

Friday, 22 May 2026

1

2 (10.00 am)

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

9 Now, we resume evidence in person this morning and
10 I'm going to invite Mr MacAulay to introduce the first
11 witness.

12 Mr MacAulay.

13 MR MACAULAY: Yes, good morning, my Lady. The first witness
14 is an applicant. She wants to remain anonymous and to
15 use the pseudonym 'Lucy'.

16 LADY SMITH: Thank you.

17 'Lucy' (affirmed)

18 LADY SMITH: 'Lucy', thank you so much for coming along this
19 morning to help us with your evidence in person. I do,
20 of course, already have your written evidence and
21 I'm grateful to you for providing that, because
22 I've been able to read it in advance and that's been a
23 great help. It also means that we won't need to go
24 through every aspect of your evidence in detail, but
25 there are some things that we'd like to discuss with

1 you, if that's all right.

2 'Lucy', I want to assure you that I do understand
3 that coming into a public place to give evidence about
4 yourself, and in particular about your life years and
5 years ago, when you were a young child, and things
6 really weren't all that great for the particular period
7 that we want to focus on, isn't easy.

8 A. No.

9 LADY SMITH: And however organised in advance you may think
10 you are, you may find it upsetting. People can be taken
11 unawares by their own emotions. Don't worry. I'm well
12 used to that and all I want to do is assist you to give
13 your evidence as comfortably as you can in the
14 circumstances.

15 A. Yes.

16 LADY SMITH: So let me know if there's anything I can do,
17 whether it's having a break or a pause, whatever, it's
18 not a problem.

19 And if you've got any questions, 'Lucy', please
20 speak up. Don't just sit there worrying about something
21 and not asking.

22 A. Okay.

23 LADY SMITH: I'll hand over to Mr MacAulay now and he'll
24 take it from there, if that's okay. All right?

25 A. All right.

1 Questions from Mr MacAulay

2 MR MACAULAY: My Lady.

3 Yes, good morning again, 'Lucy'.

4 A. Morning.

5 Q. We met just a few minutes ago and you know I'm Colin.

6 A. Yeah.

7 Q. And you're 'Lucy'.

8 The first thing I'd like you to do for me, 'Lucy',
9 is to look at the last page of your statement, and can
10 you confirm that you have signed the statement?

11 A. Yes, uh-huh. Yes.

12 Q. And do you say in the final paragraph that:

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

15 I believe the facts stated in this witness statement are
16 true.'

17 A. Yes.

18 Q. And is that your position?

19 A. Yes.

20 Q. Now, if you go back to the beginning of the statement,
21 I don't want your date of birth, because, of course, you
22 want to remain anonymous, but to give us some context,
23 if I can put to you that the year of your birth was
24 1963?

25 A. Yes.

1 Q. Now, this is for the benefit of the transcript,
2 I'll just give a reference to the statement, and this is
3 WIT-1-000001434.

4 A. Yeah.

5 Q. Now, can I then begin, 'Lucy', by looking at your life
6 before you went into care in Fornethy.

7 A. Mm-hmm.

8 Q. And you tell us that you were born in Glasgow, is that
9 right?

10 A. Yes, that's correct.

11 Q. Were you brought up in Glasgow?

12 A. Yes.

13 Q. And I think you tell us also that you had a younger
14 sister?

15 A. Yes, uh-huh.

16 Q. How would you describe your family environment?

17 A. Erm, I would say a normal sorta Glaswegian family.
18 Well, my mum and dad and us two and that was it. My mum
19 and dad worked full-time, both of them, erm, and
20 relatively a sorta happy, sorta --

21 Q. And I think you tell us that there was no social work
22 involvement with the family?

23 A. No, no, there were nothing, there was no issues or
24 anything like that. My mum and dad, none of them drank.
25 I think my grandfather had an alcohol problem. My

1 mother just did the -- there was no alcohol or anything
2 like that allowed in the house. So, erm, there was
3 nothing -- there was no issues.

4 Q. And you paint a happy picture in paragraph 5, where
5 I think you tell us that on a Saturday, your mother
6 would take you and your sister into town shopping and
7 you'd go for a meal in a Chinese restaurant?

8 A. Yeah.

9 Q. That was --

10 A. Every Saturday and it was quite sorta, back then it was
11 quite a novelty.

12 Q. And talking about holidays, you did go on holidays every
13 year with your family?

14 A. Yeah, every year, mm-hmm, yeah. Well, it was always in
15 the UK but it was holidays, it was, like, went to
16 Scarborough, Blackpool, Ayr even for a week, but always
17 in the summer, 'cos my mum and dad both worked so there
18 wisnae any sorta financial sorta reason why not.

19 Q. You tell us you were diagnosed with epilepsy --

20 A. Yes.

21 Q. -- in about 1971 when you were 8 years old?

22 A. Yeah, erm, it was absence seizures that I would take and
23 I was diagnosed. My mum didnae know what it was, took
24 me to the doctor, they did the EEG, I think it's an EEG
25 they call it, erm, and that was diagnosed and I had to

1 take medication for it.

2 Q. And I think you tell us that was the year you had not
3 gone on holiday?

4 A. We hadnae gone on holiday that year, we werenae going
5 anywhere that year, so, erm, and my mum -- what had
6 happened, my mum had gone up to the school to kinda get
7 a wee report to take up for my hospital appointment and
8 when she went up and she was just sorta general
9 chit-chat in the office kinda thing while waiting for
10 the headteacher, and somebody in the office, one of the
11 women said to my mum, you know: 'Are you going on
12 holiday this year, Mrs Munro?', and she was like: 'No,
13 no, not this year'. She went: 'And I think **PJG**
14 could have been doing with one with the diagnosis and
15 everything like that, so.' And then that's when it was
16 suggested going to Fornethy, so.

17 Q. And so was it one of the teachers that suggested that?

18 A. It was a sorta, an office -- a staff member. So, and
19 then my mum then enquired about it. And then, we then
20 found out that the wee girl who lived next door to us,
21 she was going. So it was kinda -- she then kinda talked
22 my younger sister into it, she was more nearer her age
23 and she kinda was like: 'Oh, that would be great, that
24 would be good fun.' And, so she kinda -- I was not for
25 going. I didnae want to go. I didnae want to go to an

1 out -- it was sorta like an Outward Bound sorta thing,
2 you know. Anything like that, walking up hills or
3 anything, that wisnae ma -- no. But I went.

4 Q. But was your younger sister, was she keen to go with
5 you?

6 A. She was keen to go, yeah. She was quite -- she thought
7 it was great, going to go for a holiday and we'd be --
8 I think I was kind of okay but no really, I wouldn't say
9 I was enthusiastic about it, but my younger sister was.

10 Q. And were you given any indication before you left for
11 how long you would be away for?

12 A. Er, it was six weeks and we had to have a medical before
13 we went to make sure that we were fit enough to go to
14 it. So, erm, obviously because I had had -- I was
15 diagnosed with epilepsy, I was on medication, so, it was
16 under control and that was fine. The two of us had to
17 get medicals, we had to go and get --

18 Q. I think what you tell us in your statement, 'Lucy', and
19 I know it's difficult to be particularly precise about
20 dates, because you were very young, of course, at the
21 time.

22 A. Yeah.

23 Q. But you thought it was about -- it was either 1972 or
24 1973 when you went to Fornethy?

25 A. Yes.

1 Q. Is that your position?

2 A. I think it was actually 1972, because I had, erm,
3 a couple -- me and a couple of friends fae
4 primary school and we'd had a wee reunion and we were
5 looking at school photographs that everybody had. And
6 the only one that I'm no in for the group photograph is
7 1972.

8 Q. All right, okay.

9 A. And that's how I can say -- I was there in 1973 in the
10 school photograph, and I think the photographs at that
11 time were taken like after the school holidays, in
12 [REDACTED], so.

13 Q. So you think you went in 1972, so you'd be aged about 9?

14 A. Yes.

15 Q. And your younger sister, who, I think you tell us, was
16 about 18 months younger than you?

17 A. Younger than me, yes.

18 Q. Would be, what, 7?

19 A. Uh-huh, uh-huh.

20 Q. Aged 7.

21 A. Yeah, 7-and-a-half.

22 Q. What about your friend?

23 A. The neighbour?

24 Q. Yeah, did she go?

25 A. She went -- uh-huh, she went the same time as us.

1 Q. What age was she?

2 A. She was younger again, she was maybe about a year
3 younger than my sister.

4 Q. About 6?

5 A. Yeah, yeah.

6 Q. And did you travel together?

7 A. Yes.

8 Q. And how did you get to Fornethy then?

9 A. It was a bus we got. We got on a bus at, erm, Woodland
10 Road in Glasgow at the -- it was the actual, it was the
11 high school, it was Woodside High School where I went to
12 when I obviously transferred from primary to secondary,
13 erm, and it was -- it's now The Stand Comedy Club. That
14 was there and noo, I think it's a pub noo in actual
15 fact, but that was where we got on the bus.

16 Q. And were your parents there to see you off?

17 A. Yes, aye, uh-huh, yeah.

18 Q. And did you have suitcases with you?

19 A. We had cases with us, we had -- on the way out, because
20 they had obviously, they give us a list of what we would
21 need, so we obviously went into town and, you know,
22 again, my sister being my sister, we were too different,
23 just, erm, she was all excited about getting all this
24 stuff to go and I was like: 'Oh right, okay, we'll get
25 this and we'll get that.' I was just so -- I was just

1 so just not interested in it at all, but she was like:
2 'Oh, we'll get this, can we get this, mum?', and so we
3 went with all these new clothes.

4 Q. So when you got on the bus then, your parents would
5 still be there to see you off?

6 A. To see us off, aye, aye.

7 Q. Were there many on the bus apart from yourselves?

8 A. There was quite a few. I don't know how many exactly
9 but there was quite a few kids on the bus. There was
10 maybe, I don't know, maybe ten, maybe a dozen.

11 Q. And apart from the driver, was there any adult
12 supervision?

13 A. Yeah, there was staff on it but I don't know -- again,
14 I don't know who they were, erm, but you could tell
15 right away, the atmosphere just changed. Not the
16 atmosphere, it was just like, oh, everything was all
17 nice and everything like that. We got on the bus and
18 then it was like: 'Put they sweets back.' Because
19 obviously most of the kids had a wee bag of sweets for
20 the journey: 'Put they sweets back, give me they
21 sweets.' And it was just like grabbed. And the
22 atmosphere all just sorta changed from being quite: 'Oh,
23 I'll help you with your bag, give me that bag and I'll
24 put it on the bus'. And then as soon as we -- and I'm
25 like, what's going on here? You know, even at 9 years

1 of age, you just knew something. The atmosphere had
2 changed, it was quite kinda -- it was quite aggressive
3 with the -- with us.

4 Q. So were you a bit concerned about that?

5 A. Uh-huh, well, aye, a bit sorta, oh, what's going on
6 here? Just that, would that making you a bit cautious,
7 I would say.

8 Q. And when you got to Fornethy then -- I think we know
9 from photographs we've looked at that it was
10 a significantly large building.

11 A. Mm-hmm.

12 Q. What was your first impression?

13 A. It was like, erm, some kinda -- it was just like a big
14 castle. To me it looked like, you know what I mean,
15 something that was in a book that I had read, sorta
16 thing, erm, 'cos that was me, that was me at my
17 happiest, my head in my book, so. I probably read some
18 story where there was a -- I don't know what it would
19 have been. But it seemed really -- it was huge. Huge,
20 big house.

21 Q. And when you got there then on that first day, did you
22 meet any member of staff?

23 A. There was staff members there, but I don't know who they
24 were exactly on that day. We were taken to our room or
25 dormitory, erm, and that was -- that was about it

1 really, that day. It was later on that next day -- that
2 night into the next day that you really kinda found
3 what -- this isnae -- this isnae right, this isnae safe,
4 this isnae a safe environment for -- you just knew.

5 Q. I'll come to that, but that first day, for example, did
6 you have to go and have a bath?

7 A. You had to get a shower.

8 Q. A shower?

9 A. Yeah. There was baths and there was showers and there
10 was, erm -- there was staff in there. It was quite --
11 there was no privacy.

12 Q. When you say you had to get a shower, were you with
13 other girls?

14 A. Yes, yes.

15 Q. And did you have to strip?

16 A. Strip down, stand in a queue and, er, then you had --
17 you had to wait obviously till it came your turn, but
18 I was like kinda wee bit -- I've started -- I'm starting
19 to come into puberty, even though I was young. So I was
20 a bit kinda, you know, trying to sorta hide myself. And
21 this teacher was basically: 'Don't. Get your hands
22 down, keep your hands by your side, get your hands by
23 your side'. And I kept sorta trying to put my hands to
24 cover myself and she kept knocking ma hands down. Then
25 by the time it came my turn to get actually in the

1 shower, she then got a brush, erm, like a scrubbing
2 brush, and she scrubbed all my -- all my body, but all
3 my private area, and kinda left me in a bit of a mess to
4 say the least, scratched.

5 Q. So she scratched you because -- was that because of the
6 type of brush she was using?

7 A. Using, yeah. It was for a -- it was a, like, what
8 I would say my mother used for cleaning the stairs.
9 That's the kind of brush that it was, a scrubbing brush.

10 Q. Was it sore?

11 A. Yes. Extremely sore. Which didnae just go -- just
12 wisnae sore at the time, it was sore for days later,
13 because obviously she had torn the skin and every time
14 that I went to the toilet, it was sore.

15 Q. And did you see what happened with other girls who were
16 there? Did they -- was the same --

17 A. They were shouted at. They were spoken to in the same
18 manner. There wisnae anybody that I seen that didnae
19 get shouted out or didnae get sorta, erm --

20 Q. But did you see if they were being scrubbed as well?

21 A. Yeah, they were. They were.

22 Q. What about your younger sister?

23 A. Uh-huh -- my younger sister, no, she didnae get it, but
24 I did.

25 Q. And the member of staff who was involved in this, do you

1 know who it was?

2 A. Uh-huh, uh-huh. Yes. It's actually the female who was,
3 erm, in court at the end of last year for -- whatever
4 her charges were against all the other --

5 LADY SMITH: The one who was convicted?

6 A. Yes.

7 MR MACAULAY: And do you know her name?

8 A. Er, Robertson.

9 Q. And apart from her, is there any other name or names
10 that you remember from Fornethy?

11 A. Mrs Fletcher, the headteacher.

12 Q. Mrs Fletcher?

13 A. Yes.

14 Q. But so far as the scrubbing is concerned, you say it was
15 Mrs Robertson?

16 A. Yes.

17 Q. Miss Robertson or Mrs Robertson who was involved in
18 that?

19 A. It was her. It was her who did it, yes.

20 Q. Did she talk to you, did she say anything to you at the
21 time when she was doing this?

22 A. 'Get your hands down, you've no got anything different
23 fae anybody else', and, erm, a few swear words being
24 used, I would say. Erm, it was just her whole
25 demeanour.

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

3 A. No. Oh, my sister, yes, my young sister, but no
4 anything -- never anything like that in that
5 environment.

6 LADY SMITH: Nobody outside the family?

7 A. No, no.

8 MR MACAULAY: Now, did you form a view as to who was in
9 charge at Fornethy early on?

10 A. Oh, yeah. There was Mrs Fletcher. And I don't -- as
11 I said, Mrs Robertson, whoever -- I didn't -- I don't
12 even know what her position was or whatever. As I said,
13 I think I was just in some kinda -- some kinda shock,
14 I think, the way that -- what had happened. I just --
15 I thought maybe they werenae very nice people or
16 whatever or, fae a child's point of view, that's all
17 I seen, that they just werenae very nice. But then when
18 this started, when that -- and then as I said, the night
19 that I -- the first night that I was there, there was
20 a wee girl in the bed beside me and -- next to me. And
21 in the morning she had her -- when we got up in the
22 morning, we had to stand at the side of our bed and
23 I looked at this wee girl and she was standing with the
24 bed covers, the sheet, over her head and no clothes on
25 and her pants lying at the side of her. And when

1 I looked at her and I thought, 'What's that?' I didnae
2 know what's happened, what's she standing there like
3 that for? I just didn't know. But what had happened
4 was she had wet the bed and this was her punishment for
5 wetting the bed. And when they -- when they took the
6 sheet off her head, her hair looked as if it had been
7 hacked with a pair of scissors and I -- again, I had no
8 idea why. It just was like -- it was a horror.

9 Q. And I'll come and look at bed-wetting shortly, but just
10 before I do that, you have talked -- you talked there
11 about the dormitories. So you were allocated
12 a particular dormitory?

13 A. Yes.

14 Q. And was your sister and the other girl who had come with
15 you, were they in the same dormitory or not?

16 A. My sister was for a few nights. Well, I think it
17 was the following -- that weekend, and then she got
18 moved because we ran away and because obviously they
19 separated us, which they should have done at the
20 beginning, according to them, but they didnae.

21 Q. So to begin with you're together?

22 A. Together.

23 Q. And then, we'll look at that later, but you're
24 separated.

25 A. Yes.

1 Q. And the other girl, did you say she wasn't in the same
2 dormitory?

3 A. She was in the same -- no, she was in the same
4 dormitory.

5 Was she in the same dormitory as me?

6 I don't know. I don't know whether she -- I really
7 don't -- I can't remember right now.

8 Q. No. But can you give me a sense of how many beds there
9 were in the dormitory?

10 A. About -- oh, I don't know, 16, I would say. I don't
11 know exactly. There was -- 'cos we were quite -- we
12 werenae -- we weren't close together, because there was
13 a bed and a wee locker between, you know what I mean,
14 and then there was a wee gap and then -- so.

15 Q. Okay. Don't worry about it. But all girls, of course.
16 Same age -- leaving aside your sister that was there,
17 were they roughly the same age or different ages?

18 A. Different ages.

19 Q. Different ages?

20 A. Yeah, yeah. All primary school.

21 Q. Now, that first night, I think you tell us that there
22 was a little girl in a bed near to you who was crying?

23 A. Mm-hmm.

24 Q. And were there other girls crying?

25 A. Yeah. My sister was crying, and I tried to sorta

1 comfort my young sister 'cos, well. And, erm, got
2 shouted at. That's when they came in and said: 'Will
3 yous all stop crying and shouting and bawling?' Started
4 shouting at us all.

5 Q. Who did?

6 A. This teacher, this teacher, this Robertson, because she
7 seemed to be like in charge of what was going on in the
8 kinda dormitory and the dining room and -- she seemed to
9 be everywhere. I don't know whether it was just ma
10 perceptions as a child, I don't know, but she seemed to
11 be in every aspect to the running of the place. With
12 Fletcher close behind, so.

13 Q. And you say then that children were crying, and was it
14 Mrs Robertson who shouted on you to shut up?

15 A. Yes: 'Shut up.' And then she come in and what she would
16 do is, 'cos obviously this was an ongoing thing, it
17 wisnae just one night that the kids were crying, it was
18 like every night there would be somebody crying. And
19 she would take them outside and you'd be made to sit
20 outside in the hallway, in the cold, in your pants,
21 maybe if you had a vest on. But that's where you were
22 made to sit.

23 Q. Did it happen to you?

24 A. Yes, that happened to me, uh-huh.

25 Q. Once, more than once?

1 A. Once, I would say.

2 Q. It happened to other children?

3 A. But it happened to other children as well, aye.

4 Q. And how long would you be out in the corridor?

5 A. Oh, hours and -- well -- hours and hours. But to be

6 honest with you I never -- I wisnae, I didn't sleep well

7 while I was there as a child, so. At first.

8 Q. I think you tell us about a blue light, at some point

9 did a blue light come on?

10 A. There's blue lights. There was blue lights like kinda,

11 oh, on the ceilings, just these wee blue lights and

12 I don't know what purpose they served, I have no idea.

13 It wisnae as if they gave out a real light or anything

14 like that. I'm assuming it was maybe just so that they

15 could see -- I don't know. I don't know, I'm just

16 guessing really, 'cos as a child I had no idea what they

17 were for, you know what I mean, so.

18 Q. At least they provided some light to the --

19 A. They would've, aye. They definitely would've. They may

20 have gave you enough light to sorta see who's -- but --

21 if there was somebody was in her bed, but that's

22 probably aboot the stretch of it, I would say.

23 Q. Now looking at the routine, I think you tell us that you

24 went to bed early and you were up early?

25 A. Yes.

1 Q. And in the morning, would you go for breakfast?

2 A. Mm-hmm.

3 Q. And you tell us about mealtimes in your statement.

4 A. Mm-hmm.

5 Q. The food, how would you describe the food?

6 A. Erm, I wouldnae say it was great. I would say it was
7 quite kinda, to say the least, substandard, but.

8 Q. Did you have to eat your food?

9 A. You had to eat it, yes.

10 Q. Who would give you that instruction?

11 A. There was the teach -- this Mrs Robertson, and there was
12 two other, I think there was two other women in the
13 dining area at the same time. So there was three of
14 them.

15 Q. What about Mrs Fletcher, would she be present at the
16 dining room?

17 A. I don't think -- I don't, I don't know. No, I don't
18 think so. I think she was in. She might have been in
19 on some occasions but it wisnae like a regular. It was
20 again, it was Mrs Robertson. She seemed to be the one,
21 as I said, that seemed to be kinda -- everywhere you
22 turned she was, seemed to be there, you know, so.
23 Until, as I say, that changed after -- when we come into
24 the second week when I -- then Mrs Fletcher seemed to
25 appear fae nowhere.

1 Q. And if a child didn't eat the food because she didn't
2 like it, would anything happen?

3 A. Yeah.

4 Q. Could you tell us about that?

5 A. They were held down --

6 Q. Sorry?

7 A. Held down, force-fed and, like most kids would have
8 done, like, gag reflex and they were sick, and they
9 would then feed the child the sick and the food, so that
10 they were -- it was just disgusting.

11 Q. When you say force-fed, can you just describe how that
12 was done?

13 A. Held down. One member of staff held the child down with
14 her arms down and their neck up like that (indicating)
15 and forced it in. The other one forced it in. There
16 was two of them doing this. It wisnae just one member
17 of staff that did it, it was two. And then obviously
18 the wee girl was being sick and they were like -- oh,
19 disgusting. I mean, it never happened to me. That
20 never actually happened to me but I seen it and I was
21 fearful of it happening to my sister because I was --
22 I would say I was a good eater. I would eat most
23 things. I didnae have any sort of dislikes, erm,
24 whereas I knew my sister did. One of the things that
25 she didnae like was porridge. She hated porridge.

1 I didnae. I ate -- I liked porridge. So I would try
2 and get hers if I could and if no, she just had to eat
3 it because there was no way she was going -- enduring
4 that, so.

