

Thursday, 28 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 this set of hearings,  
5 of course, we're looking into the provision of  
6 residential care for children in places that were run by  
7 local authorities, and also establishments run by  
8 voluntary providers and others that local authorities  
9 used to fulfil their duties in relation to children in  
10 their area.

11 Now -- well, those of you who have been following  
12 proceedings this week will know that we finished with  
13 evidence we were reading in yesterday. We do have some  
14 more evidence to read in from applicants, but this  
15 morning we're going to move to some local authority  
16 evidence and I think Glasgow's representative is here;  
17 is that right, Mr MacAulay?

18 MR MACAULAY: That's right, my Lady, and that is Susanne  
19 Millar.

20 LADY SMITH: Thank you.

21 Susanne Millar (sworn)

22 LADY SMITH: I'm acutely aware of how many times we have now  
23 called on you to come and assist us with our work here.  
24 On previous occasions you've been happy for me to use  
25 your first name; is that still all right?

1 A. Yes.

2 LADY SMITH: Thank you, Susanne.

3 You know how we work. You've got red folders there  
4 with quite a substantial amount of paperwork in, which  
5 I'm grateful to the council for having provided to us,  
6 because it means there's a lot of detail we don't need  
7 to discuss specifically with you. But we will, if we  
8 may, go into some particular aspects of it for a series  
9 of institutions, and you know which ones we're  
10 interested in talking about this morning.

11 And for those who are here for a particular  
12 interest, I can see in the public benches, they do  
13 include Fornethy, but there are, of course, others that  
14 we're going to look at, that we have been looking at in  
15 this section of our case study hearings.

16 You may remember that my practice is to sit from now  
17 until 11.30 am or so and take a break then, but if you  
18 want a break at any other time, don't hesitate to say,  
19 or if you've got any questions at any time, do speak up;  
20 don't stay silent.

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

23 Questions from Mr MacAulay

24 MR MACAULAY: My Lady.

25 Yes, good morning again, Susanne. I'm Colin and

1 I'll be asking you most of the questions.

2 Can I just recap on the fact that this is your,  
3 I think your fifth visit?

4 A. Yes, it is, yeah.

5 Q. I won't go through the days or references for your  
6 previous visits, but you came and spoke about  
7 establishments that were maybe managed by Glasgow at  
8 some point?

9 A. Yes.

10 Q. Now, again, I don't want to go into the detail of your  
11 CV, because that's been looked at before, but just to  
12 summarise, you are now the Chief Executive of Glasgow  
13 City Council?

14 A. Yes, I am, yeah.

15 Q. And I think you were the chief executive when you gave  
16 evidence in connection with Cardross Park?

17 A. Yes.

18 Q. But before then, you had held the position of chief  
19 officer. So, clearly, promotion --

20 A. Yes.

21 Q. -- in the period of the running of the Inquiry.

22 Can you give us a very broad thumbnail sketch as to  
23 what your job as chief executive involves?

24 A. Currently my job as chief exec is the responsibility for  
25 all the council and ALEO services in Glasgow City.

1 Full-time equivalent staff of somewhere in the region of  
2 28,000 people with a budget of just over £3 billion for  
3 responsibilities. So all statutory council services,  
4 but also a number of ALEOs that include for example  
5 Glasgow Life, or leisure and culture, city building,  
6 city property and Clyde Gateway.

7 So all of the statutory local authority services;  
8 social work, education being the two biggest ones.

9 Q. And do you report to the councillors?

10 A. Yes, I report directly to the leader of  
11 Glasgow City Council, I'm accountable to those elected  
12 members.

13 Q. And looking at your CV, you've had a background in  
14 social work, is that right?

15 A. Yes, I have, yeah.

16 Q. You, I think, became a social worker in 1996, according  
17 to what I see in front of me, and you became Assistant  
18 Director of Social Work Services in 2012?

19 A. I qualified as a social worker in 1992. I started with  
20 Strathclyde Region and then 1996 was when I moved to  
21 Glasgow City Council.

22 Q. Now, today, Susanne, you are going to be asked about  
23 five establishments: Fornethy House Residential School,  
24 Park Lodge Children's Home, Dunclutha Children's Home,  
25 Eversley Children's Home and Downcraig Children's Home.

1           So that's the menu for today.

2           It will be split in two parts. I'll be asking you  
3           questions about Fornethy, Park Lodge and Dunclutha, and  
4           my learned friend Mr Sheldon will be asking you  
5           questions about Eversley and Downcraig.

6           And as far as my focus is concerned, I'll be  
7           focusing in particular on the responses that the Inquiry  
8           has had from Glasgow City Council in connection with the  
9           three establishments that I've mentioned.

10          I appreciate that Dunclutha now comes under the  
11          management of Argyle and Clyde, but -- since 1996?

12   A.   Yes.

13   Q.   And in looking at the responses, I'll also touch upon  
14          some aspects of the evidence that we've heard. And  
15          I may invite your reaction to that evidence.

16          To what extent have you been following the evidence,  
17          particularly in relation to the three establishments  
18          that I've mentioned?

19   A.   Well, certainly at various points over the course of the  
20          Inquiry, the team at Glasgow City mainly, but not only,  
21          in the health and social care partnership, have been  
22          following the Inquiry, particularly in relation to what  
23          the learning is for us as an organisation and the  
24          ongoing provision of services.

25          Specifically, most recently, we've primarily managed

1           that through our legal representative either being  
2           present or watching the proceedings and feeding back to  
3           us in terms of some of the evidence, particularly round  
4           about witness statements, regarding the establishments  
5           there's a particular focus on today.

6           And we have continued to commit to make sure that  
7           anything that we hear, or any learning from the evidence  
8           that's given to this Inquiry, will be incorporated  
9           within our organisation's learning.

10    Q.   And before these hearings, we issue what we call  
11        a bundle, which contains documents, and do you get the  
12        opportunity of looking at the documents that are  
13        circulated in the bundle?

14    A.   Yes, we do have that opportunity and also an opportunity  
15        to meet with various -- so I've met with the team at  
16        Glasgow City in relation to specifically the  
17        institutions that you're looking at today, but that's  
18        something that I do any time before I come to give  
19        evidence.

20    Q.   Well, then, can I -- I want to begin then by looking at  
21        Fornethy, and I think we have some Fornethy -- former  
22        Fornethy children in the hearings and so I'll start with  
23        Fornethy.

24                The report that has been provided by  
25        Glasgow City Council is at GLA-000003434. Now, that

1 report will be in one of the two red folders that you  
2 have in front of you and it will also come up on the  
3 screen.

4 And on page 1, and we have that on the screen, we're  
5 provided some information about the background to  
6 Fornethy, and in particular it was opened in 1960 by  
7 Glasgow Corporation as a residential school. That's the  
8 position, isn't it?

9 A. Yes, it is.

10 Q. And what we read here is it was for Protestant  
11 convalescent girls, aged 5 to 12, and it was designated  
12 a camp school. Are you able to explain that, what does  
13 that mean, 'camp school'?

14 A. No, I wasn't able to explain that, 'camp school'. It's  
15 not a term I'm familiar with.

16 Q. And I think as we know, in 1975, responsibility for  
17 Fornethy transferred to Strathclyde Regional Council  
18 under the 1973 Act?

19 A. Yes, that's correct.

20 Q. Now, I think we know, from evidence we've heard, that in  
21 its latter phases it became an outdoor establishment --  
22 an outdoor establishment for children generally and it  
23 closed in 1993. So, strictly speaking, Glasgow  
24 City Council have never themselves been the managers of  
25 the school?

1 A. Yes, that's right.

2 Q. Can I --

3 LADY SMITH: Just going back to the mention of the  
4 designation, 'camp school', and the like, do I take it  
5 from your answer that you haven't read the report by  
6 a woman called, I think it's Emma Fossey, that was  
7 commissioned by Scottish Government, because I have  
8 an inkling that she mentions the history of that term in  
9 that report, albeit briefly.

10 A. Yes, sorry, my Lady, yes, I have read the report and  
11 I'm familiar with her. It wasn't -- it's not a term  
12 I'm familiar with in terms of --

13 LADY SMITH: I see.

14 A. -- my professional career. So, apologies for that, if  
15 that wasn't clear.

16 LADY SMITH: I'm not sure I'm clear from her explanation  
17 what it was intended to mean, other than perhaps there  
18 was more outdoor education being done with the children  
19 than indoor.

20 A. Yeah. It wasn't something I'd ever come across in my  
21 professional career.

22 LADY SMITH: Or at least more outdoor than they might have  
23 had in their Glasgow school.

24 A. Yeah.

25 MR MACAULAY: I think, in the Glasgow City Council response,

1           there is some elaboration on what it might mean and  
2           that, we see that on page 2, and the fourth paragraph  
3           down, I'll just read that:

4           'Camp schools were defined under the Education  
5           (Scotland) Code 1957 as "a residential school to which  
6           pupils in attendance at other schools were sent for  
7           short periods of education at a residential school to  
8           which delicate pupils and pupils recovering from illness  
9           were sent for periods of recuperation and education".'

10          I'll come to the recuperation part in a moment, but  
11          can we see there that the emphasis is on it being  
12          a school where children were to be educated?

13   A.   Yes.

14   Q.   The focus on illness and recuperation and, indeed, the  
15          term 'convalescent schools' that I think we also see,  
16          I think the evidence before the Inquiry has been broader  
17          than that, in that the children who went to these  
18          schools weren't going there to convalesce. Is that your  
19          understanding?

20   A.   Yes, my understanding from the witness statements that  
21          have been made, it has been difficult, as we've  
22          documented, to find any documentation in relation to  
23          role and function. But it is my understanding that  
24          that's how it's been described in witness statements.

25   Q.   We had examples, for example, of a child wanting to go

1 to Fornethy and her sister tagging along; or, for  
2 example, a child going to Fornethy and a friend tagging  
3 along. So this notion of it being a convalescent school  
4 doesn't fit with that sort of picture; would you agree  
5 with that?

6 A. As I say, I think the witness statements have offered  
7 quite a bit more information in terms of how it was  
8 experienced, given the lack of evidence that we have in  
9 relation to documentation.

10 LADY SMITH: And I suppose you've also noticed, Susanne,  
11 that the spread of the applicants -- and there are many  
12 of them who have come to the Inquiry --

13 A. Yes.

14 LADY SMITH: -- in terms of time, ranges from -- I think the  
15 earliest is somebody with a date of birth in the 1950s,  
16 who was at Fornethy in the early 1960s, right up to  
17 somebody whose date of birth was 1978 --

18 A. Yes, my Lady.

19 LADY SMITH: -- and was there as a child after that. So we  
20 have a picture that spreads quite a number of decades,  
21 so it's pretty consistent. This wasn't about  
22 convalescence.

23 A. Yes.

24 MR MACAULAY: So, reading on, on that same page, just three  
25 paragraphs down, can we read that:

1           'Fornethy's initial purpose had been as a school for  
2 Protestant convalescent girls aged 5-12. By 1987, the  
3 term "convalescent" no longer applied.'

4           It may even be that that was the position long  
5 before 1987, as we have discussed:

6           'Instead it was designated as being for  
7 primary school groups from areas of deprivation and was  
8 no longer exclusively Protestant.'

9           So it has, at least according to this, changed its  
10 approach.

11          And we're told that it could accommodate up to  
12 74 girls at a time, so it was quite a large  
13 establishment. Have you seen photographs of it?

14 A. Yes, I have, yeah.

15 Q. And we read on that we're told that the average length  
16 of stay was reported to be six to eight weeks and not  
17 long after that, it fell to six weeks, eventually  
18 dropping to four to six weeks. So that gives us an idea  
19 as to the time children would spend there?

20 A. Yes.

21 Q. And if you turn to the next, the following page, we read  
22 towards the top that there was a review carried out in  
23 1987 and I think that's discussed in the previous page,  
24 and if I just read what it says:

25          'In the review of 1987, it was recommended that

1       Fornethy Residential Centre should be changed to provide  
2       for the wider range of outdoor education activity.'

3               So that's changing its approach.

4               And we read about the instructions given as to how  
5       children should be disciplined in the next couple of  
6       pages. And then on page 5 you have provided information  
7       in connection with numbers, that's at letter (e), so if  
8       we just scroll down a little bit to the table. And does  
9       this give us an idea as to the annual intake?

10    A. Yes.

11    Q. And, for example, we see that in 1960/61, 257 children  
12       attended in the course of that year; is that the way we  
13       read this?

14    A. Yes.

15    Q. And the figures appear to go -- to rise as the years go  
16       on. We see in 1969/70, 716 children attended?

17    A. Yes.

18    Q. There are no figures for 1971 -- 1970/71 to 1973/74. Is  
19       there a reason for that?

20    A. There were no documents that we were able to --

21    Q. Sorry?

22    A. Sorry, there were no documents that we were able  
23       to locate in terms of those records.

24    Q. So there's no records?

25    A. No records.

1 Q. But you do have some records for 1974/75 --

2 A. Yes.

3 Q. -- because we're told there were 693 children in that

4 year.

5 A. Yes.

6 Q. What about the years beyond that? The table stops at

7 1975 but we know that Fornethy was in existence beyond

8 that. Are there records to indicate the numbers?

9 A. We have provided all information that we've been able to

10 find after really substantial searches, so that's what

11 we've provided to the Inquiry, what we've been able to

12 locate.

13 Q. It just looks a bit odd that you've got records going

14 back to the 1960s but nothing for more recent times.

15 But that's the position, is it?

16 A. Yes.

17 Q. I mean, there is a reference there to the 1987 report

18 that we mentioned before, that that suggested a possible

19 yearly attendance of 2,400. That's quite a significant

20 figure?

21 A. Yes, it is, yeah.

22 LADY SMITH: And a lot more than we're seeing on this table.

23 A. Yes.

24 LADY SMITH: So whatever detail the records may be lacking,

25 can I take it from that that there continued to be

1 an upward trend after 1975?

2 A. I'm not sure that we are -- so we're not able to be  
3 definitive about that, because of the lack of records.  
4 The supposition is that it's at the point where the  
5 length of stay was significantly decreasing, so the  
6 number of young people going through the institution --  
7 but that's supposition on our part -- and that's why you  
8 see that rise in numbers.

9 So, a reasonable supposition that those numbers  
10 would be going up between 1975 and 1987, but not one we  
11 can substantiate with records, my Lady.

12 LADY SMITH: Well, I get that, but that seems to have been  
13 something at least that the authors of the 1987 report  
14 felt that it was appropriate for them to suggest.

15 A. Yes. Yes.

16 LADY SMITH: Thank you.

17 MR MACAULAY: Turning on to page 6, at letter (g), the  
18 question has been asked by the Inquiry:

19 'What provision was made for contact between  
20 children and their families while children were at the  
21 establishment?'

22 And the answer that's provided is:

23 'Earlier practice within the authority was to supply  
24 parents with details of recognised visiting days for  
25 children in residential care and parents were only to

1 visit on those days.'

2 And that is a point also that is raised by Dr Fossey  
3 in her report, and I'll come to that, but there appears  
4 to have been a practice in relation to camp schools,  
5 that parents would have these visiting days that were  
6 designated as visiting days. Was there anything to  
7 suggest that in relation to Fornethy, that there were  
8 any designated visiting days?

9 A. We weren't able to find any reference to that, no.

10 Q. And if the evidence has been that parents did not visit,  
11 and that has been the evidence, would that tend to  
12 suggest that this practice of having visiting days --  
13 and one can understand why there would be such  
14 a practice -- may not have been being implemented in  
15 connection with Fornethy?

16 A. It's really difficult to make that connection because it  
17 could be that parents of those children had other --  
18 were busy in their own lives back home and weren't able  
19 to visit, so without documentation it's difficult again  
20 to be definitive on that, so the answer to that would be  
21 I can't say whether or not there were.

22 What we've indicated in that answer is that was the  
23 general practice, but we can't find evidence of what it  
24 actually was at Fornethy.

25 Q. Yes, and I think one can understand the philosophy

1 behind the practice, because if you're shipping 5 and  
2 6-year-olds off to the country, to be five or six weeks  
3 away from their parents, then one can see why the  
4 philosophy would involve there being some parental  
5 connection over that period; would that be the thinking  
6 behind this practice?

7 A. There was a -- what I am able to speak to is that there  
8 was a philosophy, even in very early days of residential  
9 care, that connections should be maintained where  
10 possible --

11 Q. Yes.

12 A. -- and children and young people -- for like visits and  
13 potentially other contact, either by letter or later on  
14 by phone.

15 So as I say, we're making general comment about what  
16 the standard practice was then. We just can't be  
17 definitive about what it actually was.

18 Q. But just to -- but it clearly was envisaged --

19 A. Yes.

20 Q. -- that this practice would be implemented, namely to  
21 have visiting days designated for parents?

22 A. That would be the expectation from our practice in other  
23 establishments.

24 Q. Okay. And we read on at (h), for example, the question  
25 is asked:

1           'What was the process for review of children's  
2 continued residence at the establishment, in terms of  
3 whether they continued to require to be there?'

4           And the answer there is:

5           'Children attended Fornethy for a defined time to  
6 convalesce.'

7           Now, what's the basis of that answer?

8 A. That's our understanding from what the information that  
9 we could find in terms of the intended role and function  
10 of Fornethy, that children attended for a defined time.  
11 That's what we were able to establish in terms of -- if  
12 memory serves me right, that's in the handbook, so  
13 that's where we have made that assumption.

14 Q. There are then questions asked about how the  
15 establishment was managed and led, and you were asked to  
16 provide the names and qualifications of the persons in  
17 charge of the establishment. And we see that Nellie  
18 Bremner was the headteacher from 1961 to 1970, and then  
19 Margaret Fletcher was the headteacher from 1971 to 1986  
20 and she had been the assistant head from 1970 to 1971.  
21 So you have records to show you that.

22 A. Yes.

23 Q. The reference to the assistant head Marjory Tucker in  
24 1986, is there no evidence who the headmistress was in  
25 1986 onwards?

1 A. No, we've submitted all the evidence to the Inquiry that  
2 we have in relation to who held the different positions  
3 within Fornethy.

4 Q. And so far as qualifications are concerned, do I take it  
5 then, from any absence of reference to qualifications,  
6 that you have no records indicating what qualifications  
7 these individuals had?

8 A. No, we have no records. Again, it's an assumption from  
9 their title that it would be the same qualifications  
10 that other head -- that other people with those titles  
11 would have across -- yeah.

12 Q. And the one person that's not mentioned, who gave  
13 evidence to the Inquiry yesterday, that's Patricia --

14 LADY SMITH: Baxter.

15 MR MACAULAY: -- Baxter who used to be Robertson. I think  
16 she became, according to her own evidence, the deputy  
17 head. Do I take it you've got no record of that?

18 A. No, we don't have a record.

19 Q. There's then a section on page 7, dealing with the  
20 nature of the accountability and oversight of the  
21 establishment by the local authority. And was there  
22 any -- are there any records to indicate any oversight  
23 of Fornethy?

24 A. Again, sorry to repeat myself, we've submitted all of  
25 the evidence that we have in terms of what oversight

1           there was and we have outlined that in answer to that  
2           particular question.

3   Q.   Well, you tell us halfway down that page that:

4           'In February 1989, the education director, education  
5           convener, planned a visit to Fornethy. In the  
6           background notes provided for the visit, it was noted  
7           that the girls came from throughout Strathclyde, but  
8           mainly from Glasgow.'

9           So there is some indication there that there was  
10          a planned visit in 1989. But do I take it from that  
11          there is no other evidence to indicate that there were  
12          visits on behalf of the local authority to Fornethy?

13   A.   So that one in particular is an example of how far our  
14          archivist has trawled all of the available records. So  
15          that particular one, we have submitted it in evidence,  
16          comes from a memo between the education  
17          director/convener and management in relation to the  
18          planning of that visit. So it's an indication of how  
19          far we looked in terms of all of the records. So we  
20          trawled all correspondence to see if we could see  
21          mention of Fornethy and that was the mention of  
22          Fornethy. We don't have records to indicate that it  
23          took place, but we do have that particular memo that  
24          suggests the planning that was going into it and who was  
25          going to attend.

