

Wednesday, 27 May 2026

1

2 (10.00 am)

3 LADY SMITH: Good morning, and welcome back to Phase 10 of
4 our case study hearings in which we're looking into the
5 provision of residential care for children, where it was
6 run by local authorities and establishments -- where it
7 was run by local authorities themselves and also where
8 local authorities were using establishments run by
9 others, such as voluntary providers, to place children
10 in care.

11 Again, today, and for the rest of this week, we'll
12 be looking specifically at Fornethy House Residential
13 School. Now, I do recognise there has been and remains
14 a high interest in the Fornethy evidence and for some
15 people I can see here today, this could be the first
16 time they've been here in Mint House attending our
17 hearings.

18 So, before we hear today from the witness in person
19 that we're going to be hearing from, before we move on
20 to other evidence that's going to be read in, there are
21 one or two things that I want to say about housekeeping
22 rules. My apologies if any of you here have heard this
23 before, but sometimes housekeeping rules are always
24 worth returning to.

25 Providing evidence isn't easy, and that's

1 particularly where a witness is having to give evidence
2 about what happened a long time ago and evidence which
3 may, for them, be a source of upset and distress.

4 It matters greatly to me that all witnesses are
5 afforded the best opportunity to give their evidence
6 without unnecessary distraction and without causing them
7 any more anxiety than they may already be suffering.

8 And so for that reason, they need to be assured that
9 their evidence isn't being filmed or recorded by anybody
10 in the public seats, and it's also very important for me
11 and the stenographers, the ladies who are sitting here
12 to my right, to be able to hear and concentrate on what
13 witnesses are saying.

14 So the rule is that the only recording of evidence
15 which can and does take place is the recording carried
16 out by the stenographers.

17 Now, let me reassure you, in due course, in the
18 usual way, transcripts will be published on our website,
19 so anybody who would like to go over the evidence again,
20 if they're here today, and read it in print, will be
21 able to do so by consulting the website.

22 I also appreciate that any of you may at any time,
23 who are sitting in the public seats, wish to have
24 a discussion or, for example, make or take a phone call.
25 In that event, please don't do it here, but there are

1 rooms available outside the hearing room and you're
2 welcome to use any of them, if that would be of
3 assistance to you.

4 Also, members of the Inquiry staff are present.
5 They're here. They're in this room and there will be
6 other members of staff outside. So if you've any
7 queries or are looking for assistance, don't hesitate to
8 ask them.

9 I'm now going to invite Mr MacAulay to introduce
10 today's witness in person, who I think is ready to give
11 evidence.

12 Mr MacAulay.

13 MR MACAULAY: Yes, my Lady, good morning, and today's
14 witness is Patricia Helen Baxter, and this witness
15 requires to be warned.

16 LADY SMITH: Thank you.

17 Patricia Helen Baxter (sworn)

18 LADY SMITH: Now, I hope my first question's an easy one for
19 you: how would you like me to address you? I'm happy to
20 use either your first name or your second name. Which
21 are you more comfortable with?

22 A. My first name.

23 LADY SMITH: Well, thank you for that, Patricia, and thank
24 you for being here this morning to assist us with your
25 evidence in person. I do already have your written

1 evidence and it's been useful to read that in advance.
2 It's in the red folder in front of you there and we'll
3 also bring parts of that evidence up on screen, and if
4 we're looking at any other documents, they'll come up on
5 screen as well, so that will be there for you. But do
6 let us know if you've got any problems with reading it.
7 Some people want a bigger font or they want to go back
8 up in a document. Don't hesitate to tell us if that
9 would help you.

10 Now, a couple other things, Patricia, and the first
11 one's important that you understand this. I know you're
12 familiar with courts and court proceedings and how they
13 work. This isn't a courtroom. It's a public inquiry.
14 Although I am a court judge, I'm sitting as chair of
15 a public inquiry.

16 It's different. We're here to enquire into matters
17 that are really important to our terms of reference and
18 I hope you'll bear with us with some patience if we
19 delve into matters that are because of our terms of
20 reference. But it's also important that you understand
21 that although there will be those differences in the way
22 we're proceeding, you have the protections that you
23 would have in a courtroom, any form of court proceeding,
24 and that means that if you are asked a question, the
25 answer to which could incriminate you in relation to

1 something of which you have not been convicted, you
2 don't have to answer it. It's your choice. But if you
3 do answer it, I expect you to answer it fully and
4 completely.

5 Now, sometimes I give this warning and further on in
6 the evidence, a witness can't really remember what it
7 was all about, and they're wondering whether
8 a particular question falls into that category. Please
9 ask rather than guess if you're worried about whether
10 we're going down that route in asking you any such
11 questions and we'll confirm one way or the other.

12 Does that all make sense?

13 A. Yes.

14 LADY SMITH: The way our timing runs is I'll start in
15 a minute or two with your evidence and I'll always take
16 a break at around 11.30 am anyway. If you need a break
17 before then, please do let me know. It's not a problem,
18 we'll have a break. Or if you just want to pause,
19 sitting where you are at any point, that's not
20 a problem. Because I do want to do what I can to assist
21 you give your evidence as fully and comfortably as you
22 can do in what I do understand are difficult
23 circumstances for you, and I'm well aware that you have
24 not that long ago given evidence about your time in
25 Fornethy and would probably rather not be here. But,

1 it's really important that you're here and it's really
2 important that we hear from you on the matters that
3 we're particularly interested in.

4 Does that all make sense?

5 A. Yes.

6 LADY SMITH: I'll hand over to Mr MacAulay now and he'll
7 take it from there. Thank you.

8 Mr MacAulay.

9 Questions from Mr MacAulay

10 MR MACAULAY: My Lady, yes.

11 Good morning again, Patricia.

12 A. Morning.

13 Q. I'm Colin and I'll be asking you the bulk of the
14 questions.

15 The first thing I want you to do for me is to take
16 your red folder and if you could look first at the
17 typewritten statement that you find in it and turn to
18 the last page. Can you confirm, Patricia, that you have
19 signed the statement?

20 A. Mm-hmm. Yes.

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

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

1 A. Yes.

2 Q. And just for the benefit of the transcript, can
3 I provide the reference to the statement, that is
4 WIT-1-000001778.

5 You will also find in the red folder another
6 statement that you've provided. This is a handwritten
7 statement. It's a little bit further into the folder
8 and it's in a different format, in the sense that it
9 reflects answers to questions. I just want, at the
10 moment, to take from you that you have signed that
11 document as well?

12 A. Yes.

13 Q. And that was on 11 May 2026?

14 A. Yes.

15 Q. And again for the transcript, if I could just provide
16 the reference and that's WIT-1-000001784.

17 Now, you can go back to the beginning of your
18 statement, Patricia. Can I just confirm with you that
19 you were born in 1948?

20 A. Yes.

21 Q. And you begin by giving us some information about your
22 qualifications and your employment history, and do you
23 tell us that you have a certificate of education from
24 Dundee College of Education?

25 A. I do.

1 Q. And insofar as employment history is concerned, do you
2 tell us also that between 1969 and 1970, you worked at
3 a primary school in West Lothian?

4 A. Yes.

5 Q. Was that your first job as a teacher?

6 A. Yes.

7 Q. And --

8 LADY SMITH: What age group were you teaching?

9 A. Oh, 9 to 10-year-olds, Primary 5.

10 LADY SMITH: Yes, that would be about that age group. Yes,
11 thank you.

12 MR MACAULAY: And from there, was it, that you went to work
13 at Fornethy Residential School in 1970?

14 A. Yes.

15 Q. And I think, according to my arithmetic, you would be
16 aged 22 when you started there?

17 A. Yes.

18 Q. And you stay there until 1984?

19 A. Yes.

20 Q. A period of 14 years?

21 A. Yes.

22 LADY SMITH: Why did you decide to change from primary
23 school teaching to Fornethy?

24 A. Well, I, erm -- I shared a small flat in Edinburgh with
25 a friend that I'd been at college with and she'd just

1 got engaged and she wanted to return home, so that she
2 could save and prepare for her wedding the following
3 year, and I had another friend who had gone straight
4 from college to work at Fornethy and I'd been to visit
5 her and thought it was -- would have -- I would have
6 enjoyed working there. So there was a vacancy and
7 I applied.

8 LADY SMITH: I see. Who was the friend?

9 A. RBZ .

10 LADY SMITH: And she was working there, was she?

11 A. She was working there.

12 LADY SMITH: Thank you.

13 MR MACAULAY: And you tell us, just to complete the
14 employment history, that between 1985 and 2013 you
15 worked in a primary school in connection with Essex
16 County Council.

17 A. Yes.

18 Q. Now, can I just ask you about -- a little bit more about
19 how you came to go to Fornethy, and you've indicated the
20 influence that your friend had on you. Had you then
21 gone to look at Fornethy before you actually applied for
22 the job?

23 A. Yes, I visited her one weekend.

24 Q. And [REDACTED], who was SNR -- did you meet SNR
25 [REDACTED] ?

1 A. SNR [REDACTED]. I don't know if I met her. She was
2 Mrs LBD [REDACTED].

3 Q. Okay. Now, then, coming then to your application for
4 the Fornethy post, were you interviewed for the post?

5 A. I was interviewed in Glasgow by a director of -- Deputy
6 Director of Education, I can't remember his name, and my
7 friend RBZ [REDACTED] came with me.

8 Q. And --

9 A. It was fairly informal.

10 Q. Did you provide references?

11 A. I can't remember it ever asking for references.

12 Q. What were you told about the job? By that I mean what
13 was the job description?

14 A. Do you know, I really can't recall.

15 Q. Well, you were a teacher?

16 A. I was a teacher so I assumed it was a -- mainly working
17 in a teacher -- as a teacher, but supporting children.

18 Q. What knowledge did you have or were given about Fornethy
19 as to what sort of establishment it was?

20 A. I can't remember the director -- deputy director giving
21 me any knowledge but, through my friend, I had heard how
22 the system worked.

23 Q. But clearly, in comparison with the previous school that
24 you'd been -- worked at for a short period of time, it
25 was a residential school?

1 A. It was residential, yes.

2 Q. Did you have a sense as to the number of children who
3 would be at the school?

4 A. I knew it was -- vaguely how many. I really -- I mean,
5 I really can't recall thinking about it. I was looking
6 forward to going there and the -- I must have heard from
7 her, from RBZ, the different routine as to how it
8 worked.

9 Q. But, I mean, did you have a sense as to how many
10 children would be at the school?

11 A. I knew it was about 50, 60, 70. I knew it was less than
12 100.

13 Q. And did you have any insight into the age range?

14 A. I knew it was primary age. And girls.

15 Q. Yes. And from a young age to -- what, from 5 to 12, was
16 it?

17 A. Yes.

18 Q. Okay. Now, as I understand it, the job that you had
19 applied for was a teaching job, is that correct?

20 A. Yes.

21 Q. Yes. But did you understand that your role at Fornethy
22 would also involve you being involved in the care of
23 children?

24 A. Yes.

25 Q. Did you have any training in connection with --

1 A. No.

2 Q. And what made you think that you were in any way
3 qualified to care for 50, 60, 70 children?

4 A. That's difficult to answer. It just, it was part --
5 part of what we did was to look after them. I can
6 remember when I visited her at the weekend, the children
7 were in the dormitory getting ready for bed, so I knew
8 that that was part of the caring and just accepted it
9 was part of what we did.

10 Q. Yes. But there is a difference between teaching in
11 a primary school that's non-residential, and being
12 involved in teaching and the caring of children in
13 a residential school?

14 A. There is still caring, teaching in a normal
15 primary school, but there is -- there was a lot more at
16 Fornethy, yes.

17 Q. I mean, did you have any sense, for example, as to how
18 children should be cared for in certain circumstances?
19 Let's say, for example, a child who might wet the bed.
20 Did you have any idea as to how to deal with such
21 a child?

22 (Pause)

23 A. I'm finding that difficult, because it was just -- if
24 they wet the bed, there was a routine that was followed
25 and it was very discreet and it went and it was just

1 part of it and everyone accepted it.

2 Q. Okay. And what information, if any, were you given
3 about the children who would be going to Fornethy?

4 A. We knew that they came, some of them, because they
5 needed a holiday, but we weren't given any personal
6 information from the headteacher. Maybe she heard from
7 Glasgow Corporation, but it wasn't passed on to the
8 staff.

9 Q. Okay. So when you [REDACTED], who was SNR [REDACTED]?

10 A. SNR [REDACTED] was Mrs LBD [REDACTED] when I [REDACTED].

11 Q. And did [REDACTED]?

12 A. [REDACTED] in the [REDACTED]. She [REDACTED]
13 [REDACTED] Miss Fletcher, [REDACTED] SNR [REDACTED], was
14 [REDACTED] head.

15 Q. And was Miss Fletcher the head throughout your whole
16 time at --

17 A. Yes.

18 Q. At Fornethy?

19 A. Yes, [REDACTED] that [REDACTED] with Mrs LBD [REDACTED].

20 Q. And in relation to the staff structure then, you have
21 SNR [REDACTED], who you say was Mrs LBD [REDACTED], and
22 I think you tell us that Miss Fletcher was SNR [REDACTED]
23 SNR [REDACTED]?

24 A. Yes.

25 Q. And were there other teachers there when you went to

1 Fornethy?

2 A. There was Miss RBZ . Miss Fletcher. I can't remember
3 the fourth teacher's name, there was a Miss McLaren, but
4 she -- she might have been there then or she might have
5 come the year after I started.

6 Q. We have heard the name PWH or a name along these
7 lines in evidence. Does that name ring a bell with you?

8 A. Mrs PWH came about mid-70s, I think.

9 Q. Was she a teacher?

10 A. She was a teacher.

11 Q. Now, if we look just to consider the accommodation at
12 Fornethy, we have seen photographs of the building, it
13 was a substantial building?

14 A. Yes.

15 Q. And it contained dormitories for the girls?

16 A. Yes.

17 Q. How many dormitories were there?

18 A. Seven.

19 Q. And how many girls would be accommodated in any
20 dormitory?

21 A. The two downstairs dormitories, one had 13, one had 14,
22 and upstairs the dormitories went from -- there was some
23 with 7, right up to 12.

24 Q. And in relation to how the dormitories were to be
25 managed, were you given any instructions as to what your

1 role -- your role -- would be in connection with the
2 management of the dormitories?

3 A. I wasn't given instructions. We just were shown -- you
4 worked with a teacher, an experienced teacher, and
5 was -- just followed their guidelines and kind of
6 mentored, I suppose, by a teacher who was already in and
7 used to the routine.

8 Q. Who was your mentor?

9 A. The teacher I worked with was Miss RBZ , RBZ
10 RBZ .

11 Q. And what about Mrs Fletcher, or Miss Fletcher; did you
12 have much to do with her?

13 A. Not, um, professionally. She was there, supportive, but
14 she didn't mentor me or --

15 Q. Okay. You say in your statement, if I can go to that,
16 when you're looking at the children and the routine at
17 Fornethy, that, as we've touched upon already:

18 'There were 50 to 70 girls at any one time,
19 depending on staff ratio. The girls were aged between 5
20 and 12. There were 30 to 40 children per adult.'

21 I just want to understand, what do you -- what does
22 that mean? Are you saying that one adult would be
23 caring for 30 to 40 children?

24 A. In -- when they were in the dormitories, there was 27 on
25 one floor and the rest of the children were upstairs and

1 one member of staff would be working with the children
2 on one floor and one with the other, and there was also
3 a cleaning lady during the day. And the children had
4 a routine, which they knew and they followed. And when
5 we were in the playroom or in the playground, there was
6 generally two members of staff, if it was a wet day.
7 Eventually there was a gym hall built on the premises,
8 that was about mid 1970s, and if it was a wet day, the
9 children were divided into two groups and one member of
10 staff had one group of children and did activities and
11 games, and the other one went with the older children
12 out to the outside gym and did games there.

13 LADY SMITH: Patricia, you talked about the children having
14 their routines, which they knew and they followed. Now,
15 I'm just thinking about a couple of things. One is that
16 I know a lot of the children would be at Fornethy for
17 maybe no more than six weeks or even four weeks. A lot
18 of them would be young, 4 or 5 years old, some of them.
19 How would a 5-year-old, who's only just arrived, and
20 maybe is surrounded by other children who are on this
21 short-term experience, know what the routine was that
22 you're referring to?

23 A. Well, the first few days, everything was explained to
24 them as they went along, and in the dormitories it was
25 aged from 12 down to 5, like family grouped dormitories.

1 If they came with sisters they were always in the same
2 dormitory together and --

3 LADY SMITH: That's not what I've always heard.

4 A. Well, that's the way it was. They were in the
5 dormitories with family group.

6 LADY SMITH: Okay, but you might have a girl on her own, she
7 doesn't have a sister.

8 A. No.

9 LADY SMITH: And she's only just arrived and it's daunting.
10 How does she know what the routine is?

11 A. Every -- as they arrive, things are explained to them.

12 LADY SMITH: By who?

13 A. By -- well, when they arrive, the laundry staff were
14 looking after them then. When we took over, we
15 explained where they were going, what they were doing,
16 talked them through everything. The first few days took
17 quite a while to do things because you had to stop and
18 explain things all the way along. Explain where they
19 were going, why they were going, what they had -- what
20 they did when they got there.

21 LADY SMITH: Was there any set Fornethy way of explaining,
22 as might, for example, have been written down somewhere,
23 so that everyone who worked there knew what the routines
24 were?

25 A. No, there was no set routine written down. It just

1 seemed to be followed by -- I suppose, as I worked with
2 RBZ, I learnt the routine from her, and when
3 she left and somebody else joined, then it was my job to
4 support them and tell them what to do and show them what
5 to do. It wasn't written down or set anywhere. It was
6 just part of support.

7 LADY SMITH: No. And could it be that other members of
8 staff that you didn't work along with operated different
9 routines and you wouldn't know and they wouldn't know
10 what yours were?

11 A. It could have been, yes.

12 LADY SMITH: Yes.

13 A. But it didn't seem to work like that, cos the children
14 knew -- became familiar with what was happening with the
15 routines and they knew what was happening. They knew
16 what to do. Some -- they could almost tell us what to
17 do at times.

18 LADY SMITH: Mr MacAulay.

19 MR MACAULAY: But am I to get the picture right in this way:
20 that the teaching staff; yourself, Miss RBZ,
21 Mrs RBZ, Miss Fletcher you've mentioned so far, those
22 were three teachers who were directly involved in the
23 care of the children?

24 A. Yes.

25 Q. Yes. And were there other staff members who were

1 directly involved in the care of the children?

2 A. No. Not directly.

3 Q. No. I appreciate there would be domestic staff and so
4 on, but I'm just looking at the members of staff who
5 would tell children what to do and where to go and so
6 on. As I understand it, the brunt of that fell on the
7 teaching staff?

8 A. Yes.

9 Q. And the three teachers that you mentioned?

10 A. Yes.

11 Q. What about the staff living arrangements? What were
12 these?

13 A. Our bedrooms were scattered on the floors of the
14 dormitories. There was one teacher permanently next
15 door to the two downstairs dormitories, and upstairs we
16 were scattered along the corridor for the five
17 dormitories, and the headteacher had a flat of a bedroom
18 and a living room, also on that floor.

19 Q. So if we're focusing on the three teachers that
20 I think --

21 A. Four teachers.

22 Q. Who's the fourth?

23 A. I can't remember her name.

24 Q. Okay. The four teachers then who were bearing the brunt
25 of the care for the children, you're saying they all had

1 rooms in close proximity to the dormitories?

2 A. Oh, yes.

3 Q. Where were you based?

4 A. I was -- started in the smallest bedroom, newest member
5 of staff, the only bedroom that was available, on the
6 corridor, and [REDACTED] Miss Fletcher was [REDACTED]
7 head, I was promoted to her bedroom, which was -- on the
8 landing at the top of the stairs, when it was a house,
9 it was a giant landing and they'd partitioned off part
10 of that landing and turned it into a bedroom, and I was
11 there. So my division between my room and the corridor
12 was a partition. So I often heard children coughing
13 during the night and ended up walking along the corridor
14 with the cough bottle to find the child to help settle
15 them.

16 Q. One of the things you do tell us, Patricia, and this is
17 at paragraph 21, is that:

18 'The teaching staff were responsible for the
19 children's residential area overnight, but no one was
20 awake and on duty overnight?'

21 A. No.

22 Q. So there was no on-duty teacher overnight?

23 A. No.

24 Q. Why not?

25 A. (Pause)

1 It wasn't necessary for someone to be on duty all
2 night because we were aware of the children. We -- we
3 heard if there was disturbance, if somebody was upset,
4 or if they were coughing.

5 Q. But we're looking at 5/6-year-olds, who might be quietly
6 crying in her bed at night. There was nobody there to
7 comfort such a child, on duty?

8 A. After the children -- after lights out, we didn't walk
9 off and leave them. We were in the corridor, listening,
10 into the dormitories, listening. There was one -- one
11 time there was a child, she was a little bit older, she
12 was upset because she'd been put beside a window and she
13 was crying, and I went into the dormitory and she'd
14 wake -- because she was crying, the other children were
15 awake and she told me why she was upset, and rather
16 stupidly, instead of swapping her with a child who was
17 in a bed that wasn't by a window, I went through my head
18 thinking: where's there an empty bed in a dormitory
19 that's not by a window? And managed to find one and
20 moved her there and then to another dormitory to a bed
21 away from a window, settled her into the bed and there
22 was an empty bed beside her, and I lay on that bed and
23 waited till she was asleep and settled before I left
24 her.

25 Q. Okay. What instructions were you given, either by the

1 Director of Education, who interviewed you, or by the
2 headmistress, as to how children were to be disciplined
3 at Fornethy?

4 A. I wasn't given any.

5 Q. How would you know how to deal with a child if a child
6 required to be disciplined?

7 A. (Pause)

8 By -- well, you set by example. You used your voice
9 and explained things. We were -- there was no
10 guidelines.

11 Q. There was no guidelines made available to you?

12 A. No.

13 Q. Can I look, get you to look at this document for me. It
14 is GLA -- it will come on the screen -- GLA-000003434.
15 This is a document submitted by City of Glasgow Council
16 who are the successor to Glasgow Corporation and if you
17 turn to page 3 of the document, just about halfway down,
18 there's a question asked about the attitude to
19 discipline of children. And the response there is
20 a reference to the education handbooks and the ones that
21 are referred to are 1930s, 1950s, and various guidelines
22 are set out. For example:

23 'The headmaster will be responsible for order and
24 discipline in all departments at the school.'