5 Q. So did she manage to avoid --

6 A. She managed to get through it, she was able to avoid it
7 or -- and then I think they had -- I think there was
8 a boiled egg you could get, if I remember rightly, but
9 it was black when you opened it.

10 LADY SMITH: Do you mean a black rim round the yolk?

11 A. Mm-hmm, yeah, where it had been sorta -- as if it had
12 been made the day before or something and then reheated
13 in a pot or something. I don't know what they did with
14 it, but it was disgusting.

15 MR MACAULAY: And did you see a number of girls being
16 force-fed?

17 A. Yes.

18 Q. In the way you've described?

19 A. Uh-huh, yes.

20 Q. And was this a regular occurrence during your six weeks
21 there?

22 A. Yes, yes, almost every day, or every other day.

23 Q. Just to be clear as to who would be involved?

24 A. It was the same two. Well, I don't know about -- the
25 two members of staff definitely and any of the --

1 whatever child obviously it was being sick.

2 Q. You have mentioned Mrs Robertson, would she be involved
3 in this process?

4 A. Yes, she was very much, uh-huh.

5 Q. If -- I think you tell us you did try and swap food?

6 A. Aye, I tried to get my sister's so that we could
7 sorta -- if I could, I would take her -- after I ate my
8 porridge, I would eat hers.

9 Q. But that would deprive her of food?

10 A. Mm-hmm, mm-hmm. But rather than eat the porridge.
11 She wouldn't eat the porridge. And I knew that if
12 she -- obviously I was her big sister, look after her,
13 you know what I mean, so it was like, I felt if I could
14 eat it, well, then I would eat it.

15 Q. Did you ever get caught?

16 A. No, we didnae get caught, which was a wonder, but we
17 didnae get caught.

18 Q. Now, you've already told us about what happened on the
19 first day when you went to have a shower. Can I just go
20 back to washing and bathing again. Did you ever have
21 a bath when you were there?

22 A. I know there was baths there but I cannae remember
23 baths. I think we had actually -- it was a bath but it
24 was like everybody else's dirty water. You just -- they
25 didnae run a fresh bath for every child. If it was like

1 a bath or a shower, it wisnae like you'd get one -- you
2 know what I mean. It was, one night it would -- or one
3 day it would be a bath, the next day it would be
4 a shower, so.

5 Q. Looking then generally at the washing practices, you
6 have told us about what happened on the first day.

7 A. Uh-huh, uh-huh.

8 Q. But what about when you were being washed later, was it
9 the same process?

10 A. You got -- aye, well, no, that was -- I think -- I don't
11 know the reason behind that, I've no idea, but after
12 that it was more a case of, erm, just kinda -- I think
13 it was maybe to do with like the age and stage of
14 development that I was in, I was trying to be hiding
15 myself, because that was always the same and there was
16 always like: 'Get your hands down', and all the rest.
17 So you got to the point where you just went in and you
18 kept your hands down because you didn't know, is she
19 going to bring this brush out again. So you just put
20 your hands down and you just did what they told you.

21 Q. And was the scrubbing brush used again?

22 A. It was never used again on me, no.

23 Q. So it was just that first day?

24 A. That first, yeah, yeah.

25 Q. So far as the water was concerned, if it was a bath,

1 what was it like?

2 A. It was whoever else was in the bath before you was in
3 it. They had been washed in it. It wisnae emptied out
4 and fresh water put in. It was none of the -- it was
5 just you got in it as well. Or after that person come
6 out, that wee girl come out.

7 Q. You tell us under the heading of 'Leisure Time' there
8 was some sort of dancing on a Friday or Saturday night?

9 A. There was a -- it was like they put music on. It wisnae
10 even -- it was like, I don't know what you would say.
11 It was like, erm, there was some kinda -- I actually
12 think -- I kinda tried to think about this, where --
13 what was the, where did the music come from? Was it --
14 there was a record player, like an old-fashioned record
15 player in the room, but the TV was on. So I was
16 thinking to mysel, was this a Thursday night, was this
17 like Top of the Pops or something like that, was that
18 what they did when they had that on? I don't know.

19 Q. Okay.

20 A. But there was music going and there was like kinda -- it
21 was just all the girls that were in Fornethy. Except
22 for one occasion where there was -- there seemed to be
23 like -- I don't know where these girls came fae, I have
24 no idea. No idea where these kids came fae. They
25 were --

1 Q. So there were girls there who were not --
2 A. They were not fae Fornethy. They were -- I would say
3 they were disabled children.
4 Q. Okay.
5 A. I remember there was a wee girl who had Down's syndrome
6 and she started sorta like touching my -- I had long,
7 red hair and she started sorta touching my hair, and she
8 says, like, 'Oh, I like your hair', or something, and
9 these teachers were standing, I don't know who they were
10 or whoever they were: 'Don't you -- get your hands off
11 her. You're never going to have hair like her anyway so
12 just get away'.
13 And it was -- I was -- as a child I was taken aback,
14 you know what I mean. I was just like, why is she being
15 like that to that wee girl, do you know what I mean?
16 I was shocked, I was -- even though with everything else
17 that had happened, even that, I was still -- at 9 years
18 of age you're like, this isnae right, you shouldn't
19 speak to that wee girl like that.
20 Q. Did the wee girl that you've been telling us about --
21 A. She just stood back.
22 Q. Did she react?
23 A. She just stood back, kinda, like kinda walked away as
24 if -- aye, just walked away. She just walked back to
25 another wee bit of the room, you know, she didnae -- but

1 again, I don't know where they girls came fae or they
2 kids came fae. I don't know if there was boys in that
3 group of girls. There was only maybe say about four or
4 five. It wisnae as if there was like, you know, a full
5 classroom full of kids. There was the girls fae
6 Fornethy and these four or five girls -- wee girls. As
7 I said, that's what I seen. And as I said, this wee
8 girl stood out purely because she did that with ma hair,
9 you know what I mean, and the rebuff that she got was
10 disgusting.

11 Q. You tell us about an incident when you were taken by
12 Mrs Fletcher in her car. Can you just tell us about
13 that and what happened?

14 A. I have no idea how I got in this car, but for some
15 reason I end up in the car with -- she said, first of
16 all she said she was going to take us to a spelling bee.

17 Q. When you say take 'us', was it just you or was there --

18 A. Well, she said there were three or four of us that were
19 going to go, and then nothing happened. I didnae go.
20 And then she then -- the next night, or the next day or
21 something it was, she said: 'Oh, we're going to go this
22 date, we're going to go tonight to the spelling bee'.
23 So for some -- I then ended up -- but I was in my, in my
24 nightie or something, whatever I had on for nightwear,
25 and I was in the back seat of this car and I was kinda

1 sliding, because the car was moving.

2 Q. So was this Mrs Fletcher's car?

3 A. Mrs Fletcher's car.

4 Q. And was there anybody --

5 A. Well, it was her that was driving. I don't know if it

6 was her car but it was her that was driving.

7 Q. Was anybody else in the car apart from --

8 A. No.

9 Q. No.

10 A. Just her driving and me in the back. Well, I don't --

11 I couldnae be 100 per cent on that, but as far as --

12 I was only aware of her. And I was sliding along the

13 kinda back seat, but I kept getting -- I felt as if

14 I was getting dizzier and dizzier as I was getting --

15 sliding. And I was trying to sorta hold myself straight

16 and steady but I couldnae do it. I couldnae keep myself

17 in the one place.

18 And then I got to the -- we stopped and I looked out

19 the window and I could see these two -- it was a house

20 or a building with two big white pillars on either side

21 of the door. Huge big door and these two big white

22 pillars. And I don't remember another thing.

23 The next thing I remember was being back at Fornethy

24 and then getting into my bed. Going up the stairs,

25 I vaguely remember going up the stairs and into my bed,

1 and I have no memory of what happened. Whether I just
2 sat in the car, whether I got taken out the car, I have
3 no idea.

4 Q. And do you know how long it had taken to get from
5 Fornethy to this other place?

6 A. No idea. No idea. Time, it was just sorta -- it just
7 wisnae -- it could have been 10 minutes, it could have
8 been 40 minutes, I have no idea.

9 Q. So when you -- do you have a recollection of going back
10 to Fornethy?

11 A. Uh-huh, I've got a recollection of getting back to
12 Fornethy and kinda getting up the stairs to get into the
13 dormitory --

14 Q. To go to bed?

15 A. -- and then that was it.

16 Q. To go to bed?

17 A. Yeah.

18 Q. Had you been in bed before you were taken out?

19 A. This is what I was -- I'm no 100 per cent sure on that.
20 I couldnae be 100 per cent sure on that, because I know
21 I had my nightwear on so I would be assuming I was
22 either getting ready to go to bed and then her taking me
23 out. I don't understand -- I don't know how I managed
24 to get out, I really don't, but I knew the spelling bee
25 was something to do with it and she was like: 'Are you

1 good at spelling, are you good?', and I was like: 'Yeah,
2 I'm good at spelling, yeah, yeah, yeah'. And that
3 was -- and I was like, what's a spelling bee? Because
4 I was like, well, where's she taking me to? I had no
5 idea.

6 And there was actually a spelling bee about -- the
7 following week or something in a church hall. That I do
8 know, 'cos I was there, and there was two or three other
9 girls there as well.

10 Q. But that --

11 A. And there was people fae from the community there. It
12 was a normal, I would say normal sort of church
13 gathering you could say, you know, other than a Sunday,
14 but it was a spelling bee.

15 Q. But when you went to this place with the pillars?

16 A. Uh-huh.

17 Q. Are you able to say if it was dark or light?

18 A. It was dark.

19 Q. It was dark?

20 A. Aye, it was nighttime.

21 Q. Okay. Can I then ask you a little bit about the
22 schooling arrangements at Fornethy.

23 A. Mm-hmm. Mm-hmm.

24 Q. And I think you tell us that your teachers were people
25 who were based at Fornethy?

1 A. Mm-hmm, yeah, the teachers, uh-huh.

2 Q. Was Miss Robertson a teacher?

3 A. Yes, yes, she was a teacher. There was, I think it was
4 like, it was like photocopied things and 'Janet and
5 John' books, that obviously you had had in Primary 1 or
6 whatever it was, when you're -- some of the kids were
7 learning to read. I was quite fortunate, I could --
8 I was quite ahead in my kinda, erm, in my reading
9 capabilities.

10 Q. Did you go into a classroom?

11 A. It was in a classroom, a room, it was done as
12 a classroom and it had desks, but it was like long
13 desks. I don't think -- it wisnae wee desks like you
14 had in school, if you know what I mean, and it was like
15 kinda shared, and you all sat round the kinda --

16 Q. And were you taught?

17 A. Yeah, I suppose. Well, yeah, I suppose it would have
18 been maybe -- there was lessons given, it was like, you
19 know, 'Janet and John' books and there was like things
20 to -- you know, about the weather and, you know, and
21 what trees would you -- did you see when you were out on
22 the walk and, you know, an acorn or an oak tree and
23 what -- this and that, you know, the kinda, you know,
24 different seasons and things like that, that kinda --
25 but there wisnae -- I mean, I suppose it was lessons to

1 a degree but obviously I would say Primary 1, and we
2 werenae all Primary 1, you know?

3 Q. By this time what primary would you have been?

4 A. I would have Primary 3, 4? 4.

5 Q. So this was years behind where you were?

6 A. Uh-huh, aye. So I was kinda, I was like, right, okay,
7 you know, because that was one of the things that my mum
8 was like, you know: 'Obviously **PJG** is going to
9 miss school, right?' And I enjoyed school. I really,
10 really, you know, and I thrived in school, you know what
11 I mean. It was like, even though -- despite the fact
12 I had epilepsy and the medication and all the rest of
13 it, I did well at school. I came first in the class,
14 prize winner every year and, you know what I mean,
15 I was -- I was quite a clever wee girl, so.

16 Q. And this then --

17 A. So I felt this was like, it was even -- it was Primary 1
18 and I was probably on a Primary 5 level, sorta,
19 work-wise.

20 Q. What you're saying though, this was during school
21 term --

22 A. Uh-huh.

23 Q. -- that you were there?

24 A. Yes, uh-huh, uh-huh. Aye, we were there during school
25 term.

1 Q. Did you get the chance to write home?

2 A. Yes.

3 Q. Can you tell me about that?

4 A. Yes, we were told to write a wee story, like to write
5 home, and this is when my sister came in, sorta, into
6 a bit of bother. And my sister had wrote -- before
7 I'd got a chance to, I was sitting writing and I was
8 like: what you going to put in this? And, 'Stop talking
9 over there', and whatever, right, and she was kinda
10 sitting, writing it out and trying to -- 'cos you think,
11 I thought, they're going to read this before they --
12 I thought, they're going to read this before it gets
13 posted. But they just did it in front of you. They
14 just ripped it up in front of you.

15 They were like: 'No, here, this is what you write'.
16 And it was on a blackboard, you needed to copy what was
17 on it.

18 So what was on the blackboard, there was two of us
19 sitting in the classroom and we had both the same thing,
20 so we both did the same letters going back to our
21 parents. So when my parents got the -- my mum, right
22 away, she knew fine well: This is no [P]JG [redacted]'s],
23 [P]JG [redacted] could write a lot better than this with
24 regards to --'

25 Q. But do I understand what you're saying then, 'Lucy', is

1 that you had the opportunity of writing home?

2 A. Uh-huh, uh-huh.

3 Q. But you weren't able to write what you wanted to write

4 --

5 A. Exactly, yes.

6 Q. But you were told what to write?

7 A. Yes, what we were told, what was on the board. That we

8 were having a great time, we were out getting plenty of

9 fresh air, going for long walks, you know, erm, there's

10 a playground and whatever else. A lot of nonsense

11 basically, lot of nonsense.

12 Q. What did you want to write?

13 A. 'Come get us. Come and get us, mum. This is

14 a nightmare.'

15 Q. Did you say your sister was with you when you were

16 writing the letter?

17 A. Yes, she was in the class, sitting across from me but

18 she was in the class, you know. She wasn't sitting

19 right beside me or anything. But she wrote a letter and

20 handed it first to the teacher and it got ripped up and

21 I thought, oh, no, what's going to happen to her now?

22 And I'm watching, and she just got told basically: 'You

23 write what's on that board'.

24 Q. Okay.

25 One thing you tell us, 'Lucy', also is that in the

1 morning you would go out for walks?

2 A. Yes.

3 Q. Can you just describe that to me?

4 A. Well, we had, erm, all sorts of -- when I think about
5 it. My mum had got us all the sort of equipment to go
6 and the appropriate equipment for the -- like the long
7 walks and all the rest of it and proper footwear and
8 everything. And we ended up with Wellingtons on. I'm
9 going to say it's like a tartan skirt kind of thing or
10 something, I don't know what it was. But if it rained,
11 it get soaked. It was horrible. It just wisnae
12 pleasant. It wasn't a pleasant walk. It wisnae
13 a stroll, it was a hike. And for wee kids at that age,
14 five and six miles is quite a distance to be, 'cos
15 that's -- we were away for hours and hours and hours and
16 we werenae allowed really to sit down and stop or
17 whatever. It was a continual: 'Keep going, keep going,
18 we've got to get up there and we're in the' -- and it
19 was just --

20 Q. And did do you that in all weathers?

21 A. All weathers, didn't matter, uh-huh.

22 Q. And did this happen regularly?

23 A. Yes, aye, every day we went out for a walk.

24 Q. And you talked about --

25 A. Sometimes even go out twice. Sometimes we'd get brought

1 in, have our lunch, and then we'd be going back out
2 again in the afternoon. You were like: We've already
3 been out this morning.' Well, we'd be thinking that, we
4 wouldnae say it, 'cos we'd have get slapped, so. 'Cos
5 that was quite a common occurrence, was getting a slap.

6 Q. And you mentioned that you had to wear wellies. Did
7 that cause you problems?

8 A. Yeah, because they were too -- we would be walking, our
9 socks would slip down and then the Wellingtons would
10 then start marking all the backs of your legs and you
11 couldnae just stop and like sorta adjust yourself. You
12 just had to keep walking. So by the time you get back,
13 you had these big red welt marks at the back of your
14 legs that were stinging so when you went in for the bath
15 or went and got your shower or whatever, as soon as the
16 water hit it, it was agony as well. So they didnae get
17 you with -- you could say they didnae get you with the
18 scrubbing brush, they got you with your wellies, because
19 they made you walk to the point of exhaustion and
20 marked, your legs all marked.

21 Q. And would the whole school be out walking together?

22 A. Er, I think they would have -- well, we would have been
23 different classes at different times or maybe different
24 routes. I don't know what -- but they all -- we all
25 seemed to be out at the one time.

1 Q. Can I just go back then to the matter of bed-wetting.
2 You've told us about a little girl the first day,
3 I think you mentioned.

4 A. Yes.

5 Q. And she was crying and you told us about her sheet and
6 that she was naked at least from the waist down; is that
7 correct?

8 A. Yes, yes, uh-huh.

9 Q. Did you notice something about her hair?

10 A. Her hair had been cut, like chopped at wi' a pair of
11 dress-making scissors, I would say, that type of -- just
12 cut, like a kinda -- erm, it was all hacked at. Just
13 hacked. Her hair was hacked off. It wisnae like any
14 sorta -- it wisnae done -- how can I say. It was like
15 when you look at the -- when you see documentaries in
16 concentration camps and you see the women and girls with
17 their hair all hacked, that's the kinda way I mean. Her
18 hair was hacked.

19 Q. Do you know when that had happened?

20 A. It must have happened before -- well, it happened before
21 we arrived 'cos I never seen it and I never seen the wee
22 girl with a full head of hair, so I don't know. But,
23 aye, it was demeaning to say the least. But I don't
24 know what they were doing to this wee girl.

25 Q. Did the wee girl that you're talking about, did you form

1 any view as to how old she might have been?

2 A. She was probably, I would say she would be about 5/6.
3 She was small, like smaller than us. And I was
4 obviously 9.

5 Q. And what happened to her then?

6 A. She was there for weeks.

7 Q. But did anything happen to her on that occasion that you
8 saw? Did any member of staff deal with her?

9 A. Yeah, she got dragged out the room. She got dragged out
10 by the arms. She got told to take the bedding and put
11 it in -- to gather it up and put it in wherever, the
12 bathroom, or outside the room, out in the hall, I think
13 it was, she had to put it.

14 Q. Did you see any other instances where a child had wet
15 the bed?

16 A. Yeah, I think there was a few times, but it was,
17 followed the same kinda -- if you get caught wetting the
18 bed, you were made to stand wi' it on your head.

19 Q. I think what you tell us in your statement is that you
20 took medication and that might have caused you to wet
21 the bed?

22 A. Yeah, yeah, I was petrified, because I had epilepsy
23 medication and sometimes it kinda made you really,
24 really -- put you into a really deep sleep and there was
25 a couple of occasions, especially when I first started

1 taking -- obviously by this time everything's kinda,
2 I would say blown out of proportion, of the fear,
3 because this was all just -- you just couldnae --
4 I couldnae understand what was going on.

5 So I thought that if I took -- I took my medication,
6 I would wet the bed, and if I wet the bed, I would end
7 up like that wee girl. And I thought, I cannae go to
8 sleep.

9 So I tried my damndest, as much as I could, for
10 being a 9-year-old, to stay awake, and I kept lying
11 there and looking at this wee, the wee blue lights,
12 counting the wee blue lights and looking at them and
13 trying to keep wakened, because I didn't want to sleep
14 in case I wet the bed.

15 Q. And did you wet the bed?

16 A. No. But I did -- the fear of it, the fear of it was
17 enough, because I thought, that's what could happen, so.

18 Q. Now, you mentioned earlier that there was a time when
19 you ran away?

20 A. Yes.

21 Q. I just want to ask you about that now, if I may. Can
22 you tell us what happened?

23 A. Erm, me and my sister had decided, we'd been out on
24 a walk and we seen that there was a phone box, public
25 phone box, on this kinda, like kinda fork in the road,

1 this kinda gusset in the road. And we decided that if
2 we could get out and get to the phone box, we'd phone my
3 mum and my dad, they would come and get us. But we had
4 to get to the phone box obviously. So we never thought
5 of doing it when we were out for a walk. We decided we
6 would leave Fornethy and go and do it then.

7 So we waited until we were all out playing, and me
8 and my sister, and there was a wee girl, [REDACTED], wee
9 girl who lived next door to us and another girl, and
10 there was four of us, and we decided we were going to go
11 on that Saturday. So we went round the side of the
12 kinda -- we were out playing on the swings or whatever
13 it was, the kinda playground, and we came round the side
14 of the house. There was a bunker or something. There
15 was some kind of wooden structure, I don't know what it
16 was. We kinda hid behind there and then gradually we
17 then ran into the woods basically, one at a time. And
18 we ran through the woods.

19 So we kept trying to head in what we thought was the
20 direction where the phone box was. So we were out for
21 hours. It started -- when we left it was light. We
22 then ended up -- we could hear people shouting, we could
23 hear people shouting names and whatever, but we just
24 obviously, we were like: Don't make a sound and keep
25 down.' Because that's all we needed to get to, was the

1 phone box. Because even though we had no money to
2 phone, we knew -- my mum had always told us: if you're
3 ever anywhere and you cannae -- reverse the charges,
4 phone the operator, dial the operator and ask them to
5 reverse the charge to our house number.

6 We never thought we would -- my mum probably never
7 thought we would need to use it, at that age or ever.

8 Anyway, so we knew that we could do that and we
9 would get through to my mum and dad. We knew it was
10 a Saturday so they wouldnae have been working on
11 a Saturday, they'd have been in the house, or they'd be
12 home anyway at some point.

13 So we then phoned -- we never phoned, what am
14 I saying -- we headed up towards the phone and, erm, we
15 got caught. The police caught us.

16 Q. So clearly you had been missed and the police had been
17 contacted?

18 A. Yes.

19 Q. And they intercepted you, effectively?

20 A. Yes. And members of staff fae Fornethy in a wee sort of
21 minibus that they had, so.

22 Q. So you were taken back to Fornethy?

23 A. Taken back to Fornethy.

24 Q. Did the police ask you what you were doing?

25 A. No. Never asked us. Never asked us, why did we run

1 away, never informed wir parents. On the morning of
2 that happening, my mum, for whatever reason, she was
3 kinda [saying to my dad]: 'I'm worried about the girls,
4 I don't know, there's something no right.'

5 She received the letter fae both of us, the same
6 letter, right, and it had obviously been thought oot,
7 teachers that couldnae teach couldnae even think, work
8 this out for themselves, the same letters going to my
9 mum, identical, right, and my mum knew: 'There's
10 something no right with that.'

11 So she would say to my dad, and my dad's like: 'See
12 if you're really that worried concerned, phone up, get
13 the number and phone up.' So my mum went: 'I'm gonnae
14 dae that'.

