

Friday, 29 May 2026

1

2 (10.00 am)

3 LADY SMITH: Good morning, and welcome back to the last day  
4 of evidence in relation to the Fornethy hearings in  
5 Phase 10 of our case study and the whole of today is  
6 going to be covered with -- taken up, I should say, with  
7 read-ins. The first, I think, is in relation to  
8 a witness who ultimately couldn't come to give oral  
9 evidence, is that right?

10 MS MACLEOD: Good morning, my Lady, that is right. This was  
11 a witness that we had expected to give evidence earlier  
12 in the week but that didn't happen, so her statement  
13 will be read in first today.

14 LADY SMITH: Thank you.

15 'Martha' (read in)

16 MS MACLEOD: This is an applicant who will use the pseudonym  
17 'Martha' and her witness statement can be found at  
18 WIT-1-000001609.

19 'My name is ["Martha"]. I was born in 1969. My  
20 contact details are known to the Inquiry.

21 'I was born in Glasgow and at that time stayed in  
22 Castlemilk with my gran. My dad had lost the family  
23 house in Govan and they had been forced to move in with  
24 her. I don't remember it, but I think there were 14 of  
25 us [at] my gran's house. My parents tried to get us

1 a house in Castlemilk but [that didn't work out]. The  
2 most local to there that [we got a house] was  
3 Easterhouse, so when I was 11 months old, we moved  
4 there.

5 'I have six brothers and two sisters.

6 'The reason I was sent to Fornethy was because my  
7 mum had a nervous breakdown due to financial and home  
8 circumstances and was admitted to hospital.

9 'My dad was a good man, but sadly he was not a very  
10 good provider. There were nine children, so that was  
11 11 of us in the house. Although I was young, I could  
12 see [that] there was something wrong with my mum.

13 'Things weren't good in the house and there was  
14 a total family breakdown at the time. I remember that  
15 dad said it was Mrs McCrossan, who was our headmistress  
16 at Wellhouse Primary, who had recommended for the three  
17 youngest of us to go to residential school.

18 'There was never any social work involvement. I was  
19 never involved in any of the discussions between my dad  
20 and the headmistress. My dad just told us that  
21 Mrs McCrossan thought it would be good for us to go to  
22 a "Ressie". He said it would be a wee break and a wee  
23 holiday for us because mum wasn't well and there was no  
24 sign of her getting out of hospital, because she had  
25 suffered a really bad breakdown. He told us it was like

1 a holiday camp. It had this and that and we would be  
2 able to do this and that. It was all lies.

3 'I think at that time my dad thought it was the best  
4 way forward for us and I believe he thought he was doing  
5 us a favour, but he wasn't.

6 'I had never been away from my family or my parents  
7 and I didn't want to go, but I didn't have a choice.  
8 I had a feeling that I wouldn't like it, but then  
9 I remember thinking, well, it is a holiday and I might  
10 as well make the most of it and look forward to it. The  
11 main thing was going to be missing my mum and my  
12 siblings, because I always had a good family where we  
13 were showed a lot of love. We were always close. We  
14 never had a lot of material things or money, we were  
15 very poor, but we always had that love.

16 'Before I went to Fornethy I had a medical in  
17 Glasgow.

18 'They did an eye test, a hearing test, sounded my  
19 chest and asked a few questions, which was maybe  
20 a literacy test.

21 'I had just turned 7 years old in [REDACTED], before  
22 I went to Fornethy in [REDACTED] 1976. I know it was  
23 [REDACTED], as it was coming up to [REDACTED] and when  
24 I first got to Fornethy, things were centred around  
25 [REDACTED] and a lot of [REDACTED] stuff.

1           'Two of my brothers were sent to Seafield Children's  
2 Home and my two other brothers were also sent away to  
3 Galloway House.

4           'The day I went to Fornethy, [one of my sisters]  
5 took me on a corporation bus to Buchanan Street Station  
6 to get a bus to Fornethy. I don't think my dad was  
7 there.

8           'On the bus to Fornethy, there were two male adults  
9 on the bus looking after us, but I don't know who they  
10 were. I didn't know if they were auxiliaries or  
11 teachers. I just thought they were there watching us as  
12 we were children, but they were probably there to make  
13 sure we sat and behaved. I never had interaction with  
14 them at all.

15           'There were a few other girls my age, some older,  
16 that were maybe 10 to 12 years old, hitting puberty age.  
17 The two girls next to me were sisters and I remember  
18 feeling a wee bit excited as we were all talking about  
19 what our names were, what ages we were and where we  
20 stayed. I was just on my own, thinking this is all very  
21 different and I'm going on this wee adventure like  
22 I'd been told.

23           'The feelings of excitement and adventure changed  
24 the minute we got to Fornethy.

25           'As I said, I was 7 when I went to Fornethy.

1 [I] felt like [we were] out in the wilderness, in the  
2 middle of nowhere. There were no houses, no shops,  
3 there was absolutely nothing. I just remember there  
4 being loads of trees and loads of grass. It was very  
5 different for me, coming from a housing scheme in  
6 Easterhouse, which was one of the roughest places in  
7 Europe. It felt desolate and that we were hundreds of  
8 miles from anywhere.

9 'Fornethy House was a massive, dirty, white, eerie,  
10 isolated, horrible house. There was nothing welcoming  
11 about it, nothing that gave the impression that it was  
12 a holiday camp or that there was anything for children  
13 to enjoy.

14 'The area where the bus parked was gravel and  
15 I remember falling on it a couple of times. Apart from  
16 that, everywhere else was grass and trees. There was  
17 a roundabout and there was a swing near to where the bus  
18 dropped us. I don't remember seeing any cars or other  
19 transport. I don't remember any proper pathways other  
20 than maybe round the edges of the building, where you  
21 could walk to another part of the house. There was  
22 an outbuilding, but I don't know what it was for.

23 'I'm not sure I can really describe the layout of  
24 the main house, but I remember going in and it was dark,  
25 dull, eerie, and I felt [like] it was a very damp

1 building.

2 'I know there were at least two floors, because  
3 I remember we had to go up a winding staircase to our  
4 dorm. One of the classrooms, the one that I eventually  
5 went to, was situated at the end of an alleyway [and]  
6 that was [just] off another main staircase. It seemed  
7 like an extra part or an annex that had been built onto  
8 the main house.

9 'There were other classrooms on the ground floor.  
10 There was a washroom where we got bathed, a laundry and  
11 a linen room, a dining room and a kitchen on the ground  
12 floor. I can't remember seeing rooms for staff, but  
13 I do remember seeing doors with "Private" signs on them.

14 'There was an auxiliary room and that was where you  
15 would go and see the auxiliary if you [had] cut yourself  
16 or something like that. I remember an auxiliary putting  
17 plasters on my knees when I fell on the gravel.

18 'The only two members of staff whose names I can  
19 remember are my class teacher, Miss Robertson, and  
20 Miss Fletcher, who was the headmistress.

21 'The only other staff that I had any interaction  
22 with were the dinner ladies, the auxiliary and other  
23 teachers, who I saw picking on other children or telling  
24 them off.

25 'There were about 20 or 30 girls at Fornethy at the

1 same time as me. The oldest girls were about 12 or  
2 13 years and the youngest, when I was there, was maybe 5  
3 or 6. All the girls got treated the same way, which led  
4 to there always being a lot of wailing and crying.

5 'I can't remember the names of any of the girls.  
6 I didn't befriend anyone. I never had any friends and  
7 that sounds terrible, but I was always too frightened to  
8 speak or interact with the other girls, as you weren't  
9 allowed. It was always silence and "Don't speak or you  
10 will be punished". It was the most silent place I have  
11 ever been in my life.

12 'When we arrived, there were teachers outside at the  
13 arched door and all these girls were lined up in single  
14 file. As we were getting off the bus, that was when it  
15 all changed. I think the terror hit me. It was silent  
16 and when there are children and people, you expect  
17 noise. I had come from a noisy house and then all of  
18 a sudden it struck me, it was so quiet. I remember  
19 a girl trying to speak and instantly they were told  
20 "Silence, be quiet". That was before we were even  
21 through the doors. As we were going in, there were  
22 other girls coming out and going on the bus to go home.  
23 That must have been the way they worked; we were going  
24 in and they were going out.

25 'When we went inside, Miss Fletcher and other

1 teachers were there. We were told by Miss Fletcher from  
2 the minute we got there that we had to stay silent, obey  
3 and do what we were told. We always had to stand in  
4 line and it was regimental. When I looked back as I got  
5 older, it felt like an institution, like an army for  
6 children. We were told you don't speak to anyone unless  
7 it is a teacher or an adult. Only speak when you are  
8 spoken to, and that was the way it was.

9 'It was a shame because when I look back, I think,  
10 did some of the girls have behavioural issues or were  
11 they just defiant, which was understandable because they  
12 didn't listen. They were then battered or dragged away  
13 and I was watching this and thinking, I'm not saying  
14 anything, because I was terrified.

15 'We got our cases taken off us and we were taken  
16 into the bathing area and we were told to strip.  
17 I thought this was strange. I came from a big family  
18 and my dad was really strict and you were covered up  
19 with a housecoat or long nightdresses. My brothers and  
20 sisters were always very discreet as we were brought up  
21 that way.

22 'When we were made to strip, there were girls in  
23 there that were reaching puberty age and seeing those  
24 girls naked was something I had never seen before. We  
25 were put in baths together that were much bigger than

1 the baths you get in a house.

2 'The ladies washed us and actually scrubbed us with  
3 a handheld scrubbing brush, as if we were smelly and  
4 dirty. They put a nit cream into my hair and then put  
5 a metal nit comb through it. I did actually know what  
6 this was, as my mum had done that with my sisters and  
7 me. I never actually had nits before I went to Fornethy  
8 or whilst I was there.

9 'I had a long fringe and my hair was always going in  
10 my eyes. One of the teachers told the woman that was  
11 bathing us to cut my hair. It was horrendous, and I was  
12 crying when they were doing it, as I didn't want my  
13 haircut. They cut my fringe right up to my forehead and  
14 trimmed it at the back. I was the only one that day  
15 that got my hair cut. Others got their hair cut later  
16 but never to the extent mine had been done. Looking  
17 back, the way I looked, you would have thought I was  
18 something out of an asylum. Even when I got back home  
19 all these weeks later, my dad asked what had happened to  
20 my hair. He wasn't happy that they had cut it off.

21 'When I was in the bath with these older girls, some  
22 of them were also crying. I was wondering what they  
23 were doing with us and thinking this was an absolute  
24 nightmare.

25 'I remember I had used my sisters' bathwater after

1           them, but never before had I had to strip off in front  
2           of my siblings and get in a bath with them. All of  
3           a sudden, I was sharing a bath with these girls and some  
4           of them were menstruating. That was the first time  
5           I had ever seen anything like that and I remember  
6           thinking this was absolutely horrendous.

7           'We were then shown to our dorms. My one was called  
8           Ailsa and there were roughly ten of us of mixed ages in  
9           it. The girl next to me was maybe 11 or 12 years old.  
10          She had a younger sibling there at the same time, but  
11          she was in a different dormitory.

12          'There were a few sisters there at the same time and  
13          they split them up into different dormitories.  
14          I remember seeing older sisters stepping in when their  
15          younger sisters were getting in trouble and saying,  
16          "Leave my sister alone".

17          'Some of the older girls were really nice and kind  
18          to me when they saw me upset or they saw things that  
19          they didn't like. They would sometimes come over to my  
20          bed at night and ask if I was okay.

21          'I had taken a wee case packed with all my own  
22          underwear, nightdresses and clothes. We each had  
23          a locker where our beds were and it always stuck in my  
24          mind that I don't remember ever wearing any of my own  
25          clothes from the minute I got there. They gave me

1 a pile of clothes, as if it had come from a laundry, but  
2 none of it was my own. My case was taken from me and  
3 I never saw it or the contents again until I was leaving  
4 and they gave [it back to me].

5 'The clothes they gave us were trousers and horrible  
6 jaggy wool jumpers. We were all made to wear pinnies  
7 like an apron, a floral one, like old women would wear  
8 years before. Everything they gave me was far too big  
9 or too small for me. It was all horrible material and  
10 everything was jaggy. There was no girlie stuff like  
11 ribbons to put in [your] hair or anything. I remember  
12 things like that had been packed in my case for me.

13 'I was there in the wintertime, so we also got  
14 a horrible jaggy hat and gloves, because we were always  
15 out walking. The wellies they gave me must have been  
16 about three sizes too big. I complained about them  
17 because they were causing me problems in my legs.  
18 However, they never did anything about it and I learnt  
19 that you just didn't complain about anything, as you  
20 paid for it by being punished for complaining.

21 'I think one of the staff came into our dorms and  
22 woke us up at 7.30 am or 8.00 am. We used to get washed  
23 at the sinks, brush our teeth, put on our clothes and  
24 our pinnies and then went down to the dining room for  
25 breakfast.

1           'There was a bathroom where I had that bath the  
2 first day. There were several big baths in there and we  
3 probably got bathed a few times each week. Every bath  
4 that I had after the first day was also a shared bath  
5 with another three girls of different ages and at  
6 different stages of development. I always remember the  
7 bigger girls trying to cover and hide themselves. The  
8 staff always washed us, sometimes with scrubbing  
9 brushes, but not all the time. I used to feel that the  
10 staff would scrub us with brushes when they were being  
11 watched by Fletcher or other teachers, who used to  
12 sometimes come in to supervise.

13           'They also had a shower room. It wasn't separate  
14 showers, it was a big communal shower. The only time  
15 I ever got a shower was first thing in the morning and  
16 that was only because I had wet the bed.

17           'I absolutely hated mealtimes because there [was]  
18 always issues.

19           'You always sat in the same seat. You weren't  
20 allowed to [sit wherever] you wanted. At my first  
21 mealtime I was told, "That is your seat and it will be  
22 for the duration of your stay".

23           'I hated the food. It would mainly be porridge or  
24 toast at breakfast time. I usually had toast unless  
25 they really pushed me to eat porridge, which they

1           sometimes did. I hated porridge.

2           'There was no choice of food or alternative if you  
3           didn't like it. If you didn't eat what they served, you  
4           didn't get anything else. That was it, so you starved,  
5           and they would make that clear. If you didn't eat it,  
6           then nine times out of ten you wouldn't get the milk and  
7           biscuit in the evening. [It didn't bother me] as  
8           I hated that as well.

9           'They were always trying to force-feed me and make  
10          sure that I would eat it. It wasn't just me that was  
11          getting force-fed. It was happening to other girls as  
12          well, because there were always things that girls didn't  
13          like or couldn't eat. I would say that this was  
14          happening to someone nearly every mealtime.

15          'The day after arriving, I was told I was getting  
16          Miss Robertson as my teacher. I only remember that one  
17          classroom. It was very dark up there. I don't really  
18          remember getting taught adding and subtracting or other  
19          proper education like I got at Wellhouse Primary School.  
20          When she did -- what she did would be things like she  
21          would draw a house on the blackboard and we would have  
22          to copy it and, to be honest, I liked doing that. She  
23          would write stuff on the blackboard and we had to write  
24          what she was telling us. Whatever she told us, we had  
25          to write it down, whether it was true or not.

1            'We weren't in the class for very long. It wasn't  
2            like a usual school day of 9.00 am until 3.00 pm or 4.00  
3            pm. I'd say we were half the day in the classroom and  
4            the other half was out walking. My memory is that it  
5            was classroom in the morning and then we went to the  
6            dining room for lunch. After lunch, they would send us  
7            down to an area where our coats and hats hung to get  
8            ready, and then they would take us out on long walks for  
9            the whole afternoon.

10           'All 20 to 30 of the girls would go out walking at  
11           the same time, unless somebody wasn't well or held back  
12           for some other reason. I would say there were three  
13           members of staff out with us. I can't remember any  
14           specific places we walked to, other than down to  
15           a stream, which was nearby, or to church on a Sunday.

16           'I just remember always walking for miles and miles  
17           and crying because my legs were sore from walking and  
18           the wellies were cutting into my legs. They were  
19           absolutely massive and were up above my knee. Trying to  
20           walk in them on long walks was difficult and you were  
21           slow because they didn't fit me. It was like walking  
22           with big boats on your feet. Other girls also had sore  
23           legs, because they also had wellies that didn't fit  
24           them.

25           'My legs had cuts, welches (sic) and blisters from

1 where the wellies had rubbed against them. They were  
2 absolute agony and I hated and dreaded putting them on  
3 every single day. I was too scared to say anything or  
4 ask for a smaller size.

5 'When I look back, I feel like I was mute for that  
6 seven-and-a-half weeks because I don't remember talking,  
7 asking anything, or even putting my hand up. I remember  
8 crying though. It was nothing like school or anything  
9 I had ever experienced. I just remember not speaking  
10 and we just used to all look at each other. We suffered  
11 in silence and that was the way they had you bullied.

12 'The weather was always bad. It snowed while we  
13 were there, but we still had to go out and walk in it  
14 every day.

15 'The place was horrific, because there was always  
16 dead animals lying everywhere. There were dead rabbits  
17 hanging from farm gates, dead squirrels and dead crows.  
18 I had never before seen so many dead animals in my life.  
19 It was just horrible.

20 'When we saw them, if somebody gasped or made  
21 a remark, the teachers would tell us to face the front,  
22 keep walking straight ahead, and I just remember there  
23 was silence. We were always walking in silence, unless  
24 you got the odd girl that misbehaved or tried to say she  
25 wasn't doing what they were telling her to do. She

1 would be walloped or hit across the head by the  
2 teachers. It was just about always the same girl and  
3 I remember thinking at the time that for her own sake,  
4 I wished she wouldn't be bad.

5 'I was always quite good, because I always thought  
6 I didn't want hit. The teachers pushed me a lot because  
7 I was walking too slow [and] that was because my wellies  
8 didn't fit.

9 'After we came back from the walk, I would go to the  
10 bathroom, get washed and get ready for supper, which we  
11 would eat in the dining room.

12 'I don't remember ever doing activities [or]  
13 anything enjoyable or fun. Sometimes we would sing.  
14 I don't know what, but we would all be singing together.  
15 I don't remember playing games. There were books to  
16 read, but I never read them. I couldn't concentrate  
17 enough because I was always in panic mode.

18 'In the evenings, we would maybe be in the TV room.  
19 You would get a wee plastic cup of milk and an Abernethy  
20 biscuit. I hated the milk and always have since.  
21 I think Fornethy caused that because the milk was always  
22 hot. Milk's not meant to be hot, but it was ready to  
23 turn and it was disgusting.

24 'After the milk and biscuit, we would go to our beds  
25 and I had terrible nightmares at bedtime because from

1 the first night, I wasn't liked by Fletcher and another  
2 couple of the teachers. My bed was right at the window  
3 and the curtains were always shaking with the draughts  
4 coming in. There was nobody on one side of me but there  
5 was an older girl on the other side.

6 'From the first night I was really frightened and,  
7 because of that, I peed the bed and had a bad nosebleed.  
8 I don't remember having a nosebleed to that extent as  
9 a child before that.

10 'I was pulled out of my bed that first night and it  
11 just continued because I peed the bed nearly every  
12 night. I didn't know if I was being -- if it was being  
13 away from my family in a strange place that caused it,  
14 but when I look back, it was the terror in me that was  
15 causing me to pee the bed. I was frightened to go to  
16 the toilet. It was because I was causing the staff  
17 an inconvenience by wetting the bed that I wasn't liked  
18 by them.

19 'I wasn't the only girl that peed the bed. It was  
20 something that was very common.

21 'When I got home, I was still wetting the bed and my  
22 dad asked me when I had started peeing the bed. Years  
23 later, when I checked with my parents if I had wet the  
24 bed before I went there, they said no. They told me  
25 I had been toilet-trained very quickly and had been so

1 smart as a child.'

2 Moving on to paragraph 81, where the witness  
3 describes her memory of whether there were any visitors:

4 'I remember seeing some cars in the gravel driveway.  
5 I don't know what they were there for. Looking back  
6 now, I don't know if they were maybe delivering food.

7 'I saw other people come to Fornethy but I didn't  
8 know who they were. There was a man who used to work  
9 about the gardens, trim hedges and cut flowers. I don't  
10 know if he was a handyman or someone employed for the  
11 grounds or buildings. I never spoke to him, and he  
12 never spoke to me. As far as I remember, there was no  
13 other male staff other than this handyman.

14 'There were strangers, men who I didn't know, that  
15 came to Fornethy. I don't know if any of the staff had  
16 accommodation in the grounds, but I used to think that  
17 the teachers must stay somewhere near there and  
18 I wondered at the time whether these men were the  
19 teachers' husbands. They were always smartly dressed,  
20 whereas the guy that did the gardens would be dressed  
21 like a workman.

22 'I never saw these men upstairs but I did hear,  
23 mainly from the other girls, that they had been. Whilst  
24 I was earwiggling into their conversations, I would hear  
25 the girls say things like, "He came up last night", or

1 "He was up the stairs last night". I never heard  
2 anything that had actually happened, but I did used to  
3 think that something had happened. There was something  
4 not right. It was an all-girls' place and [I don't  
5 think there should have been any men in there].

6 'I never had any family visits and I wasn't aware of  
7 any other girls having any.

8 'I never had any form of contact with my dad or any  
9 of my family while I was there. I think some girls  
10 maybe got letters from home, but I didn't. They would  
11 get us to write things when we were in the classroom  
12 like we were having a great time or the weather is  
13 sunny, but whether they sent that anywhere, I don't  
14 know.

15 'I don't ever remember being told what the  
16 punishment would be if we broke the rules that we had  
17 been told on the first day. I don't think Miss Fletcher  
18 ever had to say the words of what she would do because  
19 she just did those things and we could see what would  
20 happen.

21 'There were forms of physical discipline used and  
22 I saw a girl getting belted with a man's belt. They  
23 would also hit, slap and push us if we didn't walk fast  
24 enough when we were out on a walk.

25 'I never tried to run away and I was never aware of

1 any girls trying to run away. I do remember some of the  
2 older ones trying to run out of the dorms and then you  
3 wouldn't see them for the rest of the night. I don't  
4 know if they were kept downstairs or if they were put in  
5 a room, because they were trying to get out.

6 'There was always a lot of creeping about at night  
7 by staff. You could always hear footsteps and creaking  
8 floorboards. You would know there would be people  
9 outside your room or peeping in the room. Again,  
10 I never said or passed remark on anything. Maybe I was  
11 selfish, but I was just interested in me. I felt sorry  
12 for the other girls and I think they felt sorry for me  
13 and we were all upset, but none of us would speak up.

14 'That first night at Fornethy when I wet the bed and  
15 had a nosebleed, I was pulled out of the bed and put on  
16 a chair at the end of my bed. I had been wearing  
17 a nightdress, which was soaking. I was left sitting  
18 damp and cold. They made me sit at the end of the bed  
19 and then made me stand. I was left standing there all  
20 night, at least seven or eight hours, in my wet  
21 nightclothes. This traumatised me. It was horrific.  
22 I was exhausted and nearly falling on my feet.

23 'In the morning, two women came into the dorm and  
24 took me into a shower room, told me to take my  
25 nightdress and pants off and put me in a cold shower.

1 I remember I was literally screaming.

2 'I had nightmares from then on. I hated bedtime.  
3 I dreaded it. I was so worried throughout the day,  
4 thinking about nighttime coming.

5 'There were other times they put me in the corridor  
6 in my wet nightdress, but sometimes they would take off  
7 my nightdress and they would leave me standing in just  
8 my pants. I remember it was really cold, as Fornethy  
9 was a really cold place. I was always cold there and  
10 could never heat up.