25 And 2:

1 'In particular, it shall be his duty to take steps
2 to reduce all forms of punishment to the minimum,
3 compatible with the welfare [of] the school.'

4 And if we turn over the page, to page 6 -- to
5 page 4, rather, page 4, paragraph 6, and I'll just read
6 this to you:

7 'Striking any scholar on the head, or elsewhere than
8 on the palm of the hand, are strictly forbidden.
9 Corporal punishment shall not be inflicted on any
10 delicate or infirm child.'

11 Are you telling me then, Patricia, that you were not
12 advised of how you would discipline children,
13 particularly along the lines as set out in the handbook?

14 A. No.

15 Q. And what about SNR [REDACTED], Mrs LBD [REDACTED], in the
16 first instance when you [REDACTED] there? Did she give you
17 any advice, instruction as to how children were to be
18 disciplined?

19 A. No.

20 Q. So you were left to your own devices?

21 A. Yes.

22 LADY SMITH: Patricia, do you think that guidance in
23 paragraph 6 makes sense?

24 A. Yes.

25 LADY SMITH: And would have made sense at that time and

1 indeed at the time you were working at Fornethy?

2 A. Yes.

3 LADY SMITH: Thank you.

4 MR MACAULAY: Was a record kept of any punishments?

5 A. Not to my knowledge, no.

6 Q. But perhaps I can ask you now, it was something I was
7 going to ask you later, but I'll follow it through now:
8 what records were kept of children?

9 A. (Pause)

10 I can't think of any.

11 Q. Why not?

12 A. I don't know.

13 Q. I mean, for example, should a record have been kept in
14 connection with the progress of a particular child?

15 A. I don't know.

16 LADY SMITH: When you'd worked in the West Lothian
17 primary school, were records kept regarding children's
18 progress?

19 A. (Pause)

20 Yes. The year I was there was the year when
21 teachers were on strike, so a lot of things were --
22 I know that year they didn't have parents' evenings
23 because of that, so I really can't remember much, but
24 there were records kept of their progress. We didn't
25 have a scheme of work. We were more or less left to our

1 own devices as to what we did with them.

2 LADY SMITH: I wasn't asking -- well, not particularly what
3 you did. But would the norm have been, that you'd been
4 aware of, that records should be kept of children's
5 progress at that time in 1969 to 1970 that you worked in
6 West Lothian?

7 A. Yes.

8 LADY SMITH: Yes. Surely that would be right?

9 A. Yes.

10 LADY SMITH: And parents would expect to see, at least once
11 a year, if not more often, a written report on the
12 children?

13 A. We -- I cannot recall doing a written report on the
14 children when I was there.

15 LADY SMITH: I can see, if it was the year of the strike,
16 that might have been different, but from your
17 recollection, 1969/1970, I think that would have been
18 the norm at the time, wouldn't it?

19 A. Thinking back, I feel that when I started at West
20 Lothian, when I started with Glasgow Corporation, we
21 didn't seem to get much guidelines as to what we were
22 expected to do. We were just put into the classroom or
23 in with children and left to get on with it.

24 LADY SMITH: I can see that. What I was wondering was, if
25 I'm right that the norm in a primary school, like the

1 one in West Lothian, would have been for the school to
2 keep records about the children -- at the very least the
3 basic details of their ages, their addresses, anything
4 to do with their health, and at least once a year how
5 they're getting on with their education -- if that was,
6 and I think it was, the norm in a school like the West
7 Lothian one in 1969 to 1970, why should it have been any
8 different at Fornethy?

9 A. I don't know.

10 LADY SMITH: It shouldn't have been, should it?

11 A. No.

12 LADY SMITH: No. It was a residential school.

13 A. It was a school.

14 LADY SMITH: And it was more than just the 9 to 5, Monday to
15 Friday provision; it was 24/7 all the time the children
16 were there.

17 A. Yes.

18 LADY SMITH: Mr MacAulay.

19 MR MACAULAY: Would it be fair to say that the children,
20 looking back now, would have expected that records, some
21 records of their presence, existence, at Fornethy, would
22 have been kept?

23 A. Yes.

24 LADY SMITH: And the other thing I was wondering,

25 Mr MacAulay may be going to come on to this: if it was

1 written in the law, in regulations, in statute, that
2 residential schools and other schools were required to
3 keep a written record of punishments administered to
4 children, would you have expected Fornethy to be exempt
5 from that requirement?

6 A. No.

7 LADY SMITH: No.

8 I have maybe jumped the gun in going on to
9 punishment books, Mr MacAulay.

10 MR MACAULAY: Well, I think I'd touched upon that.

11 But the other thing I want to ask you is whether any
12 form of logbook was kept? Because according to
13 regulations, logbooks ought to have been kept in
14 residential schools to record the events at the school.

15 A. I can't -- I can't remember that.

16 Q. Well, is it something you'd forget if entries were made
17 to record what was happening?

18 A. Well, you have on my record that I became deputy head --

19 Q. Yes?

20 A. -- at Fornethy, and the headteacher, because the school
21 stayed open during the summer, took her holidays when
22 the regular staff were there. I must have had -- been
23 in charge of the paperwork then and I cannot remember
24 doing a logbook.

25 Q. Well, surely you would say, Patricia, that if you were

1 filling out a logbook, that it's something you would not
2 forget?

3 A. Yes.

4 Q. So there wasn't one being filled in?

5 A. No.

6 Q. As Lady Smith has mentioned, do I take it also that no
7 records were being kept of any punishments that were
8 meted out to the children?

9 A. No.

10 Q. How would a member of staff know who the children were,
11 if there weren't any records kept as to who was there?

12 A. I don't know. I know as a class teacher I kept a note
13 of the children's addresses for the time they were
14 there.

15 Q. Well, I think because -- I think children had to
16 write --

17 A. Yes.

18 Q. -- were allowed to write home, and I'll come to that.

19 A. Yes.

20 Q. Just looking at the environment, the natural environment
21 at Fornethy. We know Fornethy was a significantly large
22 building. What about the area around Fornethy? Can you
23 describe that for us?

24 A. It was very rural. There was -- the approach to
25 Fornethy was through a plantation of small to medium fir

1 trees and round the building, in the front of the
2 building there was a playground which had swings,
3 a roundabout, a hard standing and a bit of moorland and
4 wild area. And there was a home farm about a quarter of
5 a mile away and next to that was a large park that had
6 been there when the house was a house and was still
7 maintained and used by us. And a farm -- the rest of it
8 was farmland.

9 Q. We've heard evidence of -- about a reservoir, I think it
10 was known as the Backwater Reservoir. Was that some
11 distance away from Fornethy?

12 A. That was.

13 Q. How far away from Fornethy was that?

14 A. A couple of miles.

15 Q. The suggestion has been, I think it might have been as
16 much as 4 miles, 4-and-a-half miles?

17 A. I couldn't say for definite but I would say more like
18 a couple of miles.

19 LADY SMITH: It maybe depended on whether you went onto the
20 reservoir paths as well, once you got to the reservoir,
21 I suppose?

22 A. Normally -- we didn't often go there, and when we did,
23 we walked along a part of the dam wall to look and see
24 sort of the structure of it and how wide it was at the
25 bottom, and then we turned round and went back. We

1 didn't take any paths round about there.

2 MR MACAULAY: I'll come to ask you about walks shortly.

3 But can I turn to the topic of external monitoring,
4 because you do touch upon that in your statement. And
5 what you tell us at paragraph 32 is that you
6 'occasionally had informal visits from officials from
7 Glasgow.'

8 Now, who were those officials?

9 A. (Pause)

10 One was a councillor who was a friend of
11 Miss Fletcher's, and that -- she came a few times, but
12 I -- we weren't really introduced to the people.
13 Miss Fletcher more or less looked after them and we
14 never really saw them or spoke to them.

15 Q. Well, you've mentioned one. Did you ever see more than
16 one person who might have been an official from Glasgow?

17 A. I can only remember the one, really --

18 Q. Yes, so we're really talking --

19 A. -- although there were -- you know, it's a while ago.
20 There were other two visitors. I can remember -- the
21 only time we saw them was at lunchtime because we
22 all had -- all ate together at lunchtime.

23 Q. But what you tell us is that -- and this is in your
24 statement -- that the officials, if I can refer to them
25 as that, did not speak to you?

1 A. No.

2 Q. You didn't speak to them?

3 A. Apart from passing the time of day, there was no mention
4 of work.

5 Q. And did they -- do you know if they spoke to the
6 children?

7 A. I don't think so.

8 Q. Do you know why they didn't, if the children are --

9 A. I don't know.

10 Q. One thing you tell us in your statement, Patricia, and
11 if I can just find the reference -- yes, it's at
12 paragraph 3. What you say is this:

13 'During my time there [Fornethy], I would describe
14 the culture as warm, friendly and happy. I would say
15 there was a good, caring relationship between the
16 teaching staff, children and domestic staff.'

17 Does that remain your position?

18 A. Yes.

19 Q. Now, as we know and you know, you were convicted on
20 15 October last year on 18 charges of cruel and
21 unnatural treatment in relation to your time at
22 Fornethy.

23 A. Yes.

24 Q. You are aware of that?

25 A. Yes.

1 Q. And that was after a trial, during which you yourself
2 gave evidence?

3 A. Yes.

4 Q. And I think, when we look at the indictment, one can see
5 that of the 18 charges that you were found guilty, six
6 of those were with a unanimous verdict. Is that within
7 your own knowledge or do you remember that?

8 A. Yes.

9 Q. And I can tell you that of the 18 complainers, ladies
10 who gave evidence about how you treated them, nine have
11 provided evidence to the Inquiry but the others have
12 not. Do you follow that?

13 A. Yes.

14 Q. But I think you are aware that many others have come to
15 the Inquiry to implicate you in abusive practices;
16 you're aware of that and I think you've been sent some
17 statements to indicate that?

18 A. Yes.

19 Q. I'll put the indictment on the screen so you can look at
20 it, and it's at JUS-000000347.

21 Now, of course, it's heavily redacted so it's not
22 easy to follow.

23 LADY SMITH: Patricia, just before we look at the indictment
24 further, can you help me with this: I understand that
25 there was a witness at the High Court trial described as

1 a colleague of yours who gave evidence. Do you remember
2 who that was? A colleague at Fornethy.

3 A. Cathleen Mair, Aileen Foley.

4 LADY SMITH: Well, I don't know.

5 A. Oh.

6 LADY SMITH: I've only seen in references in documents to it
7 being a colleague of yours at Fornethy gave evidence at
8 the High Court trial, and you, of course, were there,
9 I wasn't.

10 A. Yes.

11 LADY SMITH: You think it's somebody called...?

12 A. Well, there were two colleagues I worked with who both
13 gave evidence, Cathleen Mair and Aileen Foley.

14 LADY SMITH: Thank you.

15 MR MACAULAY: Now, the unanimous message that we've had from
16 the verdict at the trial and the many former residents
17 who have given evidence to the Inquiry, is that Fornethy
18 was an abusive regime. And you understand that is the
19 message?

20 A. Yes.

21 Q. And implicated in that abusive regime in particular were
22 yourself, Mrs LBD, Miss LBD, Miss Fletcher, and
23 also Miss PWH, I think, has been mentioned.

24 Are you able to say why so many former residents
25 would make such serious allegations if they were not

1 true?

2 A. No, I don't know why.

3 Q. We're looking at former residents who have said that the
4 experiences they've had at Fornethy scarred them for
5 life. Now, are you suggesting that that is invention?

6 A. Yes.

7 Q. Why do you think someone would invent such a terrible
8 thing?

9 A. I don't know.

10 Q. The evidence we've heard is that when the children were
11 told that they were going to Fornethy on holiday, they
12 were excited, they were looking forward to it. Some had
13 never been on holiday before. They were looking for
14 a pleasurable holiday.

15 If they'd had the sort of pleasurable holiday that
16 you talk about, about the culture, as you've put it in
17 your statement, why would they invent such terrible
18 things about you and the others who taught them?

19 A. I don't know.

20 Q. Can I take you to the sentencing statement from
21 Lord Colbeck, just to summarise what he said was
22 contained in the charges on which you were convicted,
23 and this is at INQ-0000001286.

24 And this is what Lord Colbeck said. It's in the
25 public domain and I think the third main paragraph down

1 begins, 'Your victims'; do you see that?

2 A. Yes.

3 Q. Yes. And I'll just read that:

4 'Your victims were aged between 5 and 12. Many, but
5 not all of them, were particularly vulnerable due to
6 poverty and difficult family circumstances. The
7 majority of them had never had a proper holiday before.
8 They all thought that their stay at Fornethy would be
9 an adventure. Many of them spoke of their excitement at
10 the prospect of going to Fornethy.'

11 And that's the picture certainly that the Inquiry
12 has had.

13 A. Yes.

14 Q. That these girls, some little girls, were looking
15 forward to their holiday.

16 And he goes on to say:

17 'Such thoughts appear to have ended as soon as the
18 doors to Fornethy closed upon them and the horror began.

19 'For the entirety of your time at Fornethy, it is
20 clear that you behaved in a cruel and sadistic manner
21 towards many young girls. The examples spoken to in
22 evidence are too numerous to mention, however, amongst
23 other cruel acts you:

24 'Made derogatory remarks to children and ridiculed
25 them when they wet the bed;

1 'Forced children to wear soiled clothing;
2 'Struck, slapped, punched and kicked children;
3 'Forced children to eat food, causing them to gag
4 and vomit, and forced them to eat vomit; and
5 'Forced children to stand facing walls for prolonged
6 periods.

7 'Put shortly, you were in a position of trust and
8 responsibility and you used that position to abuse
9 vulnerable children in your care over a period of many
10 years.'

11 And can I just focus on the 'period of many years'.
12 We're not talking about one or two years here, Patricia,
13 as you're aware. We're talking about an extended period
14 of time where children, who had no connection -- many
15 had no connection with each other -- have painted this
16 picture of your treatment to them. Can you explain
17 that?

18 A. No.

19 Q. And if I could turn to the second page of the statement,
20 it's about halfway down. It begins:

21 'The pre-sentence report ...'

22 A. Where are we?

23 Q. Maybe --

24 A. Yes, got it.

25 Q. Have you?

1 LADY SMITH: 'The pre-sentence report ...'

2 About a third of the way down.

3 MR MACAULAY: Yes:

4 'The pre-sentence report that has been prepared
5 notes that you accept no responsibility for the
6 offences. That was your position at trial, and it is
7 unsurprising that you maintain that position. You
8 clearly show no insight into your offending behaviour
9 and the impact this has had on your many victims. Your
10 suggestion to the author of the pre-sentence report,
11 that your victims have made these allegations for
12 financial reasons, is frankly absurd.'

13 Now, did you make a suggestion in your pre-sentence
14 report that those who have accused you of abuse are
15 doing so for financial reasons?

16 A. Yes.

17 Q. Why did you say that?

18 A. Because there was word that there was compensation for
19 people who had been abused while in care.

20 Q. But are you seriously suggesting that these, now ladies,
21 some elderly, have gone to a trial and come to this
22 Inquiry in order to make financial gain and invented
23 stories for that purpose?

24 A. Yes.

25 LADY SMITH: When you were referring to compensation, were

1 you thinking about redress; redress payments?

2 A. I'm not sure what that means.

3 LADY SMITH: That's a compensation payment for having been

4 in care.

5 A. Yes.

6 LADY SMITH: Right. Were you assuming that Fornethy

7 residents were entitled to redress payments, if they'd

8 been abused?

9 A. Well, that was what I was led to believe.

10 LADY SMITH: You might be wrong about that though.

11 A. Yes.

12 LADY SMITH: So if you're wrong about that, that possible

13 reason for them inventing the accounts that were given

14 in the High Court and have been given to me, Patricia,

15 that falls away.

16 A. Yes.

17 LADY SMITH: So what's the reason then?

18 A. I don't know.

19 LADY SMITH: Could one reason be that what they say is true?

20 A. It's not true.

21 LADY SMITH: Mr MacAulay.

22 Oh, just one other thing, Patricia, and I know we're

23 throwing a lot at you, but in that paragraph of the

24 sentencing statement, that's the pre-sentence report

25 paragraph, you will see where Lord Colbeck was telling

1 you that your suggestion that your victims were making
2 the allegations for financial reasons was 'absurd', he
3 added that it:

4 '... conveniently overlooks the evidence of one of
5 your former colleagues, who spoke to aspects of your
6 appalling behaviour.'

7 So that must be either Cathleen Mair or Aileen
8 Foley, who worked at Fornethy, you say?

9 A. There was a student who also gave evidence. I cannot
10 recall her name.

11 LADY SMITH: Ah, right. So it could be a student. All
12 right. Somebody else who worked there, who certainly
13 wasn't in the line for any compensatory payment --

14 A. No.

15 LADY SMITH: -- had nothing to gain by giving evidence that
16 your behaviour was, as described, 'appalling', gave that
17 evidence in the High Court to the jury, to the judge, on
18 oath.

19 So money doesn't explain that at all, does it?

20 A. No.

21 LADY SMITH: Does that cause you to reflect and wonder
22 whether maybe your own memory isn't right?

23 A. (Pause)

24 I feel my memory is right.

25 LADY SMITH: I just wondered, Patricia, and it's entirely

1 understandable that you may hope you didn't do these
2 things -- who wouldn't, and particularly at your stage
3 of life when you're reflecting on how things were when
4 you were younger -- you may hope that you were gentle
5 and kind to the children at all times, whereas maybe the
6 reality was that, without training, without guidance,
7 under the stresses, strains, not knowing what to do
8 next, and a lot of children, not just to teach, but to
9 take care of, these things did happen and they're right
10 in what they say.

11 A. No.

12 LADY SMITH: Have you never reflected on that?

13 A. No.

14 LADY SMITH: Okay.

15 Mr MacAulay.

16 MR MACAULAY: Would you agree that the tone of
17 an establishment such as Fornethy would be set from the
18 top?

19 A. Yes.

20 Q. And when you went there, it was Mrs LBD [REDACTED], who has
21 been accused of abuse, [REDACTED] it was Mrs --
22 Miss Fletcher, who has been accused of abuse. And could
23 it be that because the tone had been set by those, that
24 this was an abusive regime that you, perhaps
25 subconsciously, got drawn into?

1 A. No.

2 Q. Can I just turn and look at some aspects of the routine
3 that the Inquiry has heard about.

4 The first relates to what happened to children when
5 they arrived at Fornethy. Now, would you be involved in
6 that part of the process?

7 A. Not at the very beginning, no.

8 Q. Now, the evidence has been that on arrival, children
9 would be washed and deloused, and there's been
10 a consistent body of evidence to the effect that there
11 would be a queue of naked children who would be rather
12 brutally scrubbed by ladies, to be washed. Were you
13 aware of that?

14 A. No. The children were bathed by two members of the
15 domestic staff. I was -- I have never been in the
16 bathroom when the children were bathed.

17 Q. So you can't -- you cannot contradict then the evidence?

18 A. I can't contradict, but --

19 Q. Well, but the point I'm trying to make then is that sort
20 of treatment, and it sounded brutal from the
21 descriptions that we've had, would fit in to the sort of
22 regime we've otherwise heard about and it being
23 an abusive regime. So we have these domestic staff also
24 involved in such a regime. Do you follow what
25 I'm saying to you?

1 A. I follow what you're saying, yes.

2 Q. And the other part of that is that the children were
3 deloused, whereby a nit comb was used, again in a brutal
4 way, to delouse children. Again, I understand you know
5 nothing about that, but that -- if a nit comb were to be
6 used in a brutal way, causing injury, that would be
7 abuse?

8 A. Yes.

9 Q. The other aspect of the routine we've heard a lot of
10 evidence about is the practice of children being taken
11 on walks. Now, were you involved in that practice?

12 A. Yes.

13 Q. And I mentioned the Backwater Reservoir to you a little
14 while ago, and certainly one of the walks we heard about
15 was a walk to the Backwater Reservoir. Were you
16 involved in that?

17 A. Yes.

18 Q. And you say it's 2 miles, but it's quite a distance for
19 little children?

20 A. Yes.

21 Q. And why were they being taken on these walks?

22 A. The -- for exercise, for fresh air, for them to see
23 different things happening in the countryside. The
24 Backwater Reservoir would be maybe a walk that was done
25 only three or four times a year. There were other walks

1 up hills, to farms, different places. Some of the
2 domestic staff lived on the farms and there was one who
3 came in one day and said that their Clydesdale horse had
4 just foaled, so we took the children to the farm to see
5 the Clydesdale foal.

6 Q. If we stick with the Backwater Reservoir, it's 2 miles
7 there, according to your evidence, Patricia, and 2 miles
8 back. That's a total of 4 miles.

9 A. Yes.

10 Q. For a 5 or 6-year-old, is that not rather a long way to
11 go?

12 A. I don't think so.

13 Q. What were they wearing on their feet?

14 A. Their normal shoes.

15 Q. Were there wellingtons supplied?

16 A. Wellingtons were supplied and worn when they went
17 outside when the ground was wet.

18 Q. So when -- if there has been evidence that children wore
19 wellingtons on these walks, would you agree with that?

20 A. No. They wore wellingtons when necessary. They wore
21 them when we went out in the snow and they wore them if
22 it had been raining, but we did not go out in the rain.

23 LADY SMITH: What if it was muddy underfoot? You would want
24 the children to wear their wellingtons then, wouldn't
25 you?

1 A. If we were going a walk that entailed going where it was
2 muddy, yes.

3 LADY SMITH: Well, they were in the countryside.

4 A. Yes.

5 LADY SMITH: Where Forrethy was.

6 A. But some of the walks were on hard standing. The
7 Backwater Reservoir was not on a muddy path.

8 LADY SMITH: Is that right? There's forest around the
9 Backwater Reservoir.

10 A. There is, but we went by road.

11 LADY SMITH: Okay.

12 MR MACAULAY: The wellingtons that the children wore, were
13 they supplied by Forrethy?

14 A. Yes.

15 Q. So a child had to take a pair of wellingtons, even if
16 ill-fitting?

17 A. I had nothing to do with the supply of wellingtons, but
18 I assume the supply was large enough that they would get
19 wellingtons to fit.

20 Q. But we have had evidence that because of the fact that
21 wellingtons did not fit properly, children would have
22 redness caused to their skin. You say you know nothing
23 about that?

24 A. I was aware that there was times when children, if it
25 had been cold when they were out and they had on

1 wellingtons, that they might have got chafed on their
2 calves.