15 So my mum phones up Fornethy House and gets
16 Mrs Fletcher on the phone and whilst my mum is speaking
17 to Mrs Fletcher on the phone, we are running about
18 a forest. And my mum was never notified, my dad was
19 never -- they werenae told that we went missing or
20 anything, the police are out looking for us or anything.
21 My mum was told at the time that we were having a good
22 time, took us a couple of days to settle in but we're
23 settled in now and everything's good.

24 Q. How long had you been at Fornethy before you made this
25 attempt to --

1 A. This was probably about -- I think we were about a week
2 in, I think, roughly.

3 Q. Okay, so you're taken back to Fornethy?

4 A. Uh-huh.

5 Q. And you'd been out in the forest. Were you cold?

6 A. Freezing cold. We were obviously, we were frozen and
7 tire -- frozen, tired, and fearful, I would say. We
8 were petrified.

9 LADY SMITH: And it sounds like it was the [REDACTED] that you
10 were at Fornethy?

11 A. It was, uh-huh, it was [REDACTED] time, 'cos the schools
12 went back in [REDACTED] and it was obviously after that,
13 because I wisnae in the school photographs. I know that
14 the school photographs are taken about [REDACTED]-time,
15 [REDACTED]. So I think it was that -- it was that
16 time of year. It was [REDACTED].

17 LADY SMITH: Further north, outdoors in Perthshire, and
18 frightened.

19 A. Yeah, yeah. We were petrified. And the police never
20 asked us anything. We were told to go back into -- or
21 taken back in and then we were taken tae, from the --
22 erm, Mrs Fletcher's office.

23 MR MACAULAY: I'll take you to that in a moment. But there
24 was four of you --

25 A. Uh-huh.

1 Q. -- that set off on this task?

2 A. Mm-hmm, yes.

3 Q. You, I think, were taken to Mrs Fletcher's office. What
4 about the other three?

5 A. The four of us were taken in.

6 Q. I'm sorry?

7 A. The four of us were taken in and were warned, you know,
8 how dangerous it was. It was the hunting season. We
9 could have been shot. How do you think our parents
10 would feel if she had to contact our parents and say
11 that we had been shot because we'd ran away fae Fornethy
12 or went a walk when we shouldn't have been -- oh, when
13 you think back on it. But how would that be and, you
14 know, that would be terrible, terrible news for to give
15 your parents and she went into all that.

16 And then my sister, my young sister, my next-door
17 neighbour and the other wee girl, they were told to go
18 out of her office. But I did notice in her office was,
19 there was a fire on in her office and there was a carpet
20 in her office on the floor and it was quite kinda -- it
21 was warm, it was cosy. That I did notice, 'cos we were
22 freezing, we were absolutely frozen. And she then
23 grabbed a hold of me, started shouting and bawling at me
24 and -- you know.

25 Q. When that was happening, had the other three been taken

1 away?

2 A. Yeah, yeah, they'd been taken out.

3 Q. Had another person taken them away?

4 A. Mm-hmm, yes.

5 Q. Do you know who that was?

6 A. I don't know who it was, no.

7 Q. So you were left alone with Mrs Fletcher is, I think,

8 the picture you're painting for us. So what happened

9 when you were alone with her?

10 A. So she was shouting and bawling and saying I was the

11 oldest, I should have known better. If anything would

12 have happened to them, it would have been ma fault. How

13 would my mum and dad be if anything happened to my wee

14 sister and I, didn't -- and shouting and bawling,

15 shouting and bawling, shouting and bawling. And then

16 she got -- she turned to her side into a corner and came

17 out with this bamboo cane and started whacking me,

18 absolutely beating me with this stick.

19 Q. Where was she hitting you?

20 A. The legs, the back, I was trying to turn to keep my face

21 away fae her and I kept turning back and she just

22 kept -- but I had no chance against this big -- I was

23 a wee tiny thing, you know what I mean, I was so petite.

24 And she was just like beat, beating into me with

25 a stick. That's the only -- there was no any kinda --

1 it wisnae a reprimand, it wisnae a slap on the knuckles.
2 Bearing in mind when we were at school at that time, the
3 belt was still being used, right. Now, I went through
4 my whole schooling and I never once received the belt.
5 I didnae need it. I knew how to behave. So --

6 And I never really -- I came across teachers that
7 sometimes were a wee bit belt-happy, but I never
8 received the belt and my mum and dad didnae use a belt
9 on me. I didnae need -- a look from my mother was
10 enough. You just don't -- I sometimes wondered what
11 that look -- what it meant, what was going to come after
12 that, but we never tried her that much to get to see
13 what was coming next. We'd just go: 'Okay, we got the
14 message, mum'.

15 Q. But this beating that you got from Mrs Fletcher, are you
16 able to give an idea as to how many times you were hit
17 with the cane?

18 A. Oh, it seemed to me like -- it seemed to me there was
19 like dozens of times, but I would say maybe about
20 a dozen times. But it seemed to -- she could have
21 been -- I don't know. I really don't know, 'cos I think
22 I was like -- I just didnae want -- I don't know.

23 Q. Were you crying?

24 A. Yeah, I was crying, probably screaming. She was telling
25 me to shut up. If I don't shut up, she's going to hit

1 me more. I don't know. I don't know.

2 Q. And when it came to an end, what happened? Did you just
3 leave the room or?

4 A. Just get back to your bed: 'Go to your bedroom, go to
5 your bed. You'll get nae dinner and you're staying in
6 the night and that's it'.

7 That was me.

8 Q. Were you injured?

9 A. I was, aye. Yeah, I was marked. Erm, I was, had red
10 marks and stripes all on my back, backs of my legs, ma
11 ankles, ma arms, and obviously over the next couple of
12 days that was bruises then, they turned into. I looked
13 as if I'd been kicked up and down a room.

14 Q. Did you try to run away again?

15 A. Nah, nah. Nope.

16 Q. Generally in relation to what you've been telling us,
17 about like, for example, force-feeding and so on, was
18 that the position really from day one when you were
19 there?

20 A. Yeah, yeah, yes. Every time that I -- it seemed to be
21 after that, it was a case of every time I turned round,
22 it was Mrs Fletcher seemed to be there at ma side.
23 I just couldnae get a -- you know what I mean? When
24 I was in having something to eat, all of a sudden she
25 was in the dining room. She was in the classroom. She

1 was in the room at night. It was just like -- I don't
2 know, it was if she was kinda -- kinda warning me
3 without saying anything to me. It was just horrible.

4 Q. I think what you say is that whenever she would see you,
5 she would do something to you?

6 A. Yeah.

7 Q. What sort of things?

8 A. Grab a hold of my shoulder and dig her nails right into
9 my shoulder as hard as she possibly could. And as
10 I said, without repeating myself really, but I was quite
11 a tiny wee thing, so I mean, it's a wonder she didnae
12 dislocate my shoulder.

13 Q. Would she say anything to you on these occasions?

14 A. 'I hope you're behaving yourself'. Just basically,
15 'I hoping you're behaving yourself and no more games',
16 or whatever it was, the terminology she was using, but
17 it was just like 'Behave yourself', you know what
18 I mean, and just a wee sorta -- pretty much she was
19 again, without saying it, you know: 'You're gonnae get
20 beaten with a --

21 Q. And would you --

22 A. -- stick'.

23 Q. -- relate this to the fact that you had run away?

24 A. Yeah, uh-huh.

25 Q. Was that what made you a target?

1 A. Yeah, uh-huh, and: 'You're going to stay here, you're no
2 going to go for any more walks', and things like that.
3 She would make wee jibes and, you know what I mean? It
4 was kinda, so that you knew, you knew that if you had
5 any ideas of doing it again, what was gonna -- what was
6 coming down the line. And you couldnae, you couldnae
7 move, I couldnae move, you know what I mean? It seemed
8 she was -- she was keeping an eye on me, put it that
9 way.

10 Q. And did she say anything to you about how long you might
11 be spending at Fornethy?

12 A. Yes.

13 Q. What did she say about that?

14 A. If I didn't behave I would not -- I thought I was going
15 to be there for six weeks, but she could keep me there
16 for as long as she liked. And that --

17 Q. Did that worry you?

18 A. -- that worried me, yeah, so I shut my mouth and said
19 nothing else for the whole time I was there. I just got
20 on with it. And then that was it basically. And
21 somebody was getting force-fed, just looked the other
22 way. 'Cos I thought: I want home. I just want home.
23 And I believed her. I actually believed this woman,
24 what she was saying to me, that she was going to do
25 this, so.

1 Q. You have been telling us about Miss Fletcher and how
2 much she featured in your time there. I think you told
3 us earlier about Miss Robertson?

4 A. Mm-hmm, mm-hmm.

5 Q. As you spent time there, did you have much more to do
6 with Miss Robertson?

7 A. She was there at night -- she was there at -- she was
8 there at night -- she was there -- I don't think they
9 ever went home. There was another incident -- but she
10 was -- she was there at nighttime, she was there in
11 breakfast time and bath, shower time, she was there. So
12 she was -- she was always there, so.

13 Q. Was there anybody that you could tell at Fornethy --

14 A. No.

15 Q. -- about what was happening to you?

16 A. No. There was one woman who we thought, she was quite
17 young, I would say, compared to -- well, what we
18 perceived to be young. She was young. And she took
19 us -- she was like a domestic assistant or something.
20 I don't know what her job was, but she had me and my
21 sister and I think -- I know there was me and my sister,
22 but I don't know if there was anybody else there. And
23 she had blonde hair and her hair was up in a ponytail.
24 And she had a room, she had a like staffroom or
25 a bedroom. And in the room she had, erm -- there was

1 a bed and there was -- I don't know what else was in the
2 room, but she had vodka in a bottle, a bottle of vodka.
3 And my mum and dad didnae drink alcohol, so we'd
4 never -- I'd never seen a big, huge -- to me it was
5 huge, this big bottle of spirits. And she was drinking
6 that and she says she was going out that night. She was
7 going to her friend's or something.

8 I don't know why we were in this woman's room. I
9 don't have no idea. Not got a clue why we were there,
10 when we left there, no idea.

11 Q. But were you tempted to tell her?

12 A. But we -- uh-huh, but we kinda, kinda thought, will we
13 tell her what's going on, or will we say to her?

14 Q. Would she know anyway what was going on?

15 A. I think so. I think that was what made me think: no,
16 I'm saying nothing, because I think it was like -- it
17 was as if -- whether it was just the fact that this
18 was -- I was in shock probably as a child. And I think
19 being -- I was thinking, is this a trap, so that we'll
20 say something or we'll tell her, thinking it's okay to
21 tell her, and then she'll go and tell Mrs Fletcher and
22 I'm going to get beaten up again, or what's going to
23 happen to me, I'm not going to get out of this place.

24 Q. So you didn't say anything to her?

25 A. So I said nothing.

1 Q. Did you leave Fornethy after the six weeks?
2 A. Mm-hmm, yes.
3 Q. Do you actually remember leaving the place?
4 A. I think -- I can remember coming off the bus.
5 Q. Coming off the bus?
6 A. Coming off the bus at Woodland Road, aye, yeah.
7 Q. In Glasgow?
8 A. In Glasgow. I cannae really remember getting on the
9 bus, I cannae remember the trip, I just remember coming
10 off the bus.
11 Q. Were you met by your parents?
12 A. Yes. I think it was actually my aunt and my mum who
13 were there, or my aunt and my -- I cannae remember.
14 I don't think it was my parents, like the two of them.
15 For some reason I've got a feeling my dad was at work,
16 I'm not sure. I cannae really remember, I'm not --
17 I cannae really --
18 Q. Did you tell your parents when you got back --
19 A. Yes.
20 Q. -- about what life was like at Fornethy?
21 A. Yes.
22 Q. And what was their reaction?
23 A. Erm, I don't know. I can only say that the, erm --
24 I was tired when I got back. I was really, really
25 exhausted and when -- but my mum and my dad, I think

1 they kind of thought maybe it was just too much with the
2 medication, the epilepsy and everything, maybe I just
3 exerted myself just too much and shouldnae have went,
4 maybe. I don't know. That's what they thought
5 initially.

6 And then when I started to tell my mum what
7 happened, I thought she'll do something about it, she'll
8 contact somebody, she'll tell my teachers, she'll tell
9 the school, she'll tell -- she'll tell somebody. And
10 I don't know what happened. I don't know what the
11 outcome was. I don't know. I'm assuming she did.

12 Q. Did you tell your mother, for example, about the
13 force-feeding?

14 A. Mm-hmm, yeah.

15 Q. Did you tell her about --

16 A. I told her about getting --

17 Q. -- the beating?

18 A. The first thing, me getting hit, because as I say, my
19 mum and dad didn't hit us, didnae physically hit us. So
20 that was the first thing that I told her. And then the
21 fact of the porridge and eating the porridge, well,
22 I think they probably -- if I didnae tell them the --
23 that would have been quite funny to a degree until they
24 realised about the force-feeding and the sickness and
25 all that. You know, me eating [REDACTED]'s porridge

1 because she couldn't eat porridge, that would have been.
2 But when I told her that, then -- when I told them that,
3 then that -- nothing happened about it. Nothing.

4 Q. You told your mother what had happened?

5 A. Uh-huh.

6 Q. And you think she may have passed that on, but you --

7 A. I think she did, but I have no way -- I've nae way of
8 checking that out or finding that out because sadly my
9 mum's passed away, so.

10 Q. You then go on, 'Lucy', to tell us a little bit about
11 life after being in care, beginning at paragraph 108.
12 And you went back to school in Glasgow and I think you
13 say it was good and things went back to normal?

14 A. Yeah.

15 Q. I think you do tell us that your parents did argue?

16 A. Yeah, yeah. They did have arguments. They were really
17 quite, erm, nasty. And we moved -- we moved home, moved
18 to, erm -- where did we move to? We moved to Milton in
19 Glasgow and we -- they split up.

20 Q. I think you tell us your parents split up?

21 A. Yeah, they split up.

22 Q. And you tell us also that you left school when you were
23 16?

24 A. Yes.

25 Q. You go on to tell us about some jobs that you did.

1 A. Yeah, yeah.

2 Q. And that you fell pregnant and you had your first
3 daughter, is that correct?

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

5 Q. I think you then had another daughter?

6 A. Yes, yes.

7 Q. And you went back to college?

8 A. Yeah, back to college, because obviously the -- when my
9 parents split up there was quite, it was quite
10 an acrimonious sorta split, you could say, and I was
11 quite -- ready for sitting exams. I had sat my prelims
12 and things like that, passed all they and ready to sit
13 my Standard grades, and they split up and everything
14 just went pfft. So instead of me getting my
15 qualifications that I should have got, I left school and
16 started working.

17 So, and by the time the kids were old enough, I was
18 able to get back out to work, but I knew obviously I had
19 to get some kind of IT literacy, that obviously was
20 relatively new. So -- and I worked fae there on in, you
21 know, continued working for --

22 Q. You also tell us, 'Lucy', about the impact having been
23 in Fornethy had on you.

24 A. Mm-hmm. Mm-hmm.

25 Q. And for example you tell us at 118 that you had this

1 fear when your daughters were young of anybody doing
2 anything to them?

3 A. Yeah.

4 Q. You also tell us at 120 that you have a mistrust of
5 certain things, is that right?

6 A. Mm-hmm, mm-hmm, that's true, yeah.

7 Q. And you'd prevent your children from going to places?

8 A. Yes, uh-huh.

9 Q. Were you being overprotective, do you think?

10 A. Yeah, very much so, yeah. Like, the school that my
11 girls went to, they all, they had like an outward bounds
12 sorta week, er, and that caused one almighty row between
13 me and my husband, because he didn't know anything about
14 Fornethy or anything like that. And I tried to sorta
15 explain to him why I didnae want them to go and
16 obviously they were at an age where their wee friends
17 were all going and I'm like: oh, no, I need to get real
18 with this. I didnae know how to cope wi' it.

19 So it caused rows and then eventually I kinda
20 thought, right, okay, my husband's right, let them go.
21 So I let my oldest girl, she went, and obviously when
22 she come back, it was like the Spanish Inquisition,
23 I would say, you know: 'Who was there? Where did you
24 go?', and da, da, da and all these questions. And then
25 I think by the time it got to my youngest daughter

1 going, 'cos the three of them went to the same
2 primary school, and when it got to my young -- I was
3 a bit more relaxed. I wouldnae say relaxed in any shape
4 or form, but I was a bit more relaxed. But everybody
5 thought: I wonder why she's being like that. You know
6 what I mean? Why -- it just seemed to be weird, you
7 know. People -- and I couldnae turn round and say to
8 people because -- well, I could have, but I didnae, so.

9 Q. You tell us in paragraph 126 that you attended
10 a [REDACTED] for Fornethy survivors and you spoke to
11 somebody who had also been at Fornethy?

12 A. Mm-hmm. Yeah.

13 Q. Did you become a member of the Fornethy [REDACTED] Group?

14 A. I did. I went to a few sorta meetings and things like
15 that and we kinda -- we had that meeting and then
16 I think there was a few sorta, erm -- there was
17 a committee through in Edinburgh, in Holyrood, to hear
18 wir case -- what do you call it?

19 Q. Okay.

20 A. So I did that, but there wisnae -- I didnae keep it up,
21 I didnae keep, you know what I mean, I didnae really
22 sorta -- that was the sorta strength of it, really.

23 Q. Okay.

24 A. There's a few -- a few -- me and a couple of the girls
25 that's actually here, we still keep in touch, but

1 I wouldnae say I was all that sorta active.

2 Q. You tell us, 'Lucy', you have never tried to get any
3 records from Fornethy?

4 A. No -- well, no, I didnae -- I havenae tried because, as
5 far as I'm aware, there isnae any.

6 Q. You have been told that?

7 A. Yeah, I've been told that.

8 Q. No records?

9 A. Yeah, no records.

10 Q. Can I just then just look at that section of your
11 statement where you talk about Lessons to be Learned'?

12 A. Yeah.

13 Q. At paragraph 136.

14 A. Yes.

15 Q. And what you say there is:

16 'The lesson to be learned from my experience at
17 Fornethy is to listen to children, don't ignore them.
18 There's always one child who will speak up.'

19 A. Yeah.

20 Q. You see that as important?

21 A. Yeah, I do. I do, because I think if, for an example,
22 when I was -- when they police came that day, if they
23 would have taken me aside and said, 'Why did you leave?
24 Why did you run away?', I could have told them why I ran
25 away, why me and my sister ran away and the other wee

1 girl. So I could have told them that. And at that
2 point in time there should have been something -- it
3 would have been looked into, hopefully it would've been
4 looked into. And there's other kids who came after me
5 who that wouldnae have happened to. They wouldnae have
6 been subjected to that abuse and behaviour.

7 So, yeah. Listen. Speak and ask kids questions and
8 no just think: right, okay, that's them finished, that's
9 that, everything was okay and just ...

10 Revisit it again, even if you don't get an answer
11 the first time.

12 I come home and I told my mother and I don't
13 understand why nothing happened. I don't understand.
14 It's a mystery, because my mother wasn't somebody who
15 was -- she was no shrunken violet, she was no -- she was
16 very, you know, erm, forthright with her views and
17 things and she wouldnae be slow to complain, or
18 especially something like that. But it broke the
19 relationship with me and my mother because there was
20 other things that I should have told her, and I didn't.
21 So.

22 Q. You go on to tell us about your 'Hopes for the Inquiry',
23 'Lucy', at 138 and I'll just read that out:

24 'My hope for the Inquiry is that nothing like this
25 happens again in any place that is responsible for kids.

1 Such places should be properly investigated and
2 inspected. There should be unannounced inspections, not
3 telling them in advance what day the inspections are
4 coming. Pop in and see how things operate and talk to
5 kids.'

6 A. Mm-hmm.

7 Q. And I take it there was no sense of any -- anyone coming
8 to Fornethy to see how the children were getting on?

9 A. No, never seen it. The only people we seen there
10 was the staff who were there and their faces, obviously
11 through time, there's only a couple of faces that really
12 sorta stand out. Well, there's three, maybe four, that
13 I would say that I could -- yeah, I know her face,
14 I know her face, I know her face, I know his face.
15 That's about it.

16 Q. Very well, 'Lucy', well, thank you very much indeed for
17 answering all my questions.

18 A. Thank you.

19 MR MACAULAY: Thank you for coming to the Inquiry.

20 And, my Lady, I can confirm that no questions have
21 been submitted to me to put to 'Lucy'.

22 LADY SMITH: Thank you.

23 'Lucy', let me add my thanks. As I said at the
24 beginning, it was going to be very helpful to have you
25 here and I was right about that. It's been really good

1 to hear from you in person about your experience at
2 Fornethy and add to what I've already got from you in
3 writing.

4 I hope you are now able to have a restful time for
5 the rest of today, because I'm sure everything you've
6 done to assist us will have taken a lot out of you.

7 A. Yes.

8 LADY SMITH: Take care, and safe home.

9 A. Thank you.

10 LADY SMITH: Thank you.

11 (The witness withdrew)

12 LADY SMITH: Now, before I stop for the morning break,
13 there's certainly a couple of names I noted of people
14 whose identities are protected by my General Restriction
15 Order and they mustn't be identified as referred to in
16 our evidence outside this room. And one was [REDACTED],
17 another child who was at Fornethy, and the other was
18 [REDACTED], the applicant 'Lucy's' sister.

19 Have I missed somebody? Oh, and at one point she
20 used her own name. This witness can only be referred to
21 as 'Lucy', which was her chosen pseudonym. Thank you.

22 We'll stop now for the morning break and the next
23 witness should be ready to give evidence at about
24 quarter to 12. Thank you.

25 (11.25 am)

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(A short break)

(11.50 am)

LADY SMITH: Mr MacAulay.

MR MACAULAY: My Lady, we have another applicant witness.

This witness wants to remain anonymous and to use the
pseudonym 'May'.

LADY SMITH: Thank you.

'May' (sworn)

LADY SMITH: 'May', thank you for coming along this morning
to help us with your evidence in person. I do,
of course, already have your written evidence. It's in
that red folder in front of you and it's been very
helpful to me to be able to read that in advance, but
it's also going to be helpful to hear from you in person
about a number of aspects that we'd like to explore with
you, if that's all right?

A. Yes.

LADY SMITH: A couple of things before we start, 'May'. The
timing. Your evidence, I think, won't take longer than
between here and 1 o'clock, between now and 1 o'clock,
but I do break then anyway for the lunch break, so you
get a breather then, but if you want a break at any
other time, you must let me know.