11 'This went on most nights and the teachers just  
12 didn't like me because of it. I was a "problem child".  
13 I think that was what they addressed me as.

14 'I can't remember who it was that pulled me out of  
15 bed because they are teachers that I cannot remember.  
16 I look back and wonder whether they were dinner ladies,  
17 but then I think, why would dinner ladies be there at  
18 nighttime? I then wondered if it was auxiliary ladies.

19 'It was a different team of staff who worked there  
20 at nighttime and there was always people creeping about.  
21 It was an old building and you would always hear them in  
22 the corridors. I always knew I was getting caught  
23 because they would come in and check my bed to see if it  
24 or my nightclothes were wet.

25 'One of the nights, the older girl who was next to

1 me tried to help. She said to me to get up quickly  
2 before they come in so they could see if they could find  
3 any dry stuff to put on.

4 'The staff would come in and say, "Aw, she's done it  
5 again", and I would get pulled out of bed and it would  
6 be the same scenario of putting me on a chair, standing  
7 at the end of my bed or out in the corridor. In the  
8 morning, I would be put in a shower which nine times out  
9 of ten was freezing cold. This happened at least  
10 a dozen times whilst I was in Fornethy.

11 'Fletcher was always about in the mornings to make  
12 sure that I was being showered.

13 'One time when I wet the bed, they made me eat  
14 carbolic soap. Three of the staff took me and put me in  
15 a cold shower. I was trying to wash myself with the  
16 carbolic soap, which had a very strong smell. One of  
17 the teachers said to me I was to take a bite of it.  
18 I bit a corner of this square carbolic soap. I don't  
19 know what the reason was for making me eat carbolic  
20 soap. It was just control. They wanted you to do what  
21 they wanted. I couldn't swallow it and there were  
22 bubbles coming out of my mouth and because of that, all  
23 my life I have hated carbolic soap.

24 'They used to tell me that I was dirty, I was  
25 disgusting and that I was too old to be wetting the bed.

1           They said that they didn't tolerate "bed-wetters". It  
2           was not acceptable. They were just evil.

3           'It wasn't just me it happened to. It happened to  
4           lots of [the] others as well. I could be out in the  
5           corridor on my own and another girl would be brought out  
6           and put in another corner in the corridor. We  
7           [wouldn't] even look at each other. We were told,  
8           "Don't even as much as look at each other", so we  
9           wouldn't speak.

10          'All the other girls that wet the bed got the same  
11          treatment of being made to stand and suffer the  
12          derogatory comments. I saw some getting worse than me.  
13          I saw other girls getting skelped, slapped and their  
14          hair pulled.

15          'There would be other ones, older girls, that were  
16          taken out of their beds, but they wouldn't be put in the  
17          corridor. They would be taken downstairs, some of them  
18          kicking and screaming, some of them hysterical, and  
19          trying to hold on to the banister to try and stop them  
20          being pulled down. I used to always just think [that]  
21          they had been naughty and not done what they were told,  
22          or [that] they had wet the bed.

23          'It was teachers and staff that I saw dragging these  
24          girls down the stairs in the night. I never saw any of  
25          the men that visited the place doing this.

1           'When we were out on walks, I was always getting hit  
2           on the back of my head or slapped or pushed because  
3           I was walking too slow because of the wellies. I know  
4           that might not sound harsh, but when you are a wee girl  
5           and [when] you have an adult pushing or slapping you on  
6           the back of the head, it is absolute bullying. I can't  
7           remember having any visible marks or injuries from this.  
8           This wasn't just happening to me. It was happening to  
9           the other girls as well.

10           'I was leathered by Miss Fletcher with a ruler.  
11           This was my worst experience and it happened because  
12           I hated the food there. I hated porridge. I hated the  
13           milk. I hated the fish. Things that I ate at home.  
14           They were always trying to force-feed me and make sure  
15           that I would eat it. They were not always successful,  
16           because I just wouldn't do it. I wouldn't open my  
17           mouth. I would keep it closed. They would take the  
18           fork or spoon, try and pull my mouth open with their  
19           hands and physically try and put the food in my mouth.  
20           One of the things they used to force-feed me -- force me  
21           to eat was stew. I used to eat stew before I went  
22           there, but the stew at Fornethy was really chewy. I was  
23           on my nerves all the time when I was there and when they  
24           made me eat it, I couldn't swallow it. I was always  
25           choking on it.

1           'The teachers all ate in the dining room with us and  
2           they knew where I sat. There were set nights for set  
3           meals and on the night we got stew, I would pretend  
4           I was eating it, but I was actually taking it out of my  
5           mouth, putting it in a bit of toilet roll and throwing  
6           it under the table. I had done this for a couple of  
7           weeks and then one day Fletcher got up, came over and  
8           was pacing up and down the table I was sitting at.  
9           Basically, her words were, "We all know that there is  
10          somebody at this table who has not been eating their  
11          meat and throwing it under the table. The dinner ladies  
12          have got to clean it up and this is good food going to  
13          waste".

14          'She then said, "We know who the culprit is". She  
15          came up and stood behind my chair. I was terrified.  
16          She put her hands on my shoulders and said, "It's you  
17          ['Martha'], isn't it", and I felt as if everybody was  
18          looking at me. She pulled me out of the chair and said,  
19          "You will never waste good food again". She dragged me  
20          by the nape of the neck and took me out of the dining  
21          room and made one of the auxiliaries or dinner ladies  
22          come with her. She took me along to another room and  
23          got out this ruler, not like the one I had at school,  
24          but with a long -- but like a long metre stick. She  
25          kept shouting and bawling at me that nobody liked me,

1           that my family didn't want me, that the staff were fed  
2           up with me, that I wasn't obeying the rules, and because  
3           I was wasting good food all the time, I wouldn't be  
4           getting fed.

5           'She told me to put my hands out and she leathered  
6           into the palms of my hands with that wooden ruler. She  
7           hit me that many times that I couldn't have counted, but  
8           it was at least five or six. She just lost it like  
9           a mad woman, absolutely lost it. Whilst she was hitting  
10          me, she was shouting and bawling at me and was like  
11          a woman possessed. I thought she was going to just  
12          start hitting me anywhere with the ruler. She didn't,  
13          but just continued hitting me on the hands. My hands  
14          were red and stinging. They weren't cut, but they were  
15          all marked and welches (sic). When I was in my bed that  
16          night, they were still stinging and that sore that  
17          I couldn't sleep.

18          'After she had finished hitting me with a ruler, she  
19          told the woman that was with her to open the cupboard  
20          and hand her a brown bottle with castor oil in it.  
21          Fletcher prised my mouth open and just kept spooning it  
22          in, spooning it in, until I was sick. I was hysterical  
23          and I vomited. There were slabbers coming out of my  
24          mouth. She grabbed me, took me out and sent me up to  
25          bed. When I went up to bed I was vomiting and had

1 really bad diarrhoea so I dirtied the bed. They left me  
2 lying in the dirt and vomit all night. It must have  
3 been the castor oil that did that to me.

4 'That was my worst experience and I just thought  
5 I was never getting out of there. They never gave me  
6 anything else to eat that night. They never let me down  
7 the stairs. I was in that dorm on my own and I was  
8 terrified. Nobody came to check on me all night. They  
9 knew I had been sick and they had given me a metal bowl  
10 to be sick in. The stomach cramps were horrendous and  
11 I thought I was dying. I couldn't sleep all night.  
12 Nobody was to go near me and I was to be left alone. In  
13 the morning, they came and put me in a cold shower  
14 again. It was barbaric what they did, and they were  
15 meant to be teachers.

16 'I think this incident happened in about the third  
17 week I was there. The reason I think this is I believe  
18 they were watching what I did with the stew for the  
19 first two weeks. After that, I hardly ate a thing. No  
20 matter if they forced me or tried to force me,  
21 I couldn't do it. I felt as if I couldn't swallow. It  
22 had done something to me that I just felt I couldn't  
23 eat.

24 'There was a tuck shop and the parents used to send  
25 postal orders so that you could buy sweets. For

1           whatever reason, the first few weeks I was there,  
2           I never got sent anything. I had been there about three  
3           weeks and I went down to see if there was a postal order  
4           for me and there wasn't. I just thought it was because  
5           my dad was poor and he wouldn't pay the extra for a  
6           postal order.

7           'One teacher, whose name I can't remember, said to  
8           me, "Your family don't care about you. They're not  
9           sending you anything and they're not missing you".  
10          I believed her and I thought I wasn't ever getting home.

11          'One time, Mrs Robertson told me there was a parcel  
12          for me. It was a box with my name on it and  
13          I recognised the writing as my dad's, because he was  
14          a beautiful writer and had fancy handwriting. When  
15          I opened it, there was a wee box of Maltesers. That  
16          was the only time I remember getting anything. I was so  
17          happy and so excited about getting a sweetie, but I was  
18          happier that my family had actually sent me something.

19          'Two of the teachers came over, told me I could have  
20          two of the sweets and then took the rest from me, saying  
21          I wasn't getting any more because I was naughty, was a  
22          "pee-the-bed" and didn't deserve them. They took them  
23          away and I didn't get them back. I remember thinking  
24          they were evil and how could they do that.

25          'Over the years, when I mentioned certain things to

1 my parents and I asked why they hadn't sent me much, my  
2 dad said it wasn't true and that he had sent a couple of  
3 parcels. I definitely only got one package with the  
4 Maltesers.

5 'The other girls weren't allowed to share. Some of  
6 them would try and slip me something, knowing I didn't  
7 get anything, but they would get stopped and into  
8 trouble for doing so. They were told, "You are not  
9 allowed to share".

10 'I would say the older girls suffered more. I just  
11 felt like because they were older, they thought they  
12 were wiser and they could maltreat them more. They were  
13 always on their backs. They were always getting called  
14 out of the room, the TV room or the dining room. They  
15 were always treated worse and I used to think it was  
16 because they were big girls. They were always getting  
17 taken away from us.

18 'I saw an older girl, who was maybe about 12 or 13,  
19 getting belted with an actual man's belt. She was  
20 belted about three times and this happened on about  
21 three different occasions. She was belted on her  
22 backside over the top of her dress. I remember her  
23 screaming when this happened. She used to scream a lot.  
24 She was one of the ones that used to run out of the dorm  
25 at night. She was a bit mouthy and wasn't accepting of

1 everything that was going on. She was rebelling,  
2 whereas most girls didn't. Most of us just did what we  
3 were told and accepted it because really, we were  
4 fighting for our lives. We just wanted to get it over  
5 and done with and get home.

6 'I had been told I was going to Fornethy for six  
7 weeks but ended up staying for about seven-and-a-half.

8 'At assembly the day before we were scheduled to go  
9 home, we were told we weren't getting to go, because the  
10 snow was horrendous and the buses couldn't get up to us.  
11 I was devastated, it was horrific and I remember  
12 thinking that I was never getting home. They told us it  
13 would depend on the weather, but we would be there at  
14 least another week.

15 'That following week, they told us that we would be  
16 going home that week. I remember thinking, oh, my God,  
17 and couldn't believe that I was getting back home.

18 'The next day I was given my case back and we went  
19 out to get on the bus to go to Glasgow. As we were  
20 going out, there was a new lot of girls going in, just  
21 as had happened when we arrived. I remember clear as  
22 day looking at those wee girls going in and thinking,  
23 you don't know what you are going into.

24 'I got to Buchanan Street Bus Station and I sat on  
25 the bus for another 45 minutes after it [had] arrived

1 [in Glasgow]. I was crying because nobody had come for  
2 me and we didn't have a phone at home.

3 'After the 45 minutes, my sister turned up. My dad  
4 had sent my sister to pick me up and she'd come with  
5 a shoe bag. She said, "Hi, how are you", and gave me  
6 a cuddle. She then apologised for being late and said  
7 she had been buying shoes. I was hysterical, thinking  
8 how could she have done that.

9 'When I got back to the house, I wouldn't say I was  
10 shy, but I wasn't happy. I was resentful, disappointed  
11 and I was angry. I immediately made it known that she  
12 had been late for picking me up and that I'd had to wait  
13 on the bus.

14 'My mum was home. She was so pleased to see me.  
15 Out of all the family, I was closest to my mum. She was  
16 heartbroken I had been sent away. She wasn't happy  
17 about it and just kept saying she was sorry. I told her  
18 it wasn't her fault.

19 'Everything looked lovely, but I was crying and  
20 I remember thinking I hated them all. I hated all my  
21 family and for the first time in my life, I resented  
22 them. I was thinking, how could you, as my big sister  
23 or my big brother, let me go there.

24 'I never spoke to them about what happened -- about  
25 what Fornethy had been like and what had happened to me.

1 My dad went on about my hair and how they had not done  
2 a good job cutting it. I [didn't] tell him it had been  
3 much shorter and I hadn't wanted it cut.

4 'It took me years and years before I did speak to my  
5 parents about what happened. The first time was when  
6 I was pregnant with my daughter. Somebody mentioned  
7 carbolic soap and I became hysterical and couldn't talk.

8 'They asked me what was wrong and I just said  
9 "Fornethy".

10 I was quite a clever child at school. In Primary 7,  
11 I was [REDACTED] of the primary school, which was something  
12 they never really did in primaries. My teacher loved  
13 me, but one thing that was always in my report cards was  
14 that I never had faith in my own ability and had no  
15 confidence.

16 'That has been the case throughout my life.  
17 I've always just felt inadequate. My self-esteem has  
18 always been low. I don't have good vibes about me.  
19 Really, anything I do is not for me. It's always been  
20 for my family. They are everything to me.

21 'I have had two great jobs. I got promoted and  
22 everything, but because of the things that have happened  
23 in my life, I couldn't cope with [the pressures and  
24 stresses] of the job.

25 'I don't know if this is me being touchy, but there

1           was one member of staff who I would say [there] was  
2           a bully. There was a lot of bullying [going on and  
3           I wasn't able to cope with it]. I had been bullied all  
4           my life with certain things, Fornethy being the main  
5           place with the bullying and abuse, so I thought, I don't  
6           need to take this rubbish.

7           'I blame that all on Fornethy. The bullying, the  
8           intimidation, the psychological abuse I was subjected to  
9           there has definitely had a big impact on my adult life.

10          'The eating problems I have had my whole life are  
11          down to Fornethy. What happened when I was force-fed  
12          and so badly punished for throwing the stew under the  
13          table gave me an issue throughout my adolescence.  
14          I went through stages of almost having anorexia,  
15          attending doctors and having issues with food, because  
16          at Fornethy they had been trying to force me and making  
17          me sick. I didn't have a good relationship with food  
18          for most of my teenage years [and into my 30s and even  
19          when I started working, I continued to have issues with  
20          food].

21          'I continue -- even now, although I'm the heaviest  
22          I've been, I continue to have food issues and know it is  
23          down to how I suffered at Fornethy.

24          'I asked my mum if I had eating issues before I went  
25          to Fornethy. She said I hadn't and had been a good

1           eater before I went there.

2           'You are meant to go to these places to thrive and  
3           I failed so much. I totally failed. When I came home,  
4           my mum was so worried about me because I had lost so  
5           much weight.

6           'Ever since I left Fornethy, I have always had  
7           flashbacks and memories of Fletcher.

8           'I have had nightmares and flashbacks about my time  
9           at Fornethy. There are certain things that trigger bad  
10          memories.

11          'I always remember [my daughter's] 7th birthday. We  
12          had a birthday party for her and it was a great day.  
13          [After people left], I was sitting on my own and  
14          I became hysterical. I was thinking that I was the same  
15          age when I went to Fornethy. I thought how could  
16          anybody treat and do that to a child who was the same  
17          age as my baby as she was just a wee girl. How could  
18          they have done that to me?'

19          In the next section, in particular paragraph 158  
20          onwards, the witness speaks about various health issues  
21          from which she has suffered over time, including up to  
22          recent times, and that -- she continues to provide  
23          information about that through to paragraph 170,  
24          my Lady.

25          I will propose to move on to paragraph 176 and to

1 take it from that paragraph. What the witness says is:

2 'When I look back, I think the biggest effect being  
3 at Fornethy has had on me is my lack of self-esteem and  
4 confidence.'

5 In paragraph 177, the witness explains that she  
6 reported what happened to her at Fornethy to the police  
7 in October 2022. She then explains that there were  
8 various delays in that being followed up and when  
9 a family member contacted the police again on her behalf  
10 in 2024 -- this is at paragraph 181 -- the police were  
11 back in touch and had apologised for the time delay and,  
12 within a month, somebody had come out from the police to  
13 see her.

14 At paragraph 183, the witness explains that she's  
15 tried to get hold of medical records from her time at  
16 Fornethy and that she believes she's been told lies in  
17 relation to those records and she believes that there is  
18 a cover-up in relation to that, and she really focuses  
19 those thoughts at paragraph 196, my Lady, where she  
20 says:

21 'The main thing is there is nothing on my record  
22 about being at Fornethy and it is the same for all the  
23 girls in the [REDACTED] group and I wonder why. I think  
24 that they, whether it's the GP surgery, Glasgow Council  
25 or Glasgow Corporation, are trying to cover up that we

1 were all there and most of us were abused. There is  
2 something about the whole Fornethy thing that does not  
3 add up.

4 'I just have this feeling that there's a cover-up.  
5 All the girls that went to Fornethy were all sent to  
6 Fornethy by them, or whatever Glasgow Council was called  
7 then. We have asked Glasgow City Council and they say  
8 they don't have any records or proof of us being there.  
9 Seemingly, the papers that they had were burnt and we  
10 have been told that was procedure. Personally, there is  
11 just something that does not add up.'

12 In the next section, the witness speaks about  
13 lessons she considers could or should be learned, and  
14 I will read from paragraph 198, my Lady:

15 'I would say that all the staff that are working at  
16 any residential establishments now or in the future must  
17 be seriously vetted. You see things in the media now  
18 when things happen saying that the person had been  
19 vetted. If that is Disclosure Scotland, that is not  
20 proper vetting.

21 'People working in care need to have proper  
22 qualifications and proof of them.

23 'Things need to be looked at more closely, as there  
24 are far too many abusers that slip through the net. It  
25 was not just Fornethy, there was Quarriers, Smyllum, it

1 was everywhere and it is probably still going on.

2 'I blame the government and the authorities for  
3 allowing children to be left in the care of these  
4 people. I know there is always going to be one that  
5 slips through the net, but not a whole bunch of teachers  
6 or women. Vetting and Disclosure Scotland need to  
7 change.

8 'In my opinion, there should have been doctors,  
9 medical staff and dentists at Fornethy. There were no  
10 professionals like social workers or inspectors coming  
11 in to check the place or who was being employed there.'

12 In terms of her hopes for the Inquiry, the witness  
13 says the following:

14 'I want to know if the staff at Fornethy were  
15 actually qualified or registered teachers. There is  
16 nothing on record stating they were or weren't. We  
17 never got taught any real subject like maths or  
18 languages and anything we were taught at school at  
19 Fornethy was so basic. It was that basic I could have  
20 taught it as an adult.

21 'I believe that the Inquiry are backing us, the  
22 survivors of Fornethy, by bringing our cases forward to  
23 the forefront. I want Glasgow City Council to admit  
24 that they were wrong and that it shouldn't have been  
25 allowed.

1           'I would also love to ask them what were their  
2           statistics that said all the girls came from poor  
3           backgrounds. There was no social work involvement with  
4           my family. I never came from an abusive family. They  
5           were a loving family. We had our problems, family  
6           breakdowns, a lot of poverty, but no abuse and none of  
7           us would have laid a finger on each other.

8           'I want an apology and for the council to admit that  
9           we were there. That really annoys me when they say  
10          there is no proof. I am telling the Inquiry my story,  
11          but how do you know I'm not lying? Because there is  
12          nothing to prove that I or all these other women that  
13          went there over the years did actually go there. Why  
14          should they turn round to me and ask: do you have proof  
15          that you were there?

16          'They were wrong to send us there. We should never  
17          have been sent there and abused by people that they  
18          trusted to look after us. Okay, my dad agreed to me  
19          going, but I don't think he agreed to it knowing that  
20          I was going to suffer. He would never have allowed  
21          that.

22          'They just need to admit that everything they did  
23          with us was wrong. I don't see anything that was right.  
24          I would love to meet somebody who says "Fornethy was  
25          great for me" or that they actually benefited from it.

1           'I know the Coats family gifted Glasgow Corporation  
2           the house on the understanding they would never sell it  
3           for profit. I know that they have since sold it and  
4           made a profit. What happened to that money?

5           'I don't want it ever happening to anybody else  
6           again, but it probably will in a different era, in  
7           a different light and a different setting. Somewhere,  
8           some abusers will slip through and there will be abuse.  
9           In this day and age, with all the computers and systems  
10          that can be checked, there is no need for it.

11          'I know that Margaret Pearl Fletcher, my abuser, was  
12          awarded the Queen's Silver Jubilee medal. I think it is  
13          terrible that a woman who abused me and so many other  
14          girls has an award from the Queen and I would like her  
15          award to be taken from her, even though she is now dead.

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          'Martha' signed the statement on 27 May 2025.

21   LADY SMITH: Thank you very much.

22                                'Olivia' (read in)

23   MS FORBES: My Lady, the next statement is from an applicant  
24                who is anonymous and is known as 'Olivia'. The  
25                reference for her statement is WIT-1-000001771.

1 LADY SMITH: Thank you.

2 MS FORBES: My Lady, 'Olivia' tells us she was born in 1966  
3 and she talks about life before going into care between  
4 paragraphs 2 and 6.

5 In summary, she was the oldest child, born in Govan  
6 and spent most of the time living in Govanhill. By the  
7 time her parents were 25 years old, they had four  
8 children. Her dad worked in the Govan shipbuilders and  
9 her mum stayed at home and they lived in a tenement with  
10 a single bedroom and a toilet on the landing.

11 'Olivia' tells us that she and her sister slept on  
12 a couch in the kitchen/living room part of the tenement  
13 and her parents' bed was in a recess, with her brothers  
14 in a pull-down bed in the living room. There were no  
15 baths, so they had to get washed in the sink.

16 She says life was generally okay. Her brothers were  
17 quite boisterous, so she and her sisters stayed with  
18 their granny and grandad a lot. At about 5 years old,  
19 she was placed in a residential home and she thinks the  
20 purpose of that was to give her mum a break. She stayed  
21 there for about six weeks and in short, **Secondary Institutions - to be**

22 **Secondary Institutions - to be published later**

23 Afterwards, she went back home and life continued,  
24 and she tells us about life back home between  
25 paragraphs 13 and 22.

1           She tells us about a traumatic incident she suffered  
2 when she was about 6 or 7 whereby she was abducted off  
3 the street by a man wielding scissors, who dragged her  
4 into a close and threatened to cut her eyes out. Her  
5 friend's mum luckily intervened and the man ran away.  
6 Police became involved. She doesn't remember anything  
7 sexual happening to her, but she was examined at  
8 a hospital and there was some suggestion that there had  
9 been some sort of penetration. And she tells us that  
10 there were differences between her recollection of what  
11 happened and her friend's mother about what she saw.

12           'Olivia' tells us after this incident that she  
13 became very quiet and withdrawn and she tells us  
14 a little bit more about how this incident has affected  
15 her in later life between paragraphs 17 and 22.

16           She then talks about going to Fornethy from  
17 paragraph 23 of her statement and if I go to  
18 paragraph 23, 'Olivia' says:

19           'I went to Fornethy in [REDACTED] 1976. I was 9 years  
20 old. I know this as I recently had a conversation with  
21 my mum and she told me we all moved to Castlemilk in  
22 1976. I left for Fornethy from my old house in  
23 Govanhill and on my return, my family were living in  
24 Castlemilk.