1 Q. But there's no records to indicate whether there had  
2 been any planned visits or any visits prior to 1989?

3 A. No.

4 Q. And you tell us, moving on, on that page, that:

5 'There are no records of Fornethy HMI inspections or  
6 by any other government agencies. School logbooks  
7 normally record HMI visits and a summary of the report,  
8 but GCC does not hold any logbook for Fornethy.'

9 And I think it is the case that such schools ought  
10 to have kept a logbook that would record, for example,  
11 matters such as inspections or visits? Is that your  
12 understanding?

13 A. It would have been the expectation that a logbook would  
14 have been held, but not necessarily archived, in terms  
15 of being held for this length of time.

16 LADY SMITH: How long do you think they would have been held  
17 for?

18 A. I'm sorry, my Lady, I can't quite recall, because at  
19 that particular time there's been different pieces of  
20 legislation that have applied to records retention, and  
21 I'm afraid I just can't quite recall.

22 What I do know from my own experience is that it's  
23 a shorter timeframe than those for social work records.

24 LADY SMITH: Susanne, I'm sure this is very tedious, being  
25 asked things to which you have to keep telling us,

1           'We've got no records', but I hope you appreciate I do  
2           need to confirm that --

3   A.   Completely right.

4   LADY SMITH:  -- in the public domain and have it publicly  
5           recorded that we've all really tried to find anything in  
6           writing that was contemporaneous.

7   A.   I completely understand that, my Lady.

8   LADY SMITH:  Thank you.

9   MR MACAULAY:  I think the policy would have been to keep  
10          a logbook.  I think what you're telling us, Susanne, is  
11          that if there was a logbook, it's no longer in  
12          existence?

13  A.   Yes.

14  Q.   I suppose -- yes.

15               Now, can I pick up on this point that's made at  
16               page 12 under (r), towards the bottom of the page.  The  
17               question is asked to look at raising about policies  
18               and/or procedures in place in relation to record-keeping  
19               at the establishment and the extent to which such was  
20               adhered to.

21               And we're told that:

22               'The Schools (Scotland) Code 1956 laid down that  
23               children attending camp schools were to be marked as  
24               present in their own school and that a register of  
25               admissions should be kept in every school except a camp

1 school.

2 'Registers of arrivals and departure were to be kept  
3 in every camp school and forwarded to the child's  
4 original school after their departure. These would be  
5 destroyed five years after the pupils' leaving age, in  
6 line with statutory retention schedules.'

7 Now, a number of points from there. The first is  
8 that although the child that went to Fornethy was not  
9 attending her own school, she was treated as if she was  
10 attending her own school; is that what we take from  
11 this?

12 A. Yes.

13 Q. And that perhaps underscores the fact that Fornethy was  
14 very much an educational establishment, because the  
15 child's education was to continue during the time that  
16 she was at Fornethy?

17 A. Yes.

18 LADY SMITH: That, of course, wouldn't cover the  
19 circumstances if, for example, a child had run away from  
20 Fornethy, and therefore was neither at her home school  
21 in Glasgow, nor was she in Fornethy?

22 A. No, the registers wouldn't tell you that, my Lady,  
23 that's -- yeah, that's right.

24 LADY SMITH: Because what you'd get from the registers was  
25 she was in her school in Glasgow when she wasn't?

1 A. Yes, yes.

2 MR MACAULAY: And the reference to registers of arrivals and  
3 departure were to be kept in every camp school and then  
4 forwarded on to the child's original school after their  
5 departure, can you provide any insight into that? Do  
6 you have any indication to indicate that such registers  
7 were kept and, indeed, were then forwarded to the  
8 child's original school?

9 A. No, unfortunately not. We are only able to advise the  
10 Inquiry that that was the expectation. Whether or not  
11 that was implemented is not something that we've been  
12 able to verify.

13 Q. Okay. And on page 13, we go back to this issue of the  
14 logbook, because GCC accept that there should be  
15 a logbook for the school?

16 A. Yeah.

17 Q. But unfortunately this was not transferred to the city  
18 archives. So logbooks would be archived if they'd been  
19 kept?

20 A. If they'd been kept, yeah, that's where they would be.

21 Q. And I think they are archived for historical reasons.  
22 I think that's -- we learn that, I think, from Professor  
23 Fossey's report?

24 A. Yes.

25 Q. And I think she provides examples of where logbooks were

1       kept. But the question, I suppose, that you can't  
2       answer is whether a logbook was kept at all at Fornethy?

3   A. Yeah. Unfortunately, it's something that we're not able  
4       to answer, but, yeah, we did -- that work that was done  
5       was done in partnership with us at our city archives, so  
6       we were able to find some logbooks for other schools,  
7       but not for Fornethy.

8   Q. And we have a number of questions thereafter, where the  
9       answer simply is there are no records available to  
10      answer these questions?

11  A. Yes.

12  Q. In relation to civil actions, I think you tell us on  
13      page 14 that one civil action has been raised to date;  
14      is that still the position?

15  A. That's my understanding. There are claims outstanding  
16      in relation to allegations, the one civil case.

17  Q. But one civil action?

18  A. Yes.

19  Q. But there are claims.

20  A. Yes.

21  Q. In fact you tell us there are about 175 claims?

22  A. Yes.

23  Q. And that these claims, do I take it then these are  
24      letters of claim from solicitors?

25  A. Yes.

1 Q. Setting out the basis of the claim, namely some form of  
2 abuse at Fornethy?

3 A. Yes.

4 Q. It's a large number?

5 A. Yes.

6 Q. And you're aware, I think, of the criminal case that  
7 has --

8 A. Yes, we are, yeah.

9 Q. -- taken place.

10 Can I just digress for a bit and look at Dr Fossey's  
11 report and this will come on the screen for you,  
12 Susanne. It's INQ-0000001311.

13 And on page 13, if we can look at that, there's  
14 a section dealing with the background to the research  
15 and she talks about the Redress Scheme. Now, I know  
16 Glasgow City Council have nothing to do with Redress;  
17 that's for the government. But she mentions the fact  
18 that the Redress Scheme opened in December 2021, that  
19 it's primarily for vulnerable children who were abused  
20 while in long-term care, often isolated, with limited or  
21 no contact with their families.

22 And we read on that the Scottish Ministers  
23 introduced regulations to the effect that:

24 'An application for redress cannot be made to the  
25 extent that concerns abuse that took place when a person

1 was in a care setting for short-term respite or holiday  
2 care, where that placement was arranged by the child's  
3 parent or guardian and another person.'

4 Now just on that, insofar as the evidence goes, and,  
5 indeed, I think you accept this, that Fornethy was  
6 a residential school, where education was to be provided  
7 to the children?

8 A. Yes, that's our understanding, and it was operating  
9 under education legislation, not social work  
10 legislation.

11 Q. And I think the purpose of this report was to see to  
12 what extent Fornethy survivors would be eligible for  
13 redress under the scheme and to do that, she looks at  
14 a number of issues. But one point she makes in the  
15 second column is that -- is that this business about the  
16 inability for survivors to -- being able to access their  
17 personal records. And that's because, is it, there are  
18 no records there?

19 A. Yes.

20 Q. And she goes on to explain how a petition has been  
21 presented to the Scottish Parliament to allow the  
22 Fornethy survivors to access the Redress Scheme and that  
23 was being considered by the Citizen Participation and  
24 Public Petitions Committee and that was way back in  
25 2022.

1           And is it your understanding that that petition is  
2           still under consideration?

3   A.   That is my understanding. I'm not certain, but it is my  
4           understanding.

5   Q.   If we turn to page 14, the next page, we see there  
6           a reference to -- yeah, the convener of the committee  
7           has written to the Deputy First Minister and on that  
8           page we see:

9           'In response to this letter, the former Deputy First  
10           Minister committed to considering the matter further.

11           'During a Parliamentary debate on 19 May 2023, the  
12           Deputy First Minister Shona Robison committed to  
13           instructing an independent researcher to investigate the  
14           matters raised by the Fornethy survivors.'

15           And that's the background to Dr Fossey looking at  
16           a number of issues that she sets out.

17           And if I could look at the executive summary, we  
18           find that if we go back to page 10, and she has what she  
19           refers to as 'Headline findings'.

20           1(a):

21           'Why were girls sent to Fornethy?'

22           And her conclusion is:

23           'Primary school girls from Glasgow were sent to  
24           convalesce after an illness and/or so they might benefit  
25           from a recuperative holiday.

1            'The school was one in a scheme of residential  
2 education aimed at improving the health of pupils in  
3 Glasgow.'

4            And I think what we take from that, that there  
5 wasn't just the one school, there were other schools  
6 that had a similar sort of purpose?

7 A. Yeah, that was the conclusion that she came to, yeah.

8 Q. She asked the question:

9            'Who sent them?

10           'Headteacher and school medical staff could put  
11 forward girls they thought might benefit from a stay.  
12 However, it was the school or principal medical officer  
13 who took the final decision.

14           'Even then, only girls whose parent or guardian  
15 agreed to them going and who passed two medical exams,  
16 were allowed to go.'

17           So, again, she provides some insight into the  
18 process, from what material she looked at.

19 A. Yes.

20 Q. She asked the question at 2:

21           'Why do records from Fornethy appear not to exist?'

22           And she says:

23           'The regulation at the time obliged education  
24 authorities to keep school registers, pupil progress  
25 records and health records only until the end of the

1 fifth, or in some cases second, year after the year for  
2 which it was held or the pupil left.

3 'After that time, the records were to be destroyed.  
4 Thus, it is not surprising that Glasgow City Council has  
5 found no such records in its city archives.'

6 So there she sets out what the policy was --

7 A. Yes.

8 Q. -- and the policy being that it was perfectly  
9 appropriate at a point in time to destroy the sort of  
10 records that she discusses?

11 A. Yes.

12 Q. The question that you can't answer, of course, is  
13 whether or not these records ever existed.

14 A. Yeah, I'm unable to answer that.

15 Q. Then she says:

16 'That said, a question mark remains over the lack of  
17 Fornethy's logbook. The regulations required these to  
18 be preserved as documents of historical interest.'

19 And we have touched upon that before. You've told  
20 us that there is no logbook and it begs the question  
21 again as to whether there ever was a logbook.

22 A. Yes, and unfortunately we're unable to answer that  
23 question and I think, as Dr Fossey points out, whilst  
24 there were others that we were able to locate, Fornethy  
25 wasn't unique in having no surviving logbooks. So it's

1           difficult to determine.

2   Q.   She did locate logbooks for other establishments.

3   A.   Yes.

4   Q.   And used those as an example as to what should be in the

5       logbook.

6   A.   Yes.

7   Q.   She provides a description of Fornethy also, which

8       I think is quite similar to what is contained in the

9       Section 21 response. This on page 20 and about halfway

10      down the first column, we can read that:

11           'The school was part of a wider scheme to improve

12      the health of Glasgow's children.'

13           And she has a quote:

14           'A stay by the sea or in the country would raise the

15      physical standard, increase resistance to disease and

16      counteract the ill-effects of early diseases in

17      infancy.'

18           So that was the philosophy, at least, at the time

19      when these schools were being set up?

20   A.   Yes.

21   Q.   And we're told that it opened its doors in August 1960.

22       We have looked at that. It could take 74 girls at

23       a time and in the second column, that the age range was

24       between 5 and 12?

25   A.   Yes.

1 Q. Then if we look at page 22, in bold at the top we can  
2 read that:

3 'Fornethy was one of a small number of schools run  
4 by Glasgow Corporation, and later by Strathclyde  
5 Regional Council, under its scheme of residential  
6 education.'

7 So again the focus is on residential education?

8 A. Yes.

9 Q. And towards the bottom of that first column, do we read  
10 that:

11 'By the time Fornethy opened in 1960, the scheme had  
12 14 schools; nine would now be taking in [what's referred  
13 to as] convalescent children. [And] between then and  
14 1974/75, the total number of children sent annually to  
15 all the scheme schools rose from 5,515 to 8,069.'

16 So she was able to find statistics to form, to make  
17 that conclusion.

18 A. Yes.

19 Q. And we've touched upon this before, but can I just go  
20 back to it. It's on page 23 and it's the third column.  
21 Last paragraph in the third column, do we read:

22 'A parent/guardian could not visit their child at  
23 residential school, except on visiting days, when they  
24 could take their child home if the child wanted to leave  
25 (I found nothing on whether Fornethy ever held such

1 days).'

2 A. Yes.

3 Q. So again, that perhaps underscores the philosophy talked  
4 about before, that a child of 4, 5, 6, being away from  
5 their parents for six weeks, it was thought that there  
6 should be some breaks in that period?

7 A. Yes.

8 Q. And that children -- and that parents could visit?

9 A. Yes, absolutely.

10 Q. And if the child wanted to go home, the child would be  
11 able to go home?

12 A. Yes.

13 Q. Now --

14 LADY SMITH: And would you accept, Susanne, that to prevent  
15 children from writing in a weekly letter to their  
16 parents that they were desperately unhappy and wanted to  
17 go home, would be directly counter to that?

18 A. Yes, and the witness statements have been directly  
19 counter to what you would expect to have been the case,  
20 my Lady.

21 LADY SMITH: You'll know I've heard that --

22 A. Yes.

23 LADY SMITH: -- directly from people, again --

24 A. Yes.

25 LADY SMITH: -- and again, and again.

1 A. Yes.

2 LADY SMITH: And if they did write that, the letter was  
3 ripped up and they were told to try again and copy down  
4 what was on the blackboard, which was to the effect they  
5 were having a lovely time.

6 A. Yes.

7 MR MACAULAY: Now, Dr Fossey has then prepared a sort of  
8 schematic, setting out the process on one page, and  
9 that's on page 25 of her report. She sets out eight  
10 steps, essentially. I mean, we've looked, for example,  
11 at item 5:

12 'Children at residential schools are also marked as  
13 "present" on the register at their Glasgow school. No  
14 visits by parent/guardian are allowed, except on  
15 visiting days.'

16 So, again, we've discussed that.

17 And then at 8 do we read that:

18 'When it is time for the child to leave the  
19 residential school, the school welfare department sends  
20 the Glasgow school confirmation of this; once it  
21 receives the child's records, it forwards them on to the  
22 Glasgow school.'

23 So do we get there the picture that records should  
24 be kept at a place like Fornethy and when the child  
25 leaves, those records should be sent back to the

1 original school?

2 A. Yes.

3 Q. And that makes sense, because that would allow the

4 original school to see the progress that the child would

5 have made at a school like Fornethy?

6 A. Yes, it does make sense.

7 Q. If we look at page 26, she sets out in the first column

8 the sort of records that would be kept under the label

9 'school records', and that's about halfway down the

10 first column:

11 'There were four main types of school record: school

12 registers, the camp (residential) school registers,

13 pupil progress records and school logbooks.'

14 So these were the types of records that ought to be

15 kept?

16 A. Yes.

17 Q. And if I can perhaps take you to, I think finally, to

18 page 39 of her report, she has here what she calls a

19 'Summary of main gaps in the evidence', and the first

20 gap she talks about is parental consent and what she

21 says is that:

22 'I have been unable to track down any records of

23 such consent or what form it should have taken.'

24 A. Yes.

25 Q. So there's nothing to indicate that there was consent

1           and whether, for example, a form had to be signed or  
2           something along these lines?

3   A.  No, we were unable to find any -- as was Dr Fossey.  We  
4           were unable to find any records that substantiated that.

5   Q.  And perhaps if we look at the fourth box.  She says:  
6           'There is some evidence of some residential/camp  
7           schools being officially registered as schools and of  
8           inspectors of education inspecting them from as far back  
9           as the 1930s and up to the 1980s.'

10           Then she says:  
11           'However, it is not clear that Fornethy itself was  
12           ever officially registered as a school and therefore  
13           whether it should have been inspected by HM Inspectors  
14           of education.'

15           Are we to take from that, that there's nothing to  
16           tell us that Fornethy was ever registered as a school?

17   A.  Again, yes, we can't find any records to suggest that it  
18           was ever registered as a school.

19   Q.  Should it have been?

20   A.  I'm unclear about whether or not it should have been,  
21           but it wasn't, in terms of the records --

22   Q.  It would appear that other camp --

23   A.  -- we can find.

24   Q.  It would appear that other camp schools were registered  
25           as schools?

1 A. Some were, that was what Dr Fossey found, that some  
2 were, not all, some. But we don't have evidence to  
3 suggest that Fornethy was.

4 LADY SMITH: Glasgow were employing qualified teachers to  
5 work at Fornethy?

6 A. Yes, my Lady.

7 LADY SMITH: And the provision of funding for it came  
8 through its Education Department, not through any other  
9 department.

10 A. Yes, my Lady.

11 LADY SMITH: It does rather look as though it would be  
12 unlikely that it could avoid or should avoid  
13 registration, but maybe it was oversight?

14 A. It could have been an oversight. It's really difficult  
15 to, again, be definitive about that, but again we did  
16 additional searches, so just to make sure it didn't  
17 have -- I think that's part of our submission, it  
18 didn't have what it's called a SEED number, which is  
19 your registration number, so there's no evidence, either  
20 in our records or in fact in National Records of  
21 Scotland, which we also looked at.

22 MR MACAULAY: But one can see, if it wasn't registered, how  
23 it might not come under the rider of HM Inspectorate of  
24 Schools.

25 A. Yes. Yes, it does -- it gives an explanation as to why

1           it was -- it doesn't appear to have been inspected.

2   Q.   No.

3   A.   Because it wasn't registered, so although(?) there is

4           a connection between those two things.

5   LADY SMITH:  What about Glasgow itself keeping an eye on

6           what was going on there?  It was Glasgow's place, if you

7           like.

8   A.   So I think that was what we referenced in our Section 21

9           submission, about the efforts that we made to find out

10          where and how it was visited, and there was some, but

11          very limited, evidence that it was visited outwith those

12          regulatory regimes that don't appear to have been in

13          place.

14   LADY SMITH:  But that was where you looked next to see

15          whether there was somebody that was checking out --

16   A.   Yes.

17   LADY SMITH:  -- what was happening.

18   A.   And that was where we undertook the search in relation

19          to all of the committee reports and all of the minutes

20          of all of the education committees, and in fact there

21          was mention of Forrethy through that, that we were able

22          to add into the Section 21.  So that was why we made

23          those particular searches, to see if we could find it

24          being mentioned in any other exchange in Glasgow.

25   LADY SMITH:  Thank you.

1 Mr MacAulay.

2 MR MACAULAY: Coming back then to the GCC response, and  
3 that's at GLA-000003434. If we put that back on the  
4 screen and perhaps turn to page 14, I think that's what  
5 we have.

6 The question is asked, the extent to which there  
7 were systemic failures to protect children. This is at  
8 Fornethy, and we can read:

9 'From the current Executive Director of Education.'

10 Does this come from -- when you say -- does that  
11 suggest that this input has come from the current  
12 Executive Director of Education?

13 A. The Executive Director of Education has changed since  
14 that time, of this submission.

15 Q. No, but the then?

16 A. Yes, it was, yes.

17 Q. Okay. And we'll just read on then:

18 'To my knowledge, and after checking the relevant  
19 systems, the council has had no direct complaints made.  
20 There are currently 175 claims relating to allegations  
21 of abuse in Fornethy. There are no available records of  
22 any internal investigations of abuse, no available  
23 records of disciplinary action against staff, and no  
24 knowledge of any police investigations relating to  
25 abuse.'

1           Of course, that's changed somewhat because there's  
2           been a conviction.

3   A.   Yes.

4   Q.   But what is the answer to the question, the extent to  
5           which there were systemic failures? Is it accepted that  
6           there were systemic failures in connection with  
7           Fornethy?

8   A.   It's accepted that we have the witness statement in  
9           relation to their experiences at Fornethy, and -- but  
10          we -- and -- but we're unable to offer those people any  
11          information in relation to records, but it's accepted  
12          that that is the witness statements in relation to  
13          Fornethy.

14   Q.   I'm not sure I understand what that means. You have  
15          witness statements and there's been a conviction?