A. Okay, thank you.

LADY SMITH: My mission is to make this very difficult task

1 of giving evidence in public about yourself, your life,
2 and in particular your life when you were a young child
3 and had some experiences that weren't exactly positive,
4 isn't an easy task, I know that, and I know that people
5 can get upset, even if they think they're not going to.
6 So you guide me if there's anything that would help you
7 at any time.

8 If you're ready, I'll hand over to Mr MacAulay and
9 he'll take it from there.

10 A. Okay.

11 LADY SMITH: Mr MacAulay.

12 Questions from Mr MacAulay

13 MR MACAULAY: My Lady.

14 Good morning again, 'May'. As you know, I'm Colin,
15 and I'll be asking you some questions.

16 As Lady Smith has said, you have your statement in
17 front of you in the red folder. The first thing I would
18 like you to do for me is to turn to the last page of the
19 statement, and if you could do that, look at the last
20 page.

21 A. Yes.

22 Q. Have you got the last page in front of you?

23 A. Yes.

24 Q. Can you confirm that you have signed the statement?

25 A. Yes.

1 Q. And do you tell us in the final paragraph that:
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 your position?
7 A. Yes.
8 Q. Now, going to the beginning of the statement, can you
9 confirm the year of your birth for me? I don't want
10 your date of birth, because you are anonymous, 'May',
11 but can you confirm that you -- the date of -- the year
12 of your birth is 1971?
13 A. Yes, it was 1971.
14 Q. Thank you. I am now just going to give a reference for
15 the transcript for the statement. You can just ignore
16 this. And this is WIT-1-000000899.
17 Now, you begin by telling us, 'May', what life was
18 like before you went to Fornethy and I think in your
19 early years you spent a time in Newquay, is that right?
20 A. Yes.
21 Q. But there came a point in time when your parents
22 separated?
23 A. Yes.
24 Q. And I think your mother moved with you to Glasgow?
25 A. Yes.

1 Q. And at that time was it to stay with your grandmother?

2 A. Yeah.

3 Q. And I think thereafter you went to school in Glasgow, is

4 that right?

5 A. Yes.

6 Q. And in particular you tell us that you went to

7 Knightswood Primary School and you rather enjoyed that?

8 A. Yes, I loved school.

9 Q. Now, can you tell us then what happened -- I think you

10 tell us this was in [REDACTED] 1982 -- when staff at the

11 school gave you a letter for your mother?

12 A. Yes, it was a letter saying that there was -- they were

13 more or less advertising a holiday break in Fornethy

14 Residential School and I had begged my mum to go on this

15 holiday. It was for six weeks, it was meant to be a big

16 adventure up at Kilry, Angus, and my mum eventually let

17 me go.

18 Q. Was she not keen initially to let you go?

19 A. We didn't really go on holidays and we had contact with

20 my father, so we'd go down to Newquay for a six-week

21 contact with ma dad.

22 Q. And you've told us about the letter being given to you

23 at the school. Were other girls at the school also

24 given a similar letter?

25 A. I think so, yes.

1 Q. And then in preparation for that, were you required to
2 put together some clothing, or your mother at least put
3 together some clothing for you to take with you?
4 A. Well, my family had put together and got my clothing and
5 everything and prepared for it. As I was going to
6 Fornethy, it was just before my birthday, so it was all
7 my birthday stuff that I got.
8 Q. And you -- I think I put to you that this was at the
9 beginning of the [REDACTED] term at school in [REDACTED] 1982,
10 so that would place you going to Fornethy in the [REDACTED],
11 is that right?
12 A. It was [REDACTED] time I went, for the [REDACTED] break.
13 Q. Okay. And at that time, you would be, what, about 10?
14 A. I was 10.
15 Q. 10.
16 LADY SMITH: 10 and not far off being 11.
17 A. I was 10 when I went to Fornethy. I was there for my
18 birthday so I turned 11.
19 LADY SMITH: So were you in your last year at primary school
20 or in your second last year?
21 A. I was in Primary 7.
22 LADY SMITH: You were in Primary 7.
23 MR MACAULAY: And can you remember leaving Glasgow then,
24 'May', to go to Fornethy?
25 A. Yes, we had to go to Buchanan Street to get the bus and

1 my two sisters took me there to get the bus. And it was
2 really, really busy. It was a coach, it was a coach
3 that we got. And on the coach at the front of the coach
4 it was marked 'Fornethy'.
5 Q. And were there other girls on the coach?
6 A. Yes, there was a big, long queue.
7 Q. Any sense as to how many girls were on the coach on that
8 trip?
9 A. Not the bus. But the bus was full --
10 Q. Was it?
11 A. -- from the start to the back and there was two women
12 that were chaperoning the bus.
13 Q. And were these women that you saw later or they were
14 just simply on the bus for the trip?
15 A. They were on the bus going and they were on the bus
16 coming back.
17 Q. Okay. When you came back later on --
18 A. Pardon?
19 Q. When you say 'on the bus coming back', was that later on
20 after you'd been at Fornethy?
21 A. Uh-huh, they brought us back to Buchanan Street.
22 Q. Okay. How were you feeling at that time --
23 A. I didn't want to go. I changed my mind and I begged my
24 sister not to put me on the bus. I started crying.
25 I got a bad feeling. I said: 'Please don't let me go'.

1 And she told me to get on that bus, that my mum had paid
2 the £40, that I begged and begged to go.

3 Q. And what made you change -- was there any --

4 A. I seen the two -- I mean they didn't look very nice,
5 they were shouting and everything. I don't know, I just
6 got a bad feeling.

7 Q. It was a long trip to Fornethy?

8 A. It took about two to three hours to get there. It was
9 long.

10 Q. And did the bus stop on the way to pick others up?

11 A. Yeah, as it was going onto the motorway.

12 Q. Can you give me a feeling then as to what the age range
13 might have been of the girls on the bus? You were --

14 A. There were small girls so I'd gather it was 5 to 11. It
15 was all primary school girls.

16 Q. And when you arrived at Fornethy, I think we know it's
17 a large, imposing building, what was your sense of that?

18 A. What a beautiful, beautiful building. It was a big,
19 massive mansion. It was like a cream-coloured building
20 and I thought wow, that took the sense of being scared
21 way, 'cos it was beautiful.

22 Q. Now, were you met by anybody at Fornethy on that first
23 day when you arrived?

24 A. Mrs Robertson and Mrs Fletcher.

25 Q. Both of them?

1 A. Yes.

2 Q. And what then happened on that first day? What happened
3 to you?

4 A. When you walked through the doors and the doors shut,
5 that's when you knew, it just didn't feel right and you
6 started getting your name shouted out and that was you
7 getting taken to your dormitories and I was getting
8 taken to Isla, which was the second floor, and it was
9 right at the end of the dormitory. The dormitories,
10 you'd go up to the second floor and it was right at the
11 end of the landings, so my dormitory was right at the
12 end and there was about ten beds in the dormitory.

13 Q. I was about to ask you that. So far as the girls in the
14 dormitory then, apart from yourself, what sort of age
15 range are we talking about?

16 A. All different ages, from 11 to 5, I think.

17 Q. I think what you tell us in your statement is that in
18 the dormitory at that time, when you first arrived,
19 there was a young girl there who was already upset about
20 something?

21 A. [REDACTED].

22 Q. What was she upset about?

23 A. I don't know. I think she wanted her mum.

24 Q. When you say she was young, what age do you think she
25 was?

1 A. About 5/6. We asked her her name and she says her name
2 was [REDACTED], but she liked to be called [REDACTED].

3 Q. Had you spoken to her on the bus?

4 A. No, and the other girl that was on the bus, the one who
5 told me not to cry, because I was crying too, she said
6 that they would rip it out of us when got there, not to
7 cry.

8 Q. This was another girl who was on the bus?

9 A. Yes, her name was [REDACTED].

10 Q. Did you understand that she had been at Fornethy before?

11 A. Yes.

12 Q. So this -- this what you call 'a warning' was given to
13 you when you were on the bus?

14 A. Yes.

15 Q. But you were crying?

16 A. I just wanted my mum.

17 Q. Now, what then happened after you had been to the
18 dormitory?

19 A. We got taken to the baths. We had a pinny and we had to
20 stand in a queue and we were waiting for the baths in
21 our pants and vest and we were to take our pants and
22 vests off, and there was dust sheets on the ground and
23 there was workmen all about, and I'd covered up and
24 Robertson kept pulling my arms down and I kept pulling
25 them up and she kept pulling them down and I kept

1 pulling them up, and she just wouldn't give up, and she
2 just kept pulling them down and all these men were
3 about, so I kept pulling my arms up and we eventually
4 got into the bathroom.

5 Q. Now, you had been told to take your clothes off?

6 A. Uh-huh.

7 Q. Were there other girls there who were also naked?

8 A. Yes, we were lined two -- two -- twos, we were always
9 lined in twos in Fornethy.

10 Q. And how many girls were in these lines?

11 A. I don't know. I think it was with your dormitory. You
12 always went with your dormitory.

13 Q. And you mentioned men, why were men there?

14 A. They were painting the walls. It was workmen.

15 Q. What was your feeling at that time? Were you trying to
16 cover yourself up?

17 A. I just didn't want them to look at my body. I was 11
18 nearly and I was developing and all I could think was
19 they were staring at my body and it was degrading.

20 LADY SMITH: 'May', had you ever had to be naked in front of
21 anybody other than members of your family before that?

22 A. My sisters, but --

23 LADY SMITH: That's members of your family.

24 A. -- not men. We never had men in the family. Sorry.

25 LADY SMITH: And other girls who were strangers.

1 A. No, not really, no, never, ever.

2 MR MACAULAY: You have mentioned two names, Miss Fletcher
3 and Miss Robertson; do you know what roles they had in
4 Fornethy?

5 A. Mrs Fletcher was the headteacher and Mrs Robertson was
6 a teacher, but when I was at court, I learned that she
7 was actually the deputy headteacher.

8 Q. And then, I think you told us, that you were being lined
9 up in this way to go for a bath, is that right?

10 A. Yeah.

11 Q. And did you go into the bath?

12 A. Yeah.

13 Q. Can you just tell me what happened?

14 A. Well, there was two women next to two baths, so you went
15 in the baths two-by-two. Everything was two-by-two for
16 some reason. And the baths would be about that much
17 water in it. (Indicated).

18 Q. So is that maybe six to eight inches?

19 A. Mm-hmm. It was grey, so it hadn't been changed, so
20 they'd fill it a wee bit to put some warmth in it and
21 they had carbolic soap and scrubbing brush. They'd be
22 kneeling down at the bath and they'd scrub you and it
23 still was degrading because you're sitting covering your
24 body like that (indicating), because these people are
25 strangers to you. You don't know them from Adam, so

1 you'd rather they didn't look at your body. And then
2 you got out the bath and they towel dried you and
3 everything and then they would give you the nit
4 treatment and that, check your hair and everything.
5 Q. I'll come to that.
6 A. Sorry, I'm going fast forward.
7 Q. No, that's fine, you're just anticipating what I'm going
8 to ask you. But in relation to the scrubbing, can you
9 just describe that for me, the brushes, what were they
10 like?
11 A. They were hard bristles and the wooden handle.
12 Q. And was it painful?
13 A. Oh, yes. It took the skin off your back.
14 Q. And was this not just you, but the other girls --
15 A. Uh-huh.
16 Q. -- that were there?
17 A. It would bring tears to your eyes. You were always
18 crying. You weren't a happy child when you were in that
19 establishment.
20 Q. Then you mentioned that you were treated for lice or
21 nits?
22 A. Mm-hmm.
23 Q. Can you describe that to me, what happened?
24 A. Well, I had curly hair, so when they were doing it, it
25 was tugging your hair and it would be really sore and it

1 could cut your head.

2 Q. And did you say anything to --

3 A. They wouldn't listen to you anyway.

4 Q. Were you crying?

5 A. Pardon?

6 Q. Were you crying at this point?

7 A. Uh-huh, I was in tears. They didn't like you crying.

8 You would get punished for crying.

9 LADY SMITH: 'May', just going back for a moment to the

10 brush, you said the brush that they scrubbed you with

11 had a handle, a wooden handle, now was that the wooden

12 handle that on the back of the bristles --

13 A. Uh-huh, it was just shaped like an eight shape --

14 LADY SMITH: So the wooden handles on the back of the

15 bristles it didn't stick out beyond the bristles, did

16 it?

17 A. No.

18 LADY SMITH: I know exactly what sort of brush you mean.

19 A. It was if you were holding it and it's like shaped in an

20 eight, if that makes any sense.

21 LADY SMITH: Absolutely, thank you.

22 MR MACAULAY: You say it's shaped like an eight, number

23 eight, so you can grip it?

24 A. Uh-huh.

25 LADY SMITH: A scrubbing brush of the sort that people used

1 to use to scrub the stone steps?

2 A. Like on the stairs and that.

3 LADY SMITH: Mm-hmm.

4 MR MACAULAY: Now, when you went to bed, were you given any

5 instructions as to how you should sleep?

6 A. On the right-hand side.

7 Q. And who gave that instruction?

8 A. Mainly Mrs Robertson.

9 Q. And if you didn't sleep on your right-hand side, would

10 anything happen?

11 A. She'd scream and shout at you. I don't know why you had

12 to do it, you just had to do it.

13 Q. Did she give an explanation as to why that was the way

14 you had to sleep?

15 A. Not really got a clue.

16 Q. Can I now also look at mealtimes. Let's look at

17 breakfast. What was the food like?

18 A. Disgusting, sorry.

19 Q. And would there be staff present when you were having

20 your breakfast and your meals?

21 A. Mm-hmm.

22 Q. Who would be present?

23 A. Erm, well, the girls in your dormitory when you sat at

24 the table. All the girls would be present from your

25 dormitory and the teachers would be there too.

1 Mrs Robertson and Mrs Fletcher.

2 Q. And did you have to eat all your food?

3 A. Oh, yes.

4 Q. What would happen if you didn't?

5 A. Mrs Robertson would force it right down your throat.

6 Q. Did that happen to you?

7 A. Yes.

8 Q. Can you explain what happened then?

9 A. She would, er, force you to eat it yourself by saying:

10 'Eat it, eat it'. My first experience was when we came

11 for lunch, the first day we were there, they were

12 running round, screaming in girls' faces: 'Eat it, eat

13 it'.

14 Then another experience I had it was pea soup and I

15 gagged it back up and I vomited it up and Mrs Robertson

16 scooped it, put it in my mouth, it came back up out my

17 mouth and out ma nose. She scooped it back up, put it

18 back in my mouth and held my mouth shut until I

19 swallowed it. So every time that I rifted, that's all

20 I could taste was that pea and ham soup and that was

21 like constant she would force-feed us.

22 Q. And did that happen on more than one occasion to you?

23 A. Yes.

24 Q. And what about other girls, did you see if that happened

25 to them?

1 A. Yes.

2 Q. And were girls upset by this --

3 A. Yes.

4 Q. -- treatment. Were you crying?

5 You are nodding your head.

6 A. Yes, I'm sorry.

7 Q. It's okay. And did this persist throughout your time at

8 Fornethy?

9 A. Yes.

10 Q. And again, who would be involved in this process from

11 the staff?

12 A. Mrs Fletcher and Mrs Robertson. It's the only two I can

13 remember. It was the fish as well she done it with and

14 I can't eat fish to this day.

15 Q. Now, you also tell us about the walks that you had to

16 do?

17 A. Mm-hmm.

18 Q. Can you just explain what that involved?

19 A. Well, it involved us getting ready for a walk.

20 Mrs Robertson would take us for a walk and it would

21 involve us putting wellies on that didn't fit us

22 properly and that would catch our legs. We'd wear

23 cagoules as well and we'd go to the wishing -- the

24 wishing stones and we'd walk for miles and miles and

25 we'd be absolutely exhausted in all sorts of weathers

1 and, no, it was just awful.

2 Q. And so far as the wellies were concerned, did they cause

3 some damage to your legs?

4 A. Yeah, the back of my legs have got marks on the back of

5 them.

6 Q. Were you given any creams to help?

7 A. No.

8 Q. How often were you taken on these walks?

9 A. Morning, noon and night, as much as they could take us.

10 Q. So that was a regular thing?

11 A. Yeah.

12 Q. Now, you also tell us about the tuck shop. Was there

13 a tuck shop at the school?

14 A. Yeah.

15 Q. Can you help me with that? Were you able to get

16 sweeties?

17 A. No. My mum used to send me a postal order up every week

18 and Mrs Fletcher used to do the tuck shop. It was like

19 a wee cupboard and it had shelves in it and she would

20 sit with her table and she'd have a book and the wee

21 book -- the box next to it, like petty cash box, and

22 I used to go up in the hope that my mum had sent my tuck

23 up and she would tell me that my mum never sent me tuck

24 because my mum never looked me. Mrs Fletcher loved me,

25 so there's a toffee and she would tell me every week the

1 same story, my mum never sent me my tuck money, because
2 my mum didn't love me.

3 Q. But did you know your mother had sent the money?

4 A. Yeah.

5 Q. Do you know what happened to the money?

6 A. They probably spent it or kept it, but they chose not to
7 give me it.

8 Q. When she said this to you, that your mother never loved
9 you and how did you respond to that?

10 A. I just felt hurt and walked away. And I cried and
11 I just wanted my mum.

12 Q. Did you believe it?

13 A. Yes, because I couldn't speak to my mum. I couldn't
14 talk to my mum about that. So after a certain amount of
15 time of them telling us, that my mum didn't love me,
16 I believed it.

17 Q. And was that throughout your time at Fornethy, that that
18 happened?

19 A. Yeah.

20 Q. Can I look at schooling. Was there schooling when you
21 were there?

22 A. Yes. It was not much schooling. It was very little and
23 I did SRA.

24 Q. Who taught you, can you remember?

25 A. It was Mrs Robertson.

1 Q. She was your teacher?

2 A. Yes.

3 Q. And can you give me some idea as to what --

4 A. SRA is like -- it's a box and you get books and you read
5 the books and it's got wee cards and it's colour coded,
6 so the higher you go in the colours, the better you're
7 getting so it's like brown, and then it goes up to
8 silver and gold. So when you get to silver and gold, it
9 means that you're quite clever and you're doing really
10 well.

11 And, er, I'd got up to gold and Mrs Robertson put me
12 back down to the brown level, which is the lowest. So
13 it makes you feel quite inadequate.

14 Q. Do you know why she did that?

15 A. Just -- she's just bitter, wasn't she? She's just
16 nasty. It's the way I look at it now.

17 Q. Were you given the opportunity to write home?

18 A. Yes.

19 Q. Can you help me with that? How was that managed?

20 A. Erm, well, we wrote letters and they wrote it on the
21 blackboard what we were to write. I'm visually
22 impaired, so if the blackboard was dusty, I couldn't see
23 the writing properly. So if I just wrote in the letter
24 what I wanted to write, I got the ruler on ma hands and
25 I'd wrote I wasn't having a great time and she hit me

1 with the ruler. But you had to copy everything off the
2 blackboard and it was more or less to say that you were
3 having such a lovely time, which wasn't true. And a lot
4 of the other girls had to do that as well.

5 Q. Was that in the classroom?

6 A. Yes.

7 Q. Did you have to make your own beds?

8 A. Yes.

9 Q. And can you just help me with that. How was that
10 organised?

11 A. Erm, well, it was like a light bedsheet and it had to be
12 done to perfection.

13 Q. And if it wasn't?

14 A. Mrs Robertson would go mad. You'd have to start again
15 and start again and start again till it was done
16 properly.

17 Q. Would the sheets be taken off the bed?

18 A. Aye, she'd rip them off the bed until you'd done them
19 and done them.

20 Q. Did you run away?

21 A. I thought about it but was warned. There'd be --
22 there'd be repercussions to you running away and when
23 I did think about running away, I thought about how to
24 get to Stirling and then I could phone my gran. My mum
25 didn't have a phone at the time. And when I did, they

1 came to tell me to get my stuff together, that we were
2 going home so by then it was too late.

3 Q. So you had done your time there, so to speak?

4 A. Yeah, the six weeks was over.

5 Q. In the dormitory, could you talk to other girls?

6 A. No, you weren't allowed to talk to each other.

7 Q. I mean, what about in the rest of the building, could
8 you talk?

9 A. No. You were told to keep quiet all the time and if you
10 were caught, there was repercussions.

11 Q. What were these?

12 A. Well, there was one time me and another girl got caught
13 whispering and Mrs -- Mrs Robertson asked the girl to go
14 and talk to her and we were in the TV room and in the TV
15 room there's two dividing doors and she took the girl
16 away and she must have got her head and hit her face
17 into the doorhandle and when the girl came back, she had
18 a ring round her eye and she was sniffing, and I asked
19 her what happened and she told me to be quiet or I'd get
20 it. The next time it would be me.

21 Q. If someone wet the bed, would something happen to that
22 person?

23 A. Yeah.

24 Q. What would happen?

25 A. Oh, Robertson would take it out of them. It wasn't

1 allowed to happen. Erm, it just didn't happen. You'd
2 get ridiculed for it. She'd call you disgusting, and
3 how could a mother love a child that wet their bed.
4 Nobody could be loved in that place, because they'd make
5 you feel unloved.

6 Q. Did you have issues with bed-wetting?

7 A. No.

8 Q. Did you have problems with bed-wetting?

9 A. I'd went to the toilet one night and I got caught.
10 I tried to avoid wetting the bed. Probably did wet the
11 bed but I just -- some of the memories come back and go.

12 Q. But had you been wetting your bed before you went to
13 Fornethy?

14 A. No.

15 Q. And I think you tell us about an occasion, this is
16 paragraph 38, that you went to the toilet and you got
17 shouted at by Miss Robertson?

18 A. Yes.

19 Q. Do you remember that incident?

20 A. Yes.

21 Q. What happened?

22 A. It was after the lights went out and I looked out and
23 I thought she wasn't there and I'd went to the toilet,
24 got out the toilet and looked out, no sign of
25 Mrs Robertson. I got to the dormitory door, just got

1 into the dormitory, ready to run into my bed, and she
2 caught me and she shouted my name.

3 And then she took me, erm, she frogmarched me down
4 to the library, and the library was down at the first
5 floor. So she practically had me by the shoulder and
6 she was dragging me downstairs, so I was tiptoeing, 'cos
7 she was quite tall. She put me into the library, made
8 me stand in front of the fireplace, told me the two
9 Coatses sisters were behind the fireplace and made me
10 stand there most of the night till the dawn came in.