25           'My mum was asked by my school if myself and my

1 sister wanted to go to Fornethy. I think my sister was  
2 about 6 years old. It was sold as a break for my mum  
3 and a holiday for us. I told my sister it would be  
4 great as they had a school and they had this, that and  
5 the next thing. Secondary Institutions - to be published later

6 Secondary Institutions - to be published later

7 'My granny and grandad took [my sister] and I up to  
8 Buchanan Street in Glasgow for the bus to Fornethy. We  
9 had our wee suitcases and my mum had been given a list  
10 of things we were to take.

11 'We boarded a bus and were all taken together and  
12 everyone was waving at their relatives. We were all  
13 happy and we were singing.

14 'When we got there, I realised it wasn't the same  
15 place I had been to previously. Fornethy was a white,  
16 horrible-looking building, with small windows and plain  
17 curtains.'

18 LADY SMITH: Secondary Institutions - to be published later

19 Secondary Institutions - to be published later

20 MS FORBES: Yes. Yes, she was, my Lady.

21 LADY SMITH: That happened when she was about 5 years old or  
22 so.

23 MS FORBES: Yes:

24 'It was like something out of a horror movie. Secondar

25 Secondary Institutions - to be published later

1  
2 'It was all girls at Fornethy and I think there must  
3 have been about 30 girls in total. The girls were all  
4 primary age from about 5 up to 12 years old.

5 'The building had two floors and the dormitories  
6 were upstairs. There were five or six dormitories that  
7 slept about six girls in each. On the ground floor  
8 there was a cloakroom with coat hooks and wooden boxes  
9 that contained wellington boots for the walks. There  
10 was a dining room with round tables. The corridors on  
11 the ground floor were painted with cartoons.

12 'When we first got off the bus, we went into the  
13 corridor of the building and from there it was hell.  
14 The doors got slammed and the staff started shouting,  
15 "Get into twos", "Take hands", and things like that. It  
16 was hell from that day on.

17 'We were taken to a big room, which I think was the  
18 dining room, and told we were going to get split up into  
19 dormitories. I got to stay with my sister as she was  
20 still really small. I was glad about that. She is  
21 really mouthy and still is to this day. I needed to  
22 look after her.

23 'We were given a dormitory called Esk. There were  
24 six of us who slept there. My bed was right beside the  
25 door. There was a single bed and a tall locker for

1 clothes. We used to have to put our pillow on top of  
2 the locker every morning after we had made our bed. My  
3 sister couldn't reach and I would do it for her, but  
4 I ended up getting in trouble for that. Miss Robertson,  
5 who was one [I think that should say "one of"] the  
6 staff, seemed to look after our dormitory and perhaps  
7 another dorm.

8 'They left the windows in the dormitory open from  
9 the bottom all day and night, despite there being snow  
10 on the ground outside. This meant the dormitories were  
11 freezing all of the time. It was like a form of  
12 torture. At night, my sister would shout over to me  
13 that she was freezing. I would say to her to get down  
14 under the covers and that she would be fine.

15 'The member of staff that I recall most was  
16 Miss Fletcher. She was the head one and in charge of  
17 everything. She reminded me of Maggie Thatcher. She  
18 had blonde, curly hair and was dead strict. She had  
19 a loud voice. Miss Robertson was the other one.  
20 I don't recall any other staff and no one else being bad  
21 to us. My sister seems to recall there being a gardener  
22 there, but I don't remember him.

23 'I think we were woken up by staff in the morning at  
24 about 8.00 am or 8.30 am. We then made our bed.  
25 I think we were all too scared to get up before the

1 staff came into the dormitory, so that never happened.

2 We got dressed and then went down for breakfast.

3 'I don't remember what we did during the day. We  
4 were just sent out to play. There were certainly no  
5 activities like knitting or crafts or anything like  
6 that. We'd go for lunch and generally in the afternoon  
7 we went on a walk.

8 'After supper, it was a case of getting our nighties  
9 on and getting straight into bed. We all to be quiet  
10 after that. I am unsure what time we went to bed.

11 'We all ate in the dining room at the round tables.  
12 I think we were told where we had to sit. I always sat  
13 beside my sister, so I could look after her.

14 'You had to eat everything that was put down to you.  
15 There was a real fear in the dining room. If you didn't  
16 eat everything on your plate, you were sent to stand and  
17 face the wall. There were always children standing  
18 facing the wall during mealtimes.

19 'It almost made me sick, having to make sure that  
20 I ate everything that was on my plate and the fear of  
21 what would happen to me if I didn't.

22 'I don't remember much about the food. Breakfast  
23 was cereal and toast. At suppertime, we got a drink of  
24 milk and one Rich Tea biscuit.

25 'We showered in a shower block, like you see in the

1 jail, with all of the sprays coming out of the wall.  
2 All ages showered together and there was no privacy.  
3 I don't recall if we showered as a group from our  
4 dormitories or not. The staff would stand while we were  
5 showering.

6 'We wore our own clothes, with the exception of the  
7 wellington boots and raincoat that we had to wear out on  
8 the walks.

9 'I don't remember doing anything there that I liked  
10 or enjoyed. All we got to do was go out and play in the  
11 snow. There was also one swing in the grounds.

12 'There was a concrete hut thing in the garden. My  
13 sister and I would play shops in that. We used grass  
14 and stones and pretended to sell them. I also used that  
15 hut to speak to my sister to tell her that she needed to  
16 be quiet as otherwise she was going to get into trouble.

17 'Everyone else would just run about on their own.  
18 I think the others were too scared to make friends or  
19 talk to the others. At least I had my sister. It must  
20 have been a really lonely place for most children.

21 'We did long, long walks and those were cruel,  
22 because of the distance and the wellington boots we had  
23 to wear, which were either too big or too small.

24 'There was a library, but I think that was for the  
25 staff. I don't believe there were children's books in

1           there. I was only in it the once, when my sister and  
2           I were sent there during the night to face the wall.

3           'There was no school. **Secondary Institutions - to be published later**

4           **Secondary Institutions - to be published later**

5           **Secondary Institutions - to be published later**

6           'The only thing we did do in the classrooms was  
7           write letters home. We sat in front of a big board and  
8           on the board would be "Dear ... we're having a wonderful  
9           time, great place, food's lovely", and all that kind of  
10          stuff. We couldn't write what we wanted to write. They  
11          checked what we were writing, but you never had  
12          a choice. I'm not aware of anyone writing anything  
13          different, because we were all so scared. Everyone knew  
14          from that first week that you had to do what the staff  
15          wanted.

16          'There was no matron or anything there and no  
17          healthcare. My little sister went home with chickenpox.  
18          She would say to the staff when she was there that she  
19          was itchy, but they said to her it was nothing.

20          'We had to make our beds in the morning and place  
21          our pillows on top of the lockers beside our bed. It  
22          was quite high up and so I would do my sister's for her.

23          'There would be an inspection in the morning and  
24          you'd get into trouble if your bed wasn't made correctly  
25          or the pillow wasn't up on the locker properly. It was

1           like a military camp.

2           'We also set the tables for the meals and cleared  
3           our plates to the counter area afterwards.

4           'We had a locker, which was situated next to our  
5           bed, where we kept our clothes.

6           'My granny sent in magazines during my stay and  
7           I got to keep those.

8           'There was a girl in our dorm who wet the bed.  
9           I don't know the girl's name. I saw Miss Robertson pull  
10          her out of the bed and whack her on the back of her legs  
11          with a slipper. This happened virtually on the first  
12          night. We were terrified after that.

13          'Thankfully I didn't wet the bed and nor did my  
14          sister.

15          'We never got visits from family while we were  
16          there. We did receive letters from family. These were  
17          handed out in the dining room.

18          'A week before we were due to go home, I remember  
19          getting a letter. It said that my mum, dad and brothers  
20          were moving house. I was sobbing my heart out, thinking  
21          they were leaving us in the home. I hadn't been aware  
22          before we went in there that there was a plan for us to  
23          move. I know that I felt I couldn't have gone on there  
24          for even one more week.

25          'The main punishment given out at Fornethy was being

1       made to stand and face the wall, and that was usually  
2       for not eating food at mealtimes. The other one was  
3       staff slapping children over the back of the legs with  
4       a slipper. The slipper would be used mostly when  
5       children just had their nightclothes on and so there  
6       wasn't much protection on their legs from any clothing.

7               'I don't think there was a day that went past  
8       without me seeing a child facing the wall.

9               'One night, when [my sister] and I were in bed, she  
10       was telling me that she was itchy. I told her to be  
11       quiet as we would get into trouble. I don't know if  
12       staff stood outside of the dorms to listen, but sure  
13       enough, Miss Robertson came into the room. The pair of  
14       us were taken out of bed, with just our nightshirts on.  
15       We didn't even get a chance to put on our slippers. We  
16       were dragged along a corridor and put into a room like  
17       a cupboard. I vaguely recall it might have been  
18       a library, as it had books on each side, with a ladder  
19       thing. We were made to stand in there and face the wall  
20       at the back. I remember the room and the corridors.  
21       They were so black. I think it was the middle of the  
22       night. Robertson came back in at some point and gave us  
23       both a serving spoon-size of castor oil, which we had to  
24       swallow. She left again and we were locked in the room.  
25       I don't really know how long it was for and I have no

1           idea where she went. I would guess it was about half  
2           an hour, though it seemed like forever. When you're  
3           young, it's difficult to say how long. She then came  
4           back and dragged us back to our beds. I think this  
5           happened quite near the end of our stay, maybe a week or  
6           two before we left, because my sister had chickenpox on  
7           our return home.

8           'Miss Fletcher would shout and bawl at all of us in  
9           the dining hall and basically everywhere we were.  
10          I would always be trying to make sure [my sister] never  
11          got herself into trouble in there. I felt responsible  
12          if she got into trouble, so I tried my best to protect  
13          her. I felt she was too little.

14          'There was a time when [my sister] wrapped her peas  
15          in her napkin and threw it on the floor. Miss Fletcher  
16          must have seen the napkin, realised [my sister] was the  
17          only one without one, and she pulled her out of her  
18          chair and made her stand and face the wall because she  
19          hadn't eaten her peas.

20          'My wee granny was very good to us and my grandad  
21          had a good job. She would send us parcels of fruit,  
22          magazines and postal orders with £2 each. I think we  
23          got a letter from my granny every week and she tells me  
24          that within the letter would be a postal order.  
25          Fletcher would come into the dining room in the morning

1 and shout out your name and hand you the letter. The  
2 letters were all opened, but there was never a postal  
3 order that I saw.

4 'There was a tuck shop there and the staff would  
5 look up a book and see if you had enough money and  
6 I think that's where the postal orders went. We were  
7 only allowed one packet of sweets a day, or maybe it was  
8 a week, and so there is no way we spent the value of the  
9 money we should have had. The staff must have kept it.  
10 I remember when I left, one of the staff told me I had  
11 £2 left and I should buy my mum a box of chocolates for  
12 going home.

13 'There were lots of girls there, but we weren't  
14 encouraged to talk to others or make friends. If you  
15 did, the staff would just shout at us. It felt like  
16 they constantly shouted at us.

17 'We went on long walks every day. There were little  
18 wooden boxes that had wellington boots and jackets  
19 inside. We'd have to put both on and sometimes the  
20 wellies were too big or too small. They walked us for  
21 miles in the countryside through mud paths and up hills.  
22 All of the little ones would be trailing behind, because  
23 it was too much for them. One day when we were out, the  
24 snow was up to our knees. I was frozen and my feet were  
25 really sore. We walked past a dead sheep which was all

1 frozen over. I remember the other little girls were all  
2 crying because they had seen this, but Robertson was  
3 just saying "Come on, come on, hurry up". We were just  
4 marched back to the house. That's what the walks were,  
5 like a march. There was nothing about looking at the  
6 scenery or the flowers or plants and farm machinery and  
7 learning from it. The walks were longer than an hour  
8 and seemed to last ages.

9 'I knew we were only going to be at Fornethy for six  
10 weeks, but it felt like forever. I would count the days  
11 down for home time and wish that each day was time for  
12 going home.

13 'The day that I finally got on the bus to go home,  
14 I was so relieved. I couldn't wait to get there. My  
15 wee granny was waiting for us when we arrived.

16 'My sister and I did not return to our previous  
17 one-bedroom tenement flat, but instead went to a house.  
18 It meant we were then able to share a bedroom and my  
19 brothers had their own room, as did my parents. There  
20 was also a bathroom.

21 'I think we told my granny some of the things that  
22 had gone on, but I don't think we told my mum that much.  
23 We might have said it was terrible and they made us do  
24 this and that, but they probably would have said that  
25 that was a shame and to just get on with it. Even to

1 this day, my mum says we never told her. I think I put  
2 it all to the back of my mind. As you go through life,  
3 other things happen and you put it in this cupboard.'

4 'Olivia' then talks about life after being in care  
5 between paragraphs 74 and 76 and in summary she tells us  
6 she went back to primary, into Primary 5, and she always  
7 felt a little bit behind at school.

8 She then went on to secondary school and was bullied  
9 there for being quiet. She left school at 16, went into  
10 a youth opportunity programme in a lighting shop, which  
11 she did for two years. She then went to college for  
12 about eight weeks and then applied for a job at another  
13 lighting company, and after a two-week trial was taken  
14 on and stayed there for 18 years.

15 And she tells us she has two grown-up sons.

16 She then talks about 'Impact' from paragraph 77 and  
17 says:

18 'In my 20s and 30s, I did start to get flashbacks  
19 about the incident with the male. One of the first  
20 times was when the Madeleine McCann disappearance was in  
21 the news.

22 'With all of this in the news about Fornethy, it's  
23 also triggered my memories of there. The cupboard in my  
24 mind opened up and it made me think. I have wondered if  
25 things that I have to deal with in my life had anything

1 to do with it. For instance, my weight, and also  
2 because I have been on anti-depressants for most of my  
3 life for depression.

4 'I do think both of these traumatic things, with the  
5 male and Fornethy, have had a physical and mental effect  
6 on me. I was already withdrawn, quiet and scared from  
7 the incident with the male, then going to Fornethy and  
8 being constantly scared there added to the fear in my  
9 life. I thought I had been going to Fornethy for  
10 a holiday, but it was hell and it was more trouble on  
11 the troubles I was already carrying. I also kept it all  
12 in.

13 'I was very protective of my sons as they grew up  
14 and did everything I could to make them safe. I took  
15 them everywhere with me and did everything I could for  
16 them. I think that is down to the incident with the  
17 male, as opposed to Fornethy. My oldest son, before he  
18 moved out, recently thanked me for everything I had done  
19 for him, and I really appreciated that.

20 'I do have friends from a long time ago, but it does  
21 take me a while to trust people. I was nervous about  
22 coming to speak to the Inquiry. Even with appointments  
23 at hospitals, I usually look to get a second opinion  
24 because of my lack of trust.

25 'I have confidence issues. I was on a course a few

1 years ago and that helped.

2 'I think that my overall feeling about Fornethy at  
3 the time was that it was a horrible experience, but that  
4 I just wanted to forget about it, not talk about it and  
5 put it to the back of my mind. The trouble now is, it's  
6 when it all comes out and is spoken about and you look  
7 up pictures and one sees Robertson in the news, it  
8 brings it all back.

9 'It's all really sad. Fletcher and Robertson must  
10 have been quite young when they were supposed to be  
11 looking after children and I just wonder how, at their  
12 young age, they could treat children the way they did.

13 'I have been on anti-depressants for years, but  
14 I mostly put that down to life in general and how I have  
15 felt over the years. I don't necessarily draw a link  
16 with Fornethy with that. I feel it happened so many  
17 years ago and I was only young, but it could well have  
18 something to do with it.

19 'I think I went to counselling about the incident  
20 with the male. The only thing I remember about it was  
21 that it was good to talk to someone about it that didn't  
22 know me, as opposed to my family. I think I was  
23 referred by my GP.

24 'My sister and I have spoken a lot about Fornethy,  
25 especially after the trial with Robertson. My sister

1 phoned me after she saw it on the news and I'm sure her  
2 words were, "Did you see that old bitch on the news?  
3 She's evil looking". We both agreed Robertson still  
4 looked the same. I also saw the survivors protesting [REDACTED]  
5 [REDACTED]. I've looked at old photographs on Google  
6 of the home and I could see places we played and the old  
7 windows on the first floor where the dormitories were.  
8 On the back of all that, I contacted Thompsons  
9 Solicitors. My understanding is that Thompsons will try  
10 to get compensation for people who stayed at Fornethy.  
11 For me, it was about giving my side of the story.

12 'I also contacted the Inquiry around that time.  
13 I was a bit reluctant, as when I think of abuse, I think  
14 of sexual abuse.

15 'I have since shared what happened to me there with  
16 my oldest son. My sister and I have also spoken about  
17 it in depth with my mum. She has said that had she  
18 known, she wouldn't have sent us there. My mum said, as  
19 far as she knew, we were being offered a holiday. As  
20 a result, my mum feels really bad about it now. I have  
21 tried to explain that there was no way she would have  
22 known.'

23 She tells us then at paragraph 90 her sister has no  
24 intentions of speaking to anyone about Fornethy and, at  
25 91, she says since speaking to the Inquiry, she has

1 spoken to the police and given them a statement about  
2 Fornethy.

3 At paragraph 94, she talks about 'Lessons to be  
4 Learned' and says:

5 'Staff who work with children need to be well  
6 vetted. I don't know who employed the staff at Fornethy  
7 or if they were even vetted. There are too many horror  
8 stories from years ago in homes.

9 'I think what would have made our stay better was if  
10 we had sat down at a table with the other girls. Maybe  
11 if we'd done an activity, we could have chatted and had  
12 a laugh together but instead we were too scared. We  
13 also had nothing to do except play outside in the snow.'

14 At paragraph 97, she says:

15 'I don't think having someone at Fornethy for us to  
16 speak to would have made a difference. I probably  
17 wouldn't have spoken to them because I was so quiet and  
18 withdrawn anyway.'

19 And in 'Hopes for the Inquiry', 'Olivia' says at  
20 paragraph 98:

21 'I just wanted to come and tell my story because  
22 there are so many different stories. I want people to  
23 know about what went on in these places and what  
24 happened to me.'

25 And then she has made the usual declaration at

1 paragraph 99 and she's signed her statement and it's  
2 dated 29 April 2026.

3 LADY SMITH: Thank you.

4 We could take the morning break now, unless you've  
5 got a read-in that would only take about five minutes.  
6 I don't think you have, looking at the list.

7 Shall we do that and then get back to further  
8 read-ins afterwards. Thank you.

9 (11.23 am)

10 (A short break)

11 (11.44 am)

12 LADY SMITH: Ms MacLeod, where now?

13 'Victoria' (read in)

14 MS MACLEOD: My Lady, the next read-in is that of an  
15 applicant who will use the pseudonym 'Victoria'.

16 LADY SMITH: Thank you.

17 MS MACLEOD: Her statement is to be found at

18 WIT-1-000001347:

19 'My name is ["Victoria"]. I was born in 1970. My  
20 contact details are known to the Inquiry.

21 'I was born in Glasgow and lived there with my mum,  
22 dad, my older brother and younger sister. My dad did  
23 not come into my life until I was nearly 5 weeks old.  
24 He worked as a long-distance lorry driver and my mother  
25 was a machinist.

1           'My father drank a lot when he was home from work.  
2           There was no social work or other agency involvement.  
3           I was told that I was going to be sent to Fornethy House  
4           during the [REDACTED] of 1977. Later in life, I think this  
5           was to give my mum a break and it was cheaper than  
6           a holiday. I thought it was going to be like a camp.

7           'When I went to Fornethy, it was for six weeks  
8           during the [REDACTED] break. I know this because I was  
9           home. I was only there for a week before school started  
10          up again.

11          'Before I went there, mum had been given a list of  
12          items of clothing that I needed for my stay at Fornethy.  
13          I think the list may have been attached to the  
14          application form, which had been supplied by my school.  
15          I also had to attend the city centre of Glasgow to go  
16          for a medical examination at Glen Street.

17          'I went to Fornethy three or four times, I think  
18          between 1977 and before I went to high school, and my  
19          sister was only there once, during my third visit there.  
20          My brother didn't go as it was girls only. The  
21          incidents I will describe later in this statement  
22          happened to me, but I may have mixed up which time I was  
23          at the home.

24          'My mother took me to the station at Glen Street  
25          along with my little brown case. When I went [to] the

1 bus, there were other girls also going to Fornethy.  
2 I can't remember if we went straight there or whether we  
3 picked up other girls on the way. I do remember it was  
4 right out in the country, near Blairgowrie, and we went  
5 through a forest. When we came out the other side of  
6 the woods, there was a big house with grounds all around  
7 it. When we arrived there, some of the girls were ready  
8 to go back on the bus to go home. I think it was near  
9 lunchtime when we arrived.

10 'As soon as we all arrived, we were told to change  
11 out of our clothes and put on their blue pinafore dress.  
12 They also give us wellies and a pair of shoes to wear.  
13 The shoes were usually too small. We weren't allowed to  
14 wear our own shoes. We were also made to have another  
15 medical and then sent for a bath. After having the  
16 bath, we were sent to the recreation or TV room. When  
17 we were all gathered, we were then separated into groups  
18 for our dormitories.

19 'The dormitories all had different names,  
20 Reeky Lynn, Prozen, Ogil and Esk. I was allocated to  
21 the large dormitory --'

22 LADY SMITH: I think that's 'Prosen', probably.  
23 MS MACLEOD: 'Prosen'.  
24 LADY SMITH: And 'Ochil' --  
25 MS MACLEOD: Prosen --

1 LADY SMITH: -- not 'Ogil'. Probably Prosen with an 'S' and  
2 Ochil with a 'CH', not a 'G'.

3 MS MACLEOD: I think in other statements I think it has been  
4 a 'CH'.

5 LADY SMITH: Yes, well, those are the places --

6 MS MACLEOD: Places nearby.

7 LADY SMITH: -- that are near there. And 'Reeky' is  
8 probably 'Reekie', 'IE', and 'Lin' with an 'I' as well.

9 MS MACLEOD: Probably:

10 'I was allocated to the large dormitory,  
11 [Reekie Linn], which was situated next door to the  
12 library. Twice I was in that dorm and the other times  
13 I was [in Prosen]. We were not allowed in each other's  
14 dormitories.

15 'In the dormitory there was a wardrobe at the side  
16 of the bed where we hung the pinafore dress and the rest  
17 of our clothes. Each of the shelves in the wardrobe  
18 were marked for our items of [clothes], for example,  
19 pants, tops, skirts, et cetera. That was where we  
20 stored our own clothes. At the end of each bed, there  
21 was a chair for sitting on. I think there were eight  
22 single beds in my dormitory.

23 'I think there were no more than 50 girls there and  
24 they were all aged between 7 or 8 and up to about 10.  
25 I remember some of the names of the staff at Fornethy.

1 Miss Fletcher was the head of the school and every time  
2 she got angry, her eyes would bulge out and she was  
3 shaking so much you could see her hair moving as well.  
4 Miss PWH was always smoking and kept her cigarettes  
5 and matches in her pocket, and Miss Robertson, both  
6 teachers. There were two auxiliaries, one which was  
7 called Gladys. Gladys was a really nice woman who was  
8 always singing.

9 'In the mornings, the staff would pull the blankets  
10 off our beds to waken us in the morning. I think the  
11 reason for this was to stop us falling asleep again.  
12 This would be somewhere between 6.00 pm and 6.30 pm. We  
13 then got dressed and headed for breakfast. After  
14 breakfast, it was back up to get our teeth brushed. It  
15 was then into some sort of work in the school.