16   A.   Yes.

17   Q.   On 18 charges?

18   LADY SMITH: And can we add to that that you told me  
19           earlier, Susanne, that you're aware of these lawyers,  
20           Glasgow Council lawyers, following the evidence --

21   A.   Yes.

22   LADY SMITH: -- no doubt on the link, the Webex link they  
23           can get. So it's not just written statements. A lot of  
24           people have --

25   A.   Oh, I beg your pardon, my Lady.

1 LADY SMITH: -- given oral evidence.

2 A. I beg your pardon. When I say statements, the evidence  
3 that they've given. I beg your pardon, I misspoke.

4 LADY SMITH: So there are written statements.

5 A. Yes.

6 LADY SMITH: That have been read in. Those statements  
7 having been taken through our careful processes.

8 A. Yes.

9 LADY SMITH: And signed.

10 A. Yes.

11 LADY SMITH: As true.

12 A. Yes.

13 LADY SMITH: And then there are oral witnesses.

14 A. Yes.

15 LADY SMITH: And their evidence has been followed. And when  
16 you say Glasgow City Council go no further than  
17 accepting there is witness evidence, is that what you're  
18 saying?

19 A. Yes, my Lady.

20 LADY SMITH: So you can't tell me that they accept that  
21 evidence as accurate? Let's not put too fine a point on  
22 this: is that what you're saying?

23 A. I'm clear that we have -- and I beg your pardon,  
24 my Lady, I did mean both the oral and the written  
25 statements --

1 LADY SMITH: Okay.

2 A. -- so I misspoke, and we are watching and listening to  
3 both of those things, and, indeed, the criminal  
4 conviction. And we're clear from both of those things  
5 that there is evidence of failures to protect children.

6 LADY SMITH: Right.

7 Mr MacAulay.

8 MR MACAULAY: I just want to be absolutely clear about what  
9 the Glasgow City Council position is on this point and  
10 let's just focus on the conviction.

11 The conviction speaks for itself.

12 A. Yes.

13 Q. Mrs Barclay (sic) has been convicted on 18 charges.

14 LADY SMITH: Mrs Baxter.

15 MR MACAULAY: Mrs Baxter, on 18 charges that involved,  
16 putting it broadly, child abuse.

17 Now, even looking at that, is it accepted by the  
18 council that there must have been systemic failures to  
19 protect children in their care?

20 A. So, my apologies, I think I had just said that we accept  
21 that there is clear evidence that there were systemic  
22 failures to protect children. That was what I said,  
23 I think.

24 Q. Thank you for that.

25 Just moving on from that then, does the council

1 acknowledge that children were abused at Fornethy?

2 A. Yes.

3 Q. Well, very well, Susanne, that's all I wanted to ask you  
4 about Fornethy, and I now want to move on to look at  
5 another establishment and that will be Park Lodge.

6 So again, I'll be really looking at this through the  
7 eyes of what you've submitted in response to the  
8 Section 21 notice that was served on the council and  
9 that's your, what we can refer to as the Part A to D  
10 response. That begins at GLA.001.002.6928.

11 And we see the beginning of Part A and just to get  
12 some background, if I could turn to page 10, you are  
13 asked some questions about the organisation at 1.5 and  
14 do you tell us -- are we told on that page that  
15 Park Lodge opened in 1969 as a children's home for boys  
16 and girls under the aegis of Glasgow Corporation Social  
17 Work Department, so that gives us an idea as to when it  
18 opened?

19 A. Yes.

20 Q. In the next page, towards the bottom, the suggestion is  
21 that Park Lodge was closed in 2008, but has that been  
22 revised? I think we've had some information that  
23 Park Lodge was in fact sold in 1999?

24 A. I'm sorry, I'm not aware of that.

25 Q. You are not aware of that?

1 A. No, I'm not aware of that.

2 Q. We have had evidence that it looks as if it might have  
3 been closing down in 1998, which would fit in with it  
4 being sold in 1999, but I think we had some recent email  
5 communication to suggest that it was sold in -- but you  
6 haven't been briefed on that?

7 A. Sorry, I haven't, no. Apologies.

8 Q. And on page 15, the question is asked:  
9 'How many children did the establishment accommodate  
10 at a time?'

11 And are we told that:  
12 'The available historical records show that  
13 Park Lodge could accommodate 23 children at a time.'

14 A. Yes.

15 Q. And on page 16, are we again told under (i) that:  
16 'The available historical records indicate that Park  
17 Lodge Children's Home accommodated mixed children of  
18 different ages.'

19 A. Yes.

20 Q. And I think, certainly from the time of the children's  
21 hearing system, children were being sent there who had  
22 come through the children's hearing system?

23 A. Yes.

24 Q. There are questions asked about staffing, if I can just  
25 go to that, that's on page 21. And this is under the

1 heading 'Establishment' and you are asked:

2 'How many persons were employed in some capacity at  
3 the establishment?'

4 And you go on to say:

5 'There is insufficient staff details to enable this  
6 number to be given.'

7 So does that mean there aren't any records?

8 A. We were able to find some records, but not enough  
9 records to give us a definitive number. So there were  
10 different references to staff who were employed at  
11 Park Lodge, but not a definitive list of what the  
12 staffing establishment was.

13 Q. And does that apply to (iv) when the question is asked:

14 'What experience and/or qualifications, if any, did  
15 the childcare workers require to have?'

16 And the answer is:

17 'Not able to establish this from historic records.'

18 A. Yes.

19 Q. Does that mean there are records, but they can't provide  
20 the answer?

21 A. Yes.

22 Q. And at (vi) you are asked about the ratio:

23 'What was the child care worker/child number ratio?'

24 The answer again is:

25 'Not able to establish this from historic records.'

1           Again, do I take it from that, there are some  
2 records but you're not able to work out what the ratio  
3 might have been?

4 A. Yes. Again, there's some reference to staffing, but not  
5 sufficient to allow us to make a statement in relation  
6 to that.

7 Q. And do you know, why aren't there records to allow you  
8 to do this? Have they been destroyed or cannot be found  
9 for whatever reason?

10 A. We weren't able to find them. We would have had  
11 an expectation, and perhaps you'll have seen from some  
12 of our other submissions to the Inquiry, there are other  
13 institutions we were able to provide that information.  
14 So we would have had an expectation to be able to  
15 provide that, but they weren't -- that information  
16 wasn't there when we went to look for it.

17 Q. Okay. On page 23, there's a question asked at (iv) --  
18 no, (vi), rather:

19           'What visits were made by the governing body to the  
20 establishment?'

21           And what you tell us is:

22           'Between 1968 and 1975, the minutes of meetings of  
23 the Education and Social Work Committees records visits  
24 to residential schools and homes.'

25           So do I take from that that there are minutes of

1 meetings that record that visits to homes did take  
2 place?

3 A. Yes.

4 Q. But do I take from that also that the specific homes  
5 that were visited are not mentioned?

6 A. It varies, to be honest. We have got some evidence from  
7 those minutes and records that name, at points, because  
8 again I think in other submissions we've been able to  
9 advise the Inquiry where other institutions were named.  
10 It doesn't appear to have been standard practice to name  
11 them in the minutes of those meetings.

12 Q. So do I take it from that answer that you don't have  
13 specific references to Park Lodge in these minutes?

14 A. Yes, that's correct.

15 Q. And at (ix) you are asked the question:

16 'Were children interviewed or spoken to by members  
17 of the governing body during such visits?'

18 And the answer there:

19 'There is no documentary evidence to confirm  
20 children were interviewed or spoken to by members of the  
21 governing body during such visits.'

22 So, although there may be minutes to record that  
23 there were such visits, there's no indication that the  
24 children at these establishments were spoken to by the  
25 visitors?

1 A. Yes, that's right.

2 Q. On page 26 there's a section headed 'Leadership' towards  
3 the bottom. At 2.3:  
4 'How was the establishment managed and led?'  
5 And the answer there is:  
6 'Historical records indicate there was a head of  
7 unit who would have had management and leadership  
8 responsibility.'  
9 So there is a designated person in charge; would he  
10 be referred to as head of unit, would that be the  
11 terminology?  
12 A. It was the terminology used at the time. Again, not  
13 necessarily universally, because we found other records  
14 in relation to other institutions where there's slightly  
15 different titles used. But that's what we understand it  
16 was at Park Lodge: head of unit.

17 Q. And you are asked here again for the names and  
18 qualifications of the persons in charge, and for dates,  
19 and what you say there is:  
20 'We are unable to provide details of either who was  
21 in charge of Park Lodge in 1975 or to provide details of  
22 the qualifications.'  
23 And why the focus on 1975? Does that mean that you  
24 have got information for other dates?  
25 A. (Pause)

1           No, again, not to my knowledge in terms of that  
2 earlier time period, because that was part of the issue  
3 for us in Park Lodge, as I'd said earlier. In other  
4 institutions we did have that information, even at that  
5 time period.

6           I can only assume -- we made this submission quite  
7 a number of years ago, but I can only assume we're using  
8 1975 because that was referred to in the earlier parts  
9 of the submission, in terms of the staff in the  
10 establishment we were asked the question.

11 Q. Well, the question's quite broad:

12           'What were the names and qualifications of the  
13 persons in charge of the establishment?'

14           And I was -- I'm just puzzled. I mean, there may be  
15 a reason why the focus is on 1975. Do I take it from  
16 that, you are able to provide details in relation to the  
17 names and qualifications of persons in charge at other  
18 times?

19 A. Not to my knowledge, no, I don't think that is the  
20 case --

21 Q. No.

22 A. -- in this submission. I think the initial submission  
23 was possibly nine years ago, but I am able to check that  
24 information, if that would be helpful to the Inquiry.

25 Q. That would be, yes.

1 A. Because I'm making an assumption at this point based on  
2 my memory.

3 Q. Okay.

4 LADY SMITH: And it's hard to tell --

5 MR MACAULAY: It is.

6 LADY SMITH: -- and whether 1975 jumped into the mind of  
7 whoever was writing the answer because of Strathclyde  
8 Regional Council --

9 A. Yes, yes, my Lady.

10 LADY SMITH: -- taking on responsibility in 1975. But  
11 that's not what they were asked.

12 A. No. But again, I'm happy to go back and check that, but  
13 my recollection of Park -- Park Lodge was particularly  
14 difficult for us to find those -- that staffing  
15 information at any point, and that was different from  
16 other institutions. And unfortunately I don't have  
17 an explanation for that, but I'm happy to go back and  
18 check if we have any other information. I don't believe  
19 we have, but I'll double check for the Inquiry. Happy  
20 to do so.

21 MR MACAULAY: Well, thank you for that.

22 Then on page 29, under the heading 'External  
23 Oversight', if we just have a look at that, and the  
24 question that's asked is:  
25 'What were the arrangements for external oversight

1 of the organisation and the establishment?'

2 And we're told that:

3 'In 1990, an inspection unit was established in  
4 Strathclyde Region. Although arm's-length, it did  
5 report to the Social Work Committee. In 2002 the  
6 Scottish Care Commission became the responsible body.'

7 And you are asked:

8 'Who visited the organisation and/or the  
9 establishment in an official or statutory capacity and  
10 for what purpose?'

11 And you say there:

12 'There is no evidence of such visits.'

13 But in relation to the establishment of the  
14 inspection unit, what was its function?

15 A. The function of the inspection unit, it was similar to  
16 work that was established in other regional authorities,  
17 was a regulatory and inspection function, in terms of  
18 our childcare provision.

19 Q. But what happened prior to 1990 in relation to the  
20 monitoring of places like Park Lodge?

21 A. So prior to 1990, I think we have previously given  
22 evidence to the Inquiry about the regulatory and legal  
23 framework. There was an expectation of oversight.  
24 There was a change to legislation in 1990 in terms of  
25 that being much more explicit in relation to regulation

1 and inspection.

2 Q. But are there any records to indicate before 1990 what  
3 monitoring took place of Park Lodge?

4 A. Not specifically of Park Lodge, no.

5 Q. No.

6 A. Again, I think on other occasions we have provided  
7 evidence for other institutions where we have been able  
8 to identify external visiting.

9 Q. Yes.

10 Can I put this document on the screen? It's at  
11 GLA-000004096. Now, you'll see the heading there is  
12 'Glasgow City Council Social Work Inspection Unit' and  
13 that this is described as a summary inspection report.  
14 Do you see that, Susanne?

15 A. Yes.

16 Q. And it relates to an inspection of Park Lodge on 13 and  
17 14 February 1997, which may be quite close to when it  
18 closed.

19 A. Yes.

20 Q. And we can read in the first paragraph -- so, first of  
21 all, can I take it that this is an example of a report  
22 by the Social Work Inspection Unit, that you mentioned  
23 in the response?

24 A. Yes.

25 Q. And can we read in the first paragraph that:

1           'Park Lodge is a local authority-run children's  
2 home, which accommodates up to 15 children and young  
3 people aged between 12 and 18 years, in a large  
4 Victorian house and bungalow located in the Newlands  
5 area of the city.'

6           So that gives us some background as at the position  
7 at that time as to, for example, the numbers of  
8 children?

9   A. Yes.

10   Q. And if I can take you to the -- sorry -- to page 2; can  
11 I just take you to the final paragraph. I'll read that:

12           'Staff still appear to spend a lot of time in the  
13 office involved in liaison and contact with other  
14 services or agencies, writing up case notes,  
15 communication logs and other basic administrative tasks.  
16 This often results in young people vying for staff's  
17 attention.'

18           And then we read on:

19           'Most young people do not attend school and there is  
20 insufficient structure or educative and social  
21 development focus to the day. The combination of these  
22 factors is affecting young people's motivation,  
23 self-esteem and opportunities to experience purposeful  
24 and rewarding activities, while education and  
25 training/employment placements are being pursued. This

1 is acknowledged by the staff.'

2 The message there appears to be that most young  
3 people at Park Lodge were not going to school?

4 A. Yes.

5 Q. Which is surprising, is it not?

6 A. (Pause)

7 So it certainly was a challenge and remains  
8 a challenge in terms of the, I suppose the range of  
9 issues and challenges that young people that required to  
10 be accommodated in residential care face. And quite  
11 often, that is alongside some real challenges in terms  
12 of them accessing education.

13 I wouldn't -- I think modern times, you wouldn't  
14 expect there to be most young people, absolutely not.  
15 I think that would be quite different. I know that to  
16 be quite different now. But it is a challenge in terms  
17 of young people and the issues that bring them to be  
18 required to be accommodated, that quite often  
19 encouraging them to attend school is problematic.

20 But my expectation now is that in a children's  
21 house, the majority of young people will be attending  
22 school.

23 Q. We've heard in this Inquiry how a lack of education can  
24 significantly impact upon later life.

25 A. Yes, absolutely.

1 Q. And if I could turn to page 12 of this document, we have  
2 another inspection report by the Social Work Inspection  
3 Unit and this one is dated 20 and 21 August 1996.  
4 That's the previous year. And we're given the  
5 background in the first paragraph and we're told in the  
6 third -- fourth paragraph, that:

7 'This is the fourth inspection of Park Lodge since  
8 1992.'

9 We're told:

10 'Previous reports have recognised that, as a large  
11 traditional children's unit, certain issues would be  
12 unlikely to be resolved until numbers could be reduced.  
13 The unit given specific functions and measures taken to  
14 address the difficulties of staffing and managing these  
15 premises.'

16 And do we take from that, there clearly were  
17 difficulties, in particular in relation to staffing?

18 A. Yes.

19 Q. And if we turn to the next page, page 13, the fourth  
20 paragraph down, do we read:

21 'Inspectors share the concerns of management, staff  
22 and some young people, that Park Lodge is not currently  
23 able to ensure young people and children are  
24 consistently protected from all forms of violence and  
25 bullying or safeguarded from victimisation.'

1           That's quite a damning indictment on the  
2           establishment, isn't it?

3   A.   Yes.

4   Q.   Would this problem be the result of a shortage of staff,  
5           do you think?

6   A.   It could be a shortage of staff, but it could also be  
7           a shortage of, for example, specialist interventions in  
8           relation to young people who are displaying challenging  
9           behaviours, and our ability also to manage. It's  
10          different now, but we did have a number of children's  
11          homes that were in those kind of stone villas. That's  
12          a physical environment that's actually really difficult  
13          to manage. All of our children's houses now are  
14          purpose-built and that physical environment really does  
15          make a difference in terms of your staffing, your  
16          ability to manage young people's -- different  
17          presentations of different behaviours.

18                So I would suspect it's physical environment, it's  
19                staffing in terms of numbers, but it's also quality of  
20                interventions and perhaps access to specialist services  
21                to support the residential staff.

22   LADY SMITH:   Susanne, just picking up on a couple of things  
23                there. How does the physical environment make  
24                a difference in terms of staffing?

25   A.   So, particularly when you have, like Park Lodge was,

1 a Victorian villa that we've attempted to run as  
2 a children's home, so you'll have various floors. They  
3 tended to be -- I can't quite -- I think Park Lodge was  
4 just two, but some of them were three floors. You had  
5 small -- bedrooms were compartmentalised. They weren't  
6 en suite, so there were shared bathrooms. So the  
7 movement of young people round about, in terms of how  
8 you would then staff a unit, is quite different from the  
9 modern day, when you -- when we build our children's  
10 houses with that in mind, in terms of that safeguarding  
11 of children --

12 LADY SMITH: Help me understand what the difference is.

13 A. So if you've got, was it 12 to 15 young people in the  
14 unit, and you've got them over three floors as opposed  
15 to all in the one unit -- sort of all on the one level,  
16 you then have to have different staffing levels to  
17 manage each of those floors almost individually. So  
18 it's that kind of thing. And also stone -- my  
19 experience of working in them, in terms of the sort of  
20 old Victorian villa, is the rooms are really small. You  
21 know, you've got long corridors, you've got rooms off  
22 corridors, and again, when you are able to look at  
23 purpose building, those are the kinds of things you  
24 build into physical environment. There's lots of  
25 evidence that we've used about designing

1 a trauma-informed physical environment. Victorian  
2 villas were not trauma-informed physical environments.  
3 There's a number of issues, my Lady, that have  
4 an impact.

5 LADY SMITH: Right. Thank you.

6 And so far as then managing young people's  
7 behaviours, is that linked to enabling the staff to move  
8 through a more suitable environment for the work they  
9 have to do?

10 A. Yes, my Lady.

11 LADY SMITH: Okay. Thank you.

12 Mr MacAulay.

13 MR MACAULAY: And if we read on, the final sentence of that  
14 paragraph:

15 'At the time of inspection, Park Lodge is not  
16 considered to be providing a safe and secure environment  
17 for all of its young people.'

18 So again, that's a quite damning indictment. And  
19 this may be the background to its closure, I think  
20 probably in the following year; would that be  
21 a reasonable assumption?

22 A. It's reasonable assumption in terms -- and also the fact  
23 that -- that issue about the unsuitability of those old  
24 Victorian stone villas was something that was certainly  
25 current round about that time, so it's a reasonable

1 assumption that partly this kind of feedback, but also  
2 maintaining and running a building like that safely is  
3 really challenging.

4 Q. I should perhaps have taken you to a previous page.  
5 It's page 11 of the composite document, because I think  
6 it contains a number of different reports.

7 This goes back to the report on 13 and 14 February  
8 by the inspection unit and we read in the first  
9 paragraph:

10 'The home has been without an established management  
11 team for a long period. People in acting-up posts have  
12 contributed positively to identifying and addressing  
13 developmental and planning agendas, but the need for  
14 a cohesive and established management team to introduce,  
15 progress and sustain the tasks identified is clear, if  
16 this home is to implement this very comprehensive agenda  
17 successfully.'

18 And that suggests to me that it was well known by  
19 the council that there were problems with this  
20 particular establishment and problems that required to  
21 be addressed; is that a fair conclusion?

22 A. Yes.

23 Q. Now, if I can go back to the response at  
24 GLA.001.003.1076.

25 I think I actually should give you the first number.

1 It's 1022. And we're looking at a section of the GCC  
2 response Part D, it should be -- well, at page 55, I'm  
3 sorry.

