilet, and if you wet yourself it would have been
4 worse, so I kept saying to them: 'Hold in the toilet'.
5 And then I started singing wee songs to them, and 'Jesus
6 Loves Me', I sang it all, and that -- we were there till
7 about 8/9 o'clock at night.

8 And then the door -- it was pitch black, we didn't
9 have any lights on, we couldn't go to put the light on
10 because we were tied up. And then Robertson came in and
11 she come over to me first, I think, or -- I can't
12 remember, was it the first? And she says to me -- no,
13 she untied, I think, the baby, the 5-year-old, and then
14 she came to me and she says to me: 'You're all right
15 because Fletcher -- Mrs Fletcher's too drunk and you're
16 not going to get beaten up tonight because
17 Mrs Fletcher's too drunk because [REDACTED] won [REDACTED]
18 [REDACTED] today and she's too happy to be bothered
19 with the likes of yours'.

20 And I thought, oh, thank God. But I didn't even
21 know where [REDACTED] was, never mind that they'd won [REDACTED]
22 [REDACTED].

23 Q. So before Mrs Robertson left you there, tied up, had she
24 said to you that Mrs Fletcher would be in later on --

25 A. Yeah.

1 Q. -- to be --

2 A. Oh, yes, sorry. She'd said to us: 'Wait till' -- when
3 she tied us up, she said: 'Wait till Fletch --
4 Mrs Fletcher comes back, yous are gonna get a battering
5 for this'. So that's why the wee ones were even more --

6 Q. So you were left, tied up, sitting there, as far as you
7 were concerned, waiting for a beating?

8 A. Yes, yes, but because [REDACTED] won [REDACTED], we
9 never got a beating.

10 And then during the trial, seemingly, Mr Stewart,
11 her barrister, said that they hadnae won it since 1947,
12 so that's how it was such a big deal. But then, when
13 I went down to get the milk and biscuits later on, after
14 she'd untied us, Mrs Fletcher was drunk, and that's the
15 only time I'd ever, ever seen that woman smile.

16 Q. And I think what you found out, 'Rose', was that you
17 weren't sent home straight after running away?

18 A. No. No, they kept us.

19 Q. I now want to ask you, 'Rose', about bed-wetting, girls
20 who wet the bed in Fornethy. And did some of the girls
21 in your dorm wet the bed?

22 A. Yes.

23 Q. And indeed I think you say that in your first morning,
24 in your first morning --

25 A. Yes.

1 Q. -- when you woke up in Fornethy, that one of the younger
2 girls in your dorm had wet the bed?

3 A. Yes, not one of the wee ones, the one next to me.

4 Q. And was that a girl who was about 8? 8 or so?

5 A. Yes, yes.

6 Q. I think you tell us that the younger girls were opposite
7 you?

8 A. Yes.

9 Q. And the 8-year-old was beside you?

10 A. Was beside me.

11 Q. And it was the girl beside you who had wet the bed?

12 A. Yes.

13 Q. And what happened then in the morning and how did you
14 realise that she'd wet the bed?

15 A. Well, in the morning we had to turn down our sheets and
16 then this housekeeper would check all the beds. She
17 never checked the older girls, but she checked all the
18 younger ones. And this girl had wet the bed, and she
19 grabbed her by the hair, dragged her out, and she fell
20 on the floor, on the ground, and she just started
21 kicking and punching her. And the wee one across from
22 me was crying and hysterical and she was holding on to
23 my skirt, behind me, so scared. And I thought, oh, God,
24 we cannae have this every day, this is terrible.

25 And the wee girl was just rolled up at the bottom of

1 the bed, where her bed was but on the ground, and rolled
2 up like a ball, and she wouldnae stop, she wouldn't stop
3 kicking her. And she was shouting at her and she was
4 calling her names and everything.

5 Q. Do you remember what sort of names she was calling her?

6 A. Oh, no, 'cos I was so upset by it. And then I was upset
7 also because the wee ones were behind me, holding my
8 skirt and they were shaking and I was frightened for
9 them, seeing this, 'cos it was frightening for me.

10 Q. And this was your first morning?

11 A. Yes.

12 Q. Did you and [REDACTED] then become involved in trying to help
13 the younger children or anybody who had wet the bed?

14 A. Yes, yes.

15 Q. And what did you start to do in order to help children
16 with that?

17 A. We would take their wet sheet off, the bottom wet sheet
18 off, and then we would give them our top sheet. So the
19 girls all knew, so other dorms would send somebody in:
20 'Oh, somebody's crying, they've wet the bed'. And
21 I would take my sheet and go down the corridor, which
22 was really, really -- 'cos if you got caught out the
23 bed. And sometimes, if we didn't have sheets left,
24 I would pull their wet part of it up under -- and tuck
25 it under their pillow, because -- and then they would

1 have, like, the sheet would then be hiding under the
2 pillow or down at the bottom.

3 Q. So you, really, in this way, you were trying to -- you
4 were protecting the younger girls?

5 A. Oh, yeah.

6 Q. Before the inspection by the housekeeper?

7 A. Yes, yeah, and I would take their wet sheet and give
8 them my dry sheet, but then she never checked my bed.

9 So then, on I think it was a Wednesday, they would
10 come for laundry. We would keep that woman talking and
11 whatever while we all grabbed all the sheets, because
12 there was a big bag she would come in with, and put them
13 in without her seeing that the beds -- they had already
14 dried by that time, you know, but there was still urine
15 on them.

16 One day she came in and -- because you would hear
17 the kids screaming in the next dorms and all that when
18 she was beating them up for wetting in the bed. So it
19 was upsetting for us all. But one day she came into our
20 dorm and she said: 'Oh, my God, that's every single girl
21 in this school and there's not one bed wet'. And she
22 didnae know I'd been up most of the night changing them
23 all before she came in. And we all started doing
24 Ring-A-Ring-A-Roses. We all took hands, because she was
25 happy, so it was making us happy. We were having this

1 happy atmosphere, no wet beds, no fighting, no
2 screaming, nobody getting kicked and punched or dragged
3 by the hair. And it was such a magical moment. She was
4 so happy.

5 So we were happy for her.

6 Q. And as an 11-year-old child, 'Rose', was this a huge
7 amount of pressure on you to do this and to protect the
8 children in this way?

9 A. Not so much. I mean, I never thought anything -- I just
10 done it because my sisters would do that for me, so
11 I done it for them. It was more being frightened to go
12 down to another place, another dorm or whatever, because
13 if you get caught, you would have been beaten up, you
14 know. So that was more of a pressure than doing that.
15 I just done what a big sister would do.

16 Q. I now want to ask you, 'Rose', about an incident you
17 tell us about in paragraph 68 onwards of your statement,
18 and that's about a time when you remember looking out
19 the window and seeing little frogs.

20 A. Yes.

21 Q. Was that yourself and [REDACTED] looking out; it was the
22 dormitory window?

23 A. There was about five girls, we were all in the toilet
24 and it was downstairs and we looked out and we'd seen
25 these -- God, there was millions of them and they were

1 so tiny. They must have just have come from some pond
2 or whatever. But coming from Glasgow, we'd never seen
3 frogs on a daily thing.

4 So [REDACTED] and I decided, we'll go out, we'll get some
5 and we'll show the wee ones and that will cheer them up,
6 you know, seeing a wee baby frog for them.

7 So we lifted the window up in the toilet and five of
8 us got out and we were grabbing them, and it was such
9 a joyous time, and we were going to show the babies and
10 they were going to love it and they were going to get to
11 hold one and, you know, it was an adventure going out to
12 get them and whatever.

13 And then we hid them up our jumpers and we pulled
14 them and we were holding them like that (Indicating), so
15 we were hiding 'em, but they were in our -- basically in
16 our -- with our vest, between our vest and our jumper.

17 And we came back in and one of the girls, I think
18 a monitor, who went away and told Fletcher what we had
19 done, and the next thing, Fletcher said everybody to get
20 into the assembly room.

21 So we all went and she put on her robe, you know,
22 that she would have as a teacher, you know, the black,
23 she put that on and she came with a belt, you know that
24 you had, the belt at school.

25 Q. And were all the girls taken into the assembly room?

1 A. Yes, they all had to sit in the seats.

2 Q. All the girls in the school?

3 A. Yes, and the five of us had to stand up there with all
4 the teachers and the student teacher.

5 Q. So you were at the front?

6 A. I was standing in a row with the five, five of us, and
7 all the other girls in the school were all sitting in
8 seats. And Fletcher said: 'I want yous to drop your
9 pants to your ankles'. And I got that. So we all did
10 it. Then she says: 'I want yous all to tuck up skirts'.
11 So we all rolled up our skirts and tucked it up. And by
12 this time, some of the frogs were jumping everywhere,
13 all in this room. And then she says: 'I want yous all,
14 every single one of yous, to bend over and touch your
15 toes'. And I'm like, why have we to bend over and
16 touch -- I could understand the other parts, but I just
17 couldnae understand this. Why are we to do this?

18 But we done it. She was screaming at us. And then
19 she -- the only time I ever, ever seen a school belt.
20 She brought out the school belt and she whacked on our
21 bottoms, every single one of us. And we were all
22 screaming, we were rolling about the floor. And I just
23 thought, all those girls, the older girls, are going to
24 laugh at seeing our bottoms, but -- buttocks, whatever.
25 I thought they're going to laugh at us and make fun of

1 us 'cos we're older and all that. But they didn't. Not
2 one of them. They were all traumatised.

3 Then she handed the belt to Robertson and Robertson
4 gave us what for. Of course, we couldnae get up, back
5 up to do -- touch our toes and all that, because we were
6 in pain, but --

7 Q. You were on the floor by this point?

8 A. Yeah, we were all, five of us, rolling about the floor,
9 screaming in pain. And then she said -- she started
10 screaming at us to get back up so Robertson could do it
11 to us all.

12 Eventually, we all got to get together and we had to
13 do it again, knowing that we were going to be doing. So
14 it was the same thing, and we were all rolling about on
15 the floor and we were all in pain and we were all
16 screaming.

17 Q. So did Robertson hit each of you?

18 A. Yes.

19 Q. On the bare backside with the belt?

20 A. Yes, yes. And then Robertson handed it to PWH and
21 then we had to get us all together again, make sure the
22 five of us were all lined up. Back, touching our toes
23 with our bottoms in the air, so that PWH could do it.
24 And then RHB.

25 Q. And did PWH do it, did she --

1 A. Yes.

2 Q. So she hit --

3 A. PWH done all -- yes.

4 Q. -- all of you again with the belt?

5 A. Yes, she hit us all with the belt again and of course we
6 would all be screaming for about another 20, 30 minutes,
7 lying on the floor screaming before they could organise
8 us all again to do it again. So that RHB could do
9 it. And by this time I was so beaten down and
10 I thought -- and they were younger than me, some of
11 them, you know, they were like maybe 9, 10. And
12 I thought, oh God. And then we had to do it all over
13 again and it took time for the five of us all to get to
14 be on the line, all touching our toes so that RHB
15 could then do it.

16 But then she handed it to this student, who I would
17 have said wisnae much older than myself, maybe about six
18 years maybe older than me. And she had the belt and
19 then she come up and I was like that, looking at her,
20 like, please, please, just don't, this is too much.
21 (Indicating). And then the next thing she got the belt,
22 this wee student, and she tapped us. And then
23 I remember Fletcher at the end of it, grabbing it off
24 her because she'd only tapped us, and I looked at her
25 face. And the girl was just as embarrassed as what we

1 were and her face was bright red and she was near to
2 tears. And I thought, she cannae take this and watching
3 us getting that done.

4 Q. So you've described there, 'Rose', the five girls
5 standing there and being hit on the bare backside with
6 this belt, to the extent that you were falling onto the
7 floor?

8 A. Yes.

9 Q. By each of these four teachers that you have told me
10 about. And did each of them, did they hit you once on
11 the backside or more than once?

12 A. No, it was once, but I think it was five teachers, was
13 it not? Fletcher, Robertson, PWH, RHB and the
14 wee --

15 Q. And the student, yes, yes, four -- yes, five, including
16 the student.

17 A. Yeah, five, yeah.

18 Q. So what sort of state were you in by the end of this?

19 A. Oh, God. We were an absolute wreck, the five of us. We
20 couldnae move, we couldnae sit down, we were black and
21 blue, because sometimes they got -- they would miss,
22 they missed or whatever, so our legs got it or whatever.
23 Oh, it was -- and the pain was just horrendous.

24 Q. I think you mentioned that Mrs Fletcher was screaming at
25 points and was saying --

1 A. Yes.

2 Q. What -- do you remember what sort of things she was
3 saying?

4 A. Well, she was making us an example, to make sure that
5 all of them that was sitting there, watching it, never
6 been out a window and done anything that made them
7 happy, like collecting wee frogs. She wanted them all
8 to see what happens to you if you don't follow the rules
9 and don't become a robot.

10 Q. Was she saying: 'This is what will happen to you'?

11 A. Yeah, oh, yeah, she was shouting it at us all and she
12 basically made us an example of it. But that was the
13 only time I ever, ever seen that belt. She never, ever
14 used it again.

15 LADY SMITH: Ms MacLeod, it's now just after 11.30.
16 I'd normally take a break at about this stage,
17 'Rose'.

18 A. Yes.

19 LADY SMITH: We have been grilling you for about
20 an hour-and-a-half. Would it work for you if we took
21 a break now --

22 A. Yes, please, yes.

23 LADY SMITH: -- for about 15 minutes or so? Then we'll
24 return to your evidence after that.

25 A. Right.

1 LADY SMITH: Let's do that.
2 (11.33 am)
3 (A short break)
4 (11.50 am)
5 LADY SMITH: 'Rose', welcome back, I hope that break helped.
6 Are you ready for us to carry on?
7 A. Yes.
8 LADY SMITH: Thank you very much.
9 Ms MacLeod.
10 MS MACLEOD: My Lady.
11 Hi again, 'Rose'.
12 A. Hi.
13 Q. I now want to ask you, please, about something you tell
14 us about in paragraph 72 of your statement, and that's
15 where you say that you remember an occasion when
16 Robertson came into the dorm and took one of the younger
17 girls out of the dorm.
18 A. Yes.
19 Q. Can you tell me about that?
20 A. It was one night when they were having their parties,
21 and the wee girl that was across from my bed, right at
22 the door, Robertson came in and took her out of bed.
23 And I started to panic. I didn't know where she was
24 taking her from. And then, about half an hour later,
25 she brought her back and I couldn't wait to -- for

1 Robertson to leave. And when she did, I got out of bed
2 and jumped into bed with the wee one and I says: 'What
3 happened? Where did they take you?'. She says: 'They
4 took me down to a party and there was children there and
5 men and women and they gave me crisps'. And she was all
6 happy 'cos she'd got some crisps.

7 And I was like: 'Has anything else happened to
8 you?', 'cos I was like typical wee mum, I wanted to know
9 what they'd done to her, if they'd hurt her or --
10 I wasn't thinking anything but being beaten up. That
11 was all I was thinking of. I didn't think of anything
12 untowards.

13 And she says: 'No, I'm fine, I'm fine, I'm all
14 right, I had crisps'. And I thought, oh, good. So
15 I went back to bed and I felt better. But for that half
16 an hour that she was away, I just panicked.

17 Q. In the following paragraph, 73, you speak about
18 something which you say stuck out and upset you
19 terribly, was when I think it may have been the same
20 child put sugar in her porridge one morning.

21 A. Yeah.

22 Q. Can you tell me about that?

23 A. We were -- [REDACTED] and I were sitting a bit away from them
24 and the next thing, Fletcher and Robertson were at her
25 and Fletcher was screaming at her and we didn't know

1 what happened.

2 Q. This was in the dining room?

3 A. Yes, in the breakfast, at breakfast time. So everybody
4 was like -- because we weren't allowed to talk, so we
5 were all whispering: did you see? What happened? What
6 happened? And we were all: what's going on? You know.
7 And then somebody said she put sugar in her porridge and
8 the next thing, Fletcher punched her, like a man would
9 punch another man. She punched a 5-year-old in the face
10 for putting sugar in her porridge. She said: 'That's
11 for English people, not for Scottish people. We take
12 salt'.

13 And, oh, my God, I was in such a state seeing it.
14 I never knew that these women at that age -- and I was
15 only turned 11, and I wouldn't even touch a 5-year-old,
16 yet they were like (indicating) in the face. That
17 just -- that was really heartbreaking and that wee soul,
18 I just felt for her and she had a big bruise on her face
19 and -- oh, it was awful.

20 No wonder they were so traumatised. No wonder they
21 were -- they couldnae -- they couldnae concentrate on
22 anything. They just went about all confused and scared,
23 and ...

24 Q. I think what you tell us, 'Rose', is that you were old
25 enough perhaps to understand that you were going home at

1 a certain point?

2 A. Yes.

3 Q. But that for the younger ones --

4 A. No, they thought they were --

5 Q. -- they didn't know that sort of thing.

6 A. No, they thought they were going to keep them for the

7 rest of their lives and they were going to be punched

8 and kicked and -- for the rest of their lives.