16 'When we got to bed about 8.00 pm, we might be given  
17 15 minutes to read a book before it was lights out.  
18 Even when they turned the main lights out there was  
19 a blue light still [on]. I presume this was  
20 an emergency light, but I'm not sure. The shutters on  
21 the windows were all closed, which made the room even  
22 darker.

23 'When it came to mealtimes, we were all sat around  
24 big, round tables. There were four or five of us at  
25 each table and there would be somewhere around eight

1 tables in the dining room. I can remember the first few  
2 times I was there, one of the kitchen staff was called  
3 Mary and when she handed out half-cups of tea to anyone  
4 in the evening, then that was the girls who had  
5 a problem with bed-wetting.

6 'Before heading down for our meals, we all lined up  
7 beside our respective dormitories. When we went into  
8 the dining room for our meals, we were all made to stand  
9 behind our chair while grace was said. The teachers sat  
10 at their own separate table near the top of the room.

11 'The food at Fornethy was not great. For breakfast  
12 we had some porridge which was really lumpy. There  
13 [would be] some mornings when we got cereal. We were  
14 each given half a morning roll, along with a little  
15 butter and marmalade. I can remember the eggs because  
16 you could smell them in your dorm before you headed  
17 down. When they were placed on the table, they were  
18 green in the middle.

19 'I can also remember at lunchtimes we were given  
20 a bowl of soup which was a horrible green colour.  
21 Another common meal we were given was mince, potatoes  
22 and peas. If you were not eating the food fast enough,  
23 the staff would mash all this food together and make you  
24 eat it like that. The staff did not eat the same food  
25 as us, it always seemed much nicer. To this date,

1 I can't eat pea soup or boiled eggs.

2 'At the end of the day, we might be given a glass of  
3 milk and a couple of digestive biscuits.

4 'The last time I was there, I think it was Irene  
5 Simpson and her friend [REDACTED] that looked after the  
6 kitchen. They were so friendly, Irene even gave me her  
7 home address as I left the home with the intention that  
8 I could visit her. She was due to marry her boyfriend.  
9 When I was in the home after the last occasion, she  
10 phoned me at my house to check how I was.

11 'There were showers available at Fornethy and there  
12 was one, possibly two, baths. I can remember when it  
13 came to having a bath, we all had to queue up naked.  
14 There was very little water in the bath and as soon as  
15 we were washed, we were out again and the next girl  
16 climbed in. The bath was only used during the day.

17 'I only had a bath once or twice a week, but the  
18 showers were each night. When we had a shower, it  
19 was the same routine and we were [all] allowed three  
20 minutes in the shower, before being told to get out and  
21 get dried. We also had to wear a shower cap as there  
22 was no dryer for your hair. The showers were communal  
23 with no cubicles.

24 'We had to wear clothing supplied by Fornethy. The  
25 only exception was if we were going to church, [you]

1 would be allowed to wear your own clothes.

2 'Sometimes if we had no classwork to do or in the  
3 evenings, we would often be taken out on long walks.  
4 This could be every other day that this happened. We  
5 would be made to walk around the surrounding farms or up  
6 into the hills. There was no village nearby for us to  
7 walk to. It did not matter if it was raining or not, we  
8 still went on the walks.

9 'In the home we had a recreation room where we could  
10 play records. At the weekend, the staff would get  
11 a projector out and we would be shown a movie. Each  
12 evening before going to bed, around 8.00 pm, we would be  
13 in the recreation room.

14 'There was a tuck shop available, where at the  
15 weekend we would be able to buy sweets, juice and  
16 toothpaste, if you had run out of that.

17 'There was no schoolwork like what we were doing at  
18 primary school. Most of our time when we were being  
19 shown anything, it was based around different types of  
20 craftwork.

21 'After school, if we were not going out for a walk,  
22 then we would just play in the playground. There was  
23 a play shop in the playground, but it was only big  
24 enough for a couple of people and not all the girls. If  
25 the weather got bad, there would be fights among the

1 girls to get into the play shop. When the girls would  
2 have the fights to get in there, the staff would be  
3 standing at the windows watching what was ongoing.

4 'I don't remember having to see anyone for medical  
5 issues. I do remember one girl who was suffering some  
6 severe pain from an abscess in her tooth. It was so bad  
7 they [contacted] the girl's parents to come and pick her  
8 up.

9 'I can remember going to see Snow White when it  
10 first came out in the cinema. I am not sure if this was  
11 [at Fornethy though or back home].

12 'Sometimes we were allowed to go to church, but the  
13 numbers were limited. The names of the children going  
14 to church were put on a list the night before. I don't  
15 know how they chose which girls were going. I think  
16 I may have gone to church only once all the times I was  
17 at Fornethy.

18 'In the home we would have to say prayers at the  
19 side of our bed before we went to sleep and grace before  
20 our meals. The staff would supervise to make sure you  
21 were repeating the words correctly.

22 'During any of the times I was at Fornethy, there  
23 was no visits from social work or any other organisation  
24 to check on our welfare while we stayed there.

25 'Although we did not get any visits from our

1 families, we were allowed to write letters once a week.  
2 The problem was you could not write what you wanted.  
3 The staff wrote on the blackboard what was to be said in  
4 your letters and you had to copy this. If not done  
5 properly, then your letter would be ripped up.

6 'There was a telephone in the home, but we were not  
7 allowed to use that to phone home. Mum was told that  
8 there were no visits allowed by the family to come to  
9 Fornethy. After only a few days at Fornethy, I was  
10 feeling really homesick and spoke to one of the  
11 teachers, asking to go home. They told me I would not  
12 be allowed home until the end of six weeks.

13 'Mum would write to us and include some postal  
14 orders for us. The postal orders were made out to the  
15 school. The value was entered in a ledger which  
16 Miss Fletcher kept. Then she marked it each time we  
17 were given money. The money was supposed to give us  
18 funds for the tuck shop. We were never given all that  
19 was sent to us and each time I went home, any leftover  
20 funds were kept by the staff. We were only given the  
21 actual letters if the staff were happy with what our  
22 parents had written. If there was anything wrong, they  
23 kept the letters.

24 'I don't remember any girls running away from  
25 Fornethy as there was nowhere to run to. Miss Robertson

1 had told us not to run away. She told us one girl tried  
2 but she never came back. I'm not sure if that [was]  
3 just meant she was not allowed to come back or if  
4 something happened while she was away.

5 'I did not suffer from bed-wetting during the night.  
6 The problem was we were not allowed to go to the toilet  
7 during the night. There was one night I was awake, but  
8 was needing to go. I knew I could not go to the  
9 bathroom and ended up dirtying myself. Miss Robertson  
10 found I had done this and she dragged me out of the room  
11 and took me down to the shower. While I was cleaning  
12 myself I had to clean my sheet. I was then made to put  
13 the wet sheet back on the bed and sleep on it.

14 'The bed-wetters did talk about what the staff would  
15 do when they wet the bed. I did not see this, but the  
16 girls would say they were slapped on the head for  
17 wetting the bed.

18 'When we were having a shower and Miss Robertson was  
19 supervising, she would make comments and comparing the  
20 body size and shape of different girls. I was always  
21 self-conscious beforehand, but that made things worse  
22 for me. She made me feel so humiliated with her  
23 comments.

24 'If you did not like the food, Miss Robertson or one  
25 of the other teachers would give you a slap across the

1 head. That happened to me and I saw it happening to  
2 some of the other girls. You were made to eat every bit  
3 on the plate, even if you did not like the food. If you  
4 did not eat it, they would force it down your throat.

5 'There were other times when we were out for a walk  
6 and if Miss Robertson caught any of the girls chatting,  
7 she would bang our heads together. It only happened the  
8 once to me, as I soon learned not to talk when we were  
9 out. I still have a lump on my head.

10 'At night, we were not allowed to talk as we lay in  
11 our beds. If Miss Fletcher caught any of us talking,  
12 she would make us go down to the library, where we would  
13 be made to stand with no clothes on. If you cried when  
14 you were getting so cold, she would just get more angry.  
15 After what seemed ages, she would let us get dressed and  
16 go back to bed.

17 'There was a night when I was crying in my bed  
18 because I was so homesick. Miss PWH heard me and  
19 made me get out of bed and took me down to the library.  
20 When I was in the library, she used a slipper to hit me  
21 on the back of my bare legs. After a while in that room  
22 she then sent me back to bed.

23 'When my sister was there with me, I can remember  
24 she was crying one night. I told her to keep quiet,  
25 because if any of the staff heard her, she would be

1 taken to the library and given the same treatment.  
2 Unfortunately, Miss Fletcher heard us and she took us --  
3 and she made us both go down --'

4 I think there's a word missing there, my Lady.

5 LADY SMITH: There must be.

6 MS MACLEOD: 'She made us both go down to the library where  
7 she made us stand naked. I was facing one wall and my  
8 sister was made to stand facing another wall.

9 'Every year I was being told I was going to  
10 Fornethy, I tried to tell mum that I did not want to go  
11 as they were hitting me. She would tell me that this  
12 couldn't be the case, as it was not what I was saying in  
13 the letters she was being sent. It was not until around  
14 2020 that I was able to tell mum the full extent of what  
15 happened while I was at Fornethy. It had been on the  
16 news when I told her. She was devastated when she found  
17 out the truth.

18 'At the home, there was no one to report the abuse  
19 to. Most of the staff were involved and there was no  
20 independent visitors to talk to.

21 'It was only when I was moving into high school that  
22 I [became] too old to go to Fornethy.

23 'The only good memory I have of my time at Fornethy  
24 was that the RAF often flew the planes over the area  
25 around there.

1           'When I went to high school, some of the girls found  
2           out I had been at Fornethy and they would verbally abuse  
3           me because of this. I don't know why they had anything  
4           against the home.

5           'There was no involvement with social work I was  
6           given -- after I attended high school.

7           'In 2017, I saw something on the internet asking  
8           about people's experiences at Fornethy.

9           'When I left school at 16, I worked a few jobs.  
10          I went on to work as a machinist for around 16 years.  
11          I always wanted to join the army as there is a family  
12          history of people serving time there but, with all the  
13          abuse I suffered, my poor education stopped me doing  
14          that.

15          '[I decided to move away from Scotland]. I got  
16          married at 21 and had two children. I got divorced and  
17          moved back with my [children] to Scotland.

18          'Even today, when I hear songs being played from the  
19          1960s and 1970s, I get flashbacks of the bad memories of  
20          my time at Fornethy. I often wake up during the night  
21          with nightmares and see blue lights similar to the  
22          emergency lights there.

23          'From my time at Fornethy, I grew to have a total  
24          fear of teachers. This continued into my adult life and  
25          could not -- I could not even go to my daughter's

1 parents' night at her school. If there were any other  
2 meetings at her school, I would always have to take  
3 someone with me as I was so scared. I'm self-conscious  
4 of myself because the staff were constantly making  
5 comparisons about the size and shape of each of the  
6 girls.

7 'I have never seen a counsellor to talk over the  
8 abuse I suffered when I was at Fornethy. I recently did  
9 tell my GP some of the memories and he prescribed  
10 medication for high anxiety.'

11 In the next paragraph the witness speaks about  
12 seeing an item [REDACTED] in relation to  
13 Fornethy, which ultimately led the witness to speaking  
14 to police.

15 She's never been back to Fornethy and she would have  
16 liked to have had her records, but she's been told there  
17 are no records available.

18 In terms of 'Lessons to be Learned', the witness  
19 says:

20 'There should have been more checks carried out by  
21 social workers or independent visitors to check that the  
22 home was being [properly run] and that the girls there  
23 were being looked after. Kids should have been able to  
24 telephone their parents. I also think to build up some  
25 good memories, the kids should have been allowed to take

1 photographs.

2 'I believe if there were independent people to talk  
3 to, that would have helped me and many other girls get  
4 through our time at Fornethy. I would like to be able  
5 to speak with the teachers from Fornethy and ask them  
6 why they treated us the way they did. I would like to  
7 see anyone who is still alive to be reported to the  
8 courts.

9 'I have no objection to my witness statement being  
10 published as part of the evidence to the Inquiry.  
11 I believe the facts stated in this witness statement are  
12 true.'

13 'Victoria' signed her statement on 2 November 2023  
14 and, my Lady, I can add to that that 'Victoria' provided  
15 evidence at the trial of Patricia Robertson last year  
16 and that Patricia Robertson was found guilty on a charge  
17 where the abuse related to 'Victoria'.

18 LADY SMITH: So she was one of the complainers?

19 MS MACLEOD: She was.

20 LADY SMITH: Thank you.

21 'Maureen' (read in)

22 MS FORBES: My Lady, the next statement is from an applicant  
23 who is anonymous and is known as 'Maureen' and the  
24 reference for her statement is WIT-1-000000860.

25 My Lady, 'Maureen' tells us she was born in 1970 and

1 talks about her life before going into care between  
2 paragraphs 2 and 5. She tells us in summary that she  
3 had two brothers and one sister, and her sister is four  
4 years older than her. She was born in Possilpark in  
5 Glasgow and they lived in a two-bedroom flat.

6 Her dad worked as a forklift driver and her mum  
7 mostly worked as a cook. She had a normal childhood.  
8 'Maureen' is not sure if it was 1974 or 1975 that she  
9 went to Fornethy, but she says it was before she started  
10 school. She doesn't remember much about the reasons for  
11 going and thinks that it was because her mum had  
12 a breakdown. And the first time she went to Fornethy  
13 was with her older sister and then she went back again  
14 a few weeks later on her own.

15 She tells us about Fornethy from paragraph 6 of her  
16 statement and 'Maureen' says:

17 'The bus journey to Fornethy seemed to take forever.  
18 I have been back there as an adult and it didn't take  
19 long, but it did when I was a child, plus there weren't  
20 any motorways back then. The only long journeys I had  
21 been on before Fornethy was when I went on holiday with  
22 my parents to Rothesay.

23 'I hadn't been told where we were going. I don't  
24 recall being told anything about Fornethy but because  
25 I was going with [my sister], I felt reassured.

1 I didn't ask any questions. I sat next to [my sister]  
2 on the bus but I don't remember the names of anyone  
3 else.

4 'I would say there were about a dozen girls on the  
5 bus. I would say I was the youngest child on the bus.  
6 I don't remember if there were any adults on the bus the  
7 first time, but there was a woman the second time. She  
8 put me next to another girl.

9 'The two times I was at Fornethy were just a few  
10 weeks apart. There was no change in the routine at  
11 Fornethy between my first visit and my second. It  
12 was the same staff and everything.

13 'It was all girls at Fornethy House. I remember  
14 when we got there, there were hundreds of trees. It got  
15 really dark being under all the trees. There was one  
16 big building which was lovely looking. We were quite  
17 excited when we saw it. Then we drove up to the main  
18 door.

19 'When we got off the bus, there were a couple of  
20 teachers standing there. They were Mrs Fletcher and  
21 Mrs PWH. Instantly they started shouting at us to  
22 get into line. I tried to grab [my sister's] hand, but  
23 she was pulled away from me and moved to a different  
24 part of the line. That made me panic.

25 'I think Mrs Fletcher was in charge of Fornethy.

1 That's the way she came across. Mrs PWH is the one  
2 I remember more because I was around her more. Thinking  
3 back, I would say that Mrs Fletcher was perhaps in her  
4 40s and Mrs PWH was about 50 years of age.  
5 Mrs Fletcher was pretty tall. Mrs PWH was noticeably  
6 smaller. Mrs Fletcher had light-coloured hair and  
7 Mrs PWH had dark hair.

8 'After we stood in a line, we got marched into the  
9 building. We were told to take our coats off and hang  
10 them up on pegs. Then we were told to put our bags down  
11 and they were taken away from us. There were a lot of  
12 girls in Fornethy, maybe 30 or 40.

13 'There was a corridor on the ground floor leading  
14 you to different rooms, but we didn't really see the  
15 rooms on the ground floor at that time. We were taken  
16 straight up to the dormitories. My dormitory was on the  
17 first floor. I don't know if there were other floors  
18 above. I don't know who showed me to the dormitory.  
19 After that, I don't remember if we got something to eat,  
20 but then we went for a bath.

21 'The classroom and the playroom I went to were on  
22 the ground floor. The tuck shop and the showers were  
23 also on the ground floor.

24 'The dormitory looked nice. It was nice and clean.  
25 It was lovely. The beds were spread about and each one

1 had a wee wardrobe. My bed was at the window. They  
2 were nice, big windows. I think there were about eight  
3 or ten beds in my dormitory. The other girls in my  
4 dormitory were about 8 or 10 years old. I was the  
5 youngest. I have no idea where [my sister's] dormitory  
6 was. I think she got put with the older girls.

7 'In the morning, a teacher would wake us up. It was  
8 all different teachers. The teacher who was in charge  
9 of our dormitory, or who seemed to be there the most,  
10 was Mrs PWH. I don't remember what time they woke us  
11 up. They would come in shouting to try and rouse us.

12 'There was a dormitory monitor, one of the older  
13 girls, and they would lead us all to the toilet and make  
14 sure we brushed our teeth. Then we went back to the  
15 dormitory to get dressed. The teachers laid out our  
16 clothes for the day, but we always had to wear the  
17 flowery pinafore over the top of our clothes. The  
18 monitor had to help me get dressed a couple of times,  
19 because I had put clothes on back to front. I don't  
20 remember the name of the girl who was the dormitory  
21 monitor. She was nice, but a bit of a bully. She told  
22 all the other girls when I put things on back to front  
23 and they all laughed at me.

24 'I don't remember what time we went to bed, but when  
25 it was lights out there was a wee blue light that came

1 on. I was frightened to sleep because you could hear  
2 the teachers screaming and shouting in the other  
3 dormitories. You could hear other girls crying too.

4 'The showers were on the ground floor, but I can't  
5 remember where the baths were. On the first day, all  
6 the new arrivals got a bath. That's when I next saw my  
7 sister, after we had been separated in the line outside  
8 the building, when we had got off the bus. We all  
9 stripped and stood in a queue waiting for our turn in  
10 the bath. There were two ladies who bathed us. I can't  
11 remember their names, but they were nice. They didn't  
12 really say much to any of us.

13 'There was just one bath in the bathroom. The  
14 ladies put you in the bath and they had big bars of  
15 soap. It was quite rough the way they scrubbed, but  
16 didn't hurt you. We were each bathed alone. I don't  
17 remember if the water was hot or cold. I just remember  
18 all the other girls watching me as they waited their  
19 turn. I wasn't used to that. Everyone was trying to  
20 cover themselves up. There were bigger girls there and  
21 it was quite a shock.

22 'After we bathed, we got out and got dried and the  
23 next girl got into the bath. I don't know if the water  
24 was changed after each girl, probably not, as the  
25 changeover was quite quick. Another lady combed our

1 hair, but she didn't tell us why. I don't remember  
2 anyone getting their hair cut. After we had a bath, we  
3 got changed into our pyjamas that we had brought with  
4 us.

5 'We were issued with wee, flowery pinafores, mostly  
6 blue-coloured. We had to wear them during the day. We  
7 had wellies for when we were out walking.

8 'After we got dressed in the morning, we went down  
9 for breakfast. We ate all our meals in the dining room  
10 and we all ate at the same time. I can't remember which  
11 floor the dining room was on. It was quite a big room.  
12 There were separate tables. [My sister] was at another  
13 table. I think it was one table to each dormitory. The  
14 monitor was in charge of the table. I always sat in the  
15 same seat.

16 'In the morning, the food was served to us.  
17 I remember the ladies from the kitchen coming out and  
18 pouring us tea. We had porridge in the morning and  
19 rolls with marmalade. You could choose to have cereal  
20 instead of porridge.

21 'The food at Fornethy was mostly fine. It was just  
22 like food at home. I can't remember that much about the  
23 food. The teachers normally ate with us. They had  
24 their own table. I did have difficulty with one type of  
25 food, which was butter beans.

1           'I remember Mrs PWH, Mrs Fletcher and  
2 Mrs Robertson. There were other teachers, but I can't  
3 remember them. Mrs PWH was my teacher.

4           'We went to classes in the morning for a couple of  
5 hours. We stayed in the one classroom for those  
6 classes. I was in with kids who were about my own age.  
7 I presume I was in the younger classroom, because my  
8 sister was in a classroom in a separate building.  
9 I could see her classroom when I went out to the  
10 playground. I don't think anyone went out of the  
11 Fornethy grounds for any classes.

12           'I was about 4 years old when I went to Fornethy.  
13 I hadn't been to play school or primary school. I don't  
14 remember much of what we were given to learn.  
15 I remember having a workbook in front of me, but  
16 I couldn't tell you what it was about. I remember other  
17 girls having to copy things down from the blackboard,  
18 but I couldn't write yet.

19           'After the classes in the morning, we went on long  
20 walks in the countryside. The teachers took us on the  
21 walks. What we wore depended on the weather. If it was  
22 fine, we wore shoes and if it was raining, we wore  
23 wellies. We were taken out in all weathers. When it  
24 rained, the rain would run down your leg inside the  
25 wellies. It made the wellies rub against your bare legs

1 and make them sore. I remember we got taken to see some  
2 stones and a reservoir, but mostly it was walking up  
3 hills round about Fornethy. We were out walking most  
4 days and it would be dinnertime when we got back.

5 'I don't think I had to do any chores. I don't know  
6 if the older girls had to do any chores.

7 'We had a playground area and the bigger girls had  
8 a climbing frame at one end. I wasn't allowed on the  
9 climbing frame because I was small. I had to stay at  
10 the other end of the playground. We didn't get out to  
11 the playground that often, it wasn't every day.

12 'There was one scooter and you had to stand in  
13 a queue to get a shot of the scooter. Where you had to  
14 stand in the queue was next to three steps leading down  
15 to the climbing frame and that's where I was restricted  
16 from going. I remember standing in the queue and  
17 turning round to see if I could see my sister.  
18 I stumbled and fell off the step. I got up quickly and  
19 thought nobody had seen me, but from out of nowhere,  
20 Mrs Robertson grabbed me and started shouting, "You were  
21 told not to go off the stairs". I didn't get a chance  
22 to explain myself or say anything. I felt scared.  
23 I probably wouldn't even have tried to explain myself.  
24 For the rest of playtime I was made to sit inside where  
25 we kept our shoes.

1           'I think it was only at the weekends, but we got to  
2 go into the TV room to watch TV. We could eat our tuck  
3 from the tuck shop and we got a biscuit and a drink of  
4 milk. I didn't get milk because I was a bed-wetter.

5           'We were allowed in the playroom more often. There  
6 were toys in the playroom, but most of the time we were  
7 sat in seats singing whatever song we were told to sing.  
8 It was hymns and things like that. Mrs PWH was  
9 sitting there doing her knitting. I don't know if that  
10 was on a Sunday.

11           'I don't know if we got to go to the tuck shop every  
12 day, but that was the only time I got to see [my  
13 sister], because my mum sent one cheque or postal order  
14 for the both of us. Mrs Fletcher would sit with the  
15 book and tell you how much had been sent and you would  
16 pick your sweets, depending on what you had been sent.  
17 I didn't get my sweets the first time, because I was  
18 a bed-wetter, but I still had to go through the process  
19 of queueing up with [my sister] and being told how much  
20 there was. I sometimes got my sweets the second time  
21 I went to Fornethy.

22           'I went to church once at Fornethy. We couldn't all  
23 go at the same time, so certain people got picked to go  
24 each Sunday. I think about eight of us went in  
25 a minibus. A man drove the minibus. I don't know who

1 he was. I don't know how far away the church was.

