

Thursday, 21 May 2026

1

2 (10.00 am)

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

10 Now, we carry on again today, looking at Fornethy  
11 School, Fornethy House Residential School, and we have  
12 planned three witnesses in person. I'm told the first  
13 witness is ready; is that right, Mr MacAulay?

14 MR MACAULAY: Yes, good morning, my Lady. The first witness  
15 is ready. She is an applicant.

16 LADY SMITH: Thank you.

17 MR MACAULAY: She wants to remain anonymous and to use the  
18 pseudonym 'Elaine' in her evidence.

19 LADY SMITH: Thank you.

20 'Elaine' (affirmed)

21 LADY SMITH: 'Elaine', thank you so much for coming along  
22 this morning to help us with your evidence in person and  
23 thank you for providing written evidence as fully and  
24 clearly as you have done. It's been really helpful to  
25 be able to study that in advance and it means,

1 of course, we're not going to go through everything line  
2 by line or word for word, but there are some particular  
3 aspects we'd like to focus on, if that's okay with you.

4 As we go through your evidence, if at any time you  
5 have any questions, please ask. If we're not making  
6 sense or you don't know why we're asking you what we're  
7 asking you, that's our fault, not yours, so do speak up.

8 If you want a break at any time, that's absolutely  
9 fine. I don't think your evidence will go beyond 11.30  
10 am, but if we are still taking evidence from you at that  
11 point, I take a break around then anyway, so you can  
12 bear that in mind. But a breather at any other time is  
13 perfectly all right if that would help you.

14 My key is to do what I can to make the process of  
15 giving evidence, in a public place, about yourself and  
16 your own childhood, which isn't easy, as comfortable as  
17 possible. So you tell me if there's anything I can do  
18 to help.

19 If you're ready, I'll hand over to Mr MacAulay and  
20 he'll take it from there. All right?

21 A. Thank you.

22 LADY SMITH: Mr MacAulay.

23 Questions from Mr MacAulay

24 MR MACAULAY: My Lady.

25 Good morning, again, 'Elaine'. As you know, I'm

1 Colin and I'll be asking you the questions.

2 The first thing I would like you to do for me is to  
3 look at the last page of your statement, which you'll  
4 find in the red folder.

5 Can you confirm, 'Elaine', that you have signed the  
6 statement?

7 A. Yes, I confirm.

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

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

11 I believe the facts stated in this witness statement are  
12 true.'

13 A. Correct.

14 Q. And going back to the beginning then of the statement,  
15 the first thing I want to take from you is the year of  
16 your birth. I don't want your date of birth because you  
17 want to be anonymous, but can you confirm, so we have  
18 some context for your evidence, that you were born in  
19 1958?

20 A. Yes, that is true.

21 Q. Now, you actually begin your statement by explaining why  
22 you wanted to speak to the Inquiry, and can you explain  
23 that to me; why did you want to come to the Inquiry?

24 A. It seems odd, but, I mean, I have told people throughout  
25 my life about being, you know, in the residential home

1 at Fornethy, but I couldn't remember the name and  
2 I thought it was somewhere deeper in the Highlands. And  
3 it was really, what prompted me was reading the article  
4 in the [REDACTED], erm, and that -- and with Police  
5 Scotland saying for people to come forward, and that's  
6 what really prompted me and motivated me to come  
7 forward.

8 Q. And was the article that you read about Fornethy?

9 A. Yes.

10 Q. And what was your reaction to the reading of the  
11 article?

12 A. I think it was the sexual abuse, erm, which did not  
13 happen to me. I think it looked as if it was maybe  
14 later, but maybe it happened during -- it didn't happen  
15 to me, but I was terribly shocked because it reminded me  
16 of other cases, prominent cases, that had been during  
17 when I was training as a social worker.

18 Q. And the background to all of this and your reaction to  
19 the article, of course, is because you were at Fornethy?

20 A. Yes, yes.

21 Q. Well, before we look at that, can I just look at your  
22 family background. You tell us about, at paragraph 5 of  
23 your statement, you were born in the Gorbals in Glasgow  
24 and I think you lived there in your early years till you  
25 were moved?

1 A. Yes, this was the slum clearances in the 1960s.

2 Q. And what you tell us is that you were born into 'extreme  
3 poverty'. Can you just elaborate upon that to the  
4 extent that you'd like to? What was life like?

5 A. My parents -- I don't -- the term would be called  
6 'hawkers', they didn't have settled employment. My  
7 father had a stall at what we would call Paddy's Market  
8 in the old town. So there was -- it was very  
9 disorganised, poor, and alcohol was taken by both my  
10 parents, so I was neglected in that case. And the thing  
11 is about poverty, everybody who grew up in the Gorbals  
12 in single ends didn't have any reference points so, you  
13 know, it was -- but yes, it was a very neglected  
14 childhood in terms of care, food, sleep.

15 Cleanliness, interestingly, was not -- my mother did  
16 keep us clean.

17 Q. And apart from yourself, I think you had a sister --

18 A. Yes, my sister who's ten years older than me, yeah.

19 Q. You describe -- you go on to describe Fornethy, and  
20 we'll look at that, as a 'hellhole', but that you  
21 actually lived in a hellhole anyway?

22 A. Mm-hmm, yes.

23 Q. Was the social work involved with you?

24 A. We called it 'the cruelty' in those days. I never had  
25 any intervention. I find it quite amazing because of,

1       you know, the lifestyle of standing outside pubs in  
2       the -- you know, outside, you know, round from  
3       ██████████, the ██████████ and things, standing  
4       there till 10 o'clock at night. Nobody intervened.

5   Q. I think you say that was miraculous?

6   A. I think it's miraculous. I used to -- there was --  
7       the mortuary was there with the High Court and I'd see  
8       the vans coming in and out.

9   Q. But I think, if I can put it this way, a safety valve  
10      for you at that time was school?

11  A. Absolutely.

12  Q. Can you explain that?

13  A. It just -- I don't know where it came from, because my  
14      parents were, I mean -- and this is not, you know, my  
15      parents were, I would say, you know, not fully literate.  
16      They had left school at 14, erm, and we had no books in  
17      the house. My sister got married at 16 to get away.  
18      I just loved books, and at school I just very quickly  
19      realised this was my place. I was a quiet child. I was  
20      never disruptive. I was quite meek. But I absolutely  
21      loved books and reading and that was noticed by my  
22      teachers, and school saved my life.

23  Q. And I think we all know what is important or can be  
24      important at school is the motivation one might get from  
25      a teacher.

1 A. Yes.

2 Q. Was there a particular teacher who motivated you?

3 A. Oh, it was Miss McFarlane, who I absolutely adored.

4 Q. So in a way, school contrasted in a huge way with your  
5 home life?

6 A. There was two lives; there was school life and there was  
7 home life, and I lived for school.

8 Q. Well, can I then take you to how it came to be that you  
9 went to Fornethy; can you fill me in on that?

10 A. I don't rightly know. Erm, I understand that, you know,  
11 that children of my position and my class and  
12 possibly -- I would wager -- well, I wouldn't wager. As  
13 an adult I would believe that my teachers must have  
14 known that there was, you know, neglect perhaps, and  
15 I would -- again, this is -- I can't, you know, put my  
16 hand on the Bible or so on and say that -- but I just  
17 know my parents would have been keen to get rid of me,  
18 'cos I was always in the way of their enjoyment, is what  
19 they would say.

20 So if they could have the opportunity, for whatever  
21 reason -- it certainly wasn't health or respite that  
22 I was -- they had the opportunity to have me away for  
23 six weeks. Because if it wasn't at Fornethy, I was sent  
24 up to Fraserburgh with my father's relatives for the  
25 whole of the summer holidays.

1 Q. And you'd been to Fraserburgh before you went --

2 A. Yes, and afterwards, yes.

3 Q. So I think you tell us that you went to Fornethy for six

4 weeks when you were perhaps 10 or 11 years of age; is

5 that your recollection?

6 A. Yes.

7 Q. So we're talking about perhaps 1968 or 1969?

8 A. Yeah.

9 Q. And what were you told about where you were going and

10 why you were going?

11 A. I can't remember.

12 Q. Well, I think you tell us that you may have been told

13 you were going on a holiday of some sorts?

14 A. Yes, the thing that -- and it's interesting reading it

15 again. I had never had name tags and I didn't know what

16 indelible ink was until then. That, that kind of

17 preamble towards it. And it would have been -- I would

18 have been said something, going on holiday or something

19 like that. Erm ...

20 Q. Could I ask you then to look at a couple of photographs.

21 You have no objection to that, I understand?

22 A. No, I'm fine.

23 Q. And the first of these is INQ-0000001236.

24 A. Yes.

25 Q. Do you recognise that aerial photograph?

1 A. I recognise the building. I wouldn't have seen it from  
2 an aerial perspective.

3 Q. No. And that is Fornethy?

4 A. Yes.

5 Q. And the other photograph is INQ-000000 --

6 A. This is more -- I can remember it as that, yeah.

7 Q. It was a large building.

8 A. It was, it was like, you know, I mean I'd never seen  
9 anything like this kind of property growing up.

10 Q. And how did you get there, can you remember?

11 A. I remember being taken -- I don't know if it was  
12 Buchanan Street, but it was certainly, I remember being  
13 taken into town from Castlemilk with my mother and going  
14 on the bus, and I remember the suitcase. And I remember  
15 being distressed because, no matter how violent or  
16 neglectful my mother was, I couldn't bear to be parted  
17 from her.

18 Q. And were there other children on that bus?

19 A. There was other children, yeah.

20 Q. And were there any adults on the bus apart from the  
21 driver?

22 A. I can't remember. There will have been obviously, but  
23 yeah.

24 Q. And it was quite a long journey --

25 A. Yes.

1 Q. We understand Fornethy is about 80 miles from Glasgow so  
2 that would have taken a while?

3 A. Yes. The only other time I'd been on any journey would  
4 have been going up to Fraserburgh.

5 Q. Do you remember your first day at Fornethy?

6 A. I remember going in and being overwhelmed by the kind  
7 of, the kind of, the fittings, if you like, the kind of,  
8 you know, the fireplaces and the kinda big stairs and,  
9 erm, you know, things like that and, as I said, I say it  
10 here, yeah.

11 And it's interesting, my mother cleaned houses in  
12 kind of areas in Glasgow, but I'd never seen anything  
13 like it. It looked like something out of a film.

14 Q. You tell us that the accommodation was provided in  
15 dormitories, so you slept in dormitories?

16 A. Yes.

17 Q. And were you allocated a dormitory when you arrived  
18 there?

19 A. Do you know, I can't remember exactly. A lot -- I have  
20 to confess that in this I find, you know -- because  
21 I can remember my childhood at home almost in  
22 technicolour detail, but a lot of stuff around Fornethy,  
23 and I think I've mentioned this a few times, is, it's  
24 like, you know, I've got very clear memories, but other  
25 stuff is quite hazy. And I don't know if that's through

1 trauma, or ...

2 Q. But in relation to the dormitory that you were in, can  
3 you --

4 A. I remember the bed and I remember I think there was  
5 a cabinet-type thing where you had your belongings, yes.

6 Q. And were there other girls in the dormitory?

7 A. Yes.

8 Q. Do you remember how many other girls there were in the  
9 dormitory?

10 A. No.

11 Q. And did you have any -- did you develop any sense as to  
12 how many girls were actually at Fornethy?

13 A. I couldn't give you numbers. There was -- I couldn't  
14 really give numbers.

15 Q. But quite a number?

16 A. Yes, I mean, I suppose the numbers, when I think about  
17 being in the classroom, you know, like a classroom, so  
18 would there be maybe 30, 40 people, children, and then  
19 the dining, and the common room areas.

20 Q. And you were perhaps 10 or 11 when you went there.  
21 Younger children than you as well?

22 A. I can't remember. I remember kinda people more my,  
23 contemporary ages to myself.

24 Q. Well, let's look at the staff then. Are there  
25 particular staff members that you remember?

1 A. I don't -- I don't know the names of any of the staff  
2 except Margaret Fletcher, and I wouldn't have known her  
3 had I -- you know, if she was to, you know -- if I was  
4 to, you know, show photographs.

5 I would sort of remember her demeanour, remember how  
6 she dressed and how, you know, she had a sort of  
7 presence of a kind of quite, you know, severe kind of  
8 person that I would have been naturally sort of a bit  
9 hesitant and scared of. She wasn't like Miss McFarlane.

10 Q. No. Was she -- did you recognise her as being the  
11 headmistress?

12 A. Well, yes, we will have been -- we must have been told  
13 that, and certainly by her demeanour, her air of  
14 authority, it was obvious that she was in charge.

15 Q. And looking at it generally, how would you describe the  
16 behaviour of the staff towards the children?

17 A. Well, it was the hitting. It was, you know, from the  
18 start. And, erm, I don't remember -- I mean, the  
19 violence was just, it was just so random and so -- none  
20 of it was through provocation on the part of myself or  
21 the other children. It would just come out the blue.  
22 So I mean, I knew, I could differentiate the staff, you  
23 know, who were maybe sort of more senior and then  
24 cleaners because of their dress. But the interactions  
25 and the hitting came from all sources.

1 Q. And we'll look at some of the details of that shortly,  
2 but when you're talking about hitting, can you just give  
3 me some sense or -- as to what that involved?

4 A. What we would call in Glasgow a wallop, you know, just  
5 sudden, you know, out the blue, and your head. It was  
6 your head. It wasn't your backside, like a smack,  
7 which, you know, you could say, well -- and, you know,  
8 when I grew up in the days I never got the belt, but you  
9 know, there was, you know, sort of punishment of that  
10 sort. It was the head.

11 Q. And was that a regular occurrence?

12 A. Yes. And unprovoked.

13 Q. Well, can I ask -- look at some aspects of the routine  
14 then and let's look at mealtimes, because you talk about  
15 that at paragraph 23 onwards.

16 You say feeding wasn't a problem for you; because of  
17 your background you'd been regularly short of food,  
18 I think?

19 A. Yes, I was starved.

20 Q. What did you witness when -- at mealtimes?

21 A. Really just, you know, it was unusual 'cos it was  
22 a table. Erm, I hadn't -- we didn't have a table. And  
23 because it was in, like, in courses as I would say now,  
24 so you would -- you know.

25 I remember the -- reading that, it sounds kind of

1           really -- but yeah, boiled egg in a shell, I thought  
2           that was really sort of very luxury.

3   Q.   But did you witness any children suffering?

4   A.   No, this is what -- I find this very troubling,  
5           because -- and I don't remember the force-feeding.  
6           I don't remember that, genuinely. But it would not  
7           surprise me in the slightest.

8   Q.   And the other thing you tell us in the following  
9           paragraph, paragraph 24, is that routinely at night you  
10          got milk and digestive biscuits, and you go on to say  
11          that you believe that they were sedated?

12  A.   Yes.

13  Q.   What makes you think that, 'Elaine'?

14  A.   Now, I thought getting the milk and digestive biscuit,  
15          like, was again another luxury. I never had that. That  
16          was a real novelty. It's because of -- the memories are  
17          so patchy, you know. I mean, you know, I've got  
18          a forensic memory, you know, I mean, people remark upon  
19          it. But I just have so many gaps.

20                 I can't -- I can't confirm that there were -- we  
21                 were sedated, but obviously I've read some other, you  
22                 know, statements in the press about this perhaps being  
23                 the case. I just, I just think it could be just through  
24                 trauma, the separation from my mother, erm, that I just  
25                 dissociated and blanked out.

1 Q. Another aspect of the routine you talk about is washing  
2 and bathing.

3 A. Mm-hmm.

4 Q. And you say there were communal showers?

5 A. Well, communal in the sense, you know, that we were all  
6 in, you know, the bath area or shower area. This is one  
7 thing that is imprinted in my mind and my memory, the  
8 humiliation of being yanked out the shower and slapped.  
9 And I don't know what that was about and again, I had  
10 this kind of -- nobody had ever seen me naked other than  
11 my mother. So to be in a kind of -- and that never  
12 happened at school. If you were going to gym classes,  
13 you know, that was never an occurrence.

14 So that I remember. I mean, I can see it in the  
15 front of me today, the -- and feel the feeling of the  
16 humiliation, and the shock that that could happen.

17 Q. And were there other girls there as well?

18 A. Yes. Yeah.

19 Q. Naked?

20 A. Yeah.

21 Q. And when you say you were pulled out and slapped, was  
22 there a reason for that?

23 A. I wondered if I had maybe started to develop a bit or  
24 something. I think there was something of that, because  
25 we're going to go to something further on in my evidence

1           where I think there was something, you know, around  
2           that, you know, puberty kicked in quite young for me.

3   Q.   But clearly a staff member was involved in that process.  
4           Were there other staff members present when girls were  
5           having these showers?

6   A.   Oh, there would be more than one. I couldn't count, but  
7           you know, I mean, that, I mean, you would expect more  
8           than one member of staff anyway if you've got a group of  
9           girls or a group of children, but yeah.

10  Q.   You tell us about an incident when you -- girls who you  
11          describe as posh girls --

12  A.   Yes.

13  Q.   -- turned up at Fornethy. Can you just help me with  
14          that? Why was that significant to you?

15  A.   It was significant because -- well, I mean there's  
16          nothing remarkable about it, but I just remember, you  
17          know, feeling, you know, that with -- in this instance  
18          with -- I think it was a Sunday afternoon and they had  
19          lovely hair, long hair and ribbons and beautifully  
20          dressed, and they were on a kind of, you know, in  
21          a separate part -- I think in the dining area. And  
22          I just felt, you know.

23                I mean, I admired, I mean, I thought they looked  
24          beautiful, but I felt a great sense of difference from  
25          me and the other girls in being presented and we were in

1 the kind of the -- the kind of the poor, you know, sort  
2 of skinny weans group, and there was these really, you  
3 know.

4 I mean, it's not a kind of, you know, it's not  
5 a comment, you know, against who these girls were. It  
6 was just the feelings that it made me feel. Even as  
7 a child, you know, I felt, you know, that I was just  
8 different and, yeah.

9 LADY SMITH: 'Elaine', is your memory of this happening just  
10 once or more often than that?

11 A. I can only remember it once, where it really  
12 crystallised. It might have happened other -- just,  
13 I can see it visually just now as we're going through  
14 this.

15 LADY SMITH: Because in the time you were at Fornethy you  
16 would have been there on a number of Sundays.

17 A. Yes.

18 LADY SMITH: I was just wondering whether it was a regular  
19 thing.

20 A. It could have been, Lady Smith, I can't really --  
21 I just, you know how sometimes a thing sticks in your  
22 mind, and it was just that feeling of -- I don't  
23 think -- I don't know if it would be suggesting to say  
24 that they were doing that deliberately or anything. It  
25 just felt really, you know, humiliating.

1 MR MACAULAY: And do you know who these girls were?

2 A. I think they must have been -- you know, again I think  
3 that maybe they had perhaps been relatives or -- of,  
4 perhaps of, I don't know, the senior staff, or known to,  
5 you know, whoever maybe was on the board or something  
6 like that. They certainly were a class apart from the  
7 girls, myself and the others included.

8 Q. Was there any interaction at all between you --

9 A. Absolutely none.

10 Q. Now, another thing you talk about in your statement,  
11 'Elaine', is the walks that you went on.

12 A. Yes.

13 Q. And can you just tell me about that?

14 A. I mean, obviously we were in the countryside and it was  
15 a very different environment. I mean -- but there  
16 were -- it wasn't like a walk where, you know, they were  
17 pointing out nature, you know, trees or educational, you  
18 know, sort of fields and things. It seemed -- it was  
19 more like a kind of march, marching. It was like -- and  
20 also, maybe they were trying to tire us, you know, and,  
21 you know, sort of burn off energy. But you weren't  
22 allowed to talk, it was very regulated. And that's one  
23 where I got a slap across -- well, it was not, it was  
24 more than a slap, it was a blow across the head. Maybe  
25 I made a comment. I can't remember. But I remember the

1 shock and the, you know, disbelief. But that's -- so,  
2 the hitting happened wherever you were. It was random,  
3 it was unprovoked. But the walks were very, like,  
4 endurance.

5 Q. Yes, they were long walks?

6 A. They were long walks and I think we had Wellingtons  
7 given to us which, you know, would not be comfortable to  
8 walk for long periods of time in, but that was, I mean,  
9 that's a minor kind of --

10 Q. And did you walk in all weathers?

11 A. Yes.

12 Q. Can I then look at schooling, because when you were in  
13 the community, you loved school and Fornethy was  
14 designed as a residential school. So there were  
15 classrooms there, is that correct?

16 A. Yes.

17 Q. And you did go to school when you were there?

18 A. Yes. I mean, I think school is a kind of, you know, it  
19 was nothing like school at home, it wasn't.

20 Q. What happened at school?

21 A. Well, I remember that, you know, 'cos that was some --  
22 that was a structure for me. So I -- an environment  
23 where I would have felt, you know, safe and have some  
24 agency in. And there was a big blackboard, and this is  
25 true, that you had to write down what was on the

1 blackboard and your postcard to send home.

2 Q. Yes, so in relation to that then, was at least part of  
3 the schooling to do with communication with your parents  
4 by way of a postcard or a letter?

5 A. I think we were maybe given -- I mean, there was  
6 nothing, you know, I mean there was nothing like proper  
7 schooling. I think it would have been maybe, I don't  
8 know if we were, you know, given things to read or to do  
9 some sums and things like that.

10 Q. But what about the postcard that you would be writing  
11 home then? Were you told what to write?

12 A. Absolutely. It was written up on the blackboard.  
13 I could see it.

14 Q. And can you remember roughly what --

15 A. It was roughly that --

16 Q. -- what the message was?

17 A. The message was we were having a wonderful time, it was  
18 great, you know, along those kind of lines. I can't  
19 remember it verbatim, but that was the kind of, you  
20 know -- because, and we might go into it, you know, if  
21 I had been -- if this had been in an urban area, I would  
22 have been away. I'd have found a way to escape. You  
23 know. But that was inspected and, erm, yeah.

24 Q. But if you had been left to your own devices as to what  
25 you would write?

1 A. Oh, I would have said, you know: 'Please get me out of  
2 here, this is hellish'. Well, I wouldn't have used  
3 a word like that, but: 'This is terrible'.

4 Q. What you tell us in your statement in relation to what  
5 you had to write was that you knew it was a lie?

6 A. Oh, I knew it was a lie, absolutely. And I would wager,  
7 you know, that within the girls there, that we would  
8 have all knew this, that this was a lie and we were  
9 having to do it.

10 Q. But then going back to what one would call ordinary  
11 schooling, like maths, arithmetic, English, was there  
12 anything along these lines taught?

13 A. No, it wasn't. It was, you know. And I can understand  
14 perhaps, you know, it would just be basics, you know.

15 LADY SMITH: I understand the children at Fornethy were all  
16 primary school-age children and mostly younger than the  
17 age you'd have been when you went there; is that right,  
18 'Elaine'?

19 A. Yes. I can't remember the exact year, but I know --  
20 I was trying to place it in, you know, my primary school  
21 years.

22 LADY SMITH: Well, that would fit with what I've heard from  
23 other people, that broadly it was that age group but  
24 weighted perhaps more to the younger primary children,  
25 I think generally from our evidence.

1 A. I don't know.

2 LADY SMITH: The reason I was just exploring that was

3 I suppose at that stage you perhaps couldn't reasonably

4 expect subject-specific teaching, which becomes more

5 important in the senior school stage, post-11-year-old?

6 A. Yeah.

7 LADY SMITH: Particularly if they've got one group of maybe

8 no more than 20 or less than 20 children at a time, that

9 they've got to put together for teaching.

10 A. Yes, I mean, I can't really remember, but what I do

11 remember and believe is that it was different from

12 what -- the education -- I actually, within the state

13 schools that I attended, the quality of teaching was

14 incredibly high.

15 MR MACAULAY: When you -- if we jump ahead, when you left

16 Fornethy and you went back to school, were you behind

17 the other pupils or not?

18 A. No.

19 Q. Now, you also talk about bed-wetting in your statement

20 at paragraph 37 and I think you say that you didn't wet

21 the bed?

22 A. No.

23 Q. But there were others who did?

24 A. Mm-hmm.

25 Q. And how were they treated?

1 A. They were taken out the bed and there was incidents, I'm  
2 saying there, with the pants being taken and there would  
3 be sheets and there would be a sort of, a flurry of  
4 activity.

5 I'll tell you now, self -- I learned very young  
6 through my experience of violence at home. I kept  
7 quiet. I kept very still. I didn't -- I mean, I almost  
8 would make myself not be there, not to be noticed, to --  
9 for protection. So I was horrified, but you kept still.

10 Q. And -- but those girls who did wet the bed, what  
11 happened to them?

12 A. I can't -- I didn't have that experience, so I can't,  
13 you know, say what happened to them and how they felt.

14 Q. But what --

15 A. I just remember the climate of fear. I remember that.  
16 The climate of fear and anxiety. If this, if this was  
17 going to happen, there would be this.

18 I mean, we're going to go onto, but the underwear  
19 and pants and things like that, they seemed to --  
20 I found that very, you know, just appalling and  
21 disgusting, that -- and it must have just been done for  
22 humiliation and wanton cruelty, because who would do the  
23 things like this, you know, holding pants up. And my  
24 own -- having an experience of that, not through  
25 bed-wetting but through having somehow soiled my pants,

1           where they came and presented them to me with the stain  
2           and made -- took me out and made me go into the wash --  
3           where there was wash hands and kind of in the toilet,  
4           and wash them and stand over me.

5           I mean, the feeling of humiliation comes back to me  
6           as I tell you it. It was appalling and I just wanted to  
7           die. I just thought: oh, God.

8   Q.   So that's what happened to you?

9   A.   Yes.

10  Q.   You have a clear memory of that?

11  A.   Yes, absolutely, oh, no, crystal clear. 'Cos I remember  
12       the pants, 'cos I remember getting new pants which -- to  
13       go, which was a bit of a thing as well. So these -- so  
14       that incident is very crystallised in my memory.

15  Q.   Did you have any visitors when you were there?

16  A.   No.

17  Q.   Now, you mentioned running away, or escaping, as you put  
18       it already. Did you think about running away?

19  A.   Absolutely, absolutely.

20  Q.   And --

21  A.   And if I had been in an urban area -- because although  
22       I was a very quiet and docile child, I also was  
23       streetwise. I grew up -- you had to be if you grew up  
24       where I grew up.