9 Q. You also tell the Inquiry, this is in paragraph 75,

10 about a time when there was a fight, I think, or one of

11 the --

12 A. Yes.

13 Q. -- little girls hit another girl?

14 A. Yes.

15 Q. Can you tell me about that?

16 A. One of the girls, oh, God, she would maybe about 9/10,

17 hit another wee girl, and of course me being the eldest

18 in the school, they came to me and they said: '"Rose",

19 so-and-so, so-and-so hit me, gonna help me?', and I said

20 yeah. So I told her to come into the bathroom and

21 I said to her: 'Don't do that, because we've got enough

22 with teachers belting us and punching us without you

23 doing it'. And I says: 'So, if do you it again, I'll do

24 it to you'. But there was no way I would hit her. But

25 I was warning her not to do it because it wisnae nice,

1 and we had to concentrate on the beatings we were
2 getting from them and tiptoe round them and make sure
3 they were happy and --

4 Q. The teachers?

5 A. Yes. And we couldnae be dealing with then us fighting
6 against each other.

7 So she went out the toilet and she told Robertson.
8 So Robertson was waiting for me and I came out and she
9 grabbed me by the hair, pulled me, and then ripped off
10 my pants. And I mean, I was quite tall at 11, but she
11 was a big lanky thing, she was -- and then she grabbed
12 me and put me over her knee, lifted my skirt up and
13 started beating into me on my bottom, and I was like,
14 oh, my God, I'm 11, what are you doing?

15 Q. And were other people there when she did this?

16 A. All of them were there, all the kids were there. It was
17 in the changing rooms where we used to put our wellies
18 on, and the toilets were just beside it.

19 Q. And I think as well as being obviously shocked and upset
20 by the beating, you also say in your statement that you
21 were embarrassed?

22 A. I was embarrassed. I mean, don't get me wrong, when
23 I was wee, my daddy would put me over his knee, but he
24 never took down my pants. And I would be about maybe
25 5/6 or whatever and he'd say: 'Stop being naughty, stop

1 fighting with your sisters', or whatever. But this,
2 this was -- that was a tap my dad would do. This was
3 another level. I mean, and I just, I had it in my head:
4 why do you need to take my pants off? Why do you need
5 to strip us all the time? What is going on?

6 Q. Now, in terms of day-to-day life in Fornethy, for
7 example, walking around the school, I think you tell us
8 that the teachers would hit you as you walked past?

9 A. Yes. When we were going into the dining room we had to
10 queue up and they would all be standing there, and as we
11 passed them, they would just go wallop, wallop.

12 Q. And which part of the body would --

13 A. Head, the head.

14 Q. And which teachers were involved in that?

15 A. All of them. Except for the student. She never done
16 anything like that.

17 Q. So what was the atmosphere like, living in that sort of
18 environment?

19 A. It was like basically you were being kidnapped. You
20 weren't allowed to talk to each other. You weren't
21 allowed to speak to your family. We didn't know how
22 long we were going to be there. So it was like they
23 were holding us against our will. And they wouldn't let
24 anybody in from the outside to see -- into there, 'cos
25 then they would see and they were -- obviously they were

1 frightened in case one of us spoke up, especially me.
2 They were -- they were scared. That's why I never went
3 to church, 'cos they were scared in case I would tell on
4 them. Because I was so desperate to get out of there
5 and I had to look after those wee ones and I wanted to
6 make sure that they were safe too. So I would have
7 told. I would have. If I had got -- so they wouldn't
8 let anybody in.

9 So then when the minister used to come on
10 a Wednesday, that was the only person from outside that
11 got in, and he would come and Fletcher would have us in
12 that room, all of us, the whole school, in her robe,
13 walking up and down, telling us not to talk to him, not
14 to go near them. 'Cos they were frightened that one of
15 us would slip up and tell them exactly what was going on
16 in that school.

17 Q. So you were warned not to speak to the minister?

18 A. Yes. And, my opinion, the minister never knew what was
19 going on there, 'cos he never seen it, because they
20 never done anything in the dining room. They never,
21 they never beat up a kid in the dining room that night
22 when he came for dinner with his wife. And he used to
23 sit with the teachers and everything was lovely, and it
24 was always like: oh, it's a night off tonight 'cos the
25 minister's coming and we can all relax, because none of

1 the kids are going to be force-fed sick and whatever.

2 But, before he came, she would make sure every
3 single one of us knew -- we were scared to look at that
4 man's face in case he spoke to us, because if he'd spoke
5 to us and we said the wrong thing, we would have been
6 beaten.

7 Q. Did the girls have injuries?

8 A. All of us. We all walked about with black eyes, bruises
9 everywhere. I never put in the statement, but I do
10 remember going home and my mum saying: 'What the hell
11 have you been up to? Look at the states of you with all
12 them bruises. Who's been climbing trees', or whatever,
13 'What have you been doing out in the woods?'.
14 Q. I think you mention in your statement also, 'Rose', that
15 you weren't allowed to speak to the domestic staff --

16 A. Mm-hmm.

17 Q. -- is that right?

18 A. Yes.

19 Q. And who told you that?

20 A. Fletcher.

21 Q. And was there any reason or explanation given as to why
22 you weren't allowed to speak to the domestic staff?

23 A. I mean, now as an adult, I know it was because she
24 didn't want any of us to tell them anything. But the
25 dinner cook and the helpers in the dining -- in the

1 kitchens, they would have all seen it. The domestics
2 might have got away from seeing it if they were doing
3 washing downstairs and whatever, but those -- those
4 women that was in that kitchen had -- it had like a wee
5 gap thing, you know, that they could look through from
6 the kitchen into the dining room. So they would've
7 heard it. They would've seen it. And yet at the trial,
8 we were baking cakes with these women, seemingly.

9 And a domestic did come up to us and asked to talk
10 to us. They were asking us what was the school like and
11 whatever. And [REDACTED] and I just froze. And I said to
12 her: 'I'm sorry, but I'm not allowed to talk to you'.
13 And she says: 'Why not?' I says: 'I don't know'. And
14 [REDACTED] says: 'No, we don't know why, but we've been told
15 not to speak to you'.

16 Q. And I think you do mention that in your statement,
17 'Rose' --

18 A. Yes.

19 Q. -- at paragraph 80, that that's what was drummed into
20 you?

21 A. Mm-hmm, mm-hmm.

22 Q. I now want to ask you, ^{PLP} [REDACTED], about that part of
23 your statement where you describe an incident of sexual
24 abuse at Fornethy, and you describe that from
25 paragraph 87 of your statement onwards.

1 And I think at 91 you explain that this happened
2 shortly after you found out that you were going to be
3 going home?

4 A. Yes.

5 Q. Is that right?

6 A. Yes.

7 Q. I think you say that it was Robertson who said to you
8 that Fletcher wanted to see you and she told you, you
9 were going home the next day?

10 A. Robertson said to me: 'Go down to the tuck shop,
11 Fletcher' -- 'Mrs Fletcher', she said -- 'Wants to see
12 you'.

13 So I went down, and Fletcher said to me: 'You're
14 going home tomorrow and now you're going home' -- so
15 nice -- 'You can take a box of Maltesers or anything as
16 a wee sweetie to give to your mum'.

17 Right away I knew I'm getting blackmailed to take
18 a box of Maltesers to my mother so that I don't tell
19 anything that's went on here. I knew right away. It
20 was the only time that woman was ever nice to me and she
21 had a smile in her face and I thought: I know exactly
22 what you're doing.

23 But I came -- I came fae a house that had money and
24 it had boxes of Maltesers, like it was a sweetie on a --
25 at nighttime, so I wisnae impressed with a box of

1 Maltesers to shut me up. But, she did shut me up, for
2 50-odd years.

3 Q. And I think you tell the Inquiry, in paragraph 91, that
4 it was, it was -- you were happy to be going home and it
5 was as you came out of the -- out of the tuck shop that
6 something happened to you.

7 A. Mm-hmm.

8 Q. Now, can you tell me, 'Rose', who was there when you
9 came out of the tuck shop?

10 A. PWI was in the corridor, and the corridor's very long
11 and dark. And I seen him. It was as if he was waiting
12 for me, but I didn't know that at the time. And I came
13 out and I saw PWI.

14 Q. That's the caretaker?

15 A. Yes. And I loved this man. Everybody loved him. The
16 staff all loved him. The children adored him. And the
17 dom -- I'm sure the domestics and everybody, 'cos he was
18 such a nice, nice man. He was the only person that
19 smiled. The only person that you got a warmth from.

20 And he put out his arms and I'm shouting: 'PWI,
21 I'm going home, I'm going home'. And he bent like that
22 to me. (Indicating). He never said anything, he just
23 went like that.

24 Q. So he held his hands -- his arms open wide?

25 A. Yeah, to give me a hug, because we used to hug him all

1 the time at playtime and everything. And, so I ran to
2 him. And, he put his arms round me and he wouldn't let
3 me go. And I felt this hard thing and it was hurting me
4 down there, and then I said: 'PWI [REDACTED], let me go, let me
5 go'.

6 So I pulled my head back, and I'm saying, why is he
7 not listening to me? Why is he not -- something like
8 that. And he had his arms round me there and pressing
9 me against 'im.

10 Q. Round your waist, you're indicating?

11 A. Yeah, he had his arms round there and I could feel this
12 thing hurting me down there and I thought, what are you
13 doing, PWI [REDACTED]? So I pulled my head back to see why he
14 wisnae listening to me, and it was like he was in
15 a trance. And I thought, God -- I didn't know if he was
16 like having a seizure or something or whatever, but
17 I didn't know what it was. And I thought, PWI [REDACTED],
18 you're hurting me.

19 So I started hitting his back and all that to let me
20 go. And I thought, what the hell's going on here?
21 Because this man was wonderful. We all loved 'im. He
22 was such a lovely man. The teachers loved 'im. What
23 the hell's he doing to me? And he was hurting me.

24 And then all of a sudden he just let me go.

25 So I ran, and it was the bottom of the stairs to go

1 back up to the classrooms and I thought, he's going to
2 get me again. So -- and I thought, I'm going to slow
3 down going up those steps.

4 So I thought, I'll look back and see where he is so
5 that I've got an idea of where he is and how long it is
6 to get up them stairs. And I looked back and he was
7 just standing there, smiling at me.

8 And then I tried to run up them, you know, how like
9 you would take as a kid two steps at a time, to get away
10 from him. Went back to the classroom. I'd been crying.
11 And one of the girls at the back whispered: 'PLP [REDACTED],
12 what's wrong' -- or 'Rose', 'What's wrong with you?'
13 And I said: 'I'm going home, I'm all right'. And she
14 said: 'Well, why are you crying' -- no, whispering, so
15 Robertson wouldnae hear. And I says: 'I'm okay,
16 I'm going home'.

17 So then that night, when I had to get the wee ones
18 all changed and all that, they used to all jump in my
19 bed and cuddle me and all that, I'd sit and they would
20 all be behind me and giving me big hugs, and I told
21 them, I says: 'Stay away from that man. Stay away from
22 PWI [REDACTED]'. And they're going: 'No, no, he's lovely.
23 "Rose", why are you saying that? We all love PWI [REDACTED],
24 you love PWI [REDACTED]. Why are you saying that?'

25 And I didn't know what to tell them, because

1 I didn't know what had happened, but I knew something
2 bad had happened.

3 Q. And I think you found out some years later --

4 A. Yes.

5 Q. -- 'Rose'; you had a realisation as to what had happened
6 and I think you describe in your statement that PWI
7 had had an erection when this was happening to you?

8 A. Yes, and I guess the trance -- when he was in a trance,
9 he was having an orgasm.

10 Q. And you tell the Inquiry, 'Rose', at paragraph 96, you
11 say:

12 'I remember getting on the bus and thinking that
13 I had left them [and that's the wee ones] with him and
14 I was so scared.'

15 A. I was scared leaving them with them teachers, 'cos they
16 were evil women, but then that just topped it with
17 PWI, and it broke my heart. And I don't even
18 remember the journey going back 'cos I was so upset
19 about leaving them all. But I wanted to save them and
20 I couldn't. And I felt really, really guilty, because
21 they leaned on me. They thought I was going to help
22 them and get them out of there and everything was going
23 to be fine. And I couldn't do it.

24 Q. Now, when you got back home, back to Glasgow and to your
25 family, what did you say to your mum about your time at

1 Fornethy?

2 A. Mum said: 'Look at your legs and your bruises, what have
3 you been up to?', and I never said anything. And then
4 later on that night, I said: 'Mum, there was this man,
5 PWI'. And she went: 'Oh, oh, don't tell me you were
6 sexually abused, I couldn't cope with that. I've got my
7 work in the morning, don't tell me anything like that'.
8 And I just thought, was I sexually abused? I didn't
9 know. And then I thought: och, my mum's got so much,
10 she was always working. And I thought, I don't want
11 to -- so I just, I didn't say anything.

12 And then, because mum -- my mother was up working at
13 6.30 in the morning she used to leave, and she'd go
14 across the road to the Western Infirmary, that was her
15 first job. And then I started getting up in the
16 morning, and I was so lazy, because my sisters treated
17 me like a princess. And there I was, up, making all the
18 beds, cleaning the house and whatever, and my mother
19 said: 'That's the best thing that's ever happened to
20 you, going there'. And I thought: mum, if you only
21 knew.

22 Q. What you tell us in paragraph 101 of your statement,
23 'Rose', is you say:

24 'All the joy of being an 11-year-old had been taken
25 away.'

1 A. Oh, yeah. Yeah, been kicked out of me, yeah.

2 Q. You go on to tell us about your life after returning
3 home in terms of schooling, and you say you went on to
4 high school.

5 A. Yes.

6 Q. After being in Fornethy. And that there were times when
7 you got into a lot of trouble?

8 A. Yes.

9 Q. As a child, and that you became a rebel? I think that's
10 what you say.

11 A. I ran about with gangs in Glasgow.

12 Q. And in particular you say that you couldn't stand
13 teachers?

14 A. Oh, God, no. I still can't.

15 Q. And do you link that to what happened to you --

16 A. Oh, God, yeah, yeah.

17 Q. -- at Fornethy?

18 You say that you started to play truant from school?

19 A. Constantly, and the teachers were quite glad and they
20 basically let me away with it, because it was easier for
21 them for me not to be there, because when I was there,
22 I just caused trouble.

23 Q. And you explain that you were clever and that you'd got
24 into one of the best schools in Glasgow, but when --

25 A. It was a senior high school.

1 Q. But when it came to it, that you didn't sat -- you
2 didn't sit your O-Levels?

3 A. No.

4 Q. You didn't go to them.

5 A. I never went in for them. And yet I was expected to get
6 eight O-Levels when I arrived.

7 Q. And you tell us, 'Rose', about when you were 15 and
8 involved with a boy, that that's when you realised what
9 had happened with PWI ?

10 A. Yes. I was kissing him and I wasn't really -- because
11 we never had boys in our family, it was all girls, even
12 my cousins were girls. And I was kissing him and then
13 I felt that same thing that I felt with PWI, and
14 I asked him what it was and he told me. And I just
15 thought, oh, my God.

16 So that was the first time, that was four years
17 after that then I realised what he'd done, and I was so
18 upset, I went home and I took [REDACTED]
19 [REDACTED].

20 'Cos I loved PWI. I thought PWI was
21 a wonderful man.

22 Q. And you tell the Inquiry a little about what you went on
23 to do when you were a little older. You say you were
24 a little -- you were a bit wild, and after school you
25 went into window dressing --

1 A. Yes.

2 Q. -- I think you say? And you tell the Inquiry that you
3 got married and had your children.

4 A. Yes.

5 Q. Now, in terms of the impact that you consider your time
6 at Fornethy has had on you, what you say at
7 paragraph 117 is that you 'were a different person to
8 [what] you had been' when you arrived at Fornethy?

9 A. Oh, yeah, definitely, yeah.

10 Q. That you were quieter, as a result of being told in
11 Fornethy not to speak to people, for example?

12 A. Yeah.

13 Q. You say at paragraph 121 that you 'hate walking because
14 of the long walks that went on at Fornethy'?

15 A. Yes, yes.

16 Q. And in relation to your own children, you say that you
17 would never let them stay over --

18 A. No.

19 Q. -- anywhere?

20 A. No, never. Never.

21 Q. At paragraph 130, 'Rose', you tell the Inquiry that you
22 have flashbacks of the abuse that you suffered at
23 Fornethy?

24 A. Yes. Especially that wee 5-year-old getting punched for
25 the sugar incident. That upsets me terrible.

1 Q. And is that flashbacks that you continue to have to this
2 day?

3 A. Och, all of it, yes. But my -- I went down to England
4 to look after -- my uncle took cancer in 2002, and he
5 was married to my Scottish auntie and they never had
6 children. So my husband and I and my children all moved
7 down to be with him and I looked after him. And because
8 he's English, he takes sugar in his porridge, and he
9 loved porridge every day. And every day I gave him
10 porridge, put the sugar in it. 'Cos he was bedridden
11 and eventually he moved in with -- into my house.
12 Because they said he had three years -- three weeks to
13 live, and he lived for another five years. And I used
14 to take his porridge into him and every time I done
15 that, it just upset me.

16 Q. You tell the Inquiry that I think you, for a time, were
17 in contact with a support group, Fornethy support group?

18 A. Yes.

19 Q. [REDACTED] that you made contact with the group?

20 A. Yes.

21 Q. And I think you explain that that was primarily because
22 you hoped to find the two wee girls --

23 A. Yeah.

24 Q. -- that you'd been with in Fornethy. And did you find
25 them?

1 A. No, dear.

2 Q. Now, at paragraph 146 of your statement, you speak about
3 reporting of abuse and you describe that I think you saw
4 something on the television about the Inquiry?