4 So this is the part of the response where you are  
5 asked about abuse and the -- what you say at 2 is that:

6 'According to the records and information available  
7 to the local authority, there is no evidence of abuse to  
8 children/residents at this establishment during this  
9 period.'

10 And the question, what was the nature of abuse and  
11 so on, and:

12 'According to the records and information available,  
13 there is no evidence of abuse [et cetera] during this  
14 period.'

15 Is that still the position?

16 A. In terms of documentation, yes.

17 Q. A document that has been submitted to us quite recently,  
18 I'll put it on the screen, is GLA-000004079. Now,  
19 you'll see it's heavily redacted. Have you seen this  
20 document previously, before?

21 A. Yes, and I'm aware of the claims, yeah.

22 Q. So this provides lists of claims and my focus for the  
23 moment is on the bottom box, which is 'Park Lodge  
24 Children's Home', do you see that?

25 A. Yes.

1 Q. And do we take from this that there are -- there have  
2 been five claims submitted to the council in connection  
3 with Park Lodge?

4 A. Yes.

5 Q. And I think you provide dates of when the claims were  
6 received. Do these dates reflect dates after the  
7 original Part D response?

8 A. Yes, they do.

9 Q. And if I can just look at these, and we've heard  
10 evidence about some of these matters. The alleged  
11 perpetrator in the first claim is Alistair Findlay; do  
12 you see that?

13 A. Yes.

14 Q. And although we see the word 'unspecified' for the next  
15 claim, I've seen the letter of claim and it is again  
16 Alistair Findlay who was being identified as the  
17 perpetrator. And I think you'll be aware that he has  
18 been convicted --

19 A. Yes.

20 Q. -- of charges in relation to Park Lodge?

21 A. Yes.

22 Q. The 2021 -- first 2021 claim, where it says  
23 'unspecified', the letter of claim specifies that this  
24 is sexual abuse by -- of this individual by older  
25 children. So that's what would be referred to sometimes

1 as peer abuse?

2 A. Yes.

3 Q. And that applies also to the next claim, that that was  
4 sexual abuse of a younger child by older children. And  
5 similarly for the final claim.

6 So you have had these five claims making these  
7 allegations of abuse?

8 A. Yes.

9 Q. And of course, insofar as Alistair Findlay is concerned,  
10 he was convicted in 2018 of seven charges, and four of  
11 them related to sexual abuse at Park Lodge.

12 A. Yes.

13 Q. And I think he had -- he's had other convictions as well  
14 in connection with abuse in the community.

15 A. Yes, that's my understanding.

16 LADY SMITH: Mr MacAulay, it is now 11.30. Would it work if  
17 we stop there?

18 MR MACAULAY: Yes, this is a good point.

19 LADY SMITH: I promised you a break, Susanne, and we've been  
20 grilling you now for nearly an hour-and-a-half, so if it  
21 would work for you, we'll take that break just now and  
22 return to your evidence after that.

23 Thank you.

24 (11.32 am)

25 (A short break)

1 (11.50 am)

2 LADY SMITH: Susanne, are you ready for us to continue?

3 A. Yes, my Lady.

4 LADY SMITH: Thank you very much.

5 Mr MacAulay.

6 MR MACAULAY: My Lady.

7 Before the break, Susanne, we had looked at the  
8 claims that had been submitted since you submitted the  
9 Section 21 response.

10 Can I then look at the Part B of the response, and  
11 that can be found at GLA.001.002.6928. And I'm looking  
12 at page 30, which should come on the screen.

13 And towards the bottom of the page we have Part B,  
14 with the heading:

15 'Retrospective Acknowledgement/Admission.'

16 And the question and answer here are quite similar  
17 to what we saw for Park Lodge:

18 'Does the organisation accept that between 1930  
19 and December 2014, some children cared for at the  
20 establishment were abused?'

21 And we have a similar response to what we had before  
22 from the Chief Social Work Officer at the time, so to  
23 speak.

24 But having regard to the conviction of  
25 Alistair Findlay and the other claims, and, indeed, what

1           you've looked at in relation to the evidence from  
2           Park Lodge, do you accept that abuse did take place at  
3           Park Lodge?

4   A.   Yes.

5   Q.   And is it the council's position now that there was  
6           a systemic failure?

7   A.   Yes.

8   Q.   In relation to Fornethy, that we looked at previously,  
9           and now Park Lodge, and this may not be within your  
10          gift, but are you able to consider whether or not, on  
11          behalf of the council, you are able to tender  
12          an apology?

13  A.   It is certainly something that we'll cover.  It's most  
14          likely in our final submission.  Apologies if I've got  
15          the wrong terminology, but it's an active conversation  
16          in terms of our -- so, 'yes' is the answer and we'll do  
17          that in our closing submission so that the Inquiry has  
18          that.

19  LADY SMITH:  I take it from that you have in mind the  
20          closing submissions that will be next month?

21  A.   Yes.  Yes, my Lady.

22  LADY SMITH:  Thank you.

23  MR MACAULAY:  Well, thank you for that.

24                 Now, that's all I propose to ask you about  
25                 Park Lodge.  And finally from me, I want to touch

1           briefly on Dunclutha, if I may. And I'll follow the  
2           same sort of procedure as I did with Park Lodge.

3           The response for Dunclutha is at GLA.001.002.9897.

4           And in the Part A section, if I can turn to page 10,  
5           where again you provide some background about Dunclutha  
6           at (iii), and what you have set out there is:

7           'Dunclutha was opened around 1932 as a children's  
8           home for boarded-out children (boys and girls) by  
9           Glasgow Corporation.'

10          And then you say:

11          'In 1938, Dunclutha was adapted for the reception of  
12          44 healthy children who were expected to be only  
13          chargeable for a limited period, such as during the  
14          illness of their mother.'

15          So that, is that quite -- and in addition to the  
16          fact that it was also a children's home for a more -- on  
17          a more permanent basis?

18   A. That's our understanding. That's a direct quote, if my  
19          memory serves me right, that's a direct quote from the  
20          archives that we were able to find in relation to the  
21          role and function of Dunclutha.

22   Q. You go on to say:

23          'This was not to interfere with or curtail the  
24          system of boarded-out.'

25   A. Yes.

1 Q. So the two, as it were, were there together.

2 A. Co-existed, yes.

3 LADY SMITH: Susanne, what are we to take from the use of  
4 the word 'chargeable' in that answer?

5 A. As I said, my Lady, my recollection of that was that it  
6 was a direct lift from a report at the time, in terms of  
7 the role and function.

8 LADY SMITH: From your knowledge of the way the council's  
9 worked over the years, what does that tell you? Because  
10 this wasn't somebody else's home that the council were  
11 using.

12 A. That's right. Yes. I mean, it does suggest, if it's  
13 healthy children -- I don't recall having this  
14 conversation at the time, but my assessment would be if  
15 it's healthy children and for a limited period of time,  
16 then 'chargeable' relates to the fact that their family  
17 would have been charged for us looking after them.

18 LADY SMITH: Ah, of course, because we've had some evidence  
19 from time to time about families being charged.

20 A. Yes.

21 LADY SMITH: Indeed, we had at least one applicant in  
22 relation to Fornethy understanding that her parents had  
23 paid. I think only one. We'll check that.

24 MR MACAULAY: And you go on to tell us, Susanne, that on  
25 1 February 1951, a nursery school was opened within the

1 children's home and thereafter it cared for boys  
2 and girls from 2 to 12.

3 Do I take from that, there was a nursery school and  
4 it developed into -- also into a primary school?

5 A. Yes.

6 Q. And as we know, and as we took from you earlier,  
7 I think, that Dunclutha has been managed by Argyll &  
8 Bute since 1996, after the changes in local government?

9 A. Yes.

10 Q. And you may not be aware of this, but we understand that  
11 old Dunclutha, if I can call it that, closed in about  
12 2018/2019, but a new building re-opened close to the  
13 same site; were you aware of that?

14 A. I wasn't aware of that, no.

15 Q. And looking to numbers, going to page 14, towards the  
16 bottom of the page you are asked about how many children  
17 did the establishment accommodate, and we are told:

18 'The annual reports of the children's department  
19 show that Dunclutha could accommodate between 50 and 79  
20 children at a time.'

21 In a particular period, that's 1950 to 1958.

22 A. Mm-hmm.

23 Q. Again, without spending too much time on this, I think  
24 we're told subsequently in the report that the records  
25 indicate that the home accommodated mixed children of

1 different ages.

2 A. Yes.

3 Q. Perhaps I'll take you to page 30. There's a heading:

4 External oversight'

5 Again, we have seen this before. And at (ii):

6 'Who visited the organisation and/or the

7 establishment in an official or statutory capacity and

8 for what purposes?'

9 And the answer is:

10 'No evidence of such visits.'

11 Do we take from that that there are no records to

12 indicate that any visits took place?

13 A. Yes.

14 Q. Then if I could turn to the Part D response on -- in

15 GLA.001.002.9930.

16 Towards the bottom, Part D, page 58, can we see

17 there that when you're asked about abuse, that according

18 to records and information available to the local

19 authority:

20 'There is no evidence of abuse to children,

21 residents during this period.'

22 But since this time, have any claims been submitted?

23 A. I'm afraid I don't know the answer to that question.

24 Dunclutha was one I didn't check with my own legal team.

25 Q. I understand from an email that we received on

1 7 January, this year, that there are two live claims.

2 But you hadn't been advised of that?

3 A. No, which is my responsibility, because I asked about  
4 the ones -- the institutions that we've still got  
5 responsibility for. So that was my oversight.  
6 Apologies.

7 Q. Yes, I think the email reads, this is on 7 January 2026:

8 'In relation to your email, I have been advised by  
9 our claims section that as at today's date, there are  
10 currently two live claims by individuals relating to  
11 alleged abuse at Dunclutha. These are being dealt with  
12 by external solicitors.'

13 That's the message we've received.

14 If I then turn to the Part B section, and that's at  
15 page 32 -- maybe I should give the full reference.  
16 GLA.001.002.9897 at page 32. Yes.

17 Now, the Inquiry has heard evidence about what  
18 happened at Dunclutha over a period, in particular  
19 1949 to 1979, but mainly for the 1960s into the 1970s,  
20 of physical abuse, emotional abuse, sexual abuse by  
21 someone who may have been a part-time handyman, but also  
22 involvement with the US sailors who were based at the  
23 Polaris base at the Holy Loch. And in particular  
24 there's been evidence that one particular resident was  
25 badly sexually abused by at least one, if not two, of

1           those individuals.

2           There's also been evidence of abusive bed-wetting  
3           practices and force-feeding. I don't know to what  
4           extent you have been made aware of that evidence?

5   A. To be honest, I haven't been made aware of that  
6           evidence.

7   Q. But, if Lady Smith were to accept that evidence, would  
8           that suggest to you that there must have been some  
9           systemic failures to allow that to happen?

10   A. Yes.

11   MR MACAULAY: Very well, Susanne, that's all I have to ask  
12           you. Thank you very much indeed for answering my  
13           questions in the way that you had.

14           And that is what I want to ask Susanne. I have not  
15           been sent any questions in connection with these  
16           establishments.

17           I wonder, my Lady if one could have a very short  
18           break to allow a changeover?

19   LADY SMITH: A changeover, yes.

20           We'll take a short break and, as you understand,  
21           Mr Sheldon will then carry on with questioning that he  
22           has for you in relation to some other institutions.

23           Would five minutes be enough?

24   MR MACAULAY: Five minutes should be enough.

25   LADY SMITH: Very well, let's do that.

1 (12.04 pm)

2 (A short break)

3 (12.12 pm)

4 LADY SMITH: Welcome back, Susanne. I think we're ready to  
5 go; is that right, Mr Sheldon?

6 MR SHELDON: Yes, my Lady, and I will be looking in this  
7 section at two other Glasgow children's homes, Eversley  
8 and Downcraig.

9 LADY SMITH: Yes. Thank you.

10 Questions by Mr Sheldon

11 MR SHELDON: And, well, it's now good afternoon, Susanne.

12 And I think you should have in front of you the --  
13 or if not it will come up on the screen -- the Glasgow  
14 reports, the A to Ds on Eversley and Downcraig  
15 children's homes.

16 Eversley, I think we know, was in Aytoun Road, and  
17 that's the Pollokshields area of Glasgow; is that right?

18 A. Yes, it is.

19 Q. And Downcraig was in Castlemilk, in Downcraig Terrace?

20 A. Yes.

21 Q. If we can look, please, at the Eversley material. It is  
22 GLA.001.001.0091 at page 12, please.

23 And that I think tells us, if we look about halfway  
24 down the page, that Eversley Children's Home closed in  
25 about 1981?

1 A. Yes.

2 Q. And I think the information that we have suggests that  
3 it may have opened in around 1943 or 1944?

4 A. Yes, that's our understanding.

5 Q. All right. We also have a statement, I don't think we  
6 need to go to it, Susanne, that Eversley may have closed  
7 in April 1979. Are you able to assist us with that,  
8 whether that would be the correct date, or 1981 would be  
9 the correct date?

10 A. No, I'm sorry.

11 Q. All right.

12 A. Again, this was a Section 21 we completed nine years  
13 ago, so I was involved in the completion of it and  
14 signing off of it, and that was the information we had  
15 at the time.

16 Q. I appreciate it. You may not have had the statement at  
17 that time.

18 But certainly there is a statement, my Lady, that  
19 the closure was April 1979 and the staff and children  
20 then moved to Downcraig.

21 LADY SMITH: Right. Yes. Thank you.

22 MR SHELDON: And if we look at the Part A for Downcraig,  
23 please, GLA.001.001.0002 and that's page 11 and 12.  
24 I think we see at the foot of page 11 that Downcraig was  
25 established in 1981. That would certainly fit with the

1           dates you have for the Eversley closure, Susanne?

2   A.   Yes.

3   Q.   But it's then said that Downcraig closed, and this is  
4           about halfway back up the page, in 1987.  And again  
5           there's some material that you provided, that Glasgow  
6           provided.  I don't think we need to go to it, but it  
7           indicates that Downcraig probably opened in 1975 or  
8           1976, rather than 1981, and that, I suppose, would fit  
9           with the statement I was talking about, which suggests  
10          that Eversley closed 1979 and there was a move to  
11          Downcraig at that stage.

12                 Just on that, though, even assuming that Downcraig  
13           opened in 1975/1976, if it's closing in 1987, it seems  
14           a very short life for that particular establishment.  
15           Can you -- do you have any comment or any idea as to why  
16           that might have been so?

17   A.   No, I have not, sorry, apologies, I have no insight into  
18           why that might be.

19   Q.   Right.  Would Downcraig, again assuming a 1975 opening,  
20           would that at that stage have been a purpose-built  
21           children's house or children's home?

22   A.   I don't think Downcraig was purpose-built.  Again,  
23           apologies, I probably shouldn't make assumptions.

24   Q.   No, it's fine.

25   A.   I don't know.

1 Q. It's really just to see if you had any information about  
2 that.

3 We know that Eversley wasn't, and we'll see some  
4 documentation --

5 A. Yes.

6 Q. -- later on that gives some history of it, but I think  
7 we don't know very much about Downcraig.

8 A. Mm-hmm.

9 Q. So these are the sort of opening and closing date  
10 ranges.

11 If we look at, actually at the Downcraig Part A,  
12 page 16, and just at the top of the page, there's  
13 an indication that Downcraig accommodated 27 children at  
14 a time. If Downcraig was purpose-built at that stage,  
15 in the 1970s, would that sound about right? It seems  
16 quite big for a purpose-built home?

17 A. In the 1970s it wouldn't have been unusual.

18 Q. Right. Right. Certainly by modern standards that's  
19 a large --

20 A. Very large.

21 Q. And I'm sure you told us before, but just to remind us,  
22 what sort of size or what numbers are we talking about  
23 in modern Glasgow children's houses?

24 A. Yeah, so we have 17 children's houses that accommodate  
25 up to eight children, and one which is six.

1 Q. And if we then move back to the Eversley Part A, and  
2 I'm sorry for jumping around, it's just to get some  
3 comparisons, the Eversley Part A at page 18, and I think  
4 under the heading 'Establishment', we see that the  
5 historical records show that Eversley accommodated  
6 between 30 and 41 children at a time.

7 Now, I suppose by the standards of some  
8 establishments, Susanne, that's actually not that big,  
9 but it is pretty big in terms of numbers in a single  
10 children's home; is that fair to say?

11 A. Yes, it's big, but again, in a historical context,  
12 I think we've already submitted in relation to, for  
13 example, Larchgrove, which was bigger than that. But,  
14 yeah, that's big by any standard, yeah.

15 Q. Yes, and we may see again some evidence later that  
16 Eversley was at various points, particularly in the  
17 1960s and 1970s, pretty overcrowded. And is  
18 overcrowding something which can contribute to levels of  
19 abuse, particularly violent abuse?

20 A. Overcrowding in any institution I think certainly, for  
21 example, makes safeguarding much more challenging, if  
22 you have more children accommodated than you ought to  
23 have.

24 Q. Page 34, please, in this same document. We looked at  
25 this earlier this morning, actually, it's really the

1 same answer as was given in relation to Park Lodge,  
2 I think, about the inspection unit, I think the  
3 so-called arm's-length inspection units that were  
4 established in Strathclyde.

5 I think you started work as a social worker in the  
6 early 1990s, is that right?

7 A. Yes.

8 Q. Do you remember the arm's-length inspection units?

9 A. Yes.

10 Q. And what sort of reputation did they have and how were  
11 they received when the inspections began?

12 A. So I'm expressing an opinion just now. They were  
13 actually very well regarded in terms of their  
14 credibility in relation to practice.

15 Q. And can I ask you why that was?

16 A. Because of the -- so, my recollection, the quality of  
17 the leadership in the inspection unit, and apologies,  
18 I now can't remember exactly who it was, but I remember  
19 there being a credibility. And if you think to the  
20 previous question from your colleague in terms of  
21 Park Lodge and their ability to write a report, that's  
22 actually very clear in terms of a failure of standards  
23 of care. So that suggests to me, and that's my  
24 recollection of how I regarded it, as a unit who were  
25 genuinely arm's-length and genuinely child-focused.

1 Q. All right.

2 Now, these are -- these units are established in  
3 1990, so it's too late really for Eversley and  
4 Downcraig. They're both shut by this point. And  
5 I don't think we've got any inspection records from  
6 either Strathclyde or -- well, it wouldn't be Glasgow,  
7 it would be Strathclyde.

8 Are you aware of any inspections taking place, local  
9 authority inspections taking place in the 1970s, 1980s,  
10 of Eversley and Downcraig?

11 A. Again, I think not to our knowledge in terms of what we  
12 could find in relation to documentary evidence. My  
13 professional experience wouldn't, unfortunately, go that  
14 far back.

15 Q. I understand. So your searches didn't come across  
16 any --

17 A. No.

18 Q. -- inspection records?

19 If we could look, please, at -- it's a document that  
20 came from the Scottish Government, SGV-0013 -- sorry,  
21 1033837. SGV-001033837.

22 And we'll look at a little bit more of this later  
23 on, but I just want to look briefly at page 87, please.

24 LADY SMITH: That is a 1972 -- 1972 document that's been  
25 archived, is it?

1 MR SHELDON: That's correct, my Lady, I'm sorry. (Pause)

2 So this is, we see at the top of the page,  
3 apparently an extract from Ms Reid's minute of  
4 20 September 1972. It's about, you see, Eversley,  
5 Glasgow. Ms Reid tells us this was formerly  
6 a short-stay home taking emergencies only.

7 (Pause)

8 I am sorry, yes, I will shift the microphone.

9 This was formerly or formally, a short-stay home  
10 taking emergencies only, but now turned into a long-term  
11 home for children between zero and 16, and in the second  
12 paragraph she says:

13 'This home is now taking 40 children. In the south  
14 it would certainly only be allowed to have about 20 and  
15 the whole staffing arrangements would be quite  
16 different. The impression one gets inevitably is of  
17 a very overcrowded situation with little individual care  
18 to the children.'