3 Q. And did they -- do you know if any treatment was
4 provided to the children in those circumstances?

5 A. I can't remember. There might have been cream, but
6 I cannot remember.

7 LADY SMITH: Were you aware, Patricia, that some children
8 were sent home with their legs all raw and sore from the
9 wellingtons?

10 A. No.

11 LADY SMITH: I've heard evidence of, for example, a mother
12 being appalled at the state of her child's legs.

13 A. No.

14 LADY SMITH: You didn't know anything about that?

15 A. No.

16 LADY SMITH: Well, how would that be, if you had been the
17 person in charge of the walk? How would you not know?

18 A. I don't know.

19 LADY SMITH: Were you just depending on the child telling
20 you if their legs were sore?

21 A. They were showered in the evening and we -- and when
22 they were in their nightclothes -- during the day they
23 wore skirts. The headteacher had a policy of no
24 trousers for staff or pupils, so they were in skirts
25 during the day. We would have seen if their legs were

1 really badly marked.

2 LADY SMITH: Mr MacAulay.

3 MR MACAULAY: Were children permitted to write home?

4 A. Yes.

5 Q. And can you tell me how that was arranged?

6 A. When they arrived, they sent a postcard home to say

7 they'd arrived safely and it was written on a blackboard

8 to give them an idea what to do -- what to write, and

9 then, once a week, they wrote a letter home. I worked

10 with the older children and I used to show them the

11 address, to put the school address on, on the heading of

12 the letter, and how to start a letter and give them

13 ideas of what to put in the letter. And when they'd

14 finished the letter, they came and showed me the letter.

15 And we -- and if they had envelopes, it went in the

16 envelope. If not, I supplied an envelope and addressed

17 it for them.

18 Q. And if you're not -- if you weren't happy with what had

19 been written, what would you do?

20 A. I can't remember telling a child ever to write a letter

21 again. I can remember being fascinated by some of the

22 things they said.

23 Q. The evidence before the Inquiry, I think, has been

24 pretty unanimous, namely that children were told what to

25 write, that they were having a good time, and if they

1 didn't write that they were having a good time, they'd
2 have to rewrite the letter?

3 A. I don't recall that. That didn't happen.

4 LADY SMITH: Patricia, you told me that you'd give the
5 children an idea of what to put on -- in the letter.
6 Did you write that up on the blackboard?

7 A. Probably, yes, like we had been -- walked up the pony
8 track and seen sheep and cows or whatever. Ideas like
9 that.

10 LADY SMITH: So you put something on the blackboard for them
11 to write onto their postcard?

12 A. Ideas. Not compulsory. One child had, during games in
13 the hall, had fallen and broken her arm and I took her
14 into accident and emergency in Dundee, and being aware
15 what it's like there, I'd taken my crochet with me. And
16 while we were waiting to be attended, I was sitting,
17 busily crocheting, and a nurse came by and looked at me
18 and laughed and said: you've been here before. And she
19 wrote home and told her mother that the nurse recognised
20 me in accident and emergency. And that made me laugh,
21 because she didn't actually recognise me, the nurse, it
22 was the fact that I was prepared to sit for a while.

23 So this is showing that the child was writing what
24 she wanted in the letter, not what I told her.

25 LADY SMITH: Patricia, on that occasion, when the child had

1 broken her arm, was there a procedure for advising her
2 parents that she'd had an accident that required her to
3 go to hospital?
4 A. (Pause)
5 I -- the head might have done it, but I certainly
6 didn't do it.
7 LADY SMITH: You didn't. Did you tell the head?
8 A. Yeah -- oh, yes.
9 LADY SMITH: But you can't tell me that there was
10 a procedure --
11 A. No.
12 LADY SMITH: -- for contacting the parent. Who was going to
13 consent to any treatment?
14 A. Sorry?
15 LADY SMITH: Who was going to consent to any treatment the
16 child needed?
17 A. I think, because the children were in care, it was loco
18 parentis.
19 LADY SMITH: So you thought they were formally in care? Is
20 that what you thought?
21 A. I never thought about it.
22 LADY SMITH: Right. Because the reason I ask you that,
23 Patricia, is, as I understand it, that's not right.
24 What happened in the case of a lot of these children
25 was the holiday at Fornethy was something that the local

1 authority made available, if they assessed the children
2 as suitable to go to Fornethy, and that seemed to take
3 nothing more than a medical check. But it wasn't that
4 the local authority was implementing any of the
5 statutory care orders. So the children weren't in care.
6 The local authority weren't in loco parentis. But the
7 parents had consented to the children going to Fornethy.
8 Some of them paid for the children to go to Fornethy.
9 A. I didn't know that.
10 LADY SMITH: Oh, right. You don't seem to have been told
11 very much about the background then?
12 A. No.
13 LADY SMITH: Mr MacAulay.
14 MR MACAULAY: Did you, on occasion, have any parties at
15 Fornethy where outsiders, if I can put it that way, were
16 invited?
17 A. There was a Christmas party where the local Round Table
18 came to that and they -- one of the gentlemen played
19 Father Christmas and they did presents for all the
20 children.
21 Q. But were there any other occasions when there may have
22 been a party --
23 A. No.
24 Q. Were there any occasions when a child or children may
25 have been taken out of bed to attend these parties?

1 A. No.

2 Q. Can I go back then to the indictment, Patricia.

3 JUS-00000347, I think. 347. And if I could take you to

4 page 2, there is a charge there with quite a number of

5 items. It's directed to you and if I look at the

6 third-bottom item, which may have been changed from (g)

7 to (f), do we read:

8 'On an occasion, whilst acting with others, force

9 her to lower her underwear, expose her buttocks and did

10 repeatedly strike her on the buttocks with a strap to

11 her injury.'

12 Now, the evidence before us has been that there was

13 an occasion when a number of children, perhaps five

14 children, went and collected some frogs. Now, have you

15 heard about that before? Was that looked at in evidence

16 in your trial?

17 A. Yes.

18 Q. And it was following upon that, that those five children

19 were essentially made an example of, in that they were

20 punished before other children in the way that's been

21 described in the indictment. Did that happen?

22 A. No.

23 Q. Do you remember an incident involving frogs?

24 A. No.

25 Q. So that incident, with that embellishment about frogs,

1 you say is pure invention?

2 A. Yes.

3 Q. And did children run away from Fornethy?

4 A. I recall one incident.

5 Q. Yes. How many children ran away on that incident?

6 A. Three or four.

7 Q. Why did they run away?

8 A. I don't know.

9 Q. Were they asked?

10 A. Not by me.

11 Q. By anybody?

12 A. I don't know. The headteacher might have asked them,

13 but we didn't hear why.

14 Q. Would you not expect to be told why children thought

15 that they should run away from Fornethy?

16 A. I suppose so, yes.

17 Q. This particular charge goes on to say at (h):

18 'On occasion, seize her by the hair, throw her to

19 the ground, thereafter, whilst acting with another, tie

20 her to a bed.'

21 Now, was there an incident when a child or children

22 ran away and it culminated in a child or children being

23 tied to a bed?

24 A. No.

25 Q. So that's invention?

1 A. Yes.

2 Q. Because that allegation has been made against you,
3 Patricia, as you understand.

4 A. Yes.

5 Q. And you've been convicted of that.

6 A. Yes.

7 Q. You, of course, went to Fornethy as a teacher.

8 A. Yes.

9 Q. You had done your teaching training and you were going
10 there to teach. Did you teach at Fornethy?

11 A. Yes, but I felt that they were there more for the
12 experience, for the -- than -- it was difficult as
13 I didn't have a scheme of work. I kept them ticking
14 over with their language and their number work.

15 Q. You hesitated, I think, before you answered my question.

16 A. Yes.

17 Q. But do I take it from that that really, teaching was
18 a relatively low priority at Fornethy?

19 A. They were in class every morning for a couple of hours
20 and during that they did reading, some language work and
21 some number work. And some practical activities, some
22 artwork.

23 Q. So a couple of hours in the morning?

24 A. Yes.

25 Q. That was the school day in your class?

1 A. That was a class time day, yes.

2 Q. And did I understand you to say earlier that you dealt
3 with the older children?

4 A. Yes.

5 Q. What about the other children; do you know how they --
6 what they were being taught?

7 A. No.

8 LADY SMITH: How many teachers were there in total,
9 normally?

10 A. Four.

11 LADY SMITH: Four teachers. And they were covering the
12 entire primary age group?

13 A. Yes.

14 LADY SMITH: From Primary 1 to Primary 7?

15 A. Yes.

16 LADY SMITH: So some of the classes were more than -- some
17 of the classes comprised more than one normal academic
18 year age group, is that right?

19 A. Oh, yes.

20 LADY SMITH: How was it split?

21 A. Age, age-wise.

22 LADY SMITH: What ages were you teaching then?

23 A. 10, 11, 12-year-olds. I had the oldest ones.

24 LADY SMITH: Right. So that's 5, 6 and 7, maybe?

25 A. Yes, probably 6 and 7.

1 LADY SMITH: Right.

2 A. It depended on the age of the children who were there at
3 the time.

4 LADY SMITH: Well, I wondered about that. You would need to
5 be flexible, wouldn't you?

6 A. Yes.

7 LADY SMITH: Did you ever have younger ones, significantly
8 younger ones?

9 A. No.

10 LADY SMITH: Was there any reason for that?

11 A. No.

12 LADY SMITH: Okay. Thank you.

13 MR MACAULAY: But at least from your perspective, the school
14 day consisted of a couple of hours in the morning, which
15 would be in contrast to what the school day would
16 normally be in an ordinary primary school.

17 A. Yes.

18 Q. Why was that?

19 A. I don't know.

20 Q. Did you realise at the time that these children were
21 being deprived of a full education?

22 A. I realised they were missing out on their regular
23 classwork and hoped by doing number work and some
24 reading and language work with them, I was keeping them
25 up to date with what was happening.

1 Q. But if these children were there during the normal
2 school term, as many were, then they would effectively
3 be missing out on a significant period of their
4 schooling, if they're there for six weeks?

5 A. Yes.

6 Q. Well, did you focus upon that at all?

7 A. No. I focused on keeping them ticking over with their
8 language and number work, yes.

9 Q. So when the two hours were up, was it then that you
10 might go on your walks or, what happened?

11 A. Yes.

12 Q. So instead of doing classwork and being educated, on
13 occasions, on many occasions, these children were taken
14 out on these walks?

15 A. Taken outside, yes.

16 Q. Now, I took from you earlier, Patricia, that you also
17 produced -- produced a handwritten statement for the
18 Inquiry and that was at WIT-1-000001784.

19 And the set-up here was that you were provided with
20 a number of questions, typewritten questions, and you
21 were sent a significant number of statements --

22 A. Yes.

23 Q. -- in connection with applicants who have come to the
24 Inquiry and you were asked to respond to what was in the
25 statements. Does that correctly summarise what the

1 position was?

2 A. Yes.

3 Q. And what you have here in front of you, from (a) to (h)

4 are your responses to the questions that you were posed?

5 A. Yes.

6 Q. And just to give that context, the first question is:

7 'What do you remember about the person making the

8 allegation?'

9 And I think your position is -- and this is

10 perfectly understandable -- that you do not recall the

11 name?

12 A. No.

13 Q. And I say that's understandable, because that person

14 would have been there for about six weeks, 50 years ago.

15 A. Yes.

16 Q. And to remember a name in that situation is not easy.

17 Was that the position with regard to the -- to your

18 trial? Did you remember any of the names of those who

19 made complaints about you?

20 A. I didn't remember any.

21 Q. No. But at (c), the question was:

22 'Did you abuse the child?'

23 And your answer is:

24 'No.'

25 You see that?

1 A. Yes.

2 Q. Okay. And at (d):

3 'What is your response to the allegation?'

4 And at (d) your response is:

5 'Denial.'

6 A. Yes.

7 Q. And (h), if I can focus on question (h):

8 'If you accept that you or someone else abused the

9 child, how was it possible for the abuse to occur

10 undetected?'

11 And you say:

12 'It would be impossible.'

13 So you are saying, I think, that if you or anybody

14 else was an abuser, that would be impossible, because

15 others would see the abuse happening?

16 A. Yes.

17 Q. But if you have an abusive regime, where you have, not

18 one or two, possibly not even three abusers, then does

19 that change the complexion?

20 A. It would mean that every member of staff would have to

21 be involved for it to be -- to -- because the children

22 were -- they saw the cleaners every morning when they

23 were -- got up and had a chat with them. They were

24 saying the -- two of the cleaners were bathing them once

25 a week. The children were being showered every night.

1 Generally, if there was four of us, that would mean that
2 there would be sort of a rota of four people with these
3 children, two at a time. So somebody would have spotted
4 what was going on, and when they went out of the
5 building, when they went places, they met people, and
6 were free to chat.

7 Q. But somebody did spot what was going on, because you've
8 told us that the trainee teacher gave evidence at your
9 trial of what Lord Colbeck referred to as your appalling
10 behaviour.

11 A. Yes.

12 Q. So she came forward to give that evidence.

13 A. Yes.

14 Q. But it may be others, for whatever reason, may not have
15 wanted to come forward to give evidence against the
16 people in charge. Can you understand that?

17 A. No.

18 Q. Now, would you -- do you still adhere to your suggestion
19 in your statement that the culture at Fornethy was
20 'warm, friendly and happy'?

21 A. Yes.

22 Q. But it is the case though, Patricia, that the jury in
23 your trial disagreed with that.

24 A. Yes.

25 Q. Very well, Patricia, thank you very much indeed for

1 answering my questions. These are all my questions.

2 A. Thank you.

3 MR MACAULAY: Is there anything else you would like to say?

4 A. No.

5 MR MACAULAY: My Lady, I haven't received any questions to

6 put to Patricia.

7 LADY SMITH: Thank you.

8 Patricia, one last small detail I had a question

9 about: were you involved in giving the children any

10 medicine of any sort or any medication?

11 A. (Pause)

12 No.

13 LADY SMITH: What about castor oil, for --

14 A. No.

15 LADY SMITH: -- example? Did anybody give them castor oil?

16 A. Not to my knowledge.

17 LADY SMITH: Right. Okay.

18 Well, thank you, Patricia, for bearing with us. As

19 I explained at the beginning, I did appreciate that we

20 were going to have to ask you difficult questions and

21 I'm grateful to you for being as patient with us as you

22 have done and helping us with your evidence this

23 morning.

24 I'm now able to let you go and wish you a safe

25 journey back home.

1 A. Thank you.

2 LADY SMITH: I hope your travels go all right. Thank you.

3 (The witness withdrew)

4 LADY SMITH: I will stop now for the morning break and
5 perhaps before I do that, just to mention names of
6 people who are not to be identified as referred to in
7 our evidence outside this room. These are names we have
8 used in the course of evidence this morning and there
9 was Miss RBZ or Mrs RBZ, Miss or Mrs LBD,
10 PWH or Mrs PWH. Have I missed anybody? No, just
11 those three.

12 We'll take the morning break now and then we'll get
13 back to other evidence after that. Thank you.

14 (11.32 am)

15 (A short break)

16 (11.51 am)

17 LADY SMITH: Ms MacLeod.

18 'Rachel' (read in)

19 MS MACLEOD: My Lady, I will now read in the statement of
20 an applicant who will use the pseudonym 'Rachel'.

21 LADY SMITH: Thank you.

22 MS MACLEOD: The statement can be found at WIT-1-000000882:

23 'My name is ["Rachel"]. I was born in 1965. My
24 contact details are known to the Inquiry.

25 'I lived with my mum and dad and I had three older

1 sisters, [one] who was 15 years older than me, [one] who
2 was 14 years older than me and [one] who was 12 years
3 older than me. When I was 3 years old, we moved to
4 Easterhouse. [My oldest sister] moved out when I was
5 5 years old.

6 'My dad had bad anxiety problems. He was 45 years
7 old when I was born and had an accident in the shipyard
8 where he worked as a shipwright. Dad became addicted to
9 the medication he was on and lay in his bed all the
10 time. My mum had bad arthritis and could hardly walk.
11 [My sister who was 12 years older than me] tried to help
12 by taking me to school -- to primary school. [She then
13 moved away with her husband and children]. [My sister
14 who was 14 years older than me moved abroad and my
15 eldest sister who was 15 years older than me] had three
16 kids of her own. My mum always worked and tried to keep
17 things together, but when she had cancer my dad couldn't
18 cope. When I was 5 or 6 years old, my dad left and mum
19 was on her own with me.

20 'My dad went to stay with his auntie and I never
21 heard from him after that, except for a couple of
22 presents and cards. My mum refused to let my dad see me
23 because she was upset that he'd left me when she was
24 ill. Mum was going through radium treatment and was in
25 and out of hospital for weeks at a time. I didn't see

1 my dad from when I was 7 years old until my mum died
2 when I was 15. My dad only lived until I was 20 years
3 old.

4 'I was never away from my mum, apart from going to
5 school. I went to Sunday School but hadn't gone to
6 nursery. I was used to being with my mum, my sisters
7 and my nephews. I didn't have contact with anybody
8 else.

9 'I went to Fornethy three times whilst I was at
10 primary school. I don't know who made the decision to
11 send me to Fornethy. The first time was when my dad
12 left and I was nearly 6 years old, in the [REDACTED] of
13 1971. I had just started school and I was small.
14 I went for what seemed to be the whole of the [REDACTED]
15 holidays, about six weeks. I'm not sure when I went for
16 the second time. The last time I went to Fornethy was
17 when I was 10 or 11 years old and I felt a lot older.

18 'Everything I remember is insular. I didn't pay
19 a lot of attention to other folk because I was watching
20 what I was doing and trying to do what I was told.
21 I was upset, crying and fighting back tears a lot of the
22 time. It was all girls at Fornethy and I didn't see any
23 men there at all. There were about 60 girls and they
24 were all primary school age, between 5 and 10 or
25 11 years old. We were like cattle being herded about.

1 One of the times I went to Fornethy there was a girl who
2 was about 15 years old. She had showers at different
3 times to us because she was grown up.

4 'My experiences were all very similar, each time
5 I went to Fornethy. I don't remember the teachers'
6 names except Miss Fletcher, the headmistress, and
7 Miss Paton, the housekeeper. Miss Fletcher had a wee
8 Westie dog. The teachers were the same people each
9 time. The teachers didn't smile. The second time I was
10 at Fornethy, there was a nice teacher. She was young
11 and lovely compared to everyone else.

12 'You went in the door at Fornethy and there were
13 steps to the side which went up to the dorms. There
14 were five dorms that I remember. The first and third
15 time I went to Fornethy, I was in Forter. The second
16 time I went, I was in a different dormitory. I don't
17 remember what it was called. The other dormitories were
18 Reekie Linn, Clova, Isla and Esk. We were told one of
19 the old ladies who used to live in the house had passed
20 away in one of the dorms. There was a wee door
21 downstairs next to the sweetie room. The showers were
22 downstairs off the cloakroom where we had our shoes,
23 jackets, sand shoes and wellies. The toilets were
24 upstairs next to the dorm. I have a feeling the dining
25 room was upstairs.

1 'I must have done something good because the last
2 time I was at Fornethy I was a table monitor, a prefect
3 and a dorm captain. I had three bands in different
4 colours that I wore over my shoulder. I had to make
5 sure everybody remembered the rules and did what they
6 were told. In the dorm if I heard somebody talking,
7 I'd tell them to be quiet. At the table I'd tell people
8 to eat up their food and I'd put a bit of jam or honey
9 on the wee ones' bread. I didn't tell on anybody to the
10 teachers. I'd just tell them not to do some things.

11 'The first time I went to Fornethy I was in
12 a waiting room somewhere with my mum and a case. There
13 were other girls sitting and they were waiting to go
14 too. We were all quiet and we didn't know what was
15 happening. My mum said I was going on a holiday,
16 everything would be fine and she'd see me soon.
17 I wasn't much bigger than the suitcase I had. I had
18 clothes with me in my case and three hankies that my mum
19 bought especially for me going there. There was a pale
20 blue one, a sky blue one and a yellow one. The hankies
21 were lovely. I didn't use them at the place. I didn't
22 know I was going to Fornethy until then.

23 'I was really upset and I didn't want to go because
24 I'd never left my mum much. About 10 or 12 girls went
25 on a minibus or a small coach from the town. It was

1 sunny and the journey took forever. I didn't know
2 anybody at all. My mum had got me a bar of Dairy Crunch
3 chocolate and a carton of juice. Once we got on the
4 bus, somebody told me -- said to me they'd been to
5 Fornethy before, it was a long journey and not to eat my
6 chocolate until we were nearly there. The girl said
7 I wouldn't get anything to eat before I went to bed.

8 'Fornethy was a big place. When we arrived, a woman
9 came out and herded us in. I don't remember her name.
10 That was the only time we used the main door. The
11 woman's hair was short and black with grey through it
12 and had a curl in it, like a demi-wave. She had
13 glasses. The woman looked old to me but she could have
14 been 30 years old. Everybody was a teacher, apart from
15 the housekeeper.

16 'We went upstairs into the dormitory and there were
17 other girls in there. We were told to take our clothes
18 off and come along the corridor, naked. I thought that
19 was strange and I was embarrassed. We were brought up
20 quite prudish and I'd never been in that position
21 before.

22 'You had to go in the bath two at a time. There was
23 a girl waiting beside me and one behind me. It was just
24 the girls who had been on the bus. You waited for
25 somebody to come out of the bath and somebody went in.

1 I thought that was strange because I'd never been in
2 a bath that somebody else had been in.

3 'There were two ladies who grabbed us in the bath,
4 scrubbed us down and dried us off. They told us to go
5 back to the dorm. The teachers told us to go to sleep
6 and stay in our bed. I don't remember much after that,
7 because I was so embarrassed. I think we maybe went
8 straight to bed. The lights went off and we were told
9 to go to sleep and stay in our bed.

10 'The dorms were big. There were about nine or ten
11 heavy metal single beds in Forter dorm and a picture
12 above my head of a child or two children. I was cold
13 all the time. The sheets were old-fashioned and not
14 fitted. There was a sheet under you, a sheet on top and
15 then a blanket. There were wooden floors and the dorm
16 doors were always open. The teacher who met us on the
17 first day wandered about the dormitories at night really
18 quietly. She was in slippers and a long housecoat and
19 stood at the door listening to see who was talking.

20 'We got a cup of milk and a biscuit at night and the
21 teachers sometimes played songs then. We didn't dance
22 or anything but we sat about the floor and listened.
23 The one I remember most is "Ride a White Swan" by T Rex
24 and it came out in 1971. That's why I think 1971
25 was the first time I went to Fornethy. The song

1 reminded me of home because my sisters played music.
2 You didn't get a cup of milk if you wet the bed so you
3 had nothing from dinner until the following morning.
4 Sometimes you only got half a Rich Tea biscuit if you
5 didn't behave. We were supposed to go to the toilet
6 before we went to bed. The lights in the corridor were
7 blue at night for the teachers to wander about.

