

1 Wednesday, 10 January 2018

2 (10.00 am)

3 LADY SMITH: Good morning. We return to the evidence of a
4 witness who is here this morning; is that right,
5 Mr MacAulay?

6 MR MacAULAY: Good morning, my Lady. Yes, that is the case.

7 The witness this morning is an applicant who wants
8 to remain anonymous and wants to use the name "Gerry"
9 when giving his evidence.

10 LADY SMITH: Thank you.

11 "GERRY" (sworn)

12 LADY SMITH: Do sit down and make yourself comfortable.

13 If I can ask you to make sure you're close enough to
14 the microphone to be heard, it should make your life
15 easier and we'll be able to hear every word you say.

16 Mr MacAulay, when you're ready.

17 Questions from Mr MacAULAY

18 MR MacAULAY: Good morning, Gerry.

19 A. Good morning.

20 Q. I'll be asking you some questions based upon the
21 statement that you've already provided to the inquiry.
22 That statement is within that red folder that you have
23 in front of you. That's where I'm going to go first of
24 all.

25 I want to give the reference for the transcript of

1 the statement and that's WIT.001.001.2876. Could I take
2 you to the last page of the statement, Gerry, which is
3 at 2908. I want you to look at your signature. Can you
4 just confirm you have signed the statement?

5 A. Yes, I have signed it.

6 Q. Do you also tell us in the last paragraph that:

7 "I have no objection to my witness statement being
8 published as part of the evidence to the inquiry"?

9 Is that right?

10 A. That's right.

11 Q. You also go on to say:

12 "I believe the facts stated in this witness
13 statement are true."

14 A. Yes.

15 Q. As I indicated, I will be asking you questions
16 essentially based upon the statement. If I ask you
17 about something and you can't remember, just say so.
18 Likewise, if something comes to mind that you hadn't
19 remembered at the time of the statement, again feel free
20 to tell us about that. Do you understand that?

21 A. Yes.

22 Q. I don't want your date of birth, but in order to get
23 a time frame I need your year of birth. Am I right in
24 thinking you were born in 1957?

25 A. Yes.

1 Q. We know that from your statement that you eventually
2 ended up in care in Smyllum. Do you have any
3 recollection of your life before you went into care?

4 A. No.

5 Q. But have you carried out some research, with the benefit
6 of hindsight, to give you some insight as to what life
7 may have been like?

8 A. Yes, I have.

9 Q. What conclusions have you arrived at?

10 A. What I've arrived at is that my dad was from India and
11 my mother was from Glasgow. They weren't married.
12 We were born out of wedlock, so at that time we'd be
13 seen as illegitimate. We tried to find out as much as
14 we could about them as people in terms of why we ended
15 up in care and we never got any answers to that. So
16 I just looked into that myself over the years. I knew
17 that my dad came from the Punjab in India and he was
18 a Sikh. I don't know when he came to Scotland or when
19 he came to Glasgow, but I know that he had spent -- must
20 have spent four or five years with my mother and had
21 three children, which was my sister, myself and my
22 brother.

23 We tried our best to find out from social workers
24 and various people the reasons why we went into care and
25 we never got any answers from anyone. I don't know how

- 1 much you want me to say about this.
- 2 Q. I think you do tell us in your statement that before you
3 went into care, your father had returned to India; you
4 became aware of that?
- 5 A. We'd been told two basic things. Our life story was
6 given to us in two lines: your dad went back to India,
7 your mother went to London. That was our life story
8 given to us. No matter how many times we asked over the
9 years for more details about that, "Your father went
10 back to India, your mother went to London", and that was
11 it, nothing else.
- 12 Q. The fact that your father went back to India, does that
13 mean that for your mother with three young children,
14 it would not have been an easy environment? I think
15 you have come do that conclusion.
- 16 A. Yes. I came to the conclusion that my mother was in an
17 intolerable situation of poverty, neglect. She was
18 ostracised by her own family, she suffered racism, as
19 far as we know. I found that out later on in life. So
20 she was left isolated with us, with absolutely no
21 support from anyone. As far as I know, she had some
22 kind of breakdown and ended up in hospital, whether it
23 was under psychiatric care or what, I don't know, but
24 she was not able to manage us because of her own mental
25 health.