25           I could go to my grandmother's at the age of 6 on

1 two buses across Glasgow. If there had been a bus,  
2 I know that I could have had, as you could in those days  
3 if you gave your name and address, you would get -- you  
4 would be allowed on the bus. And if that had been open  
5 to me, I would have gone.

6 Q. You mentioned earlier not speaking to other girls when  
7 you were on the walks. What about when you were in the  
8 building, would you speak with other girls?

9 A. Yes, yes, I mean, 'cos we did have, you know, a few of  
10 us did say: 'Oh, God, you know, if we could have got out  
11 of there'.

12 I never made any friends and because I think I was  
13 quite a quiet sort of child, you know, it would have  
14 taken time for me to sort of like make friends, and if  
15 there was somebody maybe a wee bit more kind of  
16 outgoing, I would maybe be a wee bit more kind of quiet.  
17 But I do remember, you know, the sort of, the kinda  
18 Colditz, you know, kind of idea.

19 Q. Now, in the section that's headed 'Abuse', at  
20 paragraph 45, you go back to talk about the  
21 headmistress, Margaret Fletcher, and indeed other staff.  
22 And what you say is:

23 'They were wantonly cruel for no reason other than  
24 I feel we were not human to them.'

25 So can you elaborate upon that; how did this cruelty

1 manifest itself?

2 A. Well, I think by just the -- it was a regime. There was  
3 no -- it wasn't care. And it wasn't even being --  
4 I mean, I can understand that, you know, a hoard of, you  
5 know, schoolchildren of any class, you know, you would  
6 have to have discipline and, you know, and obeying the  
7 rules. But this wasn't rules. This was a regime. And,  
8 you know, I can't, you know, have any confirmation that  
9 they looked down on us 'cos, you know, I don't have  
10 a chip on my shoulder, I'm proud of what I've managed  
11 to, you know, achieve in my life considering the odds.  
12 But it was this battering and the -- and I hope we can  
13 touch on an incident when I witnessed another girl, you  
14 know, again being unwantonly cruel and humiliated.

15 I -- as an adult looking back, I mean, where, you  
16 know, why was this allowed to happen, you know? Why was  
17 there no regulation, reports and people?

18 Obviously, I mean, and we know this, and you all  
19 know this, indeed through the Inquiry, is, you know,  
20 these kind of institutions, these kind of places seemed  
21 to, you know -- not all, but some seemed to attract  
22 a certain kind of person who has power and control and  
23 authority over people who have none.

24 Q. So if we are looking at what you describe as the wanton  
25 cruelty, can you give me some examples, either of

1 physical cruelty or mental cruelty, that would assist  
2 us?

3 A. Well, mental cruelty because, you know, and I knew this  
4 from my home life, the climate of fear, you know.  
5 That's, you know, any abuser, that's the first way, is  
6 to kind of just have something that's maybe intangible  
7 that just kind of -- but you know that all is not well.

8 And then you have the physical incidences like the  
9 yanking out the shower, the slapping, and the fact of  
10 the head. And ironically my mother, although she  
11 battered us, the head was off bounds. She had a sort of  
12 some kind of moral -- and I remember that going through  
13 my head: Why are they hitting me on the head? You're  
14 not supposed to hit on the head.'

15 Q. And one thing you say is that the violence was random,  
16 there was no provocation?

17 A. No.

18 Q. So what did trigger it then?

19 A. I don't know. I don't want to know, because to me  
20 there's no valid reason. There's no sensible or moral  
21 reason for to do this. If a child had been unruly, you  
22 know, you would do the things that you did at school or  
23 in other settings where you would be told off. You  
24 might be put outside the door. You might be given  
25 lines. You might even have been given the belt. You

1 know, kind of, you know, societal norms. This was, this  
2 was something different.

3 And again, I think because I had grown up -- I mean,  
4 I knew, I know the signs, you know, of, you know, took  
5 off my mother, where it would kick off, and so you knew  
6 to shut up, distract, stay very still, be quiet.

7 Q. Now, you mentioned that there was a particular incident  
8 involving a girl, another girl. Can you perhaps just  
9 tell me now about that?

10 A. Yes. I don't know why this has stuck in my mind with  
11 all the other foggy kind of, sort of, you know, lapses  
12 in memory.

13 It must have been after perhaps baths or showering,  
14 because it was getting dressed, and there was this girl.  
15 And I would say that she -- what we would describe as  
16 maybe having a mild learning disability. She was a very  
17 pleasant girl, but I knew that, you know, she didn't  
18 communicate in the same way. I didn't know what that  
19 was in those days but, you know, there just was  
20 something there. She was a big girl. Lovely face. And  
21 it was either a kilt or some kind of skirt with kind of,  
22 like, you know, a kilt has got buckles and straps. And  
23 for some reason she must have put it on the wrong way  
24 round. And next thing is, she got battered by these  
25 staff. And again, I was witnessing this in horror,

1           unable to intervene through shock and, well,  
2           I couldn't -- and I suppose, you know, thinking back as  
3           a child I had that empathy. I felt for that girl, 'cos  
4           I thought: Well, I can take it. She shouldn't be  
5           getting that.'

6   Q.   And what exactly happened to her? You said she got  
7           battered. Was it --

8   A.   Well, again, it's blows. It wasn't like, oh, you know,  
9           correcting her and saying, oh, you know, like you do --  
10          well, you wouldn't do that anyway to a child. You would  
11          say: 'Oh, gosh, sorry, you've put it on the wrong way  
12          round, let me fix it for you'. You know?

13                I just remember -- again, it was just that feeling  
14                of the unwanted, unprovoked, completely out the blue, no  
15                reason, and even more horrible because of the girl's  
16                condition.

17   Q.   I think you say this is the girl you met later on?

18   A.   Yes, it was really -- 'cos, you know, I remember, you  
19           know, many years later walking along just down from  
20           where I grew up in Castlemilk, and she was in the garden  
21           with her mother. And I thought: Oh, my God, that's that  
22           girl.' And of course, I was, I was a teenager then and  
23           I wouldn't have said anything. But I just wanted to --  
24           I remember saying something to her mother and saying --  
25           I didn't say about Fornethy. I just said, oh, you know,

1 something pleasant.

2 'Cos I do remember, I think I approached the girl  
3 afterwards in some way, not to provoke any more  
4 violence, but to try to kind of, you know, sort of maybe  
5 kind of comfort her? I would have rather been hit than  
6 her.

7 Q. Okay. And who did the hitting?

8 A. I don't know what the staff were. There was certainly  
9 more than one.

10 Q. And both involved?

11 A. Yes.

12 Q. And this business of showing underwear, you have touched  
13 upon that and I think you do elaborate upon that in  
14 paragraph 50 of your statement.

15 I think what you're telling us there is someone  
16 actually came into the classroom --

17 A. Mm-hmm.

18 Q. -- with your pants?

19 A. Mm-hmm.

20 Q. And who was this?

21 A. I don't know.

22 Q. No.

23 A. It was a member of staff obviously. I don't know.

24 Perhaps -- because they obviously had laundries for  
25 the -- in the -- so perhaps it was a laundry woman or

1           that. I can't -- I don't know. That's my imagining  
2           that when they're going through the laundry and because,  
3           again, you had your name in the tab, everything was  
4           labelled, that they would -- they obviously sought me  
5           out. And again, just the embarrassment, the  
6           humiliation.

7           I think people underestimate how children can feel  
8           around -- I mean, we talk about humiliation as adults  
9           when things happen, but to -- as a child I didn't know  
10          the word, but I knew the feeling, and I can feel it now  
11          as I discuss this.

12          I don't really want to talk about this, but this is  
13          what happened.

14 Q. And did this happen to other girls?

15 A. Yes. I mean, particularly the bed-wetting and the -- it  
16          was as if there was a sort of regime of unwanted  
17          cruelty, disdain, humiliation and violence.

18          It's violence. It's not corrective. It's not  
19          discipline. It's violence.

20 Q. And the shower incident, I think you touched upon  
21          before, but I think you thought -- you say here that  
22          when you were dragged out you were slapped, you were  
23          naked, you were slapped repeatedly, and you related that  
24          to some extent to the fact that you were in puberty.  
25          What do you see as the connection?

1 A. I don't know. You know. I was -- I mean, you know,  
2 I'm trying to look back on it. I mean, if that was  
3 maybe something -- but I'm not convinced. I don't  
4 actually know. 'Cos it was happening to others, so it  
5 wasn't as if I was singled out. You know how you try --  
6 you try to make sense of something that makes no sense.

7 Q. Yes.

8 A. You know?

9 Q. So, as you say, it happened to you, but it happened to  
10 other as well?

11 A. Yes, absolutely. So I couldn't say that I was targeted.

12 Q. During your time there, then, what was your general  
13 feeling, in the sense of were you scared, were you  
14 frightened?

15 A. Yes, I was scared, I was frightened, terrified and just  
16 thinking how -- you know, you just had sit this out.  
17 You just had to wait. I wanted to go home. Because at  
18 home I had school, but I could -- I had friends, I could  
19 go out. I could be away. Here, I was trapped. And  
20 again, because of the unpredictability, and I didn't  
21 know that word then, but the unpredictability of  
22 everything, you know, 'cos I was a very sort of  
23 organised person, getting up, I had to put myself to  
24 school, get myself ready, wash my underwear and my socks  
25 and get myself up and out, 'cos my parents would be

1           lying in bed after a night of drink. So I had routine  
2           and I knew what I was doing when I was at home, even  
3           though it was awful.

4   Q. One of the words you use to describe the attitude of  
5           those who were caring for you is 'vitriol'; that's in  
6           paragraph 53.

7   A. Sorry?

8   Q. 'Vitriol'. And I just --

9   A. Uh-huh, 'vitriol', yeah.

10  Q. What do you include in that?

11  A. Well, I attribute that to the kind of, the fact that  
12           there was no humanity. There wasn't -- it was --  
13           I would like them to explain, these people who treated  
14           us like that, and the other women, the other girls.  
15           They have the explanation. I know they're not here to  
16           do it, but it was -- it's difficult. It's difficult  
17           looking back and thinking, what on earth were they  
18           thinking? What on earth were they doing? Why were they  
19           doing this? They obviously got pleasure out of it or  
20           a sense of control or power or something. I just --  
21           I can't -- with all your other investigations and cases,  
22           I can't understand this, this part of humanity where  
23           people can do these things to children.

24  LADY SMITH: You just used the word 'control' there,  
25           'Elaine', and I have to say I've wondered whether it was

1 a particularly strong driving force for the women you've  
2 described doing what they did. Almost an anticipatory  
3 control in case everybody stepped out of line and their  
4 mission was to make everybody behave exactly as they  
5 thought they should be behaving.

6 A. Mm-hmm.

7 LADY SMITH: Do you think control was the strongest driving  
8 force at operation?

9 A. I don't really know, but I think they could have managed  
10 control and discipline without the violence and without  
11 the humiliation. You know, I mean, it would be no mean  
12 feat for, you know, a group of any girls or any boys,  
13 you know, to keep discipline for, you know, for a period  
14 of time and particularly in a residential context, where  
15 it wasn't as if they'd ever been to public school where,  
16 you know, you would know the norms and things like that.  
17 This was something very different.

18 LADY SMITH: Yes.

19 Mr MacAulay.

20 MR MACAULAY: Well, was there any derogatory language used  
21 towards you, by these people?

22 A. I actually can't recall that. That's an interesting  
23 point, 'cos, you know, I think if there had been maybe  
24 name-calling, you know, 'slut' or, you know, some kind  
25 of derogatory term, but I can't actually remember that.

1 But that's quite an interesting point, that.

2 Q. Sometimes we hear, for example, evidence of people in  
3 those situations saying to children: Your parents  
4 didn't -- don't love you, they don't want you.' Did you  
5 experience any of that?

6 A. I didn't, I don't recall that, no.

7 Q. Now, in paragraph 56, I'll just read this into the  
8 evidence, what you say is:

9 'For me the initial betrayal was that my parents  
10 sent me there.'

11 A. Mm-hmm.

12 Q. 'It was hellish at home, but I could navigate that.  
13 I could go to school, I could get out. I could do other  
14 things. But at Fornethy I felt completely trapped.'

15 So there you are contrasting the hellish experience  
16 at home to the hellish experience at Fornethy, which, do  
17 I take from that, was far worse?

18 A. Both were -- both were terrible. The benefit of being  
19 at home was I had other outlets. I mean, thank God  
20 I never -- I mean, that was an insight to me of what --  
21 people who were sent and put into residential care homes  
22 for the whole of their childhood. I mean, thank God,  
23 there for the grace of God, for me.

24 So both were hellish, but at home there was other --  
25 I could go to school. I had a persona. I had --

1 I could get out. I could have other interactions,  
2 positive ones.

3 Q. But one thing you do say in the previous paragraph is  
4 that:

5 'This place [Fornethy] was hell, and it can't be  
6 minimised by saying, "Oh, you were only there six  
7 weeks".'

8 You say, 'That doesn't cut it at all', you say?

9 A. No. I mean, we know this was sexual violence or other  
10 forms of violence. One's incident can mar or scar  
11 a person's life forever. So I think to minimise it and  
12 say six weeks -- I don't believe in hierarchies of  
13 abuse, you know. There are some extreme cases,  
14 of course, but within the -- one act of violence can  
15 harm a child and cause trauma, but there were several  
16 incidents. There was multiple incidences there of  
17 violence and trauma, and climate of fear and abuse. And  
18 I don't think six weeks means that that's somehow lesser  
19 to the experience of the individual.

20 Q. And you end up, that particular section of your  
21 statement, at paragraph 57, by saying that:

22 'Fornethy was appalling and a hellhole. It was  
23 disgusting and it's hideous that these people did this.'

24 And then you go on to say:

25 'For Glasgow Council trying to abdicate itself from

1 any responsibility is terrible. There should be  
2 an apology.'

3 But are you saying that that is the attitude that  
4 the council are taking?

5 A. Well, I believe they have made some form of apology.  
6 I just think that, you know, I don't have any insight  
7 into the whole -- the council and, you know,  
8 Glasgow City Council and the former Corporation, you  
9 know, but again it felt, you know, you know, reading the  
10 reports that, only in the press, that they seemed to be  
11 abdicating the responsibility.

12 It was a bit like the kind of the Celtic Boys, you  
13 know: Oh, that's Celtic Boys, that's not Celtic.' When  
14 to me there was clean, clear, kind of, you know, sort of  
15 like, you know, a relationship between the two.

16 I just, I felt, I mean, you know, at that time  
17 I thought they were just trying to, you know, abdicate  
18 their responsibility. It felt -- they should have  
19 really stood up and made a very clear apology from the  
20 very onset, and -- but I don't have anything other --  
21 that's a comment.

22 Q. Well, you came to leave Fornethy. Did anybody speak to  
23 you about what life had been like at Fornethy?

24 A. I don't think my parents would have said anything.  
25 I mean, I might have said things. I would have possibly

1 shared it with my sister. My sister and I, because of  
2 the age difference, there wasn't the same closeness and  
3 she also had her own trauma to deal with from the home,  
4 and, erm ...

5 So there would have been something said, but nothing  
6 that would have resulted in my parents going to complain  
7 or, you know, or challenging, you know, what had  
8 occurred. I don't think they would have bothered  
9 actually, quite frankly.

10 Q. So you would have gone back to primary school then --

11 A. Yeah.

12 Q. -- once you went back to Glasgow. And what was life  
13 like then after Fornethy?

14 A. It was just, just the same as before. The only thing is  
15 I would say is that in my head and in my mind, I knew  
16 that in my home life I had -- it was like a prison  
17 sentence, I just had to wait until release date. And  
18 I'm really clear about that. That's what was in my  
19 head. I had the capacity to know that I just had to  
20 endure this until some day I would be away.

21 I knew about universities. I knew about other lives  
22 through my reading and the kind of teachers, the  
23 quality. I mean, myself and other girls did get  
24 bursaries to go to some of the private schools, you  
25 know, like, grammar schools rather in Glasgow. But none

1 of us who did, you know, achieve these places went,  
2 because if you lived in Castlemilk and went to, you  
3 know, a grammar school in town, you'd get your head  
4 kicked in. You would be different, you know, so.

5 And fortunately because of streaming, which I know  
6 people don't -- have controversies, but I was always in  
7 the top class and we had excellent teachers.

8 There was an air of people coming out of Cambridge  
9 and other universities and coming and teaching in these  
10 housing schemes. So our school was almost -- and  
11 Mr McLeod, who went on to become the headmaster of  
12 Bearsden. We had, you know, it was like, you know,  
13 I mean, because I was in the top class, it was, you  
14 know, an incredibly, you know, progressive educational  
15 establishment. There was almost a form of almost social  
16 contract with, you know, these teachers with us kids,  
17 you know, from the scheme. I was really lucky. And  
18 I love them all to this day.

19 Q. And you say -- you talk about luck, but you go on to say  
20 that you were lucky, because you ended up in the arts  
21 scene in Glasgow in the 1970s?

22 A. Yeah.

23 Q. Can you help me with that?

24 A. I was always very creative, artistically. I didn't know  
25 what I wanted to do with that. I was never going to be

1 an artist. I was never going to be somebody, you know,  
2 who'd have an exhibition or anything. I just kind of  
3 got in, and because of my -- I met a boy, [REDACTED], and he  
4 was at the art school, he was studying architecture.  
5 And I thought, I'll do art. But it -- so I found  
6 a tribe of creative people. There was a lot of people  
7 like John Byrne, all these kind of people and, you know,  
8 7:84 and things happening, you know, Citizens Theatre  
9 and, you know, theatre about Glasgow, you know, come to  
10 the schools. So I realised this world and I was always  
11 very interested in film and theatre and things like  
12 that.

13 So I found a tribe and believe it or not, a lot of  
14 artists have got very troubled childhoods, creatively.

15 So, yeah, so I -- don't get me wrong, I did not come  
16 out of this unscathed.

17 Q. And I'll touch upon that shortly.

18 But one thing you tell us, and I just want to take  
19 this from you, at paragraph 61, that:

20 'Poverty is not about money. Poverty is about lack  
21 of opportunity and people not believing in you.'

22 And is that what you believe?

23 A. I absolutely -- I ascribe totally to that, because the  
24 fact of the poverty, and it was poverty that I grew up  
25 in, and that wasn't because -- you know, that was my

1 parents' choice of lifestyle. But I think poverty is --  
2 'cos, I mean, you don't know you're poor until you see  
3 other things. But I think it was about the lack of  
4 opportunity and I say that even to this day. Because  
5 I got recognition from my teachers and others and, you  
6 know, and, you know, the fact that they would admire me  
7 and would, you know -- I mean, I remember at  
8 primary school I took -- you know, again, another  
9 amazing teacher.

10 I taught a music class, 'cos I could read -- 'cos I  
11 got taught music and I played the recorder but also  
12 clarinet, is that they -- they kind of gave me this, how  
13 would you say it, just recognition, and I felt that  
14 I was somebody.

15 And I think any child having any level of that,  
16 recognition, particularly from -- I think any child but  
17 particularly from deprived areas and deprived  
18 upbringings, that recognition and that sort of trust in  
19 you and, you know, that's -- I think that's true and  
20 I would put that in a manifesto if I had the opportunity  
21 to influence any policymakers about, you know, how do  
22 you look after children who are from disadvantaged  
23 backgrounds.

24 Q. Well, you tell us that you took -- your first degree was  
25 in fine art, but you moved on from that?

1 A. Yeah, I had two careers. I ended up again working in  
2 art galleries and I don't -- and, you know. And so it  
3 just -- it was fate, luck, I don't know. I think also  
4 I was -- I'm a good communicator and I think, you know,  
5 just being in that kind of world, that environment,  
6 I got offered jobs in incredible -- you know, jobs in  
7 the fine art.

8 But alongside that I was still a campaigner for  
9 [REDACTED] you know, I was part of a magazine,  
10 you know, kind of, you know, called [REDACTED]  
11 Amnesty, CND. So I was always that -- I never had  
12 left -- I mean I am who that girl was, but this, you  
13 know, but I grew into another area of life.

14 So I always had that kind of social kind of, you  
15 know, erm, interest. And I found, although it was great  
16 in many ways and it was very privileged to have worked  
17 in the field of antiquarian books and then in the art  
18 galleries, I grew disenchanted with it in the 1980s.

19 Q. And you ended up training --

20 A. As a social worker.

21 Q. -- to become a social worker?

22 A. Yeah.

23 Q. And you qualified --

24 A. I wanted to give something back. I wanted to go back  
25 and do something, you know, erm, that could make

1 a difference perhaps.

2 Q. And you qualified in 1990?

3 A. That's correct.

4 Q. You go on to tell us that you are a survivor and you  
5 think you've been lucky, but nevertheless, as you  
6 mentioned a moment ago, you have not been left  
7 unscathed --

8 A. No.

9 Q. -- by your experience?

10 A. No. I mean, I -- before I knew what they were I had  
11 panic attacks. I had panic attacks as a child as I now  
12 recognise. Panic attacks, fear, you know.

13 I never self-harmed. Erm, I mean, I had -- I told  
14 you in the waiting room, I had nightmares last night  
15 that somebody was strangling me because of, I think,  
16 coming here, obviously.

17 So I still have that, that -- I mean, so I didn't  
18 have a nervous breakdown. I think I was a very highly  
19 functioning survivor in the fact, but I did also have  
20 the opportunity and could afford therapy and I think  
21 I touched on this. I think there needs to be more  
22 therapeutic support to survivors from any abusive  
23 experience.

24 And also, nobody ever harmed me again. I mean,  
25 I just met really -- I was lucky in relationships.

1 I had never had any abuse. I've been loved by my  
2 husband and -- we'd married before. Still friends,  
3 loads of friends. Friends in my family. But there's  
4 been turbulent times.

5 I've never had admissions, hospital admissions.  
6 I've never, you know, been addicted to any substance.

7 I don't know, I don't know how I'm still here, to be  
8 honest, because actually, therapists in the past have  
9 said to me that they don't know why I'm here. But  
10 I'm going to say it: it's because I didn't blame myself.  
11 I knew my parents were wrong. I knew they were wrong.  
12 And they knew that I knew that they were wrong, because  
13 my mother used to say: 'The truth just spews oota you'.

14 Q. Okay.

15 But in relation to what you mentioned already about  
16 the hierarchy of abuse, you don't believe in that?

17 A. No.

18 Q. And you say you are constantly astounded by the survival  
19 of people who have come through it and seen much worse  
20 than you?

21 A. Yes, I mean, some of the recent people that have been --  
22 well, the Fornethy women for a start. But, you know,  
23 the private schools, boys. I mean, the depravity knows  
24 no bounds. I mean, it's extraordinary how they've  
25 survived. But humans do survive terrible things.

1 Q. But some do not, because that's what you say.

2 A. No, I know.

3 Q. That some have taken their own lives and, as you put it,  
4 they just ran out of hope?

5 A. Yeah. I've always had a kind of -- that hope, for some  
6 unbeknown reason in my own case, is, and I said it even  
7 after my kind of cancer diagnosis some time ago, is  
8 I always travel hopefully. I just have -- because  
9 I've been given this chance to, you know, out of what  
10 could have been. And that's also my motivation for  
11 wanting to campaign and try to remedy and acknowledge  
12 the harms that have and are happening to children.

13 Q. But you mention the nightmares, I think, last night?

14 A. Oh, yeah.

15 Q. Do you have recurring nightmares?

16 A. Oh, yes, I have recurring nightmares, yeah. They come  
17 back.

18 Q. And do you relate that to your past?

19 A. Absolutely.

20 Q. You have had some therapy, I think, you tell us?

21 A. Oh, I've had several what I would call, you know,  
22 periods of therapy throughout my life.

23 Q. And have you found these periods beneficial?

24 A. Absolutely, yeah. You know, you can't -- I was saying,  
25 you know, earlier that you can't take away what's

1           happened. You can't -- you can recover. Therapy is  
2           a coming-to-terms. It's like a bereavement. I lost --  
3           I had no childhood, at home or the experience at  
4           Fornethy. So you come to terms, and it's a process of  
5           making sense of what -- why am I having that nightmare  
6           with the strangling? Why am I obsessed to this day that  
7           the door has got to be locked and, you know, and if it's  
8           not locked I've just -- I'll just lose the rag: oh, my  
9           God. You know, I'll just be absolutely petrified  
10          suddenly, you know.

11                 So, yeah. Therapy helps come to terms and to make  
12          sense of things often make no sense at all.

13   Q.   And we've touched upon [REDACTED] article already  
14          and I think following up on that, you also went to the  
15          police to talk about your time at Fornethy?

16   A.   Yes.

17   Q.   And was your focus in that conversation with the police  
18          in particular on Mrs Fletcher, who was the headmistress?

19   A.   It wasn't on her in particular. It was just on the  
20          whole experience. When I became aware that others --  
21          people had come forward and reading it and it matching  
22          the experiences almost, you know, almost like that.  
23          (Indicating).

24                 I think the thing that really prompted me, because  
25          I mean, I don't think about Fornethy every day or

1 anything like that, and I hadn't -- I had told, you  
2 know, my partners and, you know, what happened to me  
3 when I was there, which is significant.

4 I also, in a professional capacity, before this  
5 Inquiry was set up, way back in the day when it was the  
6 [REDACTED] I articulated that they  
7 should include residential schools like Fornethy and  
8 others.

9 But it was, I think the shock for me was the --  
10 because of working in the field of trauma, particularly  
11 around childhood sexual abuse. When I saw that  
12 I thought, oh, my God. And it was so redolent of what  
13 had happened with the boys in Palmerston Place and  
14 places like that when that -- that's when I was starting  
15 to get into -- going into social work, and it just felt,  
16 oh, my God, that's -- but I mean these institutions, as  
17 you'll all know, are grounds for, places where this kind  
18 of thing can occur, because the children have no voices,  
19 they have no sort of -- people don't believe them  
20 because of who they are.

21 Q. Well, on that point, what you say at paragraph 78 is:

22 'The reason I went to Police Scotland and now to the  
23 Inquiry is to validate and corroborate what happened,  
24 because I'm telling the truth.'

25 A. Yes. Yes, and I know that a lot of the other survivors

1 from Fornethy and elsewhere are. It's not that my truth  
2 is any better or different, but I just felt, you know,  
3 I mean, this is the truth, and I'm so pleased that the  
4 Inquiry is actually hearing the survivors from Fornethy.

5 Q. And that takes me to that section of your report -- or  
6 your statement at paragraph 80, where you have a section  
7 dealing with 'Lessons to be Learned'. You begin by  
8 saying you are telling the truth.