2 'I didn't see a doctor or a nurse at Fornethy at  
3 all.

4 'There weren't any social work visits either.  
5 I don't think the social work department were involved  
6 with my family before going to Fornethy. I don't  
7 remember anyone coming round to inspect Fornethy.

8 'Our family were allowed to send letters and we were  
9 allowed to send letters, but that was it. We didn't  
10 have any visitors. I didn't send any letters as I was  
11 too young to write. [My sister] might have sent  
12 letters. I remember that the teacher wrote on the  
13 blackboard and the girls had to copy down what she had  
14 written to form their letters home. Basically, every  
15 parent was getting the same letter.

16 'I don't remember any trips anywhere.

17 'I did have a birthday when I was in Fornethy, but  
18 it wasn't acknowledged at all. I didn't even know it  
19 was my birthday until I got home. When I got home,  
20 there was a card and presents. I wasn't at Fornethy for  
21 Christmas.

22 'I wasn't a bed-wetter before I went to Fornethy and  
23 I wasn't a bed-wetter after I went home. I confirmed  
24 that with my mum in later life.

25 'In Fornethy, a teacher would come round the

1           dormitories in the morning and check the beds. You  
2           weren't allowed to strip the bed until a teacher came  
3           round to check. The teacher just told you to strip your  
4           bed. They didn't say anything else about the  
5           bed-wetting.

6           'When I wet the bed, I had to take my sheets off the  
7           bed and hang them over the banister outside the room.  
8           I was the only one in my room who wet the bed, but I saw  
9           sheets hanging over the banister outside other rooms, so  
10          it was happening to other girls. I don't know if  
11          someone came and collected the sheets and made up the  
12          bed again or whatever.

13          'We didn't get sent for a shower or bath if we had  
14          wet the bed. We just didn't get allowed drinks at night  
15          or sweets from the tuck shop. There wasn't any other  
16          punishment. The second time I went to Fornethy, I wet  
17          the bed less often, so I got to go to the tuck shop  
18          sometimes, but I still wasn't allowed a drink at night.

19          'At night, you wouldn't get up to use the toilet.  
20          I was terrified because I could hear other girls being  
21          screamed at if they were out of their dormitory. The  
22          teachers would come round at night to check that we were  
23          all in bed after lights out, but no one ever came round  
24          and checked if we needed to go to the toilet. I was  
25          frightened to go out of the dormitory at night and I was

1 frightened to go to sleep in case I wet the bed, but  
2 obviously I would fall asleep and it would happen. That  
3 was what it was like the whole time of the first time  
4 I was at Fornethy.

5 'The discipline was quite bad. I was hit in the  
6 showers. A lot of girls were hit a lot in the showers.  
7 When I went into the shower, I didn't know that you had  
8 to face outward. I remember the force of when  
9 Mrs PWH hit me on the backside with her hand.  
10 I don't remember anyone telling us which way we had to  
11 face in the shower. Even the older girls didn't tell me  
12 which way to face. That only happened to me once,  
13 because obviously I stood the right way round in the  
14 shower after that, but I saw it happening to other  
15 girls. I didn't see much of [my sister] and there was  
16 no one else there that I felt I could talk to. I think  
17 we were all too scared to speak to one another.

18 'It didn't take much for Mrs PWH to lose her  
19 temper. I would say that the standard of discipline was  
20 excessive, even for the standards of the day in the  
21 1970s. No one ever got any warnings about anything.  
22 There were no second chances.

23 'I saw girls being hit several times a day.

24 'We weren't allowed to speak in the dining room.  
25 I never got to speak to [my sister]. We never got to

1 have any conversations at mealtimes. Mrs Fletcher was  
2 violent in the dining room. If someone spoke, they  
3 would get dragged away.

4 'I got dragged away for talking. I think I just got  
5 made to sit down. I can't remember more than that.  
6 I saw many girls getting dragged away if they were  
7 talking in the line or whatever. It was quite tense.  
8 People would go stiff and not move until it was over.

9 'I saw Mrs Fletcher dragging a girl off her seat and  
10 taken off somewhere. I don't know what that girl's name  
11 was, but she was about 10 years old. Everybody just  
12 panicked. The way she was dragged was quite violent,  
13 her chair toppled back. God forgive me, but you were  
14 always just glad it wasn't you.

15 'We got butter beans with a meal one night and I had  
16 never had them before. I didn't even know what they  
17 were. Mrs Fletcher came up to me when I had eaten  
18 everything else on my plate and told me to eat them.  
19 I couldn't eat them. I was retching. She told me that  
20 I would sit there until I had eaten them. Most of the  
21 other girls had left except me and the other girls who  
22 were struggling with some food. I kept retching as  
23 I tried to eat and Mrs Fletcher came up to me and said,  
24 "Don't make a mess of my floor". She was the same with  
25 the other girls who were struggling to eat.

1           'Mrs Fletcher went away and I tried so hard to eat  
2           the butter beans, but I remember vomiting in my hands  
3           and thinking, what am I going to do with this? I ended  
4           up trying to eat it, but every time I would just vomit  
5           them up again. I tried several times to eat them.  
6           I was there for at least two hours. I remember it was  
7           getting dark outside. I don't remember the other girls  
8           leaving, but they must have finished.

9           'Mrs Fletcher came back in a few times and each time  
10          I was worried I would vomit on her floor. Eventually  
11          I finished the butter beans and she was satisfied  
12          I could go. We got served butter beans quite often, so  
13          that happened a few times.

14          'Mrs PWH was very strict in the classroom. I sat  
15          beside a girl [and she names her]. We had our workbooks  
16          but you didn't write in the workbook. You had a sheet  
17          of paper to write on. The girl drew on my workbook and  
18          then put her hand up and told Mrs PWH I had drawn on  
19          it.

20          'I had never been hit before in my life. Mrs PWH  
21          came up to me. She had a wooden ruler in her hand and  
22          she belted me right across the back of my hand. The  
23          pain was unbelievable. That was the first time I had  
24          been hit by an adult. She was shouting, but I don't  
25          remember anything that she said. There was no question

1 of me trying to explain that I hadn't done it and that  
2 it was the girl who had drawn on the workbook. I got  
3 made to rub out the pencil marks on the workbook.  
4 I remembered the girl from then. When I went to  
5 secondary school, she was in the year above me.

6 'Mrs Robertson was a teacher. I think she was my  
7 sister's teacher. She taught up in that other  
8 classroom. I would say Mrs Robertson was in her 30s.  
9 I didn't have much dealings with her, but she was pretty  
10 bad. She was always shouting, pushing and grabbing  
11 people.

12 'There was one day we were out walking and I went  
13 over on my ankle and fell to the ground. I had really  
14 twisted it. I could not for the life of me put any  
15 weight on it. I remember Mrs PWH running up to me,  
16 scooping me up and dragging me. She grabbed hold of my  
17 jacket or my neck. Her nails or her ring must have  
18 caught me because I ended up with a massive scratch down  
19 my neck, but at the time I didn't feel it because I was  
20 in such fear. I wasn't able to stand up. She was  
21 dragging me with my legs on the ground on the rough  
22 heather.

23 'I don't know how far she dragged me over the  
24 heather, but my legs got torn to bits. Afterwards in  
25 the shower, the hot water nipped at my legs and my neck.

1 The stinging was so painful. I wasn't given any  
2 treatment for my injuries. My ankle was sore for some  
3 time after that but I had to walk about normally.  
4 I couldn't limp. I was afraid that if I was limping, it  
5 would single me out and Mrs PWH would drag me again.

6 'The second time I went to Fornethy, there was  
7 an older girl who was in the shower and she sort of  
8 slipped, so she turned round and faced the wrong way.  
9 She got smacked so hard by Mrs PWH she went sliding  
10 across the floor. It was terrifying. I don't know the  
11 name of that older girl.

12 'There wasn't any opportunity to report what was  
13 happening at Fornethy when I was there. I didn't tell  
14 my father about it when I got home either.'

15 She then tells us that she left with her sister the  
16 first time she had been at Fornethy, and this is at  
17 paragraph 64. She was excited to be going home and they  
18 got the bus back to Bell Street in Glasgow and her dad  
19 came to meet them.

20 And then, paragraph 66, 'Maureen' says:

21 'It was only a matter of weeks after my first trip  
22 that I was sent back to Fornethy. I think my dad was  
23 struggling to cope. My dad told me I was going to have  
24 to go back to Fornethy, but not for as long as the first  
25 time. I was devastated, but there was nothing I could

1 say. I went back to Fornethy soon after him telling me  
2 I was going. It was harder going back the second time,  
3 because I was on my own. [My sister] and I didn't  
4 discuss Fornethy after we got back. We didn't tell my  
5 dad what had happened. After my second visit to  
6 Fornethy, I didn't have to go to any care facility  
7 again.

8 'Everything was the same at Fornethy the second  
9 time, but it was easier because I knew the rules, even  
10 at that age. I just kept my head down and tried not to  
11 be noticed. I was there for about three or four weeks  
12 the second time, but there is nothing that sticks out in  
13 my mind about what happened to me. I just remember  
14 other girls being hit the way I had been hit.

15 'When I got home the second time, I tried to keep my  
16 head down in the family home. I was so scared that  
17 I would be sent -- I would get sent back to Fornethy  
18 again. I started school not long after I got back from  
19 the second trip to Fornethy, so that made it easier.'

20 Then 'Maureen' tells us about her life after  
21 Fornethy from paragraphs 69 to 78 and, in summary, she  
22 tells us that everything went back to normal. Her mum  
23 was in and out of hospital for her mental health. Her  
24 mum had further health problems. She started school and  
25 says that that was okay.

1           Then she says she went to secondary school for the  
2 first year but then didn't bother going back and left  
3 school with no qualifications, but that she's always  
4 worked since she left school.

5           She left home at 18 when she was pregnant with her  
6 first daughter and got her own house, and she was with  
7 her husband for 25 years. They had four daughters  
8 together. They then separated and she worked various  
9 different jobs.

10          And she tells us that she started suffering panic  
11 attacks in her 20s.

12          And if we can go to paragraph 76, 'Maureen' says:

13               'My husband did know that I had been to Fornethy but  
14 not about the abuse I suffered. With my refusal to let  
15 him discipline the girls, my issues with food and my  
16 panic attacks, there was a lot for him to deal with, so  
17 we ended up splitting up. Since then, I have been on my  
18 own. I prefer it that way. I couldn't go through all  
19 the eating carry on again or involve anyone else in it.'

20          She tells us as well that she, as well as her four  
21 daughters, she has four grandsons.

22          She tells us about reporting abuse from paragraph 79  
23 and says that she has never reported anything to the  
24 police and at paragraph 80, 'Maureen' says:

25               'When we were children, [my sister] and I didn't

1 speak about what happened at Fornethy because my mum was  
2 in and out of hospital with mental health conditions.  
3 My sister and I didn't speak about it until we were in  
4 our 20s. After my mum had died, we spoke to my dad  
5 about it. Obviously, he had known nothing about it. He  
6 was shocked and wanted to know why he wasn't told at the  
7 time, but there was so much going on with my mum. We  
8 didn't want her to feel guilty about it when she was in  
9 and out of hospital all the time. My dad was angry, but  
10 I was more angry with my sister for bringing it up.

11 'My girls know about the abuse I suffered at  
12 Fornethy. I didn't tell them everything. I told them  
13 bits and bobs. They didn't know until stuff started  
14 coming out in the papers, so I had to tell them. They  
15 obviously knew that I had been there.

16 'I have always thought about Fornethy. Over the  
17 years, it has always been there. It has never gone  
18 away. It was a girl at my eldest daughter's work who  
19 said to my daughter that Fornethy was being  
20 investigated. She knew that I had gone to Fornethy and  
21 she gave my daughter her number and I messaged her. It  
22 just started from there. They had [REDACTED] group, but  
23 I came out of it as it was bringing on panic attacks  
24 because of the questions they were asking. People were  
25 talking about what happened to them and asking what had

1 happened to me, but I wasn't ready to talk about it.'

2 'Maureen' then tells us about 'Impact' from  
3 paragraph 83:

4 'The worst thing about Fornethy for me was the  
5 humiliation. When I was shouted at or singled out for  
6 bed-wetting, it was worse than the hitting. It was so  
7 embarrassing. That carried on when I went to school.  
8 If a teacher said anything that embarrassed me, I took  
9 it really hard. I feel that my time at Fornethy  
10 affected my education, because I was always scared  
11 I would be singled out by the teacher. I didn't want to  
12 be in that situation, so the older I got, the more  
13 I stayed away from school and just walked the streets.

14 'I haven't been told about what my personality was  
15 like before I went to Fornethy, but when I came back  
16 I tried not to draw attention to myself in case they  
17 made me go back.

18 'My experiences in Fornethy definitely influenced  
19 the way I brought up my daughters. I wouldn't let my  
20 kids go to nursery and it continued that I wouldn't let  
21 them go and do things. They would keep asking me why  
22 they couldn't, but I just wanted to protect them. It  
23 was hard on me having to say no to them. I was scared.  
24 I didn't want them to be treated the way I had been  
25 treated at Fornethy, especially when they were young and

1 wouldn't be able to speak out against [everything].  
2 I didn't want them to ever be in that position. Now  
3 they understand, but I still feel really bad about it.

4 'I went to the doctor about my panic attacks and  
5 I have been on tablets a few times, but they didn't  
6 help. I tried a few different tablets, but I know how  
7 to deal with my panic attacks now. I don't think  
8 I would benefit from counselling. I have learned to  
9 deal with things in my own ways. I have moved on over  
10 the years. I do a lot of walking and reading. I am  
11 alright as long as my mind is occupied, but I find that  
12 I think about Fornethy a lot more as I get older.

13 'I haven't experienced nightmares or flashbacks,  
14 just the panic attacks. I remember going to the park  
15 once and as I walked through, I smelled something that  
16 took me right back to Fornethy. My son-in-law told me  
17 it was a pine tree.

18 'I can't sit with the other girls at work. I don't  
19 go on the Christmas nights out. At work, I sit in the  
20 room where they keep the cleaning stuff and eat there.  
21 People must think I'm a weirdo, but I can't be sat at  
22 a table with other people watching me eat. At home,  
23 I would take a mouthful of food and then get up from the  
24 table to get something. People would think that I was  
25 being helpful, but my girls knew. I don't even have

1 a table and chairs in my house now.

2 'I wanted to be an auxiliary nurse but I couldn't,  
3 because I couldn't deal with vomit. I just had to stay  
4 as a domestic. When my daughters were young, if they  
5 were sick, my partner had to deal with it.

6 'You can't say for sure, but the only thing I can  
7 think caused all this was Fornethy.'

8 She then talks about 'Lessons to be Learned' from  
9 paragraph 92:

10 'I think we should have been told about the way they  
11 did things. If you go into a strange place, you don't  
12 know the rules. As far as I can remember, I wasn't told  
13 anything. If they had told me to face that way in the  
14 shower, told me, "Do this" and "Don't do that", then  
15 I would have done it. Even if they gave you a warning,  
16 "That's not allowed, don't do it again".

17 'I don't think the people who worked there were  
18 suitable for the job. I just don't think anyone should  
19 ever be violent to kids or treat them that way. If  
20 that's the way you are, then you shouldn't be working  
21 with kids. I think they should be stricter about the  
22 vetting procedures for working with kids.'

23 Then 'Maureen' talks about 'Hopes for the Inquiry'  
24 at paragraph 94:

25 'If these people are still alive, I would like them

1 to be held responsible for what they did. I would like  
2 it to be acknowledged that we were there and that it did  
3 happen. I would like someone to say they are sorry it  
4 happened.'

5 And then 'Maureen' has made the usual declaration  
6 and she's signed her statement, it's dated  
7 23 November 2021.

8 LADY SMITH: Thank you.

9 'Jessica' (read in)

10 MS MACLEOD: My Lady, the next statement is that of  
11 an applicant who will use the pseudonym 'Jessica'.

12 LADY SMITH: Thank you.

13 MS MACLEOD: Her statement can be found at WIT-1-00000763:

14 'My name is ["Jessica"]. I was born in 1966. My  
15 contact details are known to the Inquiry.

16 'I was born and brought up in Glasgow. Dad was  
17 a driver with the council and mum looked after all the  
18 children. I have two brothers and a sister. [ One  
19 brother] was three years older than me, [my sister] was  
20 one year older than me, and [my younger brother] was  
21 two years younger than me. [We lived with my gran]  
22 until she died in 1973.

23 'I don't remember [much] about my early childhood  
24 until I was 9 years old when my dad died. He paid all  
25 the bills and dealt with things like that. After he

1 died, mum struggled. Where we were living we had no  
2 electricity or gas, so life was hard [and] she turned to  
3 alcohol.

4 'At some point my older brother was sent to  
5 a children's home because he wasn't going to school.

6 'I went to primary school and not long after my dad  
7 died the school gave me a form to fill in. That was for  
8 me to go to Fornethy, where I was told I had been chosen  
9 to go for a holiday. I am not sure if it was a holiday  
10 for me or to give my mum a break. My sister was chosen  
11 to go too and my younger brother went to a place in  
12 Seafield, Ardrossan.

13 'My sister and I went twice to Fornethy House. The  
14 first time was in 1976 after the [REDACTED]. I would have  
15 still been 9. Before we went, my mum took [us] to what  
16 [would] have been a medical check-up. I can't remember  
17 where it was, but [we] both had to strip down to our  
18 vest and pants. I'm not sure what else they did or what  
19 we had to do. After that we were allowed to go to  
20 Fornethy. Each time we were there for six weeks. The  
21 second time was almost exactly a year later, in 1977.

22 'When we went, my mum took us to a meeting point  
23 somewhere in Glasgow city centre and she left us in  
24 a big room while we waited for the bus. We had a bag of  
25 clothes and some sweets. I think Fornethy sent a list

1 of things we were to take. There were a lot of other  
2 girls going on the same bus. Some were from my school  
3 and some were from other schools. A bus came and we all  
4 got on. I was excited and looking forward to going. We  
5 had been told it was an adventure holiday. The journey  
6 seemed to take a long time.

7 'The grounds at Fornethy were like a great big  
8 garden. There was one swing and a small bench to sit  
9 on. When you entered the building by the back door,  
10 there was a cloakroom and on the other side, the dining  
11 room, and then stairs up to the dormitories. There were  
12 dorms on two different levels, and I'm not sure how many  
13 dorms were up there. Each dorm had about eight beds.  
14 The age range was from 5 or 6 up to 11 or 12. It was  
15 all girls and we were all primary school age. I can't  
16 say how many girls were there altogether and the only  
17 girls' names I can remember were girls who [had come]  
18 from my school.

19 'I'm not sure how many staff were there. The only  
20 staff that I remember were Mrs Fletcher and  
21 Mrs LBD.'

22 Now, my Lady, this witness refers to Mrs LBD  
23 throughout her statement.

24 LADY SMITH: Yes.

25 MS MACLEOD: That may be Mrs LBD.

1 LADY SMITH: I wondered about that.

2 MS MACLEOD: Yes. We're not aware otherwise of  
3 a Mrs LBD .

4 LADY SMITH: No.

5 MS MACLEOD: But I will continue to read 'Mrs LBD'  
6 because that's what the witness has called her. So:  
7 '... Mrs Fletcher and Mrs LBD and they always  
8 seemed to be together. Mrs Fletcher was the  
9 headteacher. I'm not sure what Mrs LBD's role was,  
10 apart from being in charge of the tuck shop. I don't  
11 know where they slept. Different staff were there  
12 through the night. The only male member of staff  
13 I recall was a gardener. Apart from him, we just called  
14 the staff "Miss".

15 'When we arrived we got off the bus with our stuff  
16 and we were taken into the house through a back door by  
17 a member of staff who came out to meet us. I am not  
18 sure if there were children already at Fornethy, but  
19 I don't think so. We were taken to a room and given  
20 clothes to put on. We were shown our dorm and told to  
21 put our bag with our clothes under the bed. The sweets  
22 that we had in our bags were handed over to staff and  
23 I never saw them again. I might have had a small amount  
24 of money which I handed over, and they recorded that in  
25 a book.

1           'Every day, we would be woken up early by the staff  
2           who rang a bell. We got up and got ready for the day.  
3           We had to make our beds with hospital corners, which the  
4           staff had shown us how to. We would go for breakfast,  
5           then go out for a long walk.

6           'At night, we would get ready for bed, brush our  
7           teeth, go to the toilet, then go to bed. Once [we] were  
8           in bed, we weren't allowed to get up, even to go to the  
9           toilet. We were all in bed at the same time. When we  
10          were in our bed, we were allowed to read for a while,  
11          but we were not allowed to talk or make a noise. When  
12          the lights went out, it was time to sleep. When the  
13          main lights went out, blue lights came on in the  
14          dormitory and these remained on all night.

15          'At mealtimes, we sat at big tables in the dining  
16          room. I sat beside the other girls from my dorm. Staff  
17          were usually in there supervising us. Breakfast was  
18          things like porridge, which I thought was horrible.  
19          Other meals contained lots of vegetables, and soup which  
20          I didn't like. On Sunday, we got meat. I don't  
21          actually remember any nice meals. I had been diagnosed  
22          with coeliac disease when I was younger, so I was aware  
23          that I had to have a gluten-free diet. I didn't get  
24          a special diet the first time I was there.

25          'There were two baths in the bathroom, which sat

1       beside each other, and there were set bath nights. We  
2       had a bath one night a week. Different dorms bathed on  
3       different nights so we didn't all bath at the same time.  
4       On bath night, we had to queue up waiting for our turn.  
5       The staff washed us. We weren't allowed or left alone  
6       to wash ourselves. When they had finished, they told us  
7       to get out and we dried ourselves.

8                'We were given a bundle of clothes and a pair of  
9       wellington boots when we arrived. It consisted of  
10      a pinafore dress, a shirt, and three pairs of big, blue  
11      pants that were like shorts. These pants had to last us  
12      all week, meaning we had to wear them more than once.  
13      The clothes, I remember, were really itchy. The clothes  
14      we had taken stayed in the bag under our bed, apart from  
15      on a Sunday when we were allowed to wear them to church.  
16      This included our own shoes too and not the wellies.  
17      They gave us slippers, but we could wear our own in the  
18      house, but whenever we went out, we had to wear wellies.

19               'Every week we either took our clothing to the  
20      laundry to get it washed or it was collected in a big  
21      sheet.

22               'When we came back from our daily walks, we were  
23      allowed to play in the grounds. There was only one  
24      swing, so there was always a big queue of girls waiting  
25      to have their shot. There was also a skipping rope.

1 After our dinner, we played games, then went to bed.  
2 There wasn't a television or a radio. There wasn't  
3 anything organised. I don't remember playing with toys  
4 in the house.

5 'On a Saturday evening, we were allowed to go to the  
6 tuck shop and buy sweets and magazines. That was when  
7 Mrs LBD would give us letters from home or anything  
8 that had been sent in to us. We were then allowed to  
9 watch a film. At the weekend, we sang songs and played  
10 in the grounds.

11 'We didn't have school classes. All I remember  
12 doing through the day was going for long walks, wearing  
13 the wellies. The only time I was in the classroom was  
14 Saturday morning, to write letters home. We were told  
15 what we had to write and it was written on the  
16 blackboard. We had to say we were having a good time  
17 and really enjoying it.

18 'We were taken to the church outside Fornethy every  
19 Sunday. People from the local area were there too and  
20 we used to sit at the back. The minister sometimes made  
21 comment about the children at the back being poor  
22 children and he was referring to us. It was  
23 embarrassing that he said that about us.