1 So we were -- as far as I know, we were taken to
2 Bellevue. I was 2 at the time. My sister was 4 and my
3 brother was 11 months old. But the actual circumstances
4 of that transition was never, ever made clear to us by
5 anybody as to whether my mother made that decision,
6 whether the decision was made for her, who was involved
7 in this decision-making, whether she was told about us
8 going there, whether she was kept informed about us
9 being there. Nothing.

10 You know, no one was ever prepared to give us any
11 information about how that whole situation came about,
12 despite asking over many years as we got older -- and my
13 sister, especially as she got older had children of her
14 own, wanted to know what the circumstances were and
15 nobody would tell her a thing.

16 Q. When you mention nobody, was the social work
17 department --

18 A. The social work department, churches. Anybody that she
19 tried to approach she was obstructed, told to go away.
20 She was told things like, your mother didn't want you,
21 really sort of emotionally damaging statements like that
22 to her. Even foster carers that we had would say the
23 same: why are you asking that, your mother didn't want
24 you.

25 So it wasn't just simply being denied information,

1 but it was actually the brutality of sort of telling you
2 that you were worthless and weren't wanted by your
3 parents on top of it, which was incredibly damaging, and
4 that was right across the board, whoever you spoke to.

5 Q. We may come back to that then, Gerry. Against that
6 background, as you've indicated, you and your brother
7 and sister were admitted to Smyllum --

8 A. Yes.

9 Q. -- to Bellevue, rather, first of all.

10 A. Yes.

11 Q. You said you were 2, which would make it about 1959 or
12 thereabouts; is that correct?

13 A. Yes.

14 Q. You tell us in your statement you really have no
15 recollection of Bellevue.

16 A. I have no recollection of that, no, but my sister has a
17 recollection because she was 4. She told me on many
18 occasions of what it was like when we arrived at
19 Smyllum.

20 Q. At Bellevue.

21 A. Yes, at Bellevue. She told me on many occasions she
22 remembers because my sister remembers her mother.

23 I don't, and my brother doesn't -- he was only
24 11 months -- but my sister remembers her. This is
25 something I want to touch on later as to why it's

1 affected her much worse than us, what happened, because
2 she was old enough to remember being taken from her
3 mother because she'd already developed a bond of some
4 kind with her, she had a relationship with her, had
5 a memory of her, and pined after her.

6 So when she was taken to Bellevue, she was in
7 a different mental state than my brother and I because
8 we probably didn't even know, we've no memory of it, but
9 she remembers arriving there. She always tells me her
10 first memory was going in there and the first thing she
11 saw was another small child who was dirty and smelly and
12 looked neglected and she thought that it was an awful
13 place to be entering and that she didn't want to be
14 there. That's the memory that she has passed to us.
15 I have no reason to disbelieve that.

16 So her memory that she passed to us, which -- we
17 carry that memory also, obviously, is of appearing at
18 this awful institution where the first thing you were
19 confronted with was neglect.

20 Q. And Bellevue closed in 1961.

21 A. Mm-hm.

22 Q. We know from admission records that we've seen that
23 you were admitted to Smyllum on [REDACTED] 1961. I know
24 you have no recollection of that, but would that fit in
25 with the time frame that you have in mind?

1 A. What date is that?

2 Q. [REDACTED] 1961, so you'd be aged about 3.

3 A. So you have a record of that, Colin?

4 Q. Well, we have recovered the admissions material from --

5 A. That's interesting because I've spent my life trying to

6 find that information and have only been told that

7 today. This is part of the ongoing abuse, the fact that

8 I have had to wait 60 years to get that piece of

9 information that you've just given me now.

10 Q. Would you be about 3 then? Again you have no

11 recollection, but if that is the --

12 A. If I went into Bellevue at 2, I would be 3, yes.

13 Q. Can you tell me when you begin to have a memory of life

14 at Smyllum?