9 A. Yeah.

10 Q. And what you've said --

11 A. Well, everybody is telling the truth.

12 Q. Sorry?

13 A. I think the other women here --

14 Q. Yes.

15 A. -- they're all telling the truth.

16 Q. And I think -- you think it's important that the Inquiry  
17 leaves a legacy?

18 A. Yes.

19 Q. Can you just elaborate upon that?

20 A. I was involved in the kind of Public Records, you know,  
21 [REDACTED] you know, when we were looking at that and I -- one  
22 of my -- being the [REDACTED], I was on  
23 the [REDACTED] was to say: we have a moral  
24 imperative here to make a public record, to make --  
25 records are deeply important for all sorts of areas of

1       life, but I think for this particular, you know, about  
2       child abuse and about the institutional abuse, is that  
3       for society not to be able to look the other way, as  
4       they did, and for this to be a matter of public record  
5       is deeply important.

6   Q.   What you say at the bottom of that page:

7               'For me, the story that really needs to come out of  
8       the Inquiry is the human story and the shame of this  
9       legacy in Scotland's history.'

10  A.   Yes.

11  Q.   One point you make in the previous paragraph is that  
12       every survivor you've met, including yourself, you want  
13       to make the world a better place for children today and  
14       tomorrow's children?

15  A.   Yes.  That is a feature of every survivor I've ever met,  
16       and myself.

17  Q.   And you summarise your position up at the end of  
18       paragraph 83:

19               'Bad people did bad things and society looked the  
20       other way.  That's it in a nutshell.'

21  A.   Yeah.  I think it's still the case now, sadly.  But  
22       there's a lot of good people.  My optimism, I always  
23       feel, you know, within all the terrible things that are  
24       going on in the world and the terrible things that  
25       happened to me and the other survivors, is there's --

1           there's a lot of good people.  There's more good people  
2           hopefully than there are bad.

3   Q.  Now, you tell us a little bit in the next number of  
4       paragraphs about your career as a campaigner.  And  
5       I don't want to go into the detail of that with you, but  
6       just to put it shortly, you have had a career as  
7       a campaigner, particularly in relation to those who have  
8       been abused?

9   A.  Yes.  I didn't -- I had no plan to.  You know, I think  
10      calling me a -- I do campaigning.  I mean obviously  
11      for -- I worked in the field of mental health of  
12      where -- that I would say that within the mental health,  
13      then it became that many were survivors and were being  
14      misdiagnosed.  It was in the days before we had the  
15      understanding of trauma that we do today.

16           So the campaigning kinda came later on when, you  
17      know, sort of in the sense of trying to raise awareness  
18      more than -- campaigning sounds a bit kinda flag-waving.  
19      It's more about social justice and justice for the  
20      survivors and finding ways of persuading policy to fund  
21      the necessary therapeutic, you know, and care and,  
22      indeed, redress as we have, for people who have been  
23      harmed.

24   Q.  And on that, that point, at paragraph 90, what you say  
25      is:

1           'I would like there to be open-ended therapy offered  
2           to survivors.'

3           Can you explain then what you mean by that?

4   A. Well, I mean, there's, you know, obviously there's  
5           survivor agencies, you know, very highly respected  
6           across Scotland. And my experience is that survivors  
7           are understandably suspicious of statutory bodies and  
8           agencies. And these charities do marvellous work,  
9           open-ended counselling, support, advocacy. It's not  
10          just about therapy. It's about advocacy. It's about  
11          their rights. It's about access if they need help with,  
12          you know, housing or safe housing.

13          So I do believe that with the initiative such as  
14          this Inquiry and forthcoming inquiry that's coming up  
15          and others, and I've said this very clearly, if you are  
16          having these, and I think, you know, you know,  
17          incredible, you know, that we have the Scottish Child  
18          Abuse Inquiry, is that you need to offer -- you have to  
19          have support there for survivors coming forward.

20   Q. Well, on that note, 'Elaine', that's all I would like to  
21          ask you. Is there anything you would like to say?

22   A. Yeah. There was three things. Number one, I want to  
23          say I'm so pleased that the Scottish Child Abuse Inquiry  
24          has extended its remit to include the residential  
25          schools. I'm so pleased of that.

1 I want to thank [REDACTED] and all the other team,  
2 witness support. It's been exemplary, the  
3 conscientiousness, the professionalism and the care.  
4 And I do hope that maybe with this new Parliament, that  
5 redress can be made aware -- can be made available for  
6 those who wish to be part of, you know, the Redress  
7 Scheme. That's all I have to say.

8 MR MACAULAY: Thank you. And before I finish can I just  
9 give the reference of 'Elaine's' statement for the  
10 transcript and that is WIT-1-000001443.

11 So, 'Elaine', thank you very much indeed for coming  
12 and for answering all my questions and what you have  
13 just said.

14 My Lady, I have not had submitted to me any  
15 questions to put to 'Elaine'.

16 LADY SMITH: Thank you.

17 'Elaine', let me add my thanks once more. It's been  
18 really good to hear from you in person to expand on what  
19 you said in your statement and allow us to delve  
20 a little deeper, because it's helped my learning and  
21 understanding, not just of what happened to you, but  
22 your thinking about it and what we need to consider in  
23 what we're doing here.

24 Thank you also for your kind words about the team.  
25 I am indeed very fortunate with all the people that

1 support me here. I couldn't do it without them.

2 A. I have nothing but admiration.

3 LADY SMITH: Thank you.

4 Feel free to go and I hope you have a restful time  
5 for the rest of today.

6 A. Thank you very much.

7 (The witness withdrew)

8 LADY SMITH: Well, I think we could take the morning break  
9 now and when the next witness is ready, hopefully we'll  
10 be able to make a sharp start at quarter to.

11 MR MACAULAY: Absolutely, yes.

12 LADY SMITH: Thank you.

13 Was there one -- oh, [REDACTED] yes. [REDACTED].

14 The name [REDACTED] was used by the witness and that's  
15 somebody whose identity is protected and he mustn't be  
16 referred to as mentioned in our evidence outside this  
17 room.

18 Thank you very much.

19 (11.18 am)

20 (A short break)

21 (11.45 am)

22 LADY SMITH: Mr MacAulay.

23 MR MACAULAY: Now, my Lady, the next witness is here and she  
24 is an applicant. She wants to remain anonymous and to  
25 use the pseudonym 'Sharon' in giving her evidence.

1 LADY SMITH: Thank you.

2 'Sharon' (sworn)

3 LADY SMITH: 'Sharon', thank you so much for coming along  
4 today so that I can hear from you in person with the  
5 evidence you're able to give to us regarding your time  
6 in residential care in Fornethy School and other aspects  
7 of your life.

8 Your written evidence has also been really helpful  
9 already, because I've been able to study that in  
10 advance. It's in that red folder in front of you, so do  
11 feel free to use it as we're going along if you want.  
12 And we'll also bring the statement up on the screen at  
13 the different parts that we're going to look at with  
14 you.

15 We'll focus on some particular aspects. Because  
16 you've been so helpful in advance, we're not going to  
17 have to go through every detail and dot every i and  
18 cross every t.

19 But could I add this, 'Sharon': I do know that what  
20 you've agreed to do here is a big ask. You've come into  
21 public to talk about your own life, particularly your  
22 own life when you were a child and things weren't  
23 exactly great.

24 A. Yeah.

25 LADY SMITH: And I really appreciate your willingness to do

1           that. I also understand it can be upsetting --

2   A. Yeah.

3   LADY SMITH: -- and you can be taken unawares by your own  
4           emotions. Do not worry if that happens. I'm well used  
5           to it and all I want is that you're as comfortable as  
6           you can be giving your evidence in this difficult task,  
7           to help this Public Inquiry with its work.

8           So you let me know if there's anything I can do to  
9           help, such as a break or a pause, or for us to make  
10          ourselves clearer in the questions we're asking. With  
11          our legal backgrounds, we can be very bad at asking  
12          questions sometimes, so it's our fault, not yours, if  
13          you don't understand.

14          If you're ready, I'll hand on to --

15   A. Yeah.

16   LADY SMITH: -- Mr MacAulay and he'll take it from there.

17          Okay?

18                                Questions from Mr MacAulay

19   MR MACAULAY: My Lady.

20           Hello again, 'Sharon'. As you know, I'm Colin and  
21           I'll be asking you most of the questions.

22           The first thing I want to ask you to do is to look  
23           at the last page of the statement that's in your folder  
24           and can you just confirm that you have signed it?

25   A. Yes.

1 Q. And in the final paragraph do you say:  
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 Is that the case?  
7 A. That's correct.  
8 Q. Now, for the benefit of the transcript I'm going to  
9 provide the reference to the statement, and it is  
10 WIT-1-0000001773.  
11 The first thing I'd like you to confirm, 'Sharon',  
12 I don't want your date of birth because you want to be  
13 anonymous, but so we can have some context, can  
14 I confirm with you that the year of your birth is 1972?  
15 A. That's correct.  
16 Q. Now, you begin in your statement by telling us a little  
17 bit about your life before care. If you go to the front  
18 of the statement you'll see that and you'll see it's on  
19 the screen. And what you tell us, that you were born  
20 and brought up in Glasgow?  
21 A. Yeah.  
22 Q. You tell us a little bit about your family. You had  
23 four big sisters and two brothers?  
24 A. Yeah.  
25 Q. I think one of the brothers was younger than you, is

1           that right?

2    A.   Yes, that's correct.

3    Q.   Your mother died when you were quite young?

4    A.   Yeah.

5    Q.   How old were you when she died?

6    A.   I was 5.

7    Q.   Okay. And I think you tell us that your father was in

8           the army and had been in the army?

9    A.   Yeah.

10   Q.   And he had been based in Germany, is that correct?

11   A.   Yes.

12   Q.   You say in your statement that you thought he was quite

13           upset when he left the army?

14   A.   Yeah, I think army was his life, you know, so he missed

15           it, yeah.

16   Q.   And you tell us in paragraph 5 that your life at home

17           when you were very young really was quite normal?

18   A.   Yeah. Until after my mum passed, yeah. But up until

19           then, from what I remember, it was normal. I remember

20           as far back as nursery, and I remember every day after

21           school I would still go to nursery right up to Primary 7

22           and see the nursery teachers, 'cos it was my safe space,

23           so, you know. But life was quite normal until then.

24   Q.   But you say you do remember I think what you refer to as

25           'the cruelty people' coming around; was that after your

1 mother died?

2 A. Yeah. That was after my mum died, yeah, yeah.

3 Q. And I think what you tell us is that that might have  
4 been because you weren't going to school?

5 A. Yeah. My dad did, erm, become an alcoholic after my mum  
6 passed, over the years. And, er, I think with my dad,  
7 it was just like some excuses of not sending us to  
8 school. Too sunny, too rainy. You know. But obviously  
9 there was a lot more going on with my dad. So I do  
10 believe that they did come out because we didn't attend  
11 school, yeah.

12 Q. I think you tell us you actually loved going to school?

13 A. I did like school, yeah, yeah.

14 Q. But is that then the background to how you came to go to  
15 Fornethy?

16 A. As far as I'm aware, we got asked to go to Fornethy as  
17 a holiday, I think, after my mum died. It was really  
18 for me and [REDACTED], my sister, to get a break. So  
19 when we were told we were going on holiday we were very  
20 excited, you know, it was all new. We'd never been away  
21 on a big holiday. I think Saltcoats was our holiday,  
22 you know, so it was quite exciting.

23 Q. What was your father's attitude to you going away on  
24 holiday?

25 A. I mean, obviously he was dealing with the death of my

1           mum at the time, so I think my dad had felt that it was  
2           a good idea, erm, obviously, for me and [REDACTED] to get  
3           a break, yeah. I think he was quite happy about it.  
4           I remember, you know, everyone was quite excited about  
5           us going.

6    Q.   And I think you went when you were aged about 5?

7    A.   I was 5, yeah.

8    Q.   And that would be about 1977?

9    A.   Yes.

10   Q.   Now, I think your sister was four years older than you?

11   A.   Yeah.

12   Q.   Did she go with you?

13   A.   Yes, she did.

14   Q.   She would be about 9?

15   A.   She was 9, yeah.

16   Q.   Did you have a medical examination before you went?

17   A.   We did. We got -- I'm sure there was two examinations  
18           we got. I remember being to the doctors for one but we  
19           got taken to, erm -- I remember my sister calling it  
20           India Street, and the place that we went to was the  
21           place that you would go and get like school clothes as  
22           well, like because I remember there was like a big sorta  
23           cage, there was a wee desk, and the women had like racks  
24           with all the different school clothes. I think if you  
25           were poor and you couldn't afford a school uniform,

1           that's where you went. But that was the place that we  
2           went to get my medical.

3   Q.   And --

4   LADY SMITH:  Sorry, can I just check one thing, 'Sharon'.  
5           How long after your mother's death was it that you went  
6           to Fornethy?

7   A.   Erm, it wasn't long, because we'd started -- I started  
8           Primary 1 [REDACTED] and that's when my mother  
9           passed. So, you know, she'd been in hospital prior to  
10          that, so my mum never actually got to see my first day  
11          of school or anything. So it was very quick after my  
12          mum passed that we went to Fornethy.

13   LADY SMITH:  So it would still be quite raw, at that stage.

14   A.   Yes. It was only months. I'm sure my mum passed away  
15          [REDACTED] and we got sent, it was like  
16          [REDACTED] time, it was the [REDACTED] time that we  
17          went.

18   LADY SMITH:  Okay, thank you.

19   MR MACAULAY:  Now, can I just ask you about, then, when you  
20          came to leave Glasgow to go to Fornethy --

21   A.   Yeah.

22   Q.   -- did you travel by bus?

23   A.   We did, we got a minibus.

24   Q.   Were there other girls apart from yourself and your  
25          sister on the bus?

1 A. There was lots of girls on the bus with us. We all met  
2 at the same place. Again it was that place, India --  
3 I keep calling it India Street. And we all met there  
4 and we all got on the bus together, and it was all  
5 different girls, all, obviously all different  
6 primary school girls.

7 Q. And was it a happy atmosphere?

8 A. We were all singing going on the bus up there and  
9 obviously everyone was sort of getting to know everyone.  
10 We were all excited. I mean, a bunch of kids going away  
11 on holiday, it's an exciting time.

12 Q. What about adults? Apart from the driver, was there any  
13 other adult on the bus to keep an eye on you?

14 A. I don't recall the teachers from Fornethy being on the  
15 bus but there obviously was other ones. I remember the  
16 bus driver being there, but there would have been some  
17 other adults there. It wasn't just a bunch of children  
18 and a bus driver. But I don't know who that would have  
19 been.

20 Q. In any event you get there, and what was your first  
21 impression of Fornethy?

22 A. Erm, a big, massive, fairytale castle. It was  
23 beautiful. I mean, the house is stunning. A bit  
24 overwhelming as well, 'cos this house was so big, you  
25 know, and you're a wee kid, but, yeah, it was, it was

1           really exciting.

2   Q.   Would you have any problem looking at a photograph or  
3        photographs?

4   A.   No.

5   Q.   If I could put the first of these on the screen, it's  
6        INQ-0000001236.  So there you're looking at, it's  
7        an aerial view.

8   A.   Yeah.

9   Q.   But do you recognise that as Fornethy?

10  A.   Oh, yes, that's Fornethy.  Yeah.

11  Q.   And as we can see from the photograph, it's quite  
12        a substantial place?

13  A.   Yes.  It's huge.  I just remember doors everywhere.  You  
14        know, when you're in the building, doors, doors, doors.  
15        There was so many doors.

16  Q.   And the other photograph is INQ-0000001243.  That's  
17        another view.

18  A.   Yeah.  That's -- less trees around it though, so, yeah.  
19        That seems like -- there's not as many trees, but when  
20        we went there -- the other photograph, I mean, it looks  
21        like the same house but it's not got as many woods  
22        around it.

23  Q.   Now, when you got there on your first day --

24  A.   Yeah.

25  Q.   -- what do you remember about that?

1 A. The very first day we got there, when we went into the  
2 place they obviously took our suitcases from us, our  
3 backpacks or whatever we had, and they took us to get  
4 a bath, or they took us to another medical sort of  
5 a thing, where we got a bath and we got like our head  
6 checked for head lice. The auxiliaries and the teachers  
7 did that.

8 Q. Was there any particular person who met you when you got  
9 there?

10 A. Yeah, Miss Robertson and Miss Fletcher.

11 Q. Did you come to understand what their particular roles  
12 were at Fornethy?

13 A. Yeah, during the duration of stay, yeah, but at first  
14 obviously we just knew them as staff or teachers, you  
15 know.

16 Q. Did you come to know that Miss Fletcher was the  
17 headteacher?

18 A. Yes, uh-huh. Miss Fletcher kinda dealt more with the  
19 older girls and Miss Robertson sorta dealt with more of  
20 us younger ones. I always remember Miss Robertson being  
21 there the most, like, with the younger ones.

22 Q. And you talked about having a bath. Can you describe  
23 what happened?

24 A. Oh, yeah. Sorry. (Pause).

25 So, we were all lined up to go in for a bath and we

1 got stripped naked. There was Miss Fletcher and  
2 Miss Robertson and there was other girls sort of  
3 queueing. And [REDACTED] and I, my big sister, went into  
4 the bath. I'm sure Miss Fletcher was washing her and  
5 Miss Robertson was washing me. And she had like -- I  
6 call it like a shoe scrub, you know where you polish the  
7 shoes, and she just started scrubbing me, erm, just to  
8 the point that like my skin was burning, it was like raw  
9 and it was like on fire.

10 Sorry.

11 LADY SMITH: 'Sharon', there's no need to apologise, please  
12 don't worry, just take your time.

13 A. Yeah, so, yeah, she burnt -- it was like my skin was  
14 burning and I remember crying, because I knew she was  
15 hurting me but, but I couldn't do nothing. She just  
16 continued to scrub and scrub. (Pause)

17 Sorry.

18 And I know it was Miss Robertson because she's the  
19 one that abused me quite a lot. (Pause)

20 Sorry.

21 I thought I'd be okay giving this evidence today but  
22 it's just, it's just hard.

23 MR MACAULAY: Just take your time.

24 A. When I'm looking at this way, with the carbolic soap,  
25 I remember the carbolic soap because even after, when we

1           went back to primary school, the smell of carbolic soap  
2           reminded me of Fornethy. But yeah, Miss Robertson, erm,  
3           scrubbed me really, really hard.

4    Q.   And what about your sister?

5    A.   Miss Fletcher was cleaning her, but I don't think  
6           Miss Fletcher hurt her that much at that point. Like  
7           she was in front of me in the bath, there was like two  
8           of us put in the bath. There was about this much water.  
9           (Indicating).

10   Q.   And you're indicating a couple of inches?

11   A.   Yeah, and she was getting washed with one teacher and  
12           I was getting -- she was getting washed with Miss  
13           Fletcher and I was getting washed with Miss Robertson.

14   LADY SMITH: 'Sharon', you also told me that when you went  
15           into this bathroom, you had to strip off?

16   A.   Yeah.

17   LADY SMITH: Naked?

18   A.   Yeah, in front of all the other girls.

19   LADY SMITH: Had you ever had to be naked in front of other  
20           girls before?

21   A.   No.

22   LADY SMITH: How did you feel about that?

23   A.   Even at home, like me and my wee brother would be put in  
24           a bath, or me and my big sister [REDACTED], but any of  
25           the other big sisters and brothers, no.

1 LADY SMITH: And no other schoolgirls.

2 A. No, never.

3 LADY SMITH: So these were strangers.

4 A. Complete strangers, yeah.

5 LADY SMITH: You were stripped off in front of them.

6 A. Yeah.

7 LADY SMITH: Then you were put in a bath and scrubbed?

8 A. Yeah, yeah.

9 MR MACAULAY: And do you know how many girls were there at

10 the time? Any sense of numbers?

11 A. I mean, there was about 20 of us on the minibus so

12 I'm assuming that's who was behind us when we were all

13 going in for the bath, because we all come in together.

14 Q. And were they all told to strip?

15 A. Yeah. Yeah. In the bath and in the showers.

16 Q. What was your reaction to this at the time, can you

17 remember?

18 A. I mean, I was 5. I didn't understand what was going on.

19 Q. And after the bath, what happened next?

20 A. When they took us out the bath, they gave us like

21 clothes to wear, like we -- my sister [REDACTED] had got all

22 us like sorta clothes to go and she sewed all our names

23 on them just to make sure that none of the other kids

24 stole our clothes and things. I remember the school

25 must have gave us a list because I remember my sister

1           ██████ going through a checklist of toothpaste,  
2           toothbrush, making sure that we had everything.  
3           Sorry. (Pause)  
4           Sorry, can you ask the question again?  
5   Q. No, it's okay. After you had the bath --  
6   A. Yeah.  
7   Q. -- did you have to go somewhere else to have your head  
8       checked?  
9   A. Yeah, once we come out of there, it was like  
10       an auxiliary room, erm, there was like a separate room,  
11       I remember it as an auxiliary room, and we got taken  
12       into there and then they would put the, the nit lotion  
13       on. I always remember 'cos the smell of it was really  
14       strong. And then we'd obviously go through our hair  
15       with a comb.  
16   Q. And who was doing that?  
17   A. The auxiliary women were there. I don't think it  
18       was the teachers at that point. I just recall it being  
19       like nurses. To me it was nurses.  
20   Q. And I think you tell us in your statement that they were  
21       not heavy-handed?  
22   A. No, they weren't, no.  
23   Q. Now, let's look then at where you went to sleep. You  
24       went into dormitories, is that right?  
25   A. Yeah.

1 Q. Now, was your sister in your dormitory?

2 A. Yeah, she was, yeah.

3 Q. Can you tell us how many girls there might have been in  
4 your --

5 A. I think there was about six or eight. We had the big  
6 dormitory, it was called Reekie Linn. And I remember,  
7 my bed, it was right at the window, and where the window  
8 was there was like -- I don't think it's there now and  
9 it was not in they pictures, but there was like a black  
10 fire exit outside the building. And my bed was there,  
11 then my sister's bed was right beside it. And then  
12 I remember there was another girl who I've mentioned in  
13 the statement, [REDACTED] she was at the bottom bed at the  
14 dormitory just as you come in. But there was about six  
15 or eight of us.

16 Q. And I'll come back later to the dormitories.

17 A. Yeah.

18 Q. But just looking at the routine then, in the morning you  
19 would go for your breakfast, is that --

20 A. Yeah, we got up. It was still dark when we got up, so  
21 it was like really early in the morning we got up.

22 Q. And I think what you tell us in your statement is that  
23 after breakfast you would go for a walk?

24 A. Yeah.

25 Q. Can you just tell me about the walk?

1 A. One of the walks that we would go to quite regularly  
2 was the Backwater Reservoir, which is like miles long.  
3 I think it's about three-and-a-half miles each -- so  
4 like seven miles each way. Erm, but we would go there  
5 quite a lot, and the reason I remember that very clearly  
6 is 'cos I was fascinated by it. You know, when you look  
7 at the water, there's this little sorta building that  
8 was in the middle of the water and I was absolutely  
9 fascinated 'cos I was like, how can you get that  
10 building built in the middle of the water?

11 And I remember speaking to one of the teachers and  
12 I was really inquisitive about asking: how did you get  
13 there? And they were explaining that you go in and go  
14 under the water.

15 But, yeah, that was one of the walks that we did.  
16 But there was many walks. We went to the farm, we  
17 picked strawberries, we'd go down to the village past  
18 the church. We'd go down to, it's like a creek, it was  
19 like an old rocky bridge and we would go down past the  
20 stream. Just lots of different walks.

21 Q. And were these walks organised for all the children?

22 A. Yeah.

23 Q. And would there be a teacher, or more than one  
24 teacher --

25 A. Oh, there was always Miss Robertson and Miss Fletcher.

1           There was sometimes Miss PWH, who was another  
2           teacher. Sometimes she would be there as well.

3   Q. And as far as being on the walks would be concerned,  
4           would anything happen in relation to how you were  
5           treated?

6   A. To me, it felt like military boot camp, like as though  
7           you were in like a prison for children. Interestingly  
8           enough, with my dad being in the army, you know, it was  
9           like we would sort of be two-by-two, a bit like when  
10          you're in the school playground, the teachers would line  
11          you up and you would be like two-by-two. So we would  
12          have to walk in two-by-two, in pairs. But I was not  
13          allowed to walk with my sister.

14   Q. But did you have any -- you were only 5.

15   A. Yeah.

16   Q. And your sister was four years older.

17   A. She was 9.

18   Q. Did you have any difficulty in keeping up with the older  
19          girls?

20   A. We were kind of kept separate quite a bit anyway.  
21          I mean, when we went to these long walks there would  
22          always be like a sorta teacher at the front and then  
23          a teacher behind and the kids sort of in between.

24   Q. And did you walk in all weathers?

25   A. Oh, yeah, yeah, rain. It wisnae snowing when I was

1           there, there was never any snow, but there was a lot of  
2           rain and, er, yeah.

3   Q.   And what did you wear on your --

4   A.   We had these duffle coats and we had these, erm, welly  
5           boots and, sometimes I laugh about it, it's not funny,  
6           but it kinda -- me and my sister had made jokes about it  
7           for years because I was only 5 and I had tiny, tiny  
8           feet. I mean, as you can see, I'm still small. So the  
9           welly boots were always too big for me. So my sister  
10          suggested that, you know, wear your socks and tuck your  
11          socks over the welly boots.

12                 So when you walked, the rim at the top of the welly  
13          boots would sort of rub around your legs. So we would  
14          have these like really red raw, like, circular marks  
15          round our legs. And when ██████████ said, you know, pull  
16          your socks up over them and it will stop them rubbing,  
17          we'd get into trouble fae the teacher. So the teacher  
18          would tell us to take the socks down. And again, your  
19          feet were just getting -- your legs were getting all cut  
20          and it was like chafing.

21   Q.   And did you get any creams --

22   A.   Never.

23   Q.   -- to help with that?

24   A.   No. No. When we left Fornethy, for months our -- we  
25          still had these red marks, 'cos it took time for the

1 marks to disappear.

2 Q. One thing you tell us, 'Sharon', at paragraph 35, is  
3 that:

4 'Although Fornethy was a horrific place ... '

5 A. Yeah.

6 Q. '... not all of it every day was bad.'

7 A. No.

8 Q. There were some good things about it?

9 A. Yeah.

10 Q. What do you have in mind?

11 A. I loved the Sunday School. Erm, I really enjoyed  
12 learning about religion and God and things like that.  
13 You know, as I said in my statement, when I come home  
14 from Fornethy, first thing I said to my dad was: 'Can I  
15 join Sunday School?', which he allowed me to do.