24 'My mum occasionally sent us letters with postal  
25 orders. Mrs LBD gave us these on a Saturday. The

1 money from the postal order was marked in a book and we  
2 were allowed to spend it in the tuck shop. They told us  
3 how much we were allowed to spend. On Saturday, we were  
4 allowed to spend a bit more than other days. There was  
5 nowhere else we could spend the money.

6 'I wet the bed before I went into Fornethy. I told  
7 them when I arrived that I would wet the bed. They said  
8 it was okay as there was a number of girls who also did.  
9 When I wet the bed I was punished or sometimes just made  
10 to feel bad and embarrassed.

11 'My sister wasn't in the same dorm as me. It wasn't  
12 really a problem because I got to speak to her when we  
13 were out playing in the grounds, or we could talk  
14 quietly to each other when we were out for our walks.  
15 We had to speak quietly, otherwise we would have been  
16 told to. I never spoke to her about how I was being  
17 treated.

18 'No one ever explained what the rules were at  
19 Fornethy or what punishment might be.

20 'I never thought about running away. I was too  
21 scared and wouldn't have known how to get home.  
22 I remember another girl talked about tying sheets  
23 together and climbing out a window, but she never  
24 actually did it.

25 'When we wrote letters home on a Saturday morning,

1           our letters were read before they were sent. We had to  
2           copy [the letter] written on the blackboard. One time  
3           I wrote on the back of the letter that I hated it there  
4           and wanted to go home. The letter was ripped up in  
5           front of me. I didn't get to write a letter that day.  
6           I can't remember who ripped it up.

7           'We weren't allowed to talk to each other when we  
8           were in the house. The only time we could talk was when  
9           we were playing in the grounds. If we were caught  
10          talking, they would shout at us. We couldn't even talk  
11          at mealtimes. If it was at night and we were caught  
12          making a noise or were out of our beds, one of the staff  
13          would come in and take whoever it was into the corridor  
14          and leave them to stand there. There could be two or  
15          three girls in the corridor at the same time. This  
16          happened to me a few times.

17          'I was given a cover and could either sit on the  
18          floor or on a chair. You were left wearing pyjamas and  
19          could be there for hours. I can't remember who did  
20          this.

21          'Sometimes someone would come into the dorm through  
22          the night and check for wet sheets. If you were wet,  
23          you were put into the corridor just wearing your vest  
24          and wet pants. They [could] come back at some point and  
25          tell you to go back to your bed. You weren't given dry

1 clothes or sheets as you had to go back into the wet bed  
2 until the morning. I can't remember if it was  
3 Mrs Fletcher or Mrs LBD who did this. Wetting the  
4 bed happened to at least one person nearly every  
5 morning.

6 'In the morning, everyone who had wet the bed had to  
7 hold up their wet sheets and take them to the laundry.  
8 They made sure everyone knew [who] had wet the bed.  
9 I felt terrible and embarrassed when they did this.

10 'They used to take us for long walks nearly every  
11 day. We were made to wear our wellies and they cut into  
12 our legs and caused red wheals around our legs at the  
13 top of the wellies. If we told staff about it, they  
14 didn't do anything. We didn't even get any cream for  
15 it. I think everyone had red wheals on their legs.

16 'Bath nights were horrible. We had to queue until  
17 it was our turn to get in the bath. We had to stand in  
18 a line, naked, holding the folded towel in front of us.  
19 This queue went from inside the bathroom out into the  
20 corridor. You weren't allowed to wrap the towel around  
21 you. It was really embarrassing. If you were first in  
22 the bath the water was hot and clean. If you were at  
23 the back of the queue the water was cold and dirty.  
24 When you were in the bath everyone was watching you  
25 being washed.

1           'The staff washed us in the bath. We weren't  
2 allowed to wash ourselves. They would use either  
3 a sponge, but mostly they had a big, wooden scrubbing  
4 brush. They would scrub me with this brush everywhere.  
5 It was really sore and I cried because of the pain.  
6 They would scrub especially hard on the red wheals on my  
7 legs from the wellies. By the end sometimes these  
8 wheals would be bleeding. I can't remember who did  
9 this, but they knew it was very sore when they were  
10 scrubbing us. Looking back now, I think they  
11 deliberately wanted to hurt us.

12           'I had coeliac disease, which meant my diet should  
13 have been gluten free. At the medical examination I was  
14 given before I went to Fornethy, my coeliac was  
15 discussed and when I arrived at Fornethy I told them.  
16 They just said that they had been told someone else had  
17 it but not me. I even showed them the medication I had  
18 and they agreed that maybe I did, but I was still to eat  
19 the same food as everyone else.

20           'On the very first meal I had, the staff gave me  
21 a pudding. I told them I couldn't eat it because I had  
22 coeliac disease. The dinner lady told me it was okay  
23 for me to eat. I tried to insist but Mrs Fletcher came  
24 over and started shouting at me calling me a liar.  
25 After that I had to eat what was put down in front of

1 me. They gave me food which I didn't think I should be  
2 eating. It ended up that a few times I got a very sore  
3 stomach and was put in a room which had lots of toys in  
4 it. I was told this was the sick room and I had to sit  
5 at a table with my head on the desk. I wasn't allowed  
6 to play with the toys. I was [just] left in there on my  
7 own for a long time. Sometimes I didn't tell them I had  
8 a sore stomach so I didn't get put in there. I was  
9 never seen by a nurse or a doctor when I had a sore  
10 stomach.

11 'There were times when I didn't like the food that  
12 was served and [I] couldn't eat it. Mrs Fletcher made  
13 me sit there until my plate was empty. I had porridge  
14 one time and couldn't eat it. After everyone else had  
15 left, she came over with another woman, but I can't  
16 remember who this was. One of them pulled the hair at  
17 the back of my head to make my head go back. The other  
18 then stuck the spoon with food into my mouth. They did  
19 it until my plate was empty. I saw this happening to  
20 other girls too. It happened nearly every day to  
21 somebody at mealtimes. This happened to me quite often,  
22 but it wasn't just Mrs Fletcher.

23 'When we were having our food, if we weren't eating  
24 our food fast enough, sometimes you would get pulled off  
25 your chair and shaken. Whilst being shaken, the staff

1 would be shouting at you. It was frightening. I saw  
2 this happening to some girls and they were physically  
3 sick. After, they were given a mop and stuff to clean  
4 up their mess. This happened quite often, but I can't  
5 remember who did this.

6 'You had to go to the toilet before you went to bed  
7 and you weren't allowed to get up and go through the  
8 night. If you were caught talking, making a noise in  
9 the bedroom after bedtime or caught out of bed, you  
10 would be punished. Someone, but I can't remember who,  
11 would come in and take the person responsible out into  
12 the corridor and make them stand there. This happened  
13 to me a few times.

14 'Sometimes the staff would come in and check to see  
15 if you had wet the bed through the night. If you were  
16 wet, you would be made to stand in the corridor wearing  
17 just wet pants and a vest. They would leave you  
18 standing there sometimes for hours. Sometimes I sat in  
19 a chair and they would give me a cover. At some point,  
20 they would come back and tell me to go back to bed. The  
21 sheets hadn't been changed so I had to lie on wet [bed]  
22 sheets.

23 'If it was discovered, when it was time to get up in  
24 the morning, that you had wet your bed, the staff would  
25 punish you. They would make you hold the sheets out in

1 front of you and carry them down to the laundry, so that  
2 all the girls in the other dorms would see you. It was  
3 embarrassing. I felt terrible having to do this. This  
4 happened to me nearly every morning. I can't remember  
5 who made us do [it].

6 'On a Saturday, Mrs LBD handed out family  
7 letters or magazines or comics that were sent to us. If  
8 there was nothing for me, she would say that nobody  
9 loved me enough to send me anything.

10 'Sometimes Mrs LBD didn't give me my letters,  
11 magazines or postal orders that my mum sent. I know  
12 that because my sister got some. There is no way my mum  
13 would have sent something to one of us and not the  
14 other. It is only looking back that I realise they must  
15 have kept stuff from me. I think they put the magazines  
16 my mum sent me into the tuck shop for the other girls to  
17 buy. At the time, I probably just assumed that it was  
18 lost in the post. Sometimes there were a few girls  
19 crying because there was nothing for them, because  
20 packages from home didn't arrive.

21 'I can't remember any member of staff at any time  
22 ever being loving or caring or anyone being nice to me  
23 or any of the other children. I don't recall ever being  
24 given any praise for anything I had done. I never even  
25 saw any children being treated nicely.

1           'I never spoke to my sister about the abuse when we  
2           were at Fornethy. I never told anyone. I think I was  
3           too frightened and quiet to speak out. When we left,  
4           I told my mum that I didn't like it at Fornethy, it was  
5           horrible and I didn't want to go back. She just said we  
6           were lucky that we got a holiday.

7           'At the end of the six weeks, we got the bus back to  
8           Glasgow and it dropped us off where we had been picked  
9           up. My mum came and picked [us] up. Back at home it  
10          was mum, me, [my sister] and [younger brother]. Life  
11          was good back at home and I went back to  
12          primary school.'

13          The witness then speaks about going to another  
14          residential placement in Dunoon in the next couple of  
15          paragraphs.

16          At paragraph 52, she describes her and her sister  
17          going back to Fornethy in 1977 around the same time of  
18          year, when she says she would have been 9 or just  
19          turning 10 and when she was told to go, **Secondary Institutions - to be**  
20          **Secondary Institutions - to be published later**  
21          **Secondary Institutions - to be published later** and had to go  
22          to Fornethy, and again that it was the school who  
23          organised them going.

24          She says:

25          'We had told mum we didn't like it at Fornethy and

1 didn't want to go back there. She just told us we were  
2 lucky to be getting a holiday. I even pretended that I  
3 wasn't well, but mum just told me that it would be  
4 better this time when we got there:

5 'The arrangements for getting to Fornethy were  
6 exactly the same as the first time. My mum dropped us  
7 [at] Glasgow city centre [and] the bus took us to  
8 Fornethy.

9 'Everything [when we got there] was more or less the  
10 same as it had been on [the] first visit. Mrs Fletcher  
11 and Mrs LBD were still there. One of the main  
12 differences was that they were aware that I had coeliac  
13 disease and I got only the food that I was supposed to  
14 get. This meant that I got things like Rice Krispies  
15 and gluten-free bread. It was much better and I didn't  
16 get any sore stomachs. I had medication which they gave  
17 to me in the mornings and at night [and] they held on to  
18 my medication.

19 'Letters were still written home on a Saturday and  
20 again we had to write what was written on the  
21 blackboard. I just went along with what they wanted for  
22 an easier life.

23 'I didn't wet the bed by the time I went back to  
24 Fornethy, but it was dealt with the same way as before.  
25 I saw it happening to other girls. The naked girls

1 waiting in the queue for your turn in the bath still  
2 happened.

3 'Just like the first time, letters and magazines  
4 sent from home were going missing [and] this meant  
5 sometimes we didn't get anything from Mrs LBD when  
6 she was handing it out on a Saturday.

7 'There wasn't anyone at Fornethy, staff members,  
8 that I could have sat down and told them that I was  
9 unhappy.

10 'We were at Fornethy for six weeks, the same [time]  
11 as the first time I was there. When we were coming  
12 home, it was the same. [We got the minibus to Glasgow  
13 and my mum picked us up].

14 'It was being organised for me to go back a third  
15 time in 1978. My sister wasn't allowed to go this time  
16 because she was too old. Because she wasn't going, I  
17 dug my heels in and refused to go. I wasn't forced to  
18 go. [And] I didn't ever go back to Fornethy or anywhere  
19 else in care.'

20 The witness provides some information about her life  
21 after her periods in Fornethy. She was living with her  
22 mum and went to secondary school, but quite often didn't  
23 go and ended up being brought before the  
24 Children's Panel and there was a trial. She was  
25 supposed to go to school, but ultimately didn't go and

1           went on to do a youth training scheme.

2           The witness goes on to say that she married and had  
3           a daughter and that her mother passed away when her  
4           daughter was a year old.

5           She speaks about her husband and his health  
6           conditions and that she is now a full-time carer to her  
7           husband.

8           In relation to impact the witness says:

9           'Because of what happened to me in care, I have  
10          difficulty trusting adults, especially people in  
11          authority. It has made me very protective over my  
12          daughter and I never let her go to anything like I did.'

13          And she's now protective over her granddaughter as  
14          well, the witness tells us:

15          'When I got home from Fornethy the first time, I  
16          continued eating food that I shouldn't have. Because  
17          they told me I could eat anything, I was eating food  
18          that wasn't good for me [and] my mum kept telling me  
19          that I had to have a special diet.'

20          She said:

21          'I never really thought about my time in Fornethy  
22          until recently. I think I had blocked it [out]. Since  
23          I heard about the Scottish Child Abuse Inquiry, it has  
24          brought things back to me [that I haven't thought about  
25          in quite a while].

1           'I have never reported anything that happened at  
2           Fornethy to anyone in authority. I thought that was  
3           just the way it was. I never even told my mum about it.  
4           My husband and daughter weren't aware about my time in  
5           care until very recently when [I contacted the  
6           Inquiry].'

7           And the witness has also since then given  
8           a statement to the police.

9           In terms of lessons to be learned, paragraph 71, the  
10          witness says:

11          'What happened to me in Fornethy was wrong. It  
12          should have been a good experience. It wasn't right  
13          what went on. My time there was a nightmare and  
14          I wouldn't have encouraged anyone to send their children  
15          there.

16          'Looking back now, I know that it shouldn't have  
17          been like that at Fornethy. I'm not even sure if any of  
18          the staff were trained to look after us. If children  
19          are upset, they should be comforted. There should  
20          definitely be more care and affection shown to children.  
21          One time I was crying and they didn't comfort me, they  
22          called me "Bubbles". When they leave places of care,  
23          children should be spoken to by someone independent.  
24          This should be done soon after they leave, so it is  
25          fresh in their minds. They should be asked how they

1 felt and what they thought about their treatment when  
2 they were in care. The voice of the child is important.

3 'I hope that in future more could be done at home to  
4 help and support families in difficulty, rather than  
5 taking children away and putting them in care.

6 'I have no objection to my witness statement being  
7 published as part of the evidence to the Inquiry.  
8 I believe the facts stated in this witness statement are  
9 true.'

10 'Jessica' signed her statement on 27 July 2021.

11 LADY SMITH: Thank you very much indeed.

12 That's neatly 1 o'clock.

13 I think we'll stop there for the lunch break.

14 A couple of names again of people that we have  
15 mentioned before, who are protected by my General  
16 Restriction Order and they're not to be identified as  
17 referred to in our evidence outside this room. And  
18 that's Mrs LBD, also referred to as Mrs LBD, and  
19 Miss PWH, also referred to as Mrs PWH.

20 I didn't spot anybody else, but I'm open to being  
21 corrected. Happy with that? Good.

22 Very well, we'll stop now for the lunch break and  
23 I'll sit again at 2 o'clock.

24 (1.02 pm)

25 (The luncheon adjournment)

1 (2.00 pm)

2 LADY SMITH: Now, Ms Forbes --

3 MS FORBES: Good afternoon, my Lady.

4 LADY SMITH: -- the next one.

5 'Sidney' (read in)

6 MS MACLEOD: The next statement is from an applicant who is  
7 anonymous and is known as 'Sidney'.

8 LADY SMITH: Thank you.

9 MS FORBES: And her witness statement reference is  
10 WIT-1-000000980.

11 LADY SMITH: Thank you.

12 MS FORBES: My Lady, 'Sidney' tells us she was born in 1965  
13 and talks about her life before going into care between  
14 paragraphs 2 and 7.

15 In summary, she was born in Glasgow. She tells us  
16 she had an older brother and a younger brother and  
17 sister. They lived in Possilpark in a two-bedroomed  
18 flat in a close.

19 She had a happy childhood with loads of friends.  
20 Her dad was a bin lorry driver and her mum didn't work,  
21 but sadly her dad died when she was 10.

22 His death had a big impact on the family. Her mum  
23 couldn't manage her money and 'Sidney' tells us that she  
24 took on a lot of responsibilities for her younger  
25 brother and sister.

1 Her oldest brother got run over and had behavioural  
2 problems and he went to a boarding school in Ayrshire.

3 If we go to paragraph 6, 'Sidney' tells us:

4 'I know that going to Fornethy was something  
5 organised through the school. We never had a social  
6 worker or anything. My mum had to fill in forms and we  
7 were just sent off, which I think was to give my mum  
8 a break. I don't know what preparation we had to do,  
9 but I have a memory of going to this place and we were  
10 kitted out, but I don't know if that was for Fornethy or  
11 to start back at school. I think the place was on  
12 Boswell Street and it was this building full of clothes  
13 which I am guessing people donated, and we could go and  
14 get rigged out. I think we had to go for a medical but  
15 I couldn't be certain.

16 'Life at home was fine before my dad died. I seem  
17 to have narrowed what went wrong to that timeframe, but  
18 I have never connected it to anything. It was only just  
19 when Fornethy started popping up, it kind of fitted in.'

20 Then she goes on to tell us about Fornethy  
21 between -- from paragraph 8 onwards. 'Sidney' says:

22 'You could only go to Fornethy if you were at  
23 primary school, so that is how I know I went there  
24 between 1976 and 1977, because it was after my dad died  
25 and before I started high school. I went to Fornethy

1 twice. Each time it was for six weeks and we went in  
2 school time. [My sister] went with me both times.'

3 And this is her sister who was a year older than  
4 her, she tells us earlier:

5 'I'm sure I was there before [REDACTED] 1976.'

6 I think she would have been 10, coming up for 11 at  
7 that point.

8 LADY SMITH: Yes.

9 MS FORBES: 'And then I was away at [REDACTED] time and then  
10 again before [REDACTED] 1977.'

11 So she would have been 11, coming up to 12 at that  
12 point:

13 'I don't know if Fornethy was the first two times  
14 I was away or the first and last times, as the other  
15 place I was sent was called Castle Toward.

16 LADY SMITH: Toward, I think. It's the one that's at Dunoon  
17 way, isn't it?

18 MS FORBES: Yes:

19 'The last time I was away would have been around  
20 [REDACTED] 1977 because I would have been too old to go  
21 later in the year as I would have been starting high  
22 school after the summer. My memory doesn't separate the  
23 two visits so they are all jumbled up and all I know is  
24 I don't have any good memories from any time at  
25 Fornethy.

1           'I think we were chosen to go to Fornethy because my  
2           mum couldn't afford to take us anywhere, so it was like  
3           they were sending us on a holiday, but I don't know who  
4           organised it all.

5           'I just remember there were lots of girls staying  
6           there, but I have no idea how many there would be.  
7           I don't even know how many dorms there were. I do  
8           remember all the dorms had names and the only ones  
9           I remember are Forfar and Reekie Linn.

10          'It wasn't a castle, but it looked like a mansion or  
11          a palace. It was massive and I hadn't seen anything  
12          that size before. We had been told we were going on  
13          holiday, so we were excited the first time we went.  
14          I thought we were going on holiday to do all these nice  
15          things. On the ground floor, it had a kitchen, a big  
16          bathroom with a bath in it, and a dining room, which  
17          I am sure had round tables in there. It must have had  
18          a laundry, because we used to collect our clothes and  
19          they were all ironed in neat piles. There was a boot  
20          room. I never saw inside the kitchen. There were  
21          massive stairs leading to the dorms, which were  
22          upstairs.

23          'I don't know what the staff's job titles were and  
24          I can't remember if there was a matron. Now I just call  
25          the staff teachers, but I don't know if that was what

1           they were. I can't recall what we had to call them.  
2           There were other staff such as kitchen staff. I think  
3           they were all females, as I can't picture a man being  
4           there. I only remember two names, but I don't know who  
5           they were or remember what they looked like. The names  
6           I recall are LBD and Fletcher. These are the only  
7           names that stick in my head.

8           'My overall memories of Fornethy are not good or  
9           happy. However, I don't have clear memories either.

10          'I am sure it was a bus that took us to Fornethy.  
11          There were lots of other children on the bus. When we  
12          arrived, we were shown to dorms, but I don't think my  
13          sister was in the same dorm as me. It would have been  
14          staff who showed us, although I don't remember who that  
15          was. We were also shown to a boot room and I am sure  
16          that is the one that had pinnies, but I could be wrong  
17          and that could be Castle Toward.

18          'The dorms had so many beds in each one and I think  
19          it was maybe six or eight. The dorms were mixed with  
20          all ages. I just remember my sister wasn't in the same  
21          room as me and I had assumed she would have been.  
22          I would always look for her when I wasn't in the dorm.  
23          My sister was coeliac, so she was timid. I looked after  
24          her, so I had just thought I would have her with me.

25          'In the dorm, you had your own bed with a chair at

1 the bottom of it. There was cabinet to put your clothes  
2 in. I don't know if maybe my sister and I were in  
3 Forfar and Reekie Linn and that is why the names are  
4 sticking with me.

5 'I think the teachers woke you up in the morning,  
6 but I don't know what time. Then we would get dressed.  
7 I can't remember getting told to brush our teeth or  
8 anything like that before we would go down the stairs  
9 and have breakfast. I can't remember what time we went  
10 to bed, I just remember we had to be in bed by a certain  
11 time. We had to be in our dorms and it was maybe  
12 something like an hour later the lights would be  
13 switched off.

14 'There was a dining room and you were allocated to  
15 a table depending what dorm you were in. This meant  
16 I wasn't sitting with my sister either.

17 'We got a breakfast, lunch and tea, but I can't  
18 remember anything about the food. I can't even remember  
19 eating, but I do remember you had to clear your plate.  
20 It didn't matter what was on it, you couldn't leave  
21 anything. Everything had to be eaten. If you didn't,  
22 you would be made to sit there until you did or you  
23 would get a slap across the head, which happened to me  
24 a few times.

25 'The kitchen staff would bring the food out, but we

1           were not allowed to speak to them.

2           'I know my sister had gluten-free biscuits, bread  
3           and stuff like that. I don't know if she took them with  
4           her or if they got it specially in for her. She  
5           couldn't eat pasta and I don't think they did the  
6           gluten-free pasta back then.

7           'There was a big bathroom with a bath in it. I only  
8           remember getting a bath once a week and I am sure there  
9           would be two of us in the bath at a time. You didn't  
10          wash yourself, so whichever staff were there washed you.  
11          I don't think it was like 70 kids who would be lining up  
12          naked for a bath. It would be like 10 or 12 and when  
13          they were done, the next lot would be in. I couldn't  
14          say if it was clean water I was put in or not.  
15          I'm assuming, as one was out the bath, another would be  
16          straight in, until it was cold, but I really don't  
17          remember.

18          'I can't remember if we had our own clothes or they  
19          gave us clothes. They did give us welly boots and they  
20          were in the boot room. You would have a peg with your  
21          number, so your duffle coat was there with the boots.  
22          You would wear shoes every day.

23          'On one of the days, which was either Thursday or  
24          Sunday, these days seem to stick in my head, you took  
25          your dirty clothes to the boot room and on the other day

1 you got a clean set of clothes back with a clean pinny.  
2 It was like a tabard pinny. It was maybe yellow, but  
3 I don't really remember. There may have been different  
4 colours for different people.

5 'I think we had two sets of clothes and a towel. We  
6 had to wear the pinny every day.

7 'When you were outside, you were not allowed to  
8 speak to any of the other kids. You had to keep quiet.  
9 We could speak if we did it on the sly when no one was  
10 looking.

11 'I don't remember any play equipment like swings or  
12 anything. What I remember was long walks, which I think  
13 was at Fornethy, but it might have been at  
14 Castle Toward. Where we walked to, I don't know. My  
15 memory is like bits and pieces. I think we walked every  
16 day. We would have to go to the boot room and take our  
17 shoes off and put our wellies and jacket on. We went as  
18 a group and I think it was a bigger group than just  
19 those who were in my dorm.