15 A. Yes.

16 Q. Can you help me with that?

17 A. Yes. My first memory of Smyllum is terror. That's the

18 best way to describe it: being in a dark dormitory,

19 feeling like you were trapped in there and wondering --

20 just being terrified. That's my first memory of

21 Smyllum.

22 Q. Can you tell me if you can what age you might have been

23 at that time?

24 A. Well, I think the beds were slightly bigger than me, so

25 3, 4.

- 1 Q. Okay. I think you came to leave Smyllum at the age of
2 about 7 to 8; is that correct?
- 3 A. Yes, 7.
- 4 Q. About 7. And I think, as we'll see, you went to foster
5 care at that time.
- 6 A. Mm-hm.
- 7 Q. Insofar as the names of nuns that might have been
8 involved with you at that stage, do you have any memory
9 of the names of nuns?
- 10 A. Yes, one in particular. A nun named Sister EAC is
11 the one that's in my head. And also a Sister BAE,
12 who I think was a Mother Superior of some kind.
- 13 Q. We'll come back to the sisters shortly. Just looking to
14 the location then that you have a recollection of being
15 in, can you just help me with that? You mentioned
16 dormitories, so was it a dormitory of some kind?
- 17 A. Mm-hm.
- 18 Q. So did you remain in that same dormitory throughout your
19 whole time at Smyllum?
- 20 A. No, I was in two different ones.
- 21 Q. Let's look at the first one. Can you remember the name
22 of that location or the unit or the dormitory?
- 23 A. No.
- 24 Q. And the second one?
- 25 A. No.

- 1 Q. So far as the first dormitory was concerned, was it just
2 boys who were in that section?
- 3 A. As far as I can remember, yes.
- 4 Q. And the second one?
- 5 A. I can't be sure, really.
- 6 Q. What about ages then? You thought you might have been
7 about 4 or thereabouts with that first recollection.
8 Can you remember when you moved to the second place that
9 you were in?
- 10 A. No awareness of age, really.
- 11 Q. Okay. The size of the dormitories that you --
- 12 A. Well, the first one, the one that is my first
13 recollection was smaller than the other one, which was
14 bigger, had more beds in it.
- 15 Q. You have mentioned two nuns and you thought
16 Sister **BAE** might have been the nun in charge of
17 the --
- 18 A. Yes.
- 19 Q. What about Sister **EAC**, what was her involvement
20 with you?
- 21 A. Her involvement with me was really beating me. That's
22 my overriding memory. And it goes round and it has been
23 going round in my head for the last 53 years now. It is
24 just a circular newsreel of her running at me, trying to
25 hit me, me running away from her.

- 1 Q. We'll come back and look at that in a bit more detail,
2 Gerry. But what you do tell us in your statement
3 is that you think you may have blocked some memories
4 out.
- 5 A. Yes, I'm absolutely sure about that.
- 6 Q. What makes you think that? Can you help me?
- 7 A. Because I went to Smyllum ... If I went to Smyllum when
8 I was 3 -- and I remember that terrifying experience of
9 being in that dark dormitory with no -- sort of feeling
10 that you were isolated and without any sort of adult
11 support or ... almost like a dungeon of some kind. So
12 if I was there until I was 7, which is four years,
13 that's a lot of seasons of spring, summer, autumn,
14 winter. It's a lot of days, it's a lot of long, lonely
15 nights. It's a lot of getting up in the morning, going
16 to bed, and yet so much of it is blank. That's why
17 I think I've probably blocked quite a lot of it out.
- 18 Q. One point I think you make in your statement in relation
19 to bathing and showering is that there were baths and
20 showers in a large communal area. You have
21 a recollection of that?
- 22 A. Yes.
- 23 Q. But you only remember getting a bath the day before you
24 left?
- 25 A. Yes. That's right.

