

1

Tuesday, 26 May 2026

2 (10.00 am)

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

9 Now, a slight change of plan. I think we're going
10 to start with a read-in; is that right, Mr MacAulay?

11 MR MACAULAY: That is the case, my Lady. The plan had been
12 to have an oral witness first but we've changed that;
13 we're now having the read-in.

14 LADY SMITH: Thank you.

15 'Bobby' (read in)

16 MR MACAULAY: This is an applicant who wants to remain
17 anonymous and to use the pseudonym 'Bobby'.

18 LADY SMITH: Thank you.

19 MR MACAULAY: Her statement can be found at WIT-1-000000769.

20 'Bobby' was born in 1964. She begins by telling us
21 a little bit about her parents and her siblings, and she
22 says at paragraph 3:

23 'I can't remember much about my mum. I only have
24 a couple of memories of her, but she was always ill.
25 She was in hospital a lot. I remember the last time

1 that I saw her, but not much more than that. My mum had
2 TB, which she got from a friend she was nursing. She
3 was in and out of hospital with it. When she went in,
4 they automatically treated her for TB but she actually
5 had stomach cancer. If they had checked her properly
6 instead of putting everything down to TB, they might
7 have been able to treat it. She died when I was 4 years
8 old.

9 'I learned from my older siblings that my mum wore
10 the trousers in the marriage. My dad worked at the
11 shipbuilders. As far as I know, it was a good
12 relationship. From what I gather, my dad couldn't cope
13 when my mum went into hospital. He couldn't cope with
14 anything when my mum wasn't at home.'

15 At paragraph 5 she tells us about being in care in
16 a children's home and she goes on to say that when she
17 went back home after that, that her father became an
18 alcoholic. She says:

19 'Things weren't good after my mum died. I remember
20 a social worker being involved, who was either a brown
21 or a green lady, because of the colour of her clothing.'

22 And towards the bottom of that page, she talks about
23 going into Fornethy. She says:

24 'I went to Fornethy. We both went to residential
25 school for six weeks. My dad told me that I was going

1 on a wee holiday to get a break. The first time I went
2 to Fornethy, I was excited because I thought I was going
3 on holiday.

4 '[My sisters] went to Fornethy before my mum died.
5 They only went once and they never went back. They
6 don't have good memories of Fornethy. Recently, I have
7 been speaking to my sisters about giving evidence to the
8 Inquiry. They told me that they saw lassies sitting on
9 men's knees in the games room. I think they came home
10 and told my mum that Fornethy was horrible and they
11 didn't want to go again. She wouldn't have sent them
12 back there. We didn't speak about Fornethy before
13 I went as a child. I don't think my sisters even
14 realised that was where I was going.

15 'The first time I went to Fornethy I was 6 or
16 7 years old.'

17 And that probably places it at about 1970/1971.

18 LADY SMITH: 1970s. Thank you.

19 MR MACAULAY: 'I went there quite a few times, but I don't
20 know exactly how many. Sometimes I went more than once
21 in the same year. I think I went about five times
22 between the ages of 6 or 7 and 10. Each time I went
23 there for six weeks. The routines and the staff stayed
24 the same each time I went back. Going by the walks,
25 I think there were maybe 20 to 30 girls there at a time.

1 It was for primary school girls.'

2 She then goes on to describe the premises in the
3 next couple of paragraphs and at paragraph 14, she says:

4 'Fornethy was run by Glasgow City Council. SNR
5 SNR was SNR, but I can't remember her
6 name. I remember she had a cane. She had grey,
7 shoulder-length hair and she seemed old to me. She kept
8 herself in pristine condition. There was also a member
9 of staff called Robertson. I think she was
10 Miss Robertson. I'm not sure but I think she was
11 probably in her late 20s/early 30s. She had a really
12 bad perm, which made her look a lot older. I remember
13 her because she was one of the nasty ones. I can't
14 remember any other staff, but I don't think there were
15 very many of them. There were dining staff who came in
16 solely to make the meals. I only remember female staff,
17 apart from one man who would be creeping about when we
18 got up for our breakfast. I don't know whether he was
19 a gardener or something. I've had a bad childhood so
20 I knew how to avoid things. I learned that early on.

21 'My dad took me to Bothwell Street in the city
22 centre. I was put on a minibus. I was fine with
23 leaving my dad behind. I had a wee bag with me, but you
24 weren't allowed to take too much. It was just a change
25 of clothes. There were other girls on the bus, all

1 going to Fornethy. The journey seemed to take forever
2 back then. I know now it wasn't very long, probably
3 about two hours. I remember driving up to Fornethy and
4 the pine trees on either side of the long driveway.
5 I looked at the building in awe. It looked lovely. It
6 looked amazing and I was excited that I was going to
7 stay there the first time I went. The second time, it
8 was just dread and absolute fear, but I didn't have any
9 option. As soon as I saw those pine trees, it was just
10 sheer dread.

11 'The first thing that happened after we arrived
12 was the baths. We were taken up to the shared baths and
13 rubbed red raw with a scrubbing brush. It was like
14 a big, wooden brush you would use to scrub floors.
15 I think it was Robertson who scrubbed us, but I don't
16 know whether I've just fixated on her because she's the
17 one I have bad memories of. They then gave us pinnies
18 to wear. Everyone wore the same dress. They were blue
19 with wee pink flowers on them. The first time I went,
20 they gave us aprons to wear across the dress as well,
21 which is why I used to call it my "Little House On the
22 Prairie" dress. They stopped giving us the apron in
23 later years. After we were given our dresses we went to
24 eat. I don't remember what happened after that.'

25 And then she provides in the next few paragraphs

1 some detail about the morning and bedtime routines, and
2 at 21, she says:

3 'We were able to get up to use the toilet in the
4 middle of the night. A lot of lassies were scared to
5 get up. I wasn't normally a bed-wetter, but I wet the
6 bed once. I think it was just fear. I didn't want to
7 get out of bed because of the fear that had been
8 instilled in me. It wasn't nice. I was a bit older
9 when I wet the bed, maybe 9 or 10. It was one of the
10 last times that I went to Fornethy. It wasn't noticed
11 until the morning. We had to make our beds in the
12 morning and they'd come in and check the beds. That was
13 when it was discovered I'd wet the bed. I got a skelp
14 on the legs, but I don't know which member of staff did
15 that. My privileges were taken away from me. I wasn't
16 allowed my milk and biscuits or a drink with my dinner.
17 A rubber sheet was put on my bed after that.

18 'Sometimes the staff discovered that girls had wet
19 the bed during the night. I don't know how it was
20 discovered. Those children were taken away at night and
21 punished. They had to sit in the corridor for hours.
22 I saw the girls being taken away. I asked them where
23 they had been and they told me they had been sitting in
24 a corridor all night.

25 'I didn't get fed at home, so any food was a bonus

1 for me. It wasn't the best food, but it was edible.
2 The only problem I had was with the cheese. The food
3 was prepared by dining staff. It was brought to us at
4 a table of five or six girls. We didn't get a choice of
5 food. There were a lot of girls who didn't want to eat
6 certain things. It was common for the staff to make
7 girls eat things they didn't like. They were basically
8 told, "Eat what's given to you and be grateful for it".
9 If you were lucky, you got a cup of milk and a biscuit
10 before going to bed. If you wet the bed, you didn't get
11 anything.

12 'We had a sink wash in the morning. We were given
13 carbolic soap to wash our hands and face. We had a bath
14 once a week. There were two big baths and we would
15 queue to go in. We shared the bath with one other girl
16 and the staff would wash us. They didn't always use the
17 scrubbing brush, but it was definitely used when we
18 first arrived. I think Wednesday was the bath night.
19 Towards the end of my time at Fornethy, we started
20 getting showers instead of baths. That was the only
21 thing about the routine that changed. I think we
22 showered on a Thursday night.'

23 And then at paragraph 26:

24 'I've got one memory of doing the dishes in the
25 canteen. I think that was seen as a treat. They were

1 very particular about how we made our beds. The bottom
2 sheet had to be folded in with hospital corners. We had
3 to do the same with the top sheet. A certain length of
4 the top sheet had to be over the top cover. Everything
5 had to be meticulously tucked in. If it wasn't, it got
6 stripped and we were told to do it again. We were also
7 made to scrub the floors, but that was a punishment
8 rather than a regular thing.

9 'We went to classes in the morning. The teachers
10 were the staff who worked there. I remember writing
11 letters home. The staff told us what to write. In the
12 first one we wrote that we had arrived safely and were
13 having a super duper time. If we wrote something
14 different, we were punished and made to do it again.
15 I quickly learned to do what I was told, but other girls
16 were taken out the classroom and hit. Sometimes they
17 didn't even take them out of the classroom. They would
18 get in the girls' faces and say, "You write what you are
19 told or you won't be seeing your mum and dad again".

20 'After lunch, we went on long walks. All the girls
21 had to go on the walks. One or two members of staff
22 would come with us. We walked for about ten miles. The
23 longest walk was when we went to the dam. I hated that
24 walk. I liked seeing the dam when we got there, but it
25 was a really long walk. I'm sure they used to take us

1 there for punishment. We were out walking for so long
2 that by the time we got back, it was teatime.

3 'There was one teacher who showed me kindness the
4 first time I went to Fornethy. She took a shine to me.
5 I don't know whether she knew about my history, but she
6 took me under her wing. When we went on walks, I would
7 stay beside her and she looked after me. The next time
8 I went to Fornethy, I was looking for that teacher.
9 I can't remember her name, but she was never there
10 again.'

11 And at 31:

12 'We weren't allowed to talk to each other. We were
13 only allowed to speak when we were spoken to. We didn't
14 make friends. We weren't allowed to speak in the
15 dormitory. It was as if the staff were always
16 listening. When we did manage to speak to each other,
17 there was a lot of talk about running away. If we did
18 speak, we were told to shut up and we did because we
19 were scared.

20 'We didn't have school on a Saturday or a Sunday.
21 I think the weekend was when we did get to socialise.
22 We were allowed to speak but there was always somebody
23 around listening, making sure we didn't speak out of
24 turn. There was a set of swings on the grounds and we
25 were allowed to play on that.

1 'In the last week of our visit, the staff would do
2 good things with us. I think it was so we had something
3 good to tell our families. I remember going swimming.
4 I'd never been a church-going person, but we also went
5 to church the week before we went home. That was
6 supposed to be a treat. They took us in a minibus to
7 the church. The church wasn't very far away. I think
8 going in the minibus was all for show. Apart from that
9 last week, we didn't go on any other trips.

10 'We didn't get pocket money from the home. I just
11 got whatever my dad had given me to take. The staff
12 would take that from you when you arrived and give you
13 so much back. I think I got a penny every day to go to
14 the tuck shop. The tuck shop was a cupboard with a desk
15 in it full of sweeties. Most of the time, I think it
16 was Robertson in the tuck shop.'

17 And at 37, she says:

18 'I didn't have any visitors when I was at Fornethy.
19 The last time I went, my eldest sister had moved to
20 Dundee. She didn't know that I was in Fornethy, but
21 I told the staff that my sister lived in Dundee, just up
22 the road, and she was going to come and visit me. After
23 I told them that, I was treated better than I had ever
24 been treated in my whole life. My sister didn't come
25 and visit me. She didn't even know that I was there,

1 but the staff didn't know that. I was made monitor and
2 captain that year.

3 'We wrote letters home once a week on a Tuesday.
4 The letters were always read by staff before they were
5 sent. I didn't get any letters while I was there, but
6 some girls did. It was like the jail. They read
7 everything. They opened the letters and read them
8 before the girls got them. Some girls received parcels
9 from home. The staff would open them and keep them. If
10 the girl had been bad, she wouldn't get her parcel.

11 'Everybody was checked for nits shortly after they
12 arrived. The nit nurse used a bone comb that was metal
13 and it had very long teeth, not like the one your mum
14 would use. It was really painful when she dragged it
15 through your hair. If you got hurt, the nit nurse
16 was the one who cleaned you up. You didn't want to go
17 to her if she was cleaning you up because she was not
18 gentle. She was nasty. I had a couple of scrapes from
19 the walks we used to go on, so I had to go to her.
20 There came a point when she left and somebody else was
21 doing that job, so she wasn't there every time I went to
22 Fornethy. I didn't see a dentist or a doctor when I was
23 at Fornethy.

24 'When girls managed to speak to each other, some
25 spoke about running away. We talked about it quietly,

1 but nobody did run away while I was at Fornethy.

2 'We would have to get down on our knees and scrub
3 the floors. It was just whenever the staff deemed that
4 we needed to do it. There wasn't a rota or anything.
5 The staff picked someone to scrub the floors as
6 a punishment. It happened to me, but I can't remember
7 what I'd done.

8 'If you were a monitor, people didn't like you. You
9 were supposed to monitor other girls' food and make
10 sure they were eating. You only interacted with the
11 people in your dorm if you interacted at all. You had
12 to try and encourage the other people in your dorm to
13 eat, so they didn't get punished. It was horrible.
14 I think I was selected because I had been to Fornethy so
15 many times and I knew how the place worked. I was fine
16 with doing it because I didn't want anybody to get hurt.

17 'I was also made captain the last time I was there.
18 That meant that if I wanted, I could be a bully. I took
19 it because it kept the staff off my back, but I hate
20 bullies. Some captains would be the ones telling other
21 girls what to do at the dinner table and in the
22 dormitory. If another girl did something wrong, you
23 were supposed to grass her up. Some of the girls took
24 it to extremes and became real bullies. It was just
25 kids being kids.

1 'There was physical abuse at Fornethy. If the staff
2 didn't like the way you looked, they'd just slap you
3 across the face or the back of the head. They would
4 pull girls' hair back and push their faces into the
5 girls' faces. I know that was acceptable at the time,
6 but it shouldn't have been. Girls were taken out of the
7 classroom if they didn't write what they were told to
8 write in letters home. Sometimes they weren't even
9 taken out of the classroom. They would be hit across
10 the head or have their hair pulled back. They were
11 never hit more than once or twice at a time. The
12 teachers would go right up to their faces and shout at
13 them. That didn't happen to me.

14 'SNR [REDACTED] would hit girls with her cane all
15 the time. The cane was like a walking stick. If a girl
16 tripped up while she was walking past, she would hit her
17 on the back of their legs and tell her to watch where
18 they were going. She would hit girls on the legs for
19 silly things like that. It depended on her mood. She
20 would hit girls once or more than once, but it was
21 always on the legs. It left red welts that went away.
22 She mostly hit us in the games room because she would be
23 there drinking sherry all the time.

24 'Everybody was checked over by the nit nurse when
25 they arrived. I went to her the day after I arrived.

1 I was a trampy kid so I always had nits. The bone comb
2 was metal and it had very long teeth, not like the one
3 your mum would use.'

4 There's a bit of repetition here, my Lady, but
5 I'll just read it:

6 LADY SMITH: Okay.

7 MR MACAULAY: 'The nit nurse would drag it right into your
8 head. If you said "Ouch", she would pull your hair back
9 and slap you across the head a few times. She was evil
10 and nasty and I dreaded going to her. That happened
11 a couple of times. Because I did have nits, I had to go
12 and see her regularly, at least once a week. I don't
13 know if it's an image I've put into my head, but my
14 memory of the nit nurse is that she was witch-like. Her
15 hair was tied back in a tight bun. I would say she was
16 in her 40s.

17 'I've never eaten cheese. I've always been sick
18 when I eat it. I told the staff that cheese made me
19 sick, but they still made me eat macaroni cheese.
20 I told them I couldn't eat it and I wouldn't eat it. It
21 was one of the few times that I said I wouldn't do what
22 they told me to do. One of the staff grabbed me by the
23 back of the hair and started shovelling it into my mouth
24 with a fork. I think it was Robertson, but the dining
25 staff would have seen her doing it. She thought I was

1 just being an awkward child. Of course, I was then
2 promptly sick. The girls who were sitting at the table
3 with me had to sit and watch it while they were eating
4 their own tea. I got punished for being sick. I was
5 made to clear up the sick and then I was taken out of
6 the dining room. I was slapped a few times and I didn't
7 get anything else to eat for the rest of the night.

8 'I was force-fed whenever we were given something to
9 do with cheese. I don't know how many times it
10 happened, but I know it definitely happened at least
11 once. I think it happened to me -- I think it happened
12 once on each occasion I went to Fornethy but I'm not
13 sure. I didn't see anyone else being force-fed, for
14 which I was glad. As an adult I became involved in the
15 Fornethy [REDACTED] group]. I learned on the group that
16 force-feeding did go on quite a lot.

17 'Robertson seemed to be on duty all the time. She
18 is the member of staff I remember the most. She was
19 also the most vicious. She was really butch. That's my
20 memory of her. She just looked scary and she was very
21 intimidating. We didn't cry, not in front of the staff.
22 One teacher showed me kindness the first time I went to
23 Fornethy. She wasn't there the next time I went. Apart
24 from her, none of the staff were kind to the girls or
25 helped them when they were upset.

1 'They taught us a song at Fornethy:
2 '"I once had a dear old mother who was very kind to
3 me.
4 When I was in trouble, she sat me on her knee.
5 Nights that I was sleeping on a feather bed.
6 An angel came from heaven and told me mum was dead."
7 'I felt that the staff used that song against us.
8 It didn't matter to me because I'd already lost my mum.
9 We had to do as we were told. We were made to feel that
10 our parents didn't care and that we didn't matter.
11 I've lived my whole life feeling like I don't matter and
12 what happens to me doesn't matter, so I kept my trap
13 shut.
14 'There was nobody I could talk to at Fornethy. When
15 I got home I told everybody that I hated it. My dad
16 just didn't care. It had got so bad that my dad just
17 didn't care anymore. Basically, I lost both my parents
18 when my mum died.
19 'My dad would tell me to ask for a form for the
20 residential school and the next thing I'd be away again.
21 Fornethy didn't change when I went back, but I did.
22 I became very detached from people. I learned how to
23 blend in. I had no confidence whatsoever. I learned
24 that my life didn't matter. Nothing mattered. I didn't
25 matter. Children didn't matter. Their opinions

1 [didn't] matter. I acted accordingly. I regressed.

2 'When I left Fornethy, they would take us on a bus
3 back to Bothwell Street. My dad or my brother would
4 meet me off the bus, but it was normally my dad. Every
5 time my dad wanted rid of me for a wee while, he would
6 tell me to get a form for the residential school.
7 I would get it from school. The last time I went to
8 Fornethy, I was 10 years old. My dad tried to get me to
9 go again when I was 11. He told me to get the form from
10 the school, but I lied to him. I just couldn't go back
11 to Fornethy again. I told my dad that I was too old and
12 he believed me. Fornethy filled me with sheer dread.
13 Bearing in mind how my childhood was at home, you would
14 have thought I'd be glad to get away. I think there
15 might be things about Fornethy that I'm choosing not to
16 remember. I hated the place. It's always been at the
17 back of my mind.'

18 And then she provides some information about her
19 life after leaving care and it's a rather unhappy
20 picture that she presents.

21 Going on to paragraph 65, on page 16, she says:

22 'We weresent to Fornethy for an escape in the guise
23 of a holiday. I was supposed to be getting a break from
24 a traumatic life at home. They just made it worse, a
25 hundred times worse than it needed to be. They turned

1 me into a coward with no self-worth whatsoever.'

2 And then she goes on subsequently to talk about the
3 Fornethy [REDACTED] Group and if I can perhaps turn to
4 page 19 and paragraph 75, where she talks about the
5 'Hopes for the Inquiry'.

6 LADY SMITH: Thank you.

7 MR MACAULAY: She says:

8 'I think there should be unplanned visits to places
9 where children are looked after. The staff shouldn't be
10 told before the visit because they can sort things out.
11 Inspectors should show up randomly, unannounced.
12 Fornethy turned me into a coward with no self-worth
13 whatsoever. It's not nice going through life like that.
14 It shouldn't be happening nowadays, but it probably is.

15 'What I hope to get out of coming forward to the
16 Inquiry is to know that I mattered. What happened was
17 wrong. What they instilled in me at Fornethy is the
18 reason that I didn't go to the police when I was being
19 raped.'

20 And she does provide some information about that,
21 which is quite --

22 LADY SMITH: And that wasn't in Fornethy?

23 MR MACAULAY: No, that wasn't in Fornethy:

24 'I told everybody what the gang were doing to my
25 dad. No amount of money is going to sort my head out.

1 [REDACTED] so it was him that was always there
2 while my mum worked [REDACTED].

3 'Dad [REDACTED]
4 [REDACTED]
5 [REDACTED] wasn't able to work.

6 'Life was happy at home, just a normal childhood.
7 I went to primary and as far as I remember, I enjoyed
8 it.

9 'In 1971, when I was 8 or 9 years old and [one of my
10 sisters] was nearly 11, she and I were sent to Fornethy
11 House in Kilry. I'm not aware if there was any social
12 work involvement with us and I don't know how it came to
13 be, but as far as I remember, we thought we were going
14 on a wee holiday. I don't remember who told us we were
15 going, however, Fornethy House was certainly not what we
16 expected before we went.

17 'Fornethy House was a way out in the middle of
18 nowhere and surrounded by trees. I remember there was
19 a swing park in the grounds and can remember
20 a wee church, although I don't think it was within the
21 grounds.

22 'I've since seen pictures of Fornethy, which is
23 a big, stone-built house, but I don't have many
24 recollections of it from my time there. Some of the
25 staff were in those pictures but I don't recall any of

1 their faces either. I think there was a man who was
2 some sort of janitor and who worked in the grounds, but
3 I'm not sure if the rest of the staff were women. I now
4 know that Fornethy was run by Glasgow Council but
5 I didn't know that at the time.

6 'I think all the children were girls and were
7 similar, primary school age, but I don't know how many
8 were there. It seemed like there were lots. I don't
9 remember any of their names.

10 'The greatest memory I have is of the showers and
11 I can also remember the dining hall, where we all sat
12 together. I also recall a spiral staircase, which might
13 have come from the dormitory we slept in. The dormitory
14 was long with small, single beds up each side and
15 a carpet running up the middle. I can't say how many
16 girls were in my dormitory. All I do remember is that
17 [my sister] was in a different dormitory. Perhaps the
18 dormitories were divided into age groups.

19 'Although I don't have many memories of Fornethy,
20 none of those that I do have are happy or nice ones. To
21 me, it was all regimented and the staff were strict and
22 battered us if we stepped out of the strict lines. None
23 of the staff showed us any care or kindness at any time.

24 'I don't remember the journey to Fornethy, although
25 my sister has since told me that we went to a building

1 within St Enoch's Square in Glasgow and then we got on
2 a bus. I have no recollection of that or of arriving at
3 Fornethy.

4 'I do remember all the trees and the smell of pine
5 when we arrived, but that's about it. I have very
6 limited memories of arriving and I don't know if someone
7 showed us around or settled us in.