20 'I remember going on a scavenger hunt, but I don't  
21 know if that was at Fornethy or Castle Toward.'

22 **Secondary Institutions - to be published later**

23 **Secondary Institutions - to be published later**

24 'There was a room that we would go into in the  
25 evening. I don't remember much of what we did during

1 the day, other than the long walks. I am sure we would  
2 watch a film or TV in this room. I don't remember any  
3 games or books.

4 'I cannot remember if we did any schoolwork. I just  
5 remember there was this room we would go into, which had  
6 a blackboard, but that is where we would write letters  
7 home.

8 'The first time I went to Fornethy, I remember being  
9 homesick, as that was the first time I had been away  
10 from home. I just kept my feelings to myself, as  
11 I don't know if I saw someone else being homesick and  
12 they got a row. I also didn't want my sister to see me  
13 upset, as I didn't want to make her upset. I don't  
14 remember any adult I could go to, to tell them how I was  
15 feeling. I only remember the adults coming into the  
16 bedrooms to get the bed-wetters up. I suppose that was  
17 before they went to bed, but I don't even know where the  
18 staff slept. I don't think we were allowed to talk to  
19 the staff anyway. I don't think you could create any  
20 bond with any girls or staff, because of the no-talking  
21 rule. I think that is why I don't remember anyone who  
22 was there. I can't even picture anyone.

23 'I was never ill when I was at Fornethy and when my  
24 sister was ill, it lasted a day or so, but she didn't  
25 need to see a doctor.

1           'I am sure there was a church, but I don't know if  
2           it was close by or if on the long walks we went to one.  
3           I can't remember if we went in or not. We had to say  
4           grace at mealtimes and I am sure we had to say prayers  
5           at bedtime as well.

6           'I think we had to sweep up in the dining room if  
7           there were crumbs on the floor. You would have to clean  
8           your shoes if they got dirty and I remember I had to  
9           polish some shoes, so they wouldn't have all been mine.  
10          You had to make your bed, which I suppose was expected  
11          anyway. All your clothes, including your pinny, had to  
12          be in your cupboard, except for the clothes you took  
13          off, as they would have been on the chair at the bottom  
14          of your bed.

15          'I wouldn't have been at Fornethy over Christmas and  
16          my birthday is in the [REDACTED] holidays, so I wouldn't  
17          have been there for a birthday either.

18          'I don't think we were allowed to take anything of  
19          our own with us. I didn't have anything like a teddy,  
20          doll or photographs. I don't know if they took any  
21          photographs, but I can't remember any getting taken.

22          'I wasn't a bed-wetter, but in my dorm there were  
23          bed-wetters and staff would come in every night to get  
24          them to go to the toilet, even if they were sleeping.  
25          I was aware that our dorm had bed-wetters, because they

1 had to turn their chair a different way when they went  
2 into bed and because staff would tell us. I don't think  
3 my sister was a bed-wetter, so I didn't have that  
4 concern for her.

5 'We didn't get any visitors.

6 'I don't remember anyone coming in to check the  
7 place. No one ever came to speak to me to ask if I was  
8 happy.

9 'I could see my sister in the dining room and  
10 I could see her in the room we used to go in during the  
11 evenings, but they didn't make any steps to get us  
12 together.

13 'I think it was a Sunday we had to write letters  
14 home. I remember the blackboard, as they used to write  
15 what we had to write in our letters on it. The teachers  
16 checked the letters before they would send them.

17 'I know my mum used to send postal orders every week  
18 so we would have money for tuck and stuff. We would get  
19 our letter, but there was nothing in the letter. They  
20 had been opened, but I don't know if they had been read  
21 or not. The postal order had been taken out and they  
22 said they had a tuck shop and they would add it in  
23 there. We never knew how much had been sent to us, but  
24 we were allocated a certain amount for each day or every  
25 second day. I think if other kids got more than us they

1 would get more money to spend on tuck. I think my  
2 mother sent a tenner a week, so it would be £5 each, but  
3 we never saw it. It was just added into this book.  
4 I don't know if we got our full money's worth of tuck or  
5 not. You would get your 20 pence, 30 pence, or whatever  
6 it was, and spend whatever amount you had been  
7 allocated.

8 'The big thing that sticks in my head was my sister  
9 was coeliac and wasn't allowed normal bread and cakes.  
10 She had to eat gluten free. I know that Fornethy were  
11 aware of this, but I don't know who was told. There was  
12 one episode where a member of staff forced her to eat  
13 a normal cake. They didn't physically force her, they  
14 just stood over her, told her to eat it or she couldn't  
15 leave the table. We were trying to tell them that she  
16 couldn't eat it because it would make her ill.  
17 I remember being slapped across the head for  
18 interfering. They made her eat this cake and obviously  
19 she was ill after it. It makes her be sick. She  
20 becomes very quiet and she gets stomach pains. Another  
21 teacher came in and she questioned why she ate it when  
22 she knew it made her ill. One of us said that the other  
23 teacher had made her eat it and wouldn't listen to us.  
24 I remember feeling I wanted to cry as no one was  
25 listening and I suppose I was angry. I felt responsible

1 for my sister and was trying to look out for her.  
2 I have no idea who the staff were and I couldn't  
3 describe them either.

4 'The other thing that sticks in my mind is bath  
5 night. We were all basically lined up naked in the  
6 bathroom. It was all ages and you were all just put in  
7 the bath and washed. I remember I was at an age I was  
8 starting to develop, so I tried to hide myself with my  
9 hands. I remember I got a slap across my head and my  
10 hands were pulled away from me and I was told to stand  
11 with my hands at the side. The slap was like a tap on  
12 the head. There were younger kids there as well and it  
13 made me feel uncomfortable and embarrassed. I was  
14 self-conscious about my changing body, which is why  
15 I was trying to hide it. It was one of the teachers who  
16 did this, but I don't know who it was. As far as  
17 I remember, there would be two in the bathroom.

18 'Getting slaps or taps on the head was quite  
19 a common thing from staff. I remember getting slaps  
20 when I would not clear my plate.

21 'I remember there was a blue light out in the  
22 corridor at nighttime, which I guess now was a night  
23 light. If you were a bed-wetter you were made to turn  
24 your chair to the side. Teachers would come in and wake  
25 them at a certain time, but I can't remember what time

1 that was, to get them to go to the toilet. I remember  
2 if kids got caught going to the toilet before that time,  
3 they were made to stand in the corridor. I don't know  
4 how long they had to do that for. I never had to do  
5 that.

6 'If any of the kids wet the bed, they would be  
7 humiliated. Teachers would tell everyone in the dorm  
8 that they were a bed-wetter and they would be made to go  
9 and stand in the corridor. I can't say how long they  
10 did that. At that time, I didn't have a watch or  
11 anything, so I wouldn't have a clue about timings.  
12 I remember staff humiliating children in my dorm and  
13 telling us they had wet the bed. I don't remember  
14 anything about the teachers who did this. I remember  
15 feeling sorry for the kids who wet the bed and I wanted  
16 to help them, but I couldn't do anything.

17 'Once, when we were writing our letters home, my  
18 sister did write something like, "It is horrible here  
19 and I want to come home". She was pulled up in front of  
20 everyone and was embarrassed in front of everyone about  
21 what she had written before they ripped her letter up.  
22 They told her to write another letter with what was on  
23 the board. She wasn't the only one, as there were lots  
24 of kids trying to sneak messages back home, but staff  
25 always read them before sending them.

1           'I only told the teacher why my sister ate the cake  
2           because she asked us. I didn't speak about anything  
3           else because at that age and time, you just accepted it.  
4           There was nothing about child abuse spoken about.  
5           Adults, you respected, and you just did what they told  
6           you.

7           'I think we would be taken back on a bus --'

8           This is 'Sidney' talking about leaving Fornethy at  
9           paragraph 50:

10           'I think we would be taken back on a bus and  
11           I suppose I would be happy to be leaving. Boswell  
12           Street still keeps coming to my mind and I don't know if  
13           that was an educational building, so we might have got  
14           dropped off there.'

15           And then 'Sidney' tells us about her time at  
16           Castle Toward from paragraphs 51 to 57.

17           She then talks about life after being in care from  
18           paragraph 58 to 64 and in summary 'Sidney' tells us that  
19           when she was back home, they moved to a bigger house.  
20           She went to Possilpark Secondary School. This was  
21           a change from primary school, where she had had lots of  
22           friends, but then she was a loner, she says, and sat at  
23           the back, and looking back, she thinks she was  
24           depressed. She felt invisible.

25           Her mum went off the rails and took to drink and for

1 a while they had no electricity or gas.

2 'Sidney' tells us she did a YTS Scheme. She got  
3 married at 17 and had five daughters. She said she  
4 moved to Wales in 1994. Her husband was mentally  
5 abusive and the marriage lasted for 15 years and she  
6 said she then came to her senses and got a divorce.

7 After that, she had three part-time jobs. She  
8 stayed in Wales and she got a job working with adults  
9 with learning difficulties, which she says she enjoys,  
10 and she got remarried in 2008.

11 'Sidney' then tells us about 'Impact' from  
12 paragraph 65 and says:

13 'I think it is hard to pinpoint impact to the one  
14 event in my childhood. I think my dad's death has had  
15 a huge impact on me and still does. I think when I was  
16 vulnerable, needed support and nurture, Fornethy didn't  
17 give that, and instead I think the way they treated me  
18 and my sister has also impacted on my life. I know  
19 I can pinpoint to these times, as everything goes back  
20 to the period of time from when my dad died and the  
21 period I was at Fornethy. I definitely didn't realise  
22 this until recently, when Fornethy came up in the press  
23 and I connected it. I think I had managed to block it  
24 all out.

25 'I think the problems I have in adult life with food

1 stem back to being made to clear my plate at Fornethy.  
2 I still believe I have to clear my plate and it is just  
3 an impulse now, which is why I think I am a bit  
4 overweight. It is not even if the food is on the plate.  
5 It is like an impulse. If it is there, I will eat it.  
6 I got taught to eat it. It is not that I want it. For  
7 instance, if there is a packet of biscuits open, I won't  
8 eat one or two, I will have to finish the packet.

9 'I struggle to be naked and with my first husband  
10 I would get undressed in the dark. With my second  
11 husband, who I married 15 years ago, it is only recently  
12 I will have a go at undressing with the TV on so it is  
13 a bit lighter. It is something I am conscious of and  
14 I am trying to work on it.

15 'I don't like confrontation, so if someone is having  
16 an argument, I will retreat.

17 'I am a people pleaser, so even if you did me wrong,  
18 and the following week you asked me to do something,  
19 I would do it. I think this stems from being at  
20 Fornethy and when adults tell you to do something, you  
21 just do it.

22 'I have problems with emotions, as I can't show  
23 them. This is a big one for me. My granddaughter was  
24 on life support and although I felt everything inside,  
25 I couldn't physically show it. It really upsets me that

1 I behave this way. Sometimes my voice changes but  
2 I won't cry or get angry. I love my kids to bits and  
3 I would do anything for them, but it really gets to me  
4 that I can't show them emotion. I even find it hard to  
5 give them a hug and I don't know if that is because  
6 I don't want to be hugged. This is probably down to  
7 different things and not just Fornethy, such as my dad's  
8 death and having an abusive husband. Fornethy would no  
9 doubt contribute as well.

10 'I have been diagnosed with depression years and  
11 years ago and I am still taking tablets. It was maybe  
12 30 years ago.

13 'I will be the one to help everyone else, but  
14 I don't like anyone knowing what is going on with me.  
15 I don't like people knowing or trying to help me. It is  
16 as if I have built a barrier and no one else can get  
17 through it. I have friends, but I don't let them in and  
18 wouldn't go to them with a problem or anything like  
19 that.

20 'I still have a close relationship with my sister,  
21 but I don't like contacting people. If they phone me,  
22 I will talk to them, but I won't make the first move.  
23 I would by text. I don't know if it is a confidence  
24 thing. I will do it if someone has given me permission  
25 to phone them at a certain time. That is like I have

1           been told I can phone, so I will.'

2           She then tells us about treatment and support at  
3 paragraph 75. She says:

4           '[My sister] told me about something she had seen in  
5 the papers. I don't get the Scottish papers down here.  
6 She sent me a link to a story which I think was online.  
7 There was a [REDACTED] group mentioned in it called  
8 "[REDACTED] Fornethy" and I joined that. Some of the  
9 things on it are just way over my head. I know recently  
10 they were doing protests, which are something about  
11 Glasgow Corporation and Glasgow Council, who are denying  
12 there is any paperwork or anything about the kids who  
13 were sent to Fornethy. I think they are protesting  
14 about the redress as well. I think their point is, it  
15 doesn't matter how long you were in care, if you were  
16 abused, you were abused and it should all be under one  
17 umbrella. I think it was through this group that they  
18 gave me the number for Thompsons Solicitors and told me  
19 to contact them. I don't really want to get involved  
20 unless it is personal to me, and this is personal to me,  
21 but I don't know if I can do anything about it.

22           'I never spoke about my time at Fornethy with my GP,  
23 because I never made any connection to how I was feeling  
24 until fairly recently. I haven't had any counselling or  
25 other support, because I usually deal with it all

1       myself.'

2             And then to 'Reporting of Abuse' at paragraph 76,  
3       'Sidney' says:

4             'I reported my time in Fornethy to the police in  
5       Dundee sometime last year. I phoned them and spoke to  
6       someone and then they phoned back a few months later and  
7       I gave a statement over the phone.'

8             Then she says she hasn't heard anything else from  
9       the police and she doesn't know who is dealing with it,  
10       but they said they had a group set up dealing with just  
11       Fornethy at the police station.

12            She tells us then about contacting Thompsons after  
13       reporting it to the police, and she also tells us that  
14       she knows her sister has come forward to the Inquiry,  
15       because she's told her, and that was about the same time  
16       as her.

17            Going forward then to 'Lessons to be Learned' at  
18       paragraph 80, 'Sidney' says:

19            'I used to work with children and I know if I had  
20       behaved like the teachers at Fornethy I would be sacked,  
21       but in those days you just accepted that it was the  
22       norm. I had nothing to compare it with and I was young.  
23       In those days you just did what adults told you.'

24            Then to paragraph 81:

25            'I also think those who are management need to know

1           what they are doing and have knowledge of the clients we  
2           are caring from.'

3           Maybe that should be 'for'.

4   LADY SMITH:   Yes.

5   MS FORBES:   'In my case, I phoned the on-call manager to  
6           tell her what was happening when I was attacked.  The  
7           company she worked for had only taken over two weeks  
8           before and she told me she didn't know the lady and  
9           asked me what I expected her to do.  She was the person  
10          who should have supported me with an ongoing incident.  
11          There needs to be clear policies that managers follow,  
12          which would protect clients and carers.  I don't know if  
13          every organisation works like this, but this is based  
14          only on my experience.'

15          I think she's talking back to an incident at  
16          paragraph 80 where she talks about being accused of  
17          assaulting a client at work.

18          Then to paragraph 82:

19          'When I think of my time at Fornethy I wonder if  
20          maybe someone coming in to do a check might have given  
21          me someone to talk to and tell them what was happening,  
22          although back then, kids were not believed anyway if  
23          they said anything.

24          'I do think that when children tell about abuse,  
25          they should be listened to and be believed.'

1           And 'Sidney' has made the usual declaration. She  
2           has signed her statement and it's dated 28 April 2022.

3 LADY SMITH: Thank you very much.

4                               'Mary' (read in)

5 MS MACLEOD: My Lady, the final statement to be read in for  
6           today, and indeed for this phase, is that of  
7           an applicant who will use the pseudonym 'Mary'. The  
8           statement can be found at WIT-1-000000874.

9           Now, I should say, my Lady, that in this statement  
10          the witness makes reference to a 'Miss Robinson'.

11 LADY SMITH: Yes.

12 MS MACLEOD: And this falls into the same category as two  
13          other statements, which were read in on 20 May, those  
14          statements of 'Morag' and 'Holly', those are both  
15          pseudonyms. These three statements, it's been checked  
16          with the witnesses and where it says 'Robinson', it  
17          should actually say 'Robertson'.

18 LADY SMITH: 'Robertson'.

19 MS MACLEOD: And that's what I'll read in as I read in this  
20          statement.

21 LADY SMITH: Thank you very much. That makes sense.

22 MS MACLEOD: 'My name is ["Mary"]'. I was born in 1972. My  
23          contact details are known to the Inquiry.

24                               'I was born in Maryhill and then we moved to  
25          a scheme in Ruchazie when I was about 2 or 3 years old.

1 I lived in a tenement house with my mum and dad and my  
2 brother and sister. [My brother's the oldest, then my  
3 sister, then me].

4 'Life was quite poverty-stricken. We didn't have  
5 a lot of money and my dad drank alcohol. Sometimes  
6 there was an atmosphere in the family home because of  
7 that. I remember us having quite hard times, but  
8 I remember us having good times as well. I don't  
9 remember us ever having any social work involvement at  
10 home.

11 'I started at primary when I was 5 and I remember my  
12 sister had been there a few years by the time I started  
13 there. She had also been to Fornethy Residential School  
14 by then as well.'

15 LADY SMITH: Yes, her sister was a couple of years older  
16 than her, I think, wasn't she?

17 MS MACLEOD: She was, yes, two years older, my Lady:

18 'My mum sent us both there, because she thought she  
19 was giving us a break. She thought she was doing good.  
20 A break from the scheme, because we didn't have a lot  
21 and there wasn't a lot to do. I never thought it would  
22 be bad, especially because I had my big sister with me.  
23 Maybe that made it a bit easier for me.

24 'I don't have any memory of my sister going to  
25 Fornethy before me, but I remember her talking about it

1 and she knew what to do when I went with her.  
2 I remember her keeping me right. I can't remember the  
3 context of what she said about the place when she was  
4 there. I was only young at the time.

5 'I think I went to Fornethy twice with my sister and  
6 twice on my own. When she left primary school I just  
7 went on my own until I finished primary as well. It was  
8 only primary school-aged kids that went to Fornethy.

9 'I don't know how we first found out about Fornethy.  
10 It must have been through the school. I asked my mum  
11 that and she doesn't have much of a recollection either.  
12 She just remembered it was there and she saw it as  
13 a place for me and my sister to go, where we would get  
14 good food and things would be better for us.

15 'The first time I went to Fornethy [it was my  
16 sister and I think my mum who took us into Glasgow].  
17 I remember we had wee old-fashioned suitcases and I was  
18 all excited. We had a list of stuff that we had to take  
19 with us, so we must have been given some paperwork, but  
20 I don't know where that came from. We had to take  
21 a face cloth, flannels, a wash bag with toothpaste and  
22 a toothbrush, six pairs of socks, all our underwear and  
23 vests and everything like that. Our dad had a military  
24 background. He was in the army. So when we were  
25 packing for that, I remember everything was laid out on

1           our beds and then we packed our suitcases.

2           'I was at Fornethy when it was hot and when it was  
3           wet and wild. I've always thought it was [REDACTED] time,  
4           but it might have been another time of year. I'm not  
5           sure.'

6   LADY SMITH: Well, we can do wet and wild in [REDACTED] time in  
7           Scotland.

8   MS MACLEOD: Absolutely, my Lady.

9   LADY SMITH: Particularly up north, so it could have been.

10   MS MACLEOD: 'It was for four weeks and we were off school,  
11           so that makes [sense for it to be [REDACTED] time]. Every  
12           time I went to Fornethy it was for four weeks. I don't  
13           know if that was the same for everyone.

14           'I vaguely remember getting on the bus. I think it  
15           was at Buchanan Street and it was a single decker. It  
16           was all primary school girls. There were no boys at  
17           Fornethy. The girls were all different ages and  
18           everyone was going to Fornethy. There was a couple of  
19           other girls from my school there as well. I was  
20           definitely one of the youngest that first time.

21           'It was just exactly the same every time I went.  
22           The only difference was that some of the girls changed  
23           because once they had left primary, they couldn't go  
24           back there. My sister was there with me twice but she  
25           was older than me, so when she went on to high school

1 I continued [to go] on my own.

2 'Fornethy was a big building on two levels, possibly  
3 three. It had turrets and was painted white.

4 I remember there were spiral staircases that went up and  
5 down to get to our dorms. Our dormitories were upstairs  
6 and the wash rooms, dining hall and kitchen were all  
7 downstairs on ground level. There was a classroom as  
8 well, which was like an annex, separate from the main  
9 building.

10 'After a few times there, I got to know the place  
11 inside out. I went on to become a captain of the  
12 dormitories and a captain of the tables as well.

13 I remember the dormitories were named after water  
14 landmarks from within the vicinity of Fornethy. I can  
15 remember the names of two, Prosen and Reekie Linn.

16 'I think there would have been about 50 or 60 girls  
17 at Fornethy, or possibly less than that. There were  
18 about six or seven dormitories and there must have been  
19 about six to ten girls in each one. The dorms were big  
20 and uniform, with big shutters and high ceilings.  
21 I remember at night, the lights went off and this blue  
22 light came on.

23 'Mrs Fletcher was the woman in charge at Fornethy.  
24 She always had her wee West Highland terrier with her,  
25 called Kirsty. There was also a Mrs Robertson and

1 a Mrs PWH . Those three were the standout brutal  
2 ones, although Fletcher didn't hit us, as far as I can  
3 remember. It was the way she would look at you that put  
4 the fear of God through us all. There were other  
5 teachers, some were very nice, but I can't remember any  
6 other names.

7 'The routine never changed. I don't recall it  
8 changing from when we arrived until we left, every time  
9 I went to Fornethy.

10 'When we arrived the luggage was taken off the bus  
11 and we were separated into dorms. We went into a big  
12 hall and gave our names, then we were separated into  
13 groups. We went into the cloakroom, then we sat on the  
14 benches, where we had wee individual boxes underneath  
15 where we sat, that we put our slippers and sandshoes in.

16 'Then we were told which dorms we were in and we  
17 went upstairs to the dorms to unpack our cases. There  
18 were about seven or eight dorms and they all had names.  
19 We had to get changed out of the clothes we arrived in  
20 and we all had to go and have a bath before we could put  
21 [our house clothes on].

22 'We wore our own clothes but they did give us some  
23 house clothes, if someone didn't have any clothing for  
24 example. We all got a pinafore that we wore every day.  
25 It went over your head and you tied it round your

1 middle. They were made of old-fashioned fabric that  
2 were all different colours. Perhaps it was something to  
3 do with the dorm colours. I can't quite remember.

4 'Then we went downstairs to this room, it was  
5 a shower room with sinks and it had two baths in it as  
6 well. Each bath had a person at it who would give you  
7 a wash down with a face cloth and carbolic soap. They  
8 also washed our hair for delousing. That was with this  
9 smelly stuff. That wasn't good. We were all standing  
10 queued up, naked, waiting until you were shouted at to  
11 go in and get washed. One of the women who did the  
12 washing was called Gladys. I remember her. She was  
13 a nice wee woman and she felt for us, so she would go as  
14 fast as she could to get us in and out of the bath. It  
15 was just a little bit of water in the bath. It didn't  
16 even cover up to your knees. It was flushed away  
17 quickly and filled again between every girl.

18 'After the wash, we were all sat in the big hall  
19 where we would do assembly and we would be talked to  
20 until lunchtime.

21 'I was in the same dorm as my sister which was good,  
22 because I was quite young and I was a bit frightened,  
23 especially the first time. That was when I got up one  
24 night and got into bed with my sister.