- 1 Q. So you have no recollection of a bath in any other
2 occasion?
- 3 A. No. No, I have a recollection of a shower block with
4 carbolic soap. That's all. Almost as if it's just an
5 image of it and that's it. I don't have any memory of
6 routines or day-to-day things or ...
- 7 Q. What about toilets? Do you have a recollection of the
8 toilet area?
- 9 A. I have a very clear memory of the toilets.
- 10 Q. Can you help me with that? What was that like?
- 11 A. There was no privacy or no dignity of any kind. It was
12 just rows of toilets, toilet pans, with no cubicle doors
13 and there was a big toilet at one end for staff members
14 to use. So we were all -- children and staff were
15 toileting at the same time without any privacy.
- 16 Q. One topic you do talk about in your statement, and
17 I want to ask you about it now, and I know it may be
18 quite upsetting for you, is bed-wetting.
- 19 A. Mm.
- 20 Q. First of all, can I ask you, did you wet the bed when
21 you were at Smyllum?
- 22 A. I don't remember wetting the bed personally, but
23 I remember needing the toilet during the night and what
24 is -- in a dormitory of complete darkness and knowing
25 that there was no way that that was possible, there was

1 no way out, there was no one to sort of guide you,
2 support you, help you, show you where toilets were. You
3 were effectively -- knew you were in that room for the
4 night and you'd better not make any kind of noise or do
5 anything. So if you need the toilet, what do you do?
6 I remember needing the toilet -- and this is why it's
7 a traumatic memory, this one-off. Needing the toilet
8 and getting out of bed and having no idea what to do
9 about it.

10 I didn't want to wet the bed because I knew I would
11 be punished the next day or whatever if that happened so
12 I couldn't allow that to happen. So I wandered around
13 the dormitory -- I don't know if I was 3, 4, 5 years
14 old -- trying to decide what to do in the dark.

15 I came up with the great idea of just peeing on
16 someone else's bed from the outside to relieve myself
17 and then getting back into my own bed and that's what
18 I did because I couldn't -- I didn't know what else to
19 do.

20 Q. Was this just one occasion that this happened?

21 A. That's the one occasion I remember.

22 Q. Let's just talk about bed-wetting more generally
23 because, clearly, as you have just told us, you did not
24 want to wet the bed. Why not?

25 A. Because I saw other children who had wet the bed having

1 their urine-soaked sheets wrapped around them and
2 standing around. The image that always comes to my mind
3 is -- if you ever see an old film of like the Roman
4 Senate where they're all wearing togas and talking, what
5 you saw was young boys standing around, you know,
6 chatting to each other as if it was normal, with their
7 urine-soaked sheets wrapped around them. But they were
8 not distressed in any sense because it was normal for
9 that to be happening.

10 This is the thing I want to put across about when
11 you're in a situation where that level of what I would
12 call criminality, it's more than abuse, it is happening
13 on a daily basis, on a regular basis, people don't show
14 distress because they don't know anything else. It was
15 a normal thing to stand around with your urine-soaked
16 sheets wrapped around you.

17 Q. Did you see if any adults, either a nun or a layperson,
18 had any involvement in this whole process?

19 A. I don't remember any specific people being involved
20 in that. I just remember witnessing it and not wanting
21 to be part of that.

22 Q. Do you know what happened to the sheets? Did you see
23 what these children did?

24 A. No idea.

25 Q. In your time at Smyllum, perhaps the three or four years

1 you were there, how regular an occurrence was this
2 process?

3 A. As I say, my memory -- although I don't have a lot of
4 clear memories, my memory of it was that it was routine.
5 This was not ...

6 This is why I find the terminology, you know, the
7 Scottish Child Abuse Inquiry -- when I first saw that,
8 I thought abuse doesn't really cover it in terms of
9 what was going on there because it was systematic. It
10 was -- from my point of view it was systematic
11 persecution and torture of children because it wasn't
12 just one-off, it wasn't like an abusive incident
13 happened here, an abusive incident happened there; it
14 was systematic persecution and torture of children as
15 a way of life, as far as I remember. That is what it
16 was like. That was normal. It was normal for these
17 things to happen. These were not one-off occasions
18 where someone lost their temper or decided, oh, we're
19 going to have some kind of punishment. This was the
20 normality of the place. So to me, it was
21 a concentration camp; it wasn't a care home.