5 A. Yes.

6 Q. And that's what led you to contacting the Inquiry?

7 A. Yes.

8 Q. And that you also contacted the police?

9 A. Yes.

10 Q. Around ten years ago or so?

11 A. Yes.

12 Q. And I think you gave -- the police contacted you at
13 various points and you gave a number of statements --

14 A. Yes.

15 Q. -- to the police. And ultimately I think that led to
16 you giving evidence in the High Court last year --

17 A. Yes.

18 Q. -- at the trial of Patricia Robertson?

19 A. Yes.

20 Q. And I think Patricia Robertson was convicted of a charge
21 where you were the complainer?

22 A. Yes.

23 Q. That was one of the charges of which she was convicted?

24 A. Yes, mm-hmm.

25 Q. In the final part of your statement you set out lessons

1 which you consider could or should be learned, and you
2 first -- you start that by saying at paragraph 161 that
3 'children should not be sent to places like Fornethy
4 without any checks' taking place?

5 A. Oh, definitely, yes.

6 Q. And you ask the question which you continue to have,
7 which is: why did they allow -- why did they allow you
8 to go with a friend, as it were?

9 A. Yes.

10 Q. Which was the basis on which you went into Fornethy,
11 because your friend was going?

12 A. Yes.

13 Q. You say:

14 'Someone should be checking out on the staff because
15 these people were getting away with murder.'

16 A. Oh, yes.

17 Q. You make the point that:

18 'Any member of staff could have saved the kids by
19 speaking up and saying what was going on, but nobody
20 spoke up.'

21 A. Correct.

22 Q. You say that:

23 'Four weeks in a child's life is a long time.'

24 A. Yes, it felt like a year.

25 Q. And you want to speak up for all the wee ones who won't

1 be able to remember as much as you can, potentially,
2 about the time?

3 A. Yes, definitely, yes. They got it. They had a hard
4 time. I think they were -- they were more traumatised
5 constantly and it was so sad to watch them. We knew we
6 were going home.

7 Q. And you say that you want the truth to come out about
8 what happened?

9 A. Yes.

10 Q. That completes all the questions that I have for you,
11 'Rose', and thank you for answering all of my questions.
12 Is there anything else that you would like to say
13 before we complete your evidence?

14 A. I just want you to know how hard it was for all of us,
15 and especially the babies. They didn't deserve that.
16 None of us did, but especially them. Why is adults
17 punching 5 and 6-year-olds? It just is awful.

18 MS MACLEOD: Thank you, 'Rose'.

19 A. Okay.

20 MS MACLEOD: My Lady, I haven't received any questions to
21 put to 'Rose'.

22 LADY SMITH: Thank you.

23 'Rose', let me add my thanks once more --

24 A. Okay.

25 LADY SMITH: -- for you being here today and bearing with us

1 as we have asked you so much about your experience at
2 Fornethy. It's been really, really helpful to hear from
3 you yourself.

4 I'm sure it's taken an awful lot out of you, but
5 I promise you, we'll put it to good use, all the
6 information you've given us. Thank you.

7 Do feel free to go and safe journey back home.

8 A. Okay. Thank you.

9 (The witness withdrew)

10 LADY SMITH: You're probably going to ask me for a short
11 break or are you ready to be -- to go straight on?

12 MS MACLEOD: I think we're ready to go straight on, my Lady.

13 LADY SMITH: Very well, because I know we've got some
14 evidence to read in.

15 Before we do that, I want to mention some names of
16 people whose identities are protected by my General
17 Restriction Order and they're not to be referred to as
18 mentioned in our evidence outside this room.

19 The first one is the witness's own name, which she
20 used at one point herself, and then separately the name
21 of another girl who was at Fornethy with her, her friend
22 [REDACTED], and then some members of staff. [REDACTED] PWI [REDACTED],
23 also I think referred to in evidence as [REDACTED] PWI [REDACTED],
24 maybe in other witnesses' evidence as [REDACTED] PWK [REDACTED].
25 But anyway, [REDACTED]'s name and identity are protected.

1 There's RHB , also RHB or also referred to as
2 RHB , and PWH . And I think that covers everybody,
3 just let me check. Yes? Thank you.

4 Now, Mr MacAulay.

5 MR MACAULAY: Now, my Lady, we have, I think, time to have
6 a read-in before lunch.

7 LADY SMITH: Thank you.

8 'Morag' (read in)

9 MR MACAULAY: This is from an applicant who wants to remain
10 anonymous and to use the name 'Morag'.

11 Her statement can be found at WIT-1-000000683.

12 And 'Morag' begins by telling us that she was born
13 in 1965 and that she was brought up in Glasgow. She
14 was the youngest of nine siblings and also her mother
15 adopted her sister's son. She says:

16 'We had a busy household.

17 'My father was a worker. He was a really good, hard
18 worker. He passed a lot on to us about work ethics,
19 always earning your own money and having a savings
20 account. He didn't like liars and put a lot of good
21 things into us. We had a good life. We weren't rich
22 and we didn't have a lot of money. We got hand-me-down
23 clothes, but we didn't go without anything. If we
24 needed something, the money would be left on the
25 fireplace in the morning.

1 'My mum ran a good household. She was quite
2 organised. My dad was more strict than my mum. We had
3 to get up in the morning, make our beds and get dressed.
4 My father would never allow us to be walking around in
5 our nightdresses. I don't know how my mum did it,
6 having nine kids. I remember her cooking my favourite
7 meals. She always had a big massive pot to go round
8 everybody. She would make stovies or eggs, chips and
9 beans when she was skint.

10 'I don't know why the decision was taken to send me
11 to respite care. I imagine it was because there were so
12 many kids. We didn't have any social work involvement
13 at home. My dad would never have allowed it and we
14 didn't need it because our parents were taking care of
15 us. Because my dad was working full-time, I think it
16 was my mum's decision to send us away for respite care.

17 'I didn't realise at the time but it wasn't just me
18 that went. When I started exploring what happened
19 recently, I discovered that [four of my sisters] also
20 went to Fornethy. I don't know whether they went at
21 a different time. I don't have any memories of my
22 siblings being at Fornethy with me, so I don't know
23 whether we were there at the same time.

24 'I don't have clear memories of being told I was
25 going to Fornethy. I'm very clear that I was told that

1 I was going on a holiday. It was a six-week holiday.
2 I don't know the lead-up to it or who told me that I was
3 going to this place. I don't even remember travelling
4 to get there.

5 'I think I was 5 or 6 when I went to Fornethy for
6 the first time.'

7 And looking to 'Morag's' date of birth, that would
8 be 1970 or 1971:

9 'I went back again when I was about 10 or 11.'

10 That's about 1975/76:

11 'I think I was there for six weeks on each occasion.
12 I don't know what time of year I went to Fornethy, but
13 I know it was snowing the second time. I would have
14 thought I'd have more memories of being there the second
15 time around, because I was a bit older, but I only have
16 a few. I didn't see myself as being in care, because
17 I was there on a holiday. I know there must have been
18 other girls placed there by social work.

19 'Fornethy was a girls' school for primary
20 school-aged children. It was surrounded by big trees.
21 You don't see it if you drive past because of all the
22 trees. I couldn't remember what the house looked like.
23 I always remember there being what looked like faces on
24 the building. I've since visited Fornethy as an adult
25 and I was looking for these faces. I noticed that above

1 the doors and in different areas right round the
2 building "1915" was written. It made sense to me that
3 as a young girl, "1915" looked like a face.

4 'There was a ground floor which had the tuck shop on
5 it. There was also a room that you could sit in.
6 I remember going up the big, brown staircase. When you
7 went upstairs, my bedroom was to the left. There was
8 also a library on that floor and I can remember
9 a teachers' room, which was next to my bedroom.
10 I remember there being other doors there, but I don't
11 know what they were. There were gold plaques above the
12 doors with names on them, but I can't remember the
13 names. I've since realised that there was another level
14 but I don't remember knowing that as a child.

15 'I don't know how many girls there were at Fornethy.
16 There are very few faces that I can remember from my
17 time there. I can't really remember talking to other
18 children, although I did get into trouble for trying to
19 talk. I can remember being in the shower with [a girl]
20 when I went back for the second time. I can remember
21 the headteacher, who was called Fletcher. She would
22 wear a kilt, socks, a woolly jumper and a brooch. She
23 was an older woman, but I don't know how old she was.

24 'I remember the teacher who was bad to me [and that
25 is Robertson with a "T"]. I don't know whether she was

1 Miss or Mrs. I can see her face as clear as day. She
2 was quite butch and had a puffy face. She had a wide
3 nose and a hard-looking face. She had brown hair down
4 to chin level. She would wear fleeces, walking shoes
5 and trousers you'd wear for walking. I can remember
6 a male visitor, but I can't see his face. I have
7 memories of sitting at the dining table with kids all
8 round me, but I can't see their faces. It's as if the
9 other children were invisible. There were other kids
10 there, but I can't see them and I don't know who they
11 are. I don't know whether I knew them.

12 'Last year, I was part of a group of people who had
13 been to Fornethy. One of the ladies shared a photograph
14 of the roundabout at Fornethy and asked if anybody
15 remembered it. When I looked at the photo, all I could
16 hear was stones, like a bus turning. I could hear the
17 gravel under the bus. I think that is a memory of
18 arriving there. I have no memory of walking in the door
19 of Fornethy. My first memory of Fornethy is probably of
20 carrying the sheets. We must have been handed them.
21 They were ironed. I'm sure there was a pair of sand
22 shoes on top of them. I remember walking in a line,
23 carrying the sheets.

24 'I was in a big dormitory with big, tall ceilings
25 and big, massive windows. My bed was on the far side

1 next to a window. I don't know exactly how many beds
2 were in the dormitory, but there were beds next to mine
3 and beds across the wall, leading right up to the door.
4 I now know there were beds at the other side of the
5 dormitory, but I don't remember them. There were quite
6 a few girls in that room. I remember there was a slim
7 wardrobe next to my bed. It was made of light-coloured
8 wood, maybe pine. I can't remember my clothes hanging
9 in the wardrobe, but there was a shelf inside it with my
10 toiletry bag on it. The toiletry bag is the only
11 personal possession I can remember having there.
12 I don't even remember a suitcase or a bag or anything
13 like that.

14 'I don't really remember much about the morning or
15 nighttime routine. I can't remember people coming round
16 to get you up or tell you to go to bed. I wet the bed
17 all the time. I don't think I had wet the bed before
18 I went to Fornethy. You weren't allowed out of bed when
19 you'd gone to bed. You had to stay there all night.
20 All I can remember from the morning routine is going
21 down with my wet sheets in a line. I remember going
22 along the corridor. I don't know whether we were going
23 to drop the sheets off somewhere to get washed. There
24 were definitely other children there, because we were
25 lining up, but I can't remember their faces or how many

1 of them there were. I also have a memory of standing at
2 my bed with big, cotton pants on and not liking the
3 pants. I don't know whether it was morning time.

4 'I think it was the first time I was at Fornethy
5 that I peeked out from under the covers and saw a girl
6 being removed from her bed. I could see the door from
7 where my head was. It was always opened a little and
8 there was a wee bit of light coming in. A person came
9 in and lifted a child out of her bed. I just saw
10 a shadowy figure. I couldn't say who the person was or
11 whether the person was male or female.

12 'I can't remember anything about the sleeping
13 arrangements when I was at Fornethy for the second time.

14 'I think we made our own beds, but I don't remember
15 any other chores. I always knew how to make a bed
16 nicely and I think I learned that at Fornethy. I knew
17 how to put the sheet up and have it folded over.

18 'I don't have many memories of mealtimes, other than
19 a girl being force-fed at the table next to mine.
20 I don't know which meal that happened at, but it was the
21 first time I was at Fornethy. Any memories I have of
22 being in the dining room, the same teacher was there.
23 It was Robertson. I do remember there being a serving
24 hatch and the teacher sitting next to the hatch.
25 I think the food was brought to us, but I can't remember

1 what we had.

2 'I remember the toothpaste at Fornethy. It was pink
3 and in a round tub. I remember that I liked it. We
4 probably didn't do regular brushing at home. I remember
5 putting my toothbrush into it, dabbing it and brushing
6 my teeth.

7 'I don't have memories of showers or baths the first
8 time I was at Fornethy. The second time I was at
9 Fornethy, one of the only things I do remember is being
10 in the shower. I have a clear memory of standing in the
11 shower room with another girl that I knew. She was
12 a neighbour from [Glasgow]. She's one of the few faces
13 I can remember from my time at Fornethy. I must have
14 been going through puberty. I was round about that age.
15 That's the only shower or bath I can remember, but
16 I don't actually remember having the shower, just seeing
17 [this girl] there. I felt really insecure and
18 uncomfortable standing in the shower. I don't think
19 anybody else was there.

20 'I've since spoken to [this girl]. She remembers so
21 much more about Fornethy than me. She says that because
22 we were hitting puberty we had different shower times
23 from the rest of the kids. I've learned that [this
24 girl's] family had a lot of social work involvement when
25 we were growing up, but I wasn't aware of that at the

1 time.

2 'All I can remember about schooling from my first
3 time at Fornethy is writing a letter home and copying it
4 from a board. It was in a different room than the
5 school room. It was a big room and I could see the
6 swings outside. I must have been looking out of the
7 window quite a lot. I wasn't very literate, so I was
8 quite happy to copy a letter and send it home.

9 'I have one memory of schooling from my second time
10 at Fornethy. I can't remember who else was in the class
11 with me. I remember Robertson teaching us long
12 division. She was writing a sum down and rubbing it out
13 again. She was asking me the answer. I'm not clever
14 when it comes to maths and things like that. She was
15 screaming and screaming and screaming at me. She was
16 getting angry, hitting the board, rubbing it out and
17 writing it again. She was very near to me. The board
18 was the type that moves round on wheels. The answer was
19 probably there, but I couldn't understand the whole
20 concept of the sum. It made me feel very stupid.

21 'I think we had movies on a white board that was on
22 a metal thing with things -- with wheels. There was
23 something like that in one of the rooms on the ground
24 floor, but I can't remember watching the movies.
25 I remember playing on the swings at Fornethy, but it's

1 a single memory. I do remember going on walks. We
2 walked to some stones, but I don't know how far away
3 they were or how long it took us. I remember singing
4 "I wish, I wish upon a stone", but can't remember the
5 rest of the song. I was sure they were tall stones.
6 I've been in touch with other girls who were at Fornethy
7 and they showed me a picture of a pile of stones built
8 up, but I don't remember that.

9 'I remember there was a tuck shop down the stairs
10 and to the side. I remember queueing for it. We would
11 step into it and there would be a teacher sitting at the
12 table. There was a shelf on the left-hand side with
13 things on it. The teacher had a book in front of her
14 where she would tick things off. I have a memory of
15 Fletcher, the headteacher, and Robertson being behind
16 the desk. I think I always got something handed to me,
17 one sweetie or a gum. I always presumed that I didn't
18 have any money and that was why I didn't get anything
19 else. Other kids would come out with lots of sweeties.
20 My mother always maintained that she did send me pocket
21 money. [The girl I knew] who was there at the same time
22 as me remembers more about Fornethy. She says that my
23 money would have been withdrawn as a punishment for
24 wetting the bed.

25 '[This girl] also asked me whether I remembered

1 buying a present for my mum and dad. It was a really
2 nice feeling because I remembered that I bought
3 Maltesers to bring home. I remember being excited that
4 I had a gift to take home to my family, but I don't know
5 whether that was during my first or second stay at
6 Fornethy. It made me realise that I must have had money
7 if I was able to buy the Maltesers. I have never even
8 thought that I might not have got the money because
9 I wet the bed. All through my childhood, I just thought
10 it was because my mum never sent me any money.

11 'I remember I had to walk in the snow the second
12 time that I was at Fornethy. I was at the front of the
13 queue. The snow was so deep that I had to make a path
14 for the younger children. I can't remember where we
15 went in the show. I just remember how cold and sore my
16 legs were. The snow had filled up my welly boots, so it
17 was uncomfortable. I have a sense of being treated
18 a little bit better the second time round, possibly
19 because I was a bit older and helped with the younger
20 children.

21 'I don't know whether I was at Fornethy for my
22 birthday or at Christmastime. I have no memories of
23 that.

24 'I do remember kneeling down next to the bed and
25 having my elbows on the bed. I think we said prayers at

1 dinnertime as well. I did have a dream about being in
2 the church there. When you went in the door, there were
3 two sets of pews down each side and I could see myself
4 sitting there. I can't see anybody else. I don't know
5 whether I just went to church on one occasion.

6 'My family didn't visit me when I was at Fornethy.
7 We didn't get any phone calls, but I do remember writing
8 a letter home. I don't remember receiving a letter from
9 my family. I remember we were told that there were
10 special visitors coming, so we were all to be very good.
11 Miss Robertson was there and there was a man there. He
12 was wearing a brown suit and a hat with a rim round it.
13 He was sitting at the table but I can't see his face.
14 I just remember seeing that one man.

15 'I think I imagined running away from Fornethy, but
16 it would have been too dark. It was very dark and there
17 were very tall trees surrounding the place. The tall
18 trees and the darkness was such that you couldn't see
19 anything. As a wee lassie, I don't think I would have
20 dared to run away. I would have been too scared. Any
21 girl that ran away would have been extremely brave.

22 'I can remember being put into the library for
23 talking at nighttime. I can't remember how I got there.
24 I just know I was put there. I don't know who told us,
25 but we were told that the two ladies who had given the

1 house over were dead and buried in the fireplace of the
2 library. I had to stand at the fireplace. There was
3 a picture of the two ladies with a gold plaque
4 underneath it. I remember reading what was on the
5 plaque over and over again, so I should remember what
6 was written on it. I remember wondering how the bodies
7 of the ladies had got in there. As I faced the
8 fireplace, I could see the corridor on my right-hand
9 side. I could see faint light, but it was very dark.
10 There were books behind me, but I don't think I looked
11 back much. I wasn't allowed to turn around. I don't
12 know how long I was there or how I got back to my bed.