8 'The teacher came and got you up early in the
9 morning. You got breakfast and then we went out. Then
10 you got your mail in a room downstairs. You'd write
11 your reply to the letters you got. When you got letters
12 they were opened across the top as if they'd been opened
13 by a letter opener. My mum sent postal orders and
14 I imagine a lot of mothers would have done. That's why
15 you got sweeties. We didn't get the postal orders.

16 'If children wet the bed then they were shouted at
17 and dragged out of the dorm. Quite a few people wet the
18 bed but nobody had the kind of accident I had. The
19 first time I was at Fornethy, I had an accident in bed
20 the first night. I didn't do anything wrong. I was
21 just a child. I needed the toilet, but because we'd
22 been told to stay in bed, I thought I could hold it in
23 until the morning. I didn't know where the toilet was
24 and all the corridors looked the same. It was really
25 dark at night. It turned out there was a toilet just as

1 you walked out of the dorm to the right.

2 'I had a mess in the bed. I woke up in the morning
3 and thought it wasn't good. I'd never done that in my
4 life before and I'd never wet the bed. The teacher who
5 had herded us that first day pulled everybody's sheets
6 back. They did that every morning. She pulled my sheet
7 back and the mess was only a tiny wee bit on the sheet.
8 The teacher was shouting and screaming in my face,
9 saying it was disgusting and filthy. I was embarrassed.
10 The other girls were all quiet and nobody was laughing
11 at me. She grabbed me by the wrist and dragged me along
12 the corridor. The teacher threw me in to the other two
13 women where the bath was. Those women weren't teachers.

14 'Those women were horrible to me and they shouted in
15 my face. They said I was too old to be doing stuff like
16 that. One was a heavy woman. She was red in the face
17 and really angry. One of the women had an apron on that
18 was like a uniform and she had a horrible nailbrush with
19 yellow bristles. There was two inches of lukewarm water
20 in the bath. The woman sat me in the bath. The mess
21 was only down my legs a wee bit and it wasn't liquid,
22 but the woman scrubbed me all over my body with
23 a nailbrush and pulled me about. It was painful and she
24 was screaming at me. I was crying. The soap was
25 horrible and pink. I still can't stand that soap.

1 I thought I'd better remember to go to the toilet before
2 I got to bed and I realised I would have to try to be
3 quiet. I felt embarrassed and ashamed. I tried to put
4 it out of my head.

5 'We sat at tables of four to six to have our dinner.
6 I don't know if everybody had their dinner at the same
7 time. There were four to six teachers who sat at their
8 own table beside the serving hatch. People were worried
9 around dinner times because you weren't allowed to leave
10 food on the table. I didn't have a problem because
11 I was always hungry and I could eat anything. The only
12 thing I didn't like was honey.

13 'Sometimes if someone couldn't eat what was on their
14 plate then I ate it. You didn't get to leave the table
15 until everybody was finished so the food always got
16 finished. The teachers liked you if you had seconds.
17 I must have been a star pupil because I was always
18 hungry. The second time I was at Fornethy, I got up for
19 seconds of mince and potatoes and there was none left.
20 The nice teacher said they had stew left and I could
21 have some. I left it because I didn't want to be taking
22 the teacher's dinner.

23 'There was breakfast and dinners but I don't
24 remember lunches. There was porridge and cereal for
25 breakfast. Nighttime was a biscuit and a cup of milk.

1 I hated the plastic beakers. Somebody had chewed them
2 and they were that horrible, hairy way. I hate plastic
3 cups to this day.

4 'There were wee sinks and we all had our bits of
5 soap wrapped up in our face cloth. I had a wee tin of
6 toothpaste and a face cloth that my mum had given me.
7 There was a wire basket and we all had our own bit to
8 keep our things in. One day I was brushing my teeth and
9 I saw a deer out the window. I'd never seen a deer
10 before.

11 'We had showers at night. There were cubicles. The
12 teachers were there watching you and the showers didn't
13 have curtains. You had to face the front where the
14 teacher could see you and wash yourself. The teacher
15 decided when you could come out.

16 'Every day we did a lot of marching about and long
17 walks through the woods or in the hills covered with
18 heather. In the woods, you felt as if you were walking
19 through the dark all the time. I had asthma and
20 I didn't realise it at the time, but I'm allergic to fir
21 trees. I was always choking and couldn't breathe.
22 I got shouted at for lagging behind. We were all
23 shattered when we got back. The second time I was
24 there, I was a terrible one for picking up tiny frogs.
25 I would say to the nice teacher that I had a frog in my

1 pocket and she would laugh.

2 'On one of the walks, there was a river. The stones
3 were slimy and covered with moss. I was frightened
4 because we were clambering about sharp rocks and
5 I didn't like the feeling of the moss on my feet. We
6 were in the river in our vest and pants. I was
7 embarrassed because our vest and pants were going
8 see-through. There was a bridge and folk were watching
9 us. I tried to sit at the side.

10 'We sang songs that we weren't supposed to sing and
11 Fornethy was always in them. They weren't the nicest
12 songs and we got into trouble if we got caught singing
13 them. If you didn't clamp up straightaway, the last
14 person who was heard singing would get dragged out of
15 the room by the teacher. We sang in the dorms when we
16 were supposed to be quiet. There was one called "On Top
17 of Fornethy All Covered in Snow". It went like this:

18 'The top of Fornethy all covered in snow.

19 I shot my poor teacher five minutes ago.

20 I did it with...

21 I did it with pride.

22 I couldn't have missed her, she was 40 feet wide."

23 'When you went to the sweetie queue, Miss Fletcher
24 would tell you if you had money for sweeties or not.

25 She had a wee book and it depended on what money you had

1 left from your postal order. You didn't get any sweets
2 if you had no money. One day, Miss Fletcher shouted at
3 me and asked why I was in the queue because I didn't
4 have any money left. I didn't know how much money I had
5 because I never saw the postal orders. If you didn't
6 have anything at all, then another girl would give you
7 one or two of her sweeties.

8 'There was a seesaw and swings outside. After you
9 got your sweeties then you could go out there for half
10 an hour. That's the only time I remember talking to
11 anybody else. Then we'd be shouted in to go for our
12 shower. I don't remember there being a TV or a radio.

13 'We went swimming the first time I was at Fornethy.
14 Miss Fletcher was in with us. She had on a swimming hat
15 that was really fancy --'

16 LADY SMITH: Appliquéd daisies.

17 MS MACLEOD: '... with appliquéd daisies of all different
18 colours on it. Miss Fletcher was speaking to somebody
19 outside the pool. I'd never been in a pool before and
20 I walked round about. I didn't know that you walk in
21 one end and it gets deeper. I started to panic and the
22 water went in my mouth and up my nose. Somebody said
23 something and Miss Fletcher looked at me and dragged me
24 out.

25 'Someone discovered some wee leaves that tasted

1 sweet. They were lovely. We got caught eating them and
2 got shouted at. Once or twice, someone played the piano
3 and taught us a song. I don't remember any toys. On
4 Saturday night we watched a film on a projector.

5 'We weren't allowed to talk to each other or write
6 anybody's address down. If we were in the dorm and the
7 teachers wandered off, we talked to each other
8 quietly -- quickly before they came back. If the
9 teachers heard you talking then they gave you into
10 trouble. You only had paper and pens when it was school
11 time and we were doing school stuff or when we were
12 writing home.

13 'The last time I was at Fornethy, there was a girl
14 who was my age. She was lovely. [She] had her sisters
15 with her at Fornethy, some were older and a couple were
16 younger. She wanted me to meet up with her when we got
17 home and I wrote to her. I didn't know her exact
18 address. The postman somehow got a letter to [her].
19 I wrote to her a couple of times after I'd left Fornethy
20 but my mum wouldn't let me go to town and that was the
21 last I heard from her.

22 'Everybody was in the room where you got -- when you
23 got your letters from home and wrote letters back.
24 Sometimes you didn't get a letter. You either watched
25 the other girls write their letters or wrote a letter

1 anyway. The teacher put up on the board what you were
2 to write. They gave you hints and sentences. We wrote
3 things like, "We went for a walk this morning. I saw
4 a frog. I found a pheasant's feather. I had a great
5 time." Once we went to the swimming and we wrote, "We
6 went to the swimming this morning and I had a great
7 time." The one time I did go to the swimming was when
8 I nearly drowned and the teacher nearly never noticed.

9 'The teachers read everything you wrote and took all
10 the pens and paper away after. When the teachers read
11 what you wrote, they would rip it up into shreds and
12 give you another bit of paper if you were lucky. If you
13 didn't get another bit of paper then you didn't get
14 a letter sent away. The teachers were watching you all
15 the time. You folded your letter and put it in the
16 envelope. You didn't seal the envelope. Sometimes they
17 gave you wee postcards to write on. The postcards
18 didn't have pictures on them. You put the address on
19 the front and wrote stuff on the back.

20 'We wore our wellies outside and inside we put on
21 our black sandshoes. I had sore legs where the wellies
22 rubbed them. We all had pinafores on and the teachers
23 handed them out when we were going out. I'd hope that
24 I'd get a nice pattern. The pattern was like
25 Laura Ashley, wee flowery prints, and some were nicer

1 than others. Some were more brown and some more pink or
2 purple. The pinafores weren't the same colour and
3 pattern but they were all the same design. The pinafore
4 had short sleeves and buttoned up the front.

5 'I was only at Fornethy once during term time.
6 There weren't lessons but we filled in workbooks called
7 [RSA] workbooks by ourselves. There was a story you
8 read and answered some questions. When you finished,
9 then you put your workbook in a pile and got another
10 workbook. The classroom wasn't in the main building.
11 It was a wooden building attached to the main building
12 and up [some] steps.

13 'I had asthma and allergies, but I didn't have
14 an inhaler when I went to Fornethy. I don't remember
15 there being a nurse at Fornethy, but if you had a sore
16 stomach they gave you syrup of figs or cod liver oil.
17 After dinner the teachers always asked who had a sore
18 stomach. I liked syrup of figs so I went up for it.
19 The teachers got wise and then gave me cod liver oil.

20 'The first time I was at Fornethy we were taken to
21 a big field surrounded by trees. It was a nice day and
22 I was in a vest and pants. I fell asleep and when
23 I woke up I had bad sunburn on the back of my neck and
24 shoulders. It was painful and I could hardly move them.
25 I don't remember the teachers putting anything on them.

1 'One of the times I was at Fornethy it was my
2 birthday. I got a parcel from my mum with a T-shirt and
3 trousers in it. The T-shirt had oranges on it and you
4 could scratch the T-shirt and smell oranges. Everybody
5 came up to me and scratched it to smell the oranges.
6 The parcel was already opened when I got it and just
7 wrapped up in the paper again.

8 'On my birthday one of the staff got married in the
9 wee church outside the grounds and we went to the
10 service. It might have been Miss Paton. One of the
11 teachers gave me an order of service from the wedding.
12 It was white with a silver church imprinted on the
13 front. One of the hymns was "Morning Has Broken". We
14 were there to be tidy and smiley. That was the only
15 time I went to church at Fornethy.

16 'We heard that a girl's mum and dad were coming to
17 visit in their car. The girl got to see them but we
18 didn't get out to see them. It was a big thing and
19 I don't remember anyone else's mum and dad coming.

20 'One time you could see far away and a teacher said
21 that was Glasgow, that Glasgow was over there.
22 I wondered if I could walk that far but I didn't attempt
23 it.

24 'If you got into trouble then you got shouted at and
25 dragged out of the room by your wrist.

1 'At Fornethy it was psychological abuse. It was the
2 atmosphere more than anything else. The atmosphere was
3 really bad. You knew to keep quiet, not to say anything
4 and do what you were told. [You] were frightened to
5 talk. I don't understand how you could work in a place
6 like that. Maybe the teachers thought that was the way
7 it should have been. By the time I went the second and
8 third times, I was quiet and I kept my head down and did
9 everything I was told.

10 'The teachers would grab people by the wrist and
11 drag them about. They did that if the girls were not
12 doing what they were supposed to, or doing something
13 they shouldn't have been doing. A couple of girls were
14 dragged out of the room by the wrist when we were [doing
15 letter-writing]. I don't remember anybody being slapped
16 or punched.

17 'The second time I was at Fornethy we were writing
18 letters and I managed to rip off a corner of a bit of
19 paper. I wrote in tiny letters, "I hate it here", and
20 put it in the corner of the envelope. The teacher with
21 the dark hair and glasses found the note and started
22 shouting at me. She told me to go and speak to
23 Miss Fletcher.

24 'I went to the sweetie room and Miss Fletcher was
25 there. Miss Fletcher grabbed me by the shoulder and

1 screamed in my face. She was digging her fingers into
2 my shoulder and she was crimson in the face.

3 Miss Fletcher pulled me about and said my mum was very
4 ill, and if my mum died it would be my fault because
5 I couldn't be sending my mum things. I felt terrible.

6 'The third time I was at Fornethy there was a girl
7 in my dorm who was older than me. She was talking in
8 her sleep and I told her to stop talking. She didn't
9 stop. The woman with the grey hair came in. The woman
10 said I was talking but I didn't say anything to her.
11 The woman took all my prefect, dorm captain and table
12 monitor bands and gave them to the girl who had been
13 talking. The woman put the bands on the girl's locker.
14 I felt stupid, like I'd been tricked by them. Someone
15 had said the girl should be the dorm captain because she
16 was older than me. If the woman had been outside
17 listening then she would have known it wasn't me who was
18 talking. I wasn't a prefect, dorm monitor or table
19 monitor after that.

20 'The times I got into trouble, when I had
21 an accident in bed and when I wrote the note, the
22 teachers shouted at me and I was frightened. I don't
23 remember anybody being smiley and happy at Fornethy. The
24 teachers didn't speak to us. What little Miss Fletcher
25 said, she shouted, or she spoke to the teachers and

1 other staff.

2 'There wasn't any bullying. Some girls were quick
3 to point out girls who weren't doing what they should be
4 doing, like hiding their food. The girl would get
5 shouted at or dragged away. I don't know what happened
6 to them when they were dragged away.

7 'When I went home after my first stay at Fornethy,
8 I tried to tell my mum what it was like at Fornethy but
9 my mum didn't say a lot. I didn't tell my mum about the
10 accident I had in bed because I was too embarrassed.
11 She was tired and sick an awful lot. I don't think my
12 mum had the strength to be dealing with me at the best
13 of times. I went back again twice. I didn't have
14 a choice. I was told to go.

15 'The first time I was at Fornethy, I left there, got
16 home and had to go to school the next morning. We
17 always went back to Glasgow on the bus.

18 'After the third time I was at Fornethy, I went to
19 high school and there was never any mention of going to
20 residential school after that. I was fine at school and
21 did well in my exams. I was never in a group of friends
22 and only had one friend at a time. I didn't go anywhere
23 or do anything with my friends. Part of that was that
24 my mum didn't want me going anywhere and we didn't have
25 money to be going anywhere.

1 'I met my husband at school and got engaged. I was
2 married nearly 20 years but we separated. I was unwell
3 and in and out of hospital having operations. I had
4 endometriosis, and neuralgia in my face. I have
5 fibromyalgia and arthritis and I was diagnosed with
6 chronic fatigue syndrome when I was 28. Me and my
7 husband now work together to help [our children].
8 I worked in insurance and pensions but I didn't go back
9 to work after I had my children. That was when my
10 health problems started.

11 'Fornethy never left my head. I don't think about
12 it every day, but it's always there. I never got over
13 making a mess in the bed that first night and being
14 scrubbed by the woman. I never told anybody until my
15 daughter told me she had an accident at school when the
16 teacher wouldn't let her out of the classroom. I told
17 my daughter then.

18 'I felt terrible loneliness at Fornethy and I felt
19 trapped. We all felt we might never go home again.
20 When I left, I was terrified I'd have to go back.
21 I felt homesick to the point I felt sick. We all felt
22 homesick. The girls who had their sisters with them
23 weren't so bad. It was horrible not being able to phone
24 home or write what I thought in a letter. I enjoyed
25 getting my mum's letters.

1 'When I went to Fornethy, [two of my sisters had
2 moved away]. They didn't think about who would look
3 after me while my mum was [going through] the treatment.
4 My oldest sister was working three jobs and had
5 [children of her own].

6 'When I was at high school we had chances of going
7 on school residential trips. The minute residential
8 school was mentioned, I'd say no. I wouldn't want to go
9 on any of them because I was too scared. A lot of my
10 friends had great times and went pony trekking and
11 things. I didn't go because of my experience at
12 Fornethy. The only trip I went on was to Italy to go
13 skiing. I didn't want my kids to go to residential
14 schools but they wanted to go and I [did] let them. It
15 was different because they were going with their
16 friends.

17 'My mum did die when I was 15 years old, and
18 I have never forgotten that Miss Fletcher said if mum
19 died it would be my fault. I thought mum dying was my
20 fault. To this day I feel it's my fault because she had
21 me at a late age. I still feel terrible as an adult
22 thinking about if my mum had got the note when she was
23 going through all the cancer treatment. My mum would
24 have felt terrible that I had to be at Fornethy. I feel
25 upset that I was put in a position where I had to try to

1 sneak something out in an envelope.

2 'I was chirpy when I was younger, but I had no
3 confidence after Fornethy. I avoided going places and
4 nights out. Fornethy made me wary of absolutely
5 everybody, although in a lot of ways I'm gullible and
6 naive. I have a fear of what other people are capable
7 of and feel you can't predict what anybody is going to
8 do.

9 'My wariness has rubbed off on [one of my children].

10 'If anybody shouts at me then my brain goes blank
11 and I freeze. It's been a problem through my life. If
12 somebody shouts loud enough at me, then I do tend to
13 listen. That's not always good. If someone shouted at
14 me and I thought they didn't like me, then I'd get
15 really upset.

16 '[I was in] shock when I saw Fornethy in the
17 newspaper. Before then, I didn't know if it was just me
18 who felt that bad about the place. I didn't read a lot
19 about it and I didn't pay a lot of attention to the news
20 about it. It never occurred to me that girls would
21 still be going to Fornethy in 1987. I felt bad at the
22 thought of wee kids going through what I went through.
23 You would hope it would be better by that time, but it
24 doesn't sound like it.

25 'When Fornethy was in the papers and they said there

1 was a support group, I spoke to some of the girls.
2 I was given a number to phone the police and the police
3 sent somebody out to take a statement from me.

4 'I've had support over the years with not having any
5 parents and my sisters being busy. I never spoke about
6 Fornethy then because there were more important things
7 to talk about.

8 'I've never asked for my records.

9 'You should have been allowed to talk to your
10 parents on the phone. My mum wouldn't have been well
11 enough to go on that journey to visit and we didn't have
12 anybody in the family that had a car.

13 'The staff should have treated kids like they were
14 kids and not like they were a nuisance if they opened
15 their mouth. They should have talked to the kids the
16 way you talk to people. The staff should have asked how
17 you were and what you had been up to that day. There
18 was no conversation apart from the one nice teacher who
19 spoke to me for five minutes, asking where I came from.

20 'I feel I was abused psychologically at Fornethy.
21 Back then, you saw teachers pulling kids about and
22 belting them. It's hard to distinguish what was
23 acceptable then and why it's not acceptable now. The
24 people looking for justice and who have gone through
25 sexual and physical abuse need some end to it. They

1 need whatever they're looking for, justice and answers.

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

4 I believe the facts stated in this witness statement are
5 true.'

6 'Rachel' signed the statement on 6 January 2022.

7 LADY SMITH: Thank you very much.

8 Mr MacAulay.

9 'Andrea' (read in)

10 MR MACAULAY: Now, my Lady, this is the statement of another
11 applicant, who wants to remain anonymous and to use the
12 pseudonym 'Andrea'.

13 LADY SMITH: Thank you.

14 MR MACAULAY: Her statement can be found at WIT-1-000001447.

15 'Andrea' tells us that her date -- year of her
16 birth, rather, is 1965:

17 'I was born in Glasgow.'

18 And she tells us that her parents broke up when she
19 was a baby and that her mother remarried:

20 'I started school in Albert Primary in Springburn in
21 Primary 1. I've seen my school admission records in the
22 archives. Then I went to Hawthorn Primary School in
23 Possilpark and I think I was going from Primary 2 and
24 about to go into Primary 3 when I was placed in Fornethy
25 House. I know I was in Hawthorn Primary School when

1 I went to Fornethy.

2 'I don't know why I was placed in Fornethy House and
3 I can't remember anyone telling me I was going. My
4 stepdad was an alcoholic and that could be part of the
5 reason I was sent to Fornethy. There wasn't any social
6 work involvement with the family. I've tried looking
7 for any social work records in the archives and there
8 wasn't anything. I've tried everything to find a reason
9 for me going to Fornethy House. I think I was there for
10 six weeks and it was one trip only.

11 'I think I went to Fornethy in 1972.'

12 In which case she would be about 7:

13 LADY SMITH: 7, yes.

14 MR MACAULAY: 'And it was [REDACTED] as the weather was
15 sunny. It's hard for me to get the exact year I was in
16 Fornethy. I think I was aged 7. My sister wasn't there
17 and she wasn't at school then. I was old enough to be
18 at school, but [she] wasn't there as she wasn't of
19 school age.

20 'I can't remember being told I was going to
21 Fornethy. I don't know if I was there for the school
22 [REDACTED] holidays or if it was term time.

23 'There was a gardener. He had grey hair and he was
24 medium build. He wasn't really big or really thin.
25 I think the adults were all teachers except the

1 gardener.

2 'There was a woman called Robertson who was in
3 charge. She was tall with glasses and had dark hair in
4 a bun. I don't know how old she was. She always looked
5 angry. I called her "Miss". I don't know what she
6 called us. There was another woman with grey hair and
7 I can't see her face. She was around quite a lot.
8 There was also a female teacher with blonde hair.

9 'There was also a younger woman. I don't think she
10 was a teacher and I remember she smiled when we pushed
11 past her. I think we weren't allowed to speak to her.
12 I wonder if she was a cook.