22 Q. The occasion you told us about when you urinated beside
23 somebody else's bed, you also indicate in your statement
24 that you engaged in a degree of self-harm --

25 A. Mm, yes.

1 Q. -- that night.

2 A. Mm.

3 Q. Can you tell me about that?

4 A. Well, I just remember lying in bed and scratching my
5 forearm for most of the night, all night, just
6 scratching and scratching and scratching until my
7 forearm was just red raw from about my elbow down to my
8 wrist. I was just doing that for the whole night.
9 I remember the pain of it and I remember seeing the
10 blood in the morning.

11 Q. Did anybody comment on that?

12 A. No, no. Why would they?

13 Q. Just to digress a bit from what you have been telling us
14 about, can I ask you a bit about the general routine?
15 Schooling. Do you have a recollection of going to
16 school within Smyllum? Because we know there was
17 a school there.

18 A. Yes.

19 Q. You have some recollection of that?

20 A. I have some recollection of going into the school
21 building in -- the school classroom was old-style
22 stepped desks where you went up the steps, like in
23 a cinema, and the wooden desks lifted up and you had
24 books underneath, I remember that, and there were
25 partitions between the classrooms.

- 1 Q. And trips, do you remember going on different trips?
- 2 A. I do remember one trip, actually, on a bus to the
3 seaside -- I don't know where it was -- and not being
4 able to find the bus. I think it probably happens to
5 a lot of kids nowadays, looking for the bus. I remember
6 that.
- 7 Q. As far as playtime was concerned, we know Smyllum had
8 extensive grounds.
- 9 A. Mm.
- 10 Q. Did you play in the grounds outside?
- 11 A. Yes. I mean, one of the memories I have of Smyllum was
12 they had huge parklands. I remember the summertimes
13 where, if you were out there, you were outside of -- you
14 were away from the regime. So in summer days, you know,
15 it could be quite nice just to be out there in the grass
16 and the sunshine, yes.
- 17 Q. You have already told us -- and I think we know -- that
18 when you went to Smyllum you went with your younger
19 brother and your older sister. In your time at Smyllum
20 did you have much contact with either of those?
- 21 A. None, none. I don't ... This is why the term
22 "concentration camp" really appeals to me in terms of
23 trying to explain this. I mean, if you remember all the
24 sort of documentation there is about the way these
25 places were run, as soon as people arrived at

1 concentration camps, they were segregated.

2 I actually believe that this system was
3 orchestrated, the abuse was orchestrated, and we were
4 deliberately dehumanised from the moment we arrived, and
5 part of that dehumanisation was to segregate you because
6 it was a coercive, controlling environment. I never saw
7 my sister the whole time I was there and I don't
8 remember seeing my brother. We never talked to each
9 other. So for all the years I was there we had no
10 conversations. So, yeah, we were segregated on arrival.

11 Q. In your statement you talk about Smyllum being like
12 a concentration camp and that you were not treated as
13 children, you were inmates.

14 A. We were inmates. It was a dehumanising place. We had
15 no dignity, the staff there didn't treat us as humans,
16 never mind children. We were just, I don't know,
17 commodities. We were not -- they didn't look upon us
18 as ... We didn't have any value to them. We were there
19 to be managed in some kind of way. Our feelings, our
20 development, none of these things were of any
21 importance, as far as I remember.

22 Q. Do you have any recollection of being shown love or
23 kindness during your time?

24 A. No. Never.

25 Q. What about the demeanour of the nuns that you came

- 1 across? Can you tell me anything about --
- 2 A. That's the one -- the nun that I mentioned,
- 3 Sister **EAC**, I remember her very clearly with her
- 4 **[REDACTED]**. She was a **[REDACTED]** nun and her face
- 5 was often contorted with rage. These were people whose
- 6 demeanour was always severe. They never smiled or
- 7 looked at you with any kind of human, emotional -- with
- 8 any feeling. It was always just a stern severity all
- 9 the time. They were quick to aggression, quick to
- 10 anger. Yes, their expressions were always severe.
- 11 Q. Again you have mentioned Sister **EAC**. Do you think
- 12 that she had some degree of charge over you or can you
- 13 not say?
- 14 A. It's very difficult. I mean, when you're 5/6 years old,
- 15 and you're in an environment like that, it's shattering.
- 16 I mean, sometimes I think about it now and I look back
- 17 on that and I can hardly believe it. I can hardly
- 18 believe the level of cruelty that existed in that place.
- 19 I can hardly believe it. But I know it existed.
- 20 That -- for whatever reason, it's all channelled
- 21 into that one nun in terms of my memory of that sort of
- 22 anger, violence. It's all in the image of that one nun.
- 23 Whether that was because I had a lot of contact with her
- 24 over the time, I don't know. But it's all -- that's ...
- 25 Q. If we look at the dormitories, the two you mentioned,

1 do you have a recollection of a nun or nuns being
2 present in these dormitories?