16 So that was fun and there was -- we did get art and  
17 crafts. There was a lovely teacher -- I don't even  
18 remember her name, and that's the sad thing -- and she  
19 gave me a book called 'Chicken Licken', and she said:  
20 'You take that home with you, put it in your suitcase'.  
21 And she let me take it home with me.

22 We also did art, so there was like mosaics where you  
23 would maybe cut little bits of paper and you would glue  
24 them on to like an old plate, and we got to take that  
25 home as well.

1           So there was curriculums where we did get activities  
2           that were fun.

3   Q. Well, that takes me on to schooling then. I think there  
4           were classrooms there, is that right?

5   A. Yes.

6   Q. And so far as you're concerned, were you in a different  
7           class to your sister?

8   A. Yeah.

9   Q. Who was your teacher, did you have a particular teacher?

10   A. Miss Robertson. And sometimes Miss PWH as well, but  
11           mostly Miss Robertson. And the nice teacher.

12   Q. And would the classes be after your walks?

13   A. Yeah. We didn't go to class every single day. Like,  
14           there's some days, like maybe that was the weekend, but  
15           as a child you wouldn't know. But most days that we did  
16           go to class, I did enjoy it.

17           The only issue when we were in the classroom was --  
18           oh, God. When I, when I asked, could I write a letter  
19           home to my mum, and I'm sure it was Miss PWH, I just  
20           keep seeing Miss PWH's face, and she said: 'No, you  
21           can't 'cos your mum's dead'. And when we went to  
22           Fornethy, we knew that mum was sick, but we were told by  
23           my big sister and my dad that mum was in heaven with the  
24           angels. So I believed my mum was an angel. And to be  
25           told it from the teacher that my mum was dead, like,

1           that was really heartbreaking, because I knew that my  
2           mum was not coming back.

3           (Pause) Sorry.

4   Q. But in relation to letter-writing, were you able to  
5           write a letter or a card to your father?

6   A. We were told what to write. You had to write -- there  
7           was writing on the board and you had to copy. I mean,  
8           I was 5, obviously, I didn't know how to write very  
9           well. But you had to copy, word for word, everything  
10           that was on that board, and all the children had to do  
11           it. We weren't allowed to write what we wanted.

12   Q. And when you got back -- I think you said to me earlier  
13           you had been in Primary 1 when you left?

14   A. Yeah.

15   Q. Just gone into Primary 1, I think.

16   A. Yeah.

17   Q. But when you got back after having been in Fornethy for  
18           the time you were there --

19   A. Yeah.

20   Q. -- and you went back to school, were you -- did you find  
21           you were behind the other children?

22   A. No. Erm, according to my sister at the parents' night,  
23           the teachers said that I'd actually caught up with the  
24           rest of the children and I was ahead of them.

25   Q. Sorry, but had you been behind and having to catch up?

1           No?

2    A.  Not that I recall, because I was in Primary 1, so, you  
3           know, you're just fresh into the school days, so.

4    Q.  Okay.  Now, you were in the same dormitory as your  
5           sister.

6    A.  Yeah.

7    Q.  But throughout the day did you have much to do with your  
8           sister?

9    A.  No.  I was not really allowed to play with her in the  
10           playground.  We would sort of stick to the children like  
11           of my own age.  Not really allowed to play with her, not  
12           really allowed to talk with her, wasn't allowed to be  
13           partners with her when we went the walks.  So, yeah.

14   Q.  Did you find that hard?

15   A.  Yeah, it was my big sister, you know.  The only really  
16           time that we got to see each other was maybe if we went  
17           the dining hall together, which most of the kids did  
18           anyway, erm, or obviously at night when we were in the  
19           dormitories.

20   Q.  Did you think about running away?

21   A.  Nearly every day.

22   Q.  And what, what happened?

23   A.  The teachers were really violent towards all the  
24           children, every girl in that place was either hit,  
25           kicked, slapped, punched.  And even in the dining room

1 as well, like, I mean the kids were force-fed.  
2 I witnessed -- I witnessed my sister being dragged from  
3 the dining hall because she didn't like custard and  
4 prunes, and, er, because of that she had an argument.  
5 My sister was quite -- for 9 years old she was quite  
6 rebellious and she was quite argumentative towards the  
7 teachers, and she shouted at Miss Fletcher and she threw  
8 her plate across the table and it went skiting off the  
9 table, and Miss Fletcher grabbed her by the hair and  
10 literally dragged her by the hair outside the dining  
11 room.

12 Sorry.

13 Q. It's okay.

14 A. Erm, I ate all my food because I knew what was going to  
15 happen if I didn't.

16 Q. So what happened to your sister when she was --

17 A. I have no idea what happened to her when she went out  
18 that dining room. I don't know.

19 And it's -- it's not that [REDACTED] sat and said:  
20 oh, well, remember this happened in the dining room? It  
21 wasn't like that. When we spoke about it years later it  
22 was: remember this abuse happened, remember they did  
23 this, remember they did that. You know, there was no,  
24 like, specific wee points, because when you witness that  
25 amount of abuse going on, like, you can't just put your

1       finger on like just one thing when you're seeing kids  
2       every day being abused.

3   Q.   But did you see anything else happening in the dining  
4       room that concerned you, that worried you?

5   A.   With Miss Fletcher when I drank the cup of tea.  So what  
6       happened was Miss Fletcher told us all to hurry up and  
7       get -- eat wir food up, to rush us out the dining hall.  
8       And I was to get a cup of tea and she said I wasn't to  
9       get it because I peed the bed, which I didn't pee the  
10      bed.  So my sister [REDACTED] said to her: 'No, RLW  
11      doesn't pee the bed'.

12                So she gave me like, it was like these wee  
13      half-cups, a wee tiny cup, and as I was drinking it, she  
14      forced it right down the back of my throat to the point  
15      that I choked.  And all I remember was one minute I was  
16      in the room and then I blacked out.  And I know this  
17      might sound so far-fetched, but I was like -- so I was  
18      out of my body and I was sort of looking down and  
19      I could see me slumped, which is so bizarre, but I could  
20      see me slumped on the table, like.  And my sister was  
21      sorta screaming and obviously the teachers are hitting  
22      me to try and bring me round, and then I just sorta felt  
23      like, I know it sounds really strange, but it was like  
24      a whooshing sound and before you knew it I came round  
25      again.  But to me it was like -- and it'll stick with me

1 to this day, 'cos I always asked: how could I be out my  
2 body and see myself? So who am I? Am I me? 'Cos if  
3 that's me out here, who was that child there?

4 Q. And I think in relation to your food, though, you ate  
5 all your food?

6 A. Yeah.

7 Q. Did you see any children who weren't eating their food  
8 and what happened to them?

9 A. Yeah. I don't know the girl's name. She was a wee bit  
10 of a bigger girl, er, and I do remember her not eating  
11 her food and her hair, oh, her hair was pulled. She was  
12 literally -- she had like a wee ponytail and I just  
13 remember her hair getting pulled right back. And it was  
14 like a spoon was forced down her throat with the food on  
15 it and the girl was gagging and choking -- oh, God.  
16 Sorry. (Pause)

17 Yeah, she wasn't the only one. There was lots of  
18 kids, but that's the very vivid one that stuck in my  
19 mind, when I seen the way her head was pulled back and  
20 this, like, spoon down her throat.

21 Q. And who was doing that?

22 A. Sorry?

23 Q. Who was doing that to her?

24 A. I think it was Miss Fletcher, 'cos Miss Fletcher had the  
25 blonde hair.

1 Q. But you say she wasn't the only one --

2 A. She wasn't the only one.

3 Q. -- who was treating you like that?

4 A. A lot of the teachers did it, yeah. Yeah. But on this

5 occasion with this girl, I'm sure it was Miss Fletcher

6 that did it, yeah.

7 Q. Can I ask you about bed-wetting --

8 A. Yeah.

9 Q. -- and the position in your dormitory. You've just told

10 us a little while ago that you did not wet the bed.

11 A. No, I didn't.

12 Q. And what about your sister?

13 A. No, she didn't.

14 Q. But was there a girl or girls who did wet the bed?

15 A. Yeah. In the dormitory there was a lovely girl, her

16 name was [REDACTED] and we always called her

17 'Bananas in Pyjamas'. And the reason is because she had

18 these like stripey pyjamas, you know, the 'Bananas in

19 Pyjamas', and she had them on, so that was our name for

20 her.

21 And [REDACTED] peed the bed a lot and -- oh, God. And

22 I remember her being dragged. Miss Fletcher come in --

23 Miss Robertson came in, sorry, it's not, it was

24 Miss Robertson who come in, and she come into the room

25 and [REDACTED] said about peeing the bed. So they would

1 normally like strip the beds or get the kids to strip  
2 the beds. Like, if you peed the bed, you'd have to  
3 strip your own bed, you'd have to make your own beds,  
4 every morning we'd have to. And she -- because [REDACTED]  
5 peed the bed, she again dragged her by the hair and she  
6 dragged her outside the door, outside the dorm. And  
7 I can still hear her scream to this day. I can still  
8 hear that girl scream. I don't know what they were  
9 doing to her, but whatever it was, it was horrific,  
10 because you could tell that that was screams of terror.

11 Q. Did this girl ever speak to you about what had happened  
12 to her?

13 A. The thing as well is, when you go to the dormitory --  
14 when we're outside, you're outside to play, you just  
15 played. When we were in the dormitory, we were not  
16 really allowed to speak. We were not allowed to giggle.  
17 We were not allowed to laugh. We were not allowed to  
18 talk. A lot of the kids I don't even think actually did  
19 speak about what happened to them, to be fair. I think  
20 we were just kids. We just got on with our day the next  
21 day, you know?

22 Q. Right. Now, you did say earlier, 'Sharon', that the  
23 particular person who targeted you for abuse was  
24 Miss Robertson?

25 A. Yeah.

1 Q. Can you tell me about that? How did she target you?

2 A. Well, the shower room was the -- was actually worse than  
3 the bath. So there was a monitor standing there and  
4 they had like, you know, the old sort of -- it's like  
5 the town crier bells, as I call them. And the monitor  
6 had rang the bell for us to leave -- well, I thought it  
7 was to run out the showers and leave the showers.

8 So I got out the showers. [REDACTED] was with me.  
9 There was other girls in the showers. It was the older  
10 girls were there that day because I called them the  
11 girls with lumps, only 'cos they were developing, but as  
12 a wee girl --

13 Q. So they were all naked in front of you?

14 A. We were all naked. And I ran out the shower when the  
15 monitor rang the bell. And Miss Robertson grabbed me on  
16 the shoulder and she smacked me on the back bum -- on  
17 the bare bum. And my sister [REDACTED] started shouting  
18 at her 'cos I was hysterical, obviously, 'cos -- I'll be  
19 honest, I've been smacked by my father, but I'd never  
20 felt pain like that smack. It was like the shock of  
21 being hit that hard. And I just remember [REDACTED]  
22 shouting at her.

23 And then it was like several days later when we were  
24 in the dormitory, we were all getting our clothes on,  
25 that [REDACTED] had said that I had a bruise on my bum.

1           And when we looked in the middle at a sort of wee  
2           mirror, a small mirror, kind of looked in it, and I  
3           looked round and I could see. It was like the palm  
4           print here and the bottom of the fingers marked on my  
5           bum. (Indicating).

6   Q. Well, that's one incident. Were there other incidents  
7           when you were hit by Miss Robertson or otherwise dealt  
8           with?

9   A. She dragged me out the classroom. I have no idea what  
10          I done. I mean, I think if you breathed you got like  
11          pulled out for things. I just remember her dragging me  
12          out the classroom. I don't know why. And she dragged  
13          me along the corridor. And again, this is something  
14          that, like -- I mean, I can laugh at it 'cos it sounds  
15          like something out a cartoon. You know when you see the  
16          cartoons and like the cartoons of their wee legs are  
17          going fast, like a reel. I tried to keep up with her,  
18          but obviously she's a woman, she was really tall, to the  
19          point that I remember running so fast that she was  
20          dragging me along this corridor. And again, I don't  
21          know what I done. I have no idea.

22   Q. In what way was she -- which part of your body was she  
23          taking hold of to drag you?

24   A. She grabbed my arm, it was like the top here, she was  
25          holding it really tight and she was like pulling me and

1 obviously I'm trying to keep up with the pace of her.  
2 And I know it sounds thingy, but it was like a -- when  
3 I think of a cartoon I can sorta laugh at it, 'cos it  
4 just sounds a bit bizarre, like me with my wee tiny legs  
5 trying to keep up, but, but it wasn't funny.

6 Q. You also tell us about an incident when you were out on  
7 your walks?

8 A. Yeah.

9 Q. And you saw a stoat?

10 A. Oh, [REDACTED] saw the stoat, yeah.

11 Q. Can you tell me about that?

12 A. Yeah. Er, so [REDACTED] loves animals, she's always been  
13 one for animals, and there was this wee stoat and it was  
14 lying on the path down towards the rocky bridge. And  
15 Miss Robertson, Miss Fletcher and Miss PWH [REDACTED] were all  
16 out on the walk. And I -- I was further back than  
17 [REDACTED] and she'd stopped with whoever her partner was  
18 and we were all sort of walking to catch up. And I got  
19 to that point with [REDACTED] where she was saying to the  
20 teacher: 'Can we save the stoat?', and the teacher's  
21 shouting and telling her, no, she wasn't -- let it die  
22 basically. Just let this stoat die. It's God's  
23 creature, leave it to die. [REDACTED] was hysterical  
24 because this wee stoat had obviously blood on it.

25 So, yeah, she was really nasty in the way she spoke

1 to [REDACTED].

2 Q. And was the stoat just left there then?

3 A. It was just left. Yeah.

4 Q. You tell us in paragraph 67 of your statement that  
5 Miss Robertson and Miss Fletcher 'were just so cruel'?

6 A. Extremely. Miss PWH [REDACTED] as well, but they two were the  
7 main ones that I recall, yeah.

8 Q. And how did you see that cruelty coming about?

9 A. Verbal abuse, physical abuse, emotional abuse. Quite  
10 degrading. For some of the older girls, it was quite  
11 degrading. Like, erm, as I say, the girls with the  
12 lumps, like I called them, the older girls, I just feel  
13 a lot of them, there was a lot of nastiness towards the  
14 older ones as well.

15 My sister [REDACTED], like her -- the older ones of  
16 her age, bearing in mind she's 9, [REDACTED] was quite --  
17 she fought back. So the more that [REDACTED] would sort  
18 of answer back or fight back, the more aggressive they  
19 would be with her. But [REDACTED] would -- I don't know  
20 why -- she would take it.

21 But there was many girls that got abused from they  
22 teachers.

23 Q. And I think you tell us that hair was pulled?

24 A. Oh, yeah, hair pulled --

25 Q. Girls were slapped?

1 A. -- punched, kicked, you know, erm, and that was not just  
2 [REDACTED]. That's loads of girls. I mean, I don't  
3 remember any girls' names in that place other than  
4 [REDACTED] who shared the dormitory. But I certainly did  
5 witness girls in the dining room, you know, girls  
6 even -- on walks, for me that was when we were safe,  
7 because we wouldn't get hurt when we were in the public.  
8 The only thing you would get when you were out on walks  
9 was if you stepped out of line, pushed back into line  
10 again.

11 Q. Now, I want to ask you about an episode, 'Sharon', where  
12 you tell us in your statement that Miss Robertson came  
13 into your dormitory.

14 A. Yeah.

15 Q. And were you in bed at that time?

16 A. Yeah.

17 Q. And so this was at night at some point?

18 A. Yep.

19 Q. Can you tell me what happened?

20 A. I don't know why she came in, but she took me downstairs  
21 to a room, and in the room there was men and some of the  
22 other teachers and they were all drinking and laughing.  
23 And she introduced me to a man, and I was quite  
24 fascinated with the man because he had a pocket watch  
25 and it was a gold, shiny pocket watch, and I was

1 fascinated by it because I'd never seen a pocket watch  
2 before. So, yeah.

3 Q. Can I just ask you, when you say he had a pocket watch,  
4 was the pocket watch --

5 A. It was attached onto him.

6 Q. Ah, yes.

7 A. Yeah, he was quite, I would say well-to-do. He was very  
8 smartly dressed. I liked the man. Like, I don't have  
9 any, like, recollection of him doing anything to me or  
10 anything like that. He was just a nice man and he  
11 showed me the pocket watch. He asked me my name and  
12 then I asked him what that was and then he showed me his  
13 pocket watch. But I don't know why I was there. But  
14 I do know they were drinking.

15 And the reason I know that they were drinking, and  
16 I know it was brandy, is many years later when I was at  
17 work, I got a phone call to tell me my wee brother had  
18 died, and because I went into shock, my boss at the time  
19 had gave me what I thought was Jack Daniels and it was  
20 brandy. When I drank it, it just took me straight back  
21 to Fornethy again.

22 Q. But did you get any explanation at all as to why --

23 A. I never.

24 Q. -- you as a 5-year-old were taken to this party, if  
25 that's what it was?

1 A. I have no idea. Nope.

2 Q. And how long were you there?

3 A. I don't even know. I don't even remember going back up  
4 the stairs. I just remember going there and meeting the  
5 man and I remember there was -- they were all laughing,  
6 like the teachers were laughing, and there was more than  
7 this man, there was other men there, but I don't know  
8 why, why they were there. I have no idea.

9 Q. And which -- what room in the building was this, do you  
10 know?

11 A. This is the difficulty, 'cos like I remember --  
12 I thought it was the library but -- because I remember  
13 the big fireplace. But there was fireplaces in quite  
14 a few rooms, so it may well have been like  
15 a library-type room. But I felt it was the library,  
16 because there was books and a big desk and like fancy  
17 furniture.

18 There was like a, is it a chaise-longue-type of  
19 thing they call it?

20 Q. And I think, do you say that this man was also -- did he  
21 have a pipe?

22 A. Yes, he smoked a pipe as well. I don't like the smell  
23 of pipe smoke, I never have done since Fornethy. But  
24 I don't know why. I just don't like the smell of it,  
25 and it connects me to him in some way.

1 Q. Did you -- are you able to form any view looking  
2 backwards as to what age this individual might have  
3 been?  
4 A. Maybe 30s. Maybe, yeah. Maybe 30s, yeah.  
5 Q. So you remember being taken there?  
6 A. Yeah.  
7 Q. You remember being there?  
8 A. Yeah.  
9 Q. But you don't remember being taken back?  
10 A. Don't remember going back to bed, no. But I don't think  
11 anything happened to me at that party. I don't.  
12 Q. And did you see if there were any other children at the  
13 party?  
14 A. Not when I was there at that room, no, not at that time.  
15 It was just me.  
16 Q. I want to ask you about another incident that you talk  
17 about in paragraph 75, involving Miss PWH.  
18 A. Oh, God, yeah.  
19 Q. And she was also somebody who was one of the teachers  
20 there. What can you tell me about her?  
21 A. I didn't like her. She had this, it was like this  
22 horrible laugh, like -- I just think, you know, 'The  
23 Wizard of Oz' and you think of the witch in 'The Wizard  
24 of Oz', and you -- that laugh, that's Miss PWH. She  
25 was quite -- I mean, they were all quite aggressive and

1 violent as well, but she was the one that was really  
2 nasty about my mum, erm, yeah.

3 For me, the laughter of her, the hurtful things that  
4 she said. She was quite nasty to my sister [REDACTED] as  
5 well. But I feel it was more Miss Robertson and  
6 Miss Fletcher than Miss PWH [REDACTED], you know. But she was  
7 nasty. They all were, you know.

8 Q. You tell us about an incident when a carpet beater was  
9 being used.

10 A. Oh, yeah, yeah. So one of the monitors was, it was  
11 like, you know, like, the old washing lines sort of  
12 thing but it was, like, inside the building. And there  
13 was this old, like, carpet, like an old, I would call it  
14 like an Axminster, 'cos it's like one of these big,  
15 expensive carpets. And the girl had a carpet beater and  
16 it was like, I can just describe it, it's like it had  
17 three sort of bits to it. And the girl was sort  
18 of cleaning -- they would beat the carpet. And she took  
19 the carpet beater off the girl and beat that girl over  
20 the back with it.

21 Q. Do you know why?

22 A. I have no idea. I don't think we needed any reason to  
23 do anything. It just happened.

24 Q. You also tell us about an incident at a lake.

25 A. Yeah. And this is the -- this is the strange thing with

1 this lake, because I thought at first it was all in my  
2 imagination, for years and years. I even said to my  
3 sister: 'Do you remember the lake?', 'No'. I've asked  
4 other -- obviously now with Fornethy being out,  
5 I've spoke to other women and I said: 'Any of yous  
6 remember a lake?'. No one remembers a lake.

7 So I've not been back to Fornethy until a few years  
8 ago when I went with my ex-partner and my youngest  
9 daughter, and they obviously knew about this lake. And  
10 we got to Fornethy, from around the house, and my  
11 daughter cut through the woods and she shouted: 'Mum,  
12 I've found the lake'.

13 So we went to the lake. And I don't know why I got  
14 taken to that lake, but I just remember I was standing  
15 there and I had just my pants on, and there was an older  
16 girl there and I can sense people behind me but I don't  
17 know who they are, I don't see faces. And I got this  
18 like red, sticky, like a jelly substance like sorta  
19 rubbed on my chest and I don't -- I don't know what it  
20 was.

21 (Pause)

22 Q. Can you remember who took you to the lake?

23 A. No.

24 Q. Was it one of the staff?

25 A. I don't know. I have no recollection how I got there.

1 I just remembered being there.

2 Q. And do you have any recollection as to who was rubbing  
3 this stuff on you?

4 A. No.

5 Q. Well, how -- what happened then? How did this --

6 A. I just remember being there and there was another older  
7 girl, but she had clothes on. Not clothes, she had  
8 a nightgown on. And I can just -- it's like I sensed  
9 people behind me but I don't know. I don't think it  
10 was the teachers. I don't know. I just don't think it  
11 was the teachers though. I don't know how I got there.

12 I don't recall Miss Robertson being there. I don't  
13 recall Miss Fletcher being there. But I know there was  
14 people there, because I can sense them behind me.

15 Q. So when you went back years later, did you have a memory  
16 of this --

17 A. Yeah, so I went up a few years ago and when I got to --  
18 when my daughter said, 'Mum, I've found the lake', and  
19 I got to the lake -- I've actually took pictures of the  
20 lake -- I knew it wasn't -- I knew I wasn't imagining  
21 it. I knew it was real. But I still don't know how  
22 I got there.

23 Q. Very well.

24 Can I then take you, 'Sharon', to when you came to  
25 leave Fornethy.

1 A. Yeah.

2 Q. You were there -- can you say for how long you were  
3 there?

4 A. Six weeks.

5 Q. Did you and your sister leave together?

6 A. Yes.

7 Q. Did other girls leave at the same time as you left?

8 A. The girls that came on the bus with us were the same  
9 ones that went back with us, yeah, yeah, or the ones  
10 from obviously Glasgow anyway, yeah.

11 Q. So when you got back home then, what was life like at  
12 home?

13 A. Well, obviously mum had passed away, erm, but I just  
14 went back to school and just got on with life really.

15 Q. And how was life with your father?

16 A. At first it was fine, but as the years went on, my dad  
17 became more -- he drank more, erm, and he got more sort  
18 of aggressive towards me. I think it's because he  
19 blamed my mum for dying and because I looked so much  
20 like my mum, erm, my dad would be verbally abusive to  
21 me. Yeah. I felt that I was being punished for my mum  
22 dying.

23 Q. And I think you tell us that your father died in 1985?

24 A. Yeah, I found my dad dead. Yeah.

25 Q. And I think you were 13 at the time --

1 A. I was 13, it was just after my 13th birthday, yeah.

2 Q. So what happened to you then?

3 A. Oh, God. I had to go and live with my sister and her  
4 husband, and he sexually abused me. So I went to social  
5 services and I reported the abuse and then I got taken  
6 into care, **Secondary Institutions - to be published later**  
7 **Second.**

8 Q. And the man that abused you, who was your sister's  
9 partner at the time --

10 A. Yeah.

11 Q. -- I think you tell us he was murdered in around 2000?

12 A. Yeah, he got murdered many years later, yeah.

13 Q. And then you tell us, 'Sharon', about the care  
14 placements you had.

15 A. Yeah.

16 Q. I think there was two?

17 A. Yeah.

18 Q. You were -- and in particular there was one in  
19 Pollokshields, Glasgow where you went when you were aged  
20 14, is that --

21 A. Well, there was two in Pollokshields. There was  
22 Fairfield Children's Home, but I went there as a Place  
23 of Safety Order.

24 Q. Yes.

25 A. And I was there for three weeks. And then after that

1 I got moved to Creagdhu Children's Home.

2 Q. And as you know, 'Sharon', we're focusing today only on  
3 Fornethy.

4 A. Yeah, yeah.

5 Q. I know you tell us a lot about Creag -- and we clearly  
6 have regard to that. But today it's Fornethy.

7 A. Yes, it's Fornethy.

8 Q. I think you're aware of that?

9 A. Yeah.

10 Q. So if I can take you then to your statement up at  
11 paragraph 166, you take us to a time when you left that  
12 children's home?

13 A. Yeah.

14 Q. And you're then living your life after care?

15 A. Yeah.

16 Q. I think you were 16 --

17 A. Yeah.

18 Q. -- by now?

19 A. Yep.

20 Q. And did you remain under supervision of the social work  
21 department after you'd left the children's home?

22 A. Yeah, I ran -- well, I was -- I wanted to run away all  
23 the time so I wanted to go to London. My friend wanted  
24 to make a living in London. So I did go to London with  
25 my friend. Obviously things down there with her dad

1           didn't work out so her and I came back to Glasgow. And  
2           then obviously I was still involved with social work.  
3    Q. And I think unfortunately you then had -- you were  
4           subjected to another rape, I think you tell us.  
5    A. Yeah, I was. Yeah.  
6    Q. And you had a number of various jobs, you tell us at  
7           paragraph 176, and again I think you had another  
8           relationship?  
9    A. Yeah.  
10   Q. When -- and you had a third daughter; is that right?  
11   A. Yeah, I had my two eldest to one dad, and then my  
12           youngest, there's 14 years of a gap, so she had  
13           a different father, yeah.  
14   Q. But you tell us your life revolved round her?  
15   A. Oh, yeah, yeah, still does.  
16   Q. And looking at impact, 'Sharon', what you tell us at 177  
17           is that with Fornethy you remember coming away from  
18           there --  
19   A. Yeah.  
20   Q. -- and just not trusting women?  
21   A. That's correct.  
22   Q. And is that still the case?  
23   A. It's sorta equal between women and men now, to be fair.  
24           Erm, I think after what happened with my brother-in-law,  
25           everything changed. I don't trust easily with anyone,

1       erm, but, yeah, women especially. And that does stem  
2       from Fornethy. Because you would think, you know, like,  
3       to trust someone, it would be a woman that you would  
4       trust, but with my experiences there, no.