8 'I remember all the beds in the dormitory but
9 I don't remember any of the daily routine. I can't even
10 remember getting ready for bed, what time we went to bed
11 or what time we got up in the morning.

12 'All I do remember of the morning is that we often
13 went for a shower then before breakfast. I don't
14 remember my sister showering at the same time, so
15 perhaps we went in groups from each dormitory.

16 'After we'd washed and dressed in the morning we'd
17 go down for breakfast. I might be wrong, but I'm sure
18 we sat on benches at long wooden tables. There was
19 always staff present at mealtimes, although I can't
20 remember any of their faces or describe what they looked
21 like at all.

22 'The only meal I can remember eating is breakfast
23 when we got porridge, which a lot of the children
24 wouldn't eat. If they didn't, they would be made to sit
25 there until they did eat it, or if they were sick,

1 they'd be made to eat their vomit. I can still see
2 porridge all over the table and a member of staff
3 spooning it into a child. I have no recollection of
4 that happening to me, but I remember seeing it happen to
5 other children on quite a few occasions.

6 'There was a tuck shop but I don't remember buying
7 sweets from it. I think some children also got packages
8 of food sent from home and I can vaguely remember
9 getting one too. I recall the excitement of opening it,
10 but I'm not sure what was in it.

11 'We all had to brush our teeth and wash in the
12 communal showers. I think we were given powdered
13 toothpaste to clean our teeth with. I'm not sure if
14 I brought it with me or if it was given to us.

15 'I remember the horrible feeling of lining up naked
16 with other girls to have a shower. There was no privacy
17 whatsoever. It was horrible. It felt to me that we
18 weren't treated like humans, more like animals.

19 'I'm not sure whether we got a shower every morning,
20 although I do remember being in the washroom where the
21 showers were every morning. Perhaps we just washed at
22 the sinks sometimes instead.

23 'We wore wellies a lot at the time and I think we
24 all wore aprons, which the home would have provided.
25 I'm not sure if we wore them on top of our own clothes

1 though, or if we wore them all the time.

2 'We were all taken on long walks in our wellies
3 every day. I've no recollection of going to school or
4 being taught anything, so perhaps those walks were
5 instead of school. We walked for hours and covered
6 miles and I used to be exhausted. Even to this day, the
7 smell of pine trees reminds me of those walks.

8 'I can recall there being a swing park in the
9 grounds, but I have no memory of playing on it or
10 playing anywhere else. I have no recollection of there
11 being toys or games to play with or books to read.

12 'We were shown a film occasionally, perhaps just at
13 the weekend. We'd all sit in this big room while a film
14 was played on a projector, but I'm not sure what films
15 were shown.

16 'I don't remember being unwell at any time or
17 needing any medical attention and I don't know what
18 healthcare facilities there were. My sister has since
19 told me that I had lost a lot of weight by the time we
20 left. Apparently our mum got a shock when she saw how
21 thin I was.

22 'I do remember there was a church but I have no
23 recollection of going there or of saying prayers or
24 anything like that.

25 'After the walks, we all had to take turns to wash

1 all the wellies. I don't remember having any other
2 chores to do.

3 'If I was at Fornethy over my birthday, I certainly
4 don't remember it being celebrated at all and I don't
5 remember any other child's being celebrated either.
6 I do know that I wasn't there over Christmas, so I don't
7 know if it would have been celebrated or not.

8 'I don't think I had any visits from anyone and
9 I don't recall anyone from outside the home coming at
10 any time. My sister has since told me that we had to
11 write letters home and the staff told us what to write,
12 but I don't remember doing that.

13 'I don't remember being with my sister during the
14 day at all, but whether we were kept separate or not,
15 I don't know.

16 'At least a few nights a week [my sister] used to
17 come into my bed at nighttime after she'd wet her bed.
18 If any of the staff found us, we used to get battered
19 stupid for that and both of us were made to sit on the
20 carpet together in the middle of the floor for the rest
21 of the night. I can remember falling asleep on that
22 floor.

23 'We were slapped about the face and the head by the
24 staff, just treated like a bit of rubbish. I remember
25 crying but I don't remember whether I had any bruises

1 afterwards. I don't know if it was always the same
2 member of staff that treated us like that, or if it was
3 different ones, and I can't remember any of their faces.

4 'I don't know what happened to the wet sheets, but
5 [my sister] has since told me that she tried to sneak
6 them down to the laundry a few times so that the staff
7 wouldn't know she'd wet the bed. She told me she got
8 caught, but I don't know what happened when she was.

9 'As well as what happened after [my sister] wet her
10 bed and how children were force-fed, it seemed that all
11 the staff were constantly physically abusive towards the
12 children. Each member of staff seemed to be as bad as
13 each other, none of them stood out particularly. I saw
14 other children being slapped on the face or the head all
15 the time. Even if you walked by a member of staff and
16 they took exception to you for some reason, they would
17 slap you. It became that you expected it.

18 'During one of the film nights I was pulled out in
19 front of everybody by one of the staff, because I think
20 I'd been arguing with another girl, and beaten. I was
21 hit with something, although I don't know what it was,
22 possibly a cane. I'm not sure how many times I was hit
23 across my naked backside in front of all the other
24 children.

25 'I can't describe the member of staff at all and

1 I don't know if they were saying anything as they hit
2 me. I just remember I was screaming. My sister has
3 since told me that she was screaming as well because
4 they were keeping her away. It was sore when they hit
5 me and I can remember it still being sore afterwards.
6 I'm sure I must have had bruises.

7 'I have no memory of ever talking to [my sister] or
8 anyone else about how we were being treated at Fornethy.
9 Certainly from what I recall of the staff, I don't think
10 I would ever have spoken to any of them. I don't
11 remember telling my parents when we got home either.

12 'I have no recollection of leaving Fornethy, which
13 surprises me, because I'm sure I must have been
14 delighted. I don't know how we got home and I don't
15 remember arriving home. All I do know is that we had
16 been at Fornethy for a good few weeks, possibly six
17 weeks.

18 'Life carried on as normal when we got home and
19 I never went back to Fornethy. I don't think it was
20 ever suggested that I did go back. I think my brothers
21 also went to a residential school somewhere at some
22 point, but I don't know where that was or when.

23 'When I was in my last year of school I went on
24 a day release to an office and ended up getting a job in
25 there for a few years after I got married. After I had

1 my three daughters, I took on a job in a nursing home
2 for a couple of years and then worked as an auxiliary
3 nurse in a hospital for about 25 years after that,
4 before I decided to do my nursing training. I qualified
5 as a nurse when I was 46 and I still work as one.

6 'I've put what happened to me at Fornethy to the
7 back of my head and it's not something I ever thought
8 I would talk about again. I suppose I would rather put
9 it to the back of my head again and forget about it.
10 Recently I have been thinking about my experiences
11 there, but I have never had any nightmares or flashbacks
12 about it.

13 'I am a very private person and I wonder if that
14 comes from my time at Fornethy, standing naked in line,
15 waiting for a shower. I'm very prudish and never wear
16 low tops and I'm very guarded about my privacy. My
17 daughters are exactly the same so I've obviously passed
18 that on to them.

19 'I was probably more protective of my daughters as
20 they grew up than I might otherwise have been. My
21 daughters went away with the Brownies when they were
22 small and I was quite hesitant about them going, but
23 I was able to contact them every night if I wanted, so
24 that helped.

25 'I've never spoken about Fornethy until recently,

1 even to [my sister]. I think I just put it to the back
2 of my mind and got on with things.

3 'I'm not sure how I became aware, but a while back
4 I came across [REDACTED] about Fornethy that had
5 been set up by a woman who had been there. There are
6 [REDACTED] from people talking about their time there and
7 clearly some had a worse time than others. I feel
8 privileged that I didn't suffer as much as some people
9 did. It was horrible reading what had happened to some
10 of them. I think a few met up recently and went to
11 Fornethy, but I never did.

12 'We were all encouraged [REDACTED] to
13 contact Thompsons Solicitors in Glasgow so I did.
14 I'm quite a private person and I suppose if it hadn't
15 been for [REDACTED], I would happily have let it
16 go and not reported it.

17 'I gave a statement to the solicitors a couple of
18 months ago and I'm not sure what's happening with the
19 case. I've never reported what happened to me to the
20 police or any other authority.

21 'I don't have any records from my time at Fornethy
22 but I would love to see anything there is. Thompsons
23 are looking into trying to get hold of them, but I don't
24 know yet if they have recovered any.

25 'I don't know if any of the staff at Fornethy would

1 have had any sort of training, or if they did, what it
2 was like. Staff of places like that need to be caring
3 people who know what they're doing and they need to be
4 given proper training.

5 'I hope what happened to me never happens to any
6 other child again.

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 'May' signed the statement on 22 September 2021.

12 LADY SMITH: Thank you very much.

13 'Leigh' (read in)

14 MR MACAULAY: Now, my Lady, this is the statement of another
15 applicant. She also wants to remain anonymous and to
16 use the pseudonym 'Leigh' for giving her evidence.

17 LADY SMITH: Thank you.

18 MR MACAULAY: Her statement can be found at WIT-1-000001026.

19 'Leigh' was born in 1965. She talks about her
20 family and the fact there were seven children.

21 At 3, she says:

22 'I had a normal happy childhood. I was probably
23 a bit spoiled because I was the youngest. My father
24 worked for a tiling company and my mother worked in the
25 schools and then the railway. I had good friends and

1 a close family. My mother and father both lost their
2 mothers shortly after I was born, so I didn't have
3 grandparents around.

4 'We had three rooms in the house. My brothers
5 shared a room and my sisters and I shared another room.
6 We always had fights, but we had a very happy childhood.
7 There were no issues or any involvement with social
8 work.

9 'I moved to [another street] when I was about 5.
10 I think I had been at school for about a year before we
11 moved there. I didn't have any problems at school.
12 I enjoyed it.

13 'When we moved, there was a family in our close.
14 They went to Fornethy House every year. They used to
15 talk about it and tell my sisters and me stories about
16 all the fun things they did there. [This] family told
17 us that there were pillow fights at night. They told us
18 that we should go too. It sounded like it was going to
19 be a great place.

20 'My older sister asked my mother if we could go, but
21 my mother kept saying that we wouldn't like it. After
22 a while, my mother agreed to let us go. It was a choice
23 for us to go. I think we had to get a form from the
24 school which had to be completed and sent away.
25 I thought it was going to be an adventure.

1 'I went to Fornethy with [an older] sister. My
2 other sister went to another place. I can't remember
3 the name of it. I think it was 1973 because the song
4 "Tie a Yellow Ribbon Round the Old Oak Tree" was played
5 while we were there.'

6 If it was 1973 then she would be about 8 years old.

7 LADY SMITH: Yes.

8 MR MACAULAY: 'I had always thought that I was 7, but
9 I could have been 8. It was either 1972 or 1973.
10 I thought I was going to have fun. The others had said
11 it was great fun.

12 'We got a coach in Royston, which was about ten
13 minutes away from our house. My sister and I had
14 a suitcase each with our own clothes. The bus was full
15 of kids going to Fornethy. I can remember feeling so
16 excited to be going to this place. Everyone was really
17 excited on the bus. I'm not sure, but I don't think
18 anyone on the bus had been there before.

19 'When the bus arrived at Fornethy, I could see
20 a big, white building that looked like a castle.
21 I can't remember who met me, but I can remember going
22 through a door. When we got into the building,
23 I realised how regimented it was. For example, the
24 teachers were telling us where to stand and put us into
25 rows based on our age. I think my heart sank because

1 the reality of being away from home set in. There was
2 a cloakroom when you first went in the door.

3 'There was one teacher who was really strict from
4 the start. She looked wicked, even her face was wicked
5 looking. I always thought her name was Miss RHZ ,
6 but my sister told me that isn't correct. The teacher
7 had sharp features, she wore glasses and had brown,
8 curly hair. She had something on her face like a mole
9 or a wart with hairs coming out of it. I used to look
10 at it all the time.

11 'I remember just looking at her and thinking how
12 much I hated her. She had an accent, so I think she
13 might have been from the area. She used to wear a long,
14 tartan skirt, tan tights and brown-laced shoes like
15 brogues. She was quite thin and always took big strides
16 when she walked and it seemed like it only took her
17 a couple and she was right at me.

18 'The dormitories were upstairs. There were around
19 ten single beds in the dorm, but it could have been
20 more. They were on each side of the room. There was
21 a small locker beside each bed. I think there might
22 have been a small wardrobe beside that too. My
23 dormitory was upstairs. There were toilets right
24 outside our dormitory. I was in the same dormitory as
25 my sister. I knew of two sisters who were on the bus

1 with us who were in our dormitory too.

2 'It was just girls. I think there were up to 80 to
3 100 children there. I don't know where all the girls
4 came from. I don't know if there were girls who had
5 been there for longer than us. I just remember there
6 being a lot of kids. There were quite a lot of staff.
7 I saw about five or six teachers.

8 '[One girl] was older, possibly 11, and used to sit
9 at the same table as me. She used to eat my dinner if
10 I passed it to her. She was like my knight in shining
11 armour. I think she knew I was very unhappy and
12 struggling there, especially at mealtimes. I think she
13 used to try to take that burden off me and help me by
14 eating it for me.

15 'There were children who were younger than us.
16 I think the age range was between 5 to 11 or 12. In my
17 family, my mother didn't believe in hitting us. She
18 used to say hitting wasn't the answer. I think I got
19 away with a lot at home, probably because I was the
20 youngest child. It was such a shock to my system.

21 'We got up early in the morning. I think you made
22 your own bed first. They were quite regimented with
23 your bed. They showed you how to make it perfectly by
24 tucking the corners in. If it wasn't done properly,
25 they pulled the covers off and made you do it again

1 until you got it right. The horrible teacher used to
2 put her hand under and feel the bedsheets to check if
3 they were wet. If they weren't, you were then allowed
4 to make your bed. I think the wet sheets were taken
5 away to a lady who washed them.'

6 And she talks about the clothing and washing and
7 brushing teeth, and then at 20:

8 'There was a big dining room which was huge and had
9 big, round tables in it. There were maybe eight to
10 a table at mealtimes. They said prayers before meals.
11 [They] would stand to say a prayer and then sit down at
12 the table.

13 'I hated the food. I had always been a fussy, picky
14 eater. However, my sister told me that I wasn't as bad
15 as that until I came home from Fornethy. I was always
16 crying at the breakfast or lunch table. The teacher who
17 used to pick on me, who I call Miss RHZ, knew that
18 I hated mealtimes. She used to make me eat porridge.
19 She used to hold my head and try to force the spoon into
20 my mouth. I had a wee fringe and bits of porridge would
21 go in it. She used to tell me that I was "a scunner"
22 and yank me from the table off my chair and I can't
23 remember what happened after that.

24 '[A girl] from my dormitory used to help me. She
25 would say, "Hurry up, push it over to me" and push her

1 plate to me. She sat across from and could see the
2 teachers coming. There was a blonde teacher there
3 sometimes. I don't know if she saw us doing it, but
4 I was yanked by Miss RHZ from the table and taken
5 outside.

6 'The mealtimes were just a struggle. I probably ate
7 the odd thing they gave me, but I don't remember
8 enjoying anything. We got a cup of milk and a biscuit
9 every night, which was all right.

10 'We went to lessons every day, but I think it was
11 only in the mornings. It was separate staff who came in
12 to do the teaching. I have a feeling that we went there
13 around time because I can remember being cold
14 there all the time. I'm not sure if I was aware there
15 would be lessons before I went.

16 'I think there was a class teacher and there might
17 have been different teachers who came in. I was all
18 right when I was in the class. I don't think we were
19 given as much work as we were given at school. We
20 weren't given homework. They made us write a letter to
21 our parents, which they had written on the blackboard.
22 You had to write it out and write your address on
23 an envelope and give it over to the staff. They would
24 check it and put it in an envelope. I think we did that
25 once every week. I didn't have any visits from my

1 family when I was there.

2 'It was the same staff all the time. Lunchtime was
3 just as tough. I can't really remember, but I just
4 remember mealtimes were horrendous and I used to dread
5 them. However, breakfast sticks in my mind the most.

6 'In the afternoons, they used to take us long walks.
7 We would go out with certain teachers. We had to stand
8 in a long line in twos. They would just lead us
9 wherever we were going on the walk. It was usually to
10 a wooded area. I hated the walks. I can remember
11 always being tired because they were so long. [I] felt
12 like we were away for ages and ages. I can remember
13 being cold. Miss **RHZ** would shout on us to hurry
14 up, so we weren't able to lag behind.

15 'There was nowhere to play there, like a playground.
16 There were no toys or dolls. There was a big hall.
17 I think they used to play music in the hall on
18 a Saturday. I don't remember it being the usual
19 teachers. I think it would be different teachers there.
20 They would try to get us up to dance. I think they let
21 us watch a film sometimes too. We weren't taken on any
22 trips or away for the day. It was just the long walks.
23 I don't remember playing at all. I don't remember
24 playing with my sister. We would come back from the
25 walk, hang our jackets up and put our wellies away.

1 I think we came back about teatime. I just remember it
2 being dark all the time. I can't remember any sunny
3 days.

4 'There was a tuck shop where you lined up to get
5 sweets. I think you were allowed to spend 5 pence or
6 something like that. I didn't get them often because
7 I was always crying and being punished. You would maybe
8 get sweets and then go in and watch a film. I can
9 remember my mum sending us a parcel with sweets in it,
10 but I don't remember getting the sweets. I think I was
11 being punished constantly.

12 'The staff selected a number of girls to go to
13 church in the minibus, which was on a Sunday. I only
14 went once, maybe because I was being punished again.

15 'I think bedtime was quite early, maybe 7 pm. While
16 we were in the dormitory, the door would be left open
17 and Miss RHZ used to sit outside our dormitory on
18 a chair. I think she was there until we fell asleep.
19 She used to say that you weren't allowed to get back up
20 once you were in bed.

21 'I think I was just concerned with myself when I was
22 there. I was too young to notice some of the other
23 teachers. The horrible teacher seemed to be in charge.
24 It was like she was running the place. It felt like she
25 was the boss.'

1 And at paragraph 34:

2 'I remember one of the girls said no one else in the
3 dorm was getting any tuck shop because of me. One day
4 she told me it was all my fault that no one was getting
5 any tuck. She got into a fight with my sister about it.
6 My sister bit her on the leg. I was terrified of
7 Miss [REDACTED] finding out. I don't think the girl told
8 anyone. Looking back, it was like she was trying to
9 turn everyone in the dormitory against me. I think she
10 hated me with a passion.

11 'The teacher, Miss [REDACTED], used to pick on me
12 a lot and lash out at me and hit me. I wasn't used to
13 that. I used to cry a lot and I think that got to her
14 more. I was still young and I couldn't help it. I have
15 a granddaughter the same age and I find myself wondering
16 how someone could do that to a child of that age. I can
17 remember her saying there would be no nonsense. It was
18 regimental from the start. She would say not do this or
19 that or tell me, "You're nothing but a scunner", every
20 time she passed me. She used to say: "If you keep that
21 crying up, you won't be going home after your six
22 weeks".

23 'When the teacher was lashing out at me, [my sister]
24 would try to get involved. Miss [REDACTED] used to walk
25 around with a rolled-up newspaper and hit people.

1 I wouldn't even be doing anything wrong. There was
2 a toilet downstairs, which I think they used to take you
3 to after lunch. She used to say that we weren't allowed
4 to close the toilet door. I remember feeling like it
5 wasn't right. I used to try to dodge her, to avoid her,
6 but she always managed to get me.

7 'One day I was standing there, just in my vest and
8 pants, waiting in line for the bath, and she just lashed
9 out and hit me on the bare legs. It was stinging.
10 I don't think I had been doing anything wrong.

11 'We had a bath twice a week. We had to stand in
12 a room. Everybody would be in a line with no clothes
13 on. You had to go into the bath with the person who was
14 standing beside you in the line. It could be anyone.
15 I absolutely hated that. There were two ladies there
16 who washed us in the bath. I can't remember seeing them
17 at any other time. I can't remember [my sister] being
18 beside me during bath time.

19 'One night I was in bed asleep. I don't know if
20 there was a carry on in the dormitory because I was
21 asleep. The teacher pulled me and my sister out of our
22 beds by the wrists and took me downstairs and put my
23 sister in the toilet. Miss **RHZ** always pulled me by
24 the wrists. She never took my hand. I remember as she
25 was taking me out, [another girl] was sitting up in bed

1 looking bewildered.

2 'On this night, I had only vest and pants on.
3 I don't remember her telling me to take my pyjamas off.
4 I just remember standing in the library. I was shaking.
5 I don't know if it was with fear or with the cold. She
6 told me to face the wall and not to turn around.
7 I didn't know where my sister had gone. It felt like
8 hours before the teacher came back. It was dark
9 standing there, apart from a blue light in the distance.
10 I can remember hearing her shoes coming. It felt like
11 hours had passed before she came back. Eventually she
12 came and got me.

13 'She always lashed out at the kids. At the time,
14 I felt like it was always me. I saw her hitting other
15 children. [Two other children] used to cry all the
16 time. [One girl] used to cry at the table because of
17 what was happening to me. The tears would be streaming
18 down her face. My sister and I would always try to hold
19 hands and it would drive the teacher mad.

20 'Miss RHZ was rough and was always shouting at
21 me. It felt like she shouted at me every time she
22 looked at me. I was always aware she was there and that
23 I would get it at any time. If she had the newspaper,
24 she would hit you with that, otherwise she would use her
25 hand. It could be anywhere on your body, wherever she

1 caught you, including your head, and I remember her hand
2 print on the back of my leg. You would be able to see
3 it coming most of the time. The other staff never
4 comforted us. I think the girls would talk about it
5 amongst themselves, but it was only really to say how
6 nasty that teacher was to us. We didn't have [any]
7 in-depth conversations.

8 'There was another teacher who had white hair. She
9 was heavy-built. She always seemed to be shouting.
10 I think that was just her way. I was frightened of her
11 too and felt nervous around her.

12 'I would have loved to run away. Our beds were at
13 a window in the dorm. My sister used to look out the
14 window, in the dark, and say it would be great if we
15 could go back home. She would do a countdown every week
16 and say to me "We've got five weeks to go". We were too
17 scared to run away.

18 'A few days before we went home, Miss **RHZ** kept
19 saying to me, "If you don't behave, you won't be going
20 home". I didn't know if she was allowed to keep me
21 there. It terrified me. By that time I had stopped
22 crying all the time. I think I was focusing on the fact
23 that I was nearly going home.

24 'They weighed us before we went home. I had
25 lost 4 pounds and my sisters had gained 4 pounds.

1 'I think my sister would have been all right if she
2 hadn't tried to help me and intervene.