13 'I remember going there on the bus with a lot of
14 girls. It was all girls on the bus. I don't remember
15 any of their names. I think they were a similar age to
16 me and we were all just kids. To me it was a big bus
17 and it seemed full. There wasn't anyone I knew already.
18 My mum waved me off and she gave me sweets and crisps
19 for the journey. I had feelings of happiness as if
20 I was going on holiday. When we arrived, the things
21 parents had given to us to take on the bus were taken
22 away. I remember the woman with grey hair being there,
23 but I can't remember her face. I can't remember if she
24 said why she was taking the treats off us.

25 'Fornethy was a big, massive building that looked

1 like a castle to me. I remember going in through
2 an archway and into a courtyard, then going upstairs to
3 the dorms. There was a bathroom on the left and through
4 a different door into the dorms.

5 'We weren't allowed to speak to each other. I just
6 remember us all being so quiet. We were in a straight
7 line and going straight into the building. It felt
8 frightening and I wanted to go home. It was
9 a frightening atmosphere on arrival and I didn't want to
10 be there.

11 'There were girls already in Fornethy when
12 I arrived. I think there were girls in there who were
13 older than me. I think the other girls were in there
14 for the same amount of time as me and they weren't there
15 long-term. There were maybe 70 or 80 girls there in
16 total. It wasn't just made up of girls who were there
17 on the bus with me. I remember being in the dining room
18 and it was quite busy.

19 'In my dorm, there were maybe eight to ten beds.
20 There were two lines of beds in my room and mine was on
21 the left near the door.

22 'I can't remember who woke us up in the mornings.
23 We got dressed and then we went to get breakfast.

24 'I can't remember who got us ready for bed at night.
25 We weren't allowed to make noise at night and there

1 would be someone shouting to say stop making a noise and
2 get to sleep. I was scared to speak and it made it hard
3 to make friends.

4 'I remember seeing the gardener lift a wee girl out
5 of her bed during the night. I was in my bed in the
6 dorm and her bed was near mine and on the left. I saw
7 him lifting her out of bed from under the sheet. That
8 was a flashback I had as an adult watching me as
9 a child. He took her out of the room. That's all I can
10 recall.

11 'The dining room was busy at mealtimes with girls.
12 Robertson, the woman in charge, was always there at
13 mealtimes and monitoring us. I remember her leaning
14 over us. I always sat at the same table in the dining
15 room and I could see the door from where I sat.

16 'When we had pudding, we had to use a fork to scrape
17 custard off the bottom of the spoon so it wouldn't drip
18 before we ate it. You'd get skelped by Robertson if you
19 didn't.

20 'I don't know what we did between mealtimes.

21 'We went for showers. I remember there was a bench
22 against the wall with my clothes on it. We were all in
23 together and there was a row of shower heads along the
24 wall. There wasn't a cubicle, so there was no privacy.
25 There was always someone in there with us. I can't

1 visualise who that was.'

2 And moving on to paragraph 24:

3 'In the evenings, I just remember us getting a drink
4 and a biscuit. There was no TV to watch. I don't
5 remember us getting to play like children. I can't
6 remember any toys.

7 'I can't remember if weekends felt different to
8 weekdays. I can't remember weekends but I remember
9 walking to church. We went out the door with an archway
10 to the courtyard and followed a path that went on for
11 a while. Then there was a stream. One time we had to
12 strip down to our knickers to get in the stream. We
13 didn't have bathing costumes. We were told to do that.
14 It was Robertson who took us there. I remember a girl
15 fell in fully clothed and she got hit for it.

16 'We were in a classroom [at] what were called
17 classes. We had to write letters home and we had to
18 write down in the letters what the staff wrote on the
19 blackboard. We couldn't write anything different from
20 what was on the blackboard. We couldn't write what we
21 wanted to or say anything negative about Fornethy. If
22 you'd written one word different to what was on the
23 blackboard, you had to redo the work. You weren't
24 allowed to send the letter unless you'd written down
25 word for word what they'd told you. You couldn't write

1 "come and get me" or anything like that.

2 'There was a teacher in the classroom who wasn't
3 Robertson. She had short, cropped-in hair that was
4 light or blonde coloured. She was telling us, "You will
5 write this". I know one of the girls got hit for
6 writing "I want to come home". I remember one girl
7 getting shouted at and then we all got shouted at and
8 told "You're not going to go home".'

9 Then at paragraph 31:

10 'We all had to walk through the fields to get to
11 church on Sundays. Robertson was at the front. We
12 climbed over a bit with a fence and some wire and when
13 I went over that, I cut the back of my knee on the wire.
14 I had to keep walking and nobody checked on me until it
15 was noticed by the woman with grey hair.

16 'We had wellies on our feet and there were red welts
17 on our legs where the welly rubbed the skin. I don't
18 know if I had socks on or if the socks had fallen down.

19 'We had to kneel at bedtime by our beds and say
20 a prayer. Robertson made us do that. She seemed to be
21 there all the time.

22 'I can't remember doing any chores.'

23 Then in the next paragraph, 36:

24 'I never wet the bed until I went to Fornethy.
25 After I wet the bed at Fornethy, I wasn't allowed

1 an undersheet. I was given a sheet to lie on, for on
2 top of a cold rubber mat. I don't know if that was my
3 first night or not.

4 'When I had an accident, a bigger girl, who was
5 maybe two years older, came to help me and we got
6 caught. I got knocked about by Robertson for that.
7 Whoever came in the room checked the beds in the morning
8 by lifting the covers. You'd get hit if your bed was
9 wet. It wasn't always Robertson who did that.

10 'Parents weren't allowed to visit us at Fornethy.
11 No family visited. No one from the outside came in.
12 I still remember my dad sent me a comic and getting that
13 with a letter. I remember they gave me a postal order
14 and that stuck in my head because my dad would give that
15 to my mum every month, and because I was away he sent it
16 to me at Fornethy instead. I still remember saying "My
17 dad's coming to visit". They were taken away from me
18 and my dad got a phone call to say parents weren't
19 allowed to visit.

20 'I wasn't able to speak on the phone at Fornethy to
21 anyone.

22 'I don't remember seeing anyone from outside coming
23 in to Fornethy.

24 'I didn't run away, but some girls did.

25 'I can't remember getting any treats, so they

1 couldn't take them away as punishment. I can't remember
2 getting any sweets. I never got to keep my dad's postal
3 order.

4 'The teachers told us to be quiet when we were in
5 the corridor going from the dorm to the dining room.

6 'I remember there was a girl sitting across from me
7 in the dining room. I remember she said, "I can't eat
8 it". She was told by Robertson to eat it. The girl
9 coughed and vomited over her plate and Robertson grabbed
10 her by her hair and forced the vomit back in her mouth.
11 It was chicken and I still can't eat that now myself.
12 I can't remember anything else about the food or seeing
13 anyone else being forced to eat food. I was scared not
14 to eat. I thought I need to eat or I'm next. Nobody
15 stepped in to try to stop Robertson.

16 'I went to Fornethy more recently for a visit with
17 other women from the Fornethy House [REDACTED] group that
18 I'm part of. That's when I remembered back when I was
19 a little girl there and seeing two naked girls on the
20 swings outside. I could say where I was sitting to be
21 able to see them. The two girls were standing on the
22 swings and one of them had started puberty. I also
23 remembered that I'd had a shower and Robertson had taken
24 me outside naked to the garden to get dry. It happened
25 once.

1 'The gardener was standing there by the bushes to
2 the right-hand side and staring at the girls on the
3 swings. The sun was up and, time-wise, I don't know any
4 more than that. I was trying to cover myself. Then
5 Robertson started beating me round the head with her
6 hands for that. I can still remember seeing Robertson's
7 teeth clenched in anger at me. She told me to stand up
8 and get dried. She was only selecting some girls to go
9 outside and we were too scared to speak out.

10 'I don't know how long I was at Fornethy and no one
11 told me how long I would be there for. It was a relief
12 to be going home. We were just told one day to get
13 ready for the bus and then we went away in the direction
14 we came in. I think I went with the same group of girls
15 I came in with.

16 'I went back to Glasgow and my mum picked me up.
17 I didn't go to any other institution after Fornethy and
18 I didn't stay at Fornethy at any other time. My cousin
19 told me recently that she remembers I was away for a few
20 weeks. My cousin used to babysit me at [the] weekends.

21 'I went back to Hawthorn Primary School and then
22 went to Possilpark Secondary School. I was quiet at
23 school and I was bullied. I left school at 16.

24 'After I left school, I worked at Greggs as my first
25 job. Then I did different youth work schemes. I did

1 a full-time job at a bakery. Then I worked mainly in
2 restaurants and hotels and after that I had my two kids.
3 I started cleaning part-time at school at night. Then
4 I started working as a carer in a care home. That was
5 my last job before I had to stop working because of my
6 health about 15 years ago.

7 'I didn't talk to my mum about what happened at
8 Fornethy as back then children [could] be "seen and not
9 heard". I was taught to listen to my teachers and the
10 teachers were in charge and I didn't question anything.
11 I never got any answers about Fornethy. I think my mum
12 saw something in the news or she read something. When
13 I asked her what year I was at Fornethy, she couldn't
14 tell me and she tried denying I was there. I think she
15 knew something from the way she denied it. She's passed
16 away now. My two sisters didn't ever get sent away like
17 I was.'

18 And then she goes on to talk for a bit about the
19 Fornethy Home ██████████ group and indeed also about
20 redress, and at paragraph 58 she talks about 'Impact':

21 'I remembered I was in Fornethy after I saw the
22 Glasgow group online. I started thinking about when
23 I was 8 or 9 and I was waking up in the night. I'd be
24 screaming and going through to my mum's bedroom. I told
25 her there were eyes in the dark. My mum said it was

1 only the dog. When I think about it now, the dog slept
2 down at my feet, so why would I be seeing eyes?

3 'I wasn't a quiet child before I went to Fornethy.
4 I was always out with the boys, climbing trees and
5 playing football. I'd go to my dad's at weekends and
6 he'd get me new trainers, new jeans and a new denim
7 jacket and I was out climbing trees. After I came back
8 from Fornethy, I had to be told to go outside by my
9 parents, in the way that kids are told to go outside to
10 play, and half the time I wasn't even leaving the close.

11 'I was so protective of my own kids, even as
12 teenagers. The local church had a community cafe and
13 I met a woman in there who set up a club for the kids
14 and she asked if my son would like to go to it.
15 I agreed, as long as I was there as well. Other parents
16 would just put their kids in it. I was there for
17 12 years as a volunteer. I was there if my children
18 were.

19 'Even if my son was with my own mum, I'd phone her
20 three times to check on him, even though I hadn't left
21 Glasgow and he wasn't far away from me. I think now why
22 I was doing that. There's nothing else in my life
23 I'd think of causing that. It was the same with the
24 youth work. I told them I'd come in to help and I was
25 told I needed to be vetted to be a volunteer and that

1 was fine. My children weren't allowed to go to that
2 group until it was sorted out for me to be there too.
3 There was a club in the evenings at their school and
4 I volunteered for that too. Every opportunity I had,
5 I'd make sure I was there at the same time as my kids.'

6 Then she talks about her relationships and at 63 she
7 says:

8 'For the last couple of years, since I started
9 thinking about my time in Fornethy, I scream in my
10 sleep. I don't know what I'm dreaming about. My
11 daughter says I sound terrified. I don't know why.
12 I can't sleep in my bed in my own room. It doesn't feel
13 like a safe [place]. I've tried making various changes
14 to try to improve that and they haven't worked. Now
15 I sleep on the couch or in a chair and I feel much
16 better there.'

17 And the next paragraph is really a duplication of an
18 earlier paragraph about seeing two girls naked on the
19 swings.

20 LADY SMITH: Yes.

21 MR MACAULAY: It seems to have been duplicated.

22 If I can then turn to paragraph 79 when she talks
23 about 'Lessons to be Learned':

24 'It could still happen to kids growing up now if
25 they're put in somewhere like Fornethy House. A guy

1 I know told me about someone who got a PVG check and he
2 has a criminal record. Whoever was employing him hadn't
3 done a proper check. Each company should be made, by
4 law, to do a proper check of staff working with
5 vulnerable people. If they fail to do that, then the
6 company gets charged along with the staff.

7 'The people running Fornethy should have looked
8 further into the backgrounds of the people who worked in
9 the school. They do that now, but it should have been
10 done back then. There should have been checks that the
11 staff were suitable to work with kids and vulnerable
12 adults.

13 'I did so much with the youth work. Under
14 legislation I had to do training for the role. I'd get
15 a couple of teenagers who would chap my door and I'd let
16 their parents know they'd arrived at my door, so they'd
17 know they were okay. Their parents would ask me if
18 they'd been drinking and I'd say, yes, but I wasn't
19 going to let them out on street. In that way I was able
20 to help with their kids. I was a volunteer youth worker
21 for 12 years. That helped the kids get away from the
22 gangs they were with and later on they became youth
23 workers. That in itself was good and that kind of thing
24 should have been in place back then.

25 'We had one man who was upset and couldn't work with

1 the kids anymore. He told me he got caught with a can
2 of beer on the street and they wouldn't allow him to
3 volunteer anymore. They explained it to him that we
4 were working with vulnerable kids and if a child found
5 out that you had been drinking in the street, and kids
6 look up to adults, they might copy that behaviour. They
7 were really strict.

8 'The main thing is that the Fornethy survivors get
9 a public apology and that means we get recognised. We
10 go to these meetings and we come out feeling that nobody
11 wants to know. That's how it feels when you're trying
12 to put your case across. The government put someone
13 called Emma Fossey in place to do some research into
14 Fornethy. Since then, we've found out that she was
15 supposed to be an independent researcher, but she's not.
16 She's an ex-government employee. They told us she was
17 independent and she told us herself she used to work for
18 HM Constabulary. I feel like we've been lied to over
19 and over again.'

20 And then 'Andrea' at the end says:

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 And the statement was signed, that looks like

1 a '14', June 2024.

2 LADY SMITH: Thank you.

3 MR MACAULAY: That probably would be a good time, perhaps.

4 LADY SMITH: Should we rise now for the lunch break and the
5 resume at 2 o'clock, Mr MacAulay. I think we'll do
6 that. Thank you very much.

7 (12.49 pm)

8 (The luncheon adjournment)

9 (2.00 pm)

10 LADY SMITH: Ms MacLeod. Where next?

11 'Sophie' (read in)

12 MS MACLEOD: Good afternoon, my Lady.

13 The next witness statement that I'm going to read in
14 is that of an applicant who will use the pseudonym
15 'Sophie'.

16 LADY SMITH: Thank you.

17 MS MACLEOD: Her statement be can found at WIT-1-000000704:

18 'My name is ["Sophie"]. I was born in 1960. My
19 contact details are known to the Inquiry.

20 'I have two older sisters. There is quite a big gap
21 between my sisters and me. I was born in Glasgow. My
22 older sisters left the household prior to the time
23 I went to Fornethy. In a way, by 1971, I was like
24 an only child with my parents.

25 'My parents were decent working people. Looking

1 back it was a nice home with good parents and nice
2 holidays. I had everything I needed and was taught
3 right from wrong. I learnt from my parents how to speak
4 properly and how to respect people. I didn't come from
5 an abusive home or anything like that. It was a very
6 loving household. I can't say that there were any
7 social problems in my family or in my house at all.

8 'When I was younger, we lived in Easterhouse, which
9 is located to the east of Glasgow. At that time it
10 wasn't considered a deprived area, but it was starting
11 to get that way. I went to primary school in
12 Easterhouse. In 1970, my whole class, with the teacher,
13 went for a whole month to a residential [placement]
14 called Galloway House, which was to the south of Wigtown
15 in Dumfries and Galloway. Secondary Institutions - to be published later

16 Secondary Institutions - to be published later

17 Secondary Institutions - to be published later

18 Secondary Institutions - to be published later

19 'Around that time I had a friend. She came from
20 what would have been regarded back then as
21 a dysfunctional family home. She came from
22 a single-parent family and they didn't have a lot in
23 their house. I was aware of that at the time. She said
24 that she was going to "the resi" and that I could go
25 too. The way she described it, it was much the same way

1 as Galloway House. Because of that, I thought it
2 was the same sort of thing. I don't remember anybody
3 saying anything bad about Fornethy House at that time.
4 I don't remember anyone else from my school who had been
5 or were going to go.

6 'I then started asking my mum repeatedly whether
7 I could go. To begin with, my mum was reluctant to let
8 me go. I think that was because she didn't want me to
9 go away for longer than a month. After I pestered her
10 for some time, she ultimately agreed. I don't remember
11 her having any concerns. It was a different time back
12 then. I don't remember my dad saying anything to me
13 about it. The only thing I remember him saying before
14 I went was "Don't let anybody use your hairbrush".

15 '[My friend] was then pulled out of going by her
16 mum. I'm not aware of what the reason was behind that.
17 I don't remember how long before I went that that
18 decision was made. It wasn't anything like on the day
19 I went myself. It might have been as much as two or
20 three weeks before. Even with that, I decided that
21 I was going to go anyway. In my head, I thought it was
22 going to be like the Enid Blyton book, "In the Fifth at
23 Malory Towers".

24 'I think I would have been -- it would have been the
25 school who was initially approached for me to go, but

1 I don't know what the procedure was after that. I think
2 they provided a form to allow you to go, but I can't be
3 certain. I don't remember anyone from my school
4 speaking to me about Fornethy before I went. As far as
5 I know, there was no contact between Fornethy and my
6 parents or myself before I went. There must have been
7 something sent telling us what we should take, because
8 I remember taking a suitcase.

9 'The only thing I remember is there being a medical
10 before I went. I remember going for my medical with my
11 mum. I think that was done in Glasgow Health Board
12 Medical Centre. It was possibly done in a place in the
13 Gorbals where the nautical college is located now. The
14 only other place I can think that it was done was in
15 Woodside Medical Centre in Maryhill.

16 'On the day, I was taken by my mum to Bothwell
17 Street in Glasgow to a place that looked like the big
18 Education Department office. We waited in there until
19 a bus or coach came to get me. I don't remember there
20 being other children congregating to be collected.
21 I think there were only a handful of girls on the coach
22 that went with me that day. It wasn't a coach full of
23 30 kids or something like that.

24 'I went to Fornethy on one occasion only. I'm not
25 absolutely sure when I went there, but I think it was in

1 about [REDACTED] 1971 for about five weeks. I was
2 definitely 11 years old. It was after the school
3 holidays at my primary school and it was before
4 [REDACTED] time. It could have been around the half-term
5 holiday during [REDACTED] term.

6 'I had no idea where I was at the time but I have
7 since learnt about the location of Fornethy House. It
8 was a few miles from a town called Alyth. It was near
9 a reservoir, which I think was called Blackwater
10 Reservoir. The house and grounds were located in quite
11 thick woods quite high up in the countryside. It was
12 surrounded by farmland overlooking what I now know to be
13 Glen Isla. To walk to Fornethy House, you had to follow
14 a path all covered in stones on a hill called the
15 Stoney Brae.

16 'I had never heard of Fornethy before I went there.
17 However, I am pretty sure that I knew that Fornethy had
18 something to do with Glasgow Corporation or the Glasgow
19 Education Department. I thought that they ran it back
20 then. That has been confirmed to me since. I remember
21 there being quite a few of these residential places.
22 I remember there was one down in Dunoon and another one
23 in Castle Toward. I had an awareness of these places
24 before I went to Fornethy, but I never heard anything
25 bad said about them.

1 'In adult life, I learnt a bit more about the house.
2 It was originally owned by the hugely wealthy Coates
3 Paton sisters, who were from the Paisley area. Fornethy
4 House was one of their summer retreats. When they died,
5 it was given over for the benefit of the children of
6 Paisley. I wasn't from Paisley, so seemingly its use
7 must have been opened up to children from other areas
8 later on.

9 'The house was a big, old, white rendered house.
10 I have a memory of a round turret staircase that was
11 almost like a main entrance. I think that when the
12 building was a house, that might have been the grand
13 entrance that was used. On the ground floor was either
14 one or two dining rooms, which contained big, round
15 tables. The rooms were oak-panelled. There was
16 a cloakroom with benches and coat hooks in it, like you
17 would have in a school. That is where we would all sit
18 to get our outdoor clothes and wellies on. The shower
19 room was located on the ground floor near the cloakroom
20 but further down the corridor. There might have also
21 been a classroom but I don't have clear memories of
22 that. The bedrooms or dorms were upstairs but
23 I couldn't say how many there were. There was
24 a bathroom containing two baths also on that floor.
25 There was a playground, but I don't remember anything

1 being in it.

2 'All the staff were women. I have no recollection
3 whatsoever of there being any men, either working inside
4 the house or outside in the grounds. The staff members'
5 roles varied between them either being a teacher, in
6 charge, or auxiliary-type people who worked making the
7 food or doing the washing and the cleaning.

8 'I don't remember there being a lot of staff at all,
9 which I find strange. I only remember there being a few
10 people, maybe two or three authority figures. Looking
11 back, I don't know how that number of people could have
12 looked after that number of children 24/7. I don't know
13 how they managed that, whether that was through [a] rota
14 shifts or through living there. I don't remember staff
15 living on site but they must have. We would never have
16 seen where the staff lived or slept, if they did live
17 there. I imagine that they would have lived there
18 because Fornethy was quite far away from anywhere else.

19 'Mrs Fletcher is the only staff member who
20 I remember by name. She was either the headmistress or
21 the most important person there. She was definitely the
22 boss of everybody there. I don't remember her specific
23 duties. All I remember is that she was someone to be
24 feared and that you had to sit up straight whenever she
25 was around. I think she had blonde or fair hair. She

1 either had short hair or wore it up. I think she was in
2 her early 40s. I don't remember her wearing a uniform.
3 I don't remember having anything like a conversation
4 with her.

5 'There would have been at least 40 girls there. The
6 age range would have been from about 6 years old up to
7 11 or 12 years old. There was nobody of secondary
8 school age. It was definitely the case that over the
9 time I was there, children would leave. You didn't all
10 come and go at the same time. Every week some children
11 would come and go.

12 'I don't remember anyone else from my class or my
13 school being there when I was there. The strange thing
14 is that I don't really remember any of the other
15 children who were there at the same time as me. I can't
16 picture anyone. I don't remember playing with anyone
17 else or being friendly with anyone else. The only
18 person I remember is a wee girl who was in the bed next
19 to me in my dorm.

20 'I knew back then that the other children hadn't
21 come to Fornethy as "bad children". There was nothing
22 like that. I knew that they had come because they
23 didn't ever get a holiday or their mum was sick.
24 I realised that this was what these places were about at
25 the time. It was all to put the country air -- to put

1 country air into city girls' lungs. That wasn't my
2 background, but that was how I thought about the
3 background of the girls back then and now.