5   Q. And you tell us that you'd also had -- you had  
6       flashbacks and nightmares?

7   A. Yes.

8   Q. Was that related to Fornethy, do you think?

9   A. Yeah, for many years. I mean, I -- I think it was more  
10       the -- just remembering wee things that happened. For  
11       me growing up, it was like, you know when you like get  
12       sort of wee clippets of things, it's like flashbacks,  
13       I just see it as like a film, where it's like a film  
14       slide, and I would get like flashbacks of things that  
15       happened at Fornethy, wee things that I couldn't make  
16       sense of. And who are you supposed to turn to to talk  
17       to about these things? So I just kept it to myself.

18  Q. But do you think that your experience at Fornethy has  
19       had any impact on your parenting of your children?

20  A. Oh, absolutely.

21  Q. Can you explain that?

22  A. I was so damaged when I had my kids. I was a kid having  
23       kids. Erm, I just had no trust in anyone. Obviously,  
24       social work and things like that at a later date, I had  
25       social services, none of them believed me, I just felt

1       like I wasn't believed in anything that I said. So  
2       because I couldn't trust anyone, I wouldn't -- I would  
3       just sort of be overly protective as well with my  
4       children.

5             But, as much as I was overly protective and I didn't  
6       really allow them to have much of a life, I was damaged  
7       by that and I wasn't a good mum either. I thought  
8       I was, but I wasn't. I was a -- I wasn't a good mum.  
9       And I now know that because my kids are damaged by what  
10      happened to me. It's like it's carried on through the  
11      generations.

12   Q.   Have you had some treatment and support?

13   A.   Not really.   Secondary Institutions - to be published later

14       Secondary Institutions - to be published later

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18

19   Q.   But I think you do tell us that you became a mentor  
20       for --

21   A.   Well, yeah. Over the years. So over the past few years  
22       I became a volunteer for Victim Support Scotland and  
23       supported witnesses giving evidence in court and  
24       travelled all over Scotland. Absolutely loved it. And  
25       then I went on to do an SVQ there or mentoring for

1 [REDACTED] for six month, and now I'm doing  
2 a degree in BA Honours, criminology and law. So that's  
3 where I am now. Yeah.

4 Q. Now you tell us also that in 2020 you saw something on  
5 television about Fornethy?

6 A. Yeah.

7 Q. What was your reaction to that?

8 A. Oh, it literally floored me. I was totally in shock.  
9 I couldn't believe it, 'cos I thought it was only me and  
10 my sister and the girls that were there that that had  
11 happened to. I didn't realise how many children had  
12 been there and the grand scale of the abuse. So, yeah,  
13 I was in total shock by it. I seen it on the news and  
14 it was -- it wasn't even any women, it was the news  
15 reporter that was speaking and talking about Fornethy.

16 Q. And have you then -- were you then contacted by the  
17 police?

18 A. Yes. I contacted the police. I contacted the police  
19 and it was Dundee Police who then got in touch with  
20 Glasgow Police and it was during COVID, so they come out  
21 to my house and took my statement, yeah.

22 Q. And I think you gave evidence, actually, at the Patricia  
23 Robertson trial?

24 A. I did. Yes, I did.

25 Q. And as far as the charges that you were --

1 A. Oh, mine was not proven.

2 Q. Not proven.

3 A. Yeah.

4 Q. Did your sister give evidence?

5 A. No.

6 Q. Now, insofar as records would be concerned, are you  
7 quite anxious to recover records?

8 A. My own records?

9 Q. Yes.

10 A. I actually got my records round about all this time, so  
11 I -- I did say when my youngest was 16, I was going to  
12 find my records, but I decided to sorta get them before  
13 that. There was just a lot of things that I sort of  
14 wanted to make sense of.

15 So this all kind of happened round about that time  
16 I'd arranged a meeting with Humza Yousaf who was my MSP  
17 at the time, and to get my records, and by that time  
18 Fornethy came out. So by the time I'd sorta had the  
19 meeting, it was the children's home and Fornethy, but we  
20 were more looking at my social work records, for me to  
21 make sense of --

22 Q. Yes, you recovered social work records?

23 A. Yeah.

24 Q. But did you recover any records in connection with your  
25 time at Fornethy?

1 A. No. It was only social work records we were looking for  
2 anyway.

3 Q. Can I then look at that section of your statement,  
4 'Sharon', where you talk about 'Lessons to be Learned',  
5 and that begins at paragraph 205.

6 A. Yeah.

7 Q. And the first thing you say there is:  
8 'The most important thing is that children need to  
9 be listened to.'

10 A. Yeah.

11 Q. Can you just elaborate upon that?

12 A. Well, you know, I mean even with -- I've got kids  
13 myself, so sometimes kids can say things and it sounds  
14 a wee bit far-fetched and things like that, you know.  
15 But children don't make things like this up, you know.  
16 It doesn't come fae a figment of imagination. It's  
17 real, and children should be listened to, because  
18 children do tell the truth, you know.

19 Q. And I think from what I gather, reading your statement,  
20 you're unhappy in the way in which social workers  
21 responded to complaints you made?

22 A. Yeah.

23 Q. Was that in connection with your time in the other  
24 residential care placements?

25 A. Yeah, yeah.

1 Q. And looking then to the 'Hopes for the Inquiry', what  
2 you tell us there is:  
3 'There has to be an awareness of what exactly did  
4 happen and the fact that it's lodged.'  
5 A. Yeah.  
6 Q. 'So many people know now about Fornethy because so many  
7 people have come forward.'  
8 A. Yeah.  
9 Q. And that's important to you?  
10 A. Well, yeah, because, erm, we were all failed as children  
11 there. And it's important that every girl that went  
12 through they doors, that it is acknowledged for what did  
13 happen and not what could have happened. It's what did  
14 happen.  
15 Q. And you tell us also that kids need safeguarding and  
16 back then there was no safeguarding?  
17 A. There was none, none whatsoever. No safeguarding.  
18 Actually, I've actually written something, if I could --  
19 Q. Yes, I'll just come to that in a moment.  
20 A. Okay.  
21 Q. Well, in fact, we'll come to that now because --  
22 A. 'Cos it does--  
23 Q. -- I've asked all the questions I want to ask of you,  
24 'Sharon'. Thank you very much for answering them the  
25 way that you have. And I do know that there's something

1           that you've prepared --

2    A.   Yeah.

3    Q.   -- that you want to say to the Inquiry.

4    A.   Yeah.

5    LADY SMITH:  'Sharon', do feel free to let me hear it

6           whenever you're ready.  Thank you.

7    A.   'Dear Inquiry team, as I prepare to give evidence,

8           I wish to provide my personal account of the challenges

9           I faced as a young girl.'

10           Sorry, Colin, can you read it for me?

11   MR MACAULAY:  Certainly.

12   A.   Would that be all right?  Or [REDACTED]?

13           Thanks.  (Handed).

14   LADY SMITH:  So, just for the transcript, Colin's now going

15           to read what you have passed across to him, but your

16           words.

17   A.   Yeah.

18   LADY SMITH:  Your prepared piece.

19   A.   Yeah.  It's just I know that I'll not be able to read it

20           without crying, so I'd rather you heard it from

21           Colin --

22   LADY SMITH:  I told you at the beginning, 'Sharon', I know

23           people can be taken unawares by their own emotions.

24   A.   Yeah.

25   LADY SMITH:  No need to apologise at all.

1 Mr MacAulay.

2 MR MACAULAY: 'Dear Inquiry team, as I prepare to give  
3 evidence, I wish to provide my personal account of the  
4 challenges I faced as a young girl in the environments  
5 in which I was placed.

6 'During this time, I was subjected to circumstances  
7 where my safety was neglected and where there was  
8 a significant lack of safeguarding and duty of care.

9 'The institutions responsible for my wellbeing  
10 failed me, not just once, but on more than one occasion.

11 'Throughout my time there, I experienced first hand  
12 how the absence of proper protection left me vulnerable.  
13 The abuse and mistreatment I experienced and witnessed  
14 were not isolated incidents, but consistent and ongoing.

15 'This persistence reinforced a climate of fear and  
16 demonstrated a sustained failure to intervene or protect  
17 those in care. The systems that should have safeguarded  
18 me instead created environments in which I felt exposed  
19 and unsupported.

20 'In addition to my own experiences, I witnessed  
21 other children being subjected to serious mistreatment,  
22 including being force-fed, dragged by the hair, and  
23 physically beaten. These incidents were deeply  
24 distressing to observe. The screams of the children  
25 during such events remain vivid in my memory and in

1 particular, the cries of [REDACTED] continue to affect me  
2 to this day.

3 'Living in these conditions I was often overwhelmed  
4 by fear, fear of remaining in an unsafe environment and  
5 equally fear of the consequences of attempting to leave.  
6 This constant sense of entrapment compounded my distress  
7 and left me feeling powerless and isolated.

8 'These failings were not isolated incidents, but  
9 part of a broader and systemic pattern of negligence.  
10 There was a clear and ongoing breakdown in safeguarding,  
11 supervision and duty of care, which allowed abuse to  
12 occur and continue unchecked.

13 'It is important that this Inquiry recognises not  
14 only the profound impact these experiences had on me  
15 personally, but also the systemic failures that enabled  
16 such treatment to persist.

17 'I hope that my evidence will contribute to a fuller  
18 understanding of these failures and support meaningful  
19 accountability and reform so that no child is subjected  
20 to similar harm in the future.

21 'Thank you for taking the time to consider my  
22 experiences.'

23 Thank you, 'Sharon'.

24 My Lady, I haven't received any questions to put to  
25 'Sharon'.

1 LADY SMITH: Thank you.

2 'Sharon', thank you for the care you have taken  
3 writing that and adding it to your evidence. I'm really  
4 grateful to you, and thank you again for being here  
5 today. It's added considerable value to the written  
6 evidence I already had from you.

7 I hope you're able to have a restful time for the  
8 rest of today, because I think you need it.

9 A. Yeah.

10 LADY SMITH: But you've contributed a lot to the work we're  
11 doing here, so thank you for that.

12 A. You're welcome.

13 LADY SMITH: Do feel free to go when you're ready.

14 (The witness withdrew)

15 MR MACAULAY: So that's 12.50 pm, my Lady, we'll probably  
16 break --

17 LADY SMITH: Break now until 2 o'clock and then the next  
18 witness.

19 A couple of names before I rise. One was the name  
20 of a sister of the last witness, a sister [REDACTED].  
21 She's not to be identified as referred to in our  
22 evidence outside this room. And the other, somebody who  
23 I've referred to before as being protected by my General  
24 Restriction Order, and that's somebody called  
25 Miss PWH [REDACTED], and she's not to be identified as

1 mentioned, as referred to in our evidence outside this  
2 room.

3 And another two. [REDACTED] and her sister [REDACTED] as  
4 well. Yes, so it's [REDACTED] and [REDACTED].

5 Thank you very much.

6 (12.52 pm)

7 (The luncheon adjournment)

8 (2.00 pm)

9 LADY SMITH: Good afternoon, and now we return to oral  
10 evidence and I think the witness is ready; is that  
11 right, Ms MacLeod?

12 MS MACLEOD: Good afternoon, my Lady, that is right. The  
13 next witness is an applicant who will use the pseudonym  
14 'Em'.

15 'Em' (affirmed)

16 LADY SMITH: 'Em', thank you so much for coming along this  
17 afternoon to help us with your oral evidence.

18 I don't think you're picking up where my voice is  
19 coming from, 'Em'. It's me speaking, it's Lady Smith  
20 speaking.

21 A. Oh, sorry. Sorry.

22 LADY SMITH: It's all right.

23 A. Sorry.

24 LADY SMITH: Sometimes it's hard to identify where the noise  
25 is coming from.

1 I just wanted to welcome you and say thank you for  
2 being here, and thank you also for providing your  
3 written evidence, which is in that red folder there.  
4 It's been really good to be able to read that in  
5 advance. And it means we're not going to have to go  
6 through it in detail, but there are some particular  
7 aspects of your evidence that we'd like to focus on, if  
8 that's okay with you.

9 A. Yes, that's fine.

10 LADY SMITH: As you know, we're particularly interested in  
11 this section of our work in Fornethy Residential School  
12 and that's especially what we'd like to talk to you  
13 about.

14 If at any time you want a break or you've got any  
15 questions or there's something I can do to make it all  
16 a bit more comfortable for you, do let me know.

17 A. Okay.

18 LADY SMITH: Because I'm well aware of how difficult it is  
19 to come into a public place and talk about yourself, and  
20 about yourself when you were a child, and when things  
21 weren't exactly great. So it's a big ask. I get that.  
22 Let me help you if there's anything I can do, from  
23 a break to anything else that would be practical.

24 I do take a break anyway at about 3 o'clock in the  
25 afternoon to give everyone a breather, including our

1 stenographers, who work hard here, sitting beside me.

2 But we may be finished your evidence by then in any

3 event. We'll just see how it goes.

4 A. Okay.

5 LADY SMITH: All right?

6 A. Thank you.

7 LADY SMITH: I'll hand over to Ms MacLeod and she'll take it

8 from there.

9 A. Okay.

10 Questions from Ms MacLeod

11 MS MACLEOD: My Lady.

12 Good afternoon, 'Em'.

13 A. Good afternoon.

14 Q. I don't need your date of birth, but just to give a

15 timeframe, were you born in 1963?

16 A. Yes.

17 Q. You've provided a statement for the Inquiry --

18 A. Yeah.

19 Q. -- 'Em', and there's a copy of that in the red folder in

20 front of you. I'm just going to give the reference of

21 that for the transcript. WIT-1-000000706.

22 Now, 'Em', I wonder if we could begin by turning to

23 the very last page of the statement and that's really to

24 confirm that you've signed it.

25 A. Yeah.

1 Q. In the very last paragraph, do you say:  
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 A. Yeah.  
7 Q. Okay. Now, if we can go back to the beginning of your  
8 statement and I'll just ask you some questions about  
9 that. And I think you begin, 'Em', by just providing  
10 some background information about your life when you  
11 were young. And I think you tell the Inquiry that you  
12 were born in Glasgow?  
13 A. Yeah.  
14 Q. And that there was your mum and dad and you had three  
15 brothers and three sisters?  
16 A. Yes.  
17 Q. And what you say is:  
18 'Life seemed all right to me.'  
19 A. Yeah.  
20 Q. So how did you find your life in Glasgow with your  
21 family as a child?  
22 A. In the 1970s it was difficult but we were actually a wee  
23 bit better than a lot of people, to be fair, 'cos my mum  
24 and my dad worked, at different times but, but there was  
25 always -- there was always -- we didnae go without. We

1           didnae go withoot.

2    Q.   Okay.  And I think, 'Em', you went to primary school?

3    A.   Yes.

4    Q.   When you were young, is that right?

5    A.   Yeah, 5.

6    Q.   When you were 5.  And what you say is that there weren't

7           any complaints about you from school?

8    A.   No, there wisnae any, no.

9    Q.   Did you enjoy school?

10   A.   I did at the start.

11   Q.   And I think you tell us that it was when you were about

12           9 years old that you went to Fornethy?

13   A.   Yeah.

14   Q.   Can you tell the Inquiry, 'Em', how did it come about

15           that you went to Fornethy?

16   A.   We had a family that lived -- we lived in the tenements.

17           There was a family down the stair and they had went and

18           they come back and they were like: oh, we had a great

19           time, we done this.  So we bothered my ma till she gave

20           in and let us go.  And you would go into the school and

21           you would get a form aff the school.  It was actually my

22           older sister, and then me and my younger sister just

23           followed on: 'We want to go, we want to go'.

24   Q.   And did you say there that you spoke to your school

25           about it?

1 A. Yeah, you got a -- you had to -- I think you applied  
2 through the school.

3 Q. And you mentioned an older sister. In fact did your  
4 older sister end up going to a different residential  
5 school?

6 A. Yeah, she did.

7 Q. Was it you and your younger sister who went to Fornethy?

8 A. Yeah.

9 Q. Was that a sister who was about two years younger --

10 A. Yeah.

11 Q. -- than yourself?

12 A. Yeah.

13 Q. So were you about 9 and your sister about 7 --

14 A. Yes.

15 Q. -- when you went to Fornethy?

16 A. Yes.

17 Q. So looking at your year of birth, 'Em', just  
18 approximately, might that have been about 1972, if you  
19 were 9?

20 A. Yes, yeah.

21 Q. Okay. And how long do you think you were at Fornethy?

22 A. I think it was five weeks or six weeks. It was one or  
23 the other.

24 Q. Okay. So looking to going there, you've said you got  
25 a form and it was arranged somehow through the school,

1 is that your understanding?

2 A. Yeah.

3 Q. What then happened in terms of getting to Fornethy?

4 What do you remember about that?

5 A. I remember we had to go to this place to get medicals to

6 go. I remember going for a medical with my younger

7 sister. And then I think they just gave you a date or

8 something. You would get picked up. I think it was

9 Bath Street that you get picked up in Glasgow on a bus,

10 and the bus would take you to Fornethy.

11 Q. And do you remember being on the bus?

12 A. Yeah.

13 Q. And were there a number of other girls on the bus?

14 A. Yeah, yep.

15 Q. And were you all headed to Fornethy?

16 A. Yes.

17 Q. And at that time, 'Em', what did you think Fornethy was?

18 A. I just thought it was a holiday camp.

19 Q. And how were you feeling at that time about going there?

20 A. Oh, we were all excited. We had wir wee cases and we're

21 all laughing and joking, but on the bus I think --

22 I don't know if something happened on the bus but

23 I remember on the bus going: oh, no. And then, soon as

24 I come off the bus I went, really: oh, no. But I cannae

25 remember why I said that to myself.

1 Q. So you maybe had some second thoughts or hesitation on  
2 the bus and then when you arrived --

3 A. When we first got off, I thought the building looked  
4 like a big castle and I thought, oh wow. But as soon as  
5 I went through the door -- I know something happened but  
6 I just cannae remember what happened. And we were just  
7 on there with wir wee cases and I just remember going  
8 like that to myself: oh, no. Oh, no. And I just felt  
9 that way until I came hame.

10 Q. Indeed you say that in your statement, 'Em' at  
11 paragraph 9, you say that when you got in:  
12 'There were quite a lot of us and I remember saying  
13 "Oh God".'  
14 Why -- can you help me with what were you thinking  
15 at that time? What gave you that feeling?

16 A. I don't even know. I just -- I remember us all standing  
17 there with wir cases and I don't know what happened but  
18 I just thought, oh, no.

19 Q. So what's the next thing you remember then, 'Em', after  
20 arriving there? What was the first thing that happened?

21 A. I think they took us to a room with a wee case and then  
22 I think we went to get baths or something, maybe.

23 Q. Okay.

24 A. Something like that.

25 Q. Okay. And do you remember anything in particular about

1 the bathing?

2 A. Oh, I hated the bathing.

3 Q. But that first bath?

4 A. I cannae really remember much about the first one to be  
5 honest.

6 Q. Were you taken to a dorm?

7 A. Yeah.

8 Q. And were you -- were you taken to the same dorm as your  
9 sister?

10 A. Yes, we were right next to each other.

11 Q. Roughly how many other children were in your dorm?

12 A. I thought there might have been about 12 of us, but  
13 I don't know. I don't -- I can remember some of their  
14 names, some of the lassies and that, but I don't  
15 remember them all. But I know there was other ones but  
16 I just cannae remember their names.

17 Q. And you were 9 and your sister, 7. Was it a varied age  
18 group in your dorm?

19 A. There was wee kids at 5. I remember two wee -- two in  
20 particular wee girls, one was 5, one was 7. But I also  
21 remember people -- they looked bigger than me. I was  
22 quite small, but they looked bigger than me so  
23 I actually thought they were a lot older than me.

24 Q. And do you remember the name of your dorm?

25 A. Yeah, it was Forfar.

1 Q. And I take it there were a number of other dorms?

2 A. Yeah.

3 Q. Overall, 'Em', are you able to help me with roughly the  
4 number of girls who were at Fornethy?

5 A. I think, I would have said -- I would say maybe about 70  
6 aw in, maybe. But we werenae all allowed to mix.

7 Q. Who was in charge of Fornethy?

8 A. Miss Fletcher.

9 Q. And what was she like?

10 A. Horrible. Just horrible. She just -- she would just  
11 walk about hitting for nothing and I couldnae -- they  
12 would hit my sister, that's what drove me nuts. I could  
13 put up with anything they were doing to me, but not to  
14 my sister. And then when I went to protect her, that's  
15 when I would get hit.

16 Q. And was she -- was she an older lady?

17 A. Yeah, yeah.

18 Q. Was she the oldest of the teachers there?

19 A. There was another teacher, Miss LBD, I think, they  
20 two were really old.

21 Q. And what was Miss LBD's role then in the school?

22 A. Oh, she was even worse. I actually thought that she  
23 was the headmistress at first. I didnae see a lot of  
24 Miss Fletcher but I seen a lot of Miss LBD. I don't  
25 even know if they were Miss or Mrs.

1 Q. And which other teachers do you remember?

2 A. I remember Miss RHB and I remember -- the  
3 schoolteacher, yeah, I know what her name is noo but  
4 I didnae really know it then. I thought it was maybe  
5 Robertson or Robins, something like that, but I didnae  
6 know her name completely.

7 Q. And I think you say you now think that was  
8 Mrs Robertson?

9 A. Yeah.

10 Q. And what was she like?

11 A. She actually looked very young -- the youngest. And to  
12 be honest, I thought she looked quite pretty and she'd  
13 nice hair and all that. She wisnae totally horrible as  
14 the rest, but she would -- when me and my sister were  
15 sitting one time, she went away and told the other  
16 teacher and then they pulled her off her seat and  
17 right(?) her in her heid and all that, know what I mean.

18 But I remember being in her class and she left the  
19 class at one point, but we -- they would write on the  
20 board what you were to put doon on your letter and  
21 I wrote it doon, but my ma had said to us when we went  
22 away: 'If yous don't like it, you need to tell me and  
23 I'll come and I'll get yous'. And my ma had said to us:  
24 say something like 'I don't like sausages', and  
25 I'll know exactly what you mean.

1           Then, when the teacher went oot the room, I turned  
2           ma page there that I was writing a letter on and I wrote  
3           at the top of it: 'I hate it'. And I was going to  
4           write: 'I hate it here'. Then I got scared and  
5           I thought, no, I need to rub it oot. So I did rub it  
6           oot. But when you took your letter up to the teacher,  
7           she would scan it aw, read it and then she would put it  
8           in an envelope. And I cannae remember if we wrote our  
9           addresses on the envelope or if it was the teacher. But  
10          when she looked at my letter, I must have -- she must  
11          have knew I done something because I felt scared and I  
12          felt as if she knew I had wrote that. But when she  
13          turned the paper there, she looked at it and then she  
14          just kind of looked at me and then that was it. And  
15          I was just grateful that I'd got away with it, to be  
16          honest.

17        Q. Because you'd rubbed it out?

18        A. Aye, I had rubbed it oot, uh-huh.

19        Q. Now, in terms of the routine and what you did on  
20          a day-to-day basis at Fornethy, you tell us about that,  
21          that you got up at a certain time in the morning, about  
22          7.30 am or so?

23        A. Yeah.

24        Q. And were the staff involved in coming into the dorm?

25        A. Yeah, they would come in and waken us.

1 Q. And which staff, was that the teachers or was that  
2 domestic staff?

3 A. No, it was -- I think it was -- it was always  
4 Miss LBD, Miss RHB, I think, or Miss Fletcher.  
5 It was always one of they three, I think.

6 Q. And what was their manner and demeanour like when they  
7 would come into the room in the morning, the dorm in the  
8 morning?

9 A. Miss LBD absolutely hated me and she would just go  
10 right into my face and she would scream at me: 'You're  
11 a scunner, you're a scunner'. She threatened me every  
12 day. One day I had to tell, she was greeting  
13 'cos she did, she wanted hame, she was young, she was  
14 getting hurt. And this day I had said to my sister:  
15 'Don't greet'. And she just come up and went absolutely  
16 ballistic with me. But she thought I was saying don't  
17 greet for her. But I'm meaning: don't greet 'cos  
18 they're gonna hit you mair.

19 She was really bad. And she would have a newspaper.  
20 She hit you, passing you, didnae matter, and she hurt my  
21 sister every single day. Every day. Even at night.

22 Q. And we'll come on to look at that in a bit of detail,  
23 'Em'?

24 A. Aye.

25 Q. Because you do tell us about that.

1           'Em', you mentioned that you were then taken down  
2           to breakfast and I think you say the meals were taken in  
3           a dining room, is that right?

4   A.   Yeah.

5   Q.   Did everybody eat together?

6   A.   Yep.

7   Q.   And were the same teachers in charge of the dining room?

8   A.   I think so.

9   Q.   And how did you find the food?

10  A.   Disgusting, horrible. And I was a good eater. I was  
11       a wee chubby one, know what I mean. But I hated the  
12       food there. Believe it or not I did put on four pound  
13       when I was there. I don't know how but I did. And my  
14       sister had lost four 'cos I was eating her food.

15  Q.   So did you eat your own food?

16  A.   Aye, I would force it doon, uh-huh. But my sister  
17       couldnae.

18  Q.   And what would happen if you didn't eat the food?

19  A.   Oh, your heid would go in it, you would get slapped.  
20       They would just pull you out the chair, you were  
21       ridiculed. It was just horrendous. That was the worst  
22       part, the mealtimes, I thought.

23  Q.   And did these things you have just described happen to  
24       you, or did you see them happen to other people?

25  A.   Oh, no, I seen them happen to other people, but mair so

1 my sister. Because she was such a poor eater. She  
2 would just get her heid and just put it right in her  
3 porridge and she would have bits of porridge on her hair  
4 and she would be sobbing, she would be greeting. It was  
5 just -- it was just ridiculous.