3 'I was so excited to be finally leaving. I don't
4 think I could believe it until the coach actually pulled
5 way from the place.

6 'When we got off the bus, I ran to my mum and
7 cuddled her. My sister has since told me that it was
8 really emotional. After I got home, I found out that my
9 other sister, who had been at a different residential
10 school, had managed to send a letter home to my mother
11 telling her she was being treated badly. My mother went
12 and brought her home. I can remember feeling quite
13 resentful that she managed to get away and we didn't.
14 As an adult, I realise that we were writing letters
15 telling my mother that we were fine. She didn't know
16 what was really happening there.

17 'I told my mother what happened at Fornethy. I can
18 remember her being absolutely furious. She wrote
19 a letter to the Education Department at Bath Street
20 about how we had been treated. I don't know what the
21 outcome of it was, but no one spoke to me or my sister
22 about it.

23 'I had problems eating for years after I came home.
24 My mother was worried about it. I would always get my
25 own way because she was so concerned about it.

1 'When I came back, I started having dizzy turns.
2 I would be lying in bed and waken up and the room was
3 spinning. My mum took me to the doctors but they
4 couldn't get to the bottom of it. They actually put
5 sweets in a tablet bottle and they were telling me that
6 the tablets would help with the dizziness. I think they
7 wanted to find out if it was psychological. The dizzy
8 spells continued until I was 19 or 20.

9 'I have known my husband since I was young. I have
10 had a great life. He has been an amazing father and
11 grandfather. He would do anything for any of us.
12 I have two children, a daughter and a son.

13 'I have always worked. I have worked in bars and
14 doing cleaning in the university. I have also worked
15 [as] a hairdresser.

16 'When I came back, my eating got out of control --'
17 LADY SMITH: I think she actually means that her not eating
18 got out of control, because she goes on to say she
19 became very thin.

20 MR MACAULAY: Yes.

21 LADY SMITH: And she was very thin when she came back,
22 compared to when she went.

23 MR MACAULAY: Indeed.

24 LADY SMITH: Yes.

25 MR MACAULAY: Yes:

1 'After being at Fornethy, I wouldn't stay at
2 friends' houses. It would always get to a certain time
3 at night and I would say that I had to go home. I used
4 to want to stay overnight at my brother's house after he
5 had a little girl, but I couldn't bring myself even to
6 stay over at his. I was wary of going anywhere, out of
7 fear that it would be like Fornethy.

8 'In terms of impact, I have been very overprotective
9 of my own children. I wouldn't let them out to play
10 without me being there. I used to always sit them down
11 and warn them that if anyone ever harmed them or
12 mistreated them in some way, that they had to tell me.
13 I always tried to keep my children safe. I needed them
14 to know that they would always be believed. I don't
15 think I would have been like that had it not been for
16 Fornethy. I still worry about my daughter now if she is
17 out. I worry about my granddaughter too. I think it's
18 an impact of my time at Fornethy.

19 'I have always tried to get on with my life and have
20 thought, there's nothing I can do about it. However,
21 sometimes it just creeps into my head. I think the
22 dizziness was panic attacks and it was a way of it all
23 coming out.

24 'I reported the abuse to the police in 2019.
25 A female and male officer came to my house and

1 interviewed me about Fornethy for several hours. The
2 questioning was very intense.'

3 She goes on to say:

4 'My husband was horrified when I told him some of
5 what happened, but I haven't gone into a lot of the
6 details about it with him.

7 'I haven't applied for my records. It would bring
8 back too many memories.

9 'I think Fornethy should have been monitored more.
10 There should have someone checking up on the staff.
11 I hope another child doesn't have to go through that.
12 I hope that this will help at least one child in their
13 lives.

14 'The people who are responsible should be held
15 accountable. I don't care what age they are because
16 they have ruined a lot of people's lives.

17 'I would like the Education Board to take
18 responsibility because they are at fault. Someone
19 should have been monitoring Fornethy. There are lessons
20 to be learned, that they must go in there unannounced
21 and monitor the place. They should also interview
22 people who have been in care at places and find out
23 about their experience.'

24 And 'Leigh' goes on to say:

25 'I have no objection to my witness statement being

1 published as part of the evidence to the Inquiry.
2 I believe the facts stated in this witness statement are
3 true.'

4 And she has signed the statement on 22 June 2022.

5 LADY SMITH: Thank you.

6 MR MACAULAY: Just to say that if we were to start another
7 one now, we would go over beyond the break.

8 LADY SMITH: Well, maybe we should --

9 MR MACAULAY: Take an earlier --

10 LADY SMITH: -- take the break just now, and note in passing
11 that we've got a new name there whose identity is
12 protected by my General Restriction Order. She is not
13 to be referred to as identified in our evidence outside
14 this room, and that was Miss **RHZ**. I think that
15 was the only one.

16 MR MACAULAY: That was the only one.

17 LADY SMITH: Yes. Thank you very much.

18 Very well, I'll take the morning break now.

19 (11.16 am)

20 (A short break)

21 (11.45 am)

22 LADY SMITH: Mr MacAulay.

23 MR MACAULAY: Now, my Lady, we do have an oral applicant who
24 is about to give evidence. Her -- she is an applicant.
25 She wants to remain anonymous and to use the pseudonym

1 'Jane'.

2 LADY SMITH: Thank you.

3 'Jane' (affirmed)

4 LADY SMITH: 'Jane', thank you for coming along this morning
5 to provide oral evidence to the Inquiry, and that will
6 be in addition to the written evidence that I've already
7 got from you and thank you for that. It's in the red
8 folder in front of you there.

9 A. Yes.

10 LADY SMITH: And we'll put bits of it up on the screen as
11 we're going to the different parts of it, because there
12 are some parts we'd like to explore specifically, if
13 that's all right with you.

14 A few things before I hand over to Mr MacAulay.
15 First, I know this isn't easy. You have agreed to come
16 to a public place, to a public inquiry, to give evidence
17 about yourself and what happened years and years ago
18 when you were a young child, vulnerable and things
19 weren't great at some points.

20 Sometimes people get upset. That's not a problem.
21 If you need a break, just tell me. If you need a pause,
22 just tell me. Because my mission is to do anything I
23 can to make the whole process as comfortable as possible
24 for you in the circumstances, all right?

25 If you've got any questions at any time, just ask.

1 No question is unacceptable and no question is a stupid
2 one. If you need to ask it, we should have anticipated
3 it. Okay?

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

6 Questions from Mr MacAulay

7 MR MACAULAY: My Lady.

8 Yes, good morning again, 'Jane'.

9 A. Morning.

10 Q. You know I'm Colin.

11 A. Yes.

12 Q. And I'll be asking you questions.

13 The first thing I would like you to do for me is to
14 turn to the last page of your statement that you'll see
15 in the red folder.

16 A. Uh-huh.

17 Q. Can you confirm, 'Jane', that you have signed the
18 statement?

19 A. Yes.

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

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

25 Is that correct?

1 A. Yes.

2 Q. If you go back to the beginning then of the statement,
3 I don't want your date of birth, because you're
4 anonymous, but to give us some context, can you confirm
5 for me that you were born in 1965?

6 A. Yes.

7 Q. And you begin by telling us some information about your
8 family background. You had -- you were one of a large
9 family?

10 A. Yes.

11 Q. Quite a number of children, and you were living, at one
12 point at least, in the Ibrox area of Glasgow?

13 A. Yes.

14 Q. Now, was that quite a poor area?

15 A. Yes. In the 1970s, yes.

16 Q. Yes, in the 1970s.

17 A. Yeah.

18 Q. And what you say is there were good points and bad
19 points?

20 A. Mm-hmm.

21 Q. But there was -- and there was happiness and love?

22 A. Yes.

23 Q. And is that how you remember your family life --

24 A. Yes.

25 Q. -- in those early years?

1 A. Yes.

2 Q. You tell us that your parents were very loving but they
3 had quite a hard time feeding you all?

4 A. Yes.

5 Q. Can you just help me with that. Were they both working?

6 A. My mum didn't work, but my dad did, and on and off he
7 got jobs and then jobs kinda finished and it was at the
8 time of the three-day week and stuff like that, and when
9 he went down to three days, the wages were just terrible
10 to feed a family -- well, there was nine of all
11 altogether, including my parents. So it was very
12 difficult for them, you know. It was a really tough
13 time for them.

14 Q. But you say there was a strong community -- sense of
15 community?

16 A. Yes, yes, everyone helped each other out. It was
17 really -- where I stayed, the tenements I stayed in, it
18 was all big families and everyone helped each other out.
19 It was actually quite a nice thing, you know, to look
20 back on.

21 Q. Now, we know that you went to Fornethy and that's why
22 you're here today.

23 A. Uh-huh.

24 Q. Can you tell me how it came to be that you went there?

25 A. I was in the classroom and the headmistress came in with

1 a pile of letters and handed them to the -- my teacher,
2 and my teacher said: 'Would anyone like to go to
3 a residential school for a holiday?'. And I thought,
4 oh, that sounds interesting, you know. So I put my hand
5 up, and my teacher was actually quite surprised I put my
6 hand up, but she gave me the letter anyway.

7 Q. And did anybody else put their hand up?

8 A. There was -- one or two people got a letter. I can't
9 remember who else, but it was only me that went from my
10 class, only me.

11 Q. And then when you got home, did you tell your parents
12 about this?

13 A. I went home and my mum was really against it, really
14 didn't want us to go, but my sister and I pleaded with
15 her because it sounded like an adventure to us, you
16 know. I read a lot as a kid. I liked Enid Blyton and
17 I read the Famous Five and the Secret Seven and
18 I thought this is going to be like that, you know,
19 I thought it was going to be that kinda place, you know.
20 So we pleaded with ma mum to let us go.

21 Q. And you mentioned your sister there. Had your sister
22 also got a letter, or she was just --

23 A. It was my letter.

24 Q. Yes, it was your letter?

25 A. For the two of us.

1 Q. And this is a younger sister?

2 A. That's my younger sister. She's a year below me at
3 school.

4 Q. And, well, what then happened? Did you get ready to go?

5 A. Well, my mum signed the forms and got us organised, you
6 know, to go.

7 Q. And then where did you leave from to go to Fornethy?

8 A. It was the city centre. Now, I can't remember the
9 street, but I can remember what the building looked
10 like. It was old, smelled of cigarette smoke,
11 I remember that. Dark brown walls, you know, and there
12 was people smoking in it, obviously back in the 1970s
13 that was a thing. And there was another girl there
14 waiting to go as well as me and my sister. There was
15 only three of us there when we first got there. That's
16 the only bit I remember about sitting in the office.
17 And she looked, she really looked desperately sad.
18 Didn't want to go, you know.

19 Q. Did she tell you why she didn't want to go?

20 A. When we were on the bus, she told us she'd been before
21 and her dad had made her go and it was horrible. It was
22 really horrible. She was quite depressed looking,
23 I would say, you know.

24 Q. So you end up on a bus.

25 A. Yes.

1 Q. And apart from you and your sister and this other girl,
2 were there other --

3 A. There were other kids on the bus but I can't -- that's
4 the only person I remember speaking to, was that wee
5 girl. Erm, I can't remember anyone else. And
6 I never -- you know, it's weird, when we got there,
7 I don't think I can remember speaking to her again, you
8 know, which is crazy.

9 Q. And did you know at that time for how long you'd be
10 going to Fornethy?

11 A. I don't think that was explained to us, you know,
12 I don't think anyone told us that we were going. In my
13 head we went for five weeks. I know some people said
14 six weeks, but for some reason I think we went for five
15 weeks. Whether it was to do with [REDACTED], you know, the
16 [REDACTED] holidays or something, I don't know. But I don't
17 think it was explained to us that we were going to be
18 away that long, you know.

19 Q. And I think what you tell us in your statement, that you
20 thought this was in about 1975?

21 A. Yes.

22 Q. So that would be -- you would be 9 or 10?

23 A. Just turned 10.

24 Q. Turned 10.

25 A. Yes.

1 Q. And if your sister was the younger sister, she would be
2 7 or 8?

3 A. She was 8.

4 Q. She was 8.

5 A. Yeah.

6 Q. Okay. What do you remember about your first day at
7 Fornethy?

8 A. Erm, I would call it dehumanisation, the day we went
9 there, erm, how we were treated, that -- I don't
10 think -- sorry.

11 LADY SMITH: Just take your time. It's not a problem.
12 Don't feel under pressure.

13 A. Getting off the bus and seeing the building was quite,
14 erm, imposing, you know, it was a big, massive, massive
15 building when you're a wee girl. It was in the middle
16 of nowhere and when we got there, it just seemed like
17 forever and ever, we were driving through miles and
18 miles of pine trees to get there. It seemed so far
19 away. And when we got there, it was just a shock,
20 really, when I got off the bus and seen the size of the
21 place.

22 And there was a teacher waiting for us and
23 immediately started shouting at everyone to line up and
24 get your cases off the bus, get your -- everything was
25 getting kinda thrown about, you know, it was quite

1 kinda, er, regimental, you know. Line up.

2 And then when they took us in the shower to do --
3 shouted our names out, one after the other. Me and my
4 sister together.

5 Q. Were there many girls?

6 A. Yeah, there was a few girls there.

7 Q. Yes.

8 A. Yeah, yeah. There was a crowd of girls. I couldnae
9 tell you how many.

10 Q. No, but.

11 A. I can't remember how many, but there were a few of us.
12 And when we get shouted, we get took up to get
13 toothbrush -- took down, actually, it was downstairs to
14 get toothbrushes and things, and various things that
15 maybe you didn't have in your case that you needed while
16 you were there. Balaclavas. They insisted that we
17 brought balaclavas. I had my brother's balaclava, but
18 my sister didn't have one, so they gave her one. And we
19 had wellingtons. It was -- everyone had to have the
20 same stuff, like wellingtons, balaclavas and black
21 plimsolls, so if you didn't have them, they gave you
22 them. And then we got took upstairs and ordered to take
23 our clothes off, erm, down to nothing.

24 Q. And you did that and your sister?

25 A. Yes.

1 Q. And did the other girls --

2 A. Yes.

3 Q. -- do that?

4 A. And there was a queue -- oh, sorry, sorry, I'm kinda
5 jumping the gun there. We went upstairs and we were in
6 a queue to go into a room. We didn't know why we were
7 going into this room, but one -- there was girls coming
8 out and one girl come out, she'd gone in and her hair
9 was normal, she come out and it had all been cut. And
10 we were like shocked, you know. I mean, it looked as
11 though someone had just hacked her hair, you know, and
12 it was a case -- somebody had said: 'Oh, if you've got
13 nits', you know, 'They cut your hair'. And I was
14 panicking, I was in a blind panic, 'cos obviously we
15 came from a big family and back then it was like
16 a revolving door of one caughting [sic] it, it's
17 everybody caught it, and then my mum was constantly
18 trying to keep on top of it, because there was so many
19 and it was a very common thing back then, you know, for
20 lots of kids.

21 So my sister and I were in a blind panic thinking:
22 we're going to get in here and get our hair chopped off,
23 you know, oh my God.

24 Q. And what happened then?

25 A. Well, we went in holding our breath and got roughly --

1 there was a man and a woman in there, a woman wi'
2 a nurse hat on. She had, you know, the paper kinda
3 stiff-board nurse hat on. And she basically didn't say
4 anything, just kinda grabbed, looked through your hair
5 and kinda pushed you to the side and did the same with
6 ma sister and sent us out. So the two of us were like:
7 we didnae -- thank God we got oot of there and we didnae
8 get wir hair cut off, you know?

9 Q. So you've been telling us about how it was very
10 regimental.

11 A. Yes.

12 Q. Was there anybody in particular that you focused on who
13 may have been in charge when you arrived there?

14 A. Yes.

15 Q. Who?

16 A. Yes, there was one teacher ordering us about.

17 Q. Who -- do you remember her name?

18 A. Yes.

19 Q. What was it?

20 A. It was Miss Robertson. She was the boss lady that day,
21 you know.

22 Q. Okay. So you have been for the nit treatment?

23 A. Yes.

24 Q. I think you had jumped to that from having to strip?

25 A. Yeah, I know. After that we get told to strip, take our

1 clothes off and wait outside this -- and it was very
2 cold. It was [REDACTED], it was very, very cold in the
3 corridors. We're all standing with no clothes. I think
4 there was maybe five or six girls waiting outside to go
5 into this room.

6 Q. And how did you feel about that at the time?

7 A. Humiliated. Absolutely humiliated. And there was
8 actually a couple of girls older than me who were
9 forming, who were absolutely horrified. So was I.
10 I'm no saying I wasn't, but these girls were, you know,
11 you could obviously -- in ma memory you could see they
12 were starting puberty, you know, and it was just
13 horrible, horrible feeling. You just felt like you were
14 nothing.

15 Q. So what --

16 A. And no one was addressing you by name, it was just: 'Go
17 here, do this, do that'. You know?

18 Q. So what happened next?

19 A. So we got -- my sister and I, and I think there was
20 another wee girl the same age as my sister, we got
21 ordered into two -- there was two baths in this room and
22 at the end of the baths there was stools, where two
23 old -- older ladies, I would say, that were pretty old,
24 but I don't know how old, older ladies sitting on stools
25 at the end of the baths. And we got ordered to get into

1 the baths. My sister had to share a bath wi' another
2 wee girl, and I get into the other bath. And she had
3 a scrubbing brush and carbolic soap and scrubbed wir
4 whole bodies with it, and it was very painful and
5 absolutely horrific.

6 Q. And were you crying at this point?

7 A. I wasn't crying. My sister was. My sister was crying
8 a lot and I felt like crying. I was just more shocked.
9 I don't think I could speak. I was just gobsmacked with
10 the whole thing, you know?

11 Q. And when you talk about a scrubbing brush, is that what
12 we'd normally use to scrub a floor?

13 A. Yes, yes.

14 Q. And was that painful?

15 A. Yes, it was very painful.

16 Q. And was your whole body scrubbed?

17 A. Yes, every part of my body, every part.

18 Q. So what happened after that then?

19 A. Came out of there, got told to get dressed. We were
20 given pinafores to wear, erm, everyone wore these
21 pinafores, and taken down to the dining hall for
22 something to eat and when we got there, it was like
23 a relief to go somewhere and get away fae what was
24 happening there, you know?

25 So we all were told what to do, go up to this hatch

1 and order your dinner -- no order your dinner. Take
2 your dinner. There was a dinner lady, I think there was
3 two or three of them.

4 So they gave you your dinner and you went and sat.
5 And I managed to sit beside my sister. That was the one
6 thing -- at dinner times and tea times, that was the
7 only time I got with my sister.

8 So we were sitting together and at the other side of
9 the dining hall, a wee girl put her hand up and said --
10 and it was Miss Robertson. Miss -- and it was mince and
11 potatoes and she said: 'I can't eat mince and potatoes,
12 I can't eat that'. And this woman marched over and
13 started shoving it into her mouth and force-feeding her.

14 Q. When you say 'this woman', who was that?

15 A. Miss Robertson. And at that moment the whole place went
16 silent. There was just -- you could have heard a pin
17 drop in the place. All you could hear was this wee girl
18 struggling and choking and crying, and everyone else was
19 just like, so shocked, so shocked. How could you do
20 that to somebody, you know?

21 Q. What age do you think this little girl was?

22 A. I think she might have been ages with my sister.
23 I think she was younger than me. I think she was
24 younger than me. She might have been the same age,
25 I don't know, but I think she was -- something tells me

1 she was younger than me.

2 And as I say, after that, every -- it's actually
3 quite funny. My younger sister decided to be a robot
4 after that. She was good at imaginary play, ma wee
5 sister, and after that she says: 'I'm a robot, I can eat
6 anything. I can eat anything. I can eat poles, I can
7 eat forks, I can eat' -- she must have got such
8 a fright, you know. And that was a difficult dinner to
9 eat. That was a difficult meal to get down.

10 Q. But you've told us then about this one girl. Was
11 anybody else --

12 A. At that particular -- it became a regular occurrence.

13 Q. Yes. Well, I may come back to that then.

14 A. Yeah.

15 Q. But at some point you were introduced to your dormitory,
16 is that right?

17 A. Yes, yes.

18 Q. Now, how many girls were in your dormitory?

19 A. That's what I can't -- I can't remember. I would say
20 anything between eight and 12 maybe? Maybe more.
21 I don't know. I've tried to -- I know when you're
22 little, it looked like a big, long dormitory, but
23 I don't know if it was just because my sister and I were
24 right down at the very end of it.

25 Q. So your sister was with you in the dormitory?

1 A. Yes, yes. We got to sleep with each other -- sleep
2 beside each other. As I say, meals and bedtime was the
3 only contact I had with her.

4 Q. Were you allowed to speak in the dormitory?

5 A. No. They put -- they put, erm -- at night, they put
6 these blue lights on between -- I think it's 8.00 pm and
7 9.00 pm, between 8.00 pm and -- they turned blue lights
8 on. I don't know why they done it, but maybe it's
9 a thing, you know, to calm us down or whatever, I don't
10 know. But the lights went to blue and we were to stay
11 in wir beds and be quiet and they came and put the
12 lights out at 9.00 pm.

13 Q. Okay. So can I just ask you one or two questions about
14 more general things.

15 You have mentioned Miss Robertson.

16 A. Yes.

17 Q. Can you remember any other names of --

18 A. Yes.

19 Q. Who else do you remember?

20 A. Miss PWH .

21 Q. Miss PWH ?

22 A. Yes.

23 Q. And did you have dealings with Miss PWH ?

24 A. Yes, she was usually in charge of our dormitory at
25 night.

1 Q. And anybody else apart from those two? Any other names?
2 A. Miss Fletcher, I had dealings with her. Miss PWH .
3 Q. Who was she? Who was she?
4 A. She was the headmistress. She was in charge.
5 Q. And how many girls do you think were there at the time
6 you were there?
7 A. There was a lot of girls. I couldnae tell you a number
8 but I mean -- there were other dormitories and it was
9 all timed when you were coming out your dormitory. You
10 had to wait or you went at a certain time and then -- it
11 was kinda like school, you know, the kids coming out
12 each year after each other kinda thing, it was kinda
13 like that.
14 There were other dormitories, but I never seen them.
15 Never saw them.
16 Q. So you had to remain in your own dormitory?
17 A. You weren't allowed to go into another dorm. You
18 weren't allowed to move unless they told you to, you
19 know.
20 Q. Now, when you got up in the morning, did you have to go
21 and get washed?
22 A. Yes.
23 Q. What was the regime there?
24 A. That was showers, shower time.
25 Q. And were --

1 A. Very humiliating. No privacy. It was communal showers
2 for everyone again, you know. The same thing. Same
3 thing as the bath, you know, just get in, get it done
4 and get out.