25 'At nighttime we would all have to strip off and put

1 on our nightwear. We would then put [on] our clothes  
2 for the next day, so our pants and vests would be on  
3 a chair at the end of the bed. Our slippers were  
4 underneath the chair.

5 'On a typical day we would be up early. It just  
6 depended who was coming in to get you up as sometimes it  
7 was all right with some people, like Mrs Robertson or  
8 Miss PWH. They would start banging the beds and  
9 making lots of noise in their rough voices.'

10 Sorry:

11 'It was all right with some people. But with some  
12 people --'

13 I think I read --

14 LADY SMITH: Yes, it must be.

15 MS MACLEOD: I think I read that incorrectly:

16 'Sometimes it was all right but with some people,  
17 like Mrs Robertson or Mrs PWH, they would start  
18 banging the beds and making lots of noise in their loud,  
19 rough voices.

20 'You would get up and stand at the bottom of your  
21 bed. It was all quite military-like when I think about  
22 it. You had to make your bed and it would be checked to  
23 see that you had done it properly. You had a chair at  
24 the end of your bed and a wee locker and that was  
25 checked as well. You had a couple of wee boxes that you

1       kept under your locker for your underwear and they  
2       checked the clothes that were hanging up as well.  If  
3       somebody didn't get something right, the staff would  
4       whip it all out and tell you to get it all back again  
5       neatly and tidy.  You were actually told where  
6       everything had to go.  Every lassie was the same.

7             'After we had done all that, we had to get our wash  
8       kit and march down to the toilet area, where they had  
9       these wee wire-mesh pigeonholes with our toothpaste,  
10      toothbrush, a bar of soap and a face cloth.  Every girl  
11      had their own wee pigeonhole.  We would get washed and  
12      I remember always being freezing cold standing brushing  
13      my teeth.  Then we would go back upstairs, get changed  
14      and go down to the breakfast room.

15            'We didn't bath every evening.  Baths were on  
16      standard days but I don't remember what day it was.

17            'Each dorm had their own table [in the dining room]  
18      with the right amount of people on it and they all had  
19      to sit at that table.  They were big, round tables.  
20      I remember going into breakfast for the first time and  
21      thinking, "wow", as it was all set up with knives and  
22      forks and proper crockery.  There was even curled butter  
23      in the middle of the table.  I wasn't used to all that  
24      and it looked so cool.  [When] you got your porridge  
25      plopped on your bowl and it was a different ball game.

1 It wasn't as cool as it looked.

2 'There is a lady I remember from mealtimes. I can't  
3 remember her name but she had dark, curly hair and big,  
4 black framed glasses. She came round the tables and  
5 poured our tea out of an old-fashioned teapot.  
6 I remember she wasn't very nice and she used to stare at  
7 us.

8 'The breakfast we got was porridge that was all  
9 thick and gooey and I couldn't really eat it. I had  
10 difficulty eating a lot of the food, to be honest, and  
11 then they started trying to force-feed me. That was  
12 quite early on and I started to hide my food in my  
13 pinafore pockets, pretending I had eaten it. Sometimes  
14 other girls would help you out and if they liked the  
15 food, they would eat it for you.

16 'I hated semolina. I would never eat it and  
17 depending who was on duty, I could get that forced into  
18 my mouth. Some were just bullies, like Robertson and  
19 PWH, and others you got on with and they liked you.  
20 Robertson and PWH would try to make me eat food  
21 I didn't like. They would physically hold and push the  
22 spoon down my throat, which usually ended up with me  
23 being sick.

24 'If I was sick, they would give me a hard time and  
25 make me clean it up. It wasn't just me though. That

1 happened to a lot of the girls. You would be cleaning  
2 up the sick and crying and they would just be shouting  
3 at you and they might even punish you and make you stand  
4 and face a wall. That could be in the bedroom or  
5 outside the dining room or the main hall.

6 'We did get a playtime and then we would go outside  
7 and play. We had to play within the grounds and there  
8 was a play park with some swings and a wee apex-type hut  
9 that we kidded on was a shop.

10 'There was more of us playing outside at playtime  
11 than there was in the class, so there must have been  
12 other things happening elsewhere. We definitely did all  
13 go into the playground together. The girls would  
14 sometimes fight as well at playtime, but the staff  
15 didn't bother, they just let the girls fight and the  
16 best man win. That was difficult, as there were some  
17 bigger girls there.

18 'We would sometimes go and look at wee animals at  
19 Fornethy. They kept rabbits and guinea pigs in hutches  
20 underneath the annex for the school. That would be at  
21 playtime and there would be girls allocated to look  
22 after them. After playtime they rang an old-fashioned  
23 hand bell and that meant we were to line up as we were  
24 going in for lunch. Then we would go back in, change  
25 out of our jackets and shoes and go for lunch.

1           'We would also gather in the main hall at some point  
2           every day. Mrs Fletcher or whoever would take these  
3           gatherings or assemblies and talk to us or give us  
4           instructions. We would be told who the monitors were.  
5           They wore a wee sash and were older and helped out in  
6           the dorms and at mealtimes, things like that. My sister  
7           was one and I became one as well when I was older.

8           'My sister got to know one of the catering  
9           assistants at Fornethy, her name was Irene and she  
10          helped [out with] the dinners. She was really nice and  
11          they swapped addresses and became pen pals. Irene had  
12          a wee sister and I became pen pals with her. That all  
13          had to be done secretly because if the staff had ever  
14          found out about that, we would have all got into serious  
15          trouble because staff members weren't allowed to speak  
16          to any of the children at all. Even when Gladys was  
17          giving you a bath, she couldn't really speak to you. We  
18          were told by Mrs Fletcher we weren't to interact with  
19          the staff at all when we first arrived at Fornethy.

20          'One of the main things we did at Fornethy was go on  
21          these big long walks. They were big walks and we did  
22          them every day, no matter what the weather. Rain, hail  
23          or snow, we always had to go out and walk. Some walks  
24          were shorter than others. I remember we got our rain  
25          jackets and welly boots on and we would be paired up by

1 Mrs Robertson. She took us on nearly all the big walks.  
2 She was a big, masculine-looking woman with big legs,  
3 and put you in mind of somebody who ate porridge every  
4 day. She was very outdoorsy and dressed and looked that  
5 way.

6 'The walks went out through the marshes and down  
7 ditches and whatnot. I remember these stones we always  
8 had to walk to. They had a name. There was a big pile  
9 and when we got to them we had to walk up and around  
10 them while singing this rhyming song. It was apparently  
11 meant to be lucky. You can imagine what we were all  
12 wishing for.

13 'Sometimes on the walks, if you weren't keeping up,  
14 Mrs Robertson would grab you and dig her nails into your  
15 neck and back. She did that with me and [my sister] and  
16 she banged our heads together. I once fell down a ditch  
17 and couldn't get out, so Mrs Robertson pulled me out by  
18 the hair. My welly boot got stuck in the mud and came  
19 off when she hauled me out. [Then she] made me walk all  
20 the way back to Fornethy with only one welly boot on.  
21 She was a hard, brutal woman and everybody tried their  
22 best to avoid her and just [to] do what she wanted you  
23 to do, so you weren't getting any physical or verbal  
24 abuse from her.

25 'Sometimes we used to pick rosehip berries on the

1 walks. The staff made this medicine for coughs from the  
2 rosehip. We also picked berries and the staff made jam  
3 in the kitchen with them. I remember the bushes were  
4 quite brambly and we would all be covered in scratches  
5 on our hands while we were picking the rosehip. Those  
6 walks lasted all afternoon, I'm sure they went on for  
7 hours, I remember it being dark when we came [home]  
8 sometimes.

9 'Every night we would get shown a film or play games  
10 in the main hall. We also listened to records.  
11 I remember listening to John Travolta and "Summer  
12 Nights" or "Greased Lightning". That was on at the  
13 time. They only had about six records. They would put  
14 out rows of chairs at night and we would all sit there.  
15 We would get a digestive or a Rich Tea biscuit [and]  
16 either a cup of milk or orange juice.

17 'We also had a tuck shop where we could pick our  
18 tuck. My mum used to send me and [my sister] a shoebox  
19 full of sweeties, and also a postal order and a letter  
20 in it. My sister and I never saw that postal order.  
21 I don't know how much it was for, but my mum told us she  
22 had sent it in the shoe box.

23 'The only trip I remember was when a group of us got  
24 in the minibus and we went to the cinema. We went to  
25 see "Annie".

1           'We did go to lessons at Fornethy in the classroom,  
2           which was off the main building. We didn't all do the  
3           same thing at the same time, so some dorms would maybe  
4           go to the classroom and others would maybe go for walks  
5           or other activities like cleaning and other different  
6           things.

7           'You went up these stairs to get into the classroom  
8           and I remember it had an old-fashioned blackboard that  
9           went round and round, and desks and chairs. It wasn't  
10          a full-size classroom, it was about half a normal size.  
11          They definitely had a different routine for different  
12          dorms [through] the week.

13          'The teachers were the same staff at Fornethy, so it  
14          was Mrs Robertson [and] Mrs PWH or whoever. It  
15          changed on different days, just whoever [was] on the  
16          rota. There were a few teachers but I can only remember  
17          those two.

18          'In the classroom, we did writing. It was  
19          worksheets and stuff. We also wrote letters home,  
20          although it was my sister that wrote for the two of us  
21          until I was there on my own. The teachers would write  
22          up on the blackboard what we were to write and we then  
23          copied it word for word into our letter. I didn't ever  
24          write anything other than what was on the board. If you  
25          did, you would have -- they would have hit you with

1 a ruler on the hand.

2 'I remember I was at Fornethy one year when Princess  
3 Diana, who was then Lady Diana Spencer, was visiting  
4 Glasgow. I was upset about that because I didn't get to  
5 see her, and my brother wrote to me, telling me he had  
6 gone to see her. I remember I was skelped by the  
7 teacher for crying about that after reading that in the  
8 letter. I was hit for being upset.

9 'If you stepped out of line in class, the teachers  
10 would hit you across the hand with a ruler or shout at  
11 you. You could get hit for just having messy writing or  
12 not having your pencil sharpened properly. The teachers  
13 weren't very nice in class. That happened every day and  
14 you would be glad if it was someone else, as it wouldn't  
15 be you. That was more or less standard practice.

16 'I feel I have blocked out a lot of my memory from  
17 Fornethy, but one thing I do know is that I didn't learn  
18 a lot when I was there. I was never an academic when  
19 I was at school and I struggled at primary and secondary  
20 because of my experiences at Fornethy. I also found out  
21 later that I had dyslexia. I didn't know that at  
22 Fornethy, but it wouldn't have made any difference  
23 because if you didn't do something right, everyone just  
24 got the same whack on the knuckles with a ruler.

25 'I can't remember ever seeing a doctor or a nurse

1 [at] any time while I was [in] Fornethy. I seem to  
2 remember someone not being well once and having a bowl  
3 of soup taken up to their bed, [but] that's a bit vague.

4 'Some of us were picked to go to church on Sunday.  
5 It wasn't everybody. They would just fill the minibus  
6 with whoever was picked. We would put on our best coat  
7 and shoes for that. I remember we would polish our  
8 shoes the day before. Sometimes a minister would come  
9 to Fornethy and give a service in the main hall. That  
10 would be for the children that hadn't gone to church  
11 that Sunday.

12 'We had to say prayers and grace every day.  
13 I remember the nighttime prayer off by heart. We said  
14 it every night:

15 "Father we thank you for the night, and for the  
16 pleasant morning light,

17 For rest and sleep and love and care, and all that  
18 makes the world so fair,

19 Help us do the things we should, to be to each other  
20 kind and good.

21 Hear us as we humbly pray, for Jesus' sake amen."

22 'Every time we ate, breakfast, lunch or dinner, we  
23 would always say grace, and that was a song:

24 "Bees of paradise, do the work of Jesus Christ, Do  
25 the work that no man can. Amen."

1           'It's very strange that I remember them both after  
2 all those years. My sister says she cannot believe how  
3 I still remember them.

4           'It was quite a bad time whenever anybody wet the  
5 bed because the next morning, the fear was already in  
6 the room and everybody felt it in the dormitory. Even  
7 if you hadn't wet the bed, you felt it for the other  
8 girl in the dorm.

9           'Sometimes that person was my sister. She was made  
10 to take all her bedclothes off her bed and put them  
11 outside in the corridor. Then she was dragged around  
12 the dorm and put outside with the bedclothes. She would  
13 be grabbed by her nightie, physically dragged out of the  
14 dorm. She would also be made to pick the bedclothes up  
15 and take them to the laundry, although sometimes I would  
16 help her. That for me was traumatising.

17           'If you were known to wet the bed you only got half  
18 a cup of tea at dinnertime. That was the dining room  
19 table and you had to declare you were a bed-wetter to  
20 the tea lady, so everyone else then knew you were  
21 a bed-wetter.

22           'Most of the time it was either Mrs PWH or  
23 Mrs Robertson that would come into the dorm in the  
24 morning and name the culprits and deal with them. Some  
25 people would try and hide that they had wet the bed, but

1 both of them would inspect the beds, check the cupboards  
2 for wet sheets and check the girls' nightwear, so it  
3 would always come to light. You could never really hide  
4 it.

5 'Some girls would even mess the bed through fear or  
6 whatever. You would always hear girls crying in their  
7 beds at night, missing home or fearful.

8 'I told you about the letters we wrote from the  
9 blackboard, but we also got mail sent to us from our  
10 mother. We had mail days at Fornethy and I am sure it  
11 was Mrs Fletcher that handed them out. They had always  
12 been opened and Mrs Fletcher would read out the names  
13 and whoever the letter was would go up and collect the  
14 letter.

15 'I shared a dorm with my sister when we were both at  
16 Fornethy. As far as I can remember, there was never  
17 a problem with me being with [my sister] or doing things  
18 with her.

19 'Fornethy was so regimental and strict. We all  
20 followed the same routine each day in terms of getting  
21 up in the morning, lunch, nighttime, going to bed,  
22 prayers and then lights out. If you weren't doing as  
23 you were told or there was any noise, you would get  
24 punishments.

25 'You could be taken out of your bed and told to

1 stand outside the dorm for long periods of time. I also  
2 seem to remember being taken to the library and being  
3 told to read this big book that Mrs Fletcher would give  
4 to you. It wasn't a normal book and that only happened  
5 at nighttime. I remember doing that while I was wearing  
6 my nightdress and housecoat. It was only ever two or  
7 three girls doing that. Another thing she had us do was  
8 play this game, Beetle something. I have no idea why we  
9 were being picked to -- getting picked to do that.

10 'You would also be punished if you were sick when  
11 Mrs Robertson or Mrs PWH had been forcing you to eat  
12 your food. They would sometimes have you clean shoes or  
13 clean the toilets or fix the laundry when it came back,  
14 something like that. They would think of some sort of  
15 punishment -- they would always think of some sort of  
16 punishment.

17 'You could be sent to your dormitory or chastised.  
18 That could be a slap or being hit with a sandshoe.

19 'I didn't ever run away but there were some lassies  
20 that did. They would be brought back, but I don't  
21 remember how they were punished or what happened to  
22 them.

23 'I can't remember if it was the first or second time  
24 I was at Fornethy, but Mrs PWH wasn't happy about me  
25 getting into bed with my sister. She dragged the two of

1           us out of bed by the hair. She stripped us down from  
2           our nightdresses to our pants, made us stand out in the  
3           hall and hit us with a sandshoe. I remember we were  
4           standing out in the hall for what seemed like forever  
5           and it was dark and cold with just the blue light on.  
6           My sister told me I wasn't getting [into] her bed again  
7           after that.

8           'The main ones were Fletcher, Robertson and  
9           Mrs PWH . They were always brutal and were [the ones  
10          that stand out]. All the girls were definitely fearful  
11          of all three of them.

12          PWH wore a skirt and a cardigan. She had black  
13          hair that she wore in a beehive and she smoked  
14          cigarettes. She had a frightening presence about her.  
15          You avoided looking at her so it wasn't you she was  
16          picking on. Mrs Robertson was a big woman. She would  
17          march about the place and make us all march about the  
18          place as well.

19          'Those three women were so harsh with all the girls.  
20          None of us knew how to place ourselves properly and  
21          I was always just trying my best to stop or prevent  
22          anything happening. We all just tried to do everything  
23          they told us to do, but there were some lassies that  
24          weren't going to do as they were told.

25          'I didn't know to say anything to mum and I don't

1 know if my sister did either. I don't think I ever  
2 spoke to my mum about how we were treated at Fornethy.  
3 I doubt it, because I don't think my mum would have sent  
4 us back.

5 'Back in those days, it was very much that children  
6 were seen and not heard and it was probably the case  
7 that I felt I deserved whatever was happening to me.  
8 I would have been thinking I'd done something wrong and  
9 that's what happens to you because of that. I don't  
10 know if I took on that responsibility myself as a wee  
11 one.

12 'One of the old-fashioned sayings was that you don't  
13 get a clout round the ear for nothing, so maybe there  
14 was a bit of that, and that's what happened at school as  
15 well. If something happened at school, you wouldn't go  
16 home and tell your mum and dad.

17 'Maybe that was something that was with me and my  
18 sister and that's why we didn't say anything about what  
19 happened. Me and my sister were able to talk to each  
20 other about Fornethy but only every now and again.  
21 I never thought to report it at all at that stage.  
22 I didn't see it as a crime. I didn't understand that  
23 back then at that age.

24 'I remember every time we went back home from  
25 Fornethy, my mum always had some nice new blanket or

1 a new nightdress or a housecoat lying out on the bed for  
2 us.

3 'We got the bus back, just the same as we went  
4 there, and my mum would pick us up in Glasgow.'

5 The witness then tells the Inquiry a little bit  
6 about her life after being at Fornethy and she, for  
7 example, tells the Inquiry that she's worked more or  
8 less her whole life since she left school at 15. She  
9 says:

10 'I have always worked with people. I remember years  
11 after Fornethy I was at a party and this girl came up to  
12 me and told me she remembered me from Fornethy and that  
13 I looked after her there. Just watching after her and  
14 making sure she was all right. I do wonder if that  
15 might have been part of me and what made me go into the  
16 care sector.

17 'Another part of going into the care sector might  
18 have been me going to the Girls' Brigade. I just kind  
19 of fell into care employment.'

20 The witness then finally speaks about 'Impact',  
21 my Lady, at paragraph 83 onwards:

22 'As a child at Fornethy it was such a rubbish time,  
23 particularly with the three teachers I've mentioned  
24 throughout. One or two of the other teachers were nice  
25 and were the buffers, keeping it a wee bit better for

1 us, but it really was a brutal time for us at Fornethy.

2 'What was particularly distressing was the fact that  
3 you couldn't speak to your parents. You couldn't phone  
4 them or speak to them. You couldn't have a private  
5 conversation with them and tell them to come and get you  
6 because you were unhappy.

7 'When I thought about it as an adult, the  
8 force-feeding and my dislike of foods at Fornethy was  
9 surely something to do with me ending up with bulimia.  
10 I didn't know and understand at that time, but when  
11 I was about 10 or 11 I was very thin.

12 'When I was older, I was at the dental hospital one  
13 time and the dentist noticed something about my teeth.  
14 He suddenly asked me if I was bulimic. I was shocked  
15 and very embarrassed [as] I wasn't expecting it and  
16 I said I wasn't. He asked if I was sick often and had  
17 I been. I had actually been making myself sick and  
18 I didn't understand why I was doing it or what I was  
19 doing.

20 'It all started on the back end of me being  
21 force-fed and being scared. Maybe it's my body's way of  
22 coping. I really don't know but after that shock,  
23 things changed and I thought differently because  
24 I didn't want to lose my teeth.

25 'I do get flashbacks, but one of the main things

1 I get when I look back is the limited learning  
2 I suffered throughout school. I think I just shut my  
3 brain down to protect it, but from primary school to  
4 secondary school, I feel I learned so little and I left  
5 school with no qualifications. I don't think I had the  
6 brain capacity to learn at that time, so I think being  
7 at Fornethy definitely impacted negatively on my  
8 learning. The treatment in the classroom has got to be  
9 linked. It wasn't until much later in life that I went  
10 back into education.

11 'My sister and I shared very similar experiences at  
12 Fornethy but we are very different from one another.  
13 I would say I came out of it all not too badly  
14 considering the experiences I suffered. I've used a lot  
15 of them as strengths and learnt and moved forward.  
16 However, the whole thing [has] really knocked my sister  
17 and she became really depressed and anxious. She was  
18 very fearful of schools and stuff like that.'

19 Between paragraphs 92 and 95 the witness speaks  
20 about reporting of the abuse and confirms that she has  
21 in more recent times spoken to the police.

22 In the very final paragraphs of the statement, the  
23 witness sets out some views -- some lessons, which she  
24 considers could be learnt.

25 From paragraph 97 onwards she says:

1           'A lot has changed since I was at Fornethy, but I do  
2 think there needs to be an independent person or body  
3 overseeing the care sector. That would be one of the  
4 best changes that could happen and making sure that the  
5 [current] routines and the structures are safe for  
6 children and young people. Adults cannot be allowed to  
7 be emotionally and physically abusive towards children.

8           'I think they should have counsellors already at  
9 residential facilities, as many of the children that  
10 went to Fornethy were already traumatised. Those kids  
11 were just going into another trauma arena without having  
12 had the previous trauma at home dealt with. That could  
13 be related to [various factors]. Kids just had to put  
14 their experiences and feelings into a box or hide them  
15 and then, boom, they're right into this other,  
16 regimental-type abuse, which was consistent and daily.

17           'There should definitely be people there that can  
18 recognise children who are having traumatic experiences,  
19 some kind of counsellors that would be available for  
20 those children and young people.'

21           In terms of 'Hopes for the Inquiry', the witness  
22 says:

23           'I hope the children and young people get a voice  
24 which is heard. I know they are being much more heard  
25 nowadays and it's not so much like children should be

1           seen and not heard, but I do hope the Inquiry allows  
2           openness and accountability in terms of residential  
3           schools and the reasons, whatever they might be, that  
4           children need to go there.

5           'Children and young people must feel safe and if  
6           they do not feel safe, they need to know who they can  
7           turn to or go to in times of need. I know there are big  
8           changes already in place, but it's important to ensure  
9           that those placed to make the change actually do what  
10          they say they're going to do.

11          'I have no objection to my witness statement being  
12          published as part of the evidence to the Inquiry.  
13          I believe the facts stated in this witness statement are  
14          true.'

15          'Mary' signed the statement on 13 December 2021.

16          My Lady, I can also advise that 'Mary' was  
17          a complainer in the trial of Patricia Robertson and the  
18          charge in relation to the abuse of 'Mary', the verdict  
19          was a conviction.

20   LADY SMITH: Thank you very much.

21   MS MACLEOD: My Lady, that completes the evidence for  
22          Phase 10, which started in December last year, and my  
23          understanding is that there will be submissions next  
24          month.

25   LADY SMITH: Next month, a couple of weeks', two or three

1 weeks' time.

2 MS MACLEOD: Yes, 18 and 19 June are the dates, my Lady.

3 LADY SMITH: Which are the end of that week.

4 MS MACLEOD: Yes, the Thursday and the Friday.

5 LADY SMITH: The Thursday and the Friday. Yes.

6 Well, thank you both very much. Thank you for  
7 completing those read-ins today, because I know that  
8 takes quite an effort.

9 I don't think there are any fresh names. They are  
10 the same as I mentioned earlier. I'm not going to  
11 repeat them now.

12 I hope you all have a good weekend. Thank you.

13 (3.05 pm)

14 (The Inquiry adjourned until 10.00 am

15 on Thursday, 18 June 2026)

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