13 'The first time that I went to Fornethy I can
14 remember a girl being force-fed. She was sitting at the
15 table next to mine. I can see that happening, but
16 I can't see her face and I can't describe what she
17 looked like. I don't know whether I was keeping my own
18 head down. I can see the teacher holding the spoon.
19 I think it was like a soup spoon. She was holding the
20 girl's jaw down and shovelling food into her mouth. The
21 girl was boaking it back up. I was trying to look but
22 I was trying to hide my face at the same time. I only
23 remember that happening on one occasion. I don't know
24 who the teacher was, but I only remember one teacher
25 being in the dining hall during meals and that was

1 Robertson.

2 'When I was there for the first time, I remember
3 being told that special visitors were coming to
4 Fornethy. I remember a man in a brown suit being there
5 and I was sitting at a table. I remember trying to talk
6 to the person next to me. We were lining up to go out
7 of the room, Robertson was standing there and as the
8 line came to me, she grabbed me by the neck. She lifted
9 me off the floor and against the wall. She was
10 screaming. I don't know what she was saying, but she
11 screamed and screamed, because I had spoken when the
12 visitors were in.

13 'I can't remember coming down from the wall. It was
14 terrifying. I can't remember having any injuries.
15 I've always had problems with my throat, but I don't
16 know whether it's anything to do with what happened at
17 Fornethy. I've got thyroid problems and a goitre.
18 I had to go for speech and language therapy a few times
19 because I couldn't project my voice. I couldn't go on
20 with the speech therapy after my brother died. I don't
21 know whether my throat problems could be related to that
22 assault by Robertson.

23 'I never spoke about Fornethy when I went home. The
24 only thing I remember talking about was a bit of
25 backchat with my mum as I got older. I would complain

1 that she hadn't sent me any money when I was there. She
2 told me that she did and that my older sister had sent
3 it. I never discussed what had happened there. If
4 I had, I think my dad would have blamed my mum. If he
5 thought one of his girls had been affected, he would
6 have been upset, because it was her idea to send us to
7 Fornethy.

8 'I don't have any good memories from my time at
9 Fornethy. I don't even remember leaving. I have
10 a memory of reaching home and my sister was there. She
11 was saying, "Oh, my God, look at her teeth, look how
12 nice her teeth look". I don't know whether I'd just
13 come off the bus. I must have brushed my teeth
14 regularly at Fornethy and they were clean. That was
15 something that Fornethy got right.

16 'Things were fine when I got home. I think I was
17 glad to be there. I never spoke about Fornethy to my
18 mum and dad. My mum and dad would have been fine about
19 me wetting the bed. They wouldn't have shouted or
20 screamed at me because they were never like that. They
21 would have just stripped the bed and washed the bedding.

22 'I don't think my mother ever told me about puberty
23 or anything like that. My mum took me to the doctor
24 when I was about 16 because I hadn't been well. The
25 doctor asked me if I'd had my periods. My mum said that

1 I hadn't, but I'd had them for about a year. My mum was
2 stunned.'

3 Then 'Morag' talks about her involvement with the
4 Fornethy [REDACTED] Group over the next two or three
5 paragraphs.

6 And if I could turn to paragraph 45, where she has
7 set out some of the information about the group and some
8 divergence of opinion as to how the group should be
9 organised. But what she says at paragraph 45 is this:

10 'I hadn't told my story for all those years, so
11 I thought there might be people out there who hadn't
12 told their husbands or their kids. It's their story to
13 tell when they want to tell it. I just felt that we
14 shouldn't be getting involved in people's stories. If
15 they wanted to share it, they could share it.'

16 And if I can move over to paragraph 48 where she
17 talks about impact:

18 'Since I've started thinking about Fornethy as
19 an adult, wee things started to fit into place about the
20 impact of my experiences there on me. I don't think
21 I wet the bed before I went to Fornethy. I know it was
22 still an issue for me when I returned home. I know
23 I had a terrible fear of walking from a bed to
24 the toilet. That continued for me right up until
25 I started living with my husband. I would be bursting

1 all night and I wouldn't go to the toilet. My husband
2 would have to get up and stand outside while I went to
3 the toilet. I could never understand where that came
4 from when I was growing up, but it makes sense now. My
5 fear of the dark is a big thing even to this day. I get
6 nightmares if I don't have some sort of light.

7 'I used to get nightmares, but they would only
8 consist of a spider. I would watch the spider moving
9 across and it would start coming towards my face.
10 I told my doctor about the spider dreams. He said it
11 related to childhood trauma and we could explore it
12 further. I just wanted to leave it and I never
13 mentioned it again. I suffered that for years, even
14 when I was married and had kids in the house. A few
15 years ago I discovered that I need the bedroom door
16 shut. I get nightmares if the door is open. I know
17 other girls at Fornethy need their door open, but I need
18 it to be shut. Even if it's open a slither, I get
19 nightmares.'

20 And then at paragraph 50:

21 'I also have a fear of the unknown. I went to
22 Florida with my husband and my oldest son. We went to
23 Universal Studios and things happen that you don't
24 expect. We went into a massive room. It was crowded.
25 My stomach turned. I knew I needed to get out of there.

1 The lights were off. I freaked out. A door opened and
2 everybody went through it. I was left in this abandoned
3 room by myself. I eventually found the fire exit and
4 was able to get out. It was the unknown. I should have
5 been full of excitement. My son loved every minute of
6 it, but I was terrified.

7 'I have worked hard, but I feel that I've been very
8 fortunate in my life. I've heard lots of horrible
9 stories about Fornethy and I don't think my experiences
10 compare to some of the things that I've heard. When
11 I see some of their lifestyles and how bad their lives
12 have been, it cuts me up. I feel really sad for them
13 all. I won't allow it to consume me. I think the fact
14 that I haven't discussed Fornethy with my family until
15 now has had an impact on me. Sometimes I think it's not
16 good for me to explore it at all, but then again I think
17 it helps. You need to face these things.

18 'I recently had a dream that I was singing a song,
19 "On top of Fornethy all covered in snow, I shot my poor
20 teacher five minutes ago". I had to get up and write it
21 down. I asked some of the other girls from Fornethy on
22 the group if they remembered the song. They said that
23 it was a song that was sung there and there were lots
24 more to it. I had another dream that I was driving
25 a minibus. I ended up in a big field. The bus broke

1 down near a farmhouse. I went up to the farmhouse. I
2 looked round and I saw the trees. I actually jumped and
3 I woke up because I thought of Fornethy. That was the
4 first nightmare I had about Fornethy. I keep feeling as
5 if something is coming back to me, but I can never quite
6 get there. It's something about the smells at Fornethy.
7 I feel as if it's just about to come to me when I'm in
8 my bed sleeping. I'd like my memories to come back and
9 to be able to remember a bit more. I'd like my memories
10 to be clearer.'

11 And in the following paragraph 'Morag' tells us
12 about how she has been a foster carer for many years,
13 and then at 54, what she says:

14 'I don't have a lot of trust in people.
15 I've fostered for many years but I find it difficult to
16 trust social workers. If they arrange a meeting,
17 I'll wonder why they're doing it. I'll question whether
18 they think I'm not looking after a wean properly. I go
19 through all these things in my head. I do a good job,
20 but I have to keep telling myself that and be reassured
21 that I am doing a good job. It's almost as if I don't
22 trust them to make good decisions for the kids. I tend
23 to dispute their decisions if I don't think they're
24 right. I don't trust other people with my kids.
25 I won't take holidays and I won't leave my kids in

1 respite care. I tried to take a holiday years ago, but
2 it wasn't for me. I don't care whether the other foster
3 carers have been scrutinised like myself, I don't trust
4 people with them.

5 'I'm extremely protective of my children. I didn't
6 realise it until recently, but I think it came from my
7 experiences at Forrethy. I am glad I understand that
8 now. If I have family visiting for the night, I'm on
9 edge because I'm constantly watching the kids. I need
10 a week on holiday before I can relax. I need to suss
11 out my whole environment. We went on holiday once and
12 I was a bag of nerves, not taking my eyes off the
13 children. A woman at the poolside told me that I'd have
14 a heart attack unless I could learn to relax.

15 'My son says I'll die early because of stress.
16 I wouldn't let my son go anywhere when he was younger.
17 I took him and his friend on holiday when he was
18 younger. When we got back his friend's mum asked to
19 take him away with them. It was only for a weekend but
20 I was up and over. I had her kid, but I didn't want my
21 kid to go with her. I sat my son down and spoke to him.
22 I wanted him to know that he could pick up the phone and
23 call me if he felt unsafe. My husband was mortified.
24 He couldn't understand where it all came from. I didn't
25 want my son going on holidays with the school because

1 I didn't know who would look after him. He missed out
2 on that. He doesn't let his kids go places because he's
3 protective of his kids as well. I worry that
4 I've passed my anxieties on to him.'

5 And she then goes on in a section where she talks
6 about the reporting of the abuse and at paragraph 59 she
7 indicates that she was -- ultimately contacted the
8 police. And 'Morag' gave evidence at Patricia
9 Robertson's trial. Patricia Robertson was convicted on
10 15 October of last year and one of the charges upon
11 which she was found guilty related to 'Morag'.

12 LADY SMITH: Thank you.

13 MR MACAULAY: 'I've never tried to obtain my records from my
14 time at Fornethy. Sandra Toyer from Wellbeing Scotland
15 is helping me to look for them. Thompsons Solicitors
16 have also requested them.

17 'I would like to see justice. I want people to
18 learn from what happened at Fornethy. I'm a foster
19 carer and if I did the things that they did at Fornethy
20 I'd be pulled over hot coals. It's probably still going
21 on there. Just because carers are vetted and
22 scrutinised doesn't mean that children are safe. There
23 should be a lot more put into kids.'

24 And moving on to the next paragraph:

25 'Different agencies need to learn from what

1 happened. They need to have more training about how to
2 speak to kids. All these things are important. Abuse
3 could still be happening. The whole of society needs to
4 learn from it. We need to get people working in
5 children's homes to make sure kids are being looked
6 after, regardless of their behaviour. Behaviour tells
7 you something.'

8 And at 64 she says:

9 'I want people to learn that what happened to us at
10 Fornethy was wrong, especially when we thought we were
11 going on a holiday. People need to be held accountable
12 for what they've done. They need to be for other
13 institutions. I went on holiday with my school for
14 a weekend. I have fantastic memories of it. We got up
15 to silly nonsense, yacking all night. We got up to
16 stupid things like you're supposed to. Kids should be
17 going on these holidays and it should be great.'

18 And 'Morag' ends by saying:

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

23 And 'Morag' has signed her statement on 5 May 2021.

24 LADY SMITH: Thank you very much.

25 Well, we'll pause there for the lunch break,

1 Mr MacAulay, and we'll sit again at 2 o'clock when we'll
2 move on to the other read-ins that are planned for
3 today.

4 (1.04 pm)

5 (The luncheon adjournment)

6 (2.00 pm)

7 LADY SMITH: Good afternoon. Now, we return to further
8 evidence, further Fornethy evidence, and we've got some
9 statements that are going to be read in this afternoon.

10 Ms MacLeod, what next?

11 'Holly' (read in)

12 MS MACLEOD: My Lady, the first statement to be read in this
13 afternoon is that of an applicant who will use the
14 pseudonym 'Holly'. Her statement can be found at
15 WIT.001.002.7142:

16 'My name is ['Holly']. I was born in 1968. My
17 contact details are known to the Inquiry.

18 'My mum worked as a tea lady. My dad worked in the
19 shipyards. I have a sister who is six years older than
20 me.

21 'The four of us lived in a maisonette flat in
22 Glasgow. I lived in that flat until I was about 20. My
23 father wasn't always there, so my mother more or less
24 raised me and my sister single-handedly. I went to
25 primary school in Possilpark in Glasgow.

1 'I don't really know how it all came about. I was
2 the only one in my family who went. All I remember is
3 my name being put down and then I was going to Fornethy
4 House. I can't really remember any talk about it.
5 I didn't know what Fornethy House was at the time.
6 I think my mum might have just applied for me to go
7 because she needed a break. I know that my mother
8 struggled at times financially because she was on her
9 own with me and my sister at times. It could be that
10 Fornethy House provided respite for parents or something
11 like that.

12 'I remember that my mum took me down to catch the
13 coach that took us there. It left from behind the
14 Barras in Glasgow. I waited with my mum outside a big
15 school. I remember other children being dropped off
16 there by their parents. The coach then arrived and took
17 all the children to Fornethy House. If I remember
18 rightly, there were about 50 children who all went
19 together. Our parents all stayed behind. I think it
20 took us about three hours to get there. I'm sure we
21 left at 9.00 am and didn't get to Fornethy until about
22 lunchtime.

23 'Fornethy House, Kilry, Angus.

24 'I was at Fornethy House four times over four years.
25 Each time it was for a period of four weeks. I went

1 there between the ages of 7 and 11. The first time
2 I went there, it was around ██████████ 1976. I can't
3 remember what time of year I was there the second and
4 third times I went. I remember there being different
5 weather over those times so I can't work out what season
6 it was. I do remember that it was always during school
7 term time that we went though. The fourth time I was
8 there was in ██████████ 1979. I remember going to secondary
9 school when I got back. Looking back, I don't think
10 I was in what I personally would call "care".

11 'Fornethy House was in the middle of nowhere.
12 I think Glasgow City Council ran the place. It was all
13 girls. I think there were about 50 girls at Fornethy at
14 any one time. I remember that because I remember five
15 rows of ten chairs laid out in the playroom and
16 everybody sitting there at one time. All the girls were
17 primary school age. I think that was between 5 and
18 about 12 back then.

19 'It was a big, white, huge building that sat in its
20 own grounds. It was like a big castle. The grounds
21 were very large. There was a playground with swings,
22 a climbing frame, a wee wooden shop we played in and
23 grass areas for us to play on. There were lots of
24 forests in the grounds with wee pathways through them.

25 'As soon as you went in the front door, there was

1 a door that led to what they called the playroom. Past
2 the playroom was a set of spiral stairs. Past those
3 stairs on the ground floor were two classrooms. Those
4 classrooms were used for the younger children that were
5 there. Beyond that was the cloakroom full of benches,
6 shelves and pegs where you put your shoes, slippers,
7 wellies and coats.

8 'At the end of the cloakroom to the right was the
9 back door. That was the only door you used during the
10 time you were there. The only time you used the front
11 door was when you first arrived and when you finally
12 left. To the left at the back was a set of concrete
13 stairs that took you up the back way to the first floor.
14 They also had a medical room on the ground floor which
15 was located at the back of the building near to the
16 cloakroom.

17 'The kitchen and dining room was on the first floor
18 at the back. There was a library. I remember it had
19 a big stone fireplace and was full of books. There were
20 photographs of the Coats sisters up on the wall.
21 I think they were the people who gifted the property to
22 Glasgow City Council so that it could be used in the way
23 that it was. There were two dormitories on the first
24 floor. Those dormitories were called Reekie Linn and
25 Foster. There was also a wee toilet and a bathroom on

1 that floor. Past the dormitories was a set of concrete
2 stairs that took you up to the second floor. There were
3 five dormitories on the second floor. They were called
4 Isla, Ogle, Prosen, Clova and Esk.

5 'If you went outside through the back door, there
6 was an area where there were some guinea pigs. Near
7 that area was another set of stairs that led up to
8 another building. It was an annex or something like
9 that. That building had a classroom in it that was used
10 for the older kids.

11 'Mrs Fletcher was like the headmistress. I'd say
12 she was in her late 40s or early 50s when I was there.
13 She certainly wasn't a spring chicken. She was quite
14 tall and well built. She had blonde hair and buck
15 teeth. She had a dog called Kirsty that was white and
16 had buck teeth too. They always say animals resemble
17 their owners and that was the same with Mrs Fletcher.

18 'Mrs Robertson was a teacher and carer. I reckon
19 she was in her early to mid-30s when I was at Fornethy
20 House.'

21 I should say, my Lady, in the statement it reads as
22 'Mrs Robinson', but it's been confirmed by the applicant
23 that in fact it's Mrs Robertson, and that was confirmed
24 some time ago.

25 LADY SMITH: Yes, I think that misspelling appears in

1 a number of the statements; thank you.

2 MS MACLEOD: It does, my Lady, and it should read

3 'Mrs Robertson', and that's what I'll read when it
4 appears in the statement:

5 'She had brown curly hair. She was well made and
6 dead tall. She was easily a good 6 feet tall. She had
7 rough skin. It wasn't so much acne but she had potholes
8 in her skin. She took the older children's classes in
9 the building that was separate from the main house.

10 'Mrs RHH was a teacher and carer. She got
11 married over the time I was at Fornethy House. I can't
12 remember what her married name was. I reckon she was in
13 her early to mid-30s when I was at Fornethy House. She
14 was about 5 feet 4 inches tall. She took the younger
15 children's classes in the main house.

16 'Mrs PWH was a teacher and carer. She must have
17 been in her late 50s when I was there. She wore
18 glasses. She would have been a bit smaller than
19 Mrs RHH. She was about 5 foot 1 inches. She took
20 the youngest children's classes in the main house.

21 'I remember that during the fourth time I was there
22 in 1979, Mrs Robertson, Mrs RHH, Mrs PWH and
23 Mrs Fletcher only stayed for the first week. They were
24 replaced by three other young teachers for the last
25 three weeks. The replacement teachers were all in their

1 20s. I can't remember all their names. One was called
2 Miss Geddes. She had brown curly hair. I remember one
3 of the other ones had long blonde hair. It was a relief
4 when we got those teachers. I actually enjoyed my time
5 at Fornethy when they were there.