6 LADY SMITH: So that was because she was a poor eater?

7 A. She was a very poor eater, uh-huh.

8 LADY SMITH: Thank you.

9 MS MACLEOD: And which teacher was involved in that, putting  
10 her --

11 A. Oh, Miss LBD was the worst at that, aye.  
12 Miss Fletcher done it to her I think, but it's mair so  
13 Miss LBD I remember most of the hitting coming fae.

14 Q. So you have described there seeing your sister's face  
15 being put into the porridge?

16 A. Uh-huh.

17 Q. 'Em', what else do you recall happening in the dining  
18 room, if your sister didn't eat her food?

19 A. Oh, she had passed -- this other big lassie -- I keep  
20 saying she was a big lassie 'cos she was much bigger  
21 than me, I thought she was a lot older than me but she  
22 couldnae have been, but she would help me eat my  
23 sister's food. And this day, the lassie had said to  
24 -- oh, I'm sorry, I'm not supposed to say am  
25 I, aye.

1           The woman said -- oh, jeez, what am I saying. This  
2           day, the lassie had said to my sister: 'Shove your plate  
3           here noo'. But the teacher, Miss Robertson knew.  
4           I know that's the one that went to court. She saw us,  
5           that lassie taking [REDACTED]'s plate. And the next  
6           minute Miss Robertson and I think it was LBD [REDACTED], or it  
7           might have been Fletcher, one of the two, but I was here  
8           and my sister was there and it was round tables.

9   Q. Yes.

10  A. But you werenae allowed to just go and look about or  
11   anything. You had to -- you werenae -- like you were  
12   there like that, with your heid down. And the next  
13   minute Ms Robertson went in to tell the other teacher  
14   that [REDACTED] had passed her food. And the next  
15   minute, the two of them pulled her off her chair, but I,  
16   'cos I've been wee noo, I realise it, but it was as if  
17   she just went right ower ma heid like that. And they  
18   dragged her somewhere, I don't even know where they took  
19   her.

20  Q. So they took her off her chair and dragged her out of  
21   the dining room?

22  A. Yeah, yeah.

23  Q. And do you know what they did when they removed her from  
24   the dining room?

25  A. I don't. I don't.

1 Q. Were you allowed to talk in the dining room?  
2 A. No.  
3 Q. Were you allowed to talk in general around the house to  
4 the other children?  
5 A. No, no.  
6 Q. And --  
7 A. We did speak, but, see, when the teachers werenae in, we  
8 were in the wee bedroom dormitory thing, we would talk  
9 then.  
10 Q. And if you did talk, or if the teachers heard you  
11 talking in the dining room or another part of the  
12 school, what would happen?  
13 A. Oh, you would just get hit, a slap to the heid or  
14 something like that. But they would -- she --  
15 Miss LBD used to use a newspaper and she liked to do  
16 that on your bare legs.  
17 Q. And I think you describe that in your statement, 'Em',  
18 that she walked around with a newspaper rolled up under  
19 her arm?  
20 A. Yeah, yeah.  
21 Q. And would use the newspaper then to hit the children?  
22 A. Yeah. She would also use her hands but I think she  
23 liked using a newspaper.  
24 Q. Did she hit you with the newspaper?  
25 A. I cannae even remember. I saw her hitting my sister

1 with the newspaper but I cannae -- see, any time I got  
2 hit, I can't even remember what they done to me, because  
3 I would try and stop them fae hitting [REDACTED] and then  
4 I would cuddle her, but then I would just get hit, but  
5 to be honest I think I would just put my head down and  
6 coorie into her, and ...

7 Q. Okay. Now, can I ask you now about the bathing routine  
8 at Fornethy?

9 A. Yeah.

10 Q. Was there a particular regime for bathing?

11 A. Yeah.

12 Q. Can you tell me about that?

13 A. When you went for a bath, you had to line up. My sister  
14 would be on that side 'cos she was younger than me.  
15 I would be on this side, but it was just a walkway but.

16 Q. So were there two queues for the --

17 A. Yeah.

18 Q. Two queues for the baths?

19 A. Yeah, there would be two. And everybody had to staund  
20 there with nothing on at all, nothing. Nothing.

21 Q. So you were naked?

22 A. Yeah, all of us, every one of us was naked. Then they  
23 would take you and they would put you into the bath, and  
24 there was two -- I'm saying old women, they'd maybe have  
25 been in their 50s or whatever then, I don't know. But

1           they would bath you and they would scrub you, but they  
2           would be hurting you when they're -- it wisnae gentle or  
3           anything. It was just horrible. It was just, they'd do  
4           that and get into your hair and: 'Oh, sit at peace'. It  
5           was just -- I don't know why they done it. I just  
6           think -- I don't know.

7   Q. And 'sit at peace', is that the sort of thing they would  
8           say to you while you were in the bath?

9   A. Yeah, yeah. They would hit and all, but I didnae get  
10          hit in the bath, to be fair.

11   Q. And you mentioned scrubbing you. Would they be using  
12          something to scrub you?

13   A. To me, it was like a hard thing. It was like a hard  
14          sponge stuff. I cannae actually -- I just remember it  
15          hurted when they -- see, when they scrubbed it on you,  
16          it hurted.

17   Q. And who did the bathing?

18   A. Just they two old women.

19   Q. Were they domestic staff?

20   A. I think so.

21   Q. How did you feel, 'Em', at the time about having to  
22          stand naked?

23   A. I hated it. Everybody hated it. Some would be  
24          staunding, greeting because of it. I don't know if  
25          I ever greeted because of it but I remember being super

1           embarrassed, super embarrassed. And everybody was just  
2           the same.

3    Q. In your statement, at paragraph 24, you mention, 'Em',  
4           you say:

5           'Something must have traumatised me about bath time,  
6           but I can't remember.'

7    A. Mm-hmm.

8    Q. Are you able to help me with that at all?

9    A. No. I would -- there was loads of things that would  
10           traumatise us, but I do remember after I came back  
11           I wouldnae -- like I remember I had a wee lump, a wee  
12           tiny lump, and I had said to my ma -- this was after  
13           I was back maybe six months -- and I had said to my ma:  
14           I've got a wee black lump there. And she was going: let  
15           me see. And I was going: no, no, no. I wouldn't let  
16           anybody, naebody. And it definitely affected me 'cos  
17           I was like that all the way through my life. I was very  
18           embarrassed.

19   Q. Something else you tell the Inquiry in your statement,  
20           'Em', is that you couldn't go to the toilet whenever you  
21           wanted to?

22   A. No, no.

23   Q. So if you needed the toilet, you couldn't just go?

24   A. No, no.

25   Q. So how was that arranged, going to the toilet?

1 A. You had to stand in queues for the toilet. You would --  
2 there would be certain times through the day when you  
3 done that. The first time would be as soon as you got  
4 up in the morning, you had to take your pyjamas off, you  
5 would put a vest and pants on and then you would go into  
6 the toilet queue. You would get to the toilet, you'd  
7 wash your hands and face and brush your teeth, and then  
8 you would go back to the dormitory and you'd put your  
9 wee uniform thing on.

10 Q. And I think you say there was maybe another two times in  
11 the day when you could queue for the toilet?

12 A. Yeah.

13 Q. So what happened if children needed the toilet outwith  
14 those times?

15 A. I don't know, because there was one lassie in particular  
16 that used to wet the bed and it was a shame for her, but  
17 every day she got hit for that. But there was a toilet  
18 right next to our dormitory and I actually thought to  
19 myself, I wonder if we're allowed to use that. But then  
20 something must have happened because naebody ever used  
21 it. We were probably told not to.

22 Q. Now, you speak about underwear and the management of  
23 that and I think what you tell us is that I think your  
24 underwear, your pants were washed every three days?

25 A. Yeah.

1 Q. Why was that?

2 A. I don't know, but it was just -- it would be three days  
3 for your underwear and you would get your school clothes  
4 washed once a week.

5 Q. So you were to wear your pants three days in a row?

6 A. Yeah.

7 Q. And then have them washed?

8 A. Yeah.

9 Q. Did you get classes, and I mean by that schooling --

10 A. Yeah.

11 Q. -- at Fornethy?

12 A. Yeah.

13 Q. And can you just -- you have mentioned the  
14 letter-writing and that Mrs Robertson was involved in  
15 that --

16 A. Yeah.

17 Q. -- with yourself. How were the classes organised?

18 A. I would have said there was maybe 16 in our class. But  
19 the only thing I can ever remember in the classes is  
20 writing the letters.

21 Q. So you don't remember having lessons in maths or English  
22 or things like that?

23 A. No, no, I cannae remember that. I know we werenaе -- it  
24 wisnae like a class that you went in the whole day, like  
25 you would go to normal school. I think we used to just

1 go maybe for like two hours or maybe three hours,  
2 something like that.

3 Q. Did you go to church?

4 A. Once I got taken to church.

5 Q. And did the staff or the teachers choose which children  
6 went to church?

7 A. Yeah. Yeah.

8 Q. And do you know what that choice was based on?

9 A. No. They would just say: you, you, you.

10 Q. And did the staff or the teachers say anything to you or  
11 give you any sort of warning before you went to church?

12 A. Oh, you werenae to put a foot wrong in the church, or on  
13 the bus going to it. Because one lassie that was  
14 sitting next to me in the church, she kept fidgeting.  
15 I don't know her name or anything, but she kept  
16 fidgeting. And when she got back and went onto the bus,  
17 that Miss LBD went nuts with her and everything,  
18 screaming at her. I did sit at peace, so I was fine  
19 that day.

20 Q. I want to ask you, 'Em', about the walks you were taken  
21 on at Fornethy.

22 A. Yeah. They would go a walk every day and it would take  
23 us fae the residential school to a reservoir.  
24 I remember hating them. I hated the walks. And the  
25 weans would just all get hit, they're all walking and

1 they're all just getting hit, always: 'Hurry up, hurry  
2 up'.

3 And I didnae actually know -- I knew it was long  
4 walks, but I would say about two years ago I happened to  
5 look up a reservoir near Fornethy and it was two --  
6 I think they said it was two-and-a-half mile away. So  
7 we would walk there every day and walk back. Some kids  
8 as young as 5 and I think the oldest was maybe 10/11.

9 Q. So that's about five miles a day?

10 A. Yeah, every day.

11 Q. And was that done in all weather?

12 A. Yeah. Yep.

13 Q. And I think you say that wellies would be worn --

14 A. Yeah.

15 Q. -- on the walks?

16 A. Yep.

17 Q. And that those were particularly uncomfortable?

18 A. Oh, they were really -- I had fat legs, so the top bit,  
19 the rim of the welly would just cut into all my legs, on  
20 both of them, but it didnae matter that it done that,  
21 I still had to put them on.

22 Q. And were you offered any help or treatment for the  
23 injuries?

24 A. No, no.

25 Q. And did some of the children struggle to keep up on the

1 walks?

2 A. Yeah, especially the wee ones.

3 Q. And what would happen in those situations?

4 A. They would just get hit and shoved, pushed.

5 Q. Who would push them?

6 A. It would be -- I think most of the time, it was

7 Miss LBD that took us on that walk, but I think

8 there might have been another teacher, but I couldnae

9 actually tell you who she was.

10 Q. And you've mentioned there being pushed. I think you

11 say in your statement that children could also be

12 slapped on the head?

13 A. Yeah, oh, uh-huh, uh-huh.

14 Q. On the walks?

15 A. Yep. Yep.

16 Q. And were you put in pairs for going on these walks?

17 A. Yeah. It would be two, two, two, two, two, two.

18 Q. So could you, for example, be with your sister if you

19 wanted to be?

20 A. No, I think they told you who you had to go wi'.

21 Q. Did you ever run away or think about running away?

22 A. Yeah. This is the only time I can actually remember it.

23 I did want to run away every day, but I remember when we

24 got put to bed at night, these blue lights would come on

25 in the ceiling and I thought they stayed on all through

1 the night, but this night, and I don't know why I was  
2 oot my bed or what I was doing, but I was staunding at  
3 the window. Everybody else in the dormitory is sleeping  
4 and the dormitory was pitch black, and that's when  
5 I realised the blue lights, they must only stay on  
6 a certain amount of time.

7 But something -- I think something must have  
8 happened and I remember staunding looking at the windae,  
9 it was pitch black and I thought, I need to go, I need  
10 to get oot of here. And my sister's bed was right next  
11 to the window and I looked at her and I knew I couldnae  
12 leave withoot her. I had to take her wi' me, you know  
13 what I mean. And I couldnae go withoot her and I was  
14 scared to go, so -- but I do remember thinking, I need  
15 to get oot of here, I need to get oot of here.

16 Q. So you were seriously thinking about it?

17 A. Yeah.

18 Q. But didn't run away?

19 A. No, I didnae run away but I thought aboot it.

20 Q. Now, you've mentioned already, 'Em', that there was  
21 a girl in your dorm who wet the bed?

22 A. Yeah.

23 Q. And I just want to ask you a little bit about that now.

24 Would the staff come in in the morning and see that  
25 she had wet the bed?

1 A. Yeah, they would check people's beds.

2 Q. And was it a regular thing that this girl wet the bed?

3 A. Uh-huh.

4 Q. And what did the staff do when they discovered that she

5 wet the bed?

6 A. They would just scream and shout and bawl at her, but

7 then they would say: none of the dormitory's getting

8 sweeties. So for -- my ma used to send us a 50-pence

9 postal order per week for us to get some sweeties, but

10 when we came home, we had the whole lot because we

11 werenae allowed sweeties 'cos that lassie wet the bed.

12 So when anybody in the dormitory done anything wrang

13 I think the whole dormitory would get into trouble for

14 it, but we never, ever got a sweetie there.

15 Q. So there was a tuck shop there --

16 A. Yeah.

17 Q. -- was there, and you could at certain times buy some

18 sweets?

19 A. Yeah.

20 Q. But your dorm were not allowed to buy sweets?

21 A. No.

22 Q. And the reason given was that this girl was wetting the

23 bed?

24 A. Wet the bed, uh-huh.

25 Q. And I think in the end you said that it got to the stage

1           that your dorm stopped joining the queue --

2    A.   Yep.

3    Q.   -- for the tuck shop.

4    A.   There was nae point.  They werenae going to get

5           anything.

6    Q.   Now, you have said there that the staff shouted at the

7           girl.  What sort of things did they shout at her?

8    A.   Oh, a scunner, disgusting, they would just say, just to

9           bring you doon.  If you done anything wrang, they would

10           just call you anything at all to make you look stupid.

11           And that lassie obviously couldnae help wetting the bed.

12   Q.   And do you remember which teachers did that?

13   A.   Mostly Miss LBD, and Fletcher sometimes.

14   Q.   Now, in paragraph 41 of your statement, 'Em', you speak

15           about a Miss RHB and something that happened with

16           her?

17   A.   Yeah.

18   Q.   Can you just tell me a little bit first of all about

19           Miss RHB and what her role was in the school?

20   A.   I think she was a teacher, I'm no -- I'm no too sure,

21           but I do think she was a -- she would come into the

22           dormitory too, right enough, but I do think she was

23           a teacher for some reason.

24   Q.   And I think on this particular occasion that you're

25           telling us about, that she came into the dormitory?

1 A. Yeah.

2 Q. Is that right?

3 A. Yes.

4 Q. And can you tell me, can you tell me what happened?

5 A. We were playing as -- we werenae allowed to play, but we  
6 were playing, but she didnae seem that bothered about us  
7 playing really that day when I think about it noo. But  
8 she sat on the bed next to the door and I was on this --  
9 the other side of the wall -- no, this side of the wall.  
10 So she's sitting in this bed on this side of the wall.

11 And I remember going like that and looking at her.  
12 And you were scared to look at them because you were  
13 doing something wrong just even if you looked, but the  
14 next minute, she shouted on me and telt me: come here.  
15 So I walked there so far. Obviously I'm going, I'm  
16 going to get hit here, but I didnae want to get too  
17 close to her and she went -- so I stopped a wee bit away  
18 fae her and she went: no, come over.

19 So I've walked there some mair, but she made me walk  
20 right up to her knees. And the next minute she put her  
21 arms roond my waist and doon the back of my pyjamas and  
22 roond the front. But I just remember going, oh, God,  
23 please don't let anybody see what she's doing. But  
24 I don't know what she was doing, to be fair, 'cos  
25 I've just switched off then. I don't know what she

1           done. But I just was going, oh, please don't let  
2           anybody see what she's doing.

3    Q. So I think, did she put her hands inside your pyjama  
4           bottoms?

5    A. Yeah, and she put them doon the back and then right  
6           roond the front.

7    Q. Okay. And I think -- at the time, 'Em', what was going  
8           through your head at the time?

9    A. I think I knew it wisnae right. There was something  
10           just not right, and obviously -- but I don't think  
11           I actually knew exactly what wisnae right. I think  
12           I just know -- I just knew she shouldn't have had her  
13           haunds on my pyjamas.

14   Q. I just want to look at some particular specific  
15           instances of Mrs LBD's treatment of you and your  
16           sister that you tell us about in your statement.

17   A. Yeah.

18   Q. And you describe in paragraph 43, an example, that you  
19           would be waiting in the queue for the toilet and your  
20           sister would be crying --

21   A. Yeah.

22   Q. -- for your mum?

23   A. Yeah.

24   Q. And I think you say that this was one of the first times  
25           that you'd stood in the queue for the toilet?

1 A. Yeah.

2 Q. And can you tell me what happened?

3 A. That time when we were staunding in the queue, all's we  
4 had on was wir vest and pants. But I'm staunding in my  
5 queue and I'm looking there at my sister and  
6 I'm going -- I could see her greeting and I'm going, oh,  
7 God. Next minute, LBD just came by, just whack.  
8 She was famous for doing it with her haunds, but and  
9 a newspaper, and she just kept whacking at my sis -- and  
10 I would come out of my queue and go o'er to her and say:  
11 it's all right. But I was trying to stop them.  
12 I was -- obviously I couldnae stop them, but I thought  
13 I could at that age, know what I mean?

14 Q. So she was hitting your sister?

15 A. Yeah.

16 Q. In the queue?

17 A. Yep. And that was just 'cos she was greeting. She  
18 wisnae even staunding, greeting like that, she -- 'cos  
19 my sister always kept her heid away doon.

20 Q. And do you say anything to Mrs LBD ?

21 A. I don't think I did say anything to her. I can't  
22 remember saying anything. I was just trying to cuddle  
23 and --

24 Q. And did she see you cuddling your sister?

25 A. Yeah. She would just used to go nuts. She would just

1 be getting pulled and hauled all over the place.

2 Q. And when she saw you cuddling your sister, did she do

3 anything to you?

4 A. Aye, she would be hitting me, but she would stop hitting

5 my sister.

6 Q. Okay. So she then would stop hitting your sister and

7 start hitting you?

8 A. Yeah.

9 Q. You describe another time when you and your sister were

10 holding hands in the dormitory across your beds.

11 A. Yeah.

12 Q. Can you tell me about that occasion?

13 A. I would hold my sister's haund because she -- I know

14 that's all I'm saying, but she would be greeting and

15 I would try and comfort her, but we werenae allowed to

16 get oot of that bed once we were in it. So what we

17 would do is we would reach out and hold each other's

18 haunds, and that was the biggest crime of the century

19 too.

20 Q. And did Mrs LBD see you doing this?

21 A. Yeah.

22 Q. Holding your sister's hand?

23 A. Yeah.

24 Q. And what did she do?

25 A. I think that was the time she pulled me and my sister

1 oot wir beds. I was made -- she took us right oot the  
2 dormitory. There was a toilet right next to the  
3 dormitory, I was put in there and she said to me: 'Don't  
4 sit doon, you better staund there'. And she took my  
5 sister away and she put my sister in the library. But  
6 at one point, I do remember sitting doon, like in  
7 a basket, like a wee -- just sitting in like a basket.  
8 I don't know when I came out of there. I don't know  
9 when my sister come out the library.

10 Q. And going to the library, was that something that  
11 happened --

12 A. A lot, aye. Not to me, I was never put in the library,  
13 but a lot of people were.

14 Q. And who put children in the library?

15 A. Miss LBD mostly.

16 Q. And did your sister or anyone else tell you what  
17 happened in the library, what did they have to do in the  
18 library?

19 A. My sister said that she had to just staund up. I think  
20 she said she had to face the wall. But I cannae  
21 actually remember anything else that she told me, but  
22 I knew she was scared. She said she was terrified 'cos  
23 it was all dark, there wisnae any lights or anything on,  
24 and this is like a massive room.

25 Q. And this is nightttime?

1 A. Yeah, yeah. (Pause)

2 She says that me and [REDACTED] were pretending to be  
3 sleeping that night. I forgot about that, it's just  
4 when I seen that bit. She says that -- but it was only  
5 me and my sister, I think, that was actually sleeping.  
6 I was under the impression that the other kids were  
7 carrying on, but I don't know if that's true because  
8 I genuinely was sleeping. And when she come in, she  
9 says that we werenae sleeping, we were at it. We  
10 werenae, know what I mean. She says we were carrying  
11 on. We were sleeping.

12 LADY SMITH: So that was Mrs [REDACTED], was it, that said  
13 that?

14 A. Yeah, yeah.

15 LADY SMITH: Thank you.

16 MS MACLEOD: So you were asleep then when she removed you  
17 from your beds?

18 A. Uh-huh, yeah. Oh, she just pulled you out that bed.

19 Q. Now, something you say at paragraph 45, 'Em', is you  
20 say:  
21 'I couldn't hide the look of hatred and [REDACTED]  
22 would scream at me.'

23 A. Yeah, I couldnae. She hated me wi' a passion but she  
24 would scream into my face: stop looking at me like that,  
25 stop looking -- but obviously she could see the hatred

1           on my face, but I'm that young I don't realise, know  
2           what I mean?

3   LADY SMITH: What were the words she was screaming at you,  
4           'Em'? Stop?

5   A. She would just scream: 'Stop looking at me. Don't you  
6           dare look at me like that. You're a scunner, you're  
7           a scunner'.

8   LADY SMITH: Mm-hmm.

9   MS MACLEOD: Now, you mentioned the recreational room, 'Em'.

10   A. Yeah.

11   Q. And that there would be music playing in there?

12   A. Mm-hmm.

13   Q. And that girls would be expected to dance?

14   A. Yeah.

15   Q. And what you say is that you didn't want to dance?

16   A. No, I didnae.

17   Q. And did you have to dance?

18   A. Yeah. They would just hit you till you did. But  
19           I would just kinda staund and try and just move a wee  
20           tiny bit. I didnae know how to dance, to be honest.

21   Q. Did they say they would just hit you until you danced?

22   A. Aye, they would hit you until you: 'You will dance, you  
23           will dance'. I don't know why they done that either,  
24           I think it was -- I don't know.

25   Q. And who hit you in that way?

1 A. Mostly Miss LBD . But Miss Fletcher, I seen her  
2 doing it at that point in time and all.

3 Q. And where, where would she hit you, what part of your  
4 body?

5 A. Your face, your head, anything that a haund -- she would  
6 just connect with you. It would be your legs, your  
7 back, your head, your face. It would be anywhere.

8 Q. And I think you do say at paragraph 43, 'Em', you say:  
9 LBD seemed to hit someone every day.'

10 A. Yeah.

11 Q. So it was a regular thing?

12 A. Yes, every day. Every day somebody got hit.

13 Q. So at this time, 'Em', you know, you thought you were  
14 going to a place, you thought you were going to  
15 a holiday?

16 A. Yeah.

17 Q. You then find yourself in this environment as  
18 a 9-year-old. How did you feel? What were you thinking  
19 at the time?

20 A. I -- I really don't know, but I remember thinking to  
21 myself, naebody's ever doing that to my sister again, or  
22 me. That I was a good wean, I had never had a bad  
23 school report. I had never had anything like that. And  
24 when I came back fae Fornethy, I was a wild child.  
25 I really was a wild child. I just --

1 Q. When you came out of Fornethy?

2 A. Yeah, yeah.

3 Q. Yes, and we'll look at that shortly.

4 A. Yeah.

5 Q. One thing you say at paragraph 53, 'Em', is you say:

6 'It seemed the younger they were, the harder they

7 got it.'

8 A. Yeah. Yes.

9 Q. So are you saying there that the younger children seemed

10 to be targeted?

11 A. Yeah, all the kids. There was a wee one at 5. They

12 were sisters. One was 5, one was 7. They were lovely.

13 They were like wee angels, they had pure, lovely, long

14 blonde hair. And they wee lassies got hit all the time,

15 'cos they couldnae make their bed.

16 But see, the big lassie that used to try and eat my

17 sister's dinner, some o' us would try and help these two

18 wee ones. I think they must have been the youngest in

19 our dormitory, but they wee lasses got hit all time, and

20 for some reason Miss LBD constantly cut their hair.

21 So they went with their hair away doon there. And

22 when they get off that bus, 'cos they went the same day

23 as us, when they get off that bus, their hair was away

24 up there. And I just remember their ma going nuts.

25 Q. That their hair had been cut?

1 A. Uh-huh.

2 LADY SMITH: And it started off about halfway down their  
3 back, I think you were pointing, were you?

4 A. Yeah, yeah.

5 MS MACLEOD: You mention one of the teachers had a dog in  
6 the house.

7 A. That's right, I remember a wee like kinda Scottie dog  
8 thing.

9 Q. Now, you say, 'Em', that you and your sister counted  
10 down the days until you were leaving?

11 A. Yeah.

12 Q. I think you in fact counted the days to your sister?

13 A. Mm-hmm, yeah.

14 Q. To try and help her?

15 A. Uh-huh.

16 Q. Try and comfort her?

17 A. I would say to her, just: '█, it's four weeks, it's  
18 three weeks, it's two weeks, it's one week'. But they  
19 would -- Miss LBD █ would constantly tell me, I wisnae  
20 ever going hame. She would tell my sister that too:  
21 'You're never going hame, you're here'.