5 Q. And then after the showers, then would you go down for
6 breakfast?

7 A. For breakfast, yeah.

8 Q. Can you just tell me a little bit about that? If you
9 look at breakfast times, what happened?

10 A. Erm, a lot of the -- I mean, there was a lot of: 'Finish
11 what you've got there, you're no getting away fae the
12 table until you eat your -- everything', you know.

13 It was always porridge. Porridge and a boiled egg.
14 I remembered we had a boiled egg in a cup and porridge
15 every morning.

16 Q. Do you have any difficulty with the food?

17 A. Yes.

18 Q. And can you help me -- can you tell me about that?

19 A. Erm, I got force-fed fishcakes. We had fishcakes every
20 Friday and the smell of them made me feel sick and when
21 I -- the first time I tasted them, they tasted like
22 there was chemicals on them. That's the only way --
23 I don't know what was on them, but they didn't taste
24 right and I didn't -- I struggled, I really struggled
25 and they force-fed me ma fishcake.

1 Q. Can you just explain what happened?

2 A. I tried to get away with it. I tried, you know, I was
3 like -- I was feeling sick and -- do you know, I don't
4 even know who did it. I don't even know who it was. It
5 was just a memory of somebody forcing it in my mouth.
6 I don't remember who did it.

7 Q. And did you see any other children being made to eat
8 their food?

9 A. Yes, constantly. It was a constant -- it was
10 a continuous thing, you know, and the screaming. The
11 shouting over the top of kids and belted across the
12 head, you know, if you didn't -- if you struggled to
13 finish your food, you were in big trouble.

14 Q. And who was involved in that from the staff?

15 A. That was mainly Miss Robertson.

16 Q. Okay.

17 A. She was a bully.

18 Q. Now, schooling.

19 A. Yes.

20 Q. Did you get some schooling when you were there?

21 A. If you can call it schooling.

22 Q. Well, what happened?

23 A. Erm, after breakfast, we went to a classroom. I had the
24 classroom -- it was like an extension on the building.
25 There was a shed underneath it. That was my classroom

1 there. And I was quite lucky because the teacher,
2 I call her Miss Lovely, when I write about it,
3 Miss Lovely, because she was a really nice woman.
4 I think she was a student teacher. She wasn't there for
5 any of the other stuff. She was only there for
6 schooling and she was really nice.

7 But there was a regime, you know. They had a letter
8 on the board to your parents. Everyone had to write the
9 same letter home every week. You weren't -- and they
10 read your letter before they posted it off, so.

11 Q. And what did the letter say?

12 A. 'Having a great time. Loving it here. It's beautiful.
13 It's wonderful.' Things like that, you know?

14 Q. What would you have liked to write?

15 A. 'I want home. I want to go home. I'm scared.
16 I'm scared for me and my sister. I want to get out of
17 here.' You know?

18 Q. But I think you do tell us about an incident where
19 a girl managed to sneak a letter --

20 A. Yes.

21 Q. -- to her parents?

22 A. Yes.

23 Q. How did she manage that?

24 A. I don't -- I think, I think it was when she went
25 swimming or something. I'm trying to -- I don't know

1 how she did it. I'm trying to -- I'm only imagining how
2 she did it, because it was -- I mean, if I could have
3 done it, I would have done it, you know?

4 Q. And what happened then?

5 A. Erm, her parents showed up. Her parents showed up at
6 the residential school. We were coming home fae a walk
7 and her parents were in the car waiting for us when we
8 got back fae the walk, and the teachers were flapping.
9 They were in a blind panic, because these parents were
10 here. And we were all like: 'What's happening? What's
11 happening?'. Then the girl just disappeared. She just
12 went, you know. And then we had the teacher come round
13 all the classes. My sister said they went to her class
14 as well to tell us: 'That's not on'. We've not to send
15 sneaky letters out. 'You write the letter that's on the
16 board. Why are you worrying your parents? Why are you
17 doing this? That's not right'. You know?

18 Q. So did you understand that the girl had managed to sneak
19 a letter out that --

20 A. Yeah.

21 Q. -- told her parents what life was like?

22 A. Yeah, yes.

23 Q. And they came to take her out?

24 A. Yeah, yeah. And I just remember everybody's faces.
25 I just remember everybody just wishing it was them,

1 wishing it was their parents, you know, that was there.

2 Q. And coming back to the schooling then, you've told us

3 about having to write the letter that was on the board.

4 A. Yeah.

5 Q. Did you have what I would refer to as ordinary classes

6 of --

7 A. There was, from what I can remember, there was like

8 three or four sums, the letter, and a bit of colouring

9 in or something like that. You know, it was very, very,

10 very basic. Very basic.

11 Q. Now, you tell us that at weekends you were allowed to

12 have a sweetie or sweeties on the Saturday.

13 A. Yes.

14 Q. And where did you go to get the sweeties?

15 A. It was a little cupboard that they called the tuck shop.

16 It had sweets and -- well, it was full of sweets. There

17 was loads of sweets in it.

18 Q. You tell us in your statement, paragraph 40, that you

19 used to work --

20 A. Yes.

21 Q. -- there and you say it was one of your dreaded days?

22 A. Yes.

23 Q. Why was that?

24 A. Because there was some kids weren't getting sweeties

25 because their parents didn't send money for them. My

1 sister and I were quite lucky. My mum sent a 50-pence
2 postal -- 50 pence each, every week, postal order for
3 us, so we had money, but there was some kids never got
4 money and if they didn't have money, they didnae get
5 anything. Simple as that, you know? And I used to be
6 like: that's wrong. That's so wrong, you know? I used
7 to feel sore in my heart for them, you know, and they'd
8 be like -- so I managed a couple of times to, like, when
9 I was taking a sweet for somebody else, I would take
10 an extra one, and my sister and that, I'd give it to my
11 sister to give to another kid, you know?

12 Q. So would the children come looking for sweeties and be
13 told: 'You're not getting any'?

14 A. You're not getting -- no, we lined up. Oh, no, it
15 wisnae even you went to look. You got told you were
16 going to the tuck shop. You didn't go anywhere there
17 unless you were told to go, you know? You didn't go to
18 the shop when you felt like it, you know, it was: 'Line
19 up for the tuck shop', you know?

20 Q. Now, you also tell us that on a Saturday there would be
21 a film?

22 A. Yes, yes.

23 Q. And you also, I think, say that other -- that people who
24 weren't working there would be attending the film night;
25 is that right?

1 A. Yes. There was men on the weekends.

2 Q. And do you know who these men were?

3 A. I don't know who they were. I don't know. I've got
4 memories of them and not liking them, I've got that, but
5 I don't know who they were.

6 Q. Did they interact with the children?

7 A. Yes.

8 Q. Can you explain that?

9 A. Sitting -- I've got a memory of someone in a brown -- in
10 brown trousers patting their knee for the kid to go and
11 sit on their knee. And a flashback of kids waiting for
12 a shot to sit on this man's knee and him jiggling them
13 on his knee. Erm, I just knew it was wrong. I was
14 like, I don't like this, you know, I don't -- and
15 I remember ma -- because kids -- because one was doing
16 it, they all wanted to do it and I was like: I don't
17 like this. I just don't like it, you know? And
18 I remember my wee sister looking round at me and I was
19 like: no, you know, don't -- you know? I don't know
20 why, but it just felt -- there was something wrong about
21 it to me, you know?

22 Q. Now, another thing you tell us about, 'Jane', is about
23 the walks that you had to go on.

24 A. Yes, yes.

25 Q. Can you explain that to me?

1 A. Erm, there was a lot of walks. A lot, we did a lot of
2 walks, but one particular walk sticks in my memory --
3 and to be honest with you, every walk we did, I was
4 looking for an escape route. Every single time we went
5 out I was looking for a: how can I get out of here? And
6 realising how remote the place was, because there was
7 absolutely nothing, apart from the farm. The farm, who
8 knew the teachers. There was nowhere to go, you know.

9 So on this particular walk, we were walking for
10 a very, very long time. There was girls fainting.
11 There was girls feeling dizzy. There was -- people's
12 legs -- ma legs were like jelly, it was such a -- 'cos
13 it was hilly as well. We were climbing hills and up and
14 down. And I always remember the teacher saying -- and
15 this was Miss Robertson, was saying: this is the
16 reservoir that feeds the whole area, when we got there.

17 Q. So you are walking from Fornethy to this reservoir?

18 A. Reservoir, yes.

19 Q. And are you saying that Miss Robertson was with you on
20 that walk?

21 A. Yes, yes. Oh, yes. She was like a -- if you look at
22 the films wi' army guys and they're chanting and
23 marching, that's kinda what she was like. I don't know
24 if she was in the army maybe, I don't know, but she was
25 very -- we were all to march and repeat what she said

1 and, you know, all that kinda stuff.

2 When we got to the reservoir, there was a lot of --

3 a lot of us were absolutely exhausted, and nothing to

4 drink, nothing to eat, and then back again.

5 Q. And --

6 A. And it was four-and-a-half miles.

7 LADY SMITH: Can you remember what time of year this was?

8 A. Yes, it was [REDACTED]. [REDACTED] Cos we went in

9 [REDACTED], so it's either [REDACTED] or just going into

10 [REDACTED].

11 LADY SMITH: Thank you.

12 MR MACAULAY: And I think you said it was [REDACTED].

13 A. Yes, yes.

14 Q. And did the whole school have to go on this sort of

15 walk?

16 A. I think so, aye, aye, because we were all done in ages.

17 We were all -- like, the little ones were up the front

18 and it depended what -- cos you were grouped in your

19 age, so it depended what age you were. And my wee

20 sister, she was away up at the front and I didn't know

21 what had happened to her. She'd wet herself and

22 Miss Robertson had belted her. I never even seen it,

23 I didnae -- cos I was away at the back. I didnae even

24 see.

25 Q. How many teachers would normally be --

1 A. I think there was two with us, on that one.

2 Q. This walk, the walk to the --

3 A. I can't remember what other teacher was with us, but

4 I do remember -- I remember Robertson. I remember her

5 being there.

6 Q. And the walk to the reservoir, did this happen once,

7 more than once?

8 A. That length of walk was that one. We've had long walks

9 after that as well, or before that, there were, but that

10 one was horrendous. Horrendous.

11 Q. What did you wear on your feet?

12 A. Wellingtons and with big -- because it was such a long

13 walk, we ended up with big welts round our legs, really

14 sore. A lot of legs bleeding, you know, a lot of

15 bleeding legs.

16 LADY SMITH: And were your feet cold?

17 A. Yes, very cold.

18 MR MACAULAY: And what were you wearing on -- your clothing?

19 A. A coat and a balaclava.

20 Q. I'm sorry?

21 A. A coat and a balaclava.

22 Q. Can I then look at bed-wetting.

23 A. Yeah.

24 Q. Was that a problem?

25 A. A lot of people -- well, if you were a bed-wetter, you

1 were -- that was it, aye. Really severely punished for
2 bed-wetting. Severely.

3 Q. Did you wet the bed?

4 A. No, but an occasion happened, this was Miss PWH was
5 on our dormitory at night. And I do think this was
6 right at the beginning of us getting there, because we
7 obviously didnae understand how strict everything was.
8 And the blue lights had come on and all the wee -- we
9 were all sitting in wir beds. We were all sitting in
10 beds. None of us were out, out our bed. We were all
11 sitting. And we decided to have a wee singsong and sing
12 a wee -- you know: come on, we'll sing. And my sister
13 and I's bed, so far towards the other end of the --
14 where the door is. So we all started singing and then
15 we were picking songs and we picked -- we liked 'Paper
16 Roses' at the time by Marie Osmond, we liked that, so we
17 started singing it, my sister and I. Her bed was here,
18 the two of us were -- sorry, it was that side.
19 (Indicated).

20 So the two of us were singing away and we were
21 singing -- just caught up and enjoying singing cos we
22 loved singing when we were kids, and wir eyes were --
23 both of us, wir eyes were closed. And while I was
24 singing, I did notice that everything went quiet in the
25 dormitory, but I thought everyone had stopped to listen

1 to me and my sister singing. I thought they must like
2 oor voices. But here, while wir eyes were closed,
3 just -- a hand grabbed me and grabbed her out of our
4 beds and dragged us along the dormitory, erm, barely
5 catching wir -- getting back on ma feet. Dragged us
6 along the dormitory, along the corridor, skelping us,
7 pushing us, threw us into a room, put me in one corner
8 and my sister in another corner and said: wait there,
9 I'm going to get Miss -- this was PWH, Miss PWH --
10 I'm going to get Miss Fletcher, you two are getting
11 belted.

12 And she turned off the light and shut the door and
13 told us not to move.

14 Q. What were you wearing at that time?

15 A. Nightgowns, bare feet. Bare feet.

16 Q. And what happened?

17 A. Erm, well, it was absolutely terror, you know, just
18 totally: what did we do to deserve this, you know? We
19 were singing. What did we do, you know? And the two of
20 us were in an absolute state 'cos I think it was the
21 fright as well, you know, the unexpected thing. And
22 I needed the loo. I think it was the cold corridor. It
23 was a very cold corridor and I needed the loo. And
24 I remember looking out in the corridor and I was crying,
25 my eyes were all -- and I was shouting down the corridor

1 for the teacher to come to let me go to the loo. And
2 she came back along, didnae listen to me and shoved me
3 back in the room, and the rest of it is a bit of a haze
4 for me. I feel as if I've maybe had an out-of-body
5 experience at the time or something, because the rest of
6 it, I can't really remember.

7 Q. Do you remember seeing Mrs Fletcher or Miss Fletcher?

8 A. Yes, yes.

9 Q. What happened?

10 A. I can remember that bit, wi her coming in, and that was
11 after -- I think that was after -- I have a -- you know
12 that way, it's like a light going on and off? I've got
13 a memory of being in the toilet washing something at the
14 sink, erm, with PWH shouting at me, you know,
15 shouting over me, and me crying. I've got that memory,
16 so.

17 According to my sister I wet myself. I can't
18 remember it. I can't remember. And then she took me
19 back in -- I remember that bit, being in at the sink and
20 being taken back into the room where my sister --
21 Miss Fletcher was sitting on a kinda wing-back chair
22 with my sister standing in front of her and I got kinda
23 shoved over and she just belted the two of us.

24 Q. What did she use to belt you?

25 A. It was a leather strap.

1 Q. And where did she belt you?

2 A. Legs. Legs.

3 Q. And after that, did you go back to bed?

4 A. Yeah.

5 Q. Were you crying?

6 A. Yes.

7 Q. What about your sister?

8 A. Oh, yeah, yeah, absolutely devastated. And thinking --
9 there was two fire exits where we -- where our beds
10 were, one either side, and every night, every single
11 night I was gonny escape: I'm gonny escape, I'm gonny --
12 that's all I thought about the whole time I was there:
13 I'm getting out of here. I'm going to get me and
14 [REDACTED] -- me and my sister out of here. I'm getting us
15 out of here. I need to get out of here.

16 And I don't know, it's the weirdest thing, but it's
17 almost like I would think that, I would have this plan,
18 and the blue lights, it was always -- 'cos that was the
19 only time they left you on your own. That was the only
20 time you got on your own. That, I thought that's my
21 time to escape, between 8.00 pm and 9.00 pm when the
22 blue lights are on. I can open the fire escape,
23 I'll get us oot of here. But every night it was like
24 a switch and then I would waken up in the morning and
25 think: oh, God, I didnae do it. I'll need to start all

1 oer again the night, plan it the night, to get oot of
2 here.

3 Q. If I can take you back to when you were placed by
4 Miss PWH, I think you said in a room?

5 A. Yeah.

6 Q. Was there something about the room that concerned you?

7 A. Yes.

8 Q. What was that?

9 A. They told us the place was haunted by two sisters.

10 Q. And who told you that?

11 A. Miss PWH, Miss Robertson, probably they two mostly.

12 Q. And what were you told?

13 A. There's two sisters haunting the corridors in this
14 house, the two sisters that owned the house previously,
15 the Coats sisters.

16 Q. And what impact did that have on you?

17 A. Oh, absolutely terrified, especially getting locked in
18 a dark room, you know, thinking all sorts. The terror
19 was unreal. I think that's -- I know what an anxiety
20 attack is now I'm older. I didn't know what it was
21 then, but I think I had my first anxiety -- massive
22 anxiety attack that day.

23 Q. Now, I had been asking you about bed-wetting.

24 A. Yes.

25 Q. And I think we have moved on from that, but what can you

1 tell me about bed-wetting? What did you see?

2 A. Humiliation, absolute humiliation. People getting
3 humiliated in front of everyone. You know, if you wet
4 the bed, 'Oh, you're disgusting', and, you know, hitting
5 people for wetting their bed.

6 Q. Who did that?

7 A. Mainly Robertson. I know I keep going back to her, but
8 it's mainly her that I remember was the one that was
9 brutal. PWH a bit. PWH did a bit. But I think
10 Robertson was more present during the day, you know,
11 from the morning till evening.

12 Q. And what happened to -- let's assume a girl has wet the
13 bed and has become --

14 A. They would get sent out, outside the dormitory, if
15 they -- you know, at night, if they -- I think one or
16 two in ma dormitory had got up and said -- and that was
17 PWH, that one. And they would get sent to sit
18 outside in the corridor, the cold corridor if they wet
19 the bed, and get into trouble.

20 Q. And in the morning, if a bed was found to have been wet?

21 A. Oh, it was terrifying, absolutely.

22 Q. What would happen?

23 A. Apparently a lot of them tried to cover it up but,
24 again, physical punishment, you know?

25 Q. You tell us about an incident where you saw a little

1 girl with a black eye?

2 A. Yes.

3 Q. Can you tell me about that?

4 A. She was in a dormitory -- I wish I could remember the
5 name. The memory's there but I just -- I can't catch
6 it, if you know what I mean. But she was in a dormitory
7 up the stairs from us and we'd gone down to breakfast
8 and I turned round and she had this big, massive black
9 eye. And I was like, (indicating), what happened? What
10 happened to that girl, you know? I think I obviously
11 whispered it to somebody because you wurnae allowed to
12 say too much, you know, and apparently she got punched
13 in the face by Miss Robertson for wetting her bed.
14 Punched.

15 LADY SMITH: Did somebody tell you that?

16 A. Sorry?

17 LADY SMITH: Did somebody tell you that?

18 A. Yes.

19 LADY SMITH: Who? Don't give me their name; was it another
20 girl or was it --

21 A. It was another girl.

22 LADY SMITH: Not the girl with the black eye?

23 A. No, it was another girl that was in her dormitory.

24 LADY SMITH: Ah, right. Thank you.

25 A. I know that's secondhand news, but we all knew it was

1 true, you know?

2 LADY SMITH: No, don't worry, I was just interested --

3 A. Yeah.

4 LADY SMITH: -- to find out how you knew.

5 MR MACAULAY: And we talked earlier about the reservoir that

6 you were taken to on the walk.

7 A. Yeah.

8 Q. Was that known as the Blackwater Reservoir?

9 A. Backwater Reservoir, yeah.

10 LADY SMITH: Backwater?

11 A. I think it's Backwater.

12 MR MACAULAY: Backwater?

13 A. Yeah.

14 Q. Okay. Yes.

15 Now, you do tell us about an incident when you were

16 taken downstairs --

17 A. Yeah.

18 Q. -- to what you describe as an 'adult party'?

19 A. Yes.

20 Q. Were you in bed at that time?

21 A. Yes.

22 Q. Well, can you tell us what happened?

23 A. My memory's very -- I haven't explored that a lot, to be

24 honest with you. There's something very uncomfortable

25 about it. I don't know if -- I don't know. I don't

1 know, but I remember getting taken down. It was me and
2 another girl.

3 Q. But can I ask you before that, who took you down?

4 A. A teacher, but I can't remember what teacher it was.
5 I can't remember.

6 Q. Okay.

7 A. It was late at night. It was really late. Everybody --
8 the blue lights were off, you know. It was late, dark,
9 and taken down the stairs. And on the stairs, that's my
10 memory, on the stairs, this other girl. She'd short
11 hair, I don't -- I cannae see her face, I cannae --
12 I cannae even remember her name, but she was on the
13 stairs with me and I was, like, why are we going
14 downstairs at this time of night, kinda thing.

15 Q. So were you both being taken down together?

16 A. Yeah, yeah, and she turned to me, she was in front of me
17 and she turned round and says: 'Don't worry, I've done
18 this before. I know what happens'.

19 LADY SMITH: How were you dressed?

20 A. In our nightgowns.

21 LADY SMITH: In your nightgowns?

22 A. Yeah. And little snippets, little snippets of people
23 being dressed up, a lot of people, men and women, in the
24 room. That's all I can remember.

25 MR MACAULAY: Well, were you there to do anything?

1 A. I don't know. I don't know what I was -- why I was
2 there. I don't know why I was taken down, but that's
3 all I can remember.

4 Q. Were these people, were they strangers to you?

5 A. Yes, the majority -- there was a couple of teachers
6 there, but the majority of them I didn't -- from what
7 I can visualise, you know? They were all dressed up.
8 The teachers had their hair all done and their make-up.
9 I remember that, you know, because we werenae used to
10 seeing them with make-up and done up.

11 Q. How long did you spend in --

12 A. I don't know. That's all I've got. I can't access that
13 memory. That's all I've got about it.

14 Q. Did you -- how did you get back to bed?

15 A. I can't remember.

16 Q. Were you asleep when you were taken? Had you been
17 asleep?

18 A. I think so, yeah. Yep.

19 Q. Okay. And the other girl you mentioned, was she from
20 your dormitory or another dormitory?

21 A. She was from my dormitory, I think. (Pause)

22 I think. I can't be sure. I cannae be 100 per cent
23 sure about that. As I say, that's the only memory
24 I've got of that. I don't know who it was or why we
25 were doing what we were doing. I knew it wisnae -- it

1 didnae feel good, you know?

2 Q. Okay. Very well. And can I then take you to when you

3 come to leave Fornethy.

4 A. Yeah.

5 Q. And I think you tell us that at about that time there

6 was an outbreak of chickenpox --

7 A. Yes.

8 Q. -- in the school -- in the home?

9 A. Yeah.

10 Q. And did some girls catch chickenpox?

11 A. It was a couple of sisters. There were three --

12 I'm sure there was three of them, three sisters. They

13 were all like (indicating), in steps. I think one of

14 them caught them and then another one caught them and

15 they turned round and said: 'Right, they're getting

16 quarantined here for another two weeks'. And we were

17 told --

18 Q. Was this at a point when they were about to leave?

19 A. Yeah, they were due to leave and I think this happened

20 maybe a day or two before they were leaving, you know?

21 They were getting kept back and they basically said: 'If

22 anybody else gets them, you're not going home'. And it

23 was the most horrendous feeling. It was like: oh, my

24 God, I cannae stay here for another two weeks. I need

25 to get out of here. This is impossible.