19 And she then goes on to describe the interior of the  
20 home.

21 Under the heading 'Staffing' a little further down,  
22 we're told:

23 'The matron has a flat in the stables but otherwise  
24 staff are non-resident and they have night duty staff.  
25 Staffing is in shifts and the staff are called group

1 nurses. Sometimes there are only four on in the evening  
2 for 40 children; this must be a nightmare when one  
3 thinks that the age range of the children is from babies  
4 up to teenagers, and ten of the children are at special  
5 day school so probably present additional problems.'

6 And reading short to the final paragraph:

7 'The deputy was very aware of their inability to  
8 care properly for the children, but in this current  
9 situation it obviously is impossible to run the place in  
10 any other way. I felt that there was no concept of good  
11 childcare practice and that the whole organisation of  
12 the home would need to be altered before a start could  
13 be made to improve the situation.'

14 So just pausing at that, Susanne, it's painting  
15 a pretty bleak picture of this home and sounds almost  
16 like a chaotic atmosphere; would you agree?

17 A. Yes.

18 LADY SMITH: With demotivated staff, by the look of things,  
19 who at the moment, it's felt, are not being properly  
20 paid for what they're doing and they're about to be put  
21 onto a different scale that means they'll get a drop in  
22 salary again?

23 A. Yes.

24 MR SHELDON: So this is 1972 and we know, of course, that  
25 Eversley -- well, we think Eversley closed in 1979 or

1 1981, thereabouts. But it seems particularly  
2 unfortunate, does it not, that having seen this  
3 inspection report and having had this inspection report,  
4 that we don't have any indication subsequently of what  
5 conditions were like and what, if anything was done, to  
6 address the difficulties that Eversley was clearly  
7 having?

8 A. Yes.

9 Q. And, I suppose, in fairness to you, there may have been  
10 visits or inspections, but we just don't know?

11 A. Yeah, yeah, it's the evidence of that that we don't  
12 have.

13 Q. Right.

14 Now, going back to the Eversley A to D, really the A  
15 to B in this instance, the GLA.001.001.0091 document.  
16 If we look at page 35, please. This is in relation to  
17 acknowledgements and admissions.

18 And, at the foot of the page, we are told that:

19 'Glasgow City Council accepts that some children  
20 cared for in Eversley were subjected to abuse.'

21 And, over the page:

22 'The extent and scale of the abuse cannot be  
23 definitively specified. GCC does accept, however, that  
24 some children were subject to abuse.'

25 And the point is made in the next paragraph that no

1 enquiry or investigations were carried out during the  
2 period that Eversley was operational.

3 And, again at paragraph 3.2, acknowledgement of  
4 systemic failures, (i):

5 'GCC accepts its systems and systems within  
6 Strathclyde Regional Council failed to protect some  
7 children in Eversley Children's Unit.'

8 Now, if we can look to contrast to the Downcraig  
9 document, that's GLA.001.001.0002, at page 31, please,  
10 top of page 31:

11 'Does the organisation accept ... that some children  
12 cared for at Downcraig were abused?'

13 'As far as the current management team of GCC are  
14 aware, there are no records available or the whereabouts  
15 of any records are unknown to answer this question.  
16 There may be historical records relating to this  
17 question archived in various locations. However, at  
18 this time we're unable to specify what records are  
19 held.'

20 And in relation to the assessment of extent of  
21 abuse, there's just a reference back to the previous  
22 answer.

23 And the section on acknowledgement of systemic  
24 failures is really in similar terms; do you see that?

25 A. Yes.

1 Q. Susanne, I think, taking on board the idea that it is  
2 perhaps always very difficult to be definitive about the  
3 scale of abuse at any particular establishment, from our  
4 own figures, from our own documentation and research,  
5 the figures suggest that at least 68 individuals have  
6 either been proven to be -- have been abused at Eversley  
7 and Downcraig or have complained about abuse by a number  
8 of different perpetrators.

9 Do you have any figures or information that would  
10 tend to modify or amplify that figure or those figures?

11 A. Just in terms of the number of live claims, and I know  
12 I was briefed on that, but I've genuinely forgotten.  
13 I'm not sure it's of that -- but we did have a look at  
14 that and we certainly had information in relation to  
15 Eversley at the time. Again, this was completed in  
16 2017, so at that time we did have information in  
17 relation to Eversley, which demonstrated that --

18 Q. When you're talking about 'live claims', do you mean  
19 court actions, civil actions?

20 A. Yes, yes.

21 Q. All right.

22 A. And we were -- and I do remember this quite well -- we  
23 were differentiating, if this makes any sense, in terms  
24 of our answer to that question, to how clear we could  
25 be, for example, on Kerelaw and Larchgrove, because

1           there had been significant enquiries in relation to both  
2           of those establishments and at least one of which we had  
3           been directly involved in. So we were able to be  
4           definitive about the extent of systemic failures.

5           So it wasn't an attempt to duck that question. It  
6           was a comparator between the amount of information we  
7           had in relation to some institutions.

8    Q. I see. Looking at some more of the specifics then. If  
9           we look at -- it's back -- it's the Eversley C to D  
10          document, GLA.001.001.3794 and pages 87 to 88, please.  
11          This is under the heading, at the foot of page 87,  
12          'Known Abusers at Establishment'

13                 At the foot of page 7. The question is:

14                 'Does the organisation know of specific abusers or  
15                 alleged abusers?'

16                 'Yes.'

17                 'If so, what are the names?'

18                 And the name given is John Marshall.

19    A. Yes.

20    Q. And there's then various follow-up questions about that,  
21          about dates, role in the organisation, he's  
22          a residential worker and so on.

23                 And if we jump to the Downcraig C to D please,  
24                 GLA.001.001.2088, and it's page 81, please. This is  
25                 again the section in relation to abuse at the

1 establishment, in this case Downcraig.

2 And if we look over the page to 82, please -- sorry,

3 I should have taken the foot of page 81, 'Extent':

4 'What is the organisation's assessment of the scale

5 and extent of abuse of children?'

6 And the answer is:

7 'Only aware of one allegation.'

8 And over the page, essentially the same answer:

9 'Against how many staff have complaints been made?

10 One complaint sighted(sic)'

11 And beside (v):

12 'How many staff have been found to have abused

13 children cared for?'

14 And the answer given is:

15 'No staff at Downcraig convicted of abuse.'

16 You see that?

17 A. Yes.

18 Q. Now, if we can turn to a different document, please.

19 It's GLA-000003713. Susanne, have you seen this

20 document before?

21 A. I don't think so.

22 Q. It's actually appendix E to the A to D response?

23 A. So it was nine years ago, so perhaps I have then.

24 I'm sorry, I don't recall it.

25 Q. I appreciate there's a lot of documentation.

1 A. Yeah.

2 Q. A lot of documentation was submitted with the A to Ds.

3 A. Yeah.

4 Q. But I think we see that this is headed:

5 Downcraig/Eversley investigation alleged

6 perpetrators'

7 A. Yeah.

8 Q. And there are a number of named -- apparently named

9 individuals there. Take it from me, they are named

10 individuals. One of them is John Marshall in the top

11 left text box?

12 A. Yes, I recognise that.

13 Q. But there are a number of other individuals. And if we

14 just look at some of the details of that. In that first

15 text box, we see that -- this is in relation to

16 a married couple and we know that John Marshall married

17 RLD, who was SNR at Eversley at some

18 point, probably in the 1970s. And we see that there is

19 a note that it's: 'John Marshall charged with

20 pornographic offences, photos of children in

21 Downcraig?', and there's a reference to various

22 allegations.

23 And then in relation to the remaining, reading, as

24 it were, clockwise, there's an individual with

25 allegations that an individual, a girl, was raped.

1           Someone who worked at Eversley was -- there is  
2           an allegation of a serious sexual assault and bottom,  
3           second from right -- sorry, third from right, there's  
4           a note that a particular individual's been charged by  
5           the police, having been interviewed.

6           Bear with me.

7           So on the basis of the information there, it appears  
8           that at least one other individual had been charged.  
9           We're not sure of the date of this, Susanne. There's --  
10          I don't know if you can see in the bottom left-hand  
11          corner, there's a reference number or a printed  
12          reference; does that give any clue as to the date of  
13          this?

14        A. No, it doesn't. No, that's just the way we would be  
15          naming a file. We wouldn't have --

16        Q. We also know, Susanne, that there was a large  
17          investigation into Eversley and, as it turned out,  
18          Downcraig, in the early 2000s, culminating in Marshall's  
19          conviction in 2002?

20        A. Yeah.

21        Q. So is it likely this document was put together by what  
22          -- it would then be Glasgow to try to map out what was  
23          known about alleged perpetrators?

24        A. I think that's a reasonable assumption, yeah.

25        Q. (Pause)

1 Apologies.

2 So if we can just look at some of the details,  
3 Susanne. If we can look at the document JUS-000000280.  
4 Do we see that the first page of this is an extract  
5 sentence, detention and so on in respect of John  
6 Marshall?

7 A. Yes.

8 Q. And we see that he's been convicted and sentenced on 14  
9 counts of lewd, indecent and -- well, 13 counts of lewd,  
10 indecent and libidinous practices and one under the  
11 Criminal Amendment Act and he is sentenced to life  
12 imprisonment, but with a minimum period of 12 years --

13 A. Yes.

14 Q. -- do you see that? And if we can then look at -- over  
15 the page at the indictment, we see details of what was  
16 alleged and what Marshall was convicted of.

17 So if we look, for example, at charge 2 we can see  
18 some of the details of the sort of abuse that was  
19 alleged. This is a sexual assault on a boy, handling of  
20 private parts and so on. And if we look towards the end  
21 of the charge, I think we see that one of the acts  
22 alleged related to a number of children, inducing  
23 children, in effect, to sexually assault each other?

24 A. Yes.

25 Q. And that he was taking photographs of that?

1 A. Yes.

2 Q. Over the page again, please, if we look at charge 4,  
3 I think we see that this is a charge in relation to  
4 events taking place between 1974 and 1981 at Eversley  
5 Children's Home and Downcraig Children's Home. And a  
6 charge of lewd and libidinous practices against another;  
7 this is a girl in this case. And I think we saw on the  
8 first page that he was convicted of that?

9 A. Yes.

10 Q. So there is a conviction in relation to Downcraig?

11 A. Yes.

12 Q. And if we roll on, we see that charge 12, this is  
13 page 6, that is another charge in relation to offences  
14 taking place at Downcraig Children's Home and also at  
15 a place called Torranyard Caravan Park, which is said to  
16 be in Ayrshire and charge 13, I think we see again  
17 there's a charge in relation to offences taking place at  
18 Downcraig at a caravan site in Culzean Castle, Maybole  
19 and at Torranyard Caravan Park. So this a lengthy  
20 indictment which results in convictions for abuse taking  
21 place at both Eversley and Downcraig?

22 A. Yes.

23 Q. My Lady, just as an aside, Marshall had to be extradited  
24 from Australia in order to stand trial. We don't need  
25 to look at it, but the details are at SGV-001037999.

1           Still thinking about the A to D, Susanne, if we can  
2           look now at another conviction, this is at  
3           JUS-000000374, first of all. And this is an extract  
4           conviction in relation to an individual called  
5           Owen McCann and Mr McCann's name appears in the Glasgow  
6           document that I showed you earlier on. He's one of the  
7           people in the text boxes. And we see that this is  
8           a note of conviction on three counts of shameless  
9           indecent. So again sexual abuse, sexual conduct.

10           And if we then look at JUS-000000375, please,  
11           I think we see this is the indictment in relation to  
12           McCann. Helpfully the charges on which -- I'm not sure  
13           if they were either withdrawn or dropped, so charge 2 is  
14           scored out, but charge 1 is a charge of shamelessly  
15           indecent conduct towards a boy born in 1966 and there's  
16           some details about what was done there.

17           And this is a boy who is in care at Eversley  
18           Children's Home. Over the page, charges 3 and 4 are  
19           also charges in relation to children in care at  
20           Eversley. And, of course, we saw just a moment ago that  
21           McCann was convicted, so does it seem that this is  
22           a second conviction arising from Eversley?

23   A. Yes.

24   Q. If we turn please to JUS-000000393. I think we see that  
25           this is an indictment in relation to an individual

1 called Steven MacDonald.

2 I can say that MacDonald is a person whose name  
3 appeared on the Glasgow diagram that we saw earlier on.  
4 And we can see on the indictment that these again are  
5 charges arising at Eversley Children's Home; shamelessly  
6 indecent conduct against two different girls and a boy.  
7 I beg your pardon -- yes, two girls and a boy.

8 And if we look at the same document, page 3, please,  
9 so this is a schedule of previous convictions and  
10 I think we can see there that MacDonald was convicted in  
11 1973 of indecent exposure and fined £15 and, of course,  
12 we don't know the detail of that and what exactly  
13 was the nature of the conduct, but we know from the  
14 indictment, and if we just scroll back to page 2, we can  
15 see that it's specifically averred that MacDonald was  
16 a houseparent at Eversley.

17 So would you agree that it's unfortunate that  
18 a houseparent, at a children's home, would have  
19 a conviction for indecent exposure?

20 A. Yes.

21 Q. And if we scroll right almost to the end, I think it's  
22 page 23, these are handwritten notes, minutes from the  
23 trial, which took place. And about halfway down, it's  
24 noted that the jury indicated that they needed further  
25 directions. And then a little further on:

1           'The jury, by majority, found the accused guilty as  
2 charged in respect of charge 1, guilty as charged by  
3 majority charge 2 and guilty by majority charge --  
4 [sorry], not guilty charge 3, by majority'. So again  
5 this is a conviction in relation to conduct taking place  
6 at Eversley.

7           Now, in fairness, it should -- I should take this  
8 from you, it's JUS-000000386, and I don't want to  
9 trouble you with the technicalities of this, but I think  
10 we see this is an opinion of the High Court of  
11 Justiciary in an appeal by MacDonald against his  
12 conviction and sentence.

13           And putting matters short, the conviction was  
14 quashed, but if we look at just -- if we look at page 2,  
15 paragraph 3, as a matter of some interest, that the  
16 court was informed the Crown had led evidence from  
17 a particular complainer, ■■■, and that she had been  
18 abused sexually by another employee of the home  
19 immediately before the appellant had behaved in  
20 a shamelessly indecent manner towards her. She was also  
21 asked in evidence-in-chief how she had come 27 or  
22 28 years later to make complaints first against this  
23 other employee and then against the appellant.'

24           So even at that stage, and this is 2002, the  
25 complainers are being cross-examined about delay in

1 reporting what had happened to them. Do you find that  
2 surprising?

3 A. In terms of the context? Unfortunately, that is  
4 an experience of complainants.

5 Q. And if we move to page 3, please, paragraph 9, and  
6 trying to take this short, there's a technical matter of  
7 evidence here about statements and the use of statements  
8 made shortly after an event, and the court says, about  
9 five lines from the bottom of that paragraph:

10 'In this place, the complainer, ■■■, could not  
11 remember making any complaint until she spoke to her  
12 speech therapist 26 or 27 years afterwards. Not only  
13 did she not remember making any complaint, but also she  
14 did not recognise [the person to whom she is said to  
15 have made the complaint] as having been a child in the  
16 home at the time.'

17 So, put short, the evidence of ■■■, as it were, fell  
18 away, and the case couldn't then succeed because there  
19 wasn't mutual corroboration between ■■■ and the other  
20 girl concerned.

21 But the fact remains, does it not, that there was  
22 initially a conviction and on that basis, the jury must  
23 have believed what they were being told about the abuse  
24 that took place?

25 A. Yes, that's my understanding. That's how I'm reading

1           that, yeah.

2   Q.   And if we can look now at JUS-000000394, this is another  
3           ██████████ individual, and it's actually the  
4           individual who's referred to in the previous document we  
5           looked at, who was alleged to have abused █████ prior to  
6           Steven MacDonald. And I think we see from █████  
7           ██████████ that there are again averments of lewd and  
8           libidinous practices and there's detail of that in the  
9           body of the charges. And again, this is alleged to have  
10          taken place at Eversley Children's Home.

11                 But if we look at page 11 of this document, please,  
12          and scrolling towards the foot, I think we see:

13

14

15

16          ██████████ abuse taking place at Eversley --

17   A.   Yeah.

18   Q.   -- by at least one of the same complainers that we saw  
19          in the other case.

20   A.   Yes.

21   Q.   And the individual ██████████, again, is one of the  
22          individuals who's named in the Glasgow document at  
23          GLA-000003713.

24                 And the same is true of the next individual. If we  
25          can look, please, at -- it's a document which, in

1 fairness to you, Glasgow would have been unlikely to  
2 have seen, but the reference is PSS-000032393. And  
3 I think we can see, Susanne, that this is a police  
4 statement -- a police report, rather --

5 A. Yeah.

6 Q. -- dated 10 May 2001. This again is one of the  
7 individuals named in the Glasgow document, at appendix E  
8 to the A to D. And we can see that, scrolling down the  
9 page, there's a number of charges that at various  
10 locations a child or children were abused by this  
11 individual. And the charges, if we look at charge 3,  
12 the charges include one of what would then have been  
13 called sodomy but we'd now think of as rape.

14 A. Yeah.

15 Q. And charge 4 is in similar terms. And page 2, there's  
16 a heading, 'Antecedents'. We see that the narrative is  
17 the accused is married to a particular individual, lives  
18 there with her. He's currently employed as  
19 a residential worker at Wallacewell Children's Home.

20 And if we then scroll further down to 'Description  
21 of events', there's a note that the witness, and they're  
22 named, and he's one of the complainers in the charges,  
23 was resident at Downcraig Children's Home and then  
24 transferred to Wallacewell, and in the next paragraph,  
25 beginning 'At 20.25 hours', there's an interview and

1           it's noted in the last three lines:

2           'These incidents occurred whilst the witness was  
3           resident at Downcraig Children's Home and also while the  
4           accused's wife was a member of staff there.'

5           So that's the connection to Downcraig there, albeit  
6           the abuse didn't -- the alleged abuse didn't take place  
7           at Downcraig.

8           So here again, Susanne, there are charges, at least,  
9           and I have to say we haven't been able to obtain any  
10          further information about that. It's not clear whether  
11          a trial took place, whether matters proceeded or were  
12          simply dropped. But again, I think we see that there  
13          are charges and would you agree -- and I'm conscious  
14          it's almost time for the lunch break -- but would you  
15          agree that really, a pattern is starting to emerge here?

16         A. Yes.

17         MR SHELDON: Would that be a convenient time, my Lady?

18         LADY SMITH: Yes, I think we should stop for the lunch break  
19          now and return to your evidence at 2 o'clock, Susanne.  
20          Thank you very much.

21          But, before I rise, a couple of names we used  
22          earlier this morning. I have mentioned them both before  
23          as being people whose identities are protected by my  
24          General Restriction Order and so they're not to be  
25          referred to as identified in our evidence outside this

1 room. [REDACTED]

2 [REDACTED]

3 [REDACTED] RLD [REDACTED]. Yes.

4 Thank you.

5 (1.02 pm)

6 (The luncheon adjournment)

7 (2.00 pm)

8 LADY SMITH: Susanne, welcome back. Now, if we may, we'll  
9 return to your evidence; is that all right?

10 A. Yes, thank you, my Lady.

11 LADY SMITH: Thank you.

12 Mr Sheldon.

13 MR SHELDON: Thank you, my Lady.

14 Susanne, before the lunch break, we were looking at,  
15 I suppose, something of a rogues' gallery of individuals  
16 charged and convicted with various sexual offences  
17 against children at both Eversley and Downcraig.

18 And I just wanted to round off that review, if you  
19 like, by looking at another police document, police  
20 report, PSS-000033212.

21 And I think we can see that that's a police report,  
22 dated 3 November 2000, and there are charges set out  
23 there.

24 Charge 1, various dates between 1979 and 1981,  
25 within Downcraig Children's Home. The charge is one of

1       lewd and libidinous practices against a child, a male  
2       child in this instance, born 1968, and there are details  
3       of the alleged offences.

4             Charge 2, also a charge relating to conduct taking  
5       place within Downcraig whilst this individual's employed  
6       as a care worker there.

7             And the next page just gives some background details  
8       which I don't think we need to go into.

9             But again, Susanne, do we have charges being made  
10       against a care worker, a residential worker at  
11       Downcraig, sexual offences towards children?