6 'There were two cleaners called RJJ and RJN .
7 They helped out with bath times and did the laundry.
8 They did loads of other things there. There was a cook.
9 I think her name was Jean. She had an eye that went the
10 other way. Her role was really only to cook and serve
11 the meals. She also helped out with carrying the
12 suitcases to the dorms.

13 'All the girls who went there went together on
14 a coach and left together at the same time. We were all
15 there for the same period of time. All the children
16 were from various places in Glasgow. I don't really
17 remember the backgrounds of the other children who were
18 there. The only ones I remember went to the same school
19 as me or were from the same area.

20 'I think Mrs Fletcher greeted us at the front door
21 when we arrived. She wasn't the only one there.
22 I think Mrs Robertson, Mrs PWH and Mrs RHH were
23 also around in the building. I remember that the first
24 thing they made us do is to go into the playroom and put
25 down our cases. I remember that because on subsequent

1 visits, I discovered that if I put down my case next to
2 my mate's, then that would mean I would be put in the
3 same dorm as them. I think one of the cleaners and the
4 cook took our cases up to the dormitories. I think we
5 then went to the cloakroom to put our coats up on the
6 pegs there. I think we were told which was our peg and
7 locker. We were then taken up to the dining room for
8 our lunch. After the teachers told us which dormitories
9 we [would be going into]. Someone shouted your name out
10 and you had to line up according to your dormitory.

11 I don't really remember what happened after that.

12 'In terms of the daily routine, you were up early in
13 the morning. The staff would come into the dormitory,
14 turn the lights on and tell everybody to get up. That
15 was maybe about 7.30 am. You would then get dressed and
16 make your bed up. You would then go to wash your face
17 and brush your teeth before returning back to your dorm.
18 You were then called dorm by dorm to go down for
19 breakfast. We'd all walk in lines to the dining room.
20 It was all quite regimented. I'd say breakfast was at
21 about 8.00 am. I can't remember what happened after
22 breakfast. I can't remember whether we all lined up
23 again and went to the playroom or whether we just went
24 straight to classes.

25 'Classes started about 9.00 am. You had classes in

1 classrooms until about 10.00 am. I think after that you
2 got washed up for lunch. Lunch was held in the dining
3 room. After lunch, we came downstairs to the cloakroom
4 to put on our coats, wellies and trousers. They gave
5 you a balaclava and a scarf to wear, no matter how hot
6 it was. [That was to go out on our walks].
7 Occasionally we [would get] to play in the grounds in
8 the playground but usually we went out for walks. When
9 we came back from our walks, we went back to the
10 cloakroom and took our wellies, coats and things off.
11 I don't remember know whether we then got time in the
12 playroom before it was time to line up to go upstairs
13 for dinner in the dining room. After dinner, we played
14 in the playroom until it was time to go to bed.
15 Everybody had to go up to bed at the same time. I think
16 that after you got changed, you got 20 to 30 minutes to
17 wind down in your dormitory. You had to fold your
18 clothes up and put them onto a chair before you went to
19 bed. The lights then went out. I think it was about
20 8.30 or 9.00 pm.
21 'The routine was pretty much the same at weekends.
22 I think you played in the playroom instead of classes in
23 the mornings on weekend. The only other differences
24 were that you got to go to bed at 9.00 pm on Saturdays
25 and some of the children got to go to church on Sunday

1 mornings.

2 'It wasn't all girls of the same age in the
3 dormitories. There were girls from the age of 5 all the
4 way up to 12 sharing the same dormitory. All the dorms
5 contained single beds. Each person had a small wardrobe
6 and a chair by the front of their bed.

7 'The first time I went in, I was in Reekie Linn.
8 That was one of the big dormitories. I think there were
9 between 10 and 12 of us in that dormitory. If
10 I remember right, there was a fire escape that led out
11 of that dormitory. The second and third time I was
12 there, I was in Prosen. It was a smaller dorm. It had
13 five or six beds in it. The last time I was there,
14 I was in Clova. That had about ten beds.

15 'The teachers had their own bedroom in Fornethy
16 House which they could use. Their bedroom was on the
17 top floor, close to the dorm that we called Clova. One
18 staff member would stay each night. They would be on
19 duty through the night whilst the other ones went home.
20 I think they had a rota. After lights out, you had to
21 be quiet, otherwise you could get into trouble. The
22 dormitory doors were always left open. There were night
23 lights in the corridors. I think they were blue.

24 'I think you could have a shower any night of the
25 week. I think you only got to use the baths once

1 a week. All the children of all ages were bathed on the
2 same day. You had to have a bath on that day. There
3 was no choice. RJJ and RJN were in charge of bath
4 times. There were two big baths in the bathroom.
5 I can't remember where you took your clothes off but you
6 had to line up naked before getting into the baths, one
7 after the other. The bathwater wasn't changed in
8 between each child. The water was warm but it wasn't
9 hot. RJJ and RJN would wash you when you were in
10 the bath.

11 'After bath times, you got dressed. I can't
12 remember where you put your clothes back on. You then
13 went downstairs to the medical room where they put a nit
14 comb through your hair. I think it was a member of the
15 staff who did that but I can't remember which one.

16 'The dining room was a big room with a kitchen
17 coming off it. There were big, round tables in the
18 dining room. Everybody sat together around those tables
19 at mealtimes. All the age groups ate together. There
20 were maybe about eight children per table. You had to
21 sit at the same seat for the whole time you were staying
22 there. All the staff sat at a long table whilst you
23 ate. They had their meals in the dining room at the
24 same time as us. They would supervise us at the same
25 time.

1 'Thinking back, the food was mostly lovely.
2 Breakfast was things like cereal, toast or boiled eggs.
3 You always had big three-course meals at the other
4 mealtimes. It always felt like they were big meals. It
5 was soup, dinner and pudding. I wasn't used to having
6 three big meals back then. People didn't do that then.
7 It was a lot for someone of my age to be eating.

8 'You had to eat every bit of your meals. You
9 couldn't stash away any of the meals because the staff
10 were in there supervising you at the same time. I hated
11 boiled eggs. They sometimes served those at breakfast
12 time but occasionally they served them at dinnertime
13 with a cheese sauce as well. I just couldn't eat them.
14 They made me sick. I remember trying to force the
15 boiled egg down but I couldn't do it. I remember
16 refusing to eat them and crying.

17 'When I didn't eat my food, the staff made me sit
18 for hours on my own in the dining room. Sometimes
19 I wasn't allowed to take part in any of the activities
20 or get sweets from the sweet shop as a punishment.
21 Other times the staff would take me to the medical room
22 for what they called "a dose of castor oil". When they
23 did this, it wasn't just a dose, it was a great big
24 tablespoon of the stuff. It was mostly Mrs Robertson
25 who did this as a punishment. Sometimes the staff would

1 taunt me before dinner if they knew it was boiled eggs
2 and say, "'Holly', it's castor oil today". Sometimes
3 I was slapped for not eating my food. They would do
4 that in the dining room in front of the other children.
5 I saw them doing that to other children as well. All
6 these things were done by the staff to punish me.
7 Mrs Fletcher, Mrs PWH, Mrs RHH and Mrs Robertson
8 did all of these things. They did these things to me
9 and to other children.

10 'I remember that on one occasion, my mother gave me
11 a letter to give to the staff. She told them in the
12 letter that I didn't like boiled eggs. I gave the
13 letter to the staff. It didn't change anything. They
14 still gave me boiled eggs.

15 'I can't remember whether other children didn't eat
16 things or, if they did refuse things, what they refused
17 to eat. I do remember the castor oil treatment being
18 used on other children to punish them. It wasn't just
19 me who was punished like that. I remember them doing
20 that with children who they thought had misbehaved in
21 other ways as well.

22 'Certain children were appointed to be table
23 monitors or captains of each dormitory. The dorm
24 captains and table monitors were usually picked from the
25 older girls. I think that they got selected on the

1 first day of arrival. I think it was usually the more
2 sensible girls who were selected. The table monitors
3 wore a green sash and the captains of the dormitories
4 wore a red sash.

5 'Table monitors would keep everybody in order at
6 their table. I think they were the leader at the front
7 of the lines when we had to go somewhere in and around
8 mealtimes. They didn't really have a role in
9 disciplining or punishing [the] children.

10 'Dorm captains tried to keep everyone quiet and
11 tried to make sure that people weren't disruptive in
12 their dorms. They would front up the lines [as] you
13 were being lined up [in] your dorm. They didn't really
14 have a role in disciplining or punishing other children.

15 'I remember that during my last time at Fornethy
16 House, Mrs RHH and Mrs Robertson looked at each other
17 after I arrived and said something like, "Are you
18 thinking what I'm thinking?" Then they called me over
19 and made me a table monitor. I think I was only a table
20 monitor for something like a day before the boiled egg
21 came on the scene. Looking back, I think they only gave
22 that role to me because they knew we were going to have
23 boiled eggs and they could take that role off me as
24 a punishment. They were bullies.

25 'You had to make your own bed in the morning. The

1 teachers would come round and inspect you had done it
2 right. If you hadn't done it right, you were told to do
3 it again. Nobody else in the dorm would be able to go
4 down to breakfast until the person who hadn't made their
5 bed properly had done it right. I don't remember any
6 other chores. We didn't have to do cleaning or anything
7 like that. I think we had to tidy up a bit in the
8 playroom, but that was about it.

9 'You brought your own clothes in with you. The only
10 time you wore trousers was when you went out on walks.
11 The rest of the time you wore skirts. They gave you
12 a pinny to wear over your clothes. I think the pinnies
13 were flowery. They were like something out of "Little
14 House On the Prairie". I think we wore them to protect
15 our other clothes. All you wore in bed was
16 a nightdress. They didn't let you sleep with your
17 underwear on.

18 'I remember that all your clothes had to be labelled
19 with your name. Even your toiletry bag had your name on
20 it. I think my mum did all that for me. I think the
21 parents were told to do that before you came.

22 'My mum used to send postal orders. You used the
23 money from the postal orders to buy sweets from the tuck
24 shop that they had in the home. The tuck shop was
25 really more like a wee cupboard. I think that your

1 money was spread out over whatever time you were in
2 Fornethy House. You never actually handled money. You
3 were told how much you had, whatever particular day it
4 was you got your sweets. I don't think it was every
5 day. I'm not sure what days that was, but I remember
6 having sweets on Saturday evenings when they showed the
7 films.

8 'You weren't allowed to bring in any personal
9 possessions with you other than the clothes you had when
10 you [arrived].

11 'There was a range of ages in each class. However,
12 they were grouped together according to particular range
13 of age. You started off in Mrs PWH 's classes in the
14 main house. That class was for girls aged between 5 and
15 7. As you got a bit older, you moved to Mrs RHH 's
16 classes in the main house. That was for girls aged
17 between 8 and 9. As you got older again, you went to
18 the classes of Mrs Robertson, which were held in the
19 building that was apart from the main house. That was
20 for girls aged between 9 and 11 or 12. I'd say there
21 was roughly between 15 and 20 girls in each class.

22 'I wouldn't say that it was the same as the
23 schoolwork that you would do at your primary school.
24 They weren't proper teachers. It wasn't things like
25 maths, English and things like that. I remember making

1 things. We'd make things out of the things we collected
2 when we were out on our walks. Things like pheasant
3 feathers. We made bookmarks out of them. I used to
4 take mine home to give [them] to my mum.

5 'Everybody in Fornethy House had to go on a walk in
6 the afternoons. You went whatever the weather was like.
7 It was whatever teacher who was on duty that day who
8 took us. It was just one teacher who took us.
9 I remember it being Mrs Robertson a lot of time.
10 I don't remember Mrs Fletcher taking us. We would walk
11 for miles and miles. We would walk through the forests
12 or climb a big hill called Stoney Brae. I remember
13 walking to the Dundee reservoir one time. It was seven
14 miles in total there and back. We really did walk
15 a long way for our age. I remember there were wishing
16 stones that we passed on one of the walks. We used to
17 hold hands around them and make wishes. My wishes never
18 came true. I was always wishing to leave Fornethy House
19 and go home.

20 'We would walk in lines. The staff members would
21 walk at their own pace. They didn't slow down for the
22 children. It would be too fast for us. You would end
23 up being told to speed up. It was difficult trying to
24 keep up with the staff. You did talk, but the staff
25 member taking you would keep on telling you to be quiet.

1 I remember the midges. You would put your hand in the
2 air and it would get absolutely covered in them.
3 I remember getting welly rashes. I don't remember ever
4 getting treatment for these.

5 'I was contacted in later life by someone who had
6 spoken to some of the people who lived near Fornethy
7 House. He said that those people told him that they had
8 seen the girls from Fornethy House going on those walks.
9 They said that they thought it had been a shame for the
10 Fornethy girls because they were out walking in terrible
11 weather. That's interesting to me, because it shows
12 that people were aware of how we were getting treated at
13 the time on those walks.

14 'It wasn't a religious place. It wasn't run by the
15 church or anything like that. You had to say grace
16 before your meals. I don't think you had to say prayers
17 before bedtime. Sometimes Mrs Fletcher would come down
18 to the playroom and read us biblical stories out of a
19 big book. It was stories like Moses and things like
20 that.

21 'Not everybody was allowed to go to church on
22 Sundays. I think that was because there was only
23 a certain amount of space available in the minibus that
24 took you there. It was maybe 10 or 12 children and
25 a teacher that would go. I think I only got to go once.

1 I don't remember there being different churches for
2 different children in the minibus. I think the church
3 was a Protestant church. If you didn't go to church,
4 you stayed back and played in the playroom.

5 'I remember one occasion when all the children were
6 taken to Aviemore. I can't remember why that was. It
7 could have been a treat. We were taken to see Santa
8 Claus Land. I think it might have been the student
9 teachers who took us there. That's the only trip
10 I remember happening.

11 'There was a large playroom in Fornethy House. You
12 more or less spent all your time in the playroom if you
13 weren't at school or out on walks. A lot of the time
14 you just sat in rows listening to the teachers telling
15 stories or you would be singing. I think Mrs PWH
16 sometimes played the piano. When you weren't doing
17 that, the teachers played games like musical statues or
18 musical bumps with you. If you were good, you were
19 allowed to play with the toys. It was mostly dolls and
20 teddies and things like that.

21 'On Saturday nights, they would set up a projector
22 and screen in the playroom and put on a film. You only
23 really got to play outside in the grounds a couple of
24 times a week. [We did enjoy playing] on the swings,
25 slide and in the wee hut we pretended was a shop.

1 'During the fourth time I was there in 1979, three
2 new members of staff took over. They put on a play
3 [for] us. It was Oliver Twist. I initially got the
4 part of Oliver Twist. It then got taken off me for
5 "carrying on". I was then given the part of Nancy.
6 That too ended up [getting] taken off me. In the end, I
7 was given the role of Fagin. I remember that all the
8 townsfolk came to see the performance.

9 'I was never there over Christmastime so I don't
10 know what happened. I had my 8th birthday there in
11 1976. If it was your birthday, you got a birthday cake
12 at teatime. Everybody on your table would get a slice
13 of that. You couldn't give cake to anybody else. It
14 just had to be the people on your table. I don't
15 remember getting any presents that had been sent in by
16 my parents. I don't think she sent anything in. [You]
17 wouldn't have been able to afford that back then.

18 'You couldn't phone home. That wasn't possible.
19 You had to write letters in classes. I can't remember
20 but I think we had to do that once a week. I remember
21 that my mum gave me stamps so I could do that. You
22 couldn't write anything in your letters other than what
23 the teachers had written on the blackboard. That
24 happened in whatever class you were in. It was whatever
25 teacher who took your class who made you do that. All

1 the teachers did the same.

2 'The teachers checked your letters after you had
3 finished. If you wrote anything different to what they
4 had written out, you got slapped. I remember one time
5 that I wrote something different. I knew that my
6 cousin's wedding was coming up. I wanted to chip in for
7 a present. I wrote that into my letter. I also asked
8 my granny to come and get me and take me home.

9 A teacher must have read my letter because I ended up
10 being taken to Mrs Fletcher. She bent me over, pulled
11 up my skirt and slapped the hell out of my arse.
12 I remember that happening with other girls who wrote in
13 their letters that they wanted to go home.

14 'You did get mail and parcels. I remember getting
15 letters from my mum and my granny.

16 'I didn't have any visitors while I was there.
17 Parents weren't allowed near the place. I don't
18 remember social workers or anyone like that coming to
19 visit. I don't remember any inspectors or anyone coming
20 in from the outside [world] to check we were okay.

21 'If you were ill or injured, you went to the medical
22 room. There wasn't a nurse there. You wouldn't get
23 taken to hospital if you were injured. You would just
24 be given a plaster or whatever by a member of staff.
25 I was in the medical room often. I remember getting

1 castor oil forced down my throat. That wasn't for
2 healthcare reasons though. It was used as a punishment.
3 I remember an occasion when I was given castor oil as
4 punishment in the medical room. I ran out to be sick.
5 I ended up being sick in Mrs Robertson's wellies. The
6 following day, they tried to find out who had been sick
7 in her wellies. I think I got away with it.

8 'I do remember that we had to have a medical before
9 we went [to Fornethy]. That was arranged through
10 Glasgow Council. I think I went to a clinic in
11 Possilpark before each time I went there for a check-up.
12 I don't remember there being any medicals or check-ups
13 undertaken at Fornethy House itself.