11 Q. Were you frightened?

12 A. I was absolutely petrified and all I done was stand
13 there and cry.

14 Q. What were you wearing?

15 A. My pants and vest, but she told me to take them off.

16 Q. So were you naked when you were standing there?

17 A. Yes.

18 Q. Were you cold?

19 A. Yes. I was cold, scared and I just wanted my mum.

20 Q. Do you know if this happened to any other girls?

21 A. Yes.

22 Q. I mean, did it happen to you just the once or more than
23 once?

24 A. It probably happened a few times, 'cos they done it as
25 part of their punishment.

1 Q. And how did this come to an end? Did she come back at
2 some point to take you back to bed?

3 A. She would come, she'd come just as the dark was passing,
4 as it was going into daylight, and then she'd send you
5 to bed. And the time she done it to me, she'd put me to
6 my bed and there was a spare bed in that dormitory,
7 I don't think a girl had come, and she pulled back the
8 sheet and somebody had been in the bed and wet it. So
9 she was like going mad, 'cos she was trying to figure
10 out who the girl was that wet the bed, because she knew
11 it couldn't be me because she put me in the library for
12 catching me going to the toilet.

13 So then we got punishment, the whole dormitory got
14 punishment, and she'd make you go and sit in the TV room
15 with your legs crossed and your head down like that.
16 (Indicating).

17 Q. And you're bending your head down?

18 A. Mm-hmm. And after everybody had left the TV room and
19 seen you sitting like that, 'cos it was all the
20 dormitories that would go into the TV room at one point,
21 they'd left and you were made to sit in your seats in
22 the TV room, 'cos they were all lined up, with all the
23 dormitories. She asked: which disgusting girl pissed
24 the bed last night? That was her words. And nobody
25 answered and we just sat there and said nothing.

1 Q. And what happened?

2 A. Then that was it.

3 Q. Did you have to stay there?

4 A. We were waiting for something to happen.

5 Q. And what did happen?

6 A. Nothing. We were waiting for it to happen, but she did
7 nothing, which was a surprise.

8 Q. And how long were you there for?

9 A. I don't know. I can't remember.

10 Q. Would this be at a period when you're supposed to be in
11 your beds?

12 A. Mm-hmm.

13 Q. I think you're nodding your head again?

14 A. Yes, sorry.

15 Q. No, it's okay, just so we can get it in the transcript.

16 A. Yeah.

17 Q. Did this come to an end by you going to bed at some
18 point?

19 A. Sometimes. It just depended on her mood. Everything
20 depended on Mrs Robertson and Fletcher's mood. If they
21 were in a good mood, it wasn't too bad, but see, if they
22 were in a bad mood, that's when you would feel their
23 mood, which was more or less all the time.

24 Q. I think you're saying, were they in bad moods more often
25 than not?

1 A. Yes, they were always in a bad mood, so. I think they
2 liked the control, having control over children, which
3 is quite sad, because they're adults.

4 Q. You tell us, 'May', about an incident, this is at
5 paragraph 40, that happened, I think it was one night
6 after your birthday.

7 A. Mm-hmm.

8 Q. You were getting ready for bed and you were in the
9 bathroom and some of the girls were splashing the water?

10 A. Yeah.

11 Q. Can you tell me about that incident?

12 A. They were splashing the water. We were -- as usual,
13 we'd get ready for bed, we'd brush our teeth, wash our
14 hands in the sink basin. They were messing about. And
15 the next thing, I felt a pain in my head and I went
16 down. And I could smell Mrs Robertson. You can smell
17 her. She had a bad odour. And I had a pain at the back
18 of my head. Mrs Robertson had a tendency to hit you
19 with her Scholl shoes.

20 Q. I'll come back to that, but this incident that you're
21 telling us about, when you were -- or when girls were
22 splashing around?

23 A. Uh-huh.

24 Q. And your head hit something?

25 A. Uh-huh, the floor.

1 Q. And I think you were knocked out?

2 A. Yes.

3 Q. So how did you end up on the floor?

4 A. I don't know. I think I got hit. I don't think

5 I slipped. I think I was hit.

6 Q. Was that Miss Robertson?

7 A. Yes.

8 Q. But you were going to talk about Scholl shoes?

9 A. Aye. It was a wooden implement that hit the back of my

10 head, and she wore Scholl shoes.

11 Q. These were slip on-type shoes?

12 A. Yeah.

13 Q. Quite sturdy shoes?

14 A. Yeah, you could hear them, the noise of them.

15 Q. And just looking at the Scholl shoes, did Miss Robertson

16 on other occasions do something with these shoes that

17 she wore?

18 A. Aye, she used them as a weapon all the time. She'd --

19 I'd put my hand on the banister one time and she threw

20 it, so I took my hand off the banister because you

21 weren't allowed to touch the banisters. But the

22 banisters are there for you to hold on to when you go

23 down the stairs, so why would you do that? That doesn't

24 make sense. It was just -- all she done was to cause

25 harm to people.

1 LADY SMITH: Were these the shoes with solid wooden soles?
2 A. Yes.
3 LADY SMITH: You could get them in sandals or in a clog?
4 A. It's like a -- it's like wooden and it's got the blue
5 strap over it.
6 LADY SMITH: Yeah, and they would flip a bit as you walked.
7 A. Yeah.
8 LADY SMITH: I think they were quite popular at that time.
9 A. Yes.
10 MR MACAULAY: Did she throw shoes or a shoe at you or others
11 that you witnessed?
12 A. Yes, when she lost her temper. She would just throw
13 anything, anything she had in her hand, rulers, dusters,
14 anything. She had a really bad temper that she couldn't
15 control.
16 Q. In relation to the incident you told us about when you
17 ended up on the floor, this is at paragraph 41, you say
18 that you were told that they had tried to contact your
19 mother?
20 A. Yeah.
21 Q. Who told you that?
22 A. Mrs Fletcher came to see me, and that's when she told me
23 she tried to contact my mum on the landline. And yet,
24 again, my mum never had a landline in the 1980s, it was
25 my grandmother that had the landline. She couldn't have

1 contacted my mother on her landline because my mum
2 didn't have one, so that's a lie.

3 Q. And what did Mrs Fletcher say to you then about this?

4 A. She said that she told my mum that I was homesick, that
5 I should be going home, and my mum said she didn't want
6 me back home. That she didn't love me.

7 Q. That's what Mrs Fletcher told you?

8 A. Mm-hmm.

9 Q. So she clearly, through your grandmother's phone, had
10 spoken to your mother -- if that's to be believed?

11 A. Mm-hmm.

12 Q. And this was the message you were being given by
13 Mrs Fletcher?

14 A. Yep, yes.

15 Q. Did you tell anybody, when you were at Fornethy, about
16 the way that you were being treated?

17 A. No.

18 Q. Was there anybody you could tell?

19 A. No. Nobody would believe you and they were all, they
20 were all in it together.

21 Q. Now, there came a point then, 'May', when you came to
22 leave Fornethy. A few days before you came to leave,
23 did attitudes change a little bit?

24 A. Yeah, they couldn't be any nicer. They just didn't --
25 they were really nice. We were to go to the tuck shop

1 and we were to pick something to take home, and
2 I'd picked a Dusty Bin and a packet of Maltesers for my
3 mum and my family, but I ate the Maltesers on the way
4 home 'cos I was hungry.

5 Q. And who became more friendly to you, what members of
6 staff are you talking about?

7 A. Well, Mrs Robertson and Mrs Fletcher were nicer. But
8 I was in my bed still with a head injury, so they kept
9 me excluded from other people as well, and that's when
10 I got the thoughts of wanting to run away, and that's
11 when they told me to get my stuff together and it was
12 time to go home.

13 Q. And the head injury, was that what you'd suffered when
14 you had been involved in the splashing incident?

15 A. Yeah, uh-huh, because I was in my bed for days.

16 Q. I see.

17 A. And that's when Mrs Fletcher came to visit me.

18 Q. And that's when she told you about the phone call, was
19 it?

20 A. Yes.

21 Q. And did you get any medical treatment because of this?

22 A. No. I think if they'd got medical treatment, then it
23 would have been looked into, wouldn't it of.

24 Q. So was it the same group of girls that left?

25 A. Yes.

1 Q. With you?

2 A. Yes.

3 Q. On the bus?

4 A. On the bus, yes.

5 Q. And when you got back to Glasgow and you spoke to your
6 mother, did you tell her what life had been like at
7 Fornethy?

8 A. I told her so much. They asked me what the holiday was
9 like and I told her what happened, that we got battered
10 and that, and my mum burst out laughing. She couldn't
11 believe it.

12 Q. Well, did she believe it, though? Did she --

13 A. She didn't believe it. She thought it was a joke. And
14 then I told my sisters and my sisters just didn't
15 believe me. My sisters and me didn't have a good
16 relationship.

17 Q. They were much older than you, I think?

18 A. Yes.

19 Q. Now then, looking at your life after care, being in care
20 at Fornethy, 'May', I think you say that you didn't
21 finish your education because you were playing truant
22 a lot; is that right? Had you been playing truant
23 before you went to Fornethy?

24 A. No.

25 Q. Why were you playing truant? Why weren't you going

1 school?

2 A. It wasn't so much in primary school. In primary school
3 I'd went -- when I came back from Fornethy, in
4 primary school, I'd went back to school. It was when
5 I got to high school. And when the teachers shouted
6 and -- it felt similar to Fornethy and I got scared and
7 I didn't want to go. And then I started getting bullied
8 in school and I felt I didn't feel safe in school. And
9 then I started playing truant, and I played truant all
10 the way through my high school education.

11 Q. And clearly that would have an impact on your education?

12 A. Yes, it did. And it also had an impact on my safety
13 where I wasn't keeping myself safe. And it did --
14 I ended up at Mackenzie House in Glasgow at
15 a Children's Panel. And I feel that way that the state
16 had let me down that way as well, where they didn't
17 realise I wasn't going to school, because I was going in
18 for registration in the morning and going in, but they
19 knew that I was playing truant and nothing was done.

20 Q. You go on to tell us, 'May', about aspects of your life
21 after care, that you had a number -- certain
22 relationships and children; is that right?

23 A. Yeah.

24 Q. And I think you now have a partner that you've had for
25 some time and that's a -- sorry?

1 A. I'm married now, I'm married.

2 Q. You're married now. Okay. Well, in any event, you're
3 together now?

4 A. Yes.

5 Q. And you then go on to tell us, 'May', about your
6 involvement with survivor groups and you go into that in
7 a little detail. I don't plan to go through that with
8 you, but in fact at some point you actually [REDACTED]
9 [REDACTED] group?

10 A. Yes, [REDACTED] a small group myself now of survivors.
11 There's just 30 of us.

12 Q. Can I then look at what you tell us about the impact you
13 say life at Fornethy has had on you, and that's
14 beginning at paragraph 65.

15 And you begin by telling us that your time at
16 Fornethy really has affected your whole life?

17 A. Yes.

18 Q. And education, you say you lost interest in education.
19 Do you relate that to your time at Fornethy?

20 A. Yeah. Yeah, I don't have any interest. I can't absorb
21 anything. I can't take anything in. I can't count.
22 I went back to further education on numerous occasions
23 and I just -- I can't do it. I don't have any trust in
24 authority and, er, I just -- my two sons ended up in
25 care, unfortunately.

1 I talk in my sleep about Fornethy. I'm afraid of
2 the dark. I go about my house and I have to switch the
3 lights on. And I just -- it's just had a knock-on
4 effect, and I feel that I've been failed in more ways
5 than one.

6 But my children, my children have done so well in
7 life and that's a good thing.

8 Q. And indeed, you're supported by one of your children
9 today?

10 A. Yes, he's here today, my son, [REDACTED].

11 Q. And one thing you tell us is that you have been trying
12 to get hold of your records in connection with Fornethy.
13 Have you had any success?

14 A. No.

15 Q. What messages have you received in that connection?

16 A. I've tried -- they just don't exist.

17 Q. Okay.

18 A. I've tried everything.

19 Q. And you go on to tell us, 'May', about the lessons that
20 you say should be learned from your experience at
21 Fornethy.

22 A. Yeah.

23 Q. And one thing you tell us, that they've been getting
24 away with it, and that you don't think any of the staff
25 at Fornethy were trained properly to look after

1 children?

2 A. Oh, no. No, no, that is not a way to look after
3 children. To look after children, you need to nurture
4 them and love them. They never nurtured us and loved
5 us. Some of those children that went to Fornethy were
6 insecure and they needed a lot of love, and to tell
7 children that parents don't love them, where does that
8 set them up for life?

9 Q. One thing you say earlier, that really children need to
10 be praised?

11 A. Yes. You've got to praise children because that's their
12 start in life. What they done to us was mental torture
13 as well. Just everything. They should have had PVG
14 checks on them. They should have had inspectors in that
15 school. And it should never have happened. All that
16 abuse in that place should never have happened. And
17 other people have suffered so much more than what I did.
18 A whole lot more.

19 Q. Were you ever conscious of anybody coming to Fornethy to
20 check on the children?

21 A. Nobody came to check on us.

22 Q. Very well, 'May', that's really all the questions I want
23 to ask you about today. Is there anything you'd like to
24 say to the Inquiry?

25 A. I just hope this is a learnt lesson that we can move on

1 from and it doesn't happen in the future and that
2 something can be done about Fornethy, that it just
3 doesn't get left there.

4 I can't think.

5 Q. Okay. Well, thank you for answering my questions,
6 'May'.

7 A. Thank you.

8 Q. And for coming to the Inquiry today.

9 A. Thank you for having me.

10 MR MACAULAY: And, my Lady, no questions have been submitted
11 to me for 'May'.

12 LADY SMITH: Thank you.

13 'May', let me add my thanks. It's been very good to
14 hear from you in person about these difficult times that
15 you've described you experienced at Fornethy. It does
16 really help me understand the evidence that before then
17 was only in writing, I'm really grateful to you.

18 I hope you're able to have a restful time for the
19 rest of today. You've certainly earned it. So safe
20 home, take care.

21 A. Thank you.

22 LADY SMITH: Thank you.

23 (The witness withdrew)

24 MR MACAULAY: We'll probably have time for a read-in.

25 LADY SMITH: I wondered if we would have. While you're

1 organising that, there's a couple of names I want to
2 mention at this stage that we used in the course of
3 'May's' evidence. One was of a child called [REDACTED],
4 another was of a child called [REDACTED]. I'm not sure if
5 I've missed any other names. [REDACTED]
6 [REDACTED]. Yes, and her son's name. Her son's name
7 is not to be mentioned in any way outside this room.
8 She can be mentioned, but only by reference to her
9 pseudonym, which was 'May', because these identities are
10 all protected by my General Restriction Order.

11 MR MACAULAY: So, my Lady, yes, we can get, I think, just
12 one read-in before lunch.

13 This is from an applicant, who obviously wants to
14 remain anonymous and to use the pseudonym 'Marie' in her
15 evidence.

16 LADY SMITH: Thank you.

17 'Marie' (read in)

18 MR MACAULAY: Her statement can be found at WIT-1-000001114.

19 'Marie' was born in 1963. So far as life before
20 going into care is concerned, she was born in Glasgow.
21 She provides details of her family, including the fact
22 that she had a younger sister that was 11 months younger
23 than her and that her father worked and her mother
24 stayed at home and looked after the children.

25 At 3, she says:

1 'I think life at home was good. I can't remember
2 anything bad. I went to Chirnsyde Primary School.
3 Before going to Fornethy, I hadn't stayed away from home
4 or away from my parents.

5 'When my mum was pregnant with my younger brother or
6 my sister, my sister was getting on to go to Fornethy,
7 but she didn't want to go herself, so that is why
8 I went. I think it was my mum that told us we were
9 going. I don't know why my sister was picked to go, but
10 it might have been respite for my mum when she was
11 pregnant.

12 'I don't know how long it was after mum told us that
13 we actually went to Fornethy. I don't really have a lot
14 of memories about Fornethy, but I think I probably
15 thought I was going on a holiday. According to my
16 sister, we got a bus from Argyle Street to Fornethy.
17 I have no memory of this or of arriving.

18 'Although I do remember the dates my younger sister
19 and I first went to Fornethy, I know that my mum was
20 pregnant with my brother and he was born in 1968 so that
21 makes me think I went in the school [REDACTED] holiday of
22 that year.'

23 And if that's the case she would be aged about 5 and
24 her younger sister would be 4:

25 'That would have made me 5 years old, but I thought

1 I would have been 7 or 8 when I went so I can't be
2 certain about things. I don't know how long we went
3 for, but the school holidays lasted about six weeks.

4 'I have no memory of the location or layout of
5 Fornethy. I cannot remember any of the staff or any of
6 the other girls there. I don't remember ever seeing
7 a boy staying at Fornethy. My memories are limited to
8 when I was forced to eat black pudding and what happened
9 to my sister when she wet the bed.

10 'We shared a room and I think it was a big dormitory
11 that had something like 15 girls sleeping in it. My
12 sister was in the bed next to me. I don't remember
13 anything else other than we each had a metal bed.

14 'Everyone ate together in a dining room and I think
15 that the food was brought to us at the table.

16 'My sister told me we all got washed one in and one
17 out of the same bath. I do remember this. We had to
18 stand in line and you were just in the bath and out
19 again. I can't remember how often we would get a bath
20 and I think it was staff who would wash us. I have no
21 memory of how many staff would be there. I also
22 remember a woman combing my hair with the bone comb and
23 it was tuggy. She told me that the next time I came she
24 was going to be cutting my hair.'

25 Then under the heading 'Bed-wetting':

1 'My sister wet the bed and once woke me up and asked
2 me to swap places with her. They would make her sit in
3 the middle of the floor of the dormitory, but I can't
4 remember how long that was for. This was in the middle
5 of the night. They also didn't change her bed so she
6 had to get back into a wet bed. I don't remember if
7 this happened to other children and I don't remember how
8 staff knew she had wet the bed. I don't remember that
9 part.

10 'I was made to eat black pudding which I didn't like
11 back then. I love it now. I think they said if you
12 didn't eat the food, you wouldn't get a pudding. They
13 used the fork to kind of feed me and I was boaking.
14 I remember I was actually sick in the toilets across
15 from the dining room. Apparently my sister asked where
16 I was and was told I was in the dormitory, but I don't
17 remember that. I only remember this happening to me
18 once and I don't remember seeing it happen to any other
19 person.

20 'I think that is all the bad memories I have had,
21 that I have somehow just blocked it all out. I have no
22 memory of leaving and getting home. I think my mum must
23 have picked us up at Argyle Street.

24 'Home life was good, but chaotic with all the kids
25 in the house. There was never any social work

1 involvement.

2 'My sister went back to Fornethy, but I can't
3 remember when that was. It was probably over the [REDACTED]
4 holidays. I don't remember if I was asked, but I would
5 have refused.

6 'I remember one of my brothers reading something out
7 from the paper about Fornethy and he asked if that is
8 where I had gone. Then his wife was reading out names
9 and I thought it sounded familiar. I said that
10 I thought that is where I went, but we just didn't talk
11 about it. Then my brother read something about someone
12 being made to watch a girl being forced to eat black
13 pudding and I said that was me. If that hadn't come up,
14 I would have forgotten about it. That has really been
15 the most it has been talked about in my family. My
16 sister hasn't spoken about any of the times she was at
17 Fornethy.

18 'Although I don't have a lot of memories about
19 Fornethy, when I think back now as an adult it makes me
20 feel that was a horrible place. I think there was
21 probably more bad things that happened, but I just can't
22 remember.

23 'Although I left home at 16 and had three children,
24 I think I have been okay. I think I have just blocked
25 it out and I don't think about it often.

1 'My own children didn't go on any school trips or
2 holidays, but based on my experience I wouldn't have let
3 them go.

4 'I have never spoken about my experiences and
5 I think they have threatened us or said something bad
6 causing me not to tell. I never spoke to my family and
7 it is funny not telling them and not even telling your
8 mum.'

9 And at 24, she says:

10 'I have never reported any of this to the police.

11 'I have never requested any records, but this is
12 something I would be interested in.'

13 And lessons to be learned:

14 'I think that the attitude towards children and the
15 way carers treat people has to change.

16 'I hope to help someone else by giving my statement.
17 I don't think I am the only one who experienced this.

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

20 I believe the facts stated in this witness statement are
21 true.'

22 And 'Marie' has signed her statement on 27 October
23 2022.

24 LADY SMITH: Thank you very much.

25 MR MACAULAY: Perhaps that is a good point.

1 LADY SMITH: I'll stop there for the lunch break and
2 I'll sit again at 2 o'clock. Thank you.
3 (12.50 pm)
4 (The luncheon adjournment
5 (2.01 pm)
6 LADY SMITH: Good afternoon. Now, we have a witness in
7 person, who I'm told is ready to give evidence,
8 Mr MacAulay, is that right?
9 MR MACAULAY: That is correct, my Lady. And this witness is
10 an applicant. She wants to remain anonymous and to use
11 pseudonym 'Louise'.
12 LADY SMITH: Thank you.
13 'Louise' (sworn)
14 LADY SMITH: 'Louise', thank you so much for coming along
15 this afternoon to help us with your evidence in person.
16 I do, of course, have your written evidence already.
17 That's in the red folder that's in front of you there.
18 But it's really helpful that you're prepared to talk
19 about your evidence and allow us to explore it a little
20 more with you today.
21 A couple of things before we start, not only is the
22 statement in that folder in front of you, and you're
23 very welcome to use it if that's helpful, we'll bring
24 parts of it up on the screen at times and you'll see it
25 there too.

1 The first thing I would like you do for me is to
2 turn to the last page of your statement, which is in the
3 red folder. Can you just confirm for me that you have
4 signed the statement?

5 A. Yes.

6 Q. And do you say in the last paragraph:

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 Is that correct?

12 A. Yes.

13 Q. Then, going to the beginning of the statement, I don't
14 want your date of birth, but just to get the context,
15 can you confirm for me that you were born in 1975?

16 A. Yes.

17 Q. And you tell us a little bit about your life before you
18 went into care in Fornethy, and in particular that you
19 were in Glasgow with your family --

20 A. Yes.

21 Q. -- is that right?

22 A. Yes.

23 Q. And you were the youngest of four children?

24 A. Yes.

25 Q. And in particular you had a brother and two older

1 sisters?

2 A. Yes.

3 Q. You indicate I think that you moved about quite a bit --

4 A. Yes.

5 Q. -- when you were a child. Was there a particular reason

6 for that?

7 A. Erm, part of my family are Romany gypsies, but

8 generational, and my parents were quite Bohemian, they

9 liked to move around a lot. They didnae stay in

10 a structured place for any length of time. Generally,

11 a year tae two maximum we would stay in the one place.

12 Q. But was that all within Glasgow?

13 A. We moved between Pitlochry, Fife and aw different places

14 in Scotland.

15 Q. I see. Well, I want to ask you about the time when you

16 were at what was called the 'Wee Albert' School and

17 I think that was in Glasgow?

18 A. Yes, that was Springburn, Glasgow.

19 Q. And it was from that school that you, I think -- your

20 family got some information about Fornethy School; is

21 that right?