12    A.   Yes.

13    Q.   And if we can look briefly again, please, at the  
14       document GLA -- I'm sorry, GLA-000003713. The  
15       individual concerned in this set of charges appears in  
16       that diagram, top right, and I think I can say that,  
17       with one exception, that we haven't been able to trace,  
18       and no one has been able to trace, any details, all of  
19       the individuals named on that sheet have had allegations  
20       against them, some proved and some not.

21             So would you agree with me, it really is quite the  
22       rogues' gallery in relation to Eversley and Downcraig?

23    A.   It's probably not the characterisation I would use,  
24       'rogues' gallery'. I would say it's an indication of  
25       abuse that took place in both of those institutions.

1 Q. Well, I think that's right, Susanne, and does it tend to  
2 suggest a pretty catastrophic failure of safeguarding at  
3 both of these children's homes?

4 A. It suggests systemic failures.

5 Q. Perhaps we can look, just to give some background  
6 perhaps, at another document. It's -- excuse me --  
7 GLA-000004122. And we see this is headed 'Eversley  
8 logbook.'

9 But -- and I should have taken from you in relation  
10 to the last document actually that the offences were  
11 said to have taken place at Downcraig, but in I think --  
12 sorry, give me a moment. (Pause)

13 Yes, the charges were in relation to January 1979 to  
14 December 1981 within Downcraig. So again, does that  
15 support the view that Downcraig was open by about 1979?

16 A. It does suggest that, but it appears quite confused. So  
17 I'm not sure.

18 Q. It may be, if it's confusing, Susanne, it may be my  
19 fault, so what's the issue?

20 A. No, just in terms of the timing.

21 Q. Yes, so perhaps different accounts --

22 A. Yes.

23 Q. -- of when things opened and closed.

24 At all events, looking at the -- that document, it's  
25 headed 'Eversley logbook.'

1 A. Yes.

2 Q. But we think that at least some of it is actually  
3 a logbook for Downcraig, after the move to Downcraig  
4 took place.

5 And if we look, please, at page 2, I think we can  
6 see in the first column headed 'Sunday, 29 June 1980',  
7 there's a group of children go to a caravan for  
8 an overnight stay with SNR and John.

9 And page 3, please, in the first column, about  
10 halfway down -- sorry, bear with me. (Pause)

11 Yes, looking at page 5, there's an entry at the top  
12 of the first column, '7 August 1981'. There's an entry  
13 that a particular child, one of those who appeared on  
14 the indictment involving Marshall, returned from  
15 Torranyards holiday and --

16 LADY SMITH: And that was the locus identified on one of the  
17 charges --

18 MR SHELDON: That's right, my Lady. I apologise, I had lost  
19 the reference for the trip to Torranyard. I think it's  
20 page --

21 A. Sorry to interrupt, I think it was page 3, where you  
22 originally thought it was.

23 LADY SMITH: Can we go back to page 3?

24 A. Sorry.

25 MR SHELDON: Absolutely.

1 I'm sorry, my Lady, I'm struggling to read some of  
2 this, I'm afraid, and lost the reference, lost the  
3 point.

4 A. I saw it about two-thirds of the way down.

5 Q. Was that in the first column?

6 A. Yes, in the first column.

7 LADY SMITH: Go down a bit?

8 A. Yeah. It's further down.

9 LADY SMITH: Can we keep going down a little bit? Thank  
10 you. A little bit more.

11 A. It's that last -- it's the sentence --

12 LADY SMITH: There.

13 A. -- above the -- sorry. Where the number of children  
14 present are, I think it's that sentence.

15 LADY SMITH: 'Has gone to Torranyard for a few days with  
16 Mr J Marshall.'

17 The way it's written doesn't immediately catch your  
18 eye as Torranyard, but --

19 MR SHELDON: I'm perhaps still not seeing that, my Lady, but  
20 that is certainly the passage that I had in mind.

21 So I'm just thinking about this from a safeguarding  
22 point of view, Susanne; what comment would you offer  
23 about all this?

24 A. Yeah, certainly in terms of -- even in that context, in  
25 terms of the early 1980s, that's not good practice in

1 terms of safeguarding in relation to boundaries that  
2 there should be between staff and children and young  
3 people. Earlier than that, there were instances, and  
4 I think, indeed, the Inquiry has heard instances, where  
5 members of staff would take children on holiday and to  
6 caravans and things like that, but certainly from  
7 a safeguarding perspective, by the early 1980s, and  
8 certainly now, that's not something that would suggest  
9 good safeguarding practice.

10 Q. Yes.

11 And if we go back to page 5, this is the entry,  
12 7 August 1981: '██████████ returned from Torranyard.'

13 But then if we scroll down, entry 8 August 1981,  
14 I think ten lines from the heading of that section,  
15 there's an entry indicating that the same child, the  
16 same male child, had gone, I think, back to Torranyard  
17 for an overnight stay.

18 So he's at Torranyard for a week, comes back on the  
19 7th to the home and then on the 8th he's going straight  
20 back to Torranyard.

21 A. Yeah.

22 Q. Which on the face of it seems odd just in itself,  
23 doesn't it?

24 A. Yes. It would have -- you would have expected that that  
25 would have raised some concern in terms of safeguarding.

1 Q. But I suppose, in this instance, and, of course, making  
2 allowances for the date, but I suppose the person with  
3 principal responsibility for safeguarding in the home  
4 would have been the matron; would that be right?

5 A. It's difficult to comment in terms of the -- what the  
6 context would have been in the 1980s. It certainly  
7 would have been my expectation that it's actually,  
8 particularly for qualified social workers, it's  
9 everybody's responsibility. So certainly within  
10 residential care it's all staff's responsibility. You  
11 would also have safeguarding responsibilities that would  
12 sit with your fieldwork social workers in relation to  
13 the children that they have responsibility for.

14 So, yes, the unit manager or matron would be the  
15 person with leadership responsibilities, but everyone  
16 has safeguarding responsibilities.

17 Q. I know it's difficult looking back at this stage, but as  
18 a field -- so if you had been a field social worker in  
19 1980/81 and you were aware of the arrangements for  
20 children going off to caravans, caravan sites, caravan  
21 parks, apparently in some instances unaccompanied, with  
22 adults or an adult, would that have raised concerns for  
23 you?

24 A. If it had been single adults and single children, yes.  
25 The -- taking children on holidays, not unusual. In

1 fact, it's encouraged as part of normal family life.

2 But it's groups of adults taking groups of children and  
3 there are safeguards in place.

4 So an individual adult on a regular basis taking the  
5 same children would raise safeguarding issues. But  
6 also, we do also encourage our young people in  
7 residential care to be able to go on holiday as part of  
8 that family life.

9 Q. There are various other entries like this, Susanne, but  
10 I don't want to take up time with that, but rather go to  
11 an issue, I suppose, related to safeguarding.

12 If we can look, please, to PSS-000032379. And then  
13 we'll be going back to that log.

14 LADY SMITH: And, Susanne, just following up on your  
15 thinking about safeguarding, have I got it right that  
16 that's not simply in terms of, you have to look and see  
17 if there is something going on that should not be going  
18 on, but you have to be aware of the risk that's being  
19 incurred --

20 A. Yes.

21 LADY SMITH: -- by having that close relationship, one  
22 member of staff, one teenager --

23 A. Yes.

24 LADY SMITH: -- going off, and particularly going off  
25 repeatedly?

1 A. Yes.

2 MR SHELDON: So we're now looking at another police  
3 document. It's a witness statement. I'm not sure  
4 there's a date on it but this is certainly 2000 or 2001.  
5 And this is a statement of someone who's a social care  
6 worker and she tells us at the foot of the first page:

7 'In August 1978 I started working at Eversley  
8 Children's Home in Pollokshields.'

9 Worked in the reception unit when she was at  
10 Eversley. Over the page, she tells us SNR [REDACTED] was  
11 RLD [REDACTED], and numerous members of staff, including  
12 John Marshall.

13 In the next paragraph:

14 'I remember when I started at Eversley a member of  
15 staff told me about an incident involving children or  
16 a child in the home, describing sexual acts quite  
17 graphically and that it involved another member of  
18 staff, John Marshall. It was a young girl who gave the  
19 details and directed against Marshall. Apparently that  
20 incident was reported to district headquarters and  
21 investigated but nothing happened with it. I don't know  
22 much about the incident at all, only that it happened  
23 before I went to work in the home.'

24 And she says:

25 'I think after hearing about it, I was very wary of

1 Marshall and paid particular attention to what I did.'

2 Reading to the next sentence:

3 'I found him creepy, but he was pleasant enough and  
4 he was alright to work with.'

5 She was only at Eversley for about eight months when  
6 the home closed and all the children and staff moved to  
7 another home called Downcraig. So again, that would  
8 tend to put the move from Eversley in about 1979,  
9 I think; would that be right?

10 A. Yes.

11 Q. She says in the next paragraph:

12 'There were never any incidents that I can  
13 specifically recall at Downcraig until one in particular  
14 that I remember involving John Marshall. However, there  
15 were times when I wasn't too happy with the way that  
16 Marshall acted around the kids. I remember incidents  
17 where young girls would be sitting on his knee at  
18 bedtime and they had their nightdresses on, and young  
19 girls being young girls, their nightdresses would roll  
20 up and John Marshall wouldn't do anything about it.  
21 I found these times inappropriate and I would say to the  
22 young girls to sort themselves, but John wouldn't say  
23 anything to them. I would never address John himself on  
24 these occasions.

25 'Over the course of time, Marshall and RLD became

1 close and eventually they got married. RLD and John  
2 paid particular attention to a few of the children in  
3 the home and would make a lot of them.'

4 Pausing there, Susanne, we heard evidence from  
5 a couple of witnesses some days ago, that in effect RLD  
6 RLD played favourites, that she had particular  
7 favourites within the home.

8 Now, again, thinking about that from a -- perhaps  
9 not a safeguarding point of view specifically, but from  
10 a general childcare point of view, what would you say  
11 about that?

12 A. So it's not something -- it's not -- it's not  
13 professional. You've got a responsibility in those kind  
14 of positions to treat all children equally.

15 Q. She -- the person giving this statement goes on to  
16 recall one incident in particular back in 1981:

17 'I can't remember the exact date.'

18 She says she was working a late shift and can recall  
19 the incident very well and she was talking to  
20 a colleague and in the last sentence on that page:

21 'As I was talking to Bridie, I became aware of John  
22 Marshall going into one of the kids' rooms across from  
23 the dining room.'

24 And it was the room of two boys, one of whom is one  
25 of the ones who has been off to the Torran yard caravan

1 site. And she says:

2 'I thought this was strange because Marshall wasn't  
3 on duty that night and there would have been no reason  
4 for him to go into the room. Normally, if anything was  
5 wrong and another member of staff was on duty, then you  
6 would let them know and they would deal with it. When  
7 Marshall went into the room, I wondered if anything was  
8 wrong, so I waited to see if he came back out. I don't  
9 know if I mentioned to Bridie at the time but I probably  
10 would have. I waited for a couple of minutes and then  
11 Marshall didn't come back out of the room. I decided to  
12 go in and investigate. The door was closed over and  
13 I thought that's strange as well, because normally, if  
14 a member of staff went into any of the kids' rooms, you  
15 would leave the door open. I went into the room and saw  
16 Marshall over at one of the boys' beds.'

17 And it was this particular boy that we've been  
18 looking at:

19 'Marshall was sort of lying over him, so much so  
20 that I couldn't see the boy. Marshall was lying across  
21 the top of the covers. As soon as I seen him, I can't  
22 remember exactly [I think] what I said, but John sat up  
23 right away and I didn't give him a chance to say  
24 anything and just told him to get out of the room and he  
25 did right away. I looked over to the boy and I could

1 see from his face that he was upset, but he wasn't  
2 sobbing or anything like that. I just shut over the  
3 door and went back out to the corridor.

4 'I think the other boy slept through all this.  
5 I can't recall exactly what was said in the corridor but  
6 I think John might have said something about the boy  
7 being upset and he told me to mind my own business and  
8 started shouting at me. I remember him calling me  
9 a "fucking bitch". I was really taken aback by it all  
10 and don't recall really saying much to John. He was  
11 shouting at me. It all happened over a matter of  
12 minutes really.'

13 And reading short to the end of that paragraph:

14 'Even John's behaviour when he came out of the room  
15 was a shock because he didn't normally act like that, as  
16 he was usually always pleasant and didn't lose his  
17 temper.'

18 'After that, Marshall never mentioned the incident  
19 again and RLD never said anything about it. I gave  
20 my version of events to other members of staff and it  
21 was only after I told other staff what happened that  
22 a colleague came to me and showed me what was recorded  
23 in the logbook about the incident that night. The entry  
24 was written by RLD herself and it was a different  
25 version of events from what really happened. She had

1 obviously taken John's account of what had happened and  
2 logged it in the book. Even that was strange, that  
3 RLD had recorded it, because normally it's the senior  
4 member of staff on duty who fills in the book, but  
5 I'm not sure about that. I couldn't believe that the  
6 incident recorded was so different from what had  
7 happened. I think I might have confronted RLD about  
8 that or it may have been about something else. I can't  
9 quite be sure.

10 'I can't recall if the matter was looked into, but  
11 I do know that it wasn't too long after the incident  
12 that John Marshall resigned. I don't know if that  
13 was the reason for him resigning or if it was something  
14 else. I can't be sure.'

15 And so that's an account of an incident which, on  
16 the face of it, looks at least strange, would you agree?

17 A. Yes, absolutely.

18 Q. And if we can turn then back to the actual logs, so this  
19 is GLA-000004122, and it's page 9, please. So this is  
20 an entry for 20 August 1981:

21 'At 10.10 pm, John Marshall went into Ashgrove to  
22 get a pint of milk but, hearing a child crying, he went  
23 into the boy's bedroom. A member of staff [and it's the  
24 member of staff who we have just seen giving this  
25 statement] was standing at the door of the kitchen

1 talking with other staff. She followed John Marshall  
2 into the bedroom where he was trying to comfort the boy  
3 and, ignoring John Marshall, said to the child, "You've  
4 been in bed since a quarter to nine, you should have  
5 been asleep half an hour ago". John Marshall then said,  
6 "It's all right, he's talking to me". She repeated,  
7 "You should have been asleep long ago". She then left  
8 the room and John left also. He followed her into the  
9 front hall out of the children's hearing and said "Leave  
10 the poor kid alone, he's been upset for the past few  
11 weeks. You don't know what he's been through". She  
12 went out of the front door, followed by John and said,  
13 "I'm going to take this further". Thereupon, John said,  
14 "Just leave the kid alone. If you want to take it  
15 further, I'll take it further, you bitch". Her husband  
16 then threatened John Marshall by saying --'

17 And I don't need to go there:

18 'The member of staff concerned said, "Leave him  
19 alone, he's drunk". Her husband then went home. John  
20 Marshall went back to the home to comfort [this boy] who  
21 was still crying and night staff -- a member of night  
22 staff went into the bedroom to see who was talking to  
23 the boy and was quite satisfied that it was John  
24 Marshall.'

25 And the entry goes on a little, but that's signed,

1 I think it's 'RLD [REDACTED]', but I think, in the context  
2 we think, that would be RLD [REDACTED], rather than John  
3 Marshall.

4 A. Yes.

5 LADY SMITH: Of course.

6 MR SHELDON: So would you agree with the member of staff  
7 that this is a rather different account of events than  
8 the one that she recalls?

9 A. Yes.

10 Q. And that -- well, let me just ask you this: does it seem  
11 odd that this entry would have been made by a member of  
12 staff who wasn't directly involved in the incident at  
13 all?

14 A. Yes, that would be unusual. And I think the member of  
15 staff said she wasn't even on duty.

16 Q. Yes.

17 A. Yes, that would be very -- that would be highly unusual.

18 Q. So what does that suggest to you about SNR [REDACTED]'s  
19 role, RLD [REDACTED] or RLD [REDACTED]'s role, in all of  
20 this?

21 A. It would suggest that she was supporting her husband in  
22 his version of events, in contrast to the member of  
23 staff.

24 Q. And this in the context of someone about whom there  
25 appear to have been complaints in the past, complaints

1           that have been brushed over, or set aside?

2   A.   Yes, yeah.

3   Q.   So whether Miss RLD , Mrs RLD , was, as it were,

4           a knowing accomplice or not, does it strike you as being

5           dangerous, if not highly dangerous, to have

6           a relationship between two members of staff, one of

7           whom, it turns out, is an abuser?

8   A.   Yeah, absolutely, and we are -- so now we are really

9           clear about that and it's something that we do ask staff

10          to declare and particularly in residential childcare.

11          Faced with that situation, we would be looking to

12          separate people involved in a personal relationship.

13  Q.   Well, can I just unpick that slightly --

14  A.   Sorry, I meant separate them in terms of their place of

15          work.

16  LADY SMITH:  Not trying to break up the marriage or the

17          partnership.

18  A.   Yes, my Lady.

19  LADY SMITH:  But have them working separately from each

20          other.

21  A.   Separately, yes, yes.

22  MR SHELDON:  And what is it that you are asked to disclose

23          or declare?

24  A.   That you're involved in a relationship or that you

25          become involved in a relationship with somebody who

1 works in the same unit as you.

2 Q. All right. And I suppose this is a more delicate one,  
3 but would you ask people if anyone they are in  
4 a relationship with, or perhaps have been in  
5 a relationship with, has been convicted of offences,  
6 including offences of abuse?

7 A. In terms of disclosure at the point of appointment?

8 Q. Yes.

9 A. No. In terms of the PVG -- all of our residential staff  
10 are enhanced PVG checked.

11 Q. Yes.

12 LADY SMITH: Is the expectation to declare a relationship,  
13 once established in some way, written into their  
14 contracts of employment or not?

15 A. My Lady, would you give me some forbearance just to  
16 doublecheck that? My understanding is that it's in our  
17 terms and conditions. Whether or not it's specifically  
18 in the contract, I would need -- I'll take that away and  
19 I'll again present evidence to the Inquiry.

20 LADY SMITH: That would be helpful. Yes, I see exactly the  
21 point of what you hope you are trying to do here.

22 A. Yeah.

23 LADY SMITH: Thank you.

24 And if one's thinking about convictions, Mr Sheldon,  
25 perhaps one has to think of going down the road of: or

1 charged with?

2 MR SHELDON: Yes.

3 LADY SMITH: So at least the employer has all potentially  
4 relevant information before making the choice as to  
5 whether to offer the job or not.

6 A. Yes.

7 MR SHELDON: So we can, I think, set that aside now,  
8 Susanne, although just to note, again for the record,  
9 that John Marshall's tax records give his leaving date  
10 as 18 September 1981.

11 LADY SMITH: Thank you.

12 MR SHELDON: So that seems to be the point at which he is --  
13 he either resigns or simply doesn't come back to work.  
14 And he's then convicted in 1982 of possession of  
15 indecent images.

16 If we can look, I hope briefly, please, and I think  
17 probably finally, at some inspection material. The file  
18 is SGV-001033837.

19 My Lady, I'm sorry, but my interface with the  
20 documents here doesn't seem to be working. I wonder if  
21 I can take two minutes to see if I can sort that?

22 LADY SMITH: Very well.

23 Sorry about this, Susanne. I'll let Mr Sheldon  
24 have -- do you want me to rise for a couple of minutes,  
25 would that help?

1 MR SHELDON: I think that would be --

2 LADY SMITH: Without me breathing down your neck.

3 MR SHELDON: -- that would be easier, my Lady, yes.

4 LADY SMITH: Very well.

5 (2.32 pm)

6 (A short break)

7 (2.35 pm)

8 LADY SMITH: I gather you may have managed to carry out

9 a very complicated exercise to regain your connection.

10 MR SHELDON: Yes, indeed, my Lady. The technicalities

11 are --

12 LADY SMITH: One with which some of us are familiar; is that

13 right?