14 'On one occasion, I had flu or something. I [could]
15 have been 7 or 8. I must have been sick or something.
16 I wasn't allowed to go to bed. During the afternoon,
17 I was made to sit in the playroom whilst everyone else
18 went out on the walk. I'm sure it was Mrs Robertson who
19 made me do that. It could have been Mrs PWH though.
20 I ended up falling asleep on a window seat in the
21 playroom. All I wanted to do was go to bed. Nobody
22 came to check on me. Anything could have happened to me
23 during the time I was left alone in that room.
24 I remember I never received any medical attention or any
25 medication for that illness.

1 'I remember girls trying to run away a few times
2 during my time at Fornethy House. It happened over the
3 different years when I was there. The girls who ran
4 away always got brought back. There was nowhere you
5 could get to. We were in the middle of nowhere.
6 I think the only time I was there when girls didn't try
7 and escape was during the last time I was there in 1979.
8 That was when the usual teachers weren't there.

9 'I remember that when I was 7 or 8 and I was in
10 Reekie Linn, two girls tried to escape down the fire
11 escape. They wanted to run away. I can't remember how
12 far the girls got. They got caught and brought back.
13 I don't remember who caught them. I think they got
14 battered with a belt by Mrs Fletcher as a punishment for
15 running away. I think the girls told me that.

16 'You could get up through the night if you needed to
17 go to the toilet. There wasn't a problem with that.
18 However, children still wet the bed. I never wet the
19 bed but other girls did. I don't think they got
20 punished for it but I might not be remembering that
21 right. It wasn't a problem for me, so I don't really
22 know what the staff did [to] the children who wet the
23 bed.

24 'I was frequently disciplined for "carrying on" or
25 talking. I don't know whether I was like that because

1 I was rebelling against them. All the staff members
2 disciplined you in exactly the same way. The staff were
3 like the Gestapo. If they raised their voice, then you
4 knew you had to shut up.

5 'You knew you would be made to stand in the library
6 or outside the playroom if you misbehaved. I was
7 regularly pulled out of my dorm and made to stand in the
8 cold library or toilet in the pitch black on my own.
9 All the teachers made me and other children do that if
10 they misbehaved in the dormitories. They all used that
11 punishment on different occasions. One night, I got up
12 too often to go to the toilet. I think I was carrying
13 on. I ended up being dragged into the library for
14 getting up too often to go to the toilet. I don't
15 remember which teacher it was who did that on that
16 occasion. That was a regular thing they did to me.
17 Sometimes there would be other children in there doing
18 the same thing because they too had been carrying on.

19 'All the staff would slap you. If you were talking
20 too much at nighttime in your dormitory, you could be
21 punished. You would get slapped. They would lift your
22 skirt up and slap you on your bare legs. When they
23 slapped you, it wasn't just once. They slapped you
24 a few times. I was always getting slapped on my legs or
25 having my ears pulled by the staff. It was mostly

1 Mrs PWH who pulled your ears. The slapping and the
2 ear-pulling happened pretty much daily because I never
3 shut up and was carrying on. It happened to all the
4 girls.

5 'Mrs Fletcher gave out the main punishments for
6 serious things like running away. She would give the
7 girls the belt. I think she was the only one who used
8 the belt. She never used the belt on me, but I heard
9 that she used it on people from the other girls.
10 I think the belt was only used when girls ran away.

11 'I wouldn't say they called you names but they did
12 say things that made you feel bad. They would say
13 things like, "It's castor oil for breakfast today", or,
14 "Guess who's not getting any sweeties tonight?" It was
15 things more like that.

16 'Mrs Robertson was a bitch. She battered the lot of
17 us. I can remember everything about her. I remember
18 the way she used to stand. She had a horrible face
19 and was particularly ruthless. She was a power freak.

20 'I was a talker, so I always got into trouble at
21 nighttime. I remember during the first time I was
22 there, when I was in Reekie Linn, I got into trouble.
23 I don't know what I was doing but I was carrying on.
24 I was dragged out of the dormitory by Mrs Robertson and
25 made to stand on my own in the corner of the toilet.

1 I was told to stand there facing the wall and told not
2 to sit down. It was freezing cold and I was in my bare
3 feet and just a nightie. Mrs Robertson forgot about me.
4 I ended up sleeping on the concrete floor in the corner
5 of the toilet. I remember that when she came back into
6 the toilet, she said something like, "Oh, God, I had to
7 come out of my bed to come and get you, I'd forgotten
8 about you". I don't know what time that would have been
9 but it would've been in the early hours of the morning.

10 'I remember one occasion when we were out for a walk
11 to Stoney Brae, I was carrying on and talking in line.
12 Mrs Robertson dragged me from the back of the line over
13 the rocks to the front of the line so that I could be
14 walking with her. I got a cut on my elbow and my knee.
15 I was crying. When I got back to Fornethy, I was taken
16 to the medical room. I was cleaned up and given
17 a plaster.

18 'That wasn't the only occasion when Mrs Robertson
19 dragged me along the ground during a walk. During the
20 second time I was there, when I was about 9, I was what
21 they called the "dog girl" on one of the walks. The dog
22 girl was in charge of the home's dog. We were on
23 Stoney Brae. The dog ran off after a rabbit.
24 Mrs Robertson shouted after me to go and get the dog.
25 I was talking to another girl and didn't hear her.

1 Mrs Robertson then came up to me, grabbed me by the arm
2 and dragged me along to the front of the line. It felt
3 as if my shoulder was going to come out of its socket.
4 When we got back, I wasn't taken to a hospital or
5 a doctor or anything like that, but I was sore.

6 'There was nobody I could talk to. There was no one
7 I could have told about what was happening there. There
8 were just the other kids to speak to. I didn't tell my
9 mother anything about what happened. If I had, my
10 mother would have said something to them. She wasn't
11 the sort of person who would have kept quiet. She would
12 have been right on the ball if I had said anything. My
13 mother has asked me now why I didn't mention anything
14 about what was happening. I think that when I went back
15 home, I just wanted to get on with things, put it out of
16 my head and get out to play. By the time it came around
17 to going the following year, I was speaking with my pals
18 and had convinced myself I wanted to go back.

19 'The last time I went, in 1979, was the last time,
20 because children in secondary school didn't go to
21 Fornethy House. Life was just normal after I came back
22 after the last time. I went to secondary school and
23 I left at the age of 15.

24 'I left Glasgow when I was [aged] 20. I wanted to
25 go and work and travel around Europe. I took a stopgap

1 for a week in Blackpool so that I could save some money.
2 I ended up not getting any further than Blackpool.
3 I met someone in Blackpool [and had] three children.
4 'I left school with no qualifications but I have
5 made sure I have had further education. I have
6 qualifications in business administration and cheffing.
7 It's OCRs and things like that. I went on to become
8 a chef. One year, I won a Chef of the Year award.
9 I've worked at the NHS. I've always worked.
10 [I've moved up to Scotland permanently].
11 'It's difficult to think what the impact has been.
12 You could probably blame what happened there for
13 anything that went on in my life afterwards. However,
14 I know I am to blame for many of the things I have gone
15 on to do. My mother reckons that the reasons I became
16 boisterous, snappy and willing to get into fights was
17 because of what I experienced at Fornethy House.
18 I'm not sure about that. Maybe those experiences were
19 the cause of me turning from a quiet wee lassie into
20 an angry person. You could pinpoint blame on those
21 things for anything. I can't say that it's all
22 definitely because of the way I was treated. It could
23 all be just because of the way I was as a person. It
24 could all just be me and my own nature.
25 'I have definitely been impacted physically because

1 of the things that happened at Fornethy House. I still
2 have the scars from the cuts to my knee and elbow I got
3 the first time I was dragged along the ground by
4 Mrs Robertson. I remember that when I went back home
5 after the incident where Mrs Robertson dragged me by the
6 arm, my dad tried to pick me up by my arms. There was
7 a pain in my shoulder. As a kid, I thought it was
8 dislocated. I couldn't move my arm at all. It wasn't
9 actually dislocated though. I had a pain in my arm for
10 years. It wasn't until I was in my 40s that my arm came
11 right out of its socket. About seven years ago I ended
12 up having to get keyhole surgery on my shoulder and
13 I'm currently waiting on another operation on my bad
14 shoulder. It's going to be a big operation and it's
15 going to cause me financial difficulties because of my
16 work situation. They're removing bone from somewhere
17 else and putting it in my shoulder. That's all because
18 of the incident when Mrs Robertson dragged me during
19 a walk when we went to Stoney Brae. 40 years on,
20 I'm still being impacted by that.

21 'I have never spoken to anyone officially about what
22 happened. I have never brought it up with anyone like
23 the police, lawyers or social services. I don't know
24 why it's not something that has come up.

25 'I've never tried to get hold of my records.

1 I've never really given it any thought. I might be
2 interested in recovering some records in the future to
3 see what I was like.

4 'I have thought about going to Fornethy House to
5 give it a look now. I don't know why I have thought
6 that. It could just be curiosity. I have been on the
7 internet to see photographs of what it looks like now
8 [and] it's rundown. That was different to what it was
9 like before. When I was there it was immaculate.

10 'I think there should be inspectors who go around
11 places where children are placed, speaking to individual
12 children at random. There should be someone coming to
13 those places making sure that there was no abuse going
14 on. That didn't happen when I was at Fornethy House.
15 There was nobody there checking up on the teachers. We
16 were just left in their hands.

17 'If Mrs Robertson is still alive, I hope that she
18 gets her time in prison. I want her prosecuted. She
19 was a horrible woman. I have no sympathy for people
20 like her. She was just a bully. Looking back, it was
21 all a power thing. We were all wee girls and she
22 shouldn't have been doing what she was doing.

23 'I do think now, having become a mother and
24 a grandmother, how could these people have done what
25 they did to me. I just don't know how people could have

1 done these things to wee kids. Kids shouldn't [have to
2 be] treated the way I was. I reckon the things
3 I experienced were probably happening in a lot of other
4 places and it was all hidden away. They need to change
5 something so that what happened to me doesn't happen
6 again with other children.

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

11 'Holly' signed the statement on 10 July 2019.

12 Now, my Lady, subsequent to that, 'Holly' went on to
13 give evidence last year in the High Court at the trial
14 of Patricia Robertson, and one of the charges on which
15 there was a conviction related to the abuse of 'Holly'.

16 LADY SMITH: Thank you.

17 Mr MacAulay.

18 'Marie' (read in)

19 MR MACAULAY: My Lady, again this is an applicant who wants
20 to remain anonymous and to use the pseudonym 'Marie' in
21 her evidence. Her statement can be found at
22 WIT-1-000001441.

23 LADY SMITH: Thank you.

24 MR MACAULAY: 'Marie' gives her date of birth -- year of her
25 birth, rather, as 1977:

1 'I was born and raised in the Ruchill area of
2 Glasgow. I stayed there with my mum. My mum and dad
3 had split up and he stayed in his own house. My older
4 sister stayed with her natural dad. My dad previously
5 worked as a butcher but became addicted to alcohol. Mum
6 worked in different pubs. Later, there [were my three]
7 younger sisters.

8 'I don't remember much about my life growing up,
9 except to start with, there were no issues. The first
10 school I attended was Ruchill Primary School. When
11 I was about 10 years old, perhaps a bit younger, we
12 moved to [another property] and I moved school to
13 Balornock Primary. That was where I was staying when
14 I went on both occasions to Fornethy. I really enjoyed
15 being at school and I was a member of the school netball
16 team. That all disappeared after Fornethy.

17 'Home life was good with mum. There was not a lot
18 of money in the house and we could not afford to go away
19 on any family holiday. Through the school, they had
20 offered my mum a place for the summer for me to go to.
21 She believed it would be like a holiday for us. I was
22 told I would be going to Fornethy House. I ended up
23 going to Fornethy two summers in a row with [a younger
24 sister].'

25 And looking to what she says about her age, being

1 either 9 or 10, that would place the time at about
2 1987/1988, so she was obviously one of the later
3 children accommodated at Fornethy, that closed shortly
4 after that:

5 'Fornethy House was built in the countryside and was
6 very isolated from the nearby towns and villages. It
7 was a big white house and reminded me of a princess
8 castle. To get there I was dropped off by mum at
9 Buchanan Street Bus Station. I think I was then taken
10 from there along with some other girls in a minibus.
11 Other than [my sister], I did not know any of the other
12 girls there.

13 'The minibus was driven by a male, but I did not
14 know his name. I don't remember there being any other
15 staff on the bus. When I was in Fornethy, I can only
16 remember the names of a couple of the staff. There was
17 Mrs Pearl Fletcher, who was the headteacher. She was
18 an older woman with white hair, big horrible teeth and
19 she may have worn glasses. I have been told that she is
20 now deceased. The other staff member whose name I can
21 remember is Mrs Reid. She was a much younger woman with
22 permed hair and she was the one fun one. Other than the
23 driver of the minibus, the only other male member of
24 staff was the handyman.

25 'As soon as we arrived at the house, there were

1 a group of girls ready to go home. As they left,
2 I realised that everything was not going to be as good
3 as I thought. Right away, the staff [was] very
4 regimented and as we entered the house, we were all made
5 to go into the main hall and line up in rows.

6 'We were then separated into groups and allocated
7 our respective dormitories. I was separated from my
8 sister and no one would tell me why we could not be
9 together. I was allocated to the Reekie Linn dormitory.
10 I think it was named after a nearby bridge.

11 'All the dormitories were on the upper floor.
12 I think there were possibly four, maybe five other
13 dorms. Other than one of the dorms being called Isla,
14 I'm not sure of the other names. On the ground floor
15 was the dining room, where a lot of my nightmares come
16 from, and some bathrooms.

17 'We were told to take all our bags to the dorms and
18 to put our clothes and things away into the small
19 cabinet by the side of the bed. There were maybe six or
20 eight beds in my dorm, three or four on one side of the
21 room and the same on the opposite side. I am not sure
22 if they were the same size as the other dorms. I think
23 the girls in my dorm were all of a similar age to
24 myself. I am not sure how many girls there were in
25 total at Fornethy. Once we got our stuff put away, we

1 were to back down to the big room.

2 'Each morning, Mrs Fletcher or another member of
3 staff would come into the dormitory and pull the covers
4 off our beds to wake us up. If we did not get out of
5 bed quick enough for them, we would be given a slap. We
6 would then get washed, dressed and head down to the
7 dining room for breakfast. Mrs Fletcher did her rounds
8 in different dorms each day so other staff would repeat
9 what she was doing. I know it was early in the morning
10 but I'm not sure about the exact times.

11 'One of the things I can remember about being in the
12 dorm at night was a blue light being on in the ceiling.
13 When I went to bed, I was not allowed a nightdress and
14 had to sleep wearing just my underpants. All the girls
15 in my dorm had to do the same.

16 'If anyone wanted to go to the toilet during the
17 night, you might get a fright as you stepped out of the
18 room, because one of the staff would appear and be
19 shouting and asking what we were doing out of bed.
20 I became too scared to get up at night.

21 'I don't remember much about the food and mealtimes.
22 There might have been some sort of cereal for breakfast
23 but I can't remember if that is the case. The thing
24 I do remember was when I was given prunes. I did not
25 like prunes and did not want to eat them. Mrs Fletcher

1 would force me to eat them. As I was eating them,
2 I would be sick. She made me eat that and the prunes
3 until I had cleared my plate. Each night, despite
4 knowing that I did not like prunes, she made sure I was
5 fed them every day. Apart from Mrs Fletcher trying to
6 force-feed me, I would be crying and she would slap me
7 about the head. Because I was having so much trouble
8 eating the food, I was never allowed to get anything
9 from the tuck shop. This happened every single day
10 I was there.

11 'At night, before going to bed, we sometimes got
12 a biscuit and some milk.

13 'There were bathrooms on our floor and some more on
14 the ground floor. The showers were on our floor and
15 they were all communal and open to view. We would have
16 a shower each night.

17 'When we came back from our morning walks, we were
18 often allowed to have another shower. Mrs Fletcher took
19 great pride in helping us get washed. She would use
20 a brown scrubbing brush to scrub our legs red raw,
21 causing even more pain. Again, there were other staff
22 who did this to us.

23 'Each night when we were having our showers, we
24 would have to stand naked in front of the other girls
25 waiting our turn. The female staff would also be there

1 watching us.

2 'I don't remember having to wear any uniform.
3 I seem to remember we wore our own clothes. I think one
4 of the girls, who would have been a favourite of
5 Mrs Fletcher, was made a monitor and she may have worn
6 a yellow sash. She would be tasked with helping out
7 with the tuck shop.

8 'Most mornings, there was no work in any classes,
9 but we were made to go for long walks. When we were
10 going on the walk, we had to put the wellies on that
11 Fornethy supplied. They never fitted properly and were
12 so tight they would rub me red raw on my calves. The
13 walks were out into the forest areas and it would be for
14 around four or five miles.

15 'It did not matter what the weather was like,
16 because we went on the walks every day. It was every
17 girl from the home that went on the walks. It seemed
18 like we walked in circles, because we went out one side
19 of the house and came back on the other side. If we
20 fell behind the main group, whatever staff member was
21 with us would push us up the line to make sure we could
22 make up some of the ground. It was usually two members
23 of staff that went with us. After the walk, we were
24 back into Fornethy for lunch.

25 'During the rest of the day, if we had any free

1 time, we would spend it in the grounds or write our
2 letters. I don't remember there being any swings or
3 anything to play on. I have since returned to look at
4 the house and there are swings now in the back garden.

5 'We were never given any schooling or lessons when
6 we were at Fornethy. I am not sure if this was because
7 we were on our normal summer leave.