4 'They must have greeted us on our first day and
5 taken us to our rooms when we arrived, but I can't
6 remember anything surrounding that. I think we only
7 went to the building, used the main entrance on the
8 first day that I was there, because I don't remember
9 using it again. I have a vague memory of being told
10 that we weren't supposed to use it over the five weeks
11 I was there. The rest of the time we must have used
12 another door.

13 'I don't remember how we were woken up. We went
14 down to breakfast together after getting ready. You
15 wouldn't have just wandered down like you were in
16 a hotel. We all went down together. We had breakfast
17 in the dining hall, then we were told to gather in the
18 cloakroom area to get ready for going outside. During
19 the day, we went on walks. I remember we would sit in
20 the cloakroom waiting before we went to bed at night to
21 get showered and changed. I remember sitting down
22 there, singing songs and waiting for our Ovaltine and
23 bread and butter.

24 'I slept in a dorm. The dorms had names but I don't
25 remember what they were. I think mine was on the first

1 floor and on the left-hand side of a corridor. When you
2 went into my dorm, my bed was the second on the left.
3 The beds were like hospital-type white metal beds.
4 I think there were maybe about 12 children in the dorm
5 I was in. It was mixed ages. I remember that the girl
6 next to me was either really younger than me or really
7 small. I can't remember her name. She was a tiny, wee,
8 blonde girl. She cried all the time. I remember that
9 after they turned the lights out at night, they turned
10 a wee blue light on in the corridors and they left the
11 bedroom door open. I think staff patrolled at night.

12 'When you first arrived, you were made to have
13 a bath. The room with the baths in it was on the first
14 floor. There were two old free-standing baths. Two
15 children were bathed separately in each bath at the same
16 time. Up until that point, I had never had a bath with
17 another person in the room bathing at the same time as
18 me. After getting into the bath there were two
19 auxiliary staff members who stood either side of the
20 bath. The women then proceeded to wash me as if I was
21 an infant. I remember them saying, "Oh, you're tall,
22 you've got a broad back, you'll be a policewoman".
23 I remember thinking that I would never be a policewoman.
24 I was dead mad at that. I had some tan marks from when
25 I had had a swimsuit on during a holiday my family had

1 been on to Spain. One of the women said, "You've got
2 sunny burn marks, where have you been?" and I told them
3 I had been to Spair. I remember them laughing when
4 I said that. I knew as soon as I said that that
5 I shouldn't have. Another comment they made was
6 surrounding me not developing or not having "boobs".
7 I was mortified when they said that.

8 'After I had the bath, I was given a wee red tin of
9 Gibbs toothpaste. I had never used that before. You
10 had to use that throughout your time there. I find that
11 strange because I know that my mother would have packed
12 everything for me. She would have made sure that I had
13 all the toiletries that I needed. However, I don't
14 remember using anything that my mother would have sent
15 with me.

16 'I don't remember having a bath other than on my
17 first day. The rest of the time we had showers.
18 Showers were had at nighttime. I think that happened in
19 the evening, but I don't know how often that was. We
20 would line up outside of the room waiting our turn.
21 There were cubicles but I can't remember whether there
22 were curtains on them. It wasn't like one big communal
23 shower like you would see at a swimming pool. As one
24 girl came out, the next one would go in. There was
25 a teacher standing there making sure that happened.

1 I don't remember whether we were provided with soap but
2 we must have been. I remember that when we went for
3 showers, I noticed that there were some girls who were
4 already in puberty. I wasn't at that stage when I was
5 11 and I remember finding that quite shocking.

6 'We all ate together in a dining room for breakfast
7 and lunch. I think we got a lighter thing in the
8 evening before bedtime. That was something like white
9 bread and butter and an Ovaltine. I don't remember
10 getting excess food or being underfed. I don't remember
11 being hungry or pigging out on sweets in my dorm or
12 anything like that. I don't remember what the quality
13 of the food was like. There were teachers who looked
14 after the dining room during mealtimes. I'm pretty sure
15 the teachers ate with us and were present in the room
16 because of that. One of them would have been
17 Mrs Fletcher.

18 'One of the big things was that the staff expected
19 you to eat whatever you were given. The staff would
20 stand over us and tell us that we weren't allowed to
21 leave until everything was eaten. I remember other
22 children crying because of that. I remember children
23 just making themselves eat things and it all coming out
24 again. They weren't force-fed by the staff, but it was
25 more they stood over them. All the children would be

1 sitting around the table waiting.

2 'I don't remember being made to eat the food they
3 provided. I don't remember it being such an issue for
4 me because I always liked my food. I was the kind of
5 kid who liked school dinners. I do remember never
6 having been given porridge before and it was something
7 that I never liked before. I remember having to finish
8 the porridge. I couldn't eat porridge for 20 years
9 after I went to Fornethy.

10 'I don't remember doing any chores but I think we
11 had to make our bed.

12 'One of the first things they made you do when you
13 arrived was put on this pinny-type thing. It was like
14 an old-fashioned Laura Ashley floral-type apron.
15 Everybody had to wear that over their clothes indoors.
16 [It's] basically what you wore all the time indoors.

17 'If you were outdoors you wore your own coat over
18 your own clothes. I don't think you were allowed to
19 wear trousers. I don't ever remember wearing trousers.
20 I seem to remember that we had to wear skirts when we
21 went out for walks. I think they provided the wellies
22 because wellies weren't something I would have usually
23 worn. Back then, wellies were seeing as being what the
24 poor kids wore. I would have worn proper boots.
25 I remember the wellies rubbing on my leg during the

1 walks outside.

2 'I don't remember anything surrounding clothes being
3 washed or what the facilities were for that. I know my
4 mother threw all my clothes away when I returned.
5 I don't know why she did that.

6 'I took a bag with me with things in it. I think
7 you had something like a hospital locker to put your
8 stuff in. Your outdoors coats and things like that were
9 put in the cloakroom downstairs. I have a feeling that
10 my parents sent in magazines and parcels with treats for
11 me. I think the staff held on to those things [that]
12 were sent in because not everybody would have got that.
13 I'm pretty sure that they placed them into some sort of
14 communal-type thing for all the children, but it could
15 be that we just didn't get what was sent in. I think
16 they were trying to avoid the difficulty of some
17 children getting treats and others not.

18 'I think my parents sent in postal orders. The
19 staff took the postal orders that were sent in and gave
20 us pocket money. When we went to the shop in Alyth, we
21 were given money to buy sweets. You were supposed to
22 buy those so you had something to have when you watched
23 the movie that was shown on Saturdays.

24 'There had to have been some sort of conversation
25 with my school about continuing my schoolwork whilst

1 I was at Fornethy. I don't remember any conversations
2 like that with my teachers before I went. Because that
3 didn't happen, it makes me think that I must have been
4 there during some sort of term break. I don't clearly
5 remember any classrooms but there would have been.
6 I don't remember ever being taught any lessons. I don't
7 remember receiving any form of education. I don't
8 remember making anything, drawing, arts and crafts or
9 anything like that.

10 'I don't remember anything like a recreation room or
11 playing indoors. There was nothing like the things kids
12 would do now, like drawing or painting. On Saturdays we
13 were shown a movie, but I can't remember where that was
14 shown. It could have been in the dining room.

15 'I don't remember a library or anything like that.
16 I was really into books back then. The only thing that
17 came close to anything positive was when we sang.
18 That's about the only thing that made me happy [when
19 I was] there. We would sit in the cloakroom and sing
20 all these little songs. Everybody had to sing during
21 those times. [The teachers were there] running it.
22 I was always into singing as a child and I still
23 remember the words to some of [these] songs now.

24 'I remember walking for hours and hours during the
25 days I was there. Most of the time during the day was

1 spent outside. We walked in twos in lines along country
2 roads and through woods. I remember walking back and
3 forth from Fornethy House to Blackwater Reservoir.
4 I will always remember seeing a sign at the reservoir
5 that said it had been opened by Her Majesty The Queen.
6 I remember walking across the reservoir wall there.
7 I also remember walking to and from Alyth. The village
8 had a little burn that ran through it, a little shop and
9 a phone box. We would walk through the village and
10 I would see the people who lived there looking at us as
11 if to say "There's the Glasgow children". It was
12 a horrible feeling.

13 'I can't remember anything surrounding religion or
14 praying.

15 'We had to send our parents letters from Fornethy.
16 I remember sitting down and being made to copy something
17 off of a blackboard to put in the letters we sent home.
18 That's what makes me think there must have been some
19 sort of classroom there. All the letters were read by
20 the staff before they were sent. I think the staff were
21 happy as long as you were writing something along the
22 lines of "I am having a nice time". If you wrote
23 something that they didn't like, they would score it out
24 and make you rewrite the letter.

25 'We definitely got letters from home but I don't

1 know how many. The staff there must have read the
2 letters that came in. I think that because there was
3 a time when one of the teachers commented on something
4 in one of the letters they sent to me. I can't remember
5 what the teacher's exact comment was, but it surrounded
6 my dad saying in the letter that I was not to let anyone
7 use my hairbrush.

8 'I don't remember anyone from the outside ever
9 speaking to me. I don't remember there being any
10 visitors or outsiders coming to Fornethy.

11 'I remember getting cream rubbed into my legs
12 following the wellies rubbing on them during the walks.
13 It was Germolene or something like that. I think that
14 was done in the cloakroom.

15 'I don't remember anyone running away during my
16 time.

17 'I didn't wet the bed, however, there was a big
18 thing surrounding bed-wetting. It was treated as if it
19 was a bad thing. If in the morning the staff found that
20 a child had wet their bed, they made them stand beside
21 their bed. Those that hadn't wet their beds would go
22 out for breakfast and those that had were left in.
23 I think they eventually came down to breakfast later on.
24 I don't know what the children who wet their beds were
25 made to do after we left the dorm to go down for

1 breakfast.

2 'The place wasn't a free-for-all. Everything was
3 quite regimented. You didn't just wander about where
4 you wanted. When you were out, you were out, and if you
5 were inside, when you shouldn't have been, they would
6 question that. When we talked, we were told by the
7 staff not to talk. There was near silence. I think
8 that is why I remember everybody seeming to talk in
9 whispers. I don't remember any playing or laughing or
10 anything like that. I think the children weren't
11 encouraged to be friends with one another.

12 'I didn't appreciate it at the time, but what the
13 staff were carrying out was bullying. The rules and
14 consequences for misbehaving certainly weren't read out
15 to us. I have a strong recollection of fear, anxiety
16 and being really lonely. You had that horrible feeling
17 of just waiting for something bad to happen. I think
18 children just toed the line. I just remember that you
19 didn't misbehave. You just didn't do that and did what
20 you were told because you knew there would be
21 consequences.

22 'I felt that the staff put you down. They told you
23 that you were the poor kids from Glasgow and that you
24 had to shut your mouth. That's how I think about it
25 when I reflect back on my time there. I often thought

1 that I wasn't targeted as much as some of the more
2 vulnerable children. I was a big 11-year-old and it was
3 easier for them to pick on other girls. I think because
4 I was older, I was more able to pick up the rules and
5 navigate through the ordeal than some of the other
6 children there.

7 'I think there were definitely hands put on children
8 by the staff. No one was "battering lumps out of me
9 every day". I don't ever remember being slapped or
10 punched by anyone. However, I remember being pushed
11 back into line on occasions when we were out walking.
12 I think we saw a dead sheep or something like that and
13 we were all pushed roughly to move on. I don't remember
14 any other incidents with myself. I think children
15 definitely got slapped across the head. I don't know
16 why I think that, other than having seen that happening.
17 I know that happened but I can't remember specific
18 incidents or the staff involved. I know I had a fear of
19 being hit and that to have been from somewhere.

20 'I don't remember any staff members being
21 particularly nice to me. I think the auxiliary staff
22 might have been nice. I remember crying in bed at
23 night, but no one ever came to speak to me. There were
24 children crying at nighttime all the time. I think
25 there was a bit of hysteria phenomenon going on there.

1 Nothing was ever done. I don't remember anyone ever
2 saying to me anything like, "Are you happy here? Do you
3 want to go home?" I remember being upset when children
4 left because I wanted to go too. You were there, you
5 were there for the stretch and that was it. It was
6 like, "Don't greet for your mammy because she isn't
7 coming to get you".

8 'Mrs Fletcher was a presence. She was always just
9 "there". The day I arrived, I was shown to my dorm,
10 then went down to the dining hall. When I went into the
11 room, I realised that I didn't know where I should be
12 sitting. I looked at a girl and she sort of said that
13 I should sit with the other new girls. I must have made
14 a face like a grimace or something like that. At that
15 time I had long hair made into a ponytail. The next
16 thing I knew, I was being dragged across the room by
17 Mrs Fletcher by my hair. She had me bent double forward
18 and dragged me whilst walking. She had my hair and was
19 pushing me right down. She then threw me into a seat at
20 another table. I was then told to sit down and to shut
21 up by her. It was painful, humiliating and I was in
22 utter shock. That was done in front of the whole dining
23 room of children. Nothing like that had ever happened
24 to me in my entire life. I remember everybody staring
25 at me, being bright red and trying not to cry.

1 'That night, I lay in bed thinking, you've just got
2 to do what they tell you and not make a fuss. I decided
3 from then on to keep my head down. That's basically
4 what I literally did. I was a shoe gazer for the next
5 five weeks. I just avoided everything after that
6 incident. I was all "Yes, Miss" and "No, Miss". I just
7 kind of resigned myself to it.

8 'There was another incident which involved a female
9 staff member who I don't remember the name of. It was
10 a teacher, but I don't think it was Mrs Fletcher. One
11 night the wee blonde girl who was in the bed next to me
12 was crying. I don't remember her name. She was about 6
13 years old but could have been older and just been small.
14 I reached out my hand across to her bed and she reached
15 her hand to me. She took my hand and I said to her that
16 everything was going to be okay. She continued to cry
17 and was asking for her mummy. The next thing I remember
18 is a staff member coming into the dorm and pulling my
19 bedclothes off me and my bed. The bedclothes were also
20 pulled off the wee girl's bed. I was then dragged out
21 in the corridor. The wee girl was discovered to have
22 wet the bed, so she was stripped naked and put into the
23 corridor with me. The staff member then told us both to
24 stand at various places in the corridor. I was there
25 standing in my nightie in my bare feet and the wee girl

1 stood there naked. The staff member then went away.

2 'I don't know how long we were standing there whilst
3 the staff member was away, but it was definitely at
4 least an hour. It could have been as much as two hours.
5 I remember that the wee girl lay down on the floor and
6 curled up into a ball in the foetal position. She
7 couldn't stand up because she was shaking with the cold.
8 I was too scared to go over and comfort her. I was too
9 scared to sit down. After some time I started walking
10 up the corridor. I could hear music coming from a radio
11 or something like that and laughter and talking from
12 a room nearby. I realised that there were a couple of
13 people inside the room but I was too scared to go and
14 tell them that we were still there and the wee girl was
15 lying on the floor. I also thought that if we went back
16 to our beds then things might get worse. I didn't know
17 what to do.

18 'The staff member that put us into the corridor then
19 came out of the [dorm] where I could hear noises from.
20 She shouted, "What are you two children still doing
21 here? Get back to bed". The wee girl and I then ran
22 back into our dorm and got back into our beds. I think
23 the wee girl went back to a wet bed and it wasn't sorted
24 out until the morning.

25 'I remember passing a phone box in Alyth and having

1 a really strong urge to go in, reverse a call and call
2 home. I knew how to do that because that was something
3 that one of my older sisters used to do from her work.
4 I would think, "I'll just run in, reverse the call and
5 get my parents to collect me". I wanted to do that both
6 because of the incidents I experienced and because I was
7 generally not having a good time. I was definitely
8 homesick. Who wouldn't be under those circumstances?

9 'I would think about calling but at the same time
10 think that if my dad came in there would be a problem
11 and that I might make my mother upset. I was too scared
12 to do it because I didn't want to cause a big stooshie.
13 I also remember thinking about how my parents would get
14 to Fornethy, because they didn't have a car. I didn't
15 even know where the place was, so I wasn't sure they
16 would be able to find the place. All the consequences
17 were just too much, so I didn't end up making that call.

18 'I don't think we spoke to one another amongst the
19 girls about what was happening. I think we were all
20 ashamed. That was also part of why I never spoke to my
21 parents about what happened. I was ashamed that I had
22 wanted to go there and of what had happened to me.
23 I felt helpless about it all.

24 'At the end of the five weeks or so, we were taken
25 back on a coach to Glasgow. I don't remember anything

1 surrounding the other girls on the coach with me or
2 whether they were the same girls [who] arrived at
3 Fornethy with me. The only recollection I have is
4 hitting the outskirts of Glasgow and feeling happy and
5 excited. I was also panicking, like all girls do at
6 [my] age, that my mother wouldn't be there.

7 'When I came back to Glasgow, my mother came to meet
8 me. My sister says she was there, but I don't remember
9 that. We went home from where I was dropped off in
10 a black taxi. I don't know why we didn't get a bus or
11 train because that was usually what we did when we
12 travelled from the city centre. I remember being so
13 anxious and just wanted to get home. I remember my mum
14 asking how it was and I just said "fine". She didn't
15 ask me anything more about it. In recent times, my
16 sister has said to me that she remembers that when we
17 came back, she saw my mother open my suitcase, lift all
18 the clothes out and put them straight in a bin. I don't
19 know whether to take from that that the clothes had been
20 washed all wrong, they smelt wrong, or whether there was
21 something else going on. I don't know why she did that,
22 but when I heard that, I thought that was a really
23 strange thing for my mum to have done.

24 'When I was 11, I sat the entrance exam for the
25 selective schools in Glasgow. Because of that I went to

1 Glasgow High School for Girls in the West End of
2 Glasgow. That school later on became Cleveden High
3 School. I went straight into work rather than going to
4 university. My first job was working in accounts.
5 I worked there between 17 and 23 and I then went to be
6 an air hostess.

7 'I flew for 24 years with different airlines.
8 I also worked on private jets [and] I had a job working
9 for the [REDACTED] Royal Family. I left aviation when my
10 husband and I moved [back to Perthshire and I worked at
11 [REDACTED]] for 11 years. I was the manager for
12 restaurant reservations and managed a team of hosts.
13 I left there when we moved to [another part of Scotland
14 and I then worked for a time] with the [REDACTED]
15 [REDACTED] in their guest services centre, [and now I work]
16 selling new-build houses.

17 'Before I went to Fornethy, I was the wee girl who
18 would say "Yes, Miss" and volunteer to help out
19 teachers. I think after Fornethy, I wasn't that wee
20 girl anymore. I held back and didn't say much. I would
21 just shut down and not speak. I think the experience
22 made me not ambitious and left me not wanting to step
23 up. I became someone who was quite cautious. It left
24 me being quite reticent in my life. I look back on my
25 life and I think about so many things that I should have

1 pushed more for. I did get promotions in a lot of my
2 jobs but I never pushed for it. It just happened.
3 I think a lot of that stemmed from not raising my head
4 up.

5 'If I am honest, I wouldn't say that I have thought
6 about Fornethy too much over the years. I've kind of
7 just put it to the back of my mind. I never spoke to
8 anyone about it because I knew that the people I would
9 tell might be horrified. Many years later in adult
10 life, my husband and I had bought a house and were
11 driving around the countryside in Perthshire. Whilst we
12 were driving I said that I felt I had been in the area
13 before and asked him to drive down a particular road.
14 All of a sudden, it came back to me and I realised we
15 were driving towards Fornethy. My stomach started going
16 round and [I] was clenching inside me. It was horrible.
17 I then said to him that I didn't like the place and
18 I wanted to go home. I just had a horrible feeling
19 inside of me.

20 'I remember my husband being shocked about how
21 I was, but I wouldn't tell him why. Later on, my
22 husband showed me a house he was looking at near Alyth
23 and I said to him that there was no way I could ever
24 live there. It was only many years later that I
25 eventually told him about Fornethy when it started being

1 reported about in the media. I remember he was shocked
2 when I told him.

3 'I never told my mother or anybody about the things
4 that happened at Fornethy after I left there. I think
5 I was scared that either my mother would say, "You must
6 have been doing something wrong", or that she might go
7 straight into my school and create a fuss. I was also
8 fearful that she would say that it was me who wanted to
9 go there.

10 'I never really told anyone anything about my time
11 at Fornethy. I never spoke to the police or anyone else
12 about what happened. I didn't speak to anyone at
13 school. I think my vanity would have stopped me
14 speaking to anyone [about school]. I never spoke to
15 anyone.

16 'I was 11 but I knew better to not talk to anyone
17 and treat it as if it was finished. I think my focus
18 when I came back was being back at school, sitting exams
19 to get to high school and going to high school. I knew
20 it was a bad memory and I decided not to think about
21 [it] again. It wasn't until Fornethy started to be
22 reported about on the television that I started to think
23 about it again. It was only then I told my husband
24 about what I had experienced. I don't know how, but
25 after that I heard about the Inquiry and decided to

1 research it. After researching the Inquiry, I made the
2 decision that I wanted to help.

3 'I don't remember anyone making notes or have any
4 recollections of anything being sent to my parents.
5 I don't remember Fornethy ever being discussed in my
6 house. It was never brought up. I have never seen any
7 records in connection [with] my time at Fornethy.

8 'When I was there, I thought to myself, this is the
9 "olden days". I had come from a modern school and house
10 and the place seemed to be a country place that hadn't
11 changed all that much. It just seemed backward to me.
12 It wasn't a kind place. I didn't feel comforted or
13 [that] I was there for any good purpose. I didn't feel
14 like I was there to be educated or built up in any way.
15 All they did was make us walk all the time. I couldn't
16 see what the end goal was, further than getting children
17 away from a bad family for a few weeks or to give
18 [children] a break.

19 'I know it was a different time and a different
20 context, but they should have cared for us. It is
21 unimaginable now that someone would send children away
22 for five or six weeks and not know what was going to
23 happen to them. It seems to me that people were placing
24 children into other people's hands, just not knowing
25 what was happening next. Looking back, there should

1 have been more of an involvement between Fornethy and
2 your school and parents. I don't think it was about
3 children being bad at school or anything like that. It
4 was more family situations. However, I don't think they
5 were there because of problems with their schools, and
6 contact could have been made there.

7 'The staff shouldn't have had all of that control
8 without any checks and balances being in place. I don't
9 think the staff had any training. I don't think there
10 was any training or child psychology involved in the way
11 they acted around the children. It was just a bunch of
12 matriarchal-type women running a school for what they
13 saw as underprivileged kids. It was their way and that
14 was it.