14 MR SHELDON: -- too much to go into here.

15 LADY SMITH: Thank you.

16 MR SHELDON: So we were going to look at SGV-001033837 and

17 I think we can just see from the cover of that that this

18 is a Scottish Education Department file relating to

19 Eversley Children's Home.

20 And if we turn to page 6, please.

21 LADY SMITH: And there seems to be a 1967 document on that

22 first page, I think; is that correct?

23 MR SHELDON: The file runs from a little earlier than that,

24 my Lady. The first document in it is a 1955 document.

25 LADY SMITH: Oh, right. I see. I just noticed the first

1           date on that columr.

2   MR SHELDON:  It may --

3   LADY SMITH:  Or the file number as being a 1967 date.

4   MR SHELDON:  The file may run to 1967, my Lady.

5   LADY SMITH:  Right.  Thank you.  Thank you.

6   MR SHELDON:  And certainly -- well, although, having said

7           that, the document we looked at a little earlier, the

8           uncomplimentary report by Ms Reid, that was a 1972

9           entry.

10  LADY SMITH:  Mm-hmm.  Yes.  Of course.

11  MR SHELDON:  So at all events, my Lady --

12  LADY SMITH:  Yes, there's the file there.

13  MR SHELDON:  -- we're in the Eversley inspection file.

14  LADY SMITH:  Okay.

15  MR SHELDON:  And if we look at page 6, I think this appears

16           to be a kind of historical note and gives some details:

17           'The property was requisitioned during the war and

18           used to accommodate Poor Law children and children

19           committed to the care of the Education Authority.'

20           Putting matters short, third paragraph, the

21           corporation made a compulsory purchase order for the

22           property.  And in the next paragraph, there is just

23           an entry:

24           'Accommodation is available for 30 children,

25           although at present the isolation room is also in use as

1 an ordinary accommodation.'

2 So it seems that there's an isolation room of some  
3 sort.

4 A. Yes.

5 Q. And if we look at page 9, please -- I'm so sorry,  
6 I should have taken you first of all to page 7, just to  
7 note that this is a note of a visit, 15 November 1961,  
8 by WN Smith. And there's a note there:

9 'SNR [REDACTED] Ms RLD [REDACTED], met me as SNR [REDACTED]  
10 SNR [REDACTED] was off duty.'

11 But if we then look at page 9, please, there is  
12 an entry just after the very top of the page:

13 'All new admissions are placed in the isolation  
14 room. Before they are declared free from infection,  
15 a week may elapse. During this time the children are  
16 usually confined to the isolation quarters and,  
17 of course, they lose a week's schooling.'

18 So does it appear from that, Susanne, that this is  
19 an infection control function for the isolation room  
20 rather than necessarily a disciplinary one?

21 A. Yes, it does look like that, yeah.

22 Q. But that nevertheless children can be confined there for  
23 up to a week?

24 A. Yes.

25 Q. Does that seem, again, does that seem odd or unusual to

1           you?

2   A.  I'm not familiar with the context in terms of what the  
3       communicable diseases would have been, in terms of  
4       childhood disease at the time, but it's not something  
5       that I recall seeing in other similar institutions, and  
6       I don't recall any evidence to the Inquiry, but I may be  
7       mistaken.

8   LADY SMITH:  Polio?

9   A.  Yes.

10  LADY SMITH:  Yes, it would be polio in that era.

11  MR SHELDON:  I wondered about TB, my Lady.

12  LADY SMITH:  And also TB.

13  A.  Yeah.

14  Q.  But at all events, from a childcare point of view, does  
15       it seem unsatisfactory?

16  A.  Yes, and even in the context of -- sorry, what did you  
17       say, 1960s?

18  Q.  I'm sorry?

19  A.  Was it 1960?  1960s?

20  Q.  This is 1961.

21  A.  1961.  Even in that context, it does, yes.

22  Q.  Page 36, please.  And there's a note here, dated  
23       26/3/65:

24           'This home is consistently under pressure.  The  
25       local authority had many problems of residential

1 provision, some of which they've already resolved to  
2 tackle, such as the replacement of Castlemilk by two  
3 smaller homes.'

4 So I think there's a suggestion that there's  
5 a problem with overcrowding and we saw earlier, in the  
6 1972 note, that there was already very marked  
7 overcrowding at that stage. So does it seem that there  
8 may have been a problem with overcrowding during pretty  
9 much the whole of that period?

10 A. Yes, and again I think that's probably consistent with  
11 evidence the Inquiry's heard in relation to some other  
12 institutions about that overcrowding.

13 Q. Well, I was just going to say that that seems to have  
14 been a theme with Glasgow establishments at that time?

15 A. Yes. Yes.

16 Q. And if we look at page 51, please, this, I'm afraid is  
17 very faint type, but this is a note of a visit,  
18 23/11/65, and we're told, paragraph 1(b) that:

19 'The visitors or inspectors met Miss RLD [REDACTED],  
20 SNR [REDACTED], and members of her staff.'

21 So it would appear that Miss RLD [REDACTED] became SNR [REDACTED]  
22 sometime between 1961 and 1965, probably. She's  
23 described as the new SNR [REDACTED] -- sorry -- yes, between  
24 1961 and 1965.

25 And page 84, please. (Pause)

1           Yes, I'm sorry, I can't read my own notes. If we  
2 look at page 63. Now, towards the foot there's a note  
3 about premises:

4           'House is situated in Pollokshields, residential  
5 area, the conservatory has been replaced by an  
6 extension, including playroom, cloakroom, storerooms and  
7 bathrooms.'

8           And so on.

9           And then over the page, page 64, top of the page:

10          'There's a lack of colour and comfort in the  
11 building. The playroom is completely bare. There are  
12 only hard seats in the dining room, which is also used  
13 for watching television. There are no pictures, apart  
14 from nursery transfers fixed too high in the toddler  
15 room. There are no carpets in the children's part of  
16 the house. There is one small rug in the centre of the  
17 floor in each of their bedrooms.'

18          And this from a visit of -- yeah, this is the same  
19 visit, November 1965.

20          So does it appear that not only is this  
21 an overcrowded home, but it's one that really lacks what  
22 might be thought of now as basic amenities?

23 A. Yes.

24 Q. And page 69, please. Towards the foot, paragraph 28,  
25 'Summary':

1           'Eversley visited with notice in November 1965.'

2           Reading short:

3           'The home is designed for 30 children but numbers  
4           consistently exceeded.'

5           And --

6   LADY SMITH: I think it's 'constantly exceeded'. It doesn't  
7           make much difference.

8   MR SHELDON: Yes, my Lady, but I think the point stands.

9   LADY SMITH: Yes.

10   MR SHELDON: Over the page, page 70, there's a conclusion at  
11           paragraph 29:

12           'Natural happy relationships exist between the staff  
13           and the children. Home, however, lacks comfort and  
14           stimulation.'

15           And that would be particularly -- achieving comfort  
16           and stimulation would be particularly difficult if  
17           there's overcrowding, if there's too many children;  
18           would that be right?

19   A. Yes.

20   Q. Bear with me just one moment. (Pause)

21           So, setting that aside, Susanne, the whole picture,  
22           certainly of Eversley but also of Downcraig latterly,  
23           does seem to be a really pretty unhappy one; would you  
24           agree?

25   A. Yes, from the evidence in relation to those visits,

1           yeah.

2   Q.   Indeed, we have what appear to be a number of abusers  
3       operating in both Eversley and Downcraig.  Certainly  
4       alleged abusers; there's certainly complaints of abuse.  
5       We have SNR-RLD who was having a relationship and later  
6       married to one of the abusers and perhaps covering up,  
7       whether wittingly or not, for that abuser.  And  
8       certainly in the 1960s and 1970s, a home which is  
9       overcrowded and lacking in basic comfort.

10           So putting it all together, it doesn't look great,  
11       does it?

12   A.   No.

13   Q.   And in fairness to you, Glasgow do admit, I think,  
14       systemic failures in relation to certainly Eversley, but  
15       would you agree that there appear to have been systemic  
16       failures across the board at both Eversley and  
17       Downcraig?

18   A.   Yes, and again, my recollection is the reason we'd put  
19       Mr Marshall in that category was I think he -- because  
20       he started at Eversley, if that makes any sense, in  
21       terms of -- but I accept the relationship between the  
22       two, yes.

23   MR SHELDON:  All right.

24           Susanne, I've got nothing further for you.

25           Thank you, my Lady.

1 LADY SMITH: And I have nothing further for you, either,  
2 Susanne, but to thank you once more for bearing with us  
3 as you have done and assisting again with valuable  
4 information for the work we're doing here.  
5 Feel free to go, and have a safe journey back.  
6 Thank you.  
7 A. Thank you, my Lady.  
8 (The witness withdrew)  
9 MR SHELDON: My Lady, that concludes the witnesses both for  
10 this chapter and, indeed, for the whole of Phase 10.  
11 LADY SMITH: Yes.  
12 MR SHELDON: There are still read-ins to be done. If  
13 my Lady would bear with me.  
14 (Pause)  
15 There are still eight read-ins to be done, my Lady,  
16 and those can be done obviously for the rest of this  
17 afternoon and/or tomorrow, if necessary.  
18 LADY SMITH: Yes. Yes, I don't think we'll finish eight  
19 between now and 4 o'clock.  
20 MR SHELDON: Indeed.  
21 LADY SMITH: Not in any proper pace.  
22 MR SHELDON: Yes.  
23 LADY SMITH: Would it help if I took five minutes now and we  
24 got organised with the read-ins? Very well, I'll do  
25 that. Thank you.



1 brothers and three sisters. My mum and dad were loving  
2 parents. They were naive, I would say, now looking  
3 back. Their crime was poverty, but they were loving  
4 parents, they were fun. We lived from day to day then  
5 because we had no money. My dad worked in the building  
6 trade.'

7 Then she provides some details about her parents and  
8 her siblings, and if I could move on to paragraph 8:

9 'Through discussion with my sister, I think that my  
10 mum was depressed when we were young. She wasn't in  
11 a good place. She seemed emotionally switched off. She  
12 just went through the motions of things. We think  
13 that's why we were sent to Fornethy, to give my mum  
14 a break. We think it was also for nutritional reasons,  
15 because we weren't always getting proper meals. We also  
16 attended the Lambhill Street Clinic due to lice.  
17 I remember attending there and the staff saying to my  
18 mum that she could send us to a residential school, to  
19 give herself a break. My friend, who lived next door to  
20 me, wanted to go, her and her sister.

21 'My sister remembers getting the forms for Fornethy  
22 from Ibrox Primary School, which was our school. As far  
23 as I was aware, we were going on a holiday. My mum  
24 didn't want us to go, but we wanted to go because my  
25 friend next door was going, although they never ended up

1 going.

2 'My sister has got a better memory of events than  
3 I do. I thought we went to Fornethy in 1974 because  
4 when we got home, my parents were discussing the bin  
5 strike at dinner, but my sister tells me that we were at  
6 Fornethy in [REDACTED] and [REDACTED] 1975. I thought we were  
7 there for six weeks, but my sister has told me it was  
8 only five. On the bus on the way home, there was a new  
9 song by the pop group called [REDACTED] out, that's  
10 how she remembers it. I would have been 8 years old at  
11 that time, in Primary 3.'

12 And her sister was one year older than 'Liz'.

13 LADY SMITH: So it's about 1974 then, is that right?

14 MR MACAULAY: Yes, it looks like that:

15 'It was just me and my sister that went to Fornethy.  
16 My sister can remember more about it than me. I tried  
17 to block my memories out.

18 'Fornethy was sold to us as being a holiday. We  
19 were so excited, because we had never been away anywhere  
20 on holiday. We were told we were very lucky to be going  
21 on holiday, not just by our mum and dad, but by teachers  
22 and everybody. It was built up to be such a great  
23 thing, but we weren't really aware of what it was really  
24 going to be like.

25 'I vaguely remember my dad taking us into town to go

1 to Fornethy, but I can't remember any preparation for  
2 going. I remember going on the bus. It took us ages to  
3 get there. It was further out than I realised.

4 I didn't think at that point that I was so far away from  
5 home but further into the stay, I felt that.

6 'What I remember is going through a dark wooded area  
7 and coming out at a white house that was all enclosed by  
8 woodland. I thought it was scary. It was intimidating.  
9 I thought it looked like a prison. Maybe that's just in  
10 my mind now, because of knowing what the system was like  
11 inside it. There was a big spiral staircase, but  
12 I don't know if I remember that from being at Fornethy  
13 or from seeing photographs of it as an adult.

14 I remember the recreation room, but I can't remember how  
15 you got into it.

16 'The next thing I remember was being in this  
17 recreation room, what they called the reccy room.  
18 I remember being shouted at to stand in line. All our  
19 cases were brought in there. I don't remember anything  
20 after that. I just remember being told to behave. Me  
21 and my sister were really well-behaved kids. It was  
22 quite a shock to the system. I was frightened and  
23 anxious. It was very military style, whereas I was used  
24 to being able to have a laugh and a joke at home.

25 'I remember we all lined up naked to get bathed. We

1           went into a room to get examined. There was a nurse and  
2           a doctor there, but I can't remember what they did.  
3           Then they took us into this bathroom with  
4           an old-fashioned bath and bathed us two at a time.

5           'There was a lady sitting on a stool with  
6           a scrubbing brush and carbolic soap and she scrubbed us.  
7           The brush was wooden with hard bristles. It was the  
8           kind of brush I would use to clean my path. It was very  
9           sore. It sounds ridiculous, but it was horrendous. The  
10          only person who had ever bathed me was my mum. I used  
11          to have a recurring dream that I was walking down the  
12          street naked and I felt great distress in the dream.  
13          I don't know if it was related to that.

14          'There were some girls who were older and were  
15          approaching adolescence. It must have been worse for  
16          them. I was a bit younger. I was a bit more unaware of  
17          things, but we were all trying to cover ourselves up.  
18          I was shivering. It was cold. When I came out of the  
19          bath, I was shivering. A staff member slapped me on the  
20          legs to stand still so she could dry me.

21          'After the bath, I remember being given a pack and  
22          taken to a dormitory. The pack had a pinafore, pink  
23          powder toothpaste, soap and a face cloth.

24          'I heard it was only five staff to 75 girls and that  
25          to me is phenomenal, because working as a specialist

1 carer, I would be the only member of staff for 11 to  
2 13 patients in a dementia unit.'

3 LADY SMITH: Just thinking of the names we've heard of, the  
4 number we've heard of, she may not be wide of the mark  
5 in saying that there perhaps were no more than five  
6 staff for a full Fornethy.

7 MR MACAULAY: Yes, and I think it ties in with what  
8 Mrs Baxter suggested about the ratio.

9 LADY SMITH: Well, indeed, and what Susanne agreed earlier  
10 today, that four members of staff for a busy house, this  
11 sort of size or smaller --

12 MR MACAULAY: Yes.

13 LADY SMITH: -- is not enough.

14 MR MACAULAY: No.

15 'There was a Ms --'

16 LADY SMITH: Particularly -- sorry, particularly when these  
17 were also teachers who were supposed to be educating the  
18 children as well.

19 MR MACAULAY: Yes, they weren't trained carers, anyway.

20 LADY SMITH: No.

21 MR MACAULAY: 'There was a Miss Fletcher, who was the  
22 headmistress. There was Mrs Robertson or Robinson and  
23 a Miss PWH. I would say that Mrs Robertson and  
24 Miss Fletcher were the worst two with regard to the  
25 hitting, the bullying and the shouting, but I don't

1 remember any other teachers anyway. They were the three  
2 teachers that did most of the hitting. I think they  
3 were care staff as well as teachers, because they were  
4 there at night as well as during the day.

5 'My dormitory was upstairs. There were dormitories  
6 above and below mine. I was in Reekie Linn dormitory.  
7 I think it was named after a waterfall. I remember the  
8 bed I slept in. My sister and I were right at the end  
9 of the dormitory in a bay window. There were two beds,  
10 with my sister on the right side and my bed on the  
11 left-hand side.

12 'I don't know how many girls were in the dormitory.  
13 It was strange, it was like we weren't allowed any  
14 interaction with other people. We weren't encouraged to  
15 play with the other children. I don't remember  
16 befriending anyone. I can picture all the girls  
17 sleeping in the dormitory, but I couldn't tell you any  
18 of their names. I have been on the Fornethy [REDACTED]  
19 [REDACTED] and there are over 100 people on there, but none  
20 are from the year I was there, so I don't know any of  
21 them.

22 'There was a big fire escape outside the window. We  
23 had been told by the teachers that the two women that  
24 owned the house had died and they haunted the place  
25 during the night. In hindsight, it was probably to try

1 and control us from getting up and going out the fire  
2 escape but at the time, it was terrifying.

3 'In the morning, during the week, someone would come  
4 and wake us up. Our clothes were at the bottom of the  
5 bed. We wore a pirafore every day. We went down for  
6 breakfast and sometimes that was a nightmare, depending  
7 on which staff were on. You could be shouted at, hit or  
8 force-fed your breakfast. They would shout out to us if  
9 we had any mail.

10 'At night, a blue light would come on in the  
11 dormitory and after that there was to be no talking. We  
12 were to go straight to sleep. It must have been about  
13 8 o'clock that the blue light came on.

14 'I remember the dining room, which was at the back  
15 of the building. It was always bright and it had a lot  
16 of circular tables. I was at the second table. I can't  
17 remember if we were seated according to our dormitories.  
18 It was the same table we sat at every morning but the  
19 only person I can remember being at my table was my  
20 sister.

21 'If you didn't finish your meal, you had to stand in  
22 the dining room facing the wall for what seemed like  
23 hours. If you were talking at the dining table, the  
24 teachers would elbow you in the head when they were  
25 passing by or they would slap you across the head.

1           'I can only remember getting porridge for breakfast.  
2           I don't remember there being any cereals or any choice  
3           at all. I can't remember what type of food we got for  
4           lunch and dinner, I just ate what I was given. I was  
5           too scared not to because I remember my sister being  
6           force-fed.

7           'When we went for showers, all of us were naked. We  
8           were all just piled in together, all ages. I tried to  
9           cover myself up. I was fat. I've been fat my whole  
10          life, so I was ashamed of being naked. Even at that age  
11          I had inhibitions and it must have been worse for girls  
12          that were starting to develop.

13          'I remember the woman who bathed me on the first day  
14          I got there. She was quite a heavy woman, like me.  
15          I never saw her again after the first day. There is  
16          nothing else I can remember about the bathing routine.  
17          Maybe I have shut it out of my mind.

18          'Fornethy provided us with clothes such as the  
19          pinafore, wellies and balaclava helmet. My mum had  
20          packed clothes for me but I didn't get to wear them.  
21          The pinafore we wore was kind of like an apron or  
22          a smock. It was flowery. I think we wore a kind of  
23          kimono underneath that. It felt like a uniform. It was  
24          very regimented. I can't remember wearing any other  
25          clothes.

1           'I don't know if everyone else was wearing the same  
2 clothes. I just can't picture them.

3           'I know we all had to wear the wellies and  
4 balaclavas when we were out on walks. I can't remember  
5 wearing a jacket on the walks.

6           'After breakfast, during the week, we would have  
7 school until lunchtime. The school was right at the  
8 bottom on the right-hand side of the building. It was  
9 really old-fashioned compared to the school that I had  
10 been to in Glasgow. It had old antique desks. I was in  
11 a class with girls the same age as me. We did maths and  
12 we did English, but there wasn't much education at all.  
13 We were there only until lunchtime.

14           'We had the same teacher for all our classes but  
15 I can't remember who the teacher was. I remember the  
16 teacher had a bulldog. I was terrified of the bulldog,  
17 it was in the school during the day. We used to get  
18 threatened with the dog. If we didn't do what the  
19 teacher wanted us to do, the teacher threatened to set  
20 the dog on us. I never saw her actually doing it, but  
21 the threat was that the dog would bite you. I can only  
22 assume that this was in an effort to keep us in line,  
23 because there weren't enough staff. I have tried to get  
24 into their mindset psychologically, to try and work out  
25 why they did this. Perhaps they were overworked,

1       frustrated or burnt out, but it doesn't make sense to me  
2       as an adult that they could behave like that towards  
3       a child. It was so cruel.