8 'I never saw a doctor or a dentist either of the
9 times I was at Fornethy. During my second stay there,
10 I had my first period. It was at night and I was lying
11 in bed panicking. Mrs Fletcher came in and dragged me
12 out of my bed, which had blood on it. She took me to
13 the bathroom and pulled down my pants to check them and
14 then pulled them back up. She would not let myself get
15 cleaned up and I had to keep wearing the same pants.
16 She sent me back to my bed, but made me lie on the bed
17 with no sheets or covers. She was so angry with me and
18 I didn't know what had happened.

19 'In the morning, when it came time to get up, she
20 took me to the bathroom to get cleaned up. She handed
21 me a big pad but she did not tell me what I was supposed
22 to do with it. She never explained to me what was
23 happening. All she said to me was that when the pad was
24 too dirty, I was to tell her and I would get another
25 one.

1 'I don't have any specific memories of being taken
2 out on any trips or visits. Sometime after I joined the
3 ██████████ group, I was shown some photographs of
4 a building with a turret and I had faint memories of
5 being in the garden there. I could even remember there
6 was a spiral staircase at the rear, not in the
7 photographs. When I visited Fornethy, I was able to
8 find my way to this house and had such a creepy feeling
9 as I walked around the grounds.

10 'Other than having to keep your bed tidy and the
11 area round your bed clean, there were no chores that we
12 would have to carry out. In the morning, we would just
13 make our beds and make sure our cleaned clothes were put
14 away in the cabinet. I think there must have been staff
15 that carried out the laundry.

16 'I was not there during any Christmas period. On
17 neither occasion I was at Fornethy can I remember
18 anyone's birthday being celebrated.

19 'I did not suffer from bed-wetting but there was one
20 girl in my dorm who did have that problem. She tried to
21 hide the sheet, but Mrs Fletcher found out and she
22 dragged the girl out of the room. I did not see what
23 she did to the girl, but she was crying when she came
24 back.

25 'There were no visits from anyone in my family.

1 'I don't remember there being anyone from any
2 authority coming to Fornethy to check on the home or to
3 check on the welfare of the girls there.

4 'Several times a week, we were put into the
5 classroom and we were to write letters home. The
6 problem was Mrs Fletcher would have the wording for the
7 letters written on the blackboard. I remember I ignored
8 that and wrote about some of the abuse. I was not aware
9 at that time that Mrs Fletcher was censoring each
10 letter. She saw what I had written and hit me over the
11 head. She ripped the letter up and made me copy what
12 was on the board. It concentrated on how things were
13 supposed to be so nice there and we were all enjoying
14 our stay there. Nothing like the reality. She wasn't
15 the only one, as other staff would do the same thing.

16 'Mum did write to us when we were at Fornethy and
17 she would tell us she had put a postal order in it, so
18 we would be able to get something from the tuck shop.
19 When we eventually got the letter from Mrs Fletcher, we
20 never saw that money and I got nothing from the tuck
21 shop. Mrs Fletcher kept all the money from mum.

22 'One day as I was walking in general in the
23 corridor, I saw my sister. I tried to approach her to
24 try and speak [to] her. Mrs Fletcher saw this and
25 grabbed me by the hair and dragged me away. She told me

1 there was to be no communication with my sister while I
2 was at Fornethy.

3 'One of the ways we might be disciplined was if we
4 were noisy at night, we might be made to go and sit in
5 the corridor. None of us liked that as we were
6 half-naked and it was freezing in the corridor. After
7 being there for a few minutes, we were sent back to bed.
8 I soon learned to be quiet in bed.

9 'Mrs Fletcher was the worst of all the staff, and
10 apart from her hitting and slapping us, there were many
11 other teachers who did the same. I cannot recall the
12 names of those teachers who were hitting us.

13 'I was starting to develop as a young girl and one
14 night when I was lying in bed, I am not sure what we did
15 wrong, but Mrs Fletcher made all of us get out of bed
16 and stand in the corridor just in our underwear.
17 I tried to use my hands to cover my chest, but she
18 slapped my hands down and told me to keep them by my
19 side. I am not sure how long we were stood there. It
20 felt like hours, but it could also have been about
21 ten minutes.

22 'As I was standing in the corridor, I could see
23 there was another female member of staff at the other
24 end of the corridor watching what was happening. As
25 I stood there, I looked to the other side and I saw the

1 shadow of a man with wavy hair hiding in the dark. He
2 was standing there watching as I stood there. After we
3 had been standing for a little while, Mrs Fletcher sent
4 us back to bed. I don't know why we had to do that, but
5 I have learned later that other things were happening.

6 'There were some nights that girls were taken from
7 their beds and when they came back, they were crying.
8 None of them ever said what was happening to them when
9 they came back, but you could see they were distraught.

10 'I was always a big-built girl as I was growing up
11 and Mrs Fletcher constantly made comments about my size
12 and would make comments about how fat I was.

13 'When I was home after the first visit to Fornethy
14 House, I told my mum about Mrs Fletcher force-feeding me
15 the prunes and that Fletcher had made me eat my sick.
16 When I found out I was going back the next year, I asked
17 mum to write to them and to tell them about my dislike
18 for prunes and that I had been sick and made to eat it.
19 She did write to Fornethy and I gave it to Mrs Fletcher
20 when I arrived the second time. It made no difference
21 and I was fed them again by her throughout most of the
22 second time I was there.

23 'The day before we were due to go home on each
24 occasion from Fornethy, we would be told to pack our
25 things. The night before we were going home, I think

1 the second time, there was a party. I can even remember
2 that my sister was there, but I still wasn't allowed to
3 have contact with her. Mrs Reid had organised the party
4 and would be dancing with us, but there was no
5 Mrs Fletcher at the party. In reality, I think Fornethy
6 were trying to manipulate us into having some fun, to
7 try and hide all the terrible things that happened
8 during our time there. I can still remember the
9 Billy Ocean song, "The Going Gets Tough", being played
10 at the party. Now any time I hear that song I go right
11 back to Fornethy.

12 'When I was back home, I was due to start at high
13 school and therefore I was too old to go back. Prior to
14 going to Fornethy, I really enjoyed my education at
15 primary school, but when I went to secondary school that
16 all changed and I was skipping school on a regular
17 basis. I never sat any of my exams at school.

18 'I moved out of mum's house as soon as I could and
19 with the help of the social work department, I had my
20 own flat when I was 16. Because I had been attempting
21 suicide so often, they had also allocated me
22 a befriender.'

23 And she talks at paragraph 46 about her
24 relationships and at 47 about employment.

25 And at 48, 'Marie' says:

1 'Whilst I was working with the care job, I was
2 selected out of 18,000 other people to be given
3 an award. This was in recognition of overcoming my
4 health issues, getting my job and going on to help
5 others.

6 'Later in my life, I was always trying to do
7 research about Fornethy House but for many years I could
8 find nothing and was even starting to think that the
9 nightmares I was having were all in my imagination.

10 'Only last year did I see something [REDACTED] and
11 it related to an article in the media about abuse in
12 Fornethy. I put a comment [REDACTED] and, soon after,
13 I got a message from a lady. She was asking some
14 questions about my time there in an effort to ensure
15 that I was a previous resident and not some fake person.
16 I then received an invite to join the [REDACTED] group.
17 It was only then that I was able to get more information
18 and was able to find more on the internet about
19 Fornethy. It felt great that I found out I was not
20 alone in being abused there.

21 'My time in Fornethy has had a massive impact on
22 everything of my life. I have little trust of anyone in
23 authority. It affected my mental health and there were
24 several times when I have attempted to commit suicide.
25 I would do anything to try and get rid of the memories

1 of all the slapping and force-feeding.

2 'I have always lived with the impression that I must
3 have done something wrong and therefore I deserved what
4 was happening to me.

5 'My sister and I have never talked about our time at
6 Fornethy House. Even to this day, we don't talk to each
7 other. I have beaten myself up mentally because I have
8 never been able to find out if anything happened to her,
9 and if it did, did she blame me for not protecting her.
10 This unknown still leaves me feeling guilty.

11 'When I had my own family, I think I became
12 overprotective. I never allowed them to go to school on
13 their own, right up to they left and began working.
14 They were never allowed to go on any school trips or to
15 stay overnight with their friends. If they wanted to
16 spend any time indoors with friends, then they had to
17 have them at our house. On one occasion, I can remember
18 there was as many as 19 people in the house.

19 'Even when it came to food, I was protective. If
20 any of my kids said they did not like the food I gave
21 them, I assured them it was not a problem. They were
22 never forced in any way to eat things that they hated.

23 'I could never even let myself leave the kids with
24 my mum. If I went out to work, then my ex-partner had
25 to look after them.

1 'Recently I felt able to tell my older daughter, who
2 is now 28, about the things that happened to me at
3 Fornethy and being made to eat my sick. She told me
4 that hearing all this made sense to her and she
5 understood why she was never allowed out.

6 'Prior to going to Fornethy, I had a really good
7 relationship with my mother. When I finished with
8 Fornethy, that all changed. In my mind, I had told her
9 about the force-feeding after the first stay there and
10 she allowed me to go back a second time. Even to this
11 day, we have a difficult relationship.'

12 She goes on to say:

13 'Since visiting Fornethy and the house with the
14 turret, I can remember there were days we were given
15 some strange-tasting diluting orange juice. After
16 drinking the juice, I have little memories of what I did
17 or where I went. I do have some recollection of being
18 at the turret house. I don't have any memories of being
19 touched sexually, but I do recall Mrs Fletcher was
20 there. I don't even remember getting back to Fornethy.
21 It is secluded like Fornethy and about 15 to 20 minutes'
22 drive away from Fornethy.'

23 And she then goes on to talk about some psychiatric
24 input and other assistance that she's had.

25 Then, reporting of abuse:

1 'Through advice from the [REDACTED] group, I did
2 report my abuse to the police. This was around
3 April 2023. I spoke with officers from Dundee and I was
4 given an update that as Mrs Fletcher is deceased, then
5 they could not take the case any further.'

6 In relation to records, she says:

7 'I have tried to get access for my records to my
8 time at Fornethy House. I submitted a Freedom of
9 Information request to Glasgow Council but I was told
10 they did not hold any records for Fornethy.'

11 So far as lessons to be learned are concerned:

12 'I have since been made aware that there was abuse
13 at Fornethy being reported as far back as 1961 and right
14 up to 1991. If someone had listened and believed the
15 children then, and thereafter taken the appropriate
16 action, then many later children could have been
17 protected from the abuse they subsequently suffered.

18 'I don't want any compensation for what happened to
19 me. I can remember the first time I told my mum about
20 Fornethy, she asked me if there was money in it. I told
21 her I don't want any money. I said if there was
22 a million pounds in it, it would not interest me.
23 I just want acknowledgement.

24 'I do want to see Glasgow Council give an apology
25 for the lack of supervision they should have carried out

1 at Fornethy. I am having legal assistance to try and
2 retrieve my records.'

3 And then in the final few paragraphs, 'Marie' says:

4 'I think people in authority should listen to the
5 victims of abuse. Today there is too much reliance on
6 whether paper records exist of people in care. I cannot
7 find any such records and feel that is holding people
8 back from believing the abuse that took place at
9 Fornethy. Listening to victims should be the start
10 point and they should be believed as well. When making
11 reports of abuse, it should not be so difficult to make
12 people aware of it and the system should not be so
13 complicated to make such reports. I am still left with
14 the belief that the many hoops we have to go through to
15 try and report the abuse leads me to think that people
16 are just trying their best to cover things up.

17 'I think there is still a cover-up by senior police
18 officers, a former Lord Provost and people from the
19 legal authority. There were many reports made to the
20 police for which there are crime reference numbers, but
21 the PF's office denies any allegations reported to them.

22 'There are also cover-ups from doctors. I can see
23 from my medical records that the periods I was in
24 Fornethy are missing. This is the same for many women
25 who had been at Fornethy.'

1 And 'Marie' finishes off by saying:

2 'I have no objection to my witness statement being
3 published as part of the evidence to the Inquiry.
4 I believe the facts stated in this witness statement are
5 true.'

6 And 'Marie' has signed her statement on 25 May 2024.

7 LADY SMITH: Thank you very much.

8 Now, I think we'll pause for the afternoon break,
9 because we've still got one planned read-in today --

10 MR MACAULAY: Yes.

11 LADY SMITH: -- is that right; have I counted correctly?

12 But just before I get to my feet, to catch up with
13 names, to say again to anyone who is new to
14 understanding this, there are people whose identities
15 are protected, they're not to be publicised outside this
16 room. We do some use some names of people that are
17 their real names in this room, but that's just for
18 Inquiry purposes here. And there were four mentioned
19 earlier this afternoon; RJJ [REDACTED], Mrs PWH [REDACTED], RJN [REDACTED] and
20 Mrs RHH [REDACTED], and they're not to be referred to as having
21 been identified in our evidence outside this room, not
22 by anybody.

23 Right, well, I'll stop now for the afternoon break
24 and then we'll do the last read-in after that.

25 Thank you.

1 (3.08 pm)

2 (A short break)

3 (3.22 pm)

4 LADY SMITH: Good afternoon again.

5 Now, Ms MacLeod, the last statement for today,
6 I think.

7 MS MACLEOD: Yes, my Lady. The final read-in statement for
8 today is that of an applicant who will use the pseudonym
9 'Jackie'.

10 LADY SMITH: Thank you.

11 MS MACLEOD: The witness statement can be found at
12 WIT.001.001.5370.

13 LADY SMITH: Thank you.

14 'Jackie' (read in)

15 MS MACLEOD: 'My name is ['Jackie']. I was born in 1961.
16 My contact details are known to the Inquiry.

17 'I was born at home in Glasgow. We moved around
18 a lot after that. I had ten brothers and sisters.
19 I was the fourth eldest.

20 'When I was about 10, we moved to the Springburn
21 area in Glasgow. My mother stayed home to look after
22 us. My father was there rarely. He worked as
23 a scaffolder. I don't know if he was working away.
24 I don't know the reason he wasn't at home.

25 'I was close with my siblings, but not so close to

1 my mum. I suppose she spent most of her time looking
2 after all the children on her own.

3 'I went to Forrethy House in Perthshire at least
4 three times for about six weeks at a time. I was told
5 it was a residential school. I think I was put into
6 care as I was undernourished and not in good health.
7 I remember always having colds and sore ears. I also
8 think it was to give my mum a break. A couple of my
9 brothers and sisters would go into care at different
10 times.

11 'The first time I went to Fornethy House, I went
12 with my eldest sister. The second time, I think I was
13 by myself and the third time, I was with my youngest
14 sister. I don't know how it was organised or who
15 organised it. I was just told I was being sent away to
16 a residential school and that was it.

17 'I was about 6 years old the first time. I'm not
18 sure of exact ages. This is the reason I am keen to see
19 my records. I think I had been attending the Campbell
20 Field Primary School or I was at Anfield School at the
21 time. I don't know who organised for me to go into
22 care.

23 'I went on a bus to Fornethy House. I remember my
24 mum taking me from our house to Charlotte Street in
25 Glasgow. My eldest sister and I got on the bus. The

1 bus had [a lot] of other girls on it. I think there
2 were about 30 girls. There were no boys.

3 'I remember there being a woman on the bus. I felt
4 sick and she gave me a bag to be sick in. I had been
5 told I was going to a residential school but I wasn't
6 sure what that meant.

7 'When we arrived, we were lined up and our names
8 were called. I didn't know what was going to happen to
9 me. I was not excited about being there. I remember
10 not being happy about leaving my brothers and sisters.
11 I would have preferred to stay at home.

12 'After your name was called out, you were allocated
13 a dorm. The dorm was a long room [full] of beds. There
14 was a locker next to each bed and your things were put
15 in it. My mum had been given a list of things that we
16 were to bring. We took our stuff in a bag from home and
17 then we put it in a locker. I remember not having
18 toothpaste at home and my mum got us some for going.

19 'I was separated from my sister. I don't know where
20 she went. I would sometimes see her in the dining room.
21 We were not allowed to roam freely about the house.
22 There were other dorms and they had different names.
23 I can't remember the name of the dorm I was in. The
24 dorm had about ten or 12 beds. It looked like
25 a hospital ward.

1 'It was the same teachers every time I went. There
2 was Miss Robertson, Miss LBD, Miss Fletcher and
3 Miss LAT.

4 'We were woken up early in the morning, someone
5 would come into the room and shout at us to get up. We
6 had to get up and make our beds. The bed had to be made
7 properly. They would inspect your bed and if you didn't
8 make it to their standard they would shout and bawl at
9 you. They would also give you a slap. The bed would be
10 stripped and you would be made do it again.

11 'We then had to brush our teeth. We stood in a line
12 at the bathroom. The bathroom was on the same floor as
13 the dorm. We were told to brush our teeth quickly.

14 'At bedtime, we would have to brush our teeth and
15 get straight into bed. It was a regimented routine. It
16 was very strict.

17 'The staff used to come in the middle of the night
18 and check if anyone had wet the bed. They would pull
19 you off your bed in the middle of the night. They would
20 check your bed and they would check your underwear. If
21 they found that you had soiled your pants, you were made
22 to take them off and put them in a pile in the middle of
23 the room. We were then marched into the bathroom and
24 made to clean the pants. It was dark and the floors
25 were freezing. It was Miss Robertson and Miss Fletcher

1 who would demand that we got up out of our beds. They
2 were both nasty women. They would be checking if you
3 had wiped your bottom properly. If your pants were not
4 clean then after you had to wash them, the pants would
5 be put on the radiator to dry. [That] happened
6 regularly.