15 'I would like to think that the things I experienced
16 and the sort of place Fornethy was doesn't exist
17 anymore. It shouldn't be the way we do things in
18 a 21st century Scotland. The fact that a lot of these
19 places closed down in the 1980s makes me think that a
20 lot of the lessons must have already been learned then.
21 However, we should still listen to people and make sure
22 that the same things don't happen again.

23 'I'm not sure what you can do about what happened in
24 the past. If these staff members are still alive, they
25 would be in their 90s. To me, it would be ridiculous to

1 drag some 95-year-old woman out of a nursing home and
2 try to prosecute them.

3 'There was only a couple of things that happened to
4 me. If there were other people who had been terribly
5 abused there, then I want to corroborate something they
6 may have said. I am aware of other people who have come
7 forward and tried to talk about what happened in all
8 sorts of places and have not been believed. I want to
9 help someone else be believed and support them with my
10 evidence through coming forward.

11 'There are some things that are just unacceptable.
12 I hope that things could be brought to light so as
13 people can have closure about what happened. I hope
14 that the Inquiry will put an end to what happened and
15 allow us to move on to a place where people won't be
16 treated like children were at Fornethy.

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

21 'Sophie' signed the statement on 26 May 2021.

22 LADY SMITH: Thank you very much.

23 'Ann' (read in)

24 MR MACAULAY: Now, my Lady, this next statement is also from
25 an applicant. She wants to remain anonymous and to use

1 the pseudonym 'Ann' --

2 LADY SMITH: Thank you.

3 MR MACAULAY: -- in her evidence.

4 LADY SMITH: Thank you.

5 MR MACAULAY: Her witness statement is at WIT-1-000000809.

6 LADY SMITH: Thank you.

7 MR MACAULAY: 'Ann' tells us that she was born in 1963. She

8 was the youngest of seven children and at paragraph 3,

9 she says:

10 'We were all brought up in Barlanark and I would say

11 our life was good. My dad worked on the shipyards and

12 my mum was an auxiliary nurse. It was a busy family, as

13 there were only about eight years between all of us. It

14 was a good, respectful environment and we lived in

15 a four-bedroom house with a sitting room, so there was

16 plenty room for all of us. I do remember it always felt

17 cold and we were always bunched up to keep warm.

18 'My mum and dad did have to work quite hard but it

19 was happy and we were never hungry and we were always

20 dressed warm. I don't have any bad memories. I only

21 have good memories from my childhood at home.

22 'I went to Barlanark Primary School and I didn't

23 particularly like it, but I don't think there was

24 anything wrong with it. It was probably just me.

25 I remember I ran home at playtime on my very first day

1 at primary school and that seemed to be how it was.
2 I just didn't particularly like school. I liked to be
3 at home with my mum, having a cup of tea and a wee
4 cookie. It might have been anxiety, but I pretty much
5 didn't want to go to school and I don't even remember
6 much about it. I just didn't like being away from my
7 mum.

8 'I had a friend at school who told me that
9 residential schools were really good, as her and her
10 older brother used to go to them. That's the main
11 reason I wanted to go, but it was also to give my mum
12 a bit of respite. I told my mum and dad that I wanted
13 to go and they were reluctant and my dad wasn't keen at
14 all, but eventually they relented and let me go.

15 'It was when I was 9 years old, and my friend, who
16 told me about it and was to be going with me, ended up
17 going at a different time from me.'

18 Now, later she says she went there in [REDACTED] 1973:

19 'In fact she maybe even went somewhere else, I'm not
20 sure. My older brother also went away, but he went to
21 [somewhere else] when I went to Fornethy.'

22 LADY SMITH: So she'd be about 9 years old.

23 MR MACAULAY: Yes, yes.

24 'I think we got a form from the school for my
25 parents to complete for me to go to Fornethy House.

1 I think that went back to the school and on to the
2 Glasgow Corporation. I don't remember much about the
3 school involvement.

4 'I remember I had to go for a medical first at
5 a place in the town in Glasgow, as I went on the bus
6 with my mum. I had some nits and I had to get them
7 taken away before I could go. I had to go back into
8 town to the same place again to make sure my head was
9 clean.

10 'I didn't go there for any visit and there weren't
11 any meetings with staff before I went. I don't know how
12 it was paid for, but I think it was the Glasgow
13 Corporation, as it would be at that time, that ran the
14 place.

15 'I went there in the first week of [REDACTED] 1973 and
16 I stayed there for six weeks. I think that was the
17 period of time everyone went for, I don't think there
18 was any option on how long you went for.

19 'I remember me and my mum went to Bothwell Street in
20 Glasgow in the bus and we met my dad there, as he was
21 just off his nightshift. All the kids met there and
22 then we got a bus that took us all to Fornethy. It was
23 freezing, I remember that.

24 'I didn't know any of the other kids on the bus.
25 I know that there were three sisters from the Gorbals,

1 because my mum was speaking to their mum, but I didn't
2 really know anyone. I can't remember the wee one's name
3 but she was only 4. I didn't talk to any other children
4 at all.

5 'When we arrived there, we went to a sort of
6 reception area and there were two people there who took
7 all our bags and money and possessions. We were then
8 given clothes and we were taken to our rooms, where we
9 got changed into the stuff we had just been given. It
10 was all girls at Fornethy, there were no boys.

11 'We were the first group to arrive after the
12 [REDACTED] holidays, so when we arrived there were no
13 other children there. There were children that arrived
14 after that.'

15 And moving on to paragraph 18:

16 'I remember some names and faces, but I don't know
17 who was in charge at Fornethy House. Mrs Fletcher,
18 Mrs RHB [REDACTED] and Mrs LBD [REDACTED] are the three names I do
19 remember, but there's lots of other faces as well. My
20 perception as a 9-year-old was that they were wee, old
21 women with grey hair, but that could have been light
22 hair, as everyone looks older when you're so young.
23 I think Mrs RHB [REDACTED] was the night person and the other
24 two worked during the day. There were other staff, but
25 I can't remember any names.

1 'I think all the girls were primary school children.
2 I don't remember anyone any older than that. There were
3 two [other] older girls who came later on when I was
4 there, but they would only have been 10 or 11.

5 'There wasn't so many children at Fornethy during
6 the first week and I slept in a dormitory with another
7 five girls, but there were between eight and ten beds in
8 there. I don't remember anyone else in our dorm. There
9 were the three sisters, another two girls and myself.

10 'We had single beds and a wee cabinet at the side of
11 the bed where we kept our underwear, our uniform and our
12 soft shoes. We didn't have any of our own possessions
13 in the dormitory. There was also a cloakroom downstairs
14 where we kept our coats, welly boots and shoes for
15 changing into when we were going outside. That room had
16 rows of long benches and we had a wee box where we kept
17 our shoes.

18 'During the night, there was a blue emergency light
19 on and in the morning the real lights came on and that
20 was your cue to get up. We got up and went downstairs
21 with our toothbrush and a wee tin of tooth powder to get
22 washed. We just had our pants on and we had to walk
23 through the building. I remember it was absolutely
24 freezing. I don't remember any heating in the place.
25 I just remember being freezing all the time. After we

1 got washed, it was back upstairs to get dressed and we
2 went for breakfast.

3 'We went to bed about 7 or 8 o'clock, not that late,
4 because there wasn't much time between having your tea
5 and actually going to bed.

6 'We had our breakfast, lunch and tea in the dining
7 room. We had porridge, toast and tea for breakfast and
8 I remember the tea was really sweet and milky. We
9 didn't have any choice and I didn't like porridge, but
10 you just had to eat it. The food was always brought to
11 the table for us.

12 'I think lunch was three courses, but my memory is
13 just of all the food being mixed up on the plate. There
14 was really sweet apple crumble and it was horrible and
15 not very nice to eat.

16 'In the evening, we had like a high tea and
17 I remember there was actually one thing I liked, and it
18 was black pudding spaghetti. We also had bread and
19 butter or toast, and that's all I remember.

20 'If you didn't eat your food, you were force-fed to
21 eat it. A member of staff would hold your head and try
22 to shovel the food in. I do remember an incident when
23 someone was force-fed and was then sick into the bowl
24 and dragged away. It was just horrible. I have
25 a feeling I may have been force-fed once, as I can

1 remember the feeling of a spoon hitting my teeth when
2 I was trying not to eat, but I daren't not do it again,
3 because I knew the consequences. I was almost
4 self-force-feeding to prevent those consequences.

5 'I don't know the names of any of the staff who
6 force-fed the children. It wasn't dining room staff.
7 It was staff who looked after us, maybe even teachers.
8 As the weeks went on, more people arrived, so you would
9 see the children being force-fed quite regularly. If
10 a child didn't eat their dinner, they were force-fed.

11 'In the morning, it was just a quick wash and then
12 at nighttime we did have a shower or a bath, but that
13 was only about once a week. The showers were just open
14 and there were staff there supervising them. It was
15 embarrassing, as there were girls 11 and 12 there and
16 when you're that age, you want your privacy. I had that
17 at home, so I expected to see it somewhere else.

18 'We had the uniform we were all given and that's
19 what we wore all the time. I remember I had a dress and
20 we were always wearing tights. We never wore trousers.
21 I also had a wee flowery pinafore which went over
22 whatever else I was wearing and I think we changed that
23 every few days.

24 'Every day we were out walking and that's my main
25 memory [of] what we did at Fornethy. I remember the

1 smell of the silage when we were out on these walks in
2 the country and whenever I smell it now, I hate it, and
3 it reminds me of all the walking. We seemed to walk for
4 long periods of time and I don't know if it was morning
5 or afternoon, but we certainly seemed to do it every
6 day.

7 'I don't remember ever playing or doing any
8 activities. There were swings there, but I've no memory
9 of ever playing on them. It was just schooling, walking
10 and eating meals in the dining room, but lots of
11 walking.

12 'We just wore wellies for all the walks we did and
13 I would have a wee dress on as well. I also wore
14 a duffle coat I had with me from home. I remember being
15 so sore and cold on those walks and just being desperate
16 to get back and get the wellies off.

17 'There was a recreational room and they used to put
18 records on and you would get a cup of milk and a Rich
19 Tea biscuit. After that we went to bed, that's all
20 I remember.

21 'My dad gave me money when I went away and I also
22 got postal orders from him and money and stuff sent in
23 from other family members, who were really good to me.
24 We were allegedly supposed to get pocket money from that
25 and I remember going to a tuck shop, but I can only

1 remember buying aniseed-flavoured toothpaste, which was
2 in a tin, and a packet of Parma Violets maybe once
3 a week.

4 'My mum has told me she sent me a comic like "Bunty"
5 or a "Mandy" every week and I've got it in my head that
6 I had something wrapped up with brown paper and
7 Sellotape, but I don't actually remember getting any
8 comic or reading a comic and getting any enjoyment out
9 of that.

10 'We did do some schooling, but I don't have a lot of
11 memory about that. My main memory is just out walking
12 all the time.

13 'We went to church on a Sunday in a minibus. It
14 must have been in the local village. We didn't all go
15 and I don't think we went every week.'

16 And at paragraph 42:

17 'We wrote letters to our parents once a week.
18 I remember my dad had said to me that if I didn't like
19 it he would come and get me, but I couldn't write that
20 as we had to copy a standard letter from the blackboard.
21 We had to say the ladies there were nice and that we
22 were having a lovely time and we were happy. We weren't
23 allowed to write anything that we actually wanted to.

24 'I remember a girl once wrote a letter the way she
25 wanted to write it and the staff just ripped it up and

1 girl said something, but one of the staff who was in
2 charge of us smacked the wee girl in the face with her
3 leather handbag. The wee girl's face just burst open.
4 I stuck my head out to see what was happening and then
5 someone punched me in the eye. It felt like my eye had
6 broken into pieces.

7 'Children were assaulted for anything at all, for
8 the slightest wee thing. We were always getting hit on
9 the head for talking. It happened that much it became
10 the norm. It was usually at bedtime but it happened
11 during the day as well.

12 'We must have thought we were always doing something
13 wrong, because it seemed we were constantly being
14 assaulted. It was such a regular occurrence and it was
15 for absolutely nothing. Everyone was so terrified to do
16 anything wrong and I don't ever remember anyone doing
17 anything that actually justified anyone assaulting them.

18 'I think all of the staff were involved in that
19 hitting. The nighttime person, Mrs RHB, used to
20 leather you with a slipper if you weren't sleeping or
21 were making a noise or asked to go to the toilet or wet
22 the bed. It was just constant, it happened all the time
23 and it was just the norm.

24 'At night, you went to the toilet before you went to
25 your bed and that was you. You weren't allowed to move

1 until the next morning. If you made a noise after that,
2 you could all get leathered, it was everyone in the
3 dormitory that would get it. You didn't need to be
4 running up and down laughing, although there was no
5 laughter there anyway. It was just the slightest noise
6 and Mrs RHB [REDACTED] would come in to the dormitory, start
7 with one girl and just go round slapping everybody with
8 her slipper or her hand.

9 'Mrs RHB [REDACTED] would leather anyone who wet their bed
10 and their sheets would be hung over a chair at the end
11 of the bed. That happened during the night when the kid
12 was found to have wet the bed, and Mrs RHB [REDACTED] would
13 leather the girl with a slipper or a hand.

14 'I remember one incident when the poor wee girl in
15 the bed next to me, the youngest of the sisters, who was
16 only 4, got slapped on her bare backside for wetting the
17 bed. That was by Mrs RHB [REDACTED]. I feel from memory that
18 the wee girl just got back onto bed after that with
19 nothing on and the wet sheet was lying at the end of the
20 bed over her chair.

21 'I mentioned the girl that threw herself [REDACTED]
22 [REDACTED] earlier. That girl was a friend of mine. She
23 had told me and other girls that she was going to try
24 and escape, but that wasn't realistic and didn't happen.
25 Then she said she was going to throw herself [REDACTED]

1 [REDACTED] because if she broke a leg she would get sent
2 home.

3 'I don't think she actually came to much harm when
4 she threw herself [REDACTED], because she never got
5 sent home and nothing ever became of that, but that
6 shows how she was feeling at Fornethy House. She was 11
7 or 12 when she did that. I don't remember her being
8 taken to hospital or anything.

9 'Humiliation for me was the worst. I remember
10 Friday night was a chippy night and we would get chips
11 and a sweetie and we all looked forward to that.
12 I remember being really upset one Friday, as I had been
13 thinking about my family and I was a bit upset. One of
14 the staff saw me and started shouting and saying that
15 she wasn't crying for her mummy like I was, and she just
16 goaded me. She goaded all the children like that for
17 being upset. It was as if they liked to humiliate the
18 children for being upset. There was no comfort or
19 reassurance, you were just made to feel like a big baby.

20 'I think all the staff were equally capable of that
21 kind of behaviour and the abuse that was dealt out to
22 all the children. I don't actually think there was
23 anybody there that I could say was nice or even okay.
24 Everyone was equally as bad as each other.

25 'When we were out on our walks, girls would get

1 (3.17 pm)

2 LADY SMITH: Mr MacAulay.

3 MR MACAULAY: My Lady, I'm at paragraph 61 on page 11.

4 LADY SMITH: Yes.

5 MR MACAULAY: 'I didn't say anything to anyone about the
6 things that happened at Fornethy. We didn't talk about
7 it there and I didn't say anything to my mum and dad
8 when I got home.

9 'I felt I had let my parents down. That's what
10 I think when I reflect on it. I had sent a letter to
11 them saying I was enjoying myself and was happy, and my
12 dad had said he would come and collect me if I wasn't
13 happy or wasn't liking it.

14 'My parents were the type that would always ask me
15 what it was I had done if I ever got into trouble at
16 school. It would only be for talking in class, as
17 I never got into trouble for anything I hadn't done, so
18 if I was moaning about the teacher they would ask what
19 I'd done. I'd tell them and they would say, "Well,
20 that's why you got into trouble".

21 'I have often wondered why I never said anything to
22 my parents, but I do think that it's because I was
23 thinking back then that I would have deserved what I got
24 and if I had told my parents then, they would just have
25 thought I must have been doing something wrong for that

1 to happen.

2 'I now know that it wasn't my fault and my parents
3 wouldn't have thought that, but as a child back then,
4 that's how I was thinking and that's why I didn't say
5 anything.

6 'After my six weeks were up, I went home to Glasgow
7 from Fornethy. I think I knew for about a week that
8 I was to be leaving, and I went back with the same group
9 I had gone there with in the same bus. I only remember
10 getting on that bus and getting off it and my mum was
11 there.'

12 And then she talks about aspects of life after care
13 and in particular education and that she didn't like
14 school.

15 She touches on her employment in paragraphs 71, 72,
16 and at 73 she says:

17 'I did feel as if I wasn't worth anything. I felt
18 stupid having left school with nothing. When I was
19 working in after school care, I had a great boss. She
20 was lovely, what I would call a children's champion, and
21 she sent me on my road to where I am now. This was
22 around 1996 and she told me to make a plan for the next
23 six months.

24 'I said I'd love to learn to drive, but when I heard
25 the theory tests were coming out in 1997, I thought

1 I'd never be able to do that. I then went out and
2 learnt to drive in five days. I drove my first car on
3 the Monday and passed my test on the Friday.

4 'That made me realise I wasn't so stupid and then
5 I went on to work full-time in the after school care and
6 I started to work with younger children as well. My
7 boss asked if I wanted to try going to college and
8 I wasn't sure, but she said the only failure in life was
9 not trying, so I did it. I ended up getting my NCA and
10 HNC in childcare and education.

11 'I met my husband, married in 2006 and moved to
12 South Ayrshire and started working in a local authority
13 nursery. I went on to get another job through a charity
14 and I got a chance to step up to the post of childcare
15 co-ordinator and I passed my SVQ 4. In 2012, I had to
16 get a degree as part of my job and I had to start
17 university. I was really struggling with some of the
18 punctuation and grammar, although the content was fine,
19 and then I was diagnosed with dyslexia.

20 'I actually took some time out then and just left
21 the university course for a while. I then went to speak
22 with the principal at the university and told her I was
23 halfway through my degree but I had dyslexia. She told
24 me to come back and that I could get a note-taker and
25 they would give me all the support I needed. I did that

1 and I graduated with my degree in childhood practice in
2 2017.

3 'I don't feel worthy of anything and I have this
4 constant problem with self-image. I like being me and
5 I like me as a person and everything I do, but there is
6 a self-image thing. In the past 30 years I have put
7 3 stone on and 3 stone off, it's just like a rolling
8 thing.'

9 And then she talks about the situation with her
10 husband and losing weight, and then at 80:

11 'I don't think there's been any other real impact,
12 not with my family, as it wasn't their fault. I don't
13 think it was anyway. And my parents would have been
14 absolutely heartbroken if they'd known what had happened
15 and I think that's why I didn't tell them. Even at that
16 young age, I think I'd have known how disappointed they
17 would have been to think someone could have treated me
18 like that.

19 'We were never, ever physically or emotionally
20 chastised for anything in our family. We were all close
21 and we were brought up to be kind and generous and to
22 look after each other. So I don't feel there was
23 an impact on my family or the relationships with my
24 family. I've never felt resentful and it's actually not
25 something I've ever thought about.'

1 Then at 84:

2 'About a year ago, I was sitting in the house going
3 through my emails and my husband was watching the news
4 and I heard something about Fornethy House. I thought,
5 "wow", and listened to them talking about it. I was
6 glad my husband was there. I was able to explain to him
7 what had happened and it was actually a feeling of
8 relief to be able to talk about it. That was the first
9 time I'd spoken to anyone about it.'

10 And she talks about making contact to the police and
11 then at 86 that she's sought -- made a request for her
12 records. And then at 'Lessons to be Learned':

13 'I've got two wee grandchildren, one is Down's
14 Syndrome and one has autism, and sooner or later they
15 are going to need help. I need to make sure that what
16 happened to me doesn't happen to another child. Not
17 just my grandchildren, to any children.

18 'I work hard to protect children. I work with
19 children and families every day to try and make things
20 better for them. I also challenge any injustice I see
21 and that's one of the things I've learned.

22 'I cannot believe nobody was looking at Fornethy
23 House back in 1973 and checking to see what was going
24 on. How can people get away with that? I know it was
25 in the middle of nowhere, but somebody somewhere must

1 have known what was going on in that place.

2 'We have to make things better for children in care
3 in the future. We have to make sure things like that
4 can't happen or shouldn't be happening, and people have
5 to be held accountable for what goes on, or for what
6 went on in places like Fornethy.

7 'Even if it makes a difference for one person,
8 I'll feel good for having spoken to the Inquiry.
9 I would be really disappointed in myself if I didn't
10 take an opportunity like this to make things better for
11 other people.

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 And 'Ann' has signed her statement on 17 September
17 2021.

18 LADY SMITH: Thank you very much.

19 Ms MacLeod.

20 'Doreen' (read in)

21 MS MACLEOD: My Lady, I will now read in the statement of an
22 applicant who uses the pseudonym 'Doreen'. Her
23 statement can be found at WIT-1-000000741.

24 LADY SMITH: Thank you.

25 MS MACLEOD: 'My name is ["Doreen"]. My date of birth is

1 known to the Inquiry. My contact details are also known
2 to the Inquiry.

3 'I was born in Glasgow. I had three brothers and
4 a sister. My sister was the eldest and she was 11 years
5 older than me. [One] brother was five years older than
6 me, [the next] brother was two years older than me and
7 my [younger] brother was three years younger than me.

8 'We lived in Dennistoun in a tenement flat. My
9 father was self-employed and he did all sorts of things.
10 My mother looked after us. I attended primary school in
11 Dennistoun. I liked school. I enjoyed art and Greek
12 mythology and English literature. I remember playing
13 with balls against the wall and playing peever.

14 'My mother was a lapsed Catholic and my father had
15 been sent to St Joseph's in Tranent where he was abused
16 by monks, and he was a Communist, so he hated
17 Catholicism and called it "the opium of the masses".
18 [My sister] attended a Catholic primary school, but then
19 my father decided that we weren't going to be brought up
20 as Catholics, so that was the end of that. No more
21 Catholicism.

22 'There was violence in the home. My mother left
23 home when I was 7 or 8 because my father told her he was
24 going to kill her. He had been beating her up and she
25 had been hospitalised. I think he was sectioned because

1 he was a bit of a psycho. My mother went to stay with
2 my grandmother on her couch because there were no
3 refuges in the 1970s for women with children.

4 'I have vague memories of my mother coming to see me
5 when I was asleep in bed, but I didn't realise she'd
6 come into the room until she left. She left a wee
7 present for me.