22 A. Yes.

23 Q. Can you tell me what happened?

24 A. We were told that the place we were going to was like

25 a respite. My mother was spina bifida and my father was

1 schizophrenic so there was several family issues. And
2 we believe we were sent there via the school, but
3 I believe social work was somewhat involved in that as
4 well.

5 Q. So you reckon the school was involved, but also the
6 social work?

7 A. Yeah.

8 Q. And how did you feel about that? What was your reaction
9 to being told that you were going there?

10 A. Oh, totally excited, thought, oh, this is going to be
11 great, we're going away for holiday -- we were told we
12 were gonnae be seeing horses, we were gonnae be going on
13 the water, we were gonnae be doing loads of good
14 country-style stuff, like rambling, walks and things.
15 All various things and tae get a break from the city.

16 Q. Who told you that?

17 A. The school, the headteacher, Mrs Tortolano, she had had
18 a conversation regarding this, and it wisnae just myself
19 and my sisters that attended Fornethy, it was other
20 girls in oor school as well.

21 Q. From -- yes, from your school?

22 A. Yeah. So it was like, this is going to be great for
23 everybody, because there was some friends from our
24 school going at the exact same time as us also. So, it
25 was just a really good thing to be going to.

1 Q. And I think you actually went twice, is that right?

2 A. Yes.

3 Q. Was it for six weeks on both occasions or was there

4 a difference?

5 A. I believe the first time was six weeks. I cannae be

6 100 per cent sure because I don't have the records, but

7 I know we were there for the full [REDACTED] holidays and

8 also one time in the [REDACTED], because there was lots

9 of snow. But it was also my sister's birthday, it was

10 in [REDACTED]. And I know it was [REDACTED] 'cos her birthday's

11 on [REDACTED], we were in Fornethy, and she wisnae allowed

12 to share her birthday cake with us. So we were quite

13 sad and that's how I can remember it was -- that was

14 another date that we were there.

15 Q. And I think you tell us in your statement that the time

16 you remember the most is actually the first time?

17 A. Yes.

18 Q. Is that correct? And so what age were you when you

19 first went?

20 A. I believe I was either 5 or 6, because it was primary.

21 I was in Primary 1 or 2 at the time, but I started

22 school at the age of 4 in Springburn before we moved,

23 'cos that was the longest school I was at, was at Albert

24 Primary. So it was either in Primary 1 or 2. I cannae

25 be 100 per cent on the age.

1 Q. So it would be 1979 or 1980 then, looking to that?
2 A. Yes.
3 Q. And I think your two sisters went with you?
4 A. Yes.
5 Q. And they were older sisters?
6 A. Yes.
7 Q. So what ages would they be if you were 5 or 6?
8 A. There's exactly a year between each of all the siblings.
9 Q. So 7 and 8, if you're --
10 A. Yeah, yeah.
11 Q. Approximately?
12 A. Uh-huh, yeah.
13 Q. Now, then, do you remember travelling to Fornethy?
14 A. Yes.
15 Q. And did you have to go by bus?
16 A. Yes.
17 Q. Can you just tell me about that; where did you go for
18 the bus?
19 A. Erm, we left from the school in the morning time and we
20 went to Buchanan Bus Station, I believe, and we
21 travelled from the bus station tae Fornethy, well, tae
22 the bus station there, and then we got a minivan to the
23 actual property.
24 Q. And so far as the bus was concerned, you were there with
25 your sisters; what about other children from your

1 school, were they on the same bus?

2 A. Yes.

3 Q. And were there quite a number of children on the bus?

4 A. Erm, to be honest, I wisnae really paying much
5 attention. It was just the excitement. There was a lot
6 of kids on the bus, but I don't know if they were all
7 going there or whatever, but I recognised a couple of
8 girls from my school were also in attendance at
9 Fornethy.

10 Q. And leaving aside the bus driver, were there any adults
11 in charge of the children on the bus, can you remember?

12 A. There was two ladies, I believe there was two ladies
13 that was -- once we got to Buchanan Bus Station, wir own
14 school teachers had left and we had went on the bus.
15 There was two adult ladies there that was on the bus and
16 they were obviously counting the kids and making sure
17 everything -- and we had wir case and made sure we put
18 it where we were supposed to and things, yeah.

19 Q. And then when you arrived at Fornethy, and that was
20 quite a long journey, what was your first impression of
21 the building?

22 A. Well, ma opinion -- living in the granite city of
23 Springburn, looked like Alcatraz -- walking up, this
24 beautiful, palatial house, it was absolutely stunning.
25 You were, like: oh, I'm going to stay with the Queen.

1 That was the kind of excitement that you had walking up
2 to this beautiful, beautiful building.

3 Q. And can I then ask you about your first day there. So
4 you go into the building, what's the first thing that
5 you do?

6 A. All of the girls got our cases, we entered through a
7 beautiful big doorway and we walked through to a,
8 I would say like a playroom. It was a big room, but you
9 could tell it was a children's room, it had children's
10 things in it and pictures on the walls. And we all got
11 told to put our cases down and wait for further
12 instruction.

13 So we're all excited and chatting amongst ourselves
14 and: oh, this is going to be great. Because it just, it
15 was beautiful inside as well as outside, you know, it
16 was really stunning.

17 So we were all excited really, just waiting on
18 what's going to happen next, where we're going, you
19 know.

20 Q. And what happened next?

21 A. That's when things changed really quickly. We were then
22 ushered into, like, medical rooms. They was all on the
23 same floor, but when you walk in, the playroom was to
24 the left I think -- no, the right, and then the left
25 was -- looked like bathrooms at first. And then we were

1 asked to take the entirety of our clothes off, which was
2 strange, because my mammy had given me a bath that
3 morning before we went, so it was like -- and they
4 bathed us.

5 Q. Can I just stop you there for a moment. When you say
6 you were asked to take your clothes off, was that all
7 the girls that were there?

8 A. Every girl that was there had the exact same thing
9 happen.

10 Q. And were the girls of different ages?

11 A. Yes.

12 Q. So what did you feel about that, being naked in front of
13 other girls?

14 A. Obviously, it was -- you're wi' strangers. Siblings is
15 different, that's fine, you're confident in yourself
16 with your siblings, but even at that I was never naked,
17 naked in front of my sisters. We all had wir own bath
18 time, we all had wir own -- so to me it was like a wee
19 bit daunting that I'm taking my clothes off and all
20 these people -- people stare. Children stare. You
21 don't know what to do wi' yoursel' in that situation, so
22 it was extremely uncomfortable.

23 Q. And can I ask you then about the adults who might have
24 been involved in this. Who was in charge at that time,
25 so far as you could see?

1 A. I'm sorry, I've kind of missed a bit.
2 We were allocated a dorm teacher in a dorm before --
3 Q. Okay.
4 A. -- the initial showering started. So it was your dorm
5 teacher, you would follow where they were going. I was
6 in Clova at the time, and --
7 Q. And who was your dorm teacher?
8 A. Patricia Baxter.
9 Q. And what about -- was there anybody else who was
10 involved with the children?
11 A. Yeah, yeah. There was a dorm head for every dormitory
12 in Fornethy and they were allocated, I think, ten kids
13 each. It was roond about ten kids in a dorm. Maybe
14 more. Being so young it seemed busy. But, erm, there
15 was dorm teachers for every dorm.
16 Q. Okay.
17 A. Your dorm teacher would stick by you, but there was also
18 allocated a dorm captain. So whoever was oldest would
19 be in that room and they would assist -- they wouldnae
20 assist the teachers with the bathing or anything like
21 that, but they would usher you in, keep you in line to
22 get to whereyou needed to be.
23 Q. Did you form any view at that early stage as to who
24 might have been in charge of Fornethy?
25 A. Yes. You'll need to excuse me, I've got multiple

1 sclerosis, I get brain fog, but -- brain fog. But
2 I knew the headteacher, yes.

3 Q. Because I think you mention her name.

4 A. Yeah.

5 Q. Was it Mrs Fletcher?

6 A. Mrs Fletcher, that's it. Thank you.

7 Q. Then, can I just ask you then about this business about
8 having to strip. What then happened? I mean, clearly
9 you were going to be washed in some way?

10 A. Yeah.

11 Q. What happened?

12 A. We got washed --

13 Q. Well, was it in a bath or a shower or --

14 A. It was a bath.

15 Q. A bath. So can you just help me, can you just describe
16 how that was done?

17 A. It was, like I said, it was like a medical room, but
18 with a bath in it.

19 Q. Was there just the one bath?

20 A. I don't know if there was others in the other rooms but
21 I know there was one in the room that I was in. And we
22 get guided through from washing, drying, then into
23 another room, where we got head lice treatment.

24 Q. So looking at the bathing then, you went into a bath.
25 Were you alone in the bath?

1 A. Yes, yes.

2 Q. And what happened when you were in the bath?

3 A. They used carbolic soap to wash us. You wurnae allowed
4 to wash yourself. The lady just held the back of your
5 neck and rubbed this bar of soap all over you and washed
6 you off. And it was a really quick process. It wasn't
7 like just lingering. It was like regimental, get in,
8 get out. But the lady did the washing.

9 Q. And did she use anything to help in the washing process?

10 A. I was just in, like, caught in headlights kind of thing,
11 because it aw happened really, really fast.

12 Q. Was there any sort of brush used to help? Was there
13 a brush used?

14 A. I cannae remember.

15 Q. Okay.

16 A. I dae remember the pink soap though, it was definitely
17 carbolic because of the same smell.

18 Q. What you say in your statement was that it was like she
19 was washing a dog?

20 A. Yeah.

21 Q. So that gives us an impression as to how it was being
22 done?

23 A. When -- you've no rights when you're washing. It was
24 like this lady was -- she wisnae polite, she wisnae
25 soft, she was just, 'Get in', and she just rubbed this

1 bar of soap all over me. There could have been a brush.
2 I couldnae specify if there was. I cannae really
3 remember.

4 Q. And who was the lady who was doing the washing?

5 A. Erm, I believe they had certain auxiliaries. I'm not
6 sure, but on the initial day, I didnae see these ladies
7 again.

8 Q. So you've then told us about the process, you're in the
9 bath, then you get dried and then I think you told us
10 that you would go to get some lice/nit treatment; is
11 that right?

12 A. Uh-huh.

13 Q. Can you tell us about that part of it?

14 A. Yeah. Well, we were allowed to get dressed but it was
15 clothes that they had provided. The clothes that my
16 mother provided wurnae used the entire stay. So the
17 clothes that they provided, we had to put them on,
18 jumper, blue skirt. And we sat and waited. And the
19 ladies put nit treatment through wir hair and they
20 bone-combed wir hair. I had extremely long hair at the
21 time. I used to be able to sit on my hair as a child
22 and my sisters were the same. And they raked that comb
23 through my hair to the point where my scalp was
24 bleeding, and then they put the treatment on.

25 So by this point my head's completely numb. We're

1 all hysterical at this point, any girl that had been in
2 that room. The bathing was shocking, but the head
3 treatment was horrific and we were heartbroken during
4 the process.

5 Q. Were you crying?

6 A. I was hysterical. I asked them to stop many, many
7 times, because it wisnae like the way your mum would do
8 it and comb your hair out. They dragged it right
9 through, the full entire length, but they made sure that
10 your scalp got it and it was really, really intense.

11 Q. And again, were these -- when you say 'they', are you
12 talking about ladies doing this? And how many were
13 involved for this process?

14 A. One was doing the bathing where I -- the section that
15 I was at, and then you would move along and it was
16 a different lady doing your hair.

17 Q. And then after that had been -- happened, what happened
18 next?

19 A. We were shown to the dorm room, to where we would be
20 sleeping.

21 Sorry, I'm jumping on a bit.

22 After that we got put back into the playroom and by
23 this point, we kinda got an idea that this wisnae gonnae
24 to be as much fun as we thought it was gonnae be, and we
25 were just sitting, terrified as to what was gonnae

1 happen next, because they had no care that you were
2 hysterical. There was no emotional support: oh,
3 I'm sorry, I didn't mean to hurt you there, or --
4 nothing. It was just, you were just a wee object
5 getting moved around this process.

6 Q. And were your sisters with you at this time when -- at
7 this time in the --

8 A. Every girl that was there that day, we all went through
9 the exact same process.

10 Q. And then what happened next, then? Did someone come and
11 speak to you?

12 A. We get introduced to Mrs Fletcher then I think, once we
13 were -- we'd went through the cleaning process and we
14 went to the dormitories. And they were trying to
15 lighten the mood, which was no gonnae happen really,
16 because at that point you're hysterical and you want to
17 go home, because it was just so much. But she tried to
18 reassure everybody that: this process has to be done
19 because it's a lot of girls in the one place and we want
20 to make sure that we have a nice, healthy, happy stay.
21 Because some of us asked questions like: I want to go
22 home, I had a bath and this lady and that lady -- and
23 she's like: 'No, no we won't be hearing that'. She
24 dismissed any questions we had regarding what just
25 happened.

1 Q. So when you say 'she', this is Mrs Fletcher --
2 A. Yes.
3 Q. -- speaking to you and telling you what the position
4 was?
5 A. Yes, she was speaking to us as a collective, no as
6 individuals or anything.
7 Q. When you come to the set-up in the dormitory, was there
8 somebody who was made the captain of the dorm?
9 A. Yes.
10 Q. And was that an older girl?
11 A. Yes.
12 Q. Was that girl somebody who slept in the same dormitory?
13 A. Yes.
14 Q. Now, can I just ask you about after you -- in the
15 mornings, after you woke up, were there bed inspections?
16 A. Yes.
17 Q. Can you tell me about that?
18 A. Erm, the dorm teacher would come in, she would open the
19 shutters in the morning, 'cos there was big wooden
20 shutters in the windows. She would open the windows,
21 very early on, and when she said, 'Good morning, girls',
22 you didnae get a second chance. You had to be feet on
23 the floor, regardless of what your age was or if you
24 never slept. You had to be on your feet and ready.
25 So we're all standing by wir beds and she would

1 check the beds, and if you wet the bed there was
2 a procedure you had to go through. And the procedure
3 was usually her extreme disappointment and she would
4 say: why did do you this? And right in your face --
5 I mean, you could taste yir ain urine in your face --
6 'What is this? We cannae be having this'. And this is
7 only after the first night.

8 Noo, being traumatised to a point, I wet the bed
9 anyway at home. I had issues like that at home and
10 I just thought in my head that they would know that,
11 because my mum would tell them that, 'cos if I stayed
12 with cousins and things my mum would tell them that.

13 And then it was like she would go round and any girl
14 that had peed the bed got the exact same treatment.
15 Then we had to gather wir sheets off the bed, and a lot
16 of people actually called it the 'walk of shame',
17 because you had to take your own urine-stained blankets
18 past the dormitories that were there, wi' all the girls
19 standing outside, watching the girls who had wet the bed
20 walk by with their sheets, which obviously, kids being
21 kids, could make you a wee target for certain things,
22 because you peed the bed.

23 Q. And did you find that difficult?

24 A. I found it extremely difficult, but having ADHD, I found
25 a way around it so it widnae happen to me again, for at

1 least three days.

2 Q. And how did you manage that?

3 A. When I needed the toilet and I was too scared to leave
4 the dormitory, I would shimmy myself to the bottom of
5 the bed and pee in the corner of the bed, because she
6 only ever pulled the sheets back, she never pulled them
7 completely. And I thought, I'll no get into trouble
8 today.

9 I was always in a lot of trouble because I was
10 a very hyperactive child. They call it ADHD nowadays,
11 but in my day you were hyperactive. And I found that
12 way and all the girls in wir dormitory done it fae then
13 on after. But she became suspicious because obviously,
14 smell of urine, she's going to smell it eventually and
15 she did.

16 Q. And what happened?

17 A. And then I got dragged about a wee bit.

18 Q. Can you just explain what happened?

19 A. 'Do you think you're smart?' The verbal abuse would be
20 there initially, but if you even looked at her the wrong
21 way or didnae acknowledge it was your fault and you were
22 bad, she would grab you by the back of the neck, or tug
23 your hair a wee bit, and it was you, all the time.
24 I mean it's like when somebody does that to you, it's
25 through your bone, your chest bone (indicating). It

1 wisnae like a wee, 'Noo, you behave yourself'. It was
2 like through -- you could feel it and you're like:
3 right, okay, I'll dae whatever you want. That was it.
4 Q. And you've mentioned this is the dorm teacher. Remind
5 me, who was that? This was the dorm teacher?
6 A. Yeah.
7 Q. Who was your dorm teacher?
8 A. I didnae know her name initially when I did this
9 statement, but I later found it was Patricia Baxter.
10 Q. Can I ask you then about mealtimes. What was the food
11 like?
12 A. The food was fabulous, in my opinion, because food was
13 scarce in my house a lot and there wisnae regimented
14 meals time like breakfast, lunch, dinner. That
15 wisnae -- we got our dinner, we definitely got a main
16 meal every night, but breakfast was a luxury. That was
17 a couple of days you would have your breakfast in ma
18 house.
19 So having -- it was elegant the way they'd set it up
20 for young girls, I can honestly say it was dinner
21 service all out, all your silver service cutlery style.
22 And there was breakfast and there was cereal, toast, all
23 your general things that you would generally have.
24 Q. So you had no difficulty with the food. Were there
25 children there who did?

1 A. I had no personal difficulty wi' food, but I seen a lot
2 of girls, various tables. Different tables meant
3 different dormitories, and if it wasn't happening at
4 your table, you can guarantee you would see it at
5 another table.

6 Q. And what did you see?

7 A. Erm, no so much breakfast time, but it was lunch or
8 an evening meal. If they had made things like rollmops,
9 like the fish, the rolled-up fish, steamed fish or
10 something like that, different meals that other girls
11 just, they were forced to eat it, although they said
12 they cannae and they tried and they were crying and it
13 upset me more. Because the girls were sick, physically,
14 on the food, and they had to eat it.

15 Q. When you say they had to eat it, what happened?

16 A. Personally, that didn't happen to me, but other people,
17 girls, young girls, my age, even the older girls, wurnae
18 allowed to no eat the food. You had to eat what was in
19 front of you regardless of whether -- your tastes or
20 anything like that. It was: you will eat it. And one
21 of the girls that I knew personally was sick on this
22 rollmop thing. That's how I can specifically remember
23 the meal. She couldnae stand fish. She told 'em:
24 'I don't eat fish at home, I cannae, I don't want it'.
25 And she physically threw up after eating some of it.

1 She tasted it and then she was sick, and they made the
2 wee lassie eat her own vomit off that food and she was
3 sick again. And I don't know if it was the evening meal
4 or the lunch meal, but that would be placed back in
5 front of her until it was all gone.

6 Q. When you say she was made to eat it, how was she made to
7 eat it?

8 A. They used tae walk around wi' a small wooden ruler,
9 small, just a small thing, just to keep us in check.
10 You had tae -- they were trying to teach us etiquette,
11 that's the best way to put it. They were trying to
12 teach us how to eat properly, sit properly, how to use
13 a fruit knife. 'You're not monkeys', we were told, 'You
14 don't eat bananas like that'. I didnae know what --
15 I opened a banana the way I opened a banana and they
16 taught us: no, this is how you eat your food.

17 So it wisnae just the food. You had to have
18 an etiquette round the table. And when these girls
19 refused to eat, they had an obsession with the back of
20 your neck, holding you and like: 'Listen, this food has
21 been provided'. They would go through a whole
22 conversation on why you would have to eat this, no
23 matter what.

24 And, I don't know, it was just, that would be left
25 until the next eating session, the next -- I cannae

1 remember if it was lunch or dinner that time wi' her,
2 but anybody who didn't eat, even when they've done --
3 physically been sick on it, they still had to eat it,
4 and it would be placed at the next meal if they didn't.
5 So that was quite traumatic to see.

6 Q. And the ruler you mentioned?

7 A. That was, like, they would slam the table as like
8 warnings and when they're speaking to you, that was
9 slammed. It was like -- you would get someone's
10 attention if you were tae rap something loud on the
11 table. It wisnae any of the cutlery, it wisnae anything
12 like that, but it was like the wee, small wooden ruler:
13 'Right, girls'. And they would tap the table and you
14 had to sit and you had to focus on exactly what they
15 wanted you to do. And it was extremely intimidating
16 because if you knew you were in trouble, you knew
17 something else was gonnae happen. Maybe not at the
18 dinner table, but something else would happen.

19 Q. And I think you tell us, for example, if you crossed
20 your legs, something would happen?

21 A. Me sitting like this the now, I would get my legs
22 slapped, 'cos you're supposed to sit like this
23 (indicating) and you're supposed to have a straight
24 back, and ...

25 Q. Did you see if your sisters got into any trouble with

1 eating the food?

2 A. Yeah. Eating food, my sister [REDACTED] had a lot of
3 issues. Erm, and she starved herself, because she
4 refused. And an incident happened to my sister later,
5 but not in the dining room, that's in my statement, and
6 my sister point blank refused and she got hurt. She did
7 get hurt.

8 Q. You can tell us about that.

9 A. She got her hands smacked.

10 Q. What happened?

11 A. With the ruler.

12 Q. Was that during mealtimes?

13 A. Yeah, during the mealtime my sister would -- she was so,
14 so quiet, she wouldnae -- she would mess the food up,
15 she wouldnae eat it, because she was watching all the
16 time, her nerves were shot. My sister wisnae a very
17 strong person, although she was my older sister, she
18 was the middle girl and her confidence was gone. She
19 was gone after the initial day there. And she struggled
20 to eat, she didnae want to eat, and when she didn't eat
21 they wouldnae prepare her anything new. Whatever she
22 messed up on that plate, she had to eat. And I had to
23 beg my sister to start eating or it's gonnae be there
24 and, it's going to make her sick, even worse. And she
25 did, she eventually ate, but at the time my sister went

1 through some trauma with the eating.

2 And my sister [REDACTED] had one incident, I think,
3 and that was related to meat. My sister didnae eat
4 meat.

5 Q. So what you've been telling us about mealtimes, did this
6 pattern of behaviour exist throughout your time there,
7 that first time?

8 A. Yes. We had wir set mealtimes. We had to follow the
9 table etiquette and forced to eat, or, in my sister's
10 case, she refused to eat and an incident happened to her
11 subsequently, because she was becoming a problem.
12 Although she widnae say a word. My sister was very
13 mute, she was very mousy, erm, and I had to talk to my
14 sister to eat 'cos I was scared she wisnae eating. And
15 they kept on bringing the same thing back to my sister.

16 Q. Were you able to mix with other girls from other
17 dormitories?

18 A. Only in the playroom or if the minister was there or at
19 the evening, before we were dispersed into wir
20 dormitories, or outside, when we were outside we could
21 all mix together.