3 A. I remember the door slamming in these dormitories and
4 you were there in the dark and that was it. There was
5 no -- nobody, there were no caregivers of any kind
6 checking in on you, seeing if you were okay or guiding
7 you in any way in terms of anything. You were just in
8 there, the door was shut, dark, be quiet. That was it,
9 left to your own imagination, your fears or whatever.
10 All I remember is in one of the dormitories seeing
11 shadowy figures going around -- is that later? Do you
12 want me to --

13 Q. We'll look at that because you do --

14 A. Okay, we'll come back to that. But there was certainly
15 nobody -- once you were in there at night, you never saw
16 anyone until the next morning.

17 Q. But in the morning then, who would you see? Have you
18 a recollection of that?

19 A. I can't remember.

20 Q. You say something in your statement and I just want to
21 understand exactly what you mean, and it's in
22 paragraph 27. What you say is:

23 "I had to go into a place within my mind to
24 survive."

25 Do you see that paragraph?

1 A. Yes.

2 Q. What do you mean by that?

3 A. Well, I've had nightmares all my life about this
4 experience. I think the reason why I think I can say
5 that, even though I don't actually remember it -- you
6 know, if you're a 4/5-year-old child, you can't
7 articulate what you're doing, but I know when I think
8 about these things -- like before I came in here, I was
9 very nervous, anxious, all the rest of it. As soon as
10 I start talking about these things, my whole body just
11 numbs -- and I feel numb just now -- and I'm completely
12 relaxed, I am completely calm, I don't feel any anger,
13 I don't feel any stress at this moment in time while I'm
14 thinking about this because I think that's what I did
15 at the time. This is what came up through therapy, as
16 well. I'd be talking about really quite terrible
17 experiences and I would have no emotions.

18 So I rationalise from that that that's what I must
19 have done at the time, that, you know, I must have just
20 completely relaxed and became calm and became numb as
21 a way of dealing with the violence I was experiencing,
22 because I feel it in my body now, I felt it through
23 therapy in the same way. But as soon as I'm not
24 thinking about it, then I'm anxious and agitated and all
25 the rest of it. But as soon as the emotions are there,

1 then -- and I feel it now -- the numbness I feel now is
2 I'm sure what I felt then.

3 Q. You mentioned nightmares; you still have nightmares?

4 A. I still have nightmares.

5 Q. How do they manifest themselves?

6 A. I just feel as if there's someone -- it's always the
7 same nightmare: I'm in the dormitory, there's people
8 there, someone's coming to my bed and I start to panic,
9 start to feel terror, I feel like a hand coming to touch
10 me and when that happens, I try to speak, I try to cry
11 out, but my voice is paralysed, my body is paralysed,
12 and I just howl and my wife wakes me up from this
13 terrifying howl. I've had that nightmare for 50 years.

14 Q. In the next paragraph -- and I think you have perhaps
15 touched on this if not covered it, but you say that, in
16 your opinion, "abuse" is a soft word.

17 A. Mm.

18 Q. You go on to say it was your job to survive. That's
19 quite strong language.

20 A. Mm. Mm.

21 Q. Can you just ...

22 A. Well, I just feel that being in a place like that was
23 about survival. You were always trying to get away from
24 nuns, always try to get away from staff members, you
25 were always trying to protect yourself from violence.

1 I don't remember eating any food; I remember the smell
2 of rancid food that you couldn't eat. So there was no
3 safety or security in the place.

4 As I mentioned earlier, when you were in these
5 dormitories you were terrified. You saw other people
6 being abused continually. So, you know, you were
7 living -- as a small child, your job was just to survive
8 that atmosphere. That's the only way I can describe it.