1 The other thing that I didnae add is the change in
2 the manner of the teachers when we left -- we were
3 leaving. I remember getting a smile from Miss PWH
4 and I thought it was very strange. I was like: where
5 did that come fae? I havenae seen that the whole time
6 I was here and all of a sudden you're smiling at me, you
7 know? You looked at me like a piece of something you'd
8 wiped off your shoe for weeks, and all of a sudden
9 you're smiling at me, you know?

10 Q. But you didn't catch chickenpox so you were --

11 A. I didn't, no, but it was a panic. It was a scary
12 moment, you know?

13 Q. And the three girls who did have chickenpox, were they
14 supposed to leave on the same bus as you?

15 A. Yes, yes, and they were absolutely devastated. They
16 were crying their eyes out. They were trying -- the
17 teachers were holding them back. They were trying to
18 come wi us. And they were really, really -- it was dead
19 sad. It was really sad. But I'm afraid
20 self-preservation came in for me, I was only thinking
21 about getting me and my wee sister oot of there. I was
22 like, I'm just happy I've no got them, you know.

23 Q. There were other girls on the bus as well, leaving at
24 that same time?

25 A. Yes, yeah.

1 Q. And 'Jane', were these girls who had gone there with
2 you?

3 A. Yes, I think. Yeah, I'm assuming.

4 Q. Now, when you got back to Glasgow, were you met by your
5 mother?

6 A. Yes.

7 Q. Can you tell me what happened?

8 A. Yeah. It's quite a sad memory, actually. Sorry.
9 (Pause).

10 LADY SMITH: Don't apologise, 'Jane'. Take your time. If
11 you want a break, just tell me.

12 A. No, it's okay. My sister and I just grabbed on to her,
13 erm, either side of her. We were so relieved. And
14 I just remember -- I can't remember what we were saying,
15 but we were just telling her how horrible it was and
16 what -- you know, everything that was happening. All
17 the way home she took us and my mum's never said -- her
18 face was just white, and because -- I think because of
19 the stuff we were saying, she took us up the top of the
20 bus and right to the back of the bus, because we were so
21 verbal about everything.

22 Q. And were you telling her about how you'd been treated in
23 Fornethy?

24 A. Yes, yes. And we got home and she basically said:
25 'Don't tell your dad'. You know? And that was it.

1 That was it. Nothing was ever mentioned again about it.
2 But I don't -- I mean, my mum had a lot going on.
3 I'll be honest, when we got home, my mum and dad
4 were very gentle wi me and my sister. I think they
5 picked up on, you know, that we'd had a bad time, you
6 know?
7 Q. When your mother told you not to tell your dad --
8 A. Yeah.
9 Q. -- do you know why she didn't want --
10 A. Probably the -- I don't know. She didnae want him to
11 get angry or upset about it, you know. It was
12 a different time. It was a different time, a different
13 year and at that time there was a lot -- I mean, there
14 was a lot of 'least said, soonest mended' kinda patter,
15 rhythm to it, you know, so: better no to talk about it
16 and let them forget about it, they're wee, they'll
17 forget about it.
18 Q. What --
19 A. We never spoke about it again. Never, till I was a bit
20 older and I started thinking about it, you know.
21 Q. The one thing you tell us is that in the weeks after you
22 went home, you were having terrible nightmares?
23 A. Yes.
24 Q. Did these relate to your time at Fornethy?
25 A. Yes.

1 Q. Were the nightmares about Fornethy?

2 A. Nightmares of somebody coming to get me. Erm, I was so
3 terrified that somebody was going to come and take me
4 out ma bed that I would hold onto the -- me and my
5 sister shared a double bed, and I used to hold on to the
6 back of her nightgown at night, in case somebody came to
7 get me. And I was like that for years. Terrified.

8 Q. When you went back to your normal school, did you speak
9 to your teacher about your time at Fornethy?

10 A. Yes. Well, not about the experiences. I remembered
11 first day back to school and I couldn't speak. I don't
12 know. I just -- the teacher asked me something and it
13 was like somebody had -- I just couldn't get the words
14 out, you know, and she was asking me stuff, erm, and she
15 was -- she was my saviour then, she was. She was a
16 great teacher.

17 Q. In what way?

18 A. She held me back at the end of class, 'cos she knew
19 something was up with me. She could see it, you know,
20 there was something up. And I'd lost so much schoolwork
21 because we hadn't had any education all those weeks and
22 they'd went on to do -- I remember, it was like, they
23 were doing like fractions and I didn't know how to do
24 them. I didnae know -- I'd missed stuff. And she said:
25 'Look, why don't you come in your playtime, in your

1 lunchtime, and we'll do a wee bit extra to get you to
2 catch up?'.
3

4 And she's the person that made me like education, so
5 she was. She was a good teacher.

6 Q. But you tell us how you felt sad?

7 A. Yeah.

8 Q. Moving on. And did that sadness stay with you?

9 A. Yes. Scared and sad, scared. I didnae know why I was
10 scared all the time.

11 Q. Now, you go on to tell us in your statement about
12 something dreadful that happened to you, and I'm not
13 going to ask you about that today.

14 A. Thank you.

15 LADY SMITH: We've got it there in your statement. Thank
16 you for that, 'Jane'.

17 MR MACAULAY: What you go on to say in a more positive way,
18 and this is at paragraph 79, is how you developed
19 a friendship and you went -- managed to get to college.

20 A. Yes.

21 Q. And that's something you loved?

22 A. I loved education, I loved it. Just things happened
23 that messed my brain up and I couldn't focus.

24 Q. And you also go on to tell us that you had two sons when
25 you were young?

26 A. Yeah.

1 Q. And at a point in time, you and your family decided to
2 move to Arran?

3 A. Yeah.

4 Q. What was the thinking there, not that I'm saying Arran
5 isn't a beautiful place, but?

6 A. Funnily enough, it's the craziest thing. We saw a table
7 in the paper about education and how much got spent per
8 pupil in Glasgow, and it put how much per head of pupil
9 in Arran, and Arran, it was like a good few hundred
10 pounds more than Glasgow. So we decided, let's get over
11 there and let the boys have a better education.

12 Q. And is that what happened?

13 A. Yes.

14 Q. And I think you tell us --

15 A. Definitely.

16 Q. -- that they had a good education?

17 A. Yes.

18 Q. They've got good jobs?

19 A. They're very clever boys, yeah.

20 Q. You tell us a little bit about your relationship with
21 your husband and we can read that.

22 A. Yeah.

23 Q. Just looking at impact, can I ask you about that. The
24 one thing you tell us is that you do have some health
25 issues now?

1 A. Yeah.

2 Q. Do you relate these health issues to your time at
3 Fornethy?

4 A. Absolutely, yeah.

5 Q. You are terrified of the dark?

6 A. Yes.

7 Q. Why is that?

8 A. I'm still -- it was okay when my husband was here, but
9 now I'm on my own a lot and so nerve-wracking. (Pause)

10 Q. Are you getting counselling?

11 A. No.

12 Q. Did you get some counselling --

13 A. I got some. I've had counselling. I'm sorry for
14 getting all upset. I can usually manage. I'm kinda at
15 a stage in my life where I've accepted I've got demons
16 that pop up every now and again, you know, erm, and
17 I have good days and bad days, so I just go with it now.

18 Q. Okay.

19 You mention that you saw an article in the Sunday
20 papers about Fornethy?

21 A. Yes.

22 Q. And did you become involved to some extent with the
23 Fornethy ██████ group?

24 A. I didn't have a lot of dealings with the group.
25 I joined it and then I had to come out of it, cos

1 I can't sit and think about this stuff every day.

2 Q. Okay.

3 A. But I have been trying to write about it since the
4 1990s.

5 Q. Well, I think you did say to me before we came in that
6 you're 70 per cent of the way through writing a book?

7 A. Yes.

8 Q. And is the book about Fornethy?

9 A. Yes. And it's only about me and my sister's experience.
10 It's just about us, you know, and the impact it's had on
11 our lives, you know.

12 Q. And do you hope to have that published?

13 A. Erm, just to have it in a book form. I'm no really
14 bothered about selling it, you know, I think I quite
15 like the idea of having a book with my name on it, but
16 I don't think I'm interested in selling it or anything.
17 It's just a kinda historical reference.

18 Q. But do you find that process a therapeutic process?

19 A. Yes, very, yes. But I can't do it all the time.
20 I've only got certain times I can write it and then it
21 stops, you know, I've got to leave it, you know?

22 LADY SMITH: Have you looked into the possibilities of
23 self-publishing?

24 A. Yes.

25 LADY SMITH: If you wanted to put your book out in the

1 public domain so that other people could read it too.

2 A. Yeah, yeah.

3 MR MACAULAY: Well, if you ever get to that situation,
4 perhaps you can send a copy on to the Inquiry?

5 LADY SMITH: Let us know.

6 A. Yeah, that would be good. I'm hoping to have a wee
7 party wi my family in the House For An Art Lover, so
8 I'll invite yous.

9 LADY SMITH: What a special place to think of having it.

10 A. It's gorgeous, absolutely gorgeous.

11 MR MACAULAY: And then, 'Jane, 'Lessons to be Learned', you
12 tell us about that from paragraph 105 onwards.

13 A. I just think it's important, when something bad has
14 happened like that to kids, that it's recorded and
15 recognised and --

16 Q. And that's to do with -- that's your book; that's what
17 you're doing with your book?

18 A. Yes, yes, it's historical. I'm a big history fan,
19 I love history, ancient history, any kind of history,
20 I love history, and I think this is historical and
21 important, you know, that people know what happened.
22 I don't even know if I've got the point across at how
23 bad the place was, how scary it was, how frightening it
24 was.

25 Q. And you tell us at paragraph 106, that's one of the

1 reasons you came forward, you wanted to tell us --

2 A. Yes.

3 Q. -- really what it was like?

4 A. Yeah.

5 Q. And that's what you're also doing in your book?

6 A. Yes. Yes.

7 Q. And you say at 107:

8 'My sole purpose for sharing my experiences is in

9 the hope that it will help to pay forward any

10 improvements.'

11 A. Yes. Absolutely. If we don't tell the truth, you know,

12 and these things get brushed under the carpet, how are

13 we ever going to make things better for kids, you know?

14 And I know, I'm not under any illusion there's ever

15 gonna be a perfect fix for anything, but surely we can

16 learn lessons from things fae the past and make things

17 better, you know?

18 Q. And one of the lessons you say is to encourage higher

19 vigilance around children?

20 A. Oh, yeah, absolutely. And being able to give, give kids

21 a voice as well, empower kids to be able to talk about

22 what's happened to them.

23 Q. Well, very well, 'Jane', those are all the questions

24 I wanted to put to you. Thank you very much indeed for

25 answering them in the way that you have.

1 Is there anything else you would like to say to the
2 Inquiry?

3 A. I think just for myself, the shock I got looking back on
4 what happened there, when I saw the article in the
5 ██████████, and I sat and thought about it and
6 I thought, I feel as if I've been depressed all my life.
7 I feel I've struggled with depression my entire life.
8 And I thought: noo, was I depressed before I went there
9 or was it there that it started, you know? And I've got
10 a sister that's seven years older than me, she was
11 staying wi my granny at that particular time, but I gave
12 -- I called her. She'd come back when we come out the
13 residential school, and I gave her a call and I didn't
14 tell her anything about the -- what I'd seen in the
15 papers. She didn't know anything about Fornethy at all.
16 And I just said to her: was there a point in my life
17 where I changed and became this depressing wee lassie?
18 Cos everybody used to make jokes, PGN ██████████, and her wee,
19 black cloud, things like that. And she said: 'Aye, come
20 to think of it, roond about 9 or 10 you became really
21 nervous and scared-looking'. And I was like, wow. Wow,
22 you know.

23 LADY SMITH: And that would be the age you were when you
24 were in Fornethy?

25 A. Yes. Yes.

1 MR MACAULAY: Well, thank you, PGN .

2 Can I just give the reference to the statement and
3 that's WIT-1-000000735.

4 Thank you very much.

5 LADY SMITH: Thank you.

6 A. Thank you.

7 LADY SMITH: 'Jane', thank you so much for coming this
8 morning. I can see that it's taken its toll of you, but
9 you have added considerable value to the written
10 evidence that I already had, with the clear and careful
11 evidence that you've given to me.

12 A. Thank you very much.

13 LADY SMITH: I hope the rest of today is more restful for
14 you and you can leave this with us, knowing that you've
15 made a great contribution to the work here. I'm really
16 grateful to you.

17 A. Thank you.

18 (The witness withdrew)

19 LADY SMITH: Now, a couple of names before I rise for the
20 lunch break. The first one is the applicant's own name,
21 PGN . That's not to be used outside this room,
22 because she is anonymous and using the pseudonym 'Jane',
23 so she's not to be referred to by her own name as being
24 in our evidence.

25 The other is somebody who I've already mentioned

1 last week and that was Miss PWH, or some people refer
2 to her as just PWH. Again, she is protected by my
3 General Restriction Order and not to be identified
4 outside this room.

5 Was there somebody else I have missed?

6 MR MACAULAY: [REDACTED], I think, was mentioned.

7 LADY SMITH: Oh, and [REDACTED]. [REDACTED], at one point, yes, which
8 would be a shorthand for the applicant's sister, whose
9 identity is protected by my General Restriction Order.

10 So that's it till 2 o'clock.

11 MR MACAULAY: Till 2 o'clock.

12 LADY SMITH: Thank you.

13 (12.53 pm)

14 (The luncheon adjournment)

15 (2.05 pm)

16 LADY SMITH: Ms MacLeod.

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

19 LADY SMITH: Thank you.

20 'Anne' (affirmed)

21 LADY SMITH: 'Anne', thank you so much for coming along this
22 afternoon to provide oral evidence to the Inquiry, and
23 that of course is in addition to the written evidence
24 that you've always -- already provided to me, and it's
25 been really helpful to have that in advance.

1 MS MACLEOD: My Lady.

2 Good afternoon, 'Anne'.

3 A. Afternoon.

4 Q. I don't need your date of birth but to give a timeframe,
5 were you born in 1978?

6 A. Yes.

7 Q. Now, you've provided a statement for the Inquiry,
8 I'm just going to give the reference of that for the
9 transcript. WIT-1-000001143.

10 'Anne', I wonder if I could ask you first of all to
11 turn to the final page of the statement in the red
12 folder, and that's really just to confirm that you've
13 signed the statement?

14 A. Yes.

15 Q. In the final paragraph, do you say:

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

20 A. Yes.

21 Q. And that's your position?

22 A. Yes.

23 Q. Thank you.

24 Now we can go back to the beginning of your
25 statement and I just want to ask you first of all

1 a little bit about what you tell us about your life
2 before you went to Fornethy.

3 And I think you tell the Inquiry in your statement,
4 'Anne', that you were brought up on the south side of
5 Glasgow?

6 A. Yes.

7 Q. And that you had two brothers and a sister?

8 A. Yes.

9 Q. And that you were the second oldest --

10 A. Yes.

11 Q. -- in the family. And what you say is that life wasn't
12 too good growing up?

13 A. Yes.

14 Q. I think that you had some difficulties with your mother
15 and that she didn't treat you well?

16 A. Yes.

17 Q. And that you got on better with your father?

18 A. Yes.

19 Q. Okay. Now, did there come a time, 'Anne', when your
20 parents separated?

21 A. Yes.

22 Q. How old were you roughly when that happened?

23 A. The first one I remember I was about 10 or 11.

24 Q. Okay. And were you at primary school in Glasgow?

25 A. Yes.

1 Q. And how did you find school; was it something you
2 enjoyed or not so much?

3 A. I would have loved to have enjoyed it, but I couldn't.

4 Q. You couldn't enjoy school?

5 A. No.

6 Q. And why was that, 'Anne'?

7 A. I was always getting thrown out of class or bullied.

8 Q. Okay. And I think you do tell us a little bit about
9 that in your statement.

10 Did you have an issue with wetting yourself at
11 school?

12 A. Yes.

13 Q. And did that cause some of the bullying that you've
14 mentioned?

15 A. Yes.

16 Q. And I think you tell the Inquiry, 'Anne', that there was
17 a particular teacher who -- at school who was kind to
18 you?

19 A. Yes.

20 Q. Can you just tell me about that? What about her was
21 kind? What did she do?

22 A. She used -- if I managed to not wet myself for the day,
23 she would make a paper towel and make a cone shape out
24 of it and put wine gums in it for me.

25 Q. And there came a time, 'Anne', you tell us, when you

1 were at primary school, that you went to Fornethy?

2 A. Yes.

3 Q. And did you go to Fornethy on more than one occasion?

4 A. Yes.

5 Q. On the first time you went to Fornethy, how old were

6 you?

7 A. I would have been 4 or 5.

8 Q. So would that be in the early 1980s?

9 A. Yes.

10 Q. And can you tell me, 'Anne', what led to you going to

11 Fornethy the first time and how was it -- or who

12 organised that?

13 A. I'm not sure if it was social work or my parents or the

14 school.

15 Q. Okay. And on that first time, when you went to

16 Fornethy, what do you remember being told about it, if

17 anything?

18 A. That it was a holiday.

19 Q. You were going on holiday?

20 A. Yeah.

21 Q. And the second time you went, 'Anne', were you a little

22 bit older?

23 A. Yes.

24 Q. How old do you think you were the second time you went?

25 A. I'm sure I was actually there more than that, but the

1 last one I remember, I was in Primary 7.

2 Q. Okay, so would that be then perhaps the late 1980s?

3 A. Yes.

4 Q. So the early 1980s, the late 1980s, and you think there

5 may have been times in between that?

6 A. I'm sure there was, yes.

7 Q. But you're -- you're sure there was?

8 A. Mm-hmm.

9 Q. Okay. How many times do you think you were in Fornethy?

10 A. Every single primary -- year of primary.

11 Q. So you think you went every year?

12 A. Yes.

13 Q. For a few weeks?

14 A. Yes.

15 Q. How many weeks did you stay in Fornethy on each

16 occasion?

17 A. About two months.

18 Q. Two months?

19 A. Mm-hmm.

20 Q. So around eight weeks?

21 A. Between six and eight weeks, something like that.

22 Q. And was there a particular time of the year that you

23 were going, was it the same time each year?

24 A. No.

25 Q. No. And you've told me there that you weren't sure how

1 it was arranged the first time. As you grew a little
2 bit older, did you gain any understanding as to why you
3 were going to Fornethy and what it was all about?

4 A. No.

5 Q. No.

6 Now, you provide some evidence in your statement
7 about your time at Fornethy and what you experienced
8 there. I just want to check in with you, are you able
9 to -- do you know what happened on which occasion, or
10 are you telling about your whole memory of the time --
11 your times at Fornethy, and that things could have
12 happened on any of the times?

13 A. The whole times of it.

14 Q. The whole times?

15 A. Mm-hmm.

16 Q. Okay. So, okay, thank you for clarifying that.

17 Do you remember arriving at Fornethy for the first
18 time?

19 A. Yes.

20 Q. How did you get there?

21 A. I just remember Perth. I don't know how -- who took me
22 there, but that's why I thought Fornethy was in Perth.

23 Q. So do you remember being in Perth or being taken to
24 Perth?

25 A. Yes, yes.

1 Q. By train or by bus?

2 A. I'm not sure.

3 Q. And do you remember being taken from Perth then to

4 Fornethy?

5 A. No.

6 Q. No.

7 A. I just remember the main doors of -- being there.

8 Q. Being there. And do you remember your arriving at the

9 building at Fornethy for the first time?

10 A. Yes.

11 Q. So this was you at age about 5 or 6?

12 A. No, 4 or 5.

13 Q. 4 or 5.

14 A. Mm-hmm.

15 Q. Okay, so at the age of 4 or 5 then, can you just tell me

16 what you remember about actually arriving at Fornethy

17 itself, when you got there?

18 A. Yeah. I remember bags getting taken out a car and then

19 just going to the door and some -- two people would

20 answer the door.

21 Q. Okay. Would you be okay if I put a photograph of the

22 building, the outside of the building, on the screen?

23 A. Yes.

24 Q. Okay. Could we look at INQ-0000001236, please. Now

25 this is an aerial photograph, 'Anne'. Do you recognise

1 the building shown in that photograph?

2 A. To me, that looks like the back garden.

3 Q. Okay. The back garden --

4 A. But I can't see the wooden swings from there.

5 Q. Okay?

6 A. But it was double doors I went in.

7 Q. Do you recognise that as being --

8 A. Yeah, I recognise it, but to me it doesn't look like the

9 front.

10 Q. Okay. Okay.

11 We'll perhaps look then at INQ-0000001243, please.

12 Does this --

13 A. No, that looks like the back --

14 Q. That looks like the back again, does it?

15 A. Mm-hmm, mm-hmm.

16 Q. Yeah, okay. So you've told me then that you went in

17 double doors at the front of the building?

18 A. Yes.

19 Q. Is that right? And when you went in the front doors,

20 what were you -- what was there? What did the building

21 look like inside?

22 A. It was like a big -- a big space on the landing, bottom

23 landing, then you went up the stairs which took a wind

24 to the left, and then my dorm was on the right-hand

25 side.

1 LADY SMITH: 'Anne', I'm just going to see if we can get the
2 microphone a little bit nearer to you.

3 A. I'll move in a bit. Is that better?

4 LADY SMITH: Yes, you could probably pull the arm down
5 a little bit, and then I'm going to warn you, don't get
6 too close to it.

7 A. Is that okay? Is that better?

8 LADY SMITH: If you just sit normally now, I think that will
9 be a better position. Thank you.

10 MS MACLEOD: So when you arrived then, you were taken to
11 your dormitory?

12 A. Yes.

13 Q. Is that right? Do you remember the name of your
14 dormitory?

15 A. There was -- I remember two, Glen Esk and Glenorchy --
16 and Glenogle, sorry.

17 Q. And were you in each of these dormitories on different
18 times you were there?

19 A. Yes.

20 Q. And were you in a dormitory with other girls?

21 A. Yes.

22 Q. On each occasion?

23 A. Yes.

24 Q. You've spoken about arriving at Fornethy; do you
25 remember if you arrived on your own or were you with

1 a group of girls arriving together?

2 A. I can't remember how I got there, but it was me.

3 Q. Okay. Can you help me with roughly how many girls

4 overall you remember there being at Fornethy at a time?

5 A. I think, I think there was four tables in the dining

6 room, so, and there used to be eight, I think, at the

7 table. Yeah, I think that was about four tables.

8 Q. And the age range of the girls, can you help me with

9 that?

10 A. All different ages.

11 Q. Were they mainly primary school-aged children?

12 A. Yes, yes.

13 Q. So maybe 4 to 12 or thereabouts?

14 A. Yes.

15 Q. Now, were you given a bath when you arrived?

16 A. Er, can't remember.

17 Q. When you got to the dormitory, can you remember what

18 happened in the dormitory?