22 And I didnae know exactly what day we were supposed  
23 to go hame, but I knew that it was like so many weeks.  
24 And this day, I don't know why I wisnae with my sister,  
25 but I remember Miss LBD █ saying to me this: 'See,

1           when you leave here the morrow, I'm going to put a white  
2           sheet oot that window', she went, 'cos there's no many  
3           that could beat me'.  
4   Q.   There's no one, sorry, could you --  
5   A.   She went, there's no many that could beat her.  
6           And I ran -- I remember running up the stairs and  
7           saying to my sister: 'We're going hame, we're going  
8           hame'. And she's going: 'We won't'. I went: 'We are,  
9           she's just told me she's putting a sheet oot the window  
10          the morrow'. I went: 'So we're getting hame'.  
11          But that -- right enough the next day we did go  
12          hame.  
13          I think I annoyed her most 'cos if -- see, if she  
14          done something to me, I didnae care what she done to me,  
15          I cared mair about what she done to my sister.  
16          I couldnae watch it. And I used to think, god's sake,  
17          man, why is she treating a wean like that?  
18   Q.   And indeed you do tell us that the day after Mrs LBD  
19          said that to you, you did get home?  
20   A.   Yep, yep.  
21   Q.   And you got on the bus back to Glasgow?  
22   A.   Yeah.  
23   Q.   With the same group of girls that you arrived with?  
24   A.   Yep.  
25   Q.   And you say that your mum was waiting for you at Bath

1 Street?

2 A. Yeah.

3 Q. What do you remember about that?

4 A. My sister was the very first one standing on they

5 steps, but my -- I could see she just wanted off the

6 bus, and the next minute, my ma was right there and the

7 doors were right there and as soon as the doors opened,

8 [REDACTED] didnae even go doon the stairs, she just flung

9 herself at my ma. And my ma was going crazy because she

10 looked awful. She was already a bad eater, she had lost

11 four pound and her hair -- oh, we were just a mess.

12 They werenae taking care of you, know what I mean, and

13 my ma seen it and my ma went to Bath Street. In fact,

14 see, the two wee lassies, the wee blonde lassies, their

15 ma went into Bath Street -- I think it was Bath Street,

16 but their ma went in there too, that day, 'cos she was

17 going ballistic.

18 I just remember the wee lassies' ma and my ma, but

19 I'm sure there'd have probably been other ones roond

20 about that felt the same when they looked at their kids.

21 Q. And Bath Street, was that the Education Department?

22 A. Yeah, yeah.

23 Q. And what was your mother's purpose in going to the

24 Education -- why did she go there?

25 A. Oh, she was raging, absolutely -- we didnae get hit as

1 kids, do you know what I mean, but we didnae really need  
2 it, to be honest. We just didnae need it.

3 Q. At that time when you got off the bus, did you say  
4 anything to your mother about how you'd been treated at  
5 Fornethy?

6 A. Me and my sister told my mum, uh-huh. We both told her.

7 Q. What sort of things did you say to her?

8 A. We had told her that they were hitting us and they  
9 wouldnae let us write wir ain letters and I think it was  
10 mair of a rabble as soon as we got off the bus 'cos  
11 we're trying to -- [REDACTED]'s trying to say stuff, I'm  
12 trying to say stuff. It was just like a rabble.

13 Q. And did she take you with her to the Education  
14 Department?

15 A. Yeah.

16 Q. So you went straight there?

17 A. The bus got off at the Education Department, I'm sure,  
18 'cos the building was right next to where we got off the  
19 bus, so the doors were right there.

20 Q. You went straight into the building?

21 A. Straight into the building, uh-huh.

22 Q. Did your mother speak to somebody in there?

23 A. I think she -- I don't know if she actually spoke to  
24 somebody but I remember my ma shouting. It was mair  
25 about my sister because she's going: 'Look at the state

1 of her, look, what have you done to her?'. And my  
2 sister was hysterical. She couldn't even speak to my ma  
3 really to tell her.

4 Q. And I think you say in your statement that I think it  
5 was suggested that your mother write in?

6 A. Yeah. Yes, they were -- my mum -- I think my mum was  
7 told to put it in writing and I remember my mum putting  
8 it in writing. And we had a post box just round the  
9 corner where we lived and I remember my ma giving me  
10 that letter to post. I remember posting that letter,  
11 but I don't know what happened after that.

12 Q. Did your mother ever say if she got a response or not?

13 A. No, she never, ever says.

14 Q. And I think you describe the relief of getting home.

15 A. Oh, aye, aye.

16 Q. And you say that you went to speak to the neighbours who  
17 had recommended Fornethy?

18 A. Yeah, yeah. I don't even actually know if it was  
19 Fornethy they went to, I just know it was a residential  
20 school. But I think we thought, oh, everybody goes to  
21 the same one. I don't know. But they loved it and  
22 I couldnae understaund it. I just don't know.

23 Q. And just going back to the letter that your mother wrote  
24 following her visit to the Education Department, did you  
25 see the letter? Do you know what she wrote in the

1 letter?

2 A. No, it was in an envelope wi' a stamp. My older sister,  
3 the one that went to the other residential school, she  
4 actually stole a stamp and an envelope and managed to  
5 write my ma a letter, and my ma got the letter. My  
6 ma -- it was in Rossie, the one she went to, and she  
7 told my ma she hated it and my ma went to Rossie to get  
8 her. And they wouldnae gi' her. They said to my ma: if  
9 you take her oot here, we're phoning the police. And  
10 then my ma had to come away back without [REDACTED] go to the  
11 Education Department, get a letter off the Education  
12 Department to take back to the residential school on  
13 Monday morning. So my sister was only there a week and  
14 she got hame.

15 Q. So once she had the letter from the Education  
16 Department, she got home?

17 A. Yeah, she had to get that letter and then she went and  
18 got her, and.

19 Q. Now, in paragraph 59 onwards, you tell us, 'Em', and  
20 you've already alluded to this, you say that:  
21 'On my return ...'  
22 You say that there was a change in you --

23 A. Yeah.

24 Q. -- when you returned from Fornethy?

25 A. Uh-huh.

1 Q. You say:

2 'I just changed completely and that lasted through  
3 my teens.'

4 Can you tell me, what was the change?

5 A. The slightest wee thing, I would just burst out greeting  
6 for it and it used to annoy my ma. My ma would say to  
7 me: you're greeting somebody away. But I would be  
8 greeting for stupid stuff, but I was dead, dead angry  
9 inside and all. And the minute anybody tried to tell me  
10 to do something, or, say, I would just -- I just turned  
11 out to be a horrible wee child after that to be honest.

12 No, I wouldnae go and do everything, but I wisnae  
13 a nice child after that. I got into trouble a lot in  
14 school and if anybody says anything to me I would be in  
15 there, I would be saying and -- whereas before that I'd  
16 have probably just have not bothered.

17 And I had a lot of really nice teachers and  
18 I remember this one, Mr McArthur, he was really nice to  
19 me, but I used to think, does he know I've got a problem  
20 or something? But I didnae know what my problem was.  
21 I just knew I was angry and I was greeting and things  
22 like that.

23 Q. And I think you say that once you got to secondary  
24 school, you didn't go to school all that much?

25 A. No. 84 times in four years. And I remember them taking

1 me up in front of a board, me and my ma, and my ma was  
2 saying to them: 'She just won't go'. But I was  
3 a nervous wean after that and all. I remember being put  
4 on Valium at 13 off my GP, and this was to try and help  
5 me go to school. But I think it would -- they would  
6 say: 'Why don't you?' I'd say, I went: 'No, I like the  
7 teachers'. 'Is it the kids?', 'No, I like the kids'.

8 But I think it was the big -- the crowd. I think it  
9 was that that I didn't really -- I'm no sure, but  
10 I remember years later, I didnae like all the crowds and  
11 I thought, that's probably why I didnae like the school.

12 Q. And you tell us that you left school?

13 A. Uh-huh.

14 Q. But that that didn't hold you back; that you've ended up  
15 with good jobs --

16 A. Yeah, yeah.

17 Q. -- in your life?

18 A. Yep.

19 Q. And you tell us a little bit about your life after  
20 school and some of the jobs you've had, and you've got  
21 three children?

22 A. Yeah, yeah.

23 Q. Now, in the final section of your statement, you  
24 describe, 'Em', the impact that you consider overall  
25 that your time in Fornethy has had on your life.

1 A. Mm-hmm. Yeah.

2 Q. And you do consider it's had a significant impact on  
3 your life.

4 A. Yeah, yeah.

5 Q. One of the things you mention is that in relation to  
6 your own children, that you never let them, for example,  
7 go on school trips?

8 A. I didnae like them going to anything, neither I did it.  
9 I just don't know. Just used -- just -- I didnae trust  
10 anybody, 'cos I thought we'd have been all right and we  
11 werena. But I used to go: no.

12 Eventually I did let them go, but I was always kind  
13 of paranoid about it. I was paranoid about people  
14 hitting them and things like that.

15 Q. And I think you say that you get flashbacks --

16 A. Yeah.

17 Q. -- to your time at Fornethy?

18 A. Mm-hmm.

19 Q. And is that still the case, 'Em'?

20 A. I get -- I've not had any for a while noo, but what  
21 I find is, see, when I'm talking about it or anything,  
22 even if it's just me and my sister that's talking about  
23 it, I think that must trigger something, because  
24 sometimes after -- one time after I spoke about it,  
25 I had this memory that there was a red flair. It was

1 red lino. And these two teachers were battering me,  
2 that they had my hair, I was on the ground and they had  
3 my hair like that, and they were just dragging me all  
4 about the place. And all's I was doing was screaming  
5 and screaming and screaming. That's all I remember  
6 doing, is screaming.

7 Q. And one of the points you make at paragraph 67 is you  
8 say:

9 'I wonder why these people want to work in these  
10 places if they don't like children?'

11 A. Mm-hmm.

12 Q. And I think you say that the teachers in Fornethy acted  
13 like they hated children?

14 A. Yeah.

15 Q. Is that how it seemed to you?

16 A. Yep, yeah.

17 Q. Now, we've spoken already about you telling your mother  
18 when you got home from Fornethy about what happened to  
19 you and that your mother reported it --

20 A. Yeah.

21 Q. -- to the Education Department. You've also mentioned  
22 that you and your sister have discussed it from time to  
23 time.

24 A. Yep, yeah.

25 Q. Your experiences in Fornethy.

1 A. Yeah.

2 Q. But other than that, I don't think you had spoken to  
3 anyone else about it for quite a long time?

4 A. No, I didnae.

5 Q. And I think you say that you saw something about  
6 Fornethy on the news?

7 A. Yeah, I did, I did.

8 Q. And is that what prompted you to come forward to the  
9 Inquiry?

10 A. Yeah. I did -- I've -- me and my sister used to speak  
11 about it o'er the years and I used to say: but why was  
12 nothing done? Everybody must have knew that was  
13 happening and nothing was done. I couldnae --  
14 I couldnae explain that to myself, know what I mean?

15 Q. And did you also give a statement to the police?

16 A. Yeah.

17 Q. Quite shortly after that?

18 A. Yes.

19 Q. Now, looking at lessons that you think could be learned,  
20 one of the points you make, 'Em', is that you think  
21 people should be vetted more when they're going to work  
22 with children?

23 A. Yeah, definitely, uh-huh.

24 Q. And in relation to that you say:  
25 'I would say nine out of people [sic] in Fornethy

1           shouldn't have been in that job.'

2    A.  No, they shouldnae of.

3    Q.  And another thing you say is that:

4           'Someone should have been asking us if we liked it

5           and if it was okay once we got home.'

6    A.  Yeah.  If they'd have gaved us like a wee questionnaire

7           when we got home, we could have filled it in, posted it

8           to them, and probably all the kids would have been a lot

9           mair open aboot it then to say.

10   Q.  But there was no opportunity like that?

11   A.  No, no.

12   Q.  And in the final paragraphs, you say:

13           'I would be hoping that if any of the staff were

14           alive, that they were held to account, right down to the

15           cleaners --

16   A.  Yeah.

17   Q.  -- because if they didn't do anything, they just watched

18           it happening.'

19   A.  Yeah, definitely.

20   Q.  Well, that's all the questions that I have to ask you,

21           'Em'.

22   A.  Thank you.

23   Q.  And thank you for answering them.

24   A.  Thank you.

25   Q.  I just want to give you the opportunity now, in case

1           there's anything, and perhaps there isn't, but in case  
2           there's anything that you want to add to what we've been  
3           discussing?

4   A.   I don't think there is.  I just -- all they teachers are  
5           all away noo, aren't they; there's only that one that's  
6           alive noo and -- we just werenae getting any justice, we  
7           werenae.  And I don't know why they made excuses for  
8           that teacher because of her age, because some of the  
9           kids were as young as 5 and none of us got an excuse  
10          made for us, know what I mean.  It didnae matter if we  
11          couldnae make a bed or brush wir hair or, and things, do  
12          you -- but that's about it.

13                 That's about it.

14   MS MACLEOD:  Thank you very much for that.

15   A.   Thank you.  Thank you.

16   MS MACLEOD:  My Lady, no questions have been submitted to  
17                 put to 'Em'.

18   LADY SMITH:  Thank you.

19                 'Em', let me add my thanks.  It's been so helpful to  
20                 hear you from in person.  You've really painted very  
21                 clearly a picture of the experience you had at Fornethy  
22                 that's obviously still, unfortunately, vivid in your  
23                 head now.

24   A.   Uh-huh.

25   LADY SMITH:  But I hope you're able to go away for the rest

1 of today and relax and think about something else.

2 A. Thank you so much.

3 LADY SMITH: Thank you.

4 A. Thank you. Thank you.

5 (The witness withdrew)

6 LADY SMITH: Now, we will take the afternoon break now, but  
7 a couple of names I'd like to mention of people who are  
8 not to be identified as referred to in our evidence  
9 outside this room, a couple of them we've heard already,  
10 a Miss LBD and Miss RHB who were mentioned by  
11 earlier witnesses this week. There was also a mention  
12 of an . I think, was that everybody? And  
13 a variation of , which is the same person who's  
14 also mentioned, she's not to be identified outside this  
15 room either.

16 So, we'll take a break now and then we'll get back  
17 to some read-in -- reading in evidence, yes?

18 MS MACLEOD: Yes, my Lady.

19 LADY SMITH: Thank you.

20 (3.00 pm)

21 (A short break)

22 (3.10 pm)

23 LADY SMITH: Mr MacAulay.

24 'Teresa' (read in)

25 MR MACAULAY: Now, my Lady, this next witness is

1 an applicant. She wants to remain anonymous and to use  
2 the pseudonym 'Teresa'.

3 LADY SMITH: Thank you.

4 MR MACAULAY: Her witness statement can be found at  
5 WIT-1-000000914.

6 And 'Teresa' tells us that she was born in 1959.  
7 She provides some information about her family  
8 background:

9 'I was born in Maryhill, Glasgow.'

10 Her mother had been married before and had four  
11 children and she then had some more children, to  
12 'Teresa's' father.

13 She says at paragraph 4:

14 'My first memories are of when I was at school  
15 because I think my life was quite traumatic when I was  
16 young. We had moved to Yoker and my childhood was good,  
17 because we had a lot of nice neighbours. The local  
18 children all played together and the mothers would even  
19 come out and play ropes with us.'

20 But she goes on to say that her father was an  
21 alcoholic and that he was quite strict and she goes on  
22 in the next few paragraphs to provide information about  
23 her unpleasant experiences with her father, and moving  
24 on to paragraph 14:

25 'Dad was taken to hospital in 1966 or 1967 after

1 drinking when he wasn't supposed to. This caused his  
2 health to deteriorate. [What then] happened mum said us  
3 children were going away for a holiday and took us to  
4 a building near Kingsway Flats in Knightswood where we  
5 got a medical.

6 'After that, she got some clothes and things ready  
7 for me and my sister and then we were put on a bus that  
8 took us miles out into the country. My brother had gone  
9 elsewhere and my other brother may also have gone there  
10 as well. I was kind of looking forward to it as  
11 I thought it would be getting a break from my dad.

12 'As it turned out, it was Fornethy that myself and  
13 an older sister went to. I actually went there twice  
14 and there were only a few weeks or months between each  
15 occasion. The second time I went, it was another sister  
16 that went with me. There was very little difference  
17 about being there between the first and second time that  
18 I was in Fornethy. I was about 8 when I went there.'

19 And that would be about 1967:

20 'There was a full bus load of us, maybe about 30  
21 girls. The only adult I remember being on the bus  
22 was the driver. I was okay as I had [my sister] with  
23 me, but lots of other kids were on their own. We  
24 arrived at this big house where loads of other kids  
25 were. Fornethy was scary looking and sat amid a lot of

1 trees. It was in the middle of nowhere and I  
2 immediately thought that this was not going to be  
3 a holiday. We were lined up and they then took all our  
4 suitcases from us.

5 'After that, we were lined up and put in  
6 an old-fashioned bath, which was in the middle of a big  
7 room. A woman washed each of us with a scrubbing brush  
8 and carbolic soap. I was put in the bath by myself, but  
9 it was like a conveyor belt and the water wasn't changed  
10 between each child getting in.

11 'After the bath, we then put on a flowery pinny and  
12 were taken up to our dorm. The dorm I was put in was  
13 called Reekie Linn and there were 12 of us in the dorm.  
14 They left a blue light on in the dorm at night. I don't  
15 know where my sister was sent to, but she went to  
16 a different dorm.

17 'We found out that Miss LBD was SNR of the  
18 home. She had grey hair and wore tweed, country-style  
19 jackets. I don't think she was married and she was a  
20 nasty woman. Other members of staff I remember were  
21 Miss Fletcher, who was my teacher the first time and  
22 quite tall, thin, with big teeth. Miss LAT, whose  
23 class I was in the second time, Miss Robertson who was  
24 wee, fat with black hair and an Irish woman whose name  
25 I don't recall, but who bathed us.

1           'Ve got up at about 7.00 am when somebody put the  
2 big light on. We then got washed and dressed, then  
3 stood beside our beds before being taken down to  
4 breakfast by Miss LBD and another woman. After  
5 breakfast, we went to class and after that,  
6 Miss Fletcher, my teacher, would take us for long walks  
7 through the trees. She loved going for long walks.

8           'Ve would go to the cloakroom and get our outdoor  
9 clothes on, though most of us wore our own shoes. We  
10 went on the walks every day, though at different times.  
11 School was only a certain time, but I don't recall  
12 exactly when it finished.

13           'At mealtimes, you all had to say thank you to  
14 Miss LBD and the other staff who sat at a long  
15 table. If you didn't, you got put outside and went  
16 without. We would get porridge or cornflakes for  
17 breakfast. Like my dad, they made you finish  
18 everything. In Fornethy, if I didn't like something,  
19 I would pass it on to my sister.

20           'Some of the girls weren't so lucky and were  
21 force-fed by Miss LBD, who was the only member of  
22 staff I recall doing that. One wee girl in particular  
23 that I remember was force-fed macaroni cheese.  
24 Sometimes a girl being force-fed would be sick and  
25 Miss LBD would make her eat that as well. Other

1 times, they would continually put down at the next meal  
2 what you hadn't eaten and would keep doing that till it  
3 was eaten.

4 'An Irish woman, whose name I don't know, bathed us.  
5 She was tall, thin and had brown, curly hair. I'm not  
6 sure how often we got a bath, but I think it was each  
7 night before we went to bed. We had to line up naked,  
8 including my sister, who was a lot older than me, 13 or  
9 14.'

10 LADY SMITH: If her memory's right about that, that's  
11 somebody who is a good bit older than most of the  
12 children who we have heard about.

13 MR MACAULAY: Yes, I think that's right. The policy was  
14 that children up to the age of 12.

15 LADY SMITH: Primary school age, so maybe a slight  
16 overestimate.

17 MR MACAULAY: And we don't have a date of birth to work out  
18 a date.

19 LADY SMITH: Of course not, no.

20 MR MACAULAY: 'The bathwater wasn't changed between each of  
21 us getting in. The woman used a hard brush and carbolic  
22 soap. She also put Lorexane shampoo in our hair and put  
23 a steel comb through it. A lot of the wee lassies were  
24 crying because they were embarrassed but they were  
25 either told to shut up or were ignored. None of us were

1 used to having baths in front of strangers and it was  
2 a dreadful feeling.'

3 And moving on to schooling at paragraph 30:

4 'The day after we arrived, we were separated by year  
5 of birth and sent to different classes based on that.  
6 For some reason, I ended up in [my sister's] class, even  
7 though she was a few years older than me, which meant  
8 that the schoolwork was way ahead of what I was capable  
9 of. My teacher was called Miss Fletcher and she called  
10 me out to do sums or something like that. I couldn't do  
11 it and she battered me several times on my bare legs and  
12 I wet myself. I then got battered for doing that and  
13 was put out of the class. I hated being in Fletcher's  
14 class.

15 'The second time I was there, my teacher was  
16 Miss LAT, but she just seemed to sit on the window  
17 sill and knit all day.

18 'We had to write letters home, but had to copy what  
19 had been written on the blackboard, which was all about  
20 how nice it was for us to be in Fornethy. If we wrote  
21 anything other than that, we would get a slap. I saw  
22 other girls getting slapped for this, so I was too  
23 scared to write anything other than what was on the  
24 blackboard. Since I couldn't tell my mum what was  
25 really happening, I felt trapped.'

1           And she then talks about certain aspects of the  
2 routine, healthcare, religious instruction, work,  
3 birthdays and Christmas and then at paragraph 38:

4           'I never had a problem with bed-wetting, but those  
5 that did got battered and didn't get breakfast. I don't  
6 recall ever stripping my bed, but I think those that did  
7 had to strip theirs. Certainly I remember that if  
8 somebody wet their bed, everybody in the dorm knew they  
9 had. During the night, if it was found somebody had wet  
10 the bed, then they had to stand out in the corridor in  
11 their underwear. We sometimes were given sixpence  
12 pocket money, but some children weren't given it if they  
13 had wet the bed or wet their pants.

14           'I didn't see anybody coming to Fornethy to inspect  
15 it and the only person I remember coming in was the  
16 local minister who would sometimes come in for dinner.  
17 I don't know his name and he never spoke to any of us.

18           'Nobody came to see us, though sometimes my mum  
19 would send comics and some money, but we never saw the  
20 money and only got sixpence to spend in the tuck shop.  
21 I still remember the sweet, minty smell of the tuck  
22 shop.

23           'Miss LBD and Miss Fletcher were the worst two  
24 for discipline. In Fornethy, you did as you were told  
25 or you got a slap and it could be for any daft, wee

1 thing. If you stepped out of line, you got battered and  
2 it could be for something as silly as talking while in  
3 line. I think the girls generally stayed in line and  
4 did as they were told, because they were too scared to  
5 do otherwise.

6 'I never ran away, because I was too scared and the  
7 place was in the middle of nowhere. I know of one girl  
8 who shared the dorm with my sister, who did run away and  
9 who got battered for having done so. I didn't see this,  
10 but heard about it from others.

11 'I remember on my first morning, I was sitting  
12 having my breakfast and I wasn't holding my cutlery  
13 properly. Miss LBD punched me in the back. It  
14 immediately took me back to being at home and I just  
15 thought: here we go again. After that, I always tried  
16 to make myself invisible and wouldn't even cry so as not  
17 to bring attention to myself.

18 'Not long after I arrived, the buckle on my shoe  
19 broke and I was given a pair of big, tackety boots.  
20 Everybody was laughing at me and I found the boots heavy  
21 going as we went through the woods. I once had to wear  
22 them when going to church and boys that were there were  
23 laughing at me. I was mortified. I got these boots  
24 early on in my time in Fornethy and had to wear them for  
25 the rest of my time there.

1           'When we went on the long walks every day with  
2 Miss Fletcher, we would go through the woods and  
3 a field. There was a big bull in the field and I was  
4 terrified of it. Miss Fletcher would be walking way  
5 ahead of us and didn't seem to care how scared some of  
6 us were of the bull. I was terrified of it charging us.  
7 I was from the city, not the countryside, and I simply  
8 wasn't used to such things.

9           'On one occasion, Miss Fletcher woke us up at about  
10 2.00 am and told us we were going for a walk. It was  
11 pitch black outside, but after being taken back to bed  
12 after the walk, we still had to get up at the usual time  
13 the next morning. I was used to seeing my dad drunk and  
14 I suspected that Miss Fletcher had been drinking that  
15 night.

16           'One day, I was in the playroom when me and another  
17 wee girl, whose name I don't recall, were sent to the  
18 library. Myself and the girl were talking and laughing  
19 when Miss Robertson, another member of staff, came into  
20 the library, slapped us on the face and told us to go  
21 back to the playroom and to stay quiet.

22           'One night, during my second time there, I was in my  
23 bed when I heard one of the younger girls making  
24 a clicking noise. I heard Miss Robertson come into the  
25 room and I thought she was going to punish the girl.

1       Instead, she pulled my blankets off me, pulled down my  
2       pyjamas and slapped me on the backside. She kept  
3       hitting me telling me to stop making noises.

4             'At nighttime you had to put your underwear on the  
5       end of your bed so they could check if you had wet them  
6       or soiled them. If you had, then you got a slap.

7             'On the second occasion that I was in Fornethy,  
8       I was in Miss LAT's class and one day it was hot  
9       and she took the class outside and told us to take all  
10       our clothes off and run around. My sister asked what we  
11       were doing and I told her Miss LAT had told us to  
12       strip off naked. I think back now and wonder why that  
13       was done. Were there people in the woods with cameras?

14            'When my sister went to Fornethy with me,  
15       Miss LBD seemed to take a shine to her. In my  
16       opinion, they were both evil and I think that's why they  
17       got along so well. My sister was only a year older than  
18       me, but she was made captain of the dorm. If anything  
19       happened in the middle of the night, she would make  
20       a girl stand in the middle of the dorm until a teacher  
21       came in to deal with the matter.

22            'So one night she put me and another wee girl in the  
23       middle of the dorm. I was petrified and told her she  
24       better let us back into our beds. She wouldn't let us  
25       back into our beds, so we sat there and I told her

1 I would be telling our mother about it when we got home.  
2 So she let me back into my bed, but the other wee lassie  
3 was still sitting there. I told her she couldn't leave  
4 that wee girl there either, so she let her back to her  
5 bed and just then one of the teachers came into the  
6 dorm.

7 'Nothing happened, but that was the way it was in  
8 Fornethy. They left it to the slightly older girls to  
9 do their work and look after the younger ones. The  
10 older kids would then report the younger girls for  
11 whatever they had done and they would get battered for  
12 it.

13 'Also during the second time I was there, I was put  
14 in charge of a smaller and younger girl. In the middle  
15 of the night, I realised she wasn't in her bed and  
16 I found her in the toilets crying and cleaning her  
17 pants. The poor wee girl had soiled her pants and had  
18 somehow managed to hide them but was now terrified in  
19 case she got caught. I sent her to her bed and cleaned  
20 her pants for her, but it was that sort of fear that  
21 Fornethy put into the girls.

22 'In Fornethy, the children were rarely allowed to  
23 talk to each other. It was as if we were there, but not  
24 there and it was a case of children being seen but not  
25 heard. I found it strange when I recently saw an advert

1 from an old newspaper. The advert was Fornethy looking  
2 for staff and it said that any applicants must have  
3 military experience. I cannot understand what military  
4 experience would have to do with looking after children.