22 Q. Can I ask you about walks; were you taken on walks?

23 A. Yes.

24 Q. Can you just tell me what that was about?

25 A. Erm, it would be usually after the evening meal,

1 sometimes in the afternoon, but usually after the last
2 meal of the day, and we were taken on walks. And it
3 didn't matter if you'd eaten or not, you were going on
4 this walk and it was a long, long, harduous walk
5 through the countryside and there it was really rural.
6 There was heather fields, I remember that.

7 And there was a gentleman, I think he was
8 a gardener, he was always looking after the outside of
9 the building and he would go on the walks. He had a big
10 cane, a big -- as an adult, looking at it, it was
11 probably a hand-crafted cane that he had.

12 So he looked at -- he knew where he was going, he
13 was the main walker and the teachers obviously walked
14 side by side wi' the gentleman, but he was always there
15 when we went walks.

16 Q. And what teachers went? Who went from the teaching
17 side?

18 A. They would pick -- I don't know if it went dormitory,
19 because one time I had somebody that was in, say, like,
20 Isla or Skye, and I was in Clova, so they wurnae with
21 us, but they were on the walk, you know. We wurnae
22 allowed to go into each other dormitory rooms, but when
23 we were outside, we were allowed like mixed activities.

24 Q. And would you walk in all weathers? Would you walk in
25 all sorts of weather?

1 A. Yeah.

2 Q. And what did you wear on your feet?

3 A. Erm, wellies that was either too big or extremely small.

4 Although we were provided wi' wir own shoes and clothing

5 that they had required my parents to purchase and make

6 sure that we had, it was just what they had in this big

7 mud room-type thing. You just put them on, and a jacket

8 that wisnae even mine either, I believe.

9 Q. And the wellies, did they cause you problems on the

10 walk?

11 A. Yeah.

12 Q. What were the problems?

13 A. Erm, your feet were always soaking and your feet were

14 always freezing. I cannae remember if I had socks on or

15 no, but that was the issue and we always got blisters,

16 really bad blisters, because we would be walking,

17 walking. No just like -- I would say easily more than

18 a mile. It was -- you would walk a long length and

19 you're exhausted when you get there, but you have to

20 walk all the way back, so it was like a double-edged

21 sword. You were getting the exercise that you needed

22 but it was beyond exercise, in ma opinion, because by

23 the time you got back to that place, you were done. You

24 were just exhausted.

25 Q. Now, can I ask you about schooling. Did you get any

1 schooling when you were at Fornethy?

2 A. No.

3 Q. Did you go to classes?

4 A. No.

5 Q. Before you went, had you understood that there would be
6 classes?

7 A. Well, we were told that we would -- we thought we were
8 going to get away with schoolwork and things obviously,
9 and when we were having the discussion with
10 Mrs Tortolano when we were going, what it would be like,
11 all these activities, but are we going to be doing
12 schoolwork, and she went: 'Oh, of course you'll be doing
13 schoolwork'. That's what Mrs Tortolano told us.

14 So we were expecting some kinda, oh, we still need
15 to do schoolwork and stuff. But there was -- the older
16 kids, my sister, my oldest sister did go in a classroom.
17 Me and -- the second time I went, I think my sister
18 [REDACTED] was in a classroom, but I both times was never in
19 a classroom.

20 Q. Were you able to write home?

21 A. Only my older sister.

22 Q. You never wrote home?

23 A. No.

24 Q. Now, I think you say in your statement that in fact your
25 sister had a birthday when she was there?

1 A. Yeah.

2 Q. And you touched upon this earlier, I think, and she had
3 a birthday cake?

4 A. Yeah.

5 Q. Did you get a piece of cake?

6 A. No.

7 Q. Why not?

8 A. Erm, you were isolated as much as possible from your
9 siblings and -- the whole room was allowed to sing
10 'Happy Birthday' to my sister and me and [REDACTED] being
11 young, as well as my sister being young, I just wanted
12 to go give her a hug and obviously have a bit of cake.
13 That wisnae going to happen. I wisnae allowed to go to
14 my sister's table, which upset me. And obviously
15 I wanted a bit of cake, but it upset me more that
16 I couldnae hug her at the end of it, because when we had
17 birthday cake in the house, you always hug the person
18 before the cake's cut, you know. They blow their wish
19 and everybody gives a hug and then we dish the cake out.
20 That didnae happen for my sister.

21 Q. And just to be clear, she's at a separate table, is that
22 because she's in a separate dormitory, different
23 dormitory?

24 A. Yeah. Every dormitory had their own table and that was
25 where you would stay. You werenae allowed to move

1 around the dining room.

2 Q. Okay. And we understand, I think, that there was also

3 a tuck shop --

4 A. Yeah.

5 Q. -- at Fornethy. And can you just explain that to me;

6 were you able to get sweeties?

7 A. Yeah. When we went there, because my sister -- my

8 oldest sister was in charge of our tuck shop-type thing,

9 just to make sure that we werenae buying too many

10 things, and the school itself didnae let you purchase

11 too much. They gave you a budget on what your parents

12 had given you, and you were allowed to get a couple of

13 sweets. I don't know if it was daily or every other

14 day, but there was a wee sweet shop there you could --

15 but it had to be provided by finances from your parents.

16 Q. And had your parents given you some money then --

17 A. Yes.

18 Q. -- to spend?

19 A. Yes.

20 Q. And did that last the whole time?

21 A. No.

22 Q. So did it run out?

23 A. Yes.

24 Q. What happened?

25 A. You don't get any sweets.

1 Q. Do you know -- can you tell me if your mother or your
2 father had been told that the money had run out?

3 A. No. Because if my parents were told, they would have
4 absolutely made sure that we had everything we needed,
5 because although ma family was struggling, they always
6 ensured that we werenae left behind and left out. If
7 they thought for a minute that we needed something, they
8 would have provided it.

9 Q. Now, were you aware of anyone coming to check to see how
10 the children were getting on at Fornethy?

11 A. Zero. Zero person that I ever met.

12 Q. I think you mentioned the minister in your statement?

13 A. Oh, yeah, yeah, the minister would come regular.

14 Q. But did you interact with the minister at all?

15 A. Erm, I had one interaction with the minister that was
16 quite disturbing, but --

17 Q. Well, can you tell me about that?

18 A. Erm, all the girls are in the playroom when the minister
19 arrives, Miss Fletcher's also there, standing like --
20 the children are all seated and the minister would be
21 standing. And Miss Fletcher would be standing also and
22 the dorm teachers would be up the side. The minister
23 would say all the prayers, all the things and he would
24 ask each of the girls to read a small thing from the
25 Bible and I couldn't read. So I said no. I said:

1 'I love God, but I can't read and I'm sorry'. So that
2 got me into a lot of trouble because I was being really
3 disrespectful by saying that I couldn't read.

4 Q. What sort of trouble did you get into?

5 A. Well, the minister took me by hand and table similar to
6 this, and I was sat under the table with my legs in
7 a basket, but they put something on my head, I don't
8 know if it was sugar, flour, soap, something, but it was
9 a wee bag of heavy something and the duration, which
10 could be up to an hour or even longer, I sat under that
11 table while everybody was sitting there like: what's
12 going on, staring. I mean, all eyes on me, 'cos
13 I'm under the table. And that was my punishment for
14 being disrespectful to the minister.

15 Q. Did anyone else receive such a punishment, that you
16 could see?

17 A. I think maybe one or two girls, but no to the extent
18 where it was -- it was different. Other girls would be
19 told off. They would have things said to them and they
20 would even have somebody really in their face. But,
21 like I say, I was antsy and I was always moving and they
22 didnae really like that fact and the minister wisnae
23 very happy with my behaviour at all because I just
24 couldnae sit still. And I think that was part of the
25 reason why I got more extreme than the others, because,

1 I'll be honest to you, I won't sit and pretend I can
2 read if I can't. I just said I couldn't read.

3 Q. Now, then, you came to leave Fornethy after the six
4 weeks, is that correct?

5 A. Yes.

6 Q. Did you go back by bus to Glasgow?

7 A. I think so. I'm kinda confused because my sister
8 [REDACTED] says we went on a train, but I don't know if
9 that was the first or the second time.

10 Q. Anyway, you go back to Glasgow?

11 A. Yes.

12 Q. And did you tell your parents what life had been like at
13 Fornethy?

14 A. Yes.

15 Q. What was their reaction?

16 A. 'Och, you're havoring. You know what you're like. You
17 cannae be cheeky to people'. And I was like: 'I wisnae
18 cheeky to people'. And I'd showed my mum what had
19 happened to my backside and she went: 'Well, you must
20 have done something to deserve it'.

21 Q. What were you able to show her in relation to your
22 backside?

23 A. I still had red marks on my back and my backside from
24 where my dorm teacher had hurt me.

25 Q. Can you tell me about that, when had that happened?

1 A. My sister [REDACTED] witnessed it. She didnae witness the
2 attack. Nobody in the dormitory did see what happened,
3 but they seen me getting removed fae the dormitory,
4 which would have been traumatising for them enough,
5 because I got picked up by the neck and the back and
6 like carried out down to the library. And I was placed
7 in the library and I got some choice words given to me,
8 and then she hurt me, and --

9 Q. Where did she hit you?

10 A. On my backside, but with her hand. And I was so angry,
11 and being the person that I was, I remember clearly
12 saying: you'll never hurt me as hard as my dad can hit
13 me. Because she was bullying me for a while before this
14 actually happened. So I lost my temper with the teacher
15 after she hit me. I says: you'll never hit me as hard
16 as my dad did. And then she made sure she hit me as
17 hard, if no a million times worse than my father would
18 ever.

19 Noo, we did have corporal punishment in ma house.
20 We did get smacked, if we were bad we did get that, but
21 never to the extent where it went, with myself.

22 Q. Where was she hitting you?

23 A. She'd slapped me on the backside with her hand first,
24 and after I said that statement, she pulled my pants
25 down and then spanked me full force with her hand. And

1 obviously I wouldnae cry because I'm stubborn, so
2 I wisnae going to cry, because I used to -- I used to do
3 that with my parents because I knew it would annoy them
4 that I wisnae crying fae help me. So she carried on,
5 whereas my mum and dad wouldnae of.

6 And by this point my pyjama trousers were up and
7 she's ladling into me. There was a chalkboard in the
8 library and she took the large ruler, a big like cane
9 thing and she continued to whip me with that, and
10 I'm kinda fuzzy on what happened after that. I remember
11 going to breakfast the next day and I remember being in
12 the shower, getting my underpants peeled off, because
13 the blood had soaked through and dried in. I don't know
14 if I slept in the library that night or -- I know I was
15 left on my own.

16 Mrs Fletcher also come in to see my wounds after
17 Mrs Baxter had realised how far she had went, 'cos
18 Mrs Fletcher came in and I'd never, ever seen
19 Mrs Fletcher in the evening time, never, but she must
20 have called her. Because I was in the library for
21 a while and Mrs Fletcher came. She looked at me, spoke
22 to the dorm teacher and left. And I don't know if they
23 left together or what happened after that.

24 Q. What did Mrs Fletcher say to you, then, if she spoke to
25 you?

1 A. Absolutely nothing. She just came in and looked at me.
2 I didnae wear nightdresses, I wore pyjamas because --

3 Q. Did she look at your injuries?

4 A. Yeah. And that was it. There was no medical help.
5 There was no consoling me. There was nothing. But by
6 that point, I think, we were a couple of weeks into the
7 stay and it was very clear that she was progressing into
8 worse things with children, no just myself, but other
9 girls as well, where she would push them to the ground
10 and things. So for this person's character, this was
11 very nonchalant, not a big issue.

12 Q. When you say 'this person', do you mean the dorm
13 teacher?

14 A. Yeah, Mrs Baxter was extremely cruel.

15 Q. So I think you're telling me then that by the time you
16 got home, sometime later, you still had marks?

17 A. Yeah.

18 Q. And --

19 A. I still have them to this day, but the only way you
20 would notice is if I had a suntan, and you can still see
21 the lines if I'm wearing a swimsuit or something. But
22 I usually wear a shawl, so.

23 Q. So I think what you're telling me then, although you
24 told your mother the way you'd been treated, your
25 mother -- your parents didn't really believe, even when

1 you showed them the evidence, so to speak?

2 A. They did believe, but ma parents were very frightened of
3 social work. They were very frightened of the
4 authorities removing us from them. So I think --
5 I spoke to my mum when I first done this statement and
6 my mother apologised for no taking it seriously. She
7 should've. And she'd nothing to apologise for. She
8 entrusted us and they were let down as much as every
9 child in that place was, because they lied and they
10 continued to lie for generations.

11 And my mother apologised about that, because she
12 should have done something, she should have said
13 something. But she says: 'The way it was back then, if
14 you ever confront with anything like that, yous would
15 all have been gone', and I'd rather just be like -- and
16 then the second time we went, I believe my dad had
17 broken his leg from the hip down.

18 Q. Yes, I was going to ask you about that, because
19 notwithstanding your experience the first time, you go
20 back to Fornethy, and what age were you then when you
21 went back?

22 A. I think it was a couple of years later, maybe two or
23 three years. I might be even jumping. I don't know the
24 exact dates that I did go. There was a lot always going
25 on in our family, but in respect of going back to

1 Fornethy, I don't think my mother was really given
2 a choice, because --

3 LADY SMITH: Were you still at primary school then?

4 A. Sorry?

5 LADY SMITH: Were you still at primary school then?

6 A. Yes, yes, yes I was.

7 MR MACAULAY: If it was two years later, we're talking about
8 still in the early 1980s, so you'd be aged, what, 9,
9 maybe that sort of age?

10 A. Yeah.

11 Q. Did your sisters go back with you?

12 A. Yes.

13 Q. And was the regime the same?

14 A. Exactly the same.

15 Q. I mean, you've been telling us about mealtimes and
16 bed-wetting and how you might suffer.

17 A. Some of the ladies were different to others. They were
18 very kind. They were very accommodating. They would
19 hug you if you hurt yourself. Like, if you fell
20 outside, they would come and hug you, and other teachers
21 just simply wouldn't. They were very regimented in the
22 way they wanted their dormitories run. The less
23 inconvenience to them, the better treated you would be.

24 Q. Did you have the same dorm teacher or a different dorm
25 teacher?

1 A. Erm, I cannae remember exactly, because the second time
2 I went, I was mentally not there.

3 Q. I mean, for example, if you look at the sort of
4 initiation process of bath and being deloused, did that
5 happen the second time, can you remember?

6 A. Yes, yes.

7 Q. Was it the same as had happened before?

8 A. Yes, we knew what to expect the second time and it was
9 exactly the regimented: okay, this is us. We knew it
10 was happening but we werenae -- how could I say it.
11 See, children that hadnae been there before, I think
12 they tried to keep us separate from them.

13 Again, the second time we went, I didnae have my
14 sister [REDACTED], she was removed to another dorm and ma
15 older sister was in another dorm and that was the first
16 time I was on ma own in Fornethy. It was mair
17 traumatising being on my own, even though what happened
18 the first time there was bad. But no having my sister
19 was harder.

20 Q. Now, can I then look at when you came to leave Fornethy
21 that second time and, just to be clear, do you think you
22 spent again six weeks or was it a shorter period?

23 A. I think it was shorter. The first time was definitely
24 the full six weeks, but the second time we went, like
25 I say, it was snowing there and the school wisnae as

1 full, or maybe it was just -- I don't know, it just
2 didnae seem as busy as it was the first time we went,
3 and that would be in the [REDACTED] when it was my sister's
4 birthday.

5 Q. And then, you went back then to, as you tell us, life to
6 how it had been before you went to Fornethy, is that
7 right, at least to begin with, you are back with your
8 mother and father?

9 A. Yeah.

10 Q. But you say you were poor?

11 A. Yes.

12 Q. What you tell us at 111 is you had a lot of extreme
13 anger issues?

14 A. Yes.

15 Q. Because of Fornethy?

16 A. Yes.

17 Q. Can you just help me with that? How did that manifest
18 itself?

19 A. After going the second time and ma parents struggling
20 and doing their best that they could to raise us to be
21 respectful and good, and seeing my mum and dad being
22 tore down for just no getting it good enough for
23 government standards, in my opinion, so I rebelled
24 against teachers. I had no respect for anybody in
25 authority at all, because I felt they just wanted to

1 take us away fae ma parents.

2 Q. Now, you go on to tell us about your life thereafter,
3 the work that you did. You were in the hospitality
4 industry for many years, I think you tell us?

5 A. Yes.

6 Q. And you now have four children?

7 A. Yes.

8 MR MACAULAY: I'm quite close to finishing, my Lady. I know
9 we are trying to have a break at this point. Maybe,
10 perhaps we should have the break?

11 LADY SMITH: I would normally take a break at this point in
12 the afternoon. Would that help you, 'Louise', if we
13 just had five or ten minutes now? It gives the
14 stenographers a break and everybody else.

15 A. Yeah. Yeah.

16 MR MACAULAY: We don't want to rush it.

17 A. Yeah.

18 LADY SMITH: Let's do that. Very well.

19 (2.58 pm)

20 (A short break)

21 (3.10 pm)

22 LADY SMITH: Welcome back, 'Louise'. Are you ready for us
23 to carry on?

24 A. Yes, yes.

25 LADY SMITH: Thank you.

1 Mr MacAulay.

2 MR MACAULAY: My Lady.

3 Before I look at the final parts of your statement,
4 there are a couple of points I want to go back to, if
5 I may, and the first of these is, it's on the screen
6 actually, it's at paragraph 95 and you're talking about
7 an incident in the showers when your sister, you say:

8 'Must have been doing something wrong, because I saw
9 our dorm teacher grab hold of her and bang her face full
10 force off the sink.'

11 Can I just ask you about that incident?

12 A. Yeah. My sister passed away two years ago and she
13 cannae say anything about this, but my experience with
14 my sister was horrific. We had wee, square metal boxes
15 kinda on the walls to put wir things back neatly, and my
16 sister had folded her face cloth and soap too close to
17 her toothpaste. And she took my sister's face and
18 slammed her whole head onto the sink, and that was one
19 of the first times I ever experienced being on my own in
20 Fornethy, because they took my sister away and I didnae
21 see her again till the next day and she didnae receive
22 any medical treatment, she wisnae at hospital. She
23 didnae know what happened.

24 My sister had a lot more horrific things done to her
25 at Fornethy than I did. More on a more sexual(?)

1 nature, and ...

2 Q. Well, did she tell you about these things?

3 A. Yes.

4 Q. What did she tell you?

5 A. She told me that that night, that somebody had been in
6 her bed wi' her, in Fornethy. She didnae go anywhere,
7 she stayed in Fornethy. Now, unfortunately, my sister's
8 no here to say her own testimony, and the likelihood of
9 her being able to do testimony probably wouldnae have
10 really happened because she turned to drugs so extreme
11 that she lost her life at 48, and the trauma that
12 Fornethy put my sister through was the catalyst to how
13 her life turned out.

14 And I just wanted that wee bit said, so that --

15 Q. Of course, but when you say, and I'm reading what you've
16 just said, that somebody had been in her bed with her,
17 when you say 'her bed', was that her bed --

18 A. No. No in her bed, she was in a bed.

19 Q. Yes. With somebody?

20 A. With somebody.

21 Q. Did she elaborate upon that, did she tell you what
22 happened?

23 A. It was a male, but she didnae know who it was. And
24 things had happened to her. She was touched. She
25 wisnae sure where she was at some points. And she

1 couldnae remember seeing me at breakfast, although we
2 were sitting next to each other and I kept asking her if
3 she was all right.

4 Later on, when I first found out about this, through
5 reading The Courier newspaper, that Fornethy came up, I
6 contacted my sister and said: look, there's this lady,
7 there's a chance that we could actually get justice for
8 wir past. And she explained to me that this happened
9 and it wisnae a one-off thing. It seemed to be like
10 quite normal for this person to be -- I don't know if it
11 was medical quarters, I didn't experience it, I'm only
12 brushing off on what my sister had told me.

13 But going the way my sister's life turned out,
14 through the treatment in Fornethy, I believe that what
15 she said was true and factual, that there was a man in
16 that room wi' her.

17 Q. And from what you've said, it was a sexual thing?

18 A. Yeah. Yeah.

19 Q. And this had happened after she had --

20 A. After she had -- after her injury to her face she was
21 removed, obviously, because there was blood everywhere,
22 she was cleaned up, she was sorted out. And I asked my
23 sister specifically: 'Did you go to the hospital that
24 time? Did a doctor come in? Are you sure it wisnae
25 a doctor that came in?', and she went: 'No, 'cos

1 a doctor wouldnae sleep in the same bed as me'. So.

2 Q. Thank you for telling us that. I can see it's been
3 quite upsetting for you.

4 Just while I'm on that page, at paragraph 97, you
5 tell us that if the staff thought you had been bad, you
6 didn't get fed. Did that happen to you?

7 A. Quite a lot, yeah.

8 Q. And were you also told that your mother didn't want to
9 speak to you, because you had been bad and in trouble;
10 was that sort of message also being conveyed to you?

11 A. Yes.

12 Q. Was that a regular thing?

13 A. That was a daily occurrence, because, like I said, I was
14 an extremely hyperactive child, and there was a couple
15 of other girls that was kinda like me as well and we
16 were all targeted. If you werenae -- like my sister
17 [REDACTED] was so quiet and so timid, yet she got brutality
18 to the point of getting her face smashed off a sink.
19 Whereas I got hurt with a ruler in the library. But
20 there's so much that -- this isn't even scratching the
21 surface on what happened to girls there.

22 I can only speak on me and on my family and what we
23 have experienced and the psychological warfare, I would
24 call it, because they wanted you to hate your parents,
25 they really wanted you to -- you're supposed to go home

1 happy. We went home and my mum put the walls up. It
2 was like: 'Oh, they're going to take you off us if you
3 talk like that, you cannae talk like that'.

4 My mum was very fearful. Because of my dad's
5 schizophrenia and her spina bifida, she thought if we
6 spoke up on these things, that they would have lost us.
7 Even after the second visit, she was still fearful of
8 services.

9 Q. Can I then look at some of the things you've said about
10 the impact that being in Fornethy had on you, and you
11 have already touched upon this, that you have no respect
12 for authority is one of the things you've told us about?

13 A. That's changed obviously through my years, but back then
14 as a young child, I was very unruly.

15 Q. And you had night terrors when you were a teenager, and
16 have they stopped?

17 A. No.

18 Q. And one thing you say about your own children, they
19 suffered because of Fornethy as well, because you were
20 overprotective really, I think is what you're saying?