19 A. We got shown around the dorm, that's a group of us at

20 that point, explained about the wardrobe and the bed and

21 things like that, and then shown the dining room.

22 Q. So by this point you were with a group of girls?

23 A. Yes.

24 Q. And were the girls arriving together by that stage or

25 were some of -- were they there already?

1 A. I can't remember.

2 Q. Okay. Who was in charge of Fornethy?

3 A. I think it was Mrs Fletcher.

4 Q. And was that the case as far as you're aware on each of

5 the occasions you were there?

6 A. Yes, yes.

7 Q. And what was she like, Mrs Fletcher?

8 A. Horrible.

9 Q. In what way was she horrible?

10 A. She was violent.

11 Q. Was she an older lady, or are you able to assist me --

12 A. I think she was in her 30s or 40s.

13 Q. And can you recall any of the other staff?

14 A. Erm, Mrs Robertson or Robinson, I think it was.

15 Q. Okay. And Mrs Robertson or Robinson, what was her role?

16 A. She was basically, done what she's told from

17 Mrs Fletcher.

18 Q. And in terms of her age, did you have any idea? I know

19 it's difficult for a child to know an adult's age.

20 A. Probably -- I don't know, probably the same age as

21 Mrs Fletcher.

22 Q. Now, were there other teachers there as well?

23 A. Yes.

24 Q. And were there domestic staff as well as teachers?

25 A. What's that mean?

1 Q. Was there, for example, people who helped -- who were
2 not teachers in the school?

3 A. Like the dinner ladies?

4 Q. Yeah, that sort of thing?

5 A. Yeah, mm-hmm.

6 Q. You tell us in paragraphs 15 and 16 of your statement,
7 'Anne', a little bit about the daily routine at
8 Fornethy, and was that a fixed routine? Was it pretty
9 much the same every day?

10 A. Mm-hmm, very regimental.

11 Q. Did teachers or staff come into the dormitories in the
12 morning, for example, to make sure the girls were up?

13 A. Yeah, the light, big light got switched on and they
14 opened the shutters and we'd get screamed at to get out
15 our beds.

16 Q. And did you then have to go to get washed?

17 A. Yes, we were all taken downstairs to get -- for a bath
18 and that.

19 Q. And did you have a bath in the mornings?

20 A. Not always.

21 Q. No. And how was -- if you were having a bath, how was
22 that managed?

23 A. Well, it depends how much time they had, 'cos of the
24 queues, so some of us, there would be two or three of us
25 in the one bath.

1 Q. So you mentioned queues there, were there queues for the
2 baths?

3 A. Yes.

4 Q. Did you have to line up?

5 A. Yes.

6 Q. For the baths?

7 A. Yes.

8 Q. And then there could be two or three of you in a bath?

9 A. Yes, mm-hmm.

10 Q. And were staff involved in bathing you or washing you?

11 A. No, I remember it was a wee nit lady that done the baths
12 and there was another wee old lady.

13 Q. And what was her role in the bathing, what did she do?

14 A. Basically rubbing the skin off you, but they weren't as
15 nasty.

16 Q. So was she -- when you say rubbing the skin off you, was
17 she using something to do that?

18 A. Like a face cloth, a really dried face cloth, mm-hmm.

19 Q. And was that painful?

20 A. Mm-hmm. I was so thin so it hurt me more.

21 Q. Now, looking to the dormitories at nighttime, I think
22 you tell us, 'Anne', that once you were in your bed,
23 that the blue lights would come on?

24 A. Yes.

25 Q. Outside?

1 A. Yes.

2 Q. And you say that a staff member would sit outside the
3 dormitory?

4 A. Yes.

5 Q. At nighttime?

6 A. And stand outside it, yeah, mm-hmm.

7 Q. And what -- would they remain out there or would they
8 sometimes come into the dormitory?

9 A. No, if they'd heard giggling or anything going on, they
10 were straight in, screaming, the light on.

11 Q. And did that sometimes happen, would they hear a noise
12 in the dormitory and the staff would come in?

13 A. Oh, yeah.

14 Q. And do you remember if Mrs Fletcher or Mrs Robertson
15 were involved in this or was that other -- other staff?

16 A. No, it was mainly Mrs Fletcher, Mrs Robertson and there
17 was another lady, but I can't remember her name.

18 Q. And I think you mention in your statement, 'Anne', that
19 there was a girl next to you who used to say sometimes
20 that it was you who was speaking?

21 A. Yes.

22 Q. Is that if a teacher came into the dormitory?

23 A. No, where the teacher would hear -- yeah, if the teacher
24 heard it or if Mrs Fletcher heard it, she would storm
25 into the room and she'd drag you out the bed.

1 Q. And did she do that to you?

2 A. Yes.

3 Q. So if Mrs Fletcher came into the room and she thought

4 that it was you who was speaking?

5 A. Mm-hmm.

6 Q. What happened then, 'Anne', what did she do?

7 A. You were dragged, you were dragged into the games room

8 where we played Beetle Drive and either belted or

9 strangled.

10 Q. Okay. So you were taken into the games room by

11 Mrs Fletcher?

12 A. Yes.

13 Q. And you mention there 'belted'; who would belt you?

14 A. Er, depends who was on shift. It would be either

15 Mrs Robinson -- Robertson or Mrs Fletcher.

16 Q. So if it was Mrs Fletcher, then, what sort of belt did

17 she -- was it a belt she used to belt you?

18 A. No, her fists, her hands --

19 Q. Her fists --

20 A. -- and kinda feet.

21 Q. -- to belt you?

22 A. Kicked as well.

23 Q. So she was using her hands to hit you?

24 A. Yes.

25 Q. And she kicked you as well?

1 A. Yes.

2 Q. And did this happen even when you were as young as 4 or
3 5?

4 A. Sorry?

5 Q. Did this happen even when you were as young as 4 or 5?

6 A. That's as -- yes, I was 4, 'cos I'm sure it was
7 [REDACTED] the first time I went, and I was 4 when
8 I went to school.

9 Q. So which part of your body was she hitting?

10 A. When I was really small, it was mainly slaps to the
11 bottom, but when I went back, you know, like the other
12 times, it got worse the older I got.

13 Q. And if you'd been taken from your bed, 'Anne', would you
14 be in your nightclothes?

15 A. Depends if I wet myself. And I'd hide my pyjamas in the
16 cupboard.

17 Q. So on some occasions you might be in your nightclothes
18 when you were taken to the games room. And on the
19 occasion that you had hidden your clothes in the
20 cupboard, what would you be wearing then?

21 A. My underwear.

22 Q. Your underwear.

23 A. Just 'cos it depends what was left in wir cupboard. So
24 I put my wet pyjamas in the cupboard and then I sullied
25 my underwear and the girl next to me said -- I can't

1 remember what it was, but then I got locked in the
2 cupboard in front of all the girls.

3 Q. Okay, and we'll come on to look at that in a moment,
4 'Anne' --

5 A. Okay.

6 Q. -- because you tell us about that in your statement.
7 But just focusing on the games room for a moment,
8 'Anne', and what happened in there, so you've said you
9 would be taken in there, sometimes by Mrs Robertson and
10 sometimes by Mrs Fletcher?

11 A. Mm-hmm, and there was another lady but I can't remember
12 the name.

13 Q. And you mentioned being hit?

14 A. Mm-hmm.

15 Q. And kicked?

16 A. Mm-hmm.

17 Q. Did both of Mrs Robertson and Mrs Fletcher hit and kick
18 you?

19 A. No, Mrs Fletcher was the one that done the kicking.

20 Q. Okay.

21 A. Mm-hmm, and threatened to put me in the fireplace with
22 the ghosts.

23 Q. So you've mentioned there a fireplace with ghosts; is
24 that something that you were told about when you were at
25 Fornethy?

1 A. Yeah, we were all -- 'cos that's where we played Beetle
2 Drive and we used to say about the scary stories.

3 Q. And what was -- what were the stories being told? What
4 was your understanding as a child as to --

5 A. That there was children murdered there.

6 Q. And what impact did that have on you? How did that make
7 you feel?

8 A. Scared. But being hit, I was used to that.

9 Q. And if you'd been in your bed then and you were taken to
10 the games room, 'Anne', to be hit in the way that you've
11 described, would you then go back to bed?

12 A. Yes. Sometimes in the corridor as well.

13 Q. Sometimes in the corridor?

14 A. As well.

15 Q. So what happened in the corridor?

16 A. Just made to stand.

17 Q. So you would be taken out of your bed and made to stand
18 in the corridor?

19 A. Yeah.

20 Q. Instead of being taken to the games room?

21 A. Depending what mood they were in, mm-hmm.

22 Q. And would you be asked to stay standing in the corridor?

23 A. Yes, yes.

24 Q. Until someone came to tell you to go back into bed?

25 A. Sometimes it was when the other girls got woke up.

1 Q. So sometimes you could be there all night?

2 A. Mm-hmm.

3 Q. Standing? And sometimes would you be in your nightgown

4 and sometimes --

5 A. Sometimes in my underwear.

6 Q. In your underwear.

7 Now, you mentioned, 'Anne', going back to the games

8 room for a moment, you mentioned that you would be

9 strangled?

10 A. Mm-hmm, and suffocated.

11 Q. And suffocated. Can you just tell me about that? Who

12 strangled you?

13 A. Mrs Fletcher and Miss Robinson.

14 Q. And how did they do that? Can you tell me about it?

15 A. Covered my nose and my mouth and sat on me. I don't

16 remember it crystal clearly, but --

17 Q. So you were covering your nose and your mouth there with

18 each of your hands?

19 A. That's what they done to me.

20 Q. That's what they did to you. And did you say they sat

21 on you?

22 A. Mm-hmm.

23 Q. In the games room?

24 A. Mm-hmm.

25 Q. So would you be on the floor?

1 A. Yeah, mm-hmm.

2 Q. And they would sit on you?

3 A. Mm-hmm.

4 Q. So could that -- did that happen -- did Mrs Robertson do
5 that to you in the games room?

6 A. Mainly Mrs Fletcher.

7 Q. Sorry, Mrs Fletcher?

8 A. Mainly Mrs Fletcher.

9 Q. Mainly Mrs Fletcher?

10 A. Yeah.

11 Q. So was Mrs Robertson involved in that at all, the
12 strangling that you're describing?

13 A. Yeah, mm-hmm, just not the kicking.

14 Q. The kicking.

15 LADY SMITH: Sorry, not the?

16 A. The kicking.

17 LADY SMITH: The kicking.

18 MS MACLEOD: And just to be clear, 'Anne', was it one or the
19 other at different times or was it sometimes both?

20 A. No, no. Not at the same time.

21 Q. No. So it was one of them at a time?

22 A. Mm-hmm, yeah.

23 Q. Now, the taking down to the games room and the abuse
24 that you're describing there, you've explained that that
25 could happen if it was thought that you were speaking,

1 talking in your bed?

2 A. Talking or carrying on.

3 Q. Could that also happen if you'd wet the bed?

4 A. Yes, mm-hmm.

5 Q. So it was used as a sort of punishment for various
6 different things, was it?

7 A. Yeah, 'cos it was on the same landing as the dorms that
8 we were in.

9 Q. You've mentioned bed-wetting already. Did a number of
10 girls in your dorm wet the bed?

11 A. I don't know.

12 Q. Did you wet the bed?

13 A. Yeah, I was diagnosed when I was 4 or 5 by the doctor
14 with a condition.

15 Q. Okay. A condition that made you --

16 A. Wet the bed.

17 Q. -- wet the bed?

18 A. Yes.

19 Q. So was that before you went to Fornethy?

20 A. I don't know.

21 Q. You don't know. And in your statement, 'Anne', you say
22 that bed-wetting was a massive problem at night?

23 A. Yes, yes, and it could be during the day as well.

24 Q. So if we look at the nighttime first of all, were there
25 checks done during the night to see if girls had wet the

1 bed?

2 A. No.

3 Q. So how would it become known to staff that you'd wet the
4 bed?

5 A. The girl next to me.

6 Q. Would she tell -- did she tell staff?

7 A. Mm-hmm.

8 Q. So how would that happen then? Were staff coming into
9 the dorm and she would --

10 A. No, they stood outside the dorm. They stood outside
11 there for hours until everybody was deep, deeply
12 sleeping, so they must have come in then to check we
13 were sleeping, mm-hmm.

14 Q. So they would come in to check you were sleeping --

15 A. Mm-hmm.

16 Q. -- and the girl next to you would tell the staff --

17 A. She was always sticking me in for things, talking,
18 fidgeting.

19 Q. So she might tell the staff that you'd wet the bed?

20 A. Mm-hmm.

21 Q. And what would happen then, 'Anne'?

22 A. That's when I was locked in the cupboard in my room
23 beside my bed with my smelly, wet clothes.

24 Q. So who locked you in the cupboard?

25 A. Mrs Fletcher.

1 Q. So can you just tell me a bit more about that, 'Anne'?

2 So the girl next to you said you wet the bed?

3 A. Mm-hmm.

4 Q. Told -- is that --

5 A. Told the teacher.

6 Q. Told Mrs Fletcher?

7 A. Mm-hmm.

8 Q. And what did Mrs Fletcher do then?

9 A. Beat me in front of the kids and locked me in the

10 cupboard.

11 Q. So she beat you in the dormitory?

12 A. Yes, in front of the children. Well, some of them must

13 have been sleeping, but I'm not -- not that many.

14 Q. So what did she do?

15 A. She just like -- taking my legs away from me and then

16 just put me in the cupboard.

17 Q. And the beating that she gave you, was that with her

18 hands?

19 A. A slap.

20 Q. A slap?

21 A. Mm-hmm.

22 Q. Which part of the body?

23 A. My face and my ears.

24 Q. And then -- and put you in the cupboard?

25 A. Mm-hmm.

1 Q. Is that the wardrobe that you had?

2 A. Yeah.

3 Q. And did she say anything to you while she was doing

4 this?

5 A. No, I don't know if she left the room or what, she just

6 slapped me and took my feet away from me and then

7 dragged me into the cupboard and locked it.

8 Q. And is this something that happened you, 'Anne', once or

9 more than once?

10 A. I think that only happened a couple of times with the

11 wardrobe.

12 Q. And do you know how long you were in the wardrobe for?

13 A. No.

14 Q. Do you know how you got out of the wardrobe?

15 A. No.

16 Q. You've explained that that happened on a couple of

17 occasions. On other occasions where you were found to

18 have wet the bed, what sort of -- what happened?

19 A. I was taken to the games room and beat.

20 Q. In the way you've previously -- in the way you've

21 described to me, in the games room, was that --

22 A. I was in that games room more than I was in ma bed.

23 Q. And the standing in the corridor --

24 A. Yes.

25 Q. -- could that also happen for wetting the bed?

1 A. Yes -- no, that was mainly for talking.

2 Q. Mainly for talking?

3 A. Mm-hmm.

4 Q. Did the teachers say anything to you about wetting the
5 bed? Were they saying -- were they -- can you remember
6 any of the things they were saying to you about it?

7 A. No.

8 Q. How did you feel about it, what was happen -- wetting
9 the bed and the response you were having from the
10 teacher --

11 A. I was used to being beat at home for wetting the bed so
12 it was just natural for me.

13 Q. Can I ask you about the food now, 'Anne', at Fornethy.
14 What was the food like?

15 A. (Pause)

16 Loads of salads and mince and onions, everything had
17 onions in.

18 Q. Did you -- were you able to eat some of the food?

19 A. No.

20 Q. And if you didn't eat your food, 'Anne', what happened?

21 A. I was force-fed until I was sick.

22 Q. Who did that to you, 'Anne'?

23 A. Mrs Fletcher and Mrs Robinson and the other lady.

24 Q. Were you force-fed on a regular basis?

25 A. I used to try and hide the food under ma plate, but

1 I get caught all the time.

2 Q. And I think you tell us that in your statement, 'Anne'.
3 For example, you describe a time when Mrs Fletcher
4 swiped the plate out of your hand and smashed it on
5 the --

6 A. Smashed it, picked up the tomatoes and then rammed them
7 in my mouth.

8 Q. And even when you were sick, 'Anne', did you continue to
9 be force-fed?

10 A. No, they were taken to the toilet to brush their teeth,
11 so when they started brushing them, the teacher would
12 push the stick in, in the side of the mouth, and used to
13 get cut a lot.

14 Q. So you would be taken to the toilet and the toothbrush
15 would be pushed into your mouth?

16 A. And if they were busy, they would make one of the
17 vice-captain girls do it, but they also bullied you.

18 Q. You mention castor oil in your statement, 'Anne'. When
19 was that used?

20 A. Not very often, but it was used.

21 Q. And was that in relation to the food?

22 A. Mm-hmm, yeah.

23 Q. Can you just explain to me when that was used and who
24 used it?

25 A. The wee lady that did the baths and the nits, she --

1 I don't know who told her to do it or what, but that was
2 who gave us it.

3 LADY SMITH: So that was somebody who was involved in giving
4 the baths?

5 A. Yes.

6 LADY SMITH: Thank you.

7 MS MACLEOD: So is that -- if there had been an incident,
8 for example, if you hadn't managed to eat your food or
9 if you were force-fed, would castor oil sometimes be
10 used?

11 A. Or if I lost ma tuck money as well, 'cos it was getting
12 stolen off me.

13 Q. Okay, and we'll look at that in a moment.

14 A. Okay.

15 Q. But the castor oil; are you able to help me with exactly
16 what was happening there with the castor oil?

17 A. I don't know if it was to bring up the rest of the sick
18 or what. I'm not sure why it was -- I can't really
19 remember.

20 Q. So you remember being given castor oil?

21 A. Yes, on more than one occasion, yeah.

22 Q. And what effect did that have on you?

23 A. I can't remember.

24 Q. Okay.

25 A. But I know that I've got gut problems to this day.

1 Q. Sorry?

2 A. I've got gut problems to this day.

3 Q. And in relation to tomatoes, 'Anne', I think you tell us
4 in your statement that you actually had an allergy --

5 A. Yes.

6 Q. -- to tomatoes?

7 A. To onions and tomatoes.

8 Q. And that was known to the staff?

9 A. Yes -- I don't know, actually, I don't know.

10 Q. Did you see other children being force-fed?

11 A. Yes.

12 Q. In paragraphs 23 and 24 of your statement, you provide
13 some evidence, for example, in relation to things you
14 weren't allowed to do in the dining room. You say you
15 weren't allowed to put your elbows on the table?

16 A. Elbows and wrists.

17 Q. And what would happen if someone did that, put your
18 elbows or your wrists on the table?

19 A. You would be taken out the room and -- it wasn't just me
20 that happened to. You were taken out of the room and
21 beat in the wee back, back closed bit where all the
22 stairs are.

23 Q. And who would take you out and do that to you?

24 A. Whoever was on duty then.

25 Q. You discuss that you were left-handed.

1 A. Yes.

2 Q. And did that cause a problem for you?

3 A. Yes.

4 Q. Can you tell me about that?

5 A. I'm dominant left-handed, er, and I always wondered why
6 I hold my cutlery like a right-handed person, 'cos I do
7 everything completely left-handed, and it -- then it all
8 started making sense, 'cos we had a book on wir head,
9 and 'cos I -- as you see, I can't -- my back, I can't
10 sit straight, so I was always told to sit with a book.

11 Q. So were you forced to use your right hand in a way that
12 you wouldn't have naturally used it?

13 A. I must have done, because that's -- it's the only thing
14 I do with -- like a right-handed person.

15 Q. And you mentioned books on your head there and indeed
16 you talk about that in your statement. Can you just
17 tell me about that? What was that about? What was that
18 process?

19 A. 'Cos my posture isn't straight. And there was quite
20 a couple of girls, not a lot, like myself, so we had to
21 sit basically, you know, like prim and proper with backs
22 straight and napkins on.

23 Q. So am I understanding then that some girls were singled
24 out to have books put on their head?

25 A. Yes.

1 Q. And was that in the dining room?

2 A. Yes.

3 Q. While you were eating?

4 A. Yes.

5 Q. And who was in charge of that?

6 A. The vice-captain -- one of the girls, the older girls.

7 Q. And in fact we might look at that now. You tell us

8 a little bit later in your statement, at paragraph 39,

9 that there were captains?

10 A. Mm-hmm, vice-captain, captain, yeah, and like a --

11 another something.

12 Q. And did they wear bands?

13 A. Yes.

14 Q. On their clothing?

15 A. A pinafore to match the band, yeah.

16 Q. And what was the role of these captains? What were they

17 to do?

18 A. The red one was the leader, then the blue one was next

19 down, and then the white one was, I don't know.

20 Q. And were they appointed by the teachers?

21 A. Yes, Mrs Fletcher and Mrs Robinson -- Robertson.

22 Q. And were they older girls?

23 A. Yes.

24 Q. And what was their role supposed to be? What were

25 they --

1 A. I don't know what it was supposed to be, but they were
2 just bullies.

3 Q. Can you expand on that for me? What sort of thing made
4 them bullies? What did they do?

5 A. Take wir tuck money off you. Take your trainers or
6 whatever you had on, hide 'em. Just bully you, force --
7 like demand: 'Get those teeth brushed properly'. It was
8 like -- just verbal.

9 Q. So they weren't in any way someone you could go to for
10 help if you needed help with something then?

11 A. No.

12 Q. Do you remember going to school at Fornethy, being in
13 classrooms, that sort of thing?

14 A. Yeah.

15 Q. And were you taught anything? Were you taught reading
16 and writing and things?

17 A. Like, just basically a normal school, yeah.

18 Q. And were you in classrooms according to age?

19 A. Oh, I can't remember.

20 Q. And how did you find the schooling side of things?

21 A. I enjoyed it but 'cos I couldn't sit still or shut up,
22 I kept getting thrown out.

23 Q. And would that be the class teacher who would throw you
24 out?

25 A. Yes, yes.

1 Q. And was Mrs Robertson or Mrs Fletcher involved in the
2 teaching?

3 A. No. No -- I think Mrs Robinson was, I think.

4 Q. And if you were thrown out of the class by a teacher,
5 could Mrs Fletcher then become involved?

6 A. No, no. I think that Mrs Robinson did, but --

7 Q. So what would happen then if you were thrown out the
8 class?

9 A. I'd hide in a room so that she didn't see that I was
10 thrown out.

11 LADY SMITH: And from your reaction a moment ago, I take it
12 you didn't want Mrs Fletcher to be involved?

13 A. No.

14 LADY SMITH: Is that right?

15 A. No. Nope.

16 LADY SMITH: Thank you.

17 MS MACLEOD: Did you have an opportunity to write to your
18 family or keep in touch with your family?

19 A. I vaguely, vaguely remember, but I don't know,
20 I couldn't 100 per cent sure.

21 Q. Now, as well as the schooling, you describe that during
22 the day, 'Anne', that you were taken on long walks?

23 A. Mm-hmm, very long walks.

24 Q. Is that something that happened on a lot of the days --

25 A. Mm-hmm.

1 Q. -- you were at Fornethy?

2 A. Yes, yes.

3 Q. Would the whole school be on these walks?

4 A. Yes.

5 Q. And would there be staff?

6 A. Yes.

7 Q. Now, you said they were very long walks. Are you able
8 to help me at all with the distance or the time you were
9 out walking?