5 'On the first occasion I was in Fornethy, with my  
6 sister, we were due to go home after six weeks, but on  
7 the day we were due to leave, we had to see the Irish  
8 woman. She told us that our dad was in hospital and  
9 that we would be staying at Fornethy for another two  
10 weeks. I was devastated watching the bus with the other  
11 girls pull away.

12 'The second time I left was with my other sister  
13 and, this time, we were able to leave after we had been  
14 there for six weeks. On both occasions, I spoke to my  
15 mum when we went home and told her how bad the place had  
16 been, but she wouldn't believe me and when I told her  
17 I didn't want to go back the second time, it made no  
18 difference. I have absolutely no good memories of my  
19 time in Fornethy.

20 'Back at home, my mum was working two jobs because  
21 my dad was in hospital and since he was back in  
22 hospital, we knew that we would be getting sent away  
23 again. And it was only a few weeks or months later that  
24 this time we got sent to a children's home in Rothesay  
25 and I ended up there twice.'

1           And she talks about that and indeed also about  
2 foster care in the following paragraphs of her  
3 statement. And perhaps I could go up to paragraph 77,  
4 when she looks at life after care:

5           'After I left foster care, after only a few weeks,  
6 I was no longer involved with social care. Our dad died  
7 in 1970 and life seemed to get better after that, as we  
8 seemed to have more freedom. I don't know how he died  
9 and I'm trying to get hold of his death certificate.'

10          And then in the following few paragraphs, she talks  
11 about her family and relationships and also employment,  
12 and moving on to paragraph 84:

13          'After being in care, our family seemed to drift  
14 apart and we all spent a lot of time arguing with each  
15 other. My mother was always getting caught up in the  
16 middle of it as she would come back from work and we  
17 would be fighting. I don't speak to my sister anymore.  
18 My [other] sister and I spoke about Fornethy quite  
19 a lot, but we didn't even know where it was. Nor could  
20 we find much about it on the internet until I joined the  
21 Fornethy ██████████ group.

22          'I am very protective of my children and feel my  
23 children don't get the freedom that they perhaps should  
24 have. Where I went, they went. Sometimes the kids  
25 would accuse me of ruining their lives. I wouldn't let

1           them go to a friend's house, especially my younger son.  
2           My older son had his dad's to go to, but the other son  
3           only had me. If the kids started hanging about with  
4           kids who I thought were untrustworthy, then I moved  
5           house. If things got too much for me, I would run away  
6           when I probably shouldn't have. I must have moved house  
7           50 times.

8           'I don't have a lot of trust in people and sometimes  
9           I just look at people and distrust them.

10           'I've never had counselling. I've always believed  
11           it's all in the past and that I have to live life in the  
12           now. I have been in contact with Future Pathways but  
13           haven't gone for counselling.

14           'A while ago, I joined the Fornethy [REDACTED] group  
15           and they said I should report the matter to the police.'

16           And she goes on to talk about that particular issue:

17           'I have been trying to get my records to find out  
18           exactly when I was in Fornethy but they claim they don't  
19           have any of my records.'

20           And lessons to be learned:

21           'I certainly wouldn't send my kids to a place like  
22           Fornethy. I don't care however low I ever get,  
23           I wouldn't send them away. It would be better to give  
24           the parents the assistance they need rather than take  
25           their kids away from them.

1           'I hope that what happened in the past is recognised  
2           and that it's not covered up, not hidden away. People  
3           have to know that such places existed and that places  
4           like Fornethy were a reality and they have to know what  
5           they were like.'

6           And 'Teresa' says at the end:

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          And 'Teresa' signed the statement on 14 February  
12          2022.

13   LADY SMITH: Thank you very much.

14                           'Catriona' (read in)

15   MS MACLEOD: My Lady, the next statement to be read in is  
16           that of an applicant who will use the pseudonym  
17           'Catriona'. Her statement can be found at  
18           WIT-1-000001051:

19           'My name is ["Catriona"]. I was born in 1961. My  
20           contact details are known to the Inquiry.

21           'My mother is still alive and is 92. She worked [REDACTED]  
22           [REDACTED] in the Southern General in  
23           Glasgow.

24                           (A short pause for a technical issue)

25   LADY SMITH: That's the pseudonym 'Catriona' spelt with a C.

1 MS MACLEOD: Yes:

2 'My father has now passed away. [REDACTED]  
3 He was born in Castlemilk in Glasgow. I have five  
4 brothers and sisters. There is about a year or two  
5 between all of us. My youngest sibling, a sister, is  
6 just over a year younger than me.

7 'We were all brought up in the Castlemilk area of  
8 Glasgow. We had a brilliant upbringing. I remember us  
9 all being happy and it being normal. Our mother was old  
10 school and cooked us all brilliant dinners on Sundays.  
11 Our father was the one who looked after us. He was  
12 brilliant too. He would get us up in the mornings  
13 because our mother did night shifts. I remember him  
14 warming our clothes by the coal fire and having bowls of  
15 porridge ready for us in the mornings. I remember the  
16 family going on holiday to Saltcoats and Ayr for  
17 sometimes as long as six weeks. I went to Castleton  
18 Primary School in Castlemilk. We lived just two minutes  
19 up the road from it. I can't really remember a lot  
20 about primary school.

21 'Our father [REDACTED]  
22 [REDACTED]  
23 [REDACTED]  
24 [REDACTED]  
25 [REDACTED] Whilst we were growing

1 up, he was often in hospital for months at a time. We  
2 used to walk there from Castlemilk. It took about two  
3 hours to get there and we would do that twice a day. We  
4 did that for years in the dark. Most of our Christmases  
5 he was in hospital. All that meant it was hard  
6 money-wise for our mother, but we never did without. We  
7 still got everything. There was never any external  
8 involvement from social services, a doctor or anything  
9 like that. It was a really happy upbringing in that  
10 respect.

11 'It was my younger sister and I who were the ones  
12 who went on about going to Fornethy rather than our  
13 parents. We must have heard about it from somebody at  
14 school. Because we kept on going on about it, they  
15 ultimately agreed to try and get us places to go. In  
16 the end, I think my mother spoke to her doctor because  
17 our dad wasn't well at that time. I think that is how  
18 it all came about. It allowed our mother a wee break.  
19 That was the reason behind how we got places to go, but  
20 my sister and I were just going on our holidays.

21 'I remember on the day that we first went to  
22 Fornethy, we went to some of the Glasgow Corporation's  
23 offices. At that time, they were located above a pub  
24 called "The Square Peg" on St Enoch's Square in Glasgow.  
25 Our mum had packed us a wee bag to take with us. We sat

1 in that wee office swinging our legs waiting for the bus  
2 to collect us. I remember it all being exciting. The  
3 bus then came to collect us.

4 'I haven't a clue what organisation ran Fornethy  
5 House, but I know us going there was all arranged  
6 through the Glasgow Corporation. At the time of going  
7 to Fornethy, all I knew about it was that it was at the  
8 top of Scotland and it was somewhere that was really far  
9 away. I know now that it was near the village of Kilry  
10 in Angus.

11 'I was either 8 or 9 years old when I [went to]  
12 Fornethy. My sister would have been between 7 and  
13 8 years old. That means we would have been there at  
14 some point between 1969 and 1971. We went to Fornethy  
15 for six weeks. I can't remember what time of year we  
16 were there, but I remember it being dull, dreary and  
17 kicking [REDACTED] on the ground. That would suggest to me  
18 that we were there during [REDACTED] time. I think it was  
19 during term time rather than during a school holiday.

20 'Fornethy consisted of a big old massive house set  
21 in its own grounds. There wasn't anything nice about it  
22 at all. It was a dingy place with cold walls  
23 everywhere. Inside there was a big, massive staircase  
24 that went through the building, a bathroom, a number of  
25 dorms, a classroom and a hall. The house was surrounded

1 by woods and grassy areas. There was a roundabout in  
2 the grounds that we could play on in the one of the  
3 grassy areas. I don't remember there being anything  
4 else to play on or with.

5 'I don't remember how many staff members were there,  
6 but I think there were a lot. I remember there was  
7 an incident involving four members of staff so there  
8 must have been at least that many working there at any  
9 one time. I couldn't describe what the staff members  
10 looked like, but I think they were all women. I can't  
11 remember there being any men there. I couldn't say  
12 whether the women who worked there were either young or  
13 old. I now know that there was someone in charge who  
14 acted like a headmistress. I had forgotten who she was  
15 but I have discovered later on in adult life that she  
16 was a woman called Mrs Fletcher.

17 'It was just me and my sister who went to Fornethy.  
18 None of my other brothers or sisters went. Although we  
19 were placed in separate dorms, we were able to see each  
20 other during the day. I remember getting to play with  
21 [my sister] outside on the grass and on the roundabout.

22 'I only remember there being girls there. [They]  
23 were all primary school age. To me, everybody who was  
24 sent to Fornethy were there for their holidays because  
25 their parents were poorly.

1           'I can't remember the bus journey up to Fornethy.  
2           I can't remember much about the first day we were there.  
3           As soon as we went into the house, we realised that the  
4           place was really strict. The routine was all  
5           regimental. I think it was the same routine every day.  
6           Beyond that, I don't remember anything further.

7           'We all slept in dormitories. I can't remember how  
8           many girls were in each one. My sister was placed in  
9           one room and I was placed in another. We all had a bed  
10          each. You would get punished if you shared your bed.  
11          There was a big rug on the floor of the dormitory I was  
12          in where you got placed before you were disciplined.

13          'There were showers in Fornethy. Girls were put in  
14          the shower together and everyone could see each other  
15          without anything on. I remember having a bath there.  
16          I don't know whether I might have had a bath because  
17          I wet the bed. When I had a bath, I was in it with  
18          another child at the same time. I don't know whether  
19          that was my sister, but I'm sure I wasn't on my own.

20          'We all had to queue up to get washed and to brush  
21          our teeth in the evenings before bedtime. The  
22          toothpaste was powdery stuff in a wee tub. I can't  
23          remember what it was called. The staff would put that  
24          onto your toothbrush. I remember being terrified  
25          standing in the queue on an occasion where I had

1 forgotten my toothbrush. I thought that I might get  
2 battered by the staff because of that.

3 'I can't remember anything about mealtimes, but  
4 I'm aware that there were issues from speaking to my  
5 sister and hearing from other people who went to  
6 Fornethy. I can't remember the food being bad or  
7 anything like that. I can't remember whether there was  
8 enough food or not, but I know that my sister lost  
9 weight over the time we were there. The only thing  
10 I remember is that you got milk, an orange and I think  
11 a biscuit on a Friday night. That wasn't something  
12 I was given because I wet the bed.

13 'I don't remember having chores to do. The only  
14 things I did like that were being made to carry down my  
15 sheets after wetting the bed and having to wash my  
16 wellies after we went out for walks.

17 'I don't know whether we wore our own clothes.  
18 I know that we all had to wear flowery pinnies. We  
19 always had them on. I don't know whether they were  
20 bought by our parents or whether they were provided by  
21 Fornethy House.

22 'We took a suitcase with us when we went to  
23 Fornethy. You were only allowed to take so much. It  
24 was just wee bits like nightwear and things for the  
25 morning. There was a tuck shop in the house. The staff

1 would give you whatever your parents had sent in when  
2 that was on. It was all wee things. It was really  
3 special to receive stuff from our mother. I think that  
4 was because we obviously wanted to see her. I don't  
5 think we got pocket money. I think they just gave you  
6 whatever your parents had sent in.

7 'We had lessons in a classroom during the day but  
8 I can't remember much about them. I remember sitting in  
9 the classroom and receiving letters from our parents.  
10 The letters would all be opened before we received them.  
11 The staff took whatever you had been sent and went  
12 through it all before it got to you. We would then have  
13 to write letters in reply. However, we couldn't write  
14 what we wanted to write. We would have to write what  
15 had already been written on the blackboard. You would  
16 have to sit there and copy it out. It was all a load of  
17 rubbish about how wonderful the place was.

18 'Our leisure time consisted of either going out for  
19 walks or playing outside. On a Friday, they showed  
20 a film using a projector in the hall. I remember that  
21 they segregated the girls when watching those films,  
22 between the girls who wet their beds and those who  
23 didn't. The girls who wet their beds were made to sit  
24 separately, lower down on the carpet. The girls who  
25 didn't wet their beds, which included [my sister], were

1 all given milk, an orange and a biscuit. The girls who  
2 wet their beds didn't receive anything.

3 'I don't think Fornethy was a religious place.  
4 I don't remember praying, going to a church or anything  
5 like that.

6 'We used to go on walks for miles in the woods.  
7 I can't remember whether we were taken anywhere else,  
8 but the walks were all outside of Fornethy's grounds.  
9 The staff used to frighten us by saying there was  
10 a witch. When you are wee, you are terrified by that  
11 sort of thing. I remember that after we returned from  
12 the walks, we all had to wash the wellies we were  
13 wearing.

14 'I wasn't there when it was my birthday and I don't  
15 remember any other children having a birthday while  
16 I was there. I don't think we were there at  
17 Christmastime.

18 'We had no contact with our parents whilst we were  
19 in there. The only contact you had were the letters  
20 they made you write and the letters that you received.  
21 I remember there being other adults in the hall area  
22 where they were showing films on a Friday. I couldn't  
23 say whether they were staff or not, but there seemed to  
24 be a lot. I don't remember there being any inspections.

25 'I can't remember whether there was a nurse or

1 doctor. It could be that I'm imagining things, but  
2 I seem to remember that we all got our heads checked for  
3 beasties and nits. I don't know who did that. I might  
4 be mixing that up with a time when that happened at  
5 school.

6 'I remember planning to run away, but I didn't do  
7 it. I remember looking out of the window and thinking  
8 that. In the end, I think I was too scared to do it.  
9 We were too wee anyway. I don't remember any of the  
10 other girls running away.

11 'The first time I started wetting the bed was when  
12 I was at Fornethy. I had never done that before going  
13 there. I wet the bed every single night that I was  
14 there, because I was scared. I remember in the mornings  
15 having to carry my wet covers down a massive, great  
16 corridor then down the stairs to the laundry. It was  
17 a big distance for a child of the age I was. I had to  
18 do that every day. I hated how I felt when I was doing  
19 that. I probably would have been crying. I can't  
20 remember having to wash the sheets when I got to the  
21 laundry. After the first time I wet the bed, I wasn't  
22 allowed to wear knickers. I just did as they said and  
23 didn't ask why that was.

24 'I can't remember whether other girls received the  
25 same treatment as I did when it came to bed-wetting.

1 I have heard in adult life, through social media, that I  
2 wasn't alone. There were loads of people saying that  
3 they experienced the same thing as me.

4 'Fornethy was a horrible place. I don't have  
5 a single good memory from my time there. I can't think  
6 of anything nice that I could say about it. All [my  
7 sister] and I did was cry when we were there because we  
8 were scared all the time. I think all the girls did  
9 that. I remember hating it and it seeming to last  
10 forever.

11 'It was really strict and was like hell. It wasn't  
12 like your parents were strict with you. It was far  
13 worse than that. You were scared not to do what you  
14 were told. We were shouted at all the time by the  
15 staff. You had to do as you were told. You got told to  
16 shut up if you were crying. I wish I could name the  
17 staff members who were abusers at Fornethy, but I can't.

18 'If you did anything wrong, the staff members would  
19 lift up your skirt or nightdress and whack you on the  
20 backside with the palm of their hands. That was the way  
21 they all physically punished you. That and shouting  
22 were the main ways in which they disciplined you. When  
23 they smacked you, they only used their hands. It was  
24 onto my bare skin because I never wore knickers whilst  
25 I was there. I can't exactly remember how many times on

1 each occasion the staff members would be slapping you,  
2 but it would have been at least three times. I remember  
3 I would be bawling my eyes out. I was hit loads of  
4 times in that way when I was there. It was mostly for  
5 wetting the bed. It was as if I had a big sign above my  
6 head. They would call me things like a "dirty bitch" or  
7 something like that whilst they were doing it. [My  
8 sister] got hit a lot more times than me.

9 'I remember a family arriving [as] we arrived. They  
10 were all excited when they arrived and one of them  
11 decided to jump up and down on one of the beds. Like  
12 us, she thought it was a holiday. She got smacked on  
13 her backside by a staff member for doing that. She had  
14 only just got there and almost immediately she was  
15 battered by the staff.

16 'There were monitors amongst the girls who wore  
17 bands. They were similar to prefects like you would get  
18 in school. They were older girls. I don't think the  
19 monitors used to hit you, but they did shout and bawl at  
20 you. Looking back, I hated them more than the staff  
21 members. I remember that the monitors would come into  
22 the bedrooms in the morning. If you were bad, had done  
23 something wrong or had wet your bed, you were physically  
24 dragged out of your bed by the monitors and made to sit  
25 on a rug. I don't think there were any staff members

1           around when the monitors did these things because  
2           I think the purpose of you being placed on the rug was  
3           to keep you in a place until the staff came. I was  
4           placed on that rug a few times. I can't remember how  
5           long we were made to sit on the rug before the staff  
6           members came in.

7           'When the staff came into the room, they saw the  
8           girls on the rug and hit them all round their backsides.  
9           There was one occasion when my sister and I decided to  
10          share a bed. Our parents only had a three bedroom house  
11          so we always shared a bed. However, you weren't allowed  
12          to do that at Fornethy. We fell asleep together.  
13          Because we were found by one of the monitors in the  
14          morning to be sharing the same bed, we were both  
15          physically pulled out of our bed and made to sit on the  
16          rug. We were then both smacked on our backsides by the  
17          staff.

18          'Although my sister was a wee, skinny thing, she was  
19          a tough child. I remember an occasion when she was  
20          playing on the roundabout with [another girl]. Whilst  
21          we were doing that, [the girl] was cheeky to [my  
22          sister]. I can't remember what she said or what that  
23          was about. [My sister] ended up battering [the girl] as  
24          a result. She jammed her head against the roundabout.  
25          The next thing we knew, two staff members got hold of my

1 sister and dragged her away. Two of them were holding  
2 her even though she was a wee, puny, skinny thing. She  
3 was screaming as she was getting taken away. I was  
4 being held onto by two other members of staff.

5 I remember screaming things like: "That's my wee sister,  
6 leave her alone". The staff dragged her into the house  
7 through two big doors.

8 'I could hear [my sister] screaming whilst they were  
9 battering the hell out of her inside. Although I could  
10 hear [my sister] screaming, I couldn't get to her. That  
11 was hard because I was always there for her. I didn't  
12 see what the staff did to [my sister] in the house  
13 because they shut the door and I was being held by the  
14 two staff members the entire time. I was told later on  
15 by [my sister] what happened. She was hit by the staff  
16 members with something whilst she was bent over  
17 a gymnastic vaulting horse. I don't know what it was  
18 they used to hit her or how they did that. I can't  
19 remember what happened after the incident. It could be  
20 that I have blocked all of that out.

21 'I have never thought about reporting what was going  
22 on whilst I was at Fornethy. I was too scared and  
23 didn't know what was going on. I was only a kid and  
24 I was doing as I was told. There wasn't anyone there  
25 I could have spoken to. Even if there had been,

1 I wouldn't have done because I was too scared.

2 'I can't remember leaving Fornethy or the journey  
3 back. I remember getting off the bus and our mum going  
4 mad when she saw [my sister] because she could see that  
5 she had lost loads of weight. She was even skinnier  
6 than she [had been] before. She had always been puny,  
7 but there had never been any problems with her weight  
8 before Fornethy. Our mother later took [my sister] to  
9 the doctors because of her weight and she was put on  
10 some sort of tonic thing.

11 'Some time after Fornethy House, I attended Glenwood  
12 Secondary School. That school was quite far away from  
13 where we lived. I hated it there because I didn't fit  
14 in and I was bullied. I was like a mouse. I was quiet  
15 but cheeky at the same time. There wasn't anything that  
16 was happening at the school. I think it was more down  
17 to me. I left school when I was 16 and got a job  
18 working in a machinery place for a couple of years.  
19 I had loads of jobs after that.

20 'I lived in Castlemilk until I was 25. I got  
21 married and bought a house in the south-east of Glasgow  
22 and I then had my son. I divorced my husband after  
23 two years because of domestic violence.

24 'After I separated from my husband, I moved back to  
25 Castlemilk, but unfortunately he wouldn't stay away and

1 because of that, my son and I ended up moving [away and  
2 went to a place which we enjoyed and had a beautiful  
3 house] and I loved it for years. When my son started  
4 school, I went to college. I had already done some  
5 national certificates while I'd been in Glasgow. I  
6 volunteered for a domestic violence forum and I loved  
7 doing that and was really good at what I did.

8 'My ambition was to go to university so I could get  
9 a paid job working to help people suffering domestic  
10 violence, so I continued studying towards that [for  
11 about] six years, but felt I wasn't good enough to go to  
12 university. I had great references and my teachers  
13 pushed me to go. I ended up getting a place on a course  
14 for a BA Honours degree in applied social studies and  
15 also a social work diploma. I absolutely loved the  
16 course. Sadly, about six months before I was finished  
17 the course, I couldn't make it financially work and was  
18 forced to leave.

19 'I always thought I would go back to finish the  
20 course, but then I met my current partner and fell  
21 pregnant with my daughter. [I then took a] stroke ten  
22 days after she was born [and that was many years ago].

23 'It's only in adult life that I've come to realise  
24 that there were things that happened because of my  
25 experiences at Fornethy. I never really thought about

1           Fornethy until I saw it one time being reported on in  
2           a newspaper. It's weird how I've never thought it  
3           affected me, but now I realise that it did. I couldn't  
4           believe it when I realised how much it had impacted on  
5           me.

6           'I wet my bed until the age of 11 or 12. That was  
7           something that I never did before I went to Fornethy.  
8           My mother just dealt with it. I used to scream and  
9           everything because I was scared. I had to sleep at  
10          night with my bedroom light on. I don't remember having  
11          to do that before going to Fornethy. My mother also had  
12          to leave the living room door open and turn the  
13          television up a bit so I could hear it. I remember my  
14          mother saying that she would give me half a crown if she  
15          could turn the light off. I just couldn't do it though.  
16          All that went on for years and years.

17          'When I think of Fornethy, I think of my sister.  
18          I think of her as this wee, puny thing. Most of the  
19          time, I can talk about my experiences at Fornethy and it  
20          just doesn't bother me. However, if I think back to the  
21          way my sister was treated, it does. The one thing that  
22          kills me, even to this day, are those staff members  
23          battering my wee sister. It makes my blood boil to even  
24          think about that incident. It's the worst memory I have  
25          when I think back to my time at Fornethy.

1           'After Fornethy, my sister and I used to fight.  
2           I used to go after her for everything and sometimes she  
3           would respond. We hadn't been like that before we went.  
4           It was terrible really. However, even with that, if  
5           anyone did anything towards my sister, I would fight  
6           them. All my life I did that. I was obsessed with  
7           protecting her. In adult life, things changed between  
8           me and my sister and she became the one who protected  
9           me. Since my stroke, she's been my rock and is there  
10          for everything. If I need help with anything, she's  
11          there and if she wants me to do anything, I just do it.  
12          She's the only person in the world I 100 per cent  
13          believe in everything they say. If it wasn't for her,  
14          God knows where I would be.

15          'The way I looked after my children has been  
16          impacted by what I experienced at Fornethy. It's all  
17          things to do with making sure that they have all the  
18          things that comforted me after I returned from Fornethy.  
19          I became obsessed where children either wet themselves  
20          or soiled themselves in my care. I used to look after  
21          a wee girl who used to wet herself. I was obsessed with  
22          taking their knickers off and washing and drying them  
23          before she went back to her mother. I was the same way  
24          with my granddaughter when she soiled herself. Even  
25          though I knew her father wouldn't have a problem, I was

1           obsessed and made sure she would be comfortable and  
2           clean before she was picked up. I am similarly obsessed  
3           when children want to sleep leaving their light on.  
4           I need to make sure that they can do that if they want  
5           to.

6           'I have had loads of support in adult life, but none  
7           of it has been to do with my experiences at Fornethy.

8           'I didn't speak to anyone immediately after leaving  
9           Fornethy. I can't remember whether I told my mother  
10          what had happened. I presume I would have told her.  
11          She must have been aware something had been wrong  
12          because she noticed my sister's weight loss. She would  
13          have seen that I started wetting the bed after arriving  
14          back home.

15          'I have never reported what happened at Fornethy to  
16          anyone later on in life. It was only after reading the  
17          newspaper articles on Fornethy that I came to realise  
18          the impact it had on me and truly how bad it had been.  
19          Those articles made me realise that it really was  
20          terrible and what I experienced was abuse. I now know  
21          we were abused and that is partly why I came forward to  
22          speak to the Inquiry.

23          'I haven't attempted to recover any records from my  
24          time at Fornethy. I'm not sure that I would be able to  
25          do that.

1           'There shouldn't have been and shouldn't be now big  
2 homes like Fornethy. I hate the use of the word "care"  
3 when describing the arrangement we were under at  
4 Fornethy. I've never looked upon our time in Fornethy  
5 as being in care. At the time we were there, I viewed  
6 it as us being away on our holidays. Looking back, it  
7 was probably more of a respite-type of arrangement.

8           'I didn't come forward to the Inquiry for myself.  
9 I came forward to help other people who went to  
10 Fornethy. Although I had my experiences, I know now  
11 through reading about Fornethy elsewhere what other  
12 things happened. A lot of the people who went to  
13 Fornethy went on to have terrible lives because of what  
14 happened. Nobody should have had to go through what  
15 happened, then lived with those things afterwards.

16           'The people who worked at Fornethy are probably no  
17 longer here. However, the things that happened still  
18 need to be put out there for everybody to see. People  
19 like Mrs Fletcher, who I understand was made out after  
20 her death to be a hero, shouldn't be remembered the way  
21 she is. Something needs to be done about it. There has  
22 to be justice for everybody who went there.

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

1 true.'

2 'Catriona' signed her statement on 5 August 2022.

3 My Lady, that completes the evidence for today and  
4 there are three live witnesses lined up to give evidence  
5 tomorrow.

6 LADY SMITH: I think just two names to mention from this  
7 afternoon, Miss LBD and Miss LAT. These are  
8 people who are not to be identified as referred to in  
9 our evidence outside this room.

10 Thank you very much.

11 Until 10 o'clock tomorrow.

12 (4.03 pm)

13 (The Inquiry adjourned until 10.00 am  
14 on Friday, 22 May 2026)

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