8 'My mother eventually got a single end in
9 Dennistoun. Her flat was a room with one outside
10 toilet. [My younger brother] and I stayed with her at
11 the weekends. She was a Valium addict when she was
12 living at home. She was one of the 1970s housewives
13 that were medicated to keep quiet about domestic abuse
14 and then she became an alcoholic when she got her own
15 flat. A lot of the time we saw her, she was drunk. The
16 topic of sex was taboo at home. My mother was very
17 prudish, so I could never tell her anything that
18 happened.

19 'It was quite a lonely, isolated childhood, living
20 in fear of my father. There was no social work
21 involvement and he got no support for his mental health.
22 He hated psychiatrists because he had been sectioned.

23 'My life was split into two parts, from birth to my
24 mother leaving and me going to Fornethy, and then the
25 aftermath. I think there was a connection between my

1 mother leaving and me going to Fornethy and I think
2 I was 8 when I went. I was pulling my hair out in
3 primary school and they took me to a doctor, so I don't
4 know if it was something to do with that, plus my father
5 being a single parent. I don't know the process of
6 being identified as a child that should go to Fornethy.
7 I was told I was going on a nice holiday in the country
8 and that I was going for a few weeks.

9 'Fornethy was all girls. If there were girls
10 younger than me, they weren't much younger. I don't
11 remember seeing the older girls very much, so I'm not
12 sure if they came at a different time. I think there
13 was an older girl that told me to stop crying when I was
14 in bed, because she said she thought I would get into
15 trouble. There was a girl who was very funny, like the
16 class clown. I think now this was a diversionary tactic
17 to deflect anger, because I remember the teachers
18 laughing with her.

19 'Fornethy had lots of rooms and corridors. It was
20 in the countryside and that was the only thing about it
21 that I loved. The smells were incredible with the pine
22 trees around about it. It was beautiful and I have
23 never seen anything like it. I loved seeing all the
24 rabbits running [about in] the fields and the sheep.

25 'The whole thing was a lie, because they told us we

1 were going on holiday. Every day was very much
2 a routine. It was like you were being punished.
3 I think I was there for six weeks.

4 'I went on my own [to Fornethy]. I was excited
5 about going and it was a nice, sunny day, although
6 I'm not sure what time of year it was. I got a coach
7 somewhere in Glasgow City Centre. I think the coach was
8 pretty full. I didn't know any of the other children
9 who were going. When we arrived, I was overawed because
10 Fornethy was huge and really grand-looking. It was like
11 a big mansion. I couldn't believe how big it was.

12 'I was taken upstairs to a dorm which was called
13 Reekie Linn. It was a big, bright room with six to
14 eight beds. There were other dorms on the same level as
15 mine. I think one of the other rooms was called Ailsa.
16 There was a locker or wardrobe beside each bed. My bed
17 was near the door on the left-hand side. I shared with
18 four or six other girls who were roughly the same age as
19 me. My next memory is being in the dorm and two women
20 going through my bags, taking stuff out and separating
21 it. There was some money in it and they said, "That won't
22 get you very far". They took the money from me.
23 I think the women that went through my bags were
24 domestic staff and they wore blue overalls. They were
25 cold and dismissive towards me and I felt like they

1 didn't like me.

2 'My next memory is being taken for a bath.
3 I remember being in the bathroom with lots of other
4 little girls and being told to take off all my clothes.
5 Then we were lined up and scrubbed using hot water and
6 brushes. There was one other wee girl in the bath with
7 me. I'm not sure if it was the same women who did this.
8 Having to stand there naked was horrendous. I was never
9 naked in front of anybody, even my family. This ended
10 after a certain age and these were strangers. I tried
11 to hide behind one of the other girls but I was shouted
12 at and yanked out.

13 'There was a man there standing watching us.
14 I think he made a joke about us being the new arrivals.
15 I think he was quite tall and maybe in his 30s. I felt
16 utter shame. I felt embarrassed and totally humiliated,
17 ashamed and dirty. It was appalling to be naked in
18 front of strangers. There was a feeling of shame from
19 the other girls because we were all in the same boat and
20 we were all frightened. They scrubbed us with a really
21 long -- strong soap, maybe carbolic, and wooden brushes.
22 We were then sent to get dressed and that's when we got
23 a pinny, which was floral.

24 'We were taken to the dining room and we were all
25 standing around a big table beside a chair. I think we

1 were told where to sit. I sat down and I was yanked by
2 the arm out of the chair really hard and shouted at,
3 because you had to wait before you sat down. Then we
4 had to say Grace, which was a religious one. Some of
5 the teachers and the headmistress, Mrs Fletcher, were in
6 the dining room when we ate. They ate at the same time
7 as us, but they had their own table.

8 'On the first day in the dining hall, it was
9 Mrs Robertson, who was one of the teachers, and another
10 woman with reddish blonde hair. Mrs Robertson was thick
11 set with dark, thick hair and a mean mouth. There was
12 a boiled egg which I was supposed to eat and I didn't
13 want to eat it, so I put it underneath the table. When
14 we all stood up to leave, it was found and another
15 little girl was made to eat it by one of the teachers
16 because it was beside her chair. I was too frightened
17 to say anything.

18 'I have a feeling my hair was cut at some point.

19 'In the morning, the lights went on and we had to
20 get up.

21 'We had to put our underpants at the bottom of the
22 bed when we were getting ready for bed. We had
23 15 minutes when we could read or something and then the
24 lights went out. I remember reading "Bunty" in bed at
25 night. Nobody was allowed to talk or get out of bed.

1 If you were caught going to the bathroom, you were made
2 to stand outside the dorm.

3 'There were staff who served the food. There were
4 several tables and there might have been a table for
5 every dorm. Everyone ate at the same time. We had
6 dinner and then later on a biscuit and a cup of milk.
7 There was nothing in between mealtimes and we didn't
8 have access to food or drinks so I remember being quite
9 thirsty. I don't think breakfast was very early and
10 I remember getting eggs and porridge. They took us for
11 a lot of walks, but I don't know if these were after
12 breakfast or after lunch. We said Grace before every
13 meal.

14 'The toilet was across from the dorm and there was
15 a room where the bath was. There were showers near the
16 back door and it reminded me of a locker room in a film.
17 There was a rail with boxes underneath it to put wellies
18 in. I remember going for showers but I don't remember
19 at what time that happened. The shower was communal and
20 when we were in the showers, we weren't allowed to hide
21 ourselves or turn our backs. A teacher was there when
22 we showered and I remember my hand being slapped away
23 when I tried to hide myself. I think it was
24 Mrs Robertson who did this, but I can't say for certain.
25 There was a girl who had pubic hair and all the other

1 wee girls were looking at her. I had never seen this
2 and it was disgusting. She was humiliated and she was
3 hanging her head.

4 'The man was there on a couple more occasions at
5 bath time. The bathroom was on the ground floor and
6 there was a window which I remember being open. We were
7 standing there naked and he was outside leaning in,
8 talking to the women, but staring at us.

9 'They gave us a floral pinny to wear, which had
10 a number on it.

11 'We had classes, but I don't know if the all-female
12 staff were actual teachers. They were held in the main
13 building. There was also an annex and I remember
14 looking in and seeing lots of arts materials, but
15 I don't remember actually being in it. I remember
16 writing and drawing and one of the teachers asking us if
17 we knew what suicide was. None of the other girls knew,
18 but I knew so I answered.

19 'I think we moved classrooms and I distinctly
20 remember at least two different teachers. It didn't
21 feel like I was learning anything or like it was
22 a structured lesson. The teacher would talk and then we
23 would have to write a little bit and that was it. I was
24 afraid of making a mistake and then something would
25 happen. There was an atmosphere of tension and fear

1 amongst the girls. I think we finished in the classroom
2 around 4.00 pm and shortly after that was dinner.

3 'We went for a walk every day. I remember being hot
4 when they took us on walks, but that could [be just]
5 because they took us on long walks. I always remember
6 being thirsty on them. We wore wellies all the time
7 when we were outside and we walked even when it was
8 raining. The wellies would cut into our bare legs.
9 They took us to a reservoir through the fields which
10 might have been called Blackwater. I remember looking
11 at the reservoir and being really thirsty, but we
12 couldn't get anything to drink.

13 'We cut through the fields on walks. One had a bull
14 in it which came towards us and we were all screaming.
15 A girl threw a stone at what she thought was a ball in
16 a tree, but it was a wasps' nest and the wasps went
17 crazy. So many of us were stung. I ran towards a gate
18 and was climbing over it and was stung in the back of
19 each calf. The staff came outside from the home when we
20 got back and dabbed vinegar on our stings.

21 'We saw films sometimes at night in a big room
22 downstairs and a teacher stayed in the room with us.
23 That was maybe one night a week. There was a film
24 called "Mandy" about a wee girl who was deaf and it was
25 sad. There were singing sessions.

1 'We were allowed to go into the playground, which
2 had swings, a seesaw and a roundabout. I think it was
3 lunchtime when we were allowed to play in the
4 playground. It was very time-limited and there was
5 a teacher present.

6 'One of the teachers had guinea pigs and one of the
7 girls had to clean their cages out. I think one of the
8 older girls did this. The older girls were in their
9 early teens. I think we were taken to church but
10 I don't remember being inside it. Just before I went
11 home, they took me swimming.

12 'We had to write home regularly, maybe once a week.
13 The teachers wrote everything on the board and we had to
14 copy it down word for word. The teacher would read it
15 over to make sure you hadn't put anything else in it.
16 A girl once wrote something else in her letter and she
17 was taken out of class, but I don't know what happened
18 to her.

19 'I think a man and a woman inspected once and only
20 a select number of girls, including me, were allowed to
21 be present when they were there. I think they came into
22 the classroom and asked some questions, but our answers
23 were very short, although I don't recall being told not
24 to say anything. If somebody had been coming out to
25 inspect Fornethy, we would all have been polished up

1 nice and shiny to say what a great place it was.

2 'I was sick once and they let me stay in bed.

3 'I don't recall being a bed-wetter before I went to
4 Fornethy. I got up during the night to go to the
5 toilet. I think it was fear and anxiety that made me
6 want to go to the toilet during the night. I was inside
7 the toilet and a teacher came in and caught me. I think
8 I was slapped across the legs because I remember
9 something violent happening, but I don't remember what
10 exactly. Then I was made to stand outside the dorm.
11 This happened not long after I went to Fornethy.

12 'After that, I couldn't get up to go to the toilet,
13 so I wet the bed. There were rubber sheets on the bed
14 and I remember lying on them when they were cold and wet
15 and knowing I was going to get into trouble for it. The
16 girls who wet the bed were shamed. Some girls were made
17 to sit on the floor and I remember doing that too.

18 'They inspected the beds when they came around in
19 the morning. I remember being yanked out of bed by the
20 arm. I was grabbed by the hair, pulled about, and
21 whoever it was, was very angry. We were made to take
22 the sheets off the bed and take them somewhere to be
23 washed. They bunched up my pants and stuffed them into
24 my mouth on one occasion after I had wet the bed.

25 'There was another time during the night someone

1 checked the bed and pulled me out because I had wet it.
2 They took their slipper off and hit me across the legs
3 with it and they were really angry. They also yanked my
4 hair and made me sit on the floor.

5 'I wet the bed quite a few times and then they
6 started withholding fluid from me. They would give me
7 half the amount to drink that the other girls got, so
8 I would be thirsty and then I got caught going to the
9 toilet to drink water from the tap, so I was made to
10 stand outside the dorm again. Being punished for
11 wetting the bed just compounded the feelings of shame
12 I had already. I was already feeling dirty and then
13 they crucified me in front of the other girls. I can't
14 remember specifically what the staff said, but it was
15 along the lines of that [I] was disgusting -- that
16 it was disgusting and that you were dirty.

17 'There was a lot of food I didn't like to eat, like
18 really fatty meat, but you couldn't leave anything. If
19 you didn't eat it, you were forced to eat it. The meat
20 was stuffed into my mouth and a hand clamped over my
21 nose and mouth until I swallowed it. This happened not
22 long after I arrived. After a few occasions of that, it
23 was clear that everything had to be eaten. You weren't
24 allowed to leave the table unless it was eaten. I have
25 vague recollections of another girl being force-fed

1 porridge. I think I was forced to swallow food at least
2 twice. I remember somebody being sick.

3 'There was a tuck shop. Somebody sat inside with
4 a big book and we had to line up. You went in and asked
5 for something and they would do something in the book.
6 You had to line up even if you didn't have any money, so
7 that was mortifying, because whoever it [would be],
8 would be nasty about it. I remember being told to write
9 home to ask for more money.

10 'I remember being in bed at night, being frightened
11 and wanting to go home. I was crying and I got taken
12 out of bed. I was made to stand outside the dorm.
13 I think it was Mrs Robertson but I am not 100 per cent
14 sure. She was angry. I think she was hovering outside,
15 which she tended to do. There were a few of us crying.
16 I think I was made to stand outside the dorm for about
17 an hour, then she came back and told me to go back to
18 bed. The other girls who were crying quietened down
19 when they saw that I was taken out to the hall and made
20 to stand.

21 'I was assaulted by Mrs Robertson when we went out
22 for a walk. This happened when we were on our way
23 somewhere. The girls were really afraid of
24 Mrs Robertson. There were two teachers and the
25 headmistress that we were really afraid of. It had been

1 raining and there were lots of puddles. We were made to
2 walk in silence and I turned round to say something to
3 the girl behind me, so I was walking backwards. I stood
4 in a puddle, which splashed and Mrs Robertson saw it.

5 'She always wore wooden shoes, either clogs or
6 Scholl's. She took them off and hit me really hard
7 repeatedly across the back of my legs with them. I knew
8 she wanted me to cry, so I wouldn't. She said that she
9 would make me cry, so she thrashed me even harder until
10 I did. I was shocked by another adult, who was meant to
11 be teaching, slapping me. My legs were really sore
12 afterwards but I didn't have any medical treatment.

13 'I remember once being taken out of bed during the
14 night and being taken downstairs, but I don't know why.

15 'I have images of adults lashing out at girls and
16 being really angry. We were only allowed to talk when
17 we were in the playground or the 15 minutes in bed. We
18 weren't allowed to talk to other staff, like dining room
19 staff.

20 'We were out one day and the girls had to pee behind
21 a bush and Mrs Robertson was joking and called me "fat
22 arse" [and my surname]. There were wee digs like that
23 about how you looked.

24 'The week before I went home, they were nicer to me
25 and they weren't as strict as they had been previously.

1 There was less shouting and there was less drama if
2 I did something wrong, which was usually treated as
3 outrageous.

4 'When we were leaving it was just a case of, "The
5 coach is coming and you are going home now". The coach
6 took me back to Glasgow City Centre and we were singing
7 on the coach going back. I had conflicted emotions
8 about leaving because it was very different to my home
9 life and I was becoming a little bit institutionalised.
10 I wasn't looking forward to going home to my father, who
11 was drinking and violent and aggressive. I liked
12 structure. There is a lot of autism in my family and
13 I was told I was on the spectrum, so maybe that fitted
14 in with me liking the structure.

15 'I felt comfortable knowing how the day was going to
16 be and knowing what was going to happen, but I felt
17 relieved to be leaving at the same time. I felt I was
18 going away from feeling bad and dirty, but I carried it
19 with me. I didn't leave it behind. My sister's
20 boyfriend picked me up from the coach in Glasgow and
21 took me home.

22 'Fornethy was pretty brutal and you were in
23 a constant atmosphere of fear. I didn't trust that not
24 to happen again when I came back. The bed-wetting
25 stopped when I got home, but it was hard being in

1 a family home and being around all men. My brothers and
2 I were all damaged because of my father. It was
3 a dysfunctional family home and I didn't have any
4 friends. Because I was a solitary child, I was out on
5 my own a lot and I was a target of a lot of men who
6 would expose themselves to me and try to get me into
7 their cars. I couldn't tell anybody because I felt
8 I was dirty already, so I felt it was my fault.

9 'I had to hide everything in the home that was
10 female, like my underwear and tights, because I didn't
11 want my father and brothers seeing them. These were
12 things that marked me out as being female. I felt
13 exposed when I wore skirts. I kept my brothers at
14 a distance, although I had to take my younger brother
15 out, which was fine because [I (sic)] was a wee boy.'

16 In the next paragraph, the witness speaks about
17 being sexually assaulted by a close family member and
18 that she couldn't tell anybody, and goes on to say that
19 she was already carrying all the baggage of shame and
20 dirtiness and couldn't speak to anybody.

21 She describes that her relationship with her father
22 never changed because she continued to be afraid of him.

23 At paragraph 56, she says:

24 'I went back to the same primary school and then to
25 secondary school. I liked being at school because it

1 got me out of the home. It was structured and I had
2 a friend. I did really well in English. I think that
3 was my escape. I was very quiet in school and had
4 questions in mind, but I wasn't in a place where I could
5 ask. In Fornethy they didn't like you asking questions,
6 you had to accept what you were being told so if
7 I struggled at school because I wouldn't ask the teacher
8 how to do things, I wouldn't put myself in the position
9 of being humiliated.'

10 In the next paragraph, the witness describes that
11 the flat the family had was lost due to a compulsory
12 purchase order when she was 15, and that she actually
13 left home when she was 20 and that the situation with
14 her father had continued until then.

15 In paragraphs 60 and 61, the witness describes jobs
16 that she has had in her life, including starting off
17 with the youth training programme, working in the
18 catering industry and joining the police in her late
19 20s, which she describes as a 'major mistake'. She
20 describes that as a horrible environment to be because
21 it was really misogynistic and sexist. And she remained
22 there for two-and-a-half years. Afterwards she had
23 a breakdown and was put on medication.

24 The witness then speaks about a time she spent
25 working in a hostel, and volunteering work, and that she

1 moved abroad in her 30s with a partner that she had and
2 remained living abroad for a number of years before
3 returning to Scotland.

4 From paragraph 65 onwards, the witness describes the
5 impact she considers her time at Fornethy has had on her
6 life and I will read some of what she says there:

7 'Before I went to Fornethy, I didn't feel distinct
8 to my brothers in the home environment, but when I came
9 back, I was acutely aware that I was female and I felt
10 ashamed of that and of my body. I had a feeling of
11 dirtiness, which I have had ever since then. No matter
12 how much I scrub myself, I never feel clean. I never
13 feel I can wash it away. It is something I have
14 struggled with for an awful long time.

15 'We felt like a unit before I went to Fornethy and
16 when I came back, I wasn't part of that unit. I was the
17 dirty one in a clean environment and I didn't like
18 anything about my female body. I didn't like it being
19 different from my brothers because to be female was to
20 be dirty and shameful.

21 'I didn't want to think about Fornethy because I was
22 really struggling with my identity. I was very sexually
23 aware from that age onwards. I don't have any
24 recollection of anything sexual happening to me in
25 Fornethy but when I came back, I was masturbating

1 compulsively. I did it in the bathroom, underneath the
2 desk and in front of my family. I remember my father
3 telling me to stop [and] I didn't think I was doing
4 anything wrong. My father made it clear it was
5 unacceptable behaviour, so I stopped doing it publicly.

6 'My mental health was definitely impacted by my time
7 at Fornethy. I was always ashamed of my body, being
8 female and being dirty.'

9 The witness in paragraph 71 describes that she has
10 nightmares and that all she's ever asked is that the
11 doctors take her nightmares away, and that nobody's been
12 able to do it and that she has continuing recurring
13 dreams, which are constant and every other day.

14 At paragraph 73, the witness speaks of reporting of
15 abuse and describes that she couldn't tell her father
16 what had happened to her at Fornethy because he would
17 have got angry if she'd voiced her unhappiness:

18 'If one of my brothers fell and cut themselves, they
19 would get a clip around the ear. We had to be grateful
20 for everything and it would have rebounded on me.

21 'I reported to the police in about Christmas 2020.'

22 And she speaks about having seen a group for
23 [REDACTED] Fornethy and thanking the person who set
24 that up. And she describes going on to give a statement
25 to the police.

1 In paragraph 78, the witness describes trying to
2 recover her records from Fornethy, but that she hasn't
3 managed to do that and goes on to say:

4 'It was classed as a residential school, but it
5 didn't feel like a school to me. The staff didn't feel
6 like they were qualified to be teachers.

7 'There are very different circumstances for children
8 in care today. I couldn't talk to anyone when I came
9 back because I was mentally quite damaged. If there was
10 someone I could have trusted, who was able to make me
11 feel I was trusted and listened to, I could maybe have
12 told them.

13 'Fornethy seemed to function independently of any
14 caring authority.

15 'If there had been an evaluation at the end of the
16 stay with the girls there, maybe all those little voices
17 could have made one big voice. Maybe if we had been
18 facilitated by someone who had the skills to get
19 children to trust them, it might have opened up a whole
20 can of worms and perhaps the abuse would have stopped.

21 'I hope all the women have a voice, because it is
22 all those little girls having a voice at long last.
23 I hope all the women are heard. I hope they tell
24 everything that happened to them and that they are
25 listened to, and I hope if the people who did that are

1 still alive, that they are held accountable. I hope
2 they are exposed the way I still feel exposed as
3 an adult. I hope they carry the shame and humiliation
4 they dumped on me as a child with them to the end of
5 their days. I just keep thinking of all those wee
6 girls, but it's not going to be swept under the carpet
7 anymore.

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

12 'Doreen' signed her statement on 28 June 2021 and
13 I can also say, my Lady, that 'Doreen' provided evidence
14 at the trial of Patricia Robertson last year and that
15 the charge in relation to abuse of her was -- it was
16 a guilty verdict.

17 LADY SMITH: Thank you very much.

18 MS MACLEOD: That completes the evidence for today, my Lady.

19 LADY SMITH: I think it does. Yes, we've done well.

20 MS MACLEOD: We have a live witness scheduled for 10 o'clock
21 tomorrow.

22 LADY SMITH: Tomorrow, and then we've still got some
23 evidence to read in.

24 MS MACLEOD: We do still have some evidence to read in,
25 my Lady.

1 LADY SMITH: Very well.

2 A couple of names that we have actually covered
3 already of people who are not to be identified as
4 referred to in our evidence. So I remind people of
5 Mrs LBD and Mrs RHB. I think that was all for
6 this afternoon.

7 MS MACLEOD: I think so, my Lady, yes, I think so.

8 LADY SMITH: Yes. Very well.

9 Thank you both very much. Until 10 o'clock tomorrow
10 morning. Thank you.

11 (3.58 pm)

12 (The Inquiry adjourned until 10.00 am
13 on Thursday, 28 May 2026)

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