10 A. One place, I think it was -- I think it -- I'm sure it
11 was Mount Blair and it took us hours to walk it, and
12 there was a lot of mountains, 'cos I remember the wall,
13 and I always called it the Wall of China, 'cos it's just
14 -- I don't know why. But then I started seeing it on
15 like recent TVs, it's like, it was a shape, separated
16 shape. But yeah, I remember having to climb over that
17 to get up to the mountains, the hills.

18 LADY SMITH: Was that somewhere that you drove to, to get to
19 the start?

20 A. I really can't remember, but what I remember, I'm sure
21 we walked it, 'cos I remember getting the wellies on and
22 leaving that back corridor with the stairs.

23 LADY SMITH: I just wondered whether your memory of Blair
24 was somewhere around Blair Atholl, which is in that
25 area? No?

1 A. I know it just took us hours to walk. I didn't have
2 a watch or anything back then.

3 LADY SMITH: Okay. Thank you.

4 MS MACLEOD: And what was the atmosphere on these walks,
5 'Anne'?

6 A. It was -- it was actually okay. It was cold, yeah. It
7 was alright. But we tried to get a giggle, but if we
8 get seen, then I got pushed down the hill.

9 Q. And who would be pushing you?

10 A. The teachers and one of the vice-captain.

11 Q. And what did you wear on the walks?

12 A. Wellies.

13 Q. And how did you find that?

14 A. Oh, I was blistered, badly, because I was so thin and
15 the wellies kept slapping off the back of my calves and
16 my shin.

17 Q. So it was very -- was it a sore experience for you to
18 have the wellies on, for such a long walk?

19 A. Yeah, especially if I'd wet myself when I was out.

20 Q. And did that sometimes happen to you when you were out?

21 A. Yeah.

22 Q. When you were there and you were particularly in your
23 younger years of primary, 'Anne', kind of age 4, 5, 6,
24 how did you cope in terms of keeping up with this sort
25 of walk?

1 A. My ADHD. I'm very, very -- I was very, very energetic,
2 not the past couple of years, but was just so
3 hyperactive I could have walked for days. (Pause) And it
4 got us out of there.

5 Q. I think you mention, 'Anne', that there were swings as
6 well and I think you were looking for them in the
7 photograph. Do you recall the swings?

8 A. Yeah. Yeah, it's to this day, so I think that was my
9 happy place, with the ladybirds. I don't remember much
10 about it -- well, I do, but I don't remember -- we were
11 out there in the pouring rain, and -- but, yeah, I
12 seemed to see that as a good memory, the swing.

13 Q. Was there a tuck shop at Fornethy?

14 A. Yes.

15 Q. And was there a particular day or time when you were
16 told you could go to the tuck shop?

17 A. I can't remember. I don't know if it was every day or
18 if it was weekends. I can't remember.

19 Q. And how was the tuck shop organised? Did you have to
20 have money or how did it work?

21 A. Yeah. I think they said that your parents sent you
22 money in, or if you earned it in there.

23 Q. And did you sometimes have money, money to spend there?

24 A. No, it always got stolen off me.

25 Q. So do I take it from that then that you had money that

1 perhaps your parents had sent in and it was taken off
2 you?

3 A. Mm-hmm.

4 Q. Who took the money off you?

5 A. The vice-captain.

6 Q. And I think you tell us, 'Anne', in your statement that
7 you didn't tell anyone because the girl would have
8 beaten you up?

9 A. Well, she did anyway, so.

10 Q. She did anyway?

11 A. Mm-hmm.

12 Q. When would she do that? What would be --

13 A. To get the money off me, so I thought I was going to get
14 more of a beating from her if I told.

15 Q. So she would beat you while she was taking the money off
16 you?

17 A. Mm-hmm.

18 Q. What sort of thing did she do?

19 A. Pull my hair, scratch my face.

20 Q. Were the teachers aware that she was doing that?

21 A. Probably. She was one of the teachers' pets.

22 Q. Were there sometimes visitors at Fornethy, do you know?

23 A. Yes.

24 Q. And did you have any understanding of who they were or
25 why they were there?

1 A. The only one I can remember is the minister and Santa,
2 but there was more people, but I just -- it's blanked in
3 my head.

4 Q. And I think you say that the children would be on their
5 best behaviour if there were visitors?

6 A. Yes, mm-hmm.

7 Q. Would you be told then how to behave or --

8 A. Oh, we got warned before the visitors -- like the night
9 before we would be warned that we would lose this, we
10 would lose that.

11 Q. Now, in paragraphs 40 and 41 of your statement, 'Anne',
12 you tell the Inquiry about some of the things, the
13 verbally abusive things, that the staff would say to you
14 when you were in Fornethy.

15 A. Mm-hmm.

16 Q. Can you help me with that, what sort of things were
17 being said to you?

18 A. Well, when -- another time I remember going back and
19 their words at the main door was: 'Oh, no, not you
20 again'. And the verbal words was 'stupid, wee girl',
21 that I wasn't loved fae my parents and things like that.

22 Q. Do you remember which staff member said that sort of
23 thing to you?

24 A. No. I could a few years ago, but I can't now.

25 Q. And was that the sort of thing that was said regularly

1 while you were there?

2 A. Yeah.

3 Q. To you?

4 In your statement, you mention that:

5 'The staff said things like my mum and dad didn't

6 love me because I was so skinny.'

7 A. Mm-hmm.

8 Q. Is that the sort of thing the staff said to you?

9 A. Yeah.

10 Q. And you say:

11 'They said my mum and dad loved my brothers and

12 sisters more.'

13 Did they say that to you?

14 A. Yeah, so did ma mum.

15 Q. Just moving around the school, walking around Fornethy,

16 what was the atmosphere like, 'Anne'?

17 A. Golly, we used to think it was spooky feeling, a bit

18 cold.

19 Erm, I don't know, it just felt like an army.

20 Q. And during the various times that you were there for the

21 few weeks at a time, did you notice any change over the

22 period in the place, or was the way you were being

23 treated, did that remain pretty much the same?

24 A. Just the same.

25 Q. So when you were, for example, let's say 10 or 11, were

1 you being treated by Mrs Fletcher and Mrs Robertson in
2 the same way that you've described when you were
3 younger?

4 A. Yeah. Well, worse, 'cos I was older, you know.

5 Q. So, worse because you were older. Can you just help me
6 with that; what made it worse when you were older?

7 A. The hits got harder.

8 Q. And did you continue to have a problem with the
9 bed-wetting?

10 A. Yes.

11 Q. On one of the times you were at Fornethy, did your hair
12 get cut? Okay. Do you remember if that was the first
13 time or one of the other times?

14 A. Well, it couldn't have been pre-seven because my mum
15 took me to the barbers and got me short back and sides
16 for high school, which wrecked me, so it must have been
17 when I was younger, 'cos I always had -- kept catching
18 head lice when I was wee.

19 Q. And was that -- was that the reason you were given at
20 Fornethy for them cutting your hair?

21 A. Yeah, 'cos my hair was so thick, and still is, but they
22 said my hair's so thick that they couldn't get the nit
23 comb through it.

24 Q. So they cut your hair?

25 A. Mm-hmm.

1 Q. Do you remember who did that?

2 A. No.

3 Q. Now, with you knowing what Fornethy was like, 'Anne',
4 how did you feel about going back there each year?

5 A. I don't remember.

6 Q. You don't remember.

7 A. I probably had no choice.

8 Q. And I think you tell us, 'Anne', that you didn't tell
9 your mum and dad what happened to you at Fornethy?

10 A. No, no, in case I got beat for it.

11 Q. Sorry?

12 A. In case I got beat for it.

13 Q. Did you tell anybody, while you were a child, the things
14 that were happening to you at Fornethy?

15 A. No. I told my ex-husband many years later.

16 Q. And in paragraph 43 of your statement, you tell the
17 Inquiry some things that happened to you after you'd
18 been to Fornethy, and one thing you say is that you
19 started soiling yourself when you went back to
20 primary school, having been in Fornethy?

21 A. Which meant -- 'cos it happened in school. It was so --
22 I'll never forget that day.

23 Q. And I think you tell about that day, that the teacher
24 put trousers on you, and you remember that?

25 A. I had no hips so they just kept falling, and it was

1 boys' trousers as well.

2 Q. And do you link that to the experience that you'd had in
3 Fornethy?

4 A. I didn't poo myself in Fornethy. I -- yeah, sorry,
5 I didn't understand that there.

6 Q. Sorry, I should have asked the question more clearly.
7 Do you think that was as a result of what happened to
8 you at Fornethy?

9 A. Yeah, 'cos I had to hold it in and I couldn't tell
10 anybody.

11 Q. Now, I think you tell us, 'Anne', that you continued to
12 have some difficulties at school and that when you went
13 to high school, what you say is:
14 'My dad would put me in one gate.'
15 And [you] would go out the other?

16 A. And go to work.

17 Q. And you say that there came a time where you went to
18 a Children's Panel?

19 A. When I was 15.

20 Q. And did you go and stay with your grandparents?

21 A. Yes.

22 Q. And I think you say you told them that you didn't want
23 to go back to school?

24 A. Yes.

25 Q. And did you then go and do a hairdressing and beauty

1 therapy --

2 A. I did.

3 Q. -- course?

4 A. Yes.

5 Q. And you tell the Inquiry about some of the jobs that

6 you've had in your life, including, I think, that you

7 had a takeaway food shop?

8 A. Yeah, I had two, one sit-in and one takeaway.

9 Q. And you also tell the Inquiry that you're a keen

10 gardener?

11 A. Yeah.

12 Q. And that you grow your own fruit and vegetables.

13 Now, you also tell the Inquiry that you were with

14 your partner for about 26 years?

15 A. Yes.

16 Q. And that you separated but remain close?

17 A. Yes.

18 Q. And that you have a number of children between you?

19 A. Yes, yes.

20 Q. Seven in total?

21 A. Seven, yes, and all their pets.

22 Q. Now, in the final part of your statement, 'Anne', you

23 tell the Inquiry about the impact that you think your

24 time in Fornethy has had on your life and what you say

25 is at paragraph 49, you say:

1 'My time in care has affected my relationship with
2 my own children.'

3 And that you wouldn't let them stay overnight with
4 anyone, for example?

5 A. No.

6 Q. And you say that you were very regimented with them and
7 you didn't like being strict with them, but that's how
8 it was?

9 A. I was in that parent since I was 7 as well, so -- I was
10 7 when I went to school, yeah. It's all I knew.

11 Q. You say you're too independent and you like everything
12 to be done in a particular way and you blame the staff
13 at Fornethy for that.

14 And you say that your children don't know you were
15 at Fornethy?

16 A. My two oldest did when they were over 16.

17 Q. You also tell the Inquiry that you have problems
18 sleeping because you're scared, and that stems from
19 Fornethy?

20 A. I still do. I get about seven-and-a-half or eight hours
21 a week, deep sleep.

22 Q. And that you have nightmares?

23 A. I don't need to be sleeping to have them.

24 Q. And you also tell the Inquiry, at paragraph 51, that you
25 have lots of physical health problems from Fornethy?

1 A. Yes. I've got significant dysfunctional breathing, erm,
2 chronic IBS and I've still got gut problems. I can't
3 even eat two sandwiches without being sick.

4 Q. Now, in terms of reporting the abuse, you say that you
5 haven't reported any of the abuse to the police?

6 A. I was brought up never to go to police.

7 Q. And you say that you've only recently felt ready to talk
8 about --

9 A. As soon as I seen it on TV, and before I forgot where it
10 was, in Angus, and it wasn't Perth, I Googled it
11 straight away, 'cos that's what made me open up, because
12 I thought it was only just me that got it serious.

13 Q. So you saw something about Fornethy on the TV?

14 A. Yes.

15 Q. And before that, you thought that it was perhaps just
16 yourself or mainly you that had been treated in the way
17 you've described?

18 A. Yeah, 'cos I didn't know when I was that young that
19 I had ADHD and autism, but -- I just felt I was just
20 a naughty kid and nobody could cope with me.

21 Q. And was it seeing something about Fornethy on the TV
22 that made you contact the Inquiry?

23 A. Yes.

24 Q. And what you say is:

25 'I saw a news item about Fornethy and I wanted to

1 come forward to try and help other women.'

2 A. Definitely.

3 Q. Now, in the very final paragraphs of your statement,

4 'Anne', you set out some lessons which you think could

5 or should be learned from the experience that you had in

6 Fornethy and what you say is:

7 'They shouldn't have been allowed to do that to

8 children.'

9 A. Mm-hmm.

10 Q. And that it's difficult for you to put it into words?

11 A. Aye, I struggle with words, mm-hmm.

12 Q. You say:

13 'I would like the people involved to be punished

14 with prison sentences, but most of them will probably be

15 dead now.'

16 A. Mm-hmm, I do, yeah.

17 Q. And you make -- you say that mental abuse can be much

18 worse than physical abuse?

19 A. 'Cos bruises go away, mental scars don't.

20 Q. And you say:

21 'It happened in a time that people had the attitude

22 that children should be seen and not heard.'

23 A. And not heard.

24 Q. And that should change?

25 A. Oh, yeah.

1 Q. And you say there should still be some kind of justice?

2 A. Definitely.

3 Q. Now, that's all the questions that I have to ask you
4 today, 'Anne', but I just want to give you the
5 opportunity in case there's anything that you would like
6 to add before we finish your evidence?

7 A. No, thanks.

8 MS MACLEOD: Okay. Thank you, 'Anne'.

9 My Lady, that completes the questions for 'Anne' and
10 no questions have been submitted.

11 LADY SMITH: Thank you.

12 'Anne', thank you again for coming here this
13 afternoon. I can see it's not been easy for you but
14 I really appreciate you making the effort to engage with
15 us and be as patient as you have been with our
16 questions. It's been such a help hearing from you
17 yourself.

18 A. Thank you.

19 LADY SMITH: Safe journey home and I hope you have a restful
20 evening. Thank you very much.

21 A. Thank you.

22 (The witness withdrew)

23 LADY SMITH: Well, I'll take the afternoon break just now
24 and then we've got time for some read-ins after that,
25 I think, haven't we?

1 MS MACLEOD: We do, my Lady.

2 LADY SMITH: Thank you.

3 (3.05 pm)

4 (A short break)

5 (3.15 pm)

6 LADY SMITH: Mr MacAulay.

7 'Fiona' (read in)

8 MR MACAULAY: My Lady, we have a read-in and this is

9 an applicant who wants to remain anonymous and to use

10 the pseudonym 'Fiona'.

11 LADY SMITH: Thank you.

12 MR MACAULAY: 'Fiona's' statement is at WIT-1-000000714.

13 LADY SMITH: Thank you.

14 MR MACAULAY: 'Fiona' tells us that she was born in 1958.

15 She tells us about her life before care, in particular,

16 her family background, and at 3 she says:

17 'Life as a child was fine and I had no qualms about

18 where we were. We didn't have a lot of money, but never

19 went without, as we had a lot of relatives who lived

20 nearby, including my gran, who stayed next door. During

21 those early years, it was just me and [my brother] who

22 were with our mum and dad.

23 'Dad left the army and married mum, then became

24 a delivery driver and then a coalman. As a child,

25 I would come in from school and played for a while being

1 quiet or go to Glasgow Green and play. I went to John
2 Street Primary and then to John Street Secondary, both
3 of which were just a walk away, and I would walk there
4 with [my brother].

5 'When you are at primary, you get a school medical
6 every so often. During one of my medicals, I was
7 weighed and had my eyes and ears checked out. After it,
8 I was asked to take a seat before being told they would
9 like me to go on a lovely, wee holiday due to how thin
10 I was. I wasn't malnourished or anything. I was just
11 naturally thin. I was quite excited when they suggested
12 I go on a holiday because that was something our family
13 could never afford.

14 'Since neither of my sisters had been born at that
15 time, I was asked if I wanted to take a friend with me,
16 so I chose [a friend]. [This friend] died a few years
17 ago. Both our mums were sent a letter about it as they
18 had to give their permission to allow us to go. My mum
19 wasn't sure about letting me go, but eventually agreed
20 to it, probably because [my friend]'s mum was allowing
21 [my friend] to go.

22 'I don't know the name of the female who gave me the
23 medical. I don't know if she was a doctor or a nurse.
24 She just said the holiday would do me good after she had
25 weighed me. I don't think any welfare or child officers

1 were involved in the decision. I think I was 7 years
2 old at the time and it was 1965 or 1966.

3 'We were going to Fornethy House in Perth and the
4 day we went, I remember it being cold and snowing, so
5 I assumed it was in the winter. We went to Glasgow
6 Central Station with our mums where we met a woman who
7 took us on the train to Perth. The woman was like
8 a schoolteacher and we spoke very little on the train.
9 At the time, I thought we were going to a place called
10 Abernethy, and it was only later I found out it was
11 called Fornethy.

12 'The first thing you saw as you went up the long
13 driveway in Fornethy was a massive amount of huge trees.
14 You went up the drive, turned left and there was
15 a castle type of building. It was white/cream in colour
16 and put you in mind of a castle with turrets and huge
17 doors. It was a place for girls only and I think there
18 were between 30 and 40 girls, though there could have
19 been more. They were aged between 5 and 10 or 11.

20 'A woman was in charge but I don't recall her name.
21 She was old with white hair, sometimes with a tint in
22 it, and liked wearing wraps and shawls and walked with
23 a stick. She wore glasses and tweed skirts and boots.
24 I know I was only 7 at the time and adults would look
25 old to me, but the woman must have been in her 60s.

1 'I remember three others who, I think, were teachers
2 or in some way in charge. There were also others who
3 may have been older girls or younger members of staff.
4 We were never introduced formally to any of the staff.
5 It was really only the older woman I paid attention to
6 because I was terrified of her.

7 'While I was there, I don't recall ever seeing my
8 friend in the building and only saw her when we were
9 outside playing or when we were on one of the many walks
10 we were taken on.

11 'We had got a minibus from the train station and
12 when we got off it, I had a wee case with me. We were
13 led into the cloakroom and somebody took the cases from
14 us and told us to sit on a bench. There was a door
15 opposite which led to a small medical room, where we
16 were to get our hair checked, probably for nits.

17 'While we waited, there was a wee girl in the room
18 and she was screaming. A woman was dealing with her,
19 screaming at the girl and putting stuff on her hair.
20 The girl had pigtails and the woman took a pair of
21 scissors and cut off the pigtails. I could see this
22 because the door was open.

23 'I started crying and was scared. The wee girl, who
24 was even smaller than me, got taken away and then I went
25 in. I got Lorexane on my hair which was disgusting and

1 then it was [my friend's] turn. Then I was taken to
2 a dorm where somebody took my case off me and put it in
3 a locker. I have no recollection of ever taking
4 anything out of the case while I was in Fornethy.

5 'The woman in the medical room wore a white coat and
6 red gloves. It was very painful as she combed my hair,
7 but she told me to be quiet when I complained. [My
8 friend] was taken to a different dorm.

9 'I think there were about ten girls in my dorm.
10 I don't know how many other dorms there were. I don't
11 recall going up or downstairs, but I think my dorm was
12 on the ground floor. I think the day room was on the
13 first floor.

14 'I then got told it was playtime and I went
15 downstairs. I met [my friend] and we were wondering
16 when the holiday would start. We were outside playing
17 until a bell sounded which signified it was lunchtime.
18 On that first day, there wasn't a lot of girls in the
19 playground as most were out walking.

20 'We got up early, maybe about 7.00 am, I think by
21 somebody shouting at us to get up. You got your hands
22 and face washed in a place just outside the dorms,
23 queuing up to get it done. We then got dressed and went
24 for breakfast. After breakfast you went to the
25 cloakroom to get welly boots and a jacket and then it

1 was off for a very long walk, which went on for miles
2 and miles.

3 'On a school day, we went to class where we were
4 made to write a letter home and this was after being
5 there for a few days. I wrote saying I didn't like the
6 place, but I don't think my mum ever got any of the
7 letters, because she never did mention having received
8 them. If you wrote anything the teacher didn't like,
9 the teacher tore the letter up, slapped you on the face
10 and told you to write what was on the blackboard, which
11 was about how good a time we were having.

12 'I don't [remember] any games or toys or TV and we
13 went to bed quite early after a biscuit and a glass of
14 milk. When the lights were turned off, we were told to
15 put the sheets over our heads. I just cried and cried
16 and couldn't understand why my mum had put me in this
17 place. I cried so much I was physically sore and
18 thought I must have done something bad for my mum to
19 have put me there.

20 'I don't think I had been told how long I would be
21 there for, but in my head I thought that since it was
22 a holiday, it would be for two weeks.

23 'Breakfast was all right and I always ate it. It
24 was cereal, though sometimes you got porridge, or boiled
25 eggs on toast. Dinnertime was a problem. It was

1 probably better food than I was getting at home,
2 a better variety and food that I didn't get at home.
3 You got a variety of vegetables, though you didn't get
4 any choice. My particular problem was with the
5 desserts.

6 'There was a sort of pink blancmange but I hated the
7 texture and smell, and a woman walked around making sure
8 we were eating it. I would be sitting there crying,
9 saying I didn't like it. Another woman would then hold
10 the spoon up to my mouth and I was gagging. There would
11 be blancmange and my saliva all together and they would
12 gather it all up and shove it in my mouth.

13 'The first time this happened I thought I was going
14 to die, because I couldn't breathe. They got mad
15 because it was coming out of my mouth and going all over
16 my pinny, which made them madder. I wasn't allowed to
17 leave the table until I had finished it and I was
18 swallowing it, but heaving and heaving till it was done.
19 It took a long time to get the blancmange down my throat
20 and most of it was on the floor and on the pinny, which
21 made them mad. I couldn't see the faces of the other
22 girls while this was happening. Hearing someone crying
23 "I don't want it" was common at dinnertime.

24 'I could take a slap and did many a time at
25 dinnertime, but getting force-fed was horrendous,

1 especially when you spat it out and they gathered it all
2 up and shoved it back in your mouth.

3 'The female that did this was quite rough and
4 mannish looking, not the old white-haired woman. She
5 had light brown hair, not short, but tied back in
6 a ponytail. She wore more modern clothes than the
7 headteacher and was taller. The white-haired woman was
8 always hanging about watching people.