7 'The bed-wetters had to turn the chair at the end of
8 the bed to the side before they went to bed at night.
9 This was so the staff would know who wet the bed.
10 I would turn my chair but I didn't wet the bed. I was
11 too scared.

12 'If you did wet the bed, you would get a doing from
13 a staff member. If you wet the bed in the middle of the
14 night, you had to lie it in until the morning.

15 'We were given baths. I would describe bath time as
16 like a sheep dip. The water was not changed in between
17 the girls. When you first arrived at the house, they
18 would give you a bath and scrub you down. They would
19 scrub you like they were scrubbing a motor. It was not
20 a gentle scrub. They would then check your hair.
21 I always seemed to have nits. They would put a smelly
22 lotion on your head. They would take a bone comb and
23 roughly pull it through your hair.

24 'The dining room was downstairs. After we had
25 brushed our teeth in the morning, we went down for

1 breakfast. We had to line up for our food. A woman
2 gave us our food and we had to shout, "thank you". The
3 teachers would all be lined up watching you. They would
4 have breakfast with us. It was like they were waiting
5 to pounce on you if you did something wrong.

6 'After breakfast, we put our wellies on and went on
7 walks or outside to play. We would then have to go back
8 in for lunch. The routine was the same as for
9 breakfast. We had to line up for our food. The
10 teachers would all be watching.

11 'If you didn't eat your food, it would be kept back
12 for you to eat at the next meal time. So if you didn't
13 eat your porridge in the morning, then you went back in
14 the dining room at lunchtime, it was waiting for you.
15 You were kept back and made to eat it. You were made to
16 sit around a table and made to eat the food that made us
17 gag and be sick. If you were sick then they made you
18 eat your own vomit. I don't know how often this
19 happened. It happened to me quite a few times. It
20 happened to all the children. I didn't like bread and
21 butter pudding and I was forced to eat it.

22 'I remember being taken to a school room. I think
23 we were only taken there once a week. We did some
24 writing and some sums. Only certain people would be
25 taken to the school room. Not everyone went but I [had]

1 to go.

2 'When we were outside in the grounds, we were left
3 to organise ourselves. We played with the grass and
4 stones. We pretended they were money for the shop. We
5 were also taken on organised walks. This would happen
6 every couple of days.

7 'We would be told to put on wellies and we would
8 walk for miles. We had no socks on and the rubber at
9 the top of the wellies would rub against our legs
10 causing it to bleed. We did not receive any medical
11 attention for this. I didn't speak to anyone about it
12 as we all suffered it.

13 'We also had to write letters home. We had to write
14 out what was written on the board. My mum would send me
15 a postal order. I was allowed to use this money to buy
16 sweets.

17 'I didn't receive any visits from a social worker
18 while I was in care. I never saw a social worker when
19 I was at home either.

20 'There was a medical room. If you were not feeling
21 well, you were sent to the medical room. One of the
22 staff would get a big spoon. It was like a tablespoon.
23 They would put something on it. I don't know if it was
24 cough mixture or if it was cod liver oil. They would
25 put the spoon to the back of your mouth and you would

1 gag. The liquid was rammed down your throat. I was
2 quite a sickly child. I was always loaded with a cold
3 so I was sent quite a few times. Once they rammed the
4 medicine down your throat, you were then told to carry
5 on with what you had been doing. You were not allowed
6 to stay in bed.

7 'To this day, I can't have anything in my mouth.
8 I believe this was from the trauma of them ramming the
9 spoon down my throat.

10 'I have no clear recollection of specific abuse from
11 the first time I was there. All I remember is that I
12 wasn't happy to be going back. I know there was abuse
13 the first time I was there, but I think I have blocked
14 lots of things out.

15 'When I arrived the second time, I remember I had
16 been sick on the bus. When I got off the bus,
17 Miss Robertson, one of the members of staff, said she
18 recognised me. She said, "['Jackie'], you've been here
19 before". She punched me on the right-hand side of my
20 head. I then hit my head against the wall. My sister
21 just stood there horrified. She was only 5 years old at
22 the time.

23 'It was not a nice atmosphere. I was witnessing
24 people getting shouted at and slapped. We were not
25 allowed to talk to one another. They would shout at you

1 for speaking. I remember going back for the second time
2 and I felt absolutely terrified. I was in a right state
3 as I knew what I was going for.

4 'I remember another time I was outside. It must
5 have been springtime. I was trying to pet a lamb. It
6 was so cold, I had not realised that I had cut my face
7 on the barbed wire. When I got back, I was marched down
8 to the medical room. A bit of gauze was put on the cut
9 and I was shoved away. I had been so cold, I couldn't
10 feel the cut on my face. When we were outside we had to
11 wear a floral smock over our clothes. It was like
12 a Victorian smock. It was not warm enough. We were not
13 allowed to go back inside until they gave us permission.

14 'When we were outside, we were not allowed to ask to
15 go to the toilet. We had to hold it in. We were only
16 allowed to go to the toilet at certain times [of] the
17 day. We would go to the toilet when we got up in the
18 morning, then at lunchtime and again just before bed.

19 'We were not allowed to communicate with the other
20 girls. Talking was not allowed between the girls.
21 I remember one time, Miss Robertson leathered me for
22 smiling at another girl. We were in the dining room and
23 I smiled at this other girl. Miss Robertson came up and
24 grabbed me by my clothes. She grabbed my pants and
25 yanked them up into my privates. She leathered into my

1 leg really hard. She then beat the other lassie up.
2 She did this in front of all the staff and the kids.
3 She used her hands. Miss Robertson was a big woman.

4 'Sometimes we whispered to each other. We were
5 allowed to sing when we were in the TV room. They would
6 let us sing songs that were in the charts at the time.
7 I remember singing "Ten Guitars" and "Chirpy, Chirp,
8 Cheep, Cheep".

9 'I must have been close to leaving when Miss LBD
10 punched me in the ear. She was allowing me to buy
11 sweets with my postal order from my mum. She was asking
12 what I wanted. I told her that I wanted to buy
13 something for my brothers and sisters. She punched me
14 to the side of my head. It was so hard that I fell onto
15 the concrete floor. I couldn't hear anything.
16 I blacked out, I remember nothing about it.

17 'I must've been unconscious as I woke up in a single
18 room and there was a man standing over me. I think he
19 must have been a doctor as he had a stethoscope round
20 his neck. Miss LBD and Miss Robertson were also in
21 the room. I remember being terrified of them. I had my
22 nightclothes on. I don't remember how I got there.
23 I don't know how long I was in the single room for.
24 I don't think I received any treatment for my right ear.

25 'I think I have blanked out much of the abuse. It's

1 like I have shut myself down. My most vivid
2 recollections are from my last time at Fornethy House.
3 I know I was hit and I was scared of all the staff. The
4 staff were all women. The staff would sit and watch you
5 all the time. You were too scared to do anything.
6 I think they would victim pick. They all abused us.

7 'I remember waking up one morning and my hair was
8 sticking to my pillow. My ear had been running that
9 night. I was terrified that I was going to get into
10 trouble for making a mess of my pillow. The teacher
11 said it was okay, so she must have been one of the nicer
12 ones. On this occasion, I was not beaten up.

13 'One night, my sister came into bed with me. She
14 had wet herself and was freezing cold. She was [soaked]
15 with urine. I told her that she had to go back to her
16 own bed. I was terrified that we were going to get
17 beaten up if we were found in bed together. I wouldn't
18 have been able to handle watching that. [My sister]
19 then went back to her own bed.

20 'I remember two sisters at Fornethy House. They
21 both had short hair. We had been outside. We sometimes
22 sat together, but not talking. One of the sisters
23 nudged the other sister and she ended up in the frog
24 pond. A member of the staff dragged them both inside.
25 One was grabbed by the hair and the other was grabbed by

1 her clothes. The girls were given a beating with
2 a slipper or a shoe. They were screaming. I'll never
3 forget the screams. They were getting really leathered.
4 I think the girls were about 6 or 7. I sat with tears
5 streaming down my face. I don't remember seeing the
6 sisters again. This incident really sticks in my head.
7 It was a brutal attack. I'm not sure which teacher
8 leathered them, it might have been Miss Robertson.

9 'The only man about the place was the handyman,
10 PWI. I remember he came into the shower room. I was
11 having my shower with [my sister]. We had no clothes
12 on. I think I was about 10. There was one teacher in
13 the room. When PWI walked in, there was eye contact
14 between him and the teacher. I'm not sure why, but
15 I was shaking in my shoes. I grabbed a face cloth and
16 tried to hide [redacted]'s and my private parts. I was
17 terrified that we were going to be taken away by him.
18 I don't know why I did that and why I felt that way.
19 I don't know why he was in the room when we were
20 showering. There were some girls who were more
21 developed than me. They were shouting at PWI. They
22 were laughing and sneering.

23 'Two girls escaped from the house. When they were
24 found, they were dragged into a room in front of the
25 rest of us girls. We had all been put into this big

1 room. They had been beaten up and they were totally
2 distraught. The staff were pointing at them and told us
3 this is what we would get if we ran away. We were told
4 not to speak to the two girls. I think this happened
5 while I was there with [my younger sister].'

6 The witness then speaks, between paragraphs 46 and
7 50, my Lady, about a period she spent in a home called
8 Dr Lumsden's Home in Ayrshire. And I'll move on to
9 paragraph 51, where the witness speaks about reporting
10 of abuse:

11 'I didn't tell anyone what was happening at Fornethy
12 House. My mum was always too busy to talk to. She was
13 always working out how she was going to feed us all. It
14 must have been really hard for her. I used to beg her
15 not to send me back to Fornethy House. She didn't want
16 us to go into care full-time. Sending us away for short
17 periods of time was her attempt at keeping the family
18 together.

19 'We had moved to a house in Springburn when I was
20 about 9 or 10. I think the flat we had been staying in
21 was basically part of a derelict building. We had no
22 inside toilet and no hot water. We were the last family
23 to be moved out and rehoused. The house had a bath and
24 a garden.'

25 LADY SMITH: So that's the new house at Springburn.

1 MS MACLEOD: I think that's right, my Lady, that must be the
2 new house:
3 'I didn't have to go back to Fornethy House.
4 Neither did any of my siblings. I felt like I had
5 become an adult as I no longer needed to be sent away.
6 I think I was too old to be sent away to residential
7 school.
8 'I liked living in the house in Springburn. I would
9 help my mum out with my younger siblings and I used to
10 give them baths. I left school when I was about 14 or
11 15. I wasn't encouraged to stay on. I think this was
12 because I came from one of the poorer areas.
13 'I had a breakdown when I was 17 or 18. I wasn't
14 eating and I ended up in hospital. We were not
15 a well-off family and I thought that if I didn't eat,
16 then my brothers and sisters would have more food.
17 I had just heard that Fornethy House had closed down.
18 This rattled me. I had wanted to go back as an adult
19 and confront the staff there.'
20 LADY SMITH: And Fornethy closed in 1980?
21 MS MACLEOD: 1980, my Lady, yes.
22 LADY SMITH: Wasn't it? So that would be right. She'd be
23 about 18.
24 MS MACLEOD: Yes:
25 'I think I went into a depression and I was

1 prescribed tablets. I decided to take [REDACTED] and
2 walked down the main road. I tried to get myself killed
3 [REDACTED]. Someone took me back to my mum's house. She
4 made me drink salt water to make me sick. It was
5 a wake-up call for me. I realised what I had done. It
6 made me stronger and I decided to get on with my life.

7 'I trained as a machinist. I got married when I was
8 22 or 23. My sister used to come and stay at the
9 weekends and she ended up staying and I kept her for
10 years. I was 13 years older than her and I was like
11 a mum to her. I worked hard and I would buy her things.
12 I took care of her. She had a different way of life
13 from what we had had. I made sure she had clothes.
14 Anything she wanted, she just had to say.

15 '[I was 27 and 30 years old when I had my children].
16 I had moved a lot as a child so I made sure that my kids
17 only had two addresses. I worked for a short time after
18 I had [my second child]. My mum used to help look after
19 the kids but, when she died, I had to give up work. As
20 I got older I became closer to my mum. When I was
21 younger she was just too busy and we were not close.

22 'The impact from my experiences at Fornethy House
23 have been huge. I don't like being in the dark.
24 I don't like being closed in and I don't like people too
25 near me. I can't hug anyone. I don't like people being

1 too close to me. I don't like being in a lift. I don't
2 trust people.

3 'At Fornethy House they used to turn the lights out
4 and shout and bawl. It freaked me out. It was pitch
5 black and they would march us down to the toilet. In my
6 own house, I leave all my doors open in the house.
7 I leave my hall lights on. I'm terrified of having to
8 get up and go to the toilet in the dark. I was also
9 frightened my kids would wake up and not see where they
10 were going to the middle of the night if they needed the
11 toilet.

12 'I became overprotective of my children. When I had
13 to start letting them go a little bit by sending them to
14 the shop, I would run down and peek out of a closed door
15 to see they were all right.

16 'I once went on a holiday with my pal. [It] was
17 a nightmare. I started to panic as I'd been away for
18 a couple of days. I wanted to get back as soon as
19 possible. I thought I wasn't getting home. I connect
20 that to my experiences at Fornethy House. I always had
21 a fear when I was there that I was not going to be
22 allowed to go home. I was never told how long I was
23 going to be staying for. I'm okay to go away for a day
24 trip or a week at the very longest. There's no way
25 I could go away from home for a fortnight.

1 'I don't like people hugging me. I'm not used to
2 that. It puts me into a panic. I start sweating.
3 I received no comfort at home or in Fornethy House.
4 There was no affection shown even between my siblings.
5 I would cuddle my children when they were young, but
6 I don't cuddle them now they are adults.

7 'I don't trust people in authority. If I don't know
8 them, I don't trust them. I analyse people. I also
9 don't trust people who have eyes like Miss LBD or
10 Miss Fletcher. They had tiny, evil eyes.

11 'I put my lack of trust down to my experiences at
12 Fornethy House. I couldn't talk to anyone. I was
13 scared to even look at anybody. I was happy with my
14 brothers and sisters before I went to Fornethy House.
15 That changed after I went to Fornethy House.

16 'I had surgery on my right ear in 2007. I kept
17 taking ear infections. My inner ear was all smashed
18 inside. After the surgery, I had to go for check-ups.
19 Three years after the surgery, the doctor asked me if
20 I had been in a car crash. He thought that's what had
21 caused the damage in the first place. I told him
22 I hadn't been in a car crash. I told him that I had
23 been punched in the ear as a child. It was after
24 [meeting my doctor] I started to look back at my
25 childhood.

1 'I went back to Fornethy House. I thought I heard
2 things when I was about the house. I did not go inside.
3 It gave me the heebie-jeebies when I saw the side door.
4 It reminded me of when the two sisters were dragged
5 through it after they had fallen in the frog pond.

6 'I have relationship problems. I can cut people off
7 easily if they annoy me in any way. I just take a step
8 back. I just won't have them in my life. I am no
9 longer in contact with my brothers and sisters.

10 'My [youngest] sister died seven years ago. She had
11 been with me in Fornethy the last time I was there. She
12 went down the wrong road in life. She took to drink and
13 drugs. I think she committed suicide because of what
14 happened to her in Fornethy. She used to be pulled out
15 of her bed in the middle of the night because she wet
16 the bed. I feel bad now for not speaking to her.
17 I didn't realise what the problem was.

18 'I went to see a lawyer about my time in care. He
19 told me to get in touch with the Scottish Child Abuse
20 Inquiry. The Inquiry put me in touch with
21 Future Pathways. I had a meeting with [a person at
22 Future Pathways]. She mentioned Helen Holland [and]
23 I got in touch with INCAS. Once I had spoken to Helen,
24 I felt she could help me more. I was glad to have met
25 Helen. INCAS made a private referral for counselling

1 and I see a counsellor once a week. I have only started
2 to talk about my abuse this year.

3 'I have made an application to get my records.
4 There is an ongoing problem between Possil Council and
5 Springburn Council about providing me with my medical
6 records. I'm keen to see my records as I want to know
7 the exact dates of when I was in care. I am hopeful of
8 getting them in the near future.

9 'I would like the Inquiry to be able to help people
10 like myself. I would hope that it would help kids in
11 care so that what I suffered won't happen again.

12 I would like the Inquiry to be able to help people that
13 are not as strong as myself, like my [youngest] sister,
14 who has not been able to give her evidence to the
15 Inquiry.

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

20 'Jackie' signed her statement on 19 September 2017.

21 LADY SMITH: Thank you very much indeed. Thank you.

22 MS MACLEOD: My Lady, that completes the evidence for today
23 and tomorrow we have three live witnesses, with the
24 first starting at 10.00 am.

25 LADY SMITH: At 10 o'clock. Thank you very much for that.

1 Just some names, some of these I've mentioned
2 already, not today but previously, again people whose
3 identities are protected by my General Restriction Order
4 and they're not to be referred to as mentioned in our
5 evidence outside this room. And that was Ms LBD ,
6 Ms LAT and again PWI who was mentioned earlier
7 today. I think that covers everybody that I needed to.

8 So thank you very much. And I'll rise now until
9 10 o'clock tomorrow morning.

10 (3.47 pm)

11 (The Inquiry adjourned until 10.00 am
12 on Thursday, 21 May 2026)

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

I N D E X

1		
2		PAGE
3	'Rose' (sworn)	3
4	Questions from Ms MacLeod	4
5	'Morag' (read in)	88
6	'Holly' (read in)	110
7	'Marie' (read in)	140
8	'Jackie' (read in)	159
9		
10		
11		
12		
13		
14		
15		
16		
17		
18		
19		
20		
21		
22		
23		
24		
25		