21 A. Yeah. I mean --

22 Q. Was that because of what had happened to you at
23 Fornethy?

24 A. Most kids enjoy the freedom of sleepovers with friends,
25 and some of ma friends let their children have holidays

1 with their friends, and I find that horrifically
2 alarming, because I'm like: you trust people that much?
3 I have to be extremely close to a family before my kids
4 even go for dinner at their house.

5 It's just a paranoia that has never left. Even when
6 my son did his historical trip to Poland and Germany,
7 I never slept for an entire week. I couldnae sleep.
8 I was stalking my own child on the phone, just -- and he
9 was like: 'Mum, gonna leave me alone, I'm doing this and
10 I'm doing that, everything's fine'. But I'm like: 'Is
11 everybody treating you right?'.
12

13 And the teacher that went with ma son was his own
14 history teacher and I had this: 'Noo, if this happens,
15 if that happens, you raise the alarm, you go to the
16 police, don't hit'. And he's like: 'Mum, I'm going to
17 be safe, I'm going to be fine'.
18

19 But when you experience something -- when you've had
20 authorities and people in a power of trust who can
21 disrespect humanity, just because they can, it destroys
22 a lot of your childhood character and it takes you a lot
23 to put trust in other people, including
24 non-authoritarian people, just people in general:
25 'What's your agenda? What do you want ma wean to stay
wi' you for? That's weird'. It's just things like
that, which shouldnae be weird.

1 Obviously, every parent's protective, but ma way of
2 dealing with ma past is I smother my children. I don't
3 allow them to have the freedom that Joe Bloggs round the
4 corner gets to go and do this and do that. And I'm
5 like: 'I'm sorry, I cannae. When you're 18 you can go
6 do what you want, because I don't have a say in it, but
7 until then, I have a say in it and no'.

8 You know, it's like it restricts a lot of personal
9 relationships for my sons and my daughter. Although
10 their friendships are great, they've got great
11 friendship groups, they still havenae had that sleepover
12 experience, unless I'm there. If I'm in the same
13 property, by all means.

14 I've had half of Shettleston stay in ma house with
15 my boys through the years and that's fine, they're
16 parents are fine with me. They trust me and that's
17 fine. But I have to earn that trust and they have to
18 understand me, as well as to why I don't allow, and
19 I always tell my -- I'm very, very close to my sons.
20 They've had the same friend group since nursery.
21 I'm very, very fortunate that their group of friends,
22 they've grew with. So they know what I'm like with
23 overprotectiveness.

24 And their sons can -- they're 18 and 19, the ones
25 that are allowed to go out at night. I'm a chaperone

1 with them and their parents are like: 'Oh, they'll get
2 the train. 'No, I'm a chaperone, I'm going to get them.
3 I'll pick them up fae the venue'. I don't drive.
4 I'll go on public transport, pick my son up and his
5 friend and take them home.

6 I cannae just let them be, to do their ain thing,
7 and that's because of what happened.

8 Q. But you have had counselling, I think you tell us?

9 A. Sorry?

10 Q. You've had counselling, to help you?

11 A. Oh, yeah, yeah. Yeah. I didnae get that until --
12 I think I was 14/15, I seen the first child
13 psychologist.

14 Q. Looking back on that, do you think it has helped you?

15 A. Definitely helped wi' the fear of authority, because
16 although it was a large institution, various schools,
17 various areas, not one person from Glasgow came and
18 asked -- maybe they asked my sister, but I doubt it --
19 naebody asked how we were. How could we no telephone
20 our parents? My mum didnae have a phone, but my auntie
21 next door did. We could have contacted them, but we
22 werenae allowed. Why?

23 Q. You have, I think, tried to get records, your records,
24 but without much success?

25 A. The records is shocking, how all these Acts are put in

1 place to store records and things, but a lot --
2 I havenae researched the way some of the other girls in
3 Fornethy have researched for records. Mine's are
4 probably extremely difficult to come across because we
5 did move, not only from Glasgow, but we moved from
6 Glasgow to Perth and all outwith different areas. So
7 the social work reports would be scattered, you know.
8 But I think with a child it should be you have a social
9 work report and any subsequent ones should be all kept
10 in the one file and kept. Whether you're in anywhere in
11 Scotland it should be all the same. Even though it's
12 different city councils, all records should be kept in
13 the one, and that way situations like this can be
14 avoided.

15 Q. Now, you talk about 'Lessons to be Learned', and I think
16 the main message, if I can try and summarise that, is
17 first of all, you didn't think that the staff at
18 Fornethy had any training?

19 A. No.

20 Q. Particularly in relation to childcare. And your
21 position is that people who are caring for children
22 should be properly trained?

23 A. Yeah. I think psychological evaluation should be
24 brought in. I know teachers are teachers, but when it's
25 a residential and you're staying 24/7 with these pupils

1 for up to six weeks, a psychological evaluation should
2 be done as part of the training.

3 It's okay saying: 'Right, these parents have issues
4 and that parent has issues'. What if that individual
5 has issues that are -- because they come across as
6 a nice person, they must be genuine stand-up people?

7 People in other professions get psychologically
8 analysed at times. I think when you're in a residential
9 care environment -- and it should be more spread out, no
10 just people from that local area, because there was not
11 one person in that entire building spoke Glaswegian.
12 I don't even speak Glaswegian, but -- I ken, but it
13 sounds ridiculous. I've just, I've moved all over
14 Scotland so I can speak -- I sound weird compared to
15 other people in ma area, but there was no representation
16 from Glasgow.

17 These ladies -- I never got schooling at all. So ma
18 dorm teacher wisnae a teacher unless she did it when we
19 were all outside, playing around outside, but there's
20 nae structure to what was going on. There was no:
21 'Here's a safety route, here's a voice for you if you're
22 no happy'.

23 We had no choice on when we could go home. Or even
24 if we were sick or whatever, it was: 'Suck it up'. It
25 wisnae: 'Oh, go to the' -- there was a medical room. If

1 you had a sore head or something: 'Oh, go lie down,
2 we'll send somebody to stand with you for a wee while'.
3 No a doctor, no a teacher: another pupil.

4 So it was run by the children, the whole house.

5 Q. And you say near the end of your statement that:

6 'The sad thing is that it's taken the exposure of
7 the abuse for these highly educated people, who make the
8 decisions for governments on how these childcare
9 institutions are run, to come to a realisation. The
10 abused must be listened to so that they can change the
11 abusers.'

12 A. Yeah, mm-hmm.

13 Q. That's your message.

14 A. The message is: educate the educators, because lifestyle
15 is very different for all families, all cultures, all
16 different things, and in the 1980s there was a lot of
17 poor families in Glasgow, but we were sent there and
18 rejected and ignored. Why? Why has it went since 1960s
19 to 1990s? And these people systematically done exactly
20 the same routine, exactly the same things -- some
21 severe, some are more -- even more severe that you
22 couldnae imagine. What I experienced for ma self will
23 never go away. This is me.

24 Children don't have a voice. There needs to be
25 a child advocacy in residential care that are nothing to

1 do with the budget, the finance, the running, nothing to
2 do with that. They should be an advocate just for the
3 children to go: 'Okay, you're disagreeing with this
4 teacher'. That's no the teacher to say the teacher's at
5 fault. There needs to be a balance where an adult
6 cannae just be like: 'No, they're bad and they're just,
7 they're so hard to work with and I'm trying my best but
8 actually I'm abusing them on the side but yous will
9 never know because naebody checked up and naebody
10 cares'.

11 Q. Well, 'Louise', you have answered all my questions.

12 A. Thank you so much for your time.

13 MR MACAULAY: Very fully, if I may say so. Thank you for
14 doing that. My Lady, no questions have been submitted
15 to me for 'Louise'.

16 LADY SMITH: Thank you very much.

17 'Louise', you have indeed answered everything very
18 patiently. Thank you for bearing with us. You have
19 enriched the evidence I already had from you in writing.
20 Thank you so much for that.

21 A. You're welcome.

22 LADY SMITH: Now, please feel free to go, but do so taking
23 care of yourself and relaxing for the rest of the day.

24 Thank you very much.

25 A. Thank you so much.

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(The witness withdrew)

LADY SMITH: Before we move on to I think one read-in, a couple of names I want to mention that the witness used. One was [REDACTED], the other was [REDACTED]. These are both people who are not to be identified as referred to in our evidence outside this room. She mentioned them in the context of siblings who were in Fornethy along with her.

I think that's everybody.

Now, a read-in, Mr MacAulay.

MR MACAULAY: Yes, my Lady. This is a read-in. It's an applicant. She wants to remain anonymous and to use the pseudonym 'Curly'.

LADY SMITH: Thank you.

'Curly' (read in)

MR MACAULAY: 'Curly' was born in 1965. She tells us, by way of background, that she was one of seven siblings, so she came from a large family.

At paragraph 3, she says:

'We stayed [in] Possilpark.'

And her father was in and out of jobs, but nothing concrete. 4:

'At the time I'm speaking about, I was about 5 or 6 years old, 7 at the most. I could only have been in Primary 1 or 2. [My sister] was at the primary school

1 as well. She was 10 or 11. I don't recall the reasons
2 why [my sister] and me went to Fornethy and neither does
3 [my sister]. From hearing wee bits, girls got sent
4 there because parents needed a wee break or something.
5 My sister thinks it was put to the girls in school,
6 "Would anybody like to go a wee holiday?".

7 'It might have been that they linked up that my
8 sister had a sibling. It could maybe have been that it
9 was something to do with my parents losing [my other
10 sister]. It was a wee troubled time for my parents. It
11 may have been a way of giving the family a break.
12 I don't know the answer to that. We think we went to
13 Fornethy just after [my other sister] died. It couldn't
14 have been before [that], because I'm younger and [I
15 (sic)] would have gone to Fornethy as the older sibling.
16 Since me and my sister stumbled on what was going on
17 with Fornethy, we've tried to put the pieces together.
18 To the best of our ability, that's what we think. We
19 think we were there for six weeks, but my sister is
20 unclear if we had to stay longer. Everybody who went
21 there says it was always six weeks. Until recently,
22 Fornethy didn't come into my mind to talk to other
23 people about, because of the uncertainty. Me and my
24 sister would talk about Fornethy and say we went there
25 and it was horrible.'

1 And then at paragraph 7:

2 'When you came inside, there was wee blocks where
3 you put your wellies. There was a spiral staircase.
4 There was a big dining room with tables and chairs in
5 it, where we ate and a big sitting room. I have images
6 of old furniture and big, leather couches. My sister
7 thinks we got split up and when you listen to other
8 ladies, siblings were separated. My sister thinks we
9 saw each other on an occasion, but we'd be sitting at
10 different dining tables.

11 'The routine was that you put the wellies on when
12 you went out and when you got back you put your sand
13 shoes on. I hated the wellies. The problem with the
14 wellies was that they didn't fit me.

15 'I slept in a big room with two rows of five beds.
16 My sister wasn't in my dormitory. The lights went out
17 and the room became dark with a blue nightlight. My
18 sister says she sobbed every night wanting to go home to
19 mum, but I didn't. At nighttime, you got half
20 a digestive biscuit and a wee drop of milk in a plastic
21 cup.

22 'Mrs Fletcher was the headteacher. I don't remember
23 any other teacher. There was a man who had dungarees
24 on, maybe a gardener or maintenance man. There were
25 older girls who were helpers in the dining room. They

1 put the food down on the table.

2 'The food came through a hatch in the dining room.
3 One time my sister and me were at the same dining table.
4 My sister was at the opposite side to me and it was
5 liver. I don't like liver. I might have tried it and
6 if I ever had liver at home, I don't know. I was able
7 to pass the liver under the table and my sister took it.
8 There were reasons why I did that. It must have been
9 that you had to eat it. There was another occasion when
10 my sister wasn't sitting beside me and it was liver. My
11 sister says she looked at me and knew I was crying.
12 I don't know how my sister managed but she thinks she
13 gestured or was able to say to cut it up and swallow it.
14 I've had that horrible thing in my head. It's not
15 something I was told.

16 'I don't recall what happened if you didn't eat it,
17 but I've heard stories from other people. I don't know
18 if something happened in between this occasion when
19 I know I'm crying and the occasion when I don't know
20 what to do with the liver. There's something that makes
21 me cry, but I don't know what was. I knew the liver was
22 repulsive. But I knew I needed to eat it and finish the
23 plate, or else. The story about the liver has been with
24 me all my life.

25 'You lined up for the showers. It wasn't cubicles

1 with doors, but a row of showers with no doors, just
2 open.'

3 Then at paragraph 18:

4 'We went on long, horrible walks through trees with
5 wellies on that didn't fit you. We walked in twos. It
6 was regimental. We had to keep walking and there was no
7 stopping to look at anything. Looking back, I think we
8 walked for eight hours a day. My sister says there was
9 nothing else to do. The staff walked us all day and we
10 got back for dinner.

11 'My sister says a letter was put on the board that
12 the girls had to copy and it was to be written to the
13 parents. There was no other contact with parents and
14 they did not visit.

15 'My sister told me I was treated differently from
16 the other girls. Until 2024 it was occasional banter
17 between the two of us. My sister said it was all right
18 for me because I was the teacher's pet and the teacher
19 took me everywhere. She meant Mrs Fletcher. For some
20 reason it was as if I was with Mrs Fletcher and I was
21 beside her a lot. We were in the same room. I could
22 see the girls sitting with their knees in their basket
23 waiting to watch the projector, but I was up beside
24 Mrs Fletcher. Now that doesn't sit well with me, but
25 I didn't realise at the time. When my sister

1 occasionally got the chance to see me, I was with
2 Mrs Fletcher.

3 'I remember going into the car with Mrs Fletcher and
4 [my sister] remembers [me] -- seeing me going into the
5 car and waving to me. For many years, there was
6 something there that made me say she was taking me to
7 the doctor, because there was something wrong with my
8 eyes. I maybe had bad hay fever or something, but
9 I didn't know for certain. I was sitting in the
10 passenger seat and Mrs Fletcher gave me a pin-striped
11 wee sweetie bag. There were sweets in it. I don't
12 remember anything after that or going to see a doctor.
13 I was probably loving it if I was the teacher's pet and
14 I was getting a bag of sweeties.

15 'In my 20s thoughts were coming into my head. I was
16 sitting on a man's knee on a brown, leather chair with
17 a high back. The room was very dark. I can't see
18 a face. Two things come through to me clearly and
19 I'm trying to work out if it's one occasion or two or
20 three different occasions or three different men,
21 I don't know. I see a blue or black pin-striped jacket
22 and the other image coming through is a tweedy jacket.
23 I clearly remember that I have a wee, navy swimming
24 costume on. It's got white piping around the legs.
25 While I'm sitting on this man's knees his fingers go

1 into the swimming costume and he's touching me on the
2 lower part of my body. I don't know if he inserted his
3 fingers.

4 'Could the room have been Fornethy? I would say it
5 could have been, but from other stories, it couldn't
6 have been. This is because I remember seeing a wee,
7 oval pool when I was on his knee and apparently there
8 was no pool in Fornethy. The pool was a wee distance
9 away or through double doors. That makes me think
10 I've been taken somewhere else. I wasn't saying it was
11 Fornethy at that time when I first thought of it in my
12 20s.

13 'When I was nearly 30, I was questioning what this
14 was in my head and I thought about it all the time.
15 I didn't know what to do or why it was recurring in my
16 head. In my 30s, I asked my mum directly if anything
17 happened to me when I was a wee girl. I told my mum and
18 she said nothing had happened that she could recall.
19 I made up my own story. If everything is safe and
20 allowed, whose knee would I be sitting on comfortably?
21 First and foremost, my dad and probably my brothers. We
22 got split up after Fornethy and I went to my aunt's,
23 which brings the possibility of it being my uncle, who
24 I love dearly. My auntie and uncle adored me. From my
25 30s until 2024 I came to the decision to say it must

1 have been my uncle, because it couldn't have been my dad
2 or my brothers. There was no other man I could think of
3 that I would be sitting on their knee.

4 'There's a guy who is a paedophile hunter who has
5 a platform on [REDACTED]. He is the host. In 2024 there
6 was a live conversation going on. It was all to do with
7 Fornethy ladies and they could get in touch with him. I
8 listened to it live in my work at break time. Another
9 lady who went to Fornethy when she was between 7 and 9,
10 was telling the guy her story. She was saying similar
11 things to what I've said to the Inquiry about what the
12 place was like, dinners and walks. Then she said that
13 she was taken away in the car by Mrs Fletcher to another
14 big building. There were big, double doors that
15 Mrs Fletcher opened up. The place was all smokey and
16 dark and it was all men. The lady said she could see
17 over in the corner a wee girl sitting on a man's knee on
18 a chair. Then the lady had to go to the basement
19 because that was where they got her ready. They put her
20 into a wee, blue swimming costume. That's my story.
21 That is me. Maybe it happened to lots of girls.

22 'I thought Mrs Fletcher took me to the doctors for
23 my eyes, but now I believe it was chlorine. There's
24 something even now with chlorine. Maybe I was in the
25 pool and chlorine got in my eyes. I thought Fornethy

1 was nice until I learned different. It wasn't nice that
2 I had to eat liver, but that might have been another
3 teacher and not Mrs Fletcher. 50 years ago there were
4 a lot of dos and don'ts. You were respectful to adults.
5 You didn't go back home and tell mum and dad that
6 Fornethy was terrible. Children were seen and not
7 heard.

8 'The wellies didn't fit me and that was a big thing
9 to me. They were too small and I had to squeeze my feet
10 in. My legs hurt with the wellies. The wellies rubbed
11 my calves and they were marked and bleeding. We walked
12 for a long time every day.

13 'My sister saw and heard other things that I didn't
14 and she was involved in other stuff that I wasn't. My
15 sister says she was slapped across the face because she
16 left a damp towel on her bed, not by Mrs Fletcher, but
17 another teacher. That is my sister's story.'

18 And she then talks about leaving Fornethy House,
19 kinship care and returning to the family home.

20 And at 32, she says:

21 'I got married when I was 20 and I've been married
22 for 40 years this year.'

23 And she then has some paragraphs dealing with her
24 involvement with the Fornethy ██████████ Group and then
25 at paragraph 37 she talks about impact:

1 'I think back to what's happened to me at Fornethy,
2 the flashbacks, the thinking of my uncle. I plucked up
3 the courage to ask my mum if anything had happened to
4 me. It is a bit much to imply to your mum that your
5 uncle did something. When mum said no, she tried to
6 reassure me. I said to my mum there was something there
7 and she said it was nothing to do with my uncle. They
8 loved me and cared for me. My mum said there was never
9 anything bad said about my uncle. My uncle loved me,
10 but I had to live with the thought he was the man whose
11 knee I sat on.

12 'My aunt and uncle are both gone now, but his
13 daughter is still alive. What I'm struggling with is
14 all these years until 2024, I was blaming my uncle.
15 I say to him occasionally that I'm sorry. It's not good
16 enough. I didn't know and I was trying to make sense of
17 it. I'm sorry that the only sense I could make of it
18 was blaming my uncle. It's horrible to be in
19 a situation where you think, hearing what the lady said
20 on ██████, "That could be it". I'll never know.
21 I'm hoping that what I've found out will give me a bit
22 of closure. It was an awful long time thinking the
23 other. I wish my uncle was here because I'd look him
24 straight in the eye and tell him what I accused him of
25 and he didn't do it. I might need a bit of guidance.

1 What women do is make sure everyone else is all right
2 and in the last eight months I've had a lot going on.
3 I hope the Lord above will guide me and say it's all
4 right and that he has forgiven me.

5 'I don't have any bad feelings towards my parents.
6 I want to reach out, but both my parents are dead.
7 I wish they didn't need to send me there, but it was
8 hard for them. It's raw for me now because it's come to
9 my doorstep. I'm older now and trying to make sense of
10 it all. I had my time trying to figure out what the
11 image was and who the man was. I went down the wrong
12 path with it, but I believe now that the incident
13 happened at Fornethy. I want to find a way of knowing
14 my uncle will forgive me and I can forgive myself.

15 'I've suffered with my thoughts, silently. I've not
16 opened up to anybody. The nature of it has made me not
17 confide in anybody, even my husband. It has impacted my
18 relationship with my husband.'

19 And she goes on to talk about her family.

20 And moving on to paragraph 45 where she said she
21 made a report to the police in September 2024 and has
22 not heard anything since.

23 And in relation to records, she says that she
24 doesn't have any records from Fornethy and that:

25 'I've not asked for any records other than asking

1 for my medical records.'

2 And then lessons to be learned:

3 'Where were inspections and what about vetting of
4 staff? If things are true that went on at Fornethy that
5 shouldn't have, you are talking about a reign of
6 30 years from 1961 to 1990. Nobody was following
7 anything up that was happening with the kids. It
8 doesn't help matters when nobody is admitting they were
9 responsible for sending you there. It belonged to
10 Glasgow Corporation and they should have been checking
11 the staff were vetted. We established what a normal day
12 at Fornethy was like, but what should it have been like?
13 In this day and age people are more aware of bad things
14 going on. If you put your child into a football club
15 and you're not sure, you stay and watch his football
16 session. If your wee girl is in a dance class, ask for
17 the papers to say the teacher has a right to work with
18 children. That is now, but it wasn't the case then.

19 'I hope at the end of this I get a bit of closure.
20 A big piece of the jigsaw has been found and put in
21 place for me. I'll try to deal with the trauma in the
22 best way I can about my uncle's side of things. If
23 I can live and know I didn't know what else to do,
24 I didn't mean anything by it. That was the worst of it.
25 He was good to me in an uncle way. I'll come to terms

1 with that and hopefully there are lessons learned.'.

2 'Curly' ends by saying:

3 'I have no objection to my witness statement being

4 published as part of the evidence to the Inquiry.

5 I believe the facts stated in this witness statement are

6 true.'

7 And 'Curly' has signed her statement on 28 March

8 2025.

9 And perhaps I should just give the reference for the

10 transcript which I omitted to do at the beginning and

11 that is WIT-1-000001577.

12 LADY SMITH: Thank you very much, Mr MacAulay.

13 MR MACAULAY: And that's the evidence for today.

14 LADY SMITH: That's it for today and for this week, but we

15 sit again at 10 o'clock on Tuesday for further evidence

16 about Fornethy.

17 Thank you very much.

18 I hope everybody has a good weekend.

19 (3.50 pm)

20 (The Inquiry adjourned until 10.00 am

21 on Tuesday, 26 May 2026)

22

23

24

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I N D E X

	PAGE
'Lucy' (affirmed)	1
Questions from Mr MacAulay	3
'May' (sworn)	62
Questions from Mr MacAulay	63
'Marie' (read in)	98
'Louise' (sworn)	104
Questions from Mr MacAulay	105
'Curly' (read in)	157
11	
12	
13	
14	
15	
16	
17	
18	
19	
20	
21	
22	
23	
24	
25	