9 'You got a shower before you went to bed at night.
10 There were four showers with no curtains with a bench in
11 front of them in the middle of the floor. There were
12 also pegs on the wall. I would sit on the bench waiting
13 for my turn in the shower. There was no privacy and
14 some other member of staff would sit on the bench
15 supervising.

16 'Sometimes we would get a bath in a small tub in
17 a room next to the showers. I always hated them because
18 you shared the bath with somebody else, and the women
19 who scrubbed you were really rough. The water was never
20 warm and there was hardly any of it.'

21 She then talks about the clothing, and at 31:

22 'We would play outside but you weren't allowed to
23 leave the grounds. Myself and [my friend] would play
24 together and just using our imagination, as there were
25 no toys or any such thing for us to play with. [My

1 friend] was always comforting me because I was a very
2 shy child and was always crying.

3 'We didn't go out on trips other than the walks,
4 though we did go to church once. Not everybody went to
5 the church and those of us that did, walked. We didn't
6 wear the pinnies and instead wore our own clothes and
7 made sure our shoes were clean. It was only the once we
8 went to the church.

9 'The classroom I went to was in the main building.
10 There must have been more than one room as the room
11 I was in was too small for all the girls in the home to
12 be in. We did get lessons on our times tables and
13 English. I think it was the same teacher I had at the
14 time who looked like the tall mannish woman from the
15 dining room.'

16 And at paragraph 36:

17 'We didn't do any chores, but we went on a lot of
18 walks which went on for miles. It wasn't educational.
19 Because of the boots we wore, I would get sore, scabby
20 legs which were ignored by the staff. My legs were the
21 first thing my mum noticed when I got home.

22 'When I eventually left Fornethy, I did get my case
23 back, but while there I didn't have any other personal
24 possessions. We didn't get pocket money, though we did
25 get to go to the tuck shop every day. Sometimes I would

1 be told I wasn't getting anything. I think my mum sent
2 a postal order to pay for what I got from the tuck shop.

3 'I didn't see anybody getting any visitors and
4 didn't see any official visitors. I had no contact with
5 my family while I was in Fornethy.

6 'If you stepped out of line, you got slapped on the
7 back of the head. I didn't see this happen a lot to
8 others, though you could hear it happening, but would be
9 too scared to turn round and look. Discipline wasn't
10 really an issue because you were too scared to misbehave
11 or speak out of turn.

12 'You didn't speak to each other to show any comfort,
13 as you would be scared you would then get hit. The only
14 place you could really speak was at playtime in the
15 grounds, which felt like a relief.

16 'I don't recall bed-wetting happening. At night,
17 you would hear staff coming into the dorm and some girls
18 crying, followed by the sound of their sand shoes on the
19 floor, and maybe that was somebody who had wet the bed
20 being dealt with, but I don't know. One night I was
21 taken out of my bed and had to stand in the hall in just
22 my pants. I think I was taken out of bed because I was
23 crying again. I just remember the woman taking me out
24 of bed and saying, "I'll give you something to cry
25 about". She took my nightdress off and made me stand

1 facing the wall for ages while she sat in a seat. That
2 was SNR .

3 'Me and [my friend] spoke many times about running
4 away, but we were too scared to. I don't remember
5 hearing about anybody running away.

6 'On one of the first nights I was there, I got out
7 of the shower and while I was still wet, SNR
8 put me over her knee and hit me three or four times with
9 a slipper over my bare, wet bottom. This was done in
10 front of the other girls. It happened to me at least
11 three times during my time there.

12 'All too often, I felt I was getting a slap for
13 nothing. You would get the belt in a normal outside
14 school and you would know why you got it, but in
15 Fornethy the staff hit you for nothing and just whenever
16 they felt like it.

17 'It's strange that the reason I was sent to Fornethy
18 was because of my weight after a medical examination,
19 yet during my time there I was never weighed, nor was
20 I sat down and had my health discussed. At no time did
21 they address whatever the reason was for me being there,
22 so it does beg the question of why I was ever sent to
23 Fornethy.

24 'There was nobody to tell what was happening to us
25 at Fornethy House. You were too scared to speak.

1 'I think we got told we were leaving a week before
2 we did, but that's only because I recall [my friend]
3 saying "We've only a week to go". I had been there for
4 a total of six weeks. I was delighted to get home,
5 though it was an anticlimax. I met my mum at the train
6 station and I was still crying. She said, "Look at the
7 state of you. Look at your legs". I said they did this
8 and they did that, and mum told me not to speak about
9 adults that way.

10 'I spoke to my mum recently about having been in
11 Fornethy and she said that she recalls that because
12 I had been away for such a long time, it took her ages
13 to get me back into a routine and I had difficulty
14 sleeping for quite a while after coming home.

15 'Recently, mum was round visiting and we were
16 talking about Fornethy. She said "Oh, that awful place.
17 All my neighbours will think I sent you there". I asked
18 her why I was sent there. She said that she hadn't sent
19 me there and that I had wanted to go. At the time,
20 there were various articles in the papers about Fornethy
21 and mum said "What will my neighbours think?" I told
22 her I didn't care what the neighbours thought and that
23 I was only telling the story like it was.

24 'She asked me recently why I was digging up the
25 past, but I told her there are a lot of people out there

1 who have to speak about what Fornethy was really like
2 and that what had happened had been swept under the
3 carpet.

4 'After I came out of Fornethy, I went back to John
5 Street Primary and then went on to John Street Secondary
6 School. I left school with no qualifications because
7 I hated being there, partially because I was always very
8 shy. I think it was a hangover from keeping quiet at
9 Fornethy.'

10 She then goes on to provide some details about her
11 employment history and then at 56:

12 'I've never forgotten my time in Fornethy and every
13 day, something happens that reminds me of it. I have
14 had a trust issue ever since I was there. Before
15 I went, I loved school, but when I returned I couldn't
16 trust adults, a problem I have to this day. I find it
17 difficult to get close to people and that even includes
18 my husband.'

19 And at 58:

20 'It's the same every time we go on holiday, the act
21 of packing a case puts me off going away. Once I'm away
22 I just want to go home. Being at home is the only place
23 I feel safe. Even on nights out, I want to get home and
24 I'm usually the first to leave. I think this all stems
25 from my time in Fornethy.'

1 At 60:

2 'Seeing certain foods in the supermarket reminds me
3 of Fornethy. Hearing kids scream reminds me of
4 Fornethy. It angers me that nothing was done about
5 Fornethy and that nobody believed me about what happened
6 to me there. It was only about 15 years ago that
7 I found something on [REDACTED] and was pleased that
8 others were speaking about similar things that happened
9 to them.'

10 She goes on then from paragraph 63 onwards to talk
11 about her involvement with the Fornethy [REDACTED] group
12 and in the penultimate paragraph, at paragraph 67, she
13 says:

14 'I would hope that anybody who looked after children
15 would have been properly vetted to do the job they were
16 supposed to do. I don't think that those who looked
17 after us were trained to look after children. They were
18 too ready to hit us and I would hope that that sort of
19 thing had stopped. I have no good memories of Fornethy.
20 I am not speaking out just for myself, but for everybody
21 who ever attended Fornethy House.'

22 And 'Fiona' concludes by saying:

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

25 I believe the facts stated in this witness statement are

1 true.'

2 And 'Fiona' has signed the statement on 7 June 2021.

3 LADY SMITH: Thank you.

4 Ms MacLeod.

5 'Kathleen' (read in)

6 MS MACLEOD: My Lady, I will read in the statement of

7 an applicant, who will use the pseudonym 'Kathleen'.

8 The statement can be found at WIT-1-000000791.

9 'My name is ['Kathleen'], I was born in 1968.

10 'I was born in Perth, Scotland. [My dad] was not
11 part of my life growing up and only had a very brief
12 relationship with my mum when he was home from the army.
13 I only got to know him when I was 36. I was the
14 youngest of four children. [My brother] was the oldest,
15 then [my two sisters, then me]. They all had
16 a different father to me. I was the only child that my
17 mum brought up. The other three lived with my granny or
18 their dad.

19 'Throughout my time with my mum, she had a lot of
20 relationships with men. As a result, we moved around
21 a lot and mum occasionally had violent partners. I only
22 have fleeting memories of my childhood. I know that
23 I stayed for a while with my mum in Dennistoun,
24 Drumchapel and Paisley. I can't remember the names of
25 the school I went to.

1 'I am not sure who arranged it, but when we were
2 living in Glasgow I was sent to Fornethy House.
3 I didn't know what the name of it was until recently.
4 I was told that I was going to a holiday camp. I am not
5 aware of any social workers visiting the house before
6 I went there.

7 'I have no memories of who took me or how I got to
8 Fornethy. It was definitely summertime and I had just
9 finished Primary 1. I would have been either 5 or 6.
10 I have a vague recollection that I may have been at
11 Fornethy on more than one occasion, but I cannot
12 remember when the other occasion was or how old I would
13 have been.

14 'Fornethy House was a massive, white building. As
15 you go in, the room to the left was the classroom.
16 Opposite that was a big office. Further along was
17 a tuck shop on the wall. Up a few steps was a long dorm
18 with half a dozen beds on each side. My bed was second
19 on the left. There was an archway leading through to
20 other dorms.

21 'The only staff that I remember was a wee, fat woman
22 with purple hair who would have been in her 30s or 40s.
23 There was another woman who was skinny and there was
24 a man called zPWI .

25 'There was possibly around 30 other girls there and

1 the age range was from around 5 up to 12 or 13. There
2 were no boys.

3 'All I remember about my first day was getting
4 stripped when I arrived and being given other clothes.
5 I was given flowery dresses, navy knickers and black
6 shoes. I remember all the girls were wearing flowery
7 dresses. I was then taken to the dorm. I can't
8 remember what else happened that day.

9 'I am not sure what time we were woken up. We
10 showered every morning before we dressed, then went down
11 for breakfast. The staff didn't help me getting
12 dressed. If I needed any help, it would have been from
13 the older girls. I am not sure what time we went to bed
14 but it was still daylight.

15 'We sat at round tables which had about six girls at
16 each. There may have been six tables. I can't remember
17 much about the mealtimes or the food but I think the
18 food was quite basic. There was food I didn't like and
19 I was forced to eat it.

20 'We showered every day. There were no baths. There
21 was always members of staff supervising us and were
22 always telling us to hurry up washing and brushing our
23 teeth. There were no curtains or anything to give us
24 privacy.

25 'All the girls wore the same things, flowery

1 dresses, navy blue knickers and black shoes. There were
2 wellies there if it was wet, but I don't remember it
3 raining or needing to wear them.

4 'I spent a lot of time on my own. There was a small
5 river not far from the house and I remember sitting
6 there with my feet in the water. I think that was my
7 go-to place. At some point, I was shown how to decorate
8 pine cones with flowers by some of the other girls.
9 I don't actually remember playing games with any of the
10 other girls. I don't remember there being any toys or
11 games to play with inside the house or any comics or
12 magazines to read. There was no TV or radio.

13 'I was in the classroom in the building at some
14 point, so we must have had some lessons, but I have no
15 idea what we were taught. The classroom had
16 a whiteboard rather than a blackboard. We might have
17 been in there for half a day and the other half we were
18 outside playing.

19 'I never saw a doctor or a nurse while I was there.
20 It must have been a member of staff that put the
21 calamine lotion on my body when I got chickenpox.

22 'I didn't go to church on a Sunday, it was just the
23 older girls who went. It was quite a trek to get there
24 because the church wasn't in the grounds. Religion
25 didn't appear to be a big thing at Fornethy.

1 'We didn't have to do any chores.

2 'I wasn't there at Christmas and I don't remember
3 anyone's birthday being celebrated.

4 'I didn't have any personal possessions. I was able
5 to buy sweets and things like toothpaste from the tuck
6 shop at the weekend. Money was being sent to me and
7 I am assuming that it was my mum who was sending it.
8 There was a lot of girls who obviously weren't getting
9 sent money and they couldn't buy any sweets.

10 'I only wet my bed once and I was physically
11 punished by a staff member.

12 'I didn't get any visitors and I am not sure if
13 anyone else did. I never had any contact with my mum or
14 siblings. I didn't get any letters from anyone.
15 I didn't see a social worker or anyone else official who
16 might have been coming in to see how Fornethy was being
17 run.

18 'If you were naughty or did anything you weren't
19 supposed to be doing, their way of dealing with it was
20 slapping or punching you to the head.

21 'There was only one occasion when I wet the bed
22 through the night. When it happened, I got up and was
23 trying to move the bedsheet about and the wee, fat woman
24 came into the dorm and caught me. She dragged me out of
25 bed by the hair and told me to strip. I was struggling

1 to get my nightie off so she yanked it off me. She
2 slapped me across the head a couple of times, then threw
3 me back on my bed, which still had the wet sheets on it.
4 I was still wearing my wet, navy knickers. I was really
5 upset and was crying. I had to sleep like that without
6 any blankets until the morning. At breakfast, I only
7 got half a cup of tea because I had wet the bed.

8 'You were not allowed to leave any food on your
9 plate at mealtimes. If you left anything, you would be
10 made to eat it. They would stand behind me and one
11 would pull my hair to make my head go back, then the
12 other would force food into my mouth with her hands.
13 I remember retching when they were doing it, but they
14 still rammed it down my throat, I had to eat it. This
15 was the wee, fat woman, but I can't remember who the
16 other one was that was doing it with her.

17 'There was a couple of times that I remember the
18 wee, fat woman sent me to stand outside her office for
19 some reason. It could have been because I hadn't eaten
20 all my food or had been cheeky to her. She then came up
21 to the room, took me inside and pulled down my knickers.
22 She belted me across the bare backside with her hand.
23 I think she struck me once both times.

24 'I had chickenpox when I was at Fornethy. I was
25 made to sit in a classroom with a few other girls who

1 also had chickenpox. Looking back, I suppose this was
2 probably to stop us spreading it to the other girls.
3 I was covered in calamine lotion. We were told not to
4 scratch by the wee, fat woman and if we did, she shouted
5 at us then slapped us across the head.

6 'The male member of staff called zPWI was a bit
7 creepy. I actually remember him as "zPWI". If
8 he met me in a corridor he would put his arms around me
9 and cuddle me and call me darling. At the same time, he
10 would be rubbing his private parts against me.

11 'There were three occasions when there were
12 incidents with visiting gentlemen. Each time zPWI
13 came into the dorm when I was sleeping, but I have no
14 idea what time it was. He took me down into a room,
15 which was a staffroom or their sitting room, and it had
16 a big fireplace. In the room there were three or four
17 smartly dressed men. zPWI left and there were no
18 other members of staff there. One man encouraged me to
19 go and speak to him and he showed me his pocket watch.
20 He was wearing a green checked suit with a waistcoat.
21 He had silvery grey hair and spoke very properly. He
22 put his hands down his pants and he made me put my hand
23 on his private parts. There were other girls about the
24 same age as me with the other men and they were doing
25 the same thing to them.

1 'Exactly the same thing happened the second time.
2 On the third occasion, the same man made me kneel on the
3 floor then tried to push my head towards his private
4 parts. When he did this I ran out of the room and went
5 back up to my bed. I was curled up in a ball and I was
6 sobbing, hiding under my covers. The next morning the
7 wee, fat woman battered me because I had run out of the
8 room away from the gentleman. As far as I'm concerned,
9 she pimped us out to these men. [REDACTED] put me in that
10 room, so him and the wee fat woman obviously knew what
11 was going on.

12 'There was no one I could have told when I was at
13 Fornethy. There was no one I could trust. I was just
14 put in Fornethy and left there until it was time to come
15 out.

16 'I am not sure how long I was at Fornethy, but it
17 must have been quite a few weeks. I don't remember
18 leaving, but I do recall travelling back in the car with
19 a woman I got to know as Lady Lyle. This was the first
20 time I had met her.

21 'Lady Lyle came to Fornethy and drove me to Perth
22 Train Station. My mum and sister came to meet me.
23 I lived with my mum for a while in a caravan and in
24 several other houses she lived in with various partners.
25 A good bit of time I also stayed with my granny who

1 lived nearby. I started at Primary 2 at
2 [a primary school] in Perth. [I also attended two other
3 primaries]. After primary I went to Perth Academy [and]
4 I left school when I was 15.

5 'Lady Lyle got involved with my mum, possibly
6 because my mum was being abused by her partners. Mum
7 was living with men who regularly came home drunk at the
8 weekends and often slapped her about. Lady Lyle was
9 either something to do with the social work department
10 or a charity that helped abused women, or women whose
11 husbands were in the jail. My mum met Lady Lyle
12 probably once every fortnight at a local tearoom.
13 I only remember seeing Lady Lyle a couple of times and
14 I think that's why I assumed that she was my mum's
15 social worker rather than mine, but now I suspect she
16 was actually my social worker. I know that she owned
17 Butterstone Lodges which aren't far away from Fornethy.

18 'Back at home, I was left to my own devices and had
19 to do everything for myself. My mother did very little
20 for me and put me through a lot of hard times. I left
21 home when I was 16. I worked a while in a bakers, but
22 it didn't last long. I fell pregnant when I was 17 and
23 had my first child at 18. I met a new partner who I got
24 married to and we had three kids. He was very
25 controlling and demanding in our relationship. I kicked

1 him out when I was 40.

2 'When I went back to school after I had been at
3 Fornethy, I know that I rebelled against the system and
4 I was quite disruptive. I hated school and had to stand
5 up for myself. I think this was because of the way
6 I was treated at Fornethy.

7 'I don't eat fish, chicken or yoghurt. I know this
8 stems from when I was forced to eat it when I was at
9 Fornethy. I also have a hang-up about someone standing
10 behind me or anyone touching my neck. My children used
11 to stand behind me and pull my hair just to tease me
12 because they knew I hated it. This brings back horrible
13 memories for me from when I was force-fed at Fornethy.
14 My children have realised now why I hate it, so they
15 have stopped doing it.

16 'My husband and a previous partner both knew in our
17 relationship that there was something wrong with me.
18 I hated it when they touched the back of my neck and my
19 shoulders. Sex to me has always been a chore. It was
20 different when I had been drinking, but generally
21 I don't enjoy it [and] I blame Fornethy for this.
22 I still think about sitting on the man's knee and him
23 pushing my head down towards his private parts.

24 'All I ever wanted in life was to find a husband,
25 settle down, have children and give them a great life.

1 I didn't want them to have a life like I had, getting
2 moved from pillar to post, wherever my mum's boyfriend
3 was living at that time.

4 'Because of what happened to me at Fornethy with
5 food, I always give my children choices in what they
6 eat. If they say they don't like or don't want
7 something, I will always offer them alternatives.
8 I would never force them to eat anything they don't
9 want. I would do anything for my children and they know
10 I would give them my last penny.

11 'I am very mistrusting of adults or people in
12 authority. I have to take anxiety tablets when I go to
13 the dentist because it freaks me out with the dentist
14 being so close to me and in my face. This goes back to
15 me being force-fed at Fornethy. It is almost like I am
16 claustrophobic and I don't like things close to my face.

17 'I had blocked everything out that happened to me
18 over 40 years ago, but this is all being dredged up to
19 the surface again. I occasionally had flashbacks and
20 these [had] been happening more often recently since
21 I have been in contact with the Inquiry. Since I found
22 out I had been at Fornethy, I have revisited it three
23 times and each time it has brought back different
24 memories for me. I am hopeful that once I have finished
25 with this Inquiry, I can put it all behind me again.

1 'I have spoken to someone at Future Pathways and
2 they are of the opinion I might have PTSD. They are
3 arranging for me to get some sort of counselling and
4 I am on a waiting list.

5 'When I left Fornethy, I told my mum and Lady Lyle
6 what had happened to me and how I was abused. Neither
7 of them believed me.

8 'In 2020, I saw coverage about Fornethy on the
9 ITV News and as a result I contacted the police.
10 I subsequently gave a statement to a police officer who
11 worked in Dundee. She came to interview me. I told her
12 everything I told the Inquiry and in fact probably told
13 her more. She told me there were about 160 other girls
14 waiting to be seen. I have been in touch with her
15 several times and, as far as I know, this is still being
16 investigated.

17 'It is upsetting for me because the staff at
18 Fornethy were aware and possibly even arranged for this
19 paedophile ring to come in and abused young girls and
20 they did absolutely nothing about it. I thought
21 [REDACTED] was the bee's knees, but now, looking back,
22 I wonder if she was involved in arranging the paedophile
23 ring and the gentlemen coming into Fornethy. She is
24 dead now.

25 'My lawyer has obtained my medical records because

1 I'm having issues with my disability living allowance
2 and personal independence payment. My medical records
3 between 1971 and 1980 are missing and no one knows why.
4 I am currently trying to get my social work records.

5 'If my coming forward to speak to the Inquiry helps
6 one child, then it will have been worth it for me.

7 I think there has to be far better vetting procedures in
8 place at any care establishment. Staff also have to be
9 supervised more. All the staff knew that the girls were
10 being beaten and they also stood back and allowed these
11 men to come in and abuse us. None of the staff did
12 anything to stop it.

13 'I hope that the Inquiry will do a thorough and
14 proper investigation to find out the extent of abuse
15 still going on today. Steps should be taken to do
16 everything that can be done to stop it from happening.

17 'About 15 years ago, I read a book by Jimmy Laing
18 called "Fifty Years in the System". It was only when
19 I read this book that I worked out that where I had been
20 wasn't a holiday camp, but was more like a care
21 establishment. The things he described in his book were
22 identical to where I had been and I now know to be
23 Fornethy. I tried to find out where it was I had been
24 sent, but I couldn't find it. We even drove about
25 Anstruther looking for the building, as it had been

1 suggested that [I] could have been there.

2 'In 2020, I happened to be watching the TV news and
3 an article came on about abuse that took place at
4 Fornethy. [REDACTED]

5 [REDACTED] There was a picture of the
6 white building and I immediately recognised it as the
7 place I had been sent for my holiday camp. I put the
8 name "Fornethy" [REDACTED] and it came back with
9 other [REDACTED] where there were [REDACTED] from other
10 women who had suffered abuse at Fornethy. It brought it
11 all back to me.

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

16 'Kathleen' signed the statement on 30 August 2021.

17 LADY SMITH: Thank you very much.

18 I think that's it for today then, Ms MacLeod, until
19 tomorrow, when we should be starting with a witness in
20 person; is that right?

21 MS MACLEOD: A witness in person at 10 o'clock, that's the
22 plan, my Lady.

23 LADY SMITH: Yes. Very well. Before I get up and leave,
24 one more name, somebody that we have mentioned before,
25 [REDACTED], also referred to as [REDACTED]. He's

1 protected by my General Restriction Order, so he's not
2 to be identified as referred to in our evidence outside
3 this room.

4 Thank you very much.

5 (3.55 pm)

6 (The Inquiry adjourned until 10.00 am
7 on Wednesday, 27 May 2026)

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