9 Q. You talked about, and you talk in your statement about,
10 watching other people suffering.

11 A. Yes.

12 Q. You describe that as being a form of emotional abuse.

13 A. Of course it was. I remember standing looking into
14 a room where a staff member was hitting other kids,
15 lining them up and hitting them. I was just looking
16 through the door and seeing this and I just looked away
17 again because what can you do?

18 Q. You mentioned the smell, having a memory of the smell of
19 rancid food and also some information given to you by
20 your sister about eating grass.

21 A. Mm, mm.

22 Q. Did you have some discussion with your sister about
23 that?

24 A. She talked about sitting in the grasslands, just eating
25 grass with her friend because they were so hungry.

1 Again, that's why I think "abuse" doesn't cover it.
2 That's part of -- if you think about people being
3 starved and beaten, we were basically starved and
4 beaten, tortured, persecuted as a way of life. That's
5 my way -- that's my truth. It doesn't matter what
6 anybody else says about it in terms of those who were
7 running the place. My truth as a child is what was
8 happening there was a crime against humanity -- that's
9 how I see it -- because it was orchestrated, it went on
10 for years, we were small children, we were at
11 a developmental age.

12 I hesitate to use the word, but I'm going to use it.
13 I think it was -- what's happened in this country was
14 a holocaust of developmental trauma inflicted on
15 thousands of children over decades. I'm absolutely
16 convinced of that because I was there. I saw it and
17 I saw what we had to endure.

18 "Abuse" doesn't cover it, it just doesn't cover it,
19 the scale of it. Our job was to survive. There was no
20 safety, there was no security, there was no love, there
21 was no kindness. Your basic needs were just not part of
22 the equation. You were just warehoused in that place.
23 If you came out there alive you were lucky -- and many
24 didn't. You know, many didn't. There's a mass grave in
25 Smyllum just now. There were mass graves in Germany.

1 There are mass graves in Scotland. Now, okay, it's not
2 in the same scale, that would be ridiculous, but the
3 methods were the same: torture, persecution,
4 dehumanisation as an orchestrated way of running
5 a situation. That's what we had to try and survive for
6 many years, and many of us didn't survive it.

7 Q. Sister [REDACTED] EAC Can I take you back to
8 Sister [REDACTED] EAC. You do tell us about a particular
9 incident that you have a memory of, of Sister [REDACTED] EAC
10 chasing after you. Can you tell me about that?
11 A. She was chasing after me and --
12 Q. Can I stop you there? Do you know why?
13 A. I have no idea why she was chasing after me. She was
14 chasing after me, intent on hitting me. As I said
15 before, her face was contorted with rage, she was going
16 to give me some kind of beating. I was crying out as
17 much as I could, I was running around, trying to get
18 away from this demon, basically. I ran towards the
19 Mother Superior's room, which I had never been in, it
20 was not anywhere that you would ever be allowed in, but
21 you knew it was a kind of out-of-bounds place where this
22 person was.

23 I reached up to turn the handle -- I always remember
24 that, reaching up, which reminds me of how small I was
25 when this happened, having to reach up to turn the

1 handle. Both hands, trying to turn this big handle, and
2 I managed to push the door open and there was the
3 Mother Superior.

4 This is where the first time the concentration camp
5 image ever came to me is thinking about this -- and I've
6 thought about this hundreds and hundreds of times -- is
7 the contrast between their living conditions and ours.
8 We were living in barrack-type conditions of steel beds
9 like you would see in any sort of prison. And in there,
10 the Mother Superior, the environment was plush, lovely
11 red carpets, drapes, nice furniture, a piano, a vase of
12 flowers, just like the commandant of some concentration
13 camp living in his nice house while the inmates were all
14 in their barracks. That's what that reminded me of.

15 There was a priest sitting there as well with china
16 cups drinking tea, having biscuits, and I was in a state
17 of complete distress and he glared at me. I'll never
18 forget it. He glared at me as if, "What the hell are
19 you doing in here?" No concern for my distress or the
20 fact that I was upset, that I was a small child, just,
21 "What the hell are you doing in here?"