4               'The classroom I was in, was actually a corridor.  
5       It had the tuck shop at the end of the corridor in a big  
6       cupboard. I remember being sat in the class and the  
7       teacher writing on the blackboard what we were supposed  
8       to write home. We weren't allowed to write our own  
9       letters home. I wasn't very literate at that age, my  
10      writing wasn't very good. We were only in class half  
11      a day each day as far as I'm aware. I never got to see  
12      my sister. She was in a different class from me.  
13      I remember I would be crying for my sister in class,  
14      I got into trouble for that.

15              'I remember lining up to go to the tuck shop. If  
16      your parents sent you money, they took it and you went  
17      in the line for the tuck shop on Saturday. The tuck  
18      shop was only open on Saturday. Some of the girls'  
19      parents didn't send money so they weren't allowed to get  
20      anything from the tuck shop. Miss Fletcher ran the tuck  
21      shop. She sat at a wee desk and had cards with how much  
22      money you had and she would write down what you had  
23      taken. If a girl's parents hadn't sent any money,  
24      Miss Fletcher would shame them. She would say, "You've  
25      not got any money, you can't get anything". It was so

1       cruel.

2           'My sister was a tuck shop girl because  
3       Miss Fletcher favoured her a bit. Although  
4       Miss Fletcher was cruel to my sister, she beat her, she  
5       made her a tuck shop girl as well. We couldn't  
6       understand why that was. My sister's job was to help  
7       a girl pick something quickly. She used to slip me  
8       sweets for the girls who didn't have [any] money. We  
9       didn't have much money, I think my mum sent us 50p.

10           'I have no memories of what we did in the evenings  
11       after dinner until bedtime. The only night I remember  
12       was when my sister wanted to run away and the time when  
13       I was taken out of my bed for singing.

14           'There were no toys or a television or anything like  
15       that at Fornethy. They just had the film screen in the  
16       recreation room. At some point at weekends, we went to  
17       the recreation room. We got taught to sing songs in the  
18       rec room and on Saturdays they had a movie on a big  
19       screen, but I don't remember seeing any films.  
20       I remember them bringing in a projector. I just don't  
21       remember Fornethy House as being fun.

22           'It must have been at weekends we went on walks that  
23       were really long and I had asthma. We had to march and  
24       sing songs and there was the terrible smell of farms.  
25       Somebody said it was turnips but I don't know. We

1       didn't go into any of the farms. We had to wear  
2       wellingtons and wool balaclava helmets. I had a cold  
3       sore and I remember it itching. There was nothing  
4       around Fornethy House for miles around, apart from a wee  
5       building at the end of the road that looked like  
6       a church. There was a farm nearby too.'

7               Then she talks about personal possessions and  
8       religious instruction.

9               And at paragraph 45 --

10   LADY SMITH: There's also this theme we've heard from  
11       others, that they weren't all allowed to go to church.

12   MR MACAULAY: No, it was a select few that went to church.

13   LADY SMITH: With no apparent enquiry as to whether the norm  
14       in their lives was to go to church and make arrangements  
15       for that.

16   MR MACAULAY: Yes, it's odd.

17   LADY SMITH: Yes.

18   MR MACAULAY: 'We didn't have any visitors when we were at  
19       Fornethy. Our family wouldn't have been able to get  
20       there. There was a train station in the village, but  
21       there were no buses to Fornethy House. The bus that  
22       took us there was a private bus laid on by the council.

23               'We didn't have any visits from a social worker. We  
24       didn't have a social worker, but I remember a social  
25       worker being in the house for my older brother, but not

1 for me. I can't remember anyone coming round like they  
2 were doing an official inspection.

3 'We got letters from home. They just shouted out  
4 the oldest, so it was my sister who got the letters.  
5 I thought my mum had forgotten about me. At first,  
6 I didn't realise the letters were for both of us, but my  
7 sister told me that mum was writing to both of us. My  
8 sister would read the letters to me. My mum would tell  
9 us what was happening back home. Sometimes mum would  
10 send a postal order but at the beginning, I thought my  
11 mum had forgotten about me. I felt a lot of despair,  
12 I was crying a lot, but I didn't cry in front of anyone.  
13 You could get a wallop for crying.'

14 Then she makes some comments about healthcare, and  
15 then at paragraph 50:

16 'My sister was bawling her eyes out one night and  
17 begged me to run away with her, go down the fire escape  
18 and to try and get home. I was really tired, but I must  
19 have been more sensible than I realised, because  
20 I thought, "What if those two ghosts are out there?".  
21 It was probably Mrs Robertson who told us about the  
22 ghosts.

23 'We had also been told that there was a girl that  
24 had broken her leg going down the fire escape, so I was  
25 worried what would happen if we had fallen and broken

1       our legs. It was awful dark, [there] was a forest.  
2       I was terrified to go and I was terrified to stay and  
3       I was scared because my sister wanted to go, but I was  
4       too scared to go. My sister was bawling, but she  
5       wouldn't leave me, so she didn't go.

6               'Some of the girls got taken into the village, but  
7       I wasn't one of them. I can't remember the name of the  
8       village. One of the girls managed to get a letter sent  
9       out when she went on a visit to the village. Her  
10       parents came to get her. We were all crying and saying  
11       to her, "Please tell someone to come and get us". We  
12       all wanted to go with her. I can't remember her name.'

13               And your Ladyship will recollect that that incident  
14       has also been referred to by another witness.

15   LADY SMITH: Yes, we've heard about that before.

16   MR MACAULAY: Yes:

17               'If you wet the bed or if you wet yourself, you got  
18       a beating, because I think it was a lot of hassle for  
19       the staff, changing bedclothes or changing your clothes.

20               'Mrs Robertson had no issue with being really angry  
21       with children. She would hit you in front of the other  
22       children to try and scare them into obeying her, but  
23       kids couldn't help it if they wet the bed. Also the  
24       girls were terrified to get out of bed at night because  
25       of being told the place was haunted, as well as the

1 discipline for being out of bed at night. You weren't  
2 even allowed to get out of your bed to go to the toilet.  
3 I don't remember what happened to anyone else who wet  
4 the bed.

5 'There was one night I wet the bed and in the  
6 morning, Miss Robertson put me over her knee. I was  
7 told to strip off my night dress so I was naked. She  
8 battered me on the bottom with her shoe. This was done  
9 in front of all the other girls in my dormitory.  
10 I remember the pain from the heel and the humiliation.

11 'You could be made to stand and face the wall by one  
12 of the teachers like Mrs Robertson, Mrs Fletcher and  
13 Miss PWH. Again, they are the only teachers I can  
14 remember, because they were the ones who were bad. They  
15 could come up to you and literally wallop you across the  
16 head for not standing in line. They might elbow you in  
17 the head or hit you with something that was lying about.  
18 You were constantly stressed when you were in their  
19 company. Sometimes it might be the girl standing next  
20 to me who got hit, but it was still terrifying.  
21 Nighttime was the only time they weren't there all the  
22 time. They must have done checks, because I remember  
23 getting dragged out of my bed at night.

24 'For the age we were at, we were treated very badly.  
25 We were treated like scum. There was no comfort. We

1 were so far away from home and there was no comfort  
2 whatsoever. The teachers didn't speak to you, they  
3 shouted at you. If you spoke out of line, you could  
4 have anything thrown at you, for example, a book or  
5 a blackboard duster. It was just missiles coming at you  
6 in the classroom. Miss Robertson liked using her shoes.  
7 She would take her shoes off and throw them at you.

8 'Being in pain and distress is my main memory.  
9 Being made to feel ashamed. I felt despair because  
10 I thought I was never going to see my mum again.  
11 I didn't know how long we were going to be there. If  
12 you spoke out of line, you could have anything coming to  
13 you.

14 'I didn't see my sister during the day, so the only  
15 time we had to talk to each other was at night. One  
16 night my sister and I were under her covers, so we  
17 didn't notice the blue light had come on. The blue  
18 light signalled time for lights out and no talking. We  
19 were singing "Paper Roses" under the bed covers. The  
20 next thing, the teacher grabbed us and started hitting  
21 us. I think it was Miss PWH. She was slapping and  
22 belting us with her hand on the head and body, all the  
23 way through to another room. I think it was the  
24 library. There was a fire on. She told us to face the  
25 wall. She said she was going to tell Mrs Fletcher if we

1           made a sound. Mrs Fletcher was even more formidable  
2           than the rest of them.

3           'I thought we were going to get a doing, but I told  
4           my sister not to cry. If they heard us greeting, they  
5           would come in and hit her again. She was -- she told me  
6           she was needing the toilet, so I told her to tell the  
7           teacher. My sister shouted on the teacher for ages and  
8           ages. Eventually, Miss PWH came in and said, "I told  
9           you not to make a sound", and she whacked my sister  
10          across the head. She put the light out, walked out of  
11          the room, and wouldn't even listen to what my sister  
12          wanted to tell her. My sister wet herself. My sister  
13          didn't remember about that incident until I reminded  
14          her. I think my sister felt embarrassed that she was  
15          crying because she was that bit older and she was always  
16          trying to look after me.

17          'When Mrs Fletcher came in, she found that my sister  
18          had wet herself. Mrs Fletcher took my sister away and  
19          [she] was hitting her as they went. She told me to get  
20          back to my bed. I don't know what happened to my sister  
21          after that.

22          'On one of the long walks we went on, I was needing  
23          the toilet. I told the teacher, Mrs Robertson, but she  
24          just told me to hold it in. She told me to get back  
25          into the line we were marching in. I went to her again

1 to ask to go to the toilet. We were miles from anywhere  
2 and I could have gone behind a bush. But she actually  
3 slapped me across the head and legs. She told me to  
4 stop complaining and hold it in. I wet myself.  
5 I remember the pain in my legs, which were all raw from  
6 the wellingtons rubbing against them in a ring, and the  
7 urine went into my raw legs and stung. I had to go home  
8 like that, miles from anywhere.

9 'I got slapped about the head and skelped because  
10 I had wet myself. We were on the walk and the teacher  
11 made them all sing a song to me. It was that song  
12 "Nobody likes me, everybody hates me, I think I'll go  
13 and eat worms". The teacher was basically saying that  
14 I was a bad girl, a dirty girl, "she's wet herself so  
15 sing this song to her". It was horrible. I am sure  
16 that when I wet myself on that walk, it caused me to get  
17 a chill and that's why I was wetting the bed at night.  
18 I wasn't normally a bed-wetter.

19 'When I got back, Miss PWH hit me again, just  
20 anywhere on the body. They told me again that I was  
21 dirty. I was stripped naked and told to go for  
22 a shower. I was sent to the showers with another  
23 girl -- with an older girl from another dormitory. She  
24 seemed a lot older than me, but she was probably  
25 11 years old. I remember her looking very sad. I was

1 always trying to cheer her up. She was always trying to  
2 look out for me. She tried to help me a wee bit. There  
3 was something very sad and dark about her. She always  
4 looked despondent. She was made to go for a shower with  
5 me. It was her and I in the shower naked. We were  
6 giggling, I was trying to make her laugh because I was  
7 aware she was ashamed that the two of us were naked in  
8 the showers.

9 'The other girl had forgotten her washcloth and  
10 Miss PWH told me to wash the other girl. I thought  
11 she meant to give her my washcloth, which I handed over,  
12 but Miss PWH said I was to wash her. I was  
13 embarrassed. Miss PWH told the girl to open her legs  
14 and told me to wash her underneath. It was horrible,  
15 but I did it. I was scared and I did what I was told.  
16 Then Miss PWH said to the [other] girl, "That'll  
17 teach you". I don't know how the [other] girl must  
18 have felt and that makes me feel sad. That's all  
19 I remember about that incident.

20 'The worst two were Mrs Robertson and Miss Fletcher.  
21 Miss PWH too, but she wasn't quite as bad, even  
22 though she hit me a few times. Mrs Robertson really  
23 skelped me in the morning for wetting the bed and on the  
24 walk.

25 'I don't remember much about Mrs Fletcher. I just

1 remember being terrified of her shouting and throwing  
2 things. I remember I was in the recreation room and  
3 I was given a cup of milk. They said it was from the  
4 farm, but there was grass and bits in it. I made a  
5 "yeugh" noise and she went crazy and started throwing  
6 things at me. She threw a book at me and a ceramic cup.  
7 I can remember her throwing a blackboard duster at me,  
8 but I don't know if she was my teacher.

9 'I remember Mrs Fletcher in the dining room feeding  
10 a girl. I don't know who the girl was. I ate  
11 everything I was given. I didn't have a problem with  
12 food, plus I was terrified to disobey, I did everything  
13 I was told. My sister had terrible treatment with food.  
14 She couldn't eat some foods and she was force-fed. The  
15 force-feeding involved the teacher grabbing hold of the  
16 girl's head and forcing the food into her mouth with  
17 a spoon. The girl would be choking and being sick.  
18 I can remember my sister gagging with being force-fed.  
19 I was just sitting next to her, too scared to do  
20 anything. My sister has been in Stobhill Hospital with  
21 bulimia. She has suffered from it all her life and she  
22 thinks it stems from Fornethy House.

23 'The only other thing I can think of was a bizarre  
24 situation where we had to walk single file into the  
25 recreation room. There was a row of seats, with people

1 sitting on them. All I remember is somebody patting  
2 their knee for me to come and sit on their lap. I  
3 looked around the room for my sister and she was away at  
4 the back. She shook her head as if to say, "Don't go  
5 and sit". I didn't go and sit, but others did. My  
6 sister tried to get me to remember more details, but all  
7 I could picture was that he had brown trousers. It was  
8 definitely a man. It was a row of men and we were  
9 brought in before them in age order.

10 'I have no good memories of Fornethy House.

11 'I don't remember being told when I was going home.  
12 You would think I would remember that, because I was  
13 desperate to get home. When we got home we were so glad  
14 to see our mum. We told her what had been happening at  
15 Fornethy House, but she seemed to have switched off,  
16 like she was emotionally detached. Maybe she was  
17 embarrassed because we were on a crowded bus heading  
18 back to Glasgow. Once we got back to Glasgow, things  
19 just went back to normal and I went back to my usual  
20 school.

21 'I found it difficult to reintegrate back into my  
22 home life after Fornethy. My best friend who lived next  
23 door to me had moved on to a new circle of friends when  
24 I was at Fornethy and I found it difficult to join that  
25 group, even though she tried to involve me. I had

1           become more of a loner. I didn't want to make new  
2           friendships, even though people wanted to befriend me.  
3           I made excuses to stay in the house. All my life I felt  
4           there was something wrong with me, because I couldn't  
5           mix with people. I do have friends, but only a very few  
6           close friends.

7           'I worked in care as an adult and I never related  
8           the work to Fornethy until now. I left school at 16 and  
9           started working in a nursing home, where I was working  
10          with newborn babies. [And] I started dating my husband  
11          when I was 17 years old. We married in 1991 [and] have  
12          two children.

13          'I was brought up with good values and to have  
14          respect for people, especially older people. I knew  
15          what it was like to be poor, to not have as much as some  
16          people, but I also knew what it was like to suffer.  
17          When I have seen anyone suffering, I have always wanted  
18          to help them.

19          'I believed in the values and principles of care.  
20          I always followed procedures. The majority of people  
21          working in care are good people, they are working in  
22          care for all the right reasons. However, there will  
23          always be some working in care for other reasons, not to  
24          care for people. Some of them are just nasty. I can't  
25          sit back and watch that. I always challenged it.

1           'I started off in home help and then I was in  
2           community care, dealing with moving and handling.  
3           I worked with a variety of different disabilities.  
4           I was a social care worker and eventually I worked in  
5           a specialised dementia unit.

6           'I advocated for the residents. In these  
7           situations, it seemed to me that I felt the pain that  
8           the residents were subjected to. I didn't relate that  
9           to my experiences at Fornethy until recently. A lot of  
10          the residents confided in me as well. This was in the  
11          residential unit I started in.'

12          Then she talks about having to give up work, that's  
13          at paragraph 81. And then 'Impact':

14          'The main thing I took from Fornethy were pain,  
15          fear, humiliation, despair and worthlessness. I can't  
16          stand too much stress now. I have never had  
17          counselling.

18          'My sister and I never really spoke about it until  
19          we were in our 30s. I think that was because by then we  
20          had our own children growing up. It sort of reminded me  
21          of being back at that age. I used to tell [my sister]  
22          not to talk about it, it was too depressing. It  
23          impacted more on my sister back then because she could  
24          remember more about it, whereas it is impacting more on  
25          me now. It is very strange. Things make sense to me

1       now more than they ever [had], my anxieties and lack of  
2       self-esteem. I know I seem quite confident, but I have  
3       not always been like that and I have lost a lot of  
4       confidence.

5               'I feel that my anxieties have also impacted on my  
6       children. I suffered from depression for a long time  
7       and I feel terrible for putting my family through that.  
8       For a long time I didn't know how to deal with that, but  
9       I have since had counselling.

10              'I am suffering from flashbacks now, where I am  
11       8 years old. I am wakening up crying for my mum. It is  
12       the strangest thing. I have memories of being hit in  
13       front of people with nothing on, because I wet the bed.  
14       I have flashbacks to being in the shower at Fornethy.  
15       I kept crying for my mother. The feeling is like total  
16       grief.'

17              And then she has a number of paragraphs dealing with  
18       the Fornethy support group. And at paragraph 89:

19              'I spoke to my sister and asked her if she ever  
20       thought about the abuse we suffered at Fornethy and she  
21       told me she had thought about it her whole life. She  
22       said that I was the one who didn't want to talk about  
23       it. We had never dealt with it because we were always  
24       dealing with something else in life, like our kids. Now  
25       the kids have grown up, I have had time to think.'

1           And at 91:

2           'I don't know if being going to Fornethy affected my  
3           relationship with my mum. I always felt she could have  
4           been a stronger person. She was a very nice person,  
5           very quiet. She didn't like confrontation. I didn't  
6           like confrontation either, but I found that, because my  
7           mother was so meek, I had to be confrontational.  
8           I loved my mother, but like everybody else, she wasn't  
9           perfect. We clashed.

10           'I don't know if going to Fornethy affected my  
11           relationships with other members of my family, but  
12           I always felt closest to my sister that went to Fornethy  
13           with me. I always wanted to be with her, but we all got  
14           on really well. We were a very close family and we  
15           still are. I think I didn't understand my mother's  
16           possible depression due to her sisters dying. I've got  
17           the same relationship with my son as my mum had with me.  
18           Him and I clash, but we get on like a house on fire at  
19           other times.'

20           And she talks about making a report to the police  
21           and that she would like to get her records and then at  
22           'Lessons to be Learned':

23           'I think people's behaviour impact on people their  
24           whole lives, especially when you're young. I think it's  
25           a choice to be good or bad to people. I definitely

1 think it needs to be looked at for children. I'm not  
2 a granny, but my sister has grandchildren the same age  
3 as we were when we went through that at Fornethy and to  
4 think of them going through that is horrific. For any  
5 children to have to go through that, it's not right.

6 'I think you need more training for staff to stop  
7 abuse happening and making sure the right people are  
8 placed in the jobs. There should be more staff for  
9 a given number of children, but I know that is not going  
10 to happen because of funding.

11 'To do the right thing by children, to treat them  
12 well. How it can impact on your life. It can change  
13 a person. I sound as if I am a confident person, but  
14 behind the scenes I was crumbling.

15 And 'Liz' says at the end:

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

20 And 'Liz' has signed this statement on 26 May 2021.

21 LADY SMITH: Thank you.

22 MR MACAULAY: I'm looking at the time.

23 LADY SMITH: I think we'll just carry on just now, if you  
24 think we'll finish the next statement before 4.00, but  
25 if not. (Pause)

1 I think we should leave it until tomorrow. Very  
2 well, we'll pause there for today, get back to the rest  
3 of the read-ins tomorrow.

4 A quick reminder of a name we've used this afternoon  
5 and people will have heard me mention before that she's  
6 not to be identified as referred to in our evidence  
7 outside this room, and that's Miss PWH .

8 Thank you very much. Until tomorrow morning then.

9 (3.45 pm)

10 (The Inquiry adjourned until 10.00 am  
11 on Friday, 29 May 2026)

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