22 Q. And what happened then, Gerry? You've reached this
23 inner sanctum, if you like.

24 A. Inner sanctum, yes.

25 Q. But did Sister EAC catch you?

1 A. She didn't catch me, but what I remember is standing for
2 a moment in absolute wonder at the contrast. Absolute
3 wonder. I just looked around me and I couldn't believe
4 how they were living compared to us. I just couldn't
5 believe it. For that moment I actually felt safe
6 because it was like stepping into another world where
7 these -- the way we were treated couldn't possibly
8 happen. How could it happen in a place like this?
9 People are sitting drinking tea and eating biscuits.

10 Q. What I'm asking effectively is: were you safe from the
11 chasing Sister **EAC** ?

12 A. I was safe for a few seconds.

13 Q. What did happen?

14 A. Sister **BAE** just kind of, you know, said a few soft
15 words about, "Oh, what are you doing in here?" and then
16 put me outside and closed the door. I remember her soft
17 words in comparison to the way I was being treated by
18 the other nun. That's always puzzled me over the years,
19 that contrast. How is it possible -- and I know I keep
20 repeating myself about the concentration camp image, but
21 the same thing happened that happens in concentration
22 camps where people sit and drink tea while other people
23 are suffering. And I always remember that.

24 I can't for the life of me -- their values must have
25 been completely distorted that they could sit in there

1 and drink tea and have biscuits and be sitting in the
2 plush environment while we were being tortured on the
3 outside. I'll never understand -- and that's why
4 I don't ...

5 One of the reasons why I wanted to confirm the oath
6 in terms of God and not just affirm is because God
7 didn't exist in that place. But I believe God exists
8 and I want to make that clear. I believe that these
9 orders, these religious orders, had nothing to do with
10 God or Christianity or anything like that in terms of
11 how they ran that place.

12 Q. Do you then have any recollection how this particular
13 incident came to an end in the sense of whether
14 Sister **EAC** caught you or whether you managed --

15 A. I think the fact that I got in there was enough to just
16 bring the situation to an end. I think she calmed
17 herself because I got away and other people had --
18 whether ... I don't really understand why, but the fact
19 that I got in there and there was a break was enough for
20 her to just calm down.

21 Q. Okay.

22 A. But I actually don't remember the next step, whether she
23 took me away or -- I just don't remember.

24 Q. Can I ask you more generally then about Sister **EAC**
25 because she seems to be the nun that you appeared to be

- 1 able to identify in particular?
- 2 A. Mm.
- 3 Q. Did she hit you?
- 4 A. Yes.
- 5 Q. You have a recollection of that?
- 6 A. I have recollections of her hitting me. My recollection
- 7 of running away from her was from the point of view of
- 8 she's not going to get me this time. I remember that
- 9 going round in my head. So obviously, as a child, if
- 10 I'm thinking, you're not going to get me this time, then
- 11 I obviously knew what was going to happen. But that's
- 12 the memory I have: you're not going to get me this time.
- 13 And that's why I managed to barge into that
- 14 Mother Superior's room.
- 15 Q. But looking to what she did when she did hit you, can
- 16 you elaborate upon what happened?
- 17 A. I can't remember.
- 18 Q. Do you know over what period of time you may have been
- 19 hit by this particular nun?
- 20 A. I don't know. I just can't remember.
- 21 Q. But your recollection is that you were hit?
- 22 A. My recollection is that I was hit and I was going to be
- 23 hit. That's my recollection.
- 24 Q. Do you know if she used any form of implement at any
- 25 time?

- 1 A. I can't remember.
- 2 Q. What about other nuns? Do you have any recollection of
3 other nuns striking you at any time?
- 4 A. No.
- 5 Q. Did you see other children being hit?
- 6 A. Yes.
- 7 Q. By whom?
- 8 A. By members of staff.
- 9 Q. What about by nuns?
- 10 A. Not by nuns, no.
- 11 Q. You do mention a staff member in your statement who you
12 saw hitting children; is that right?
- 13 A. Mm-hm.
- 14 Q. Was that on a regular basis?
- 15 A. Not that I remember. I just remember seeing, looking
16 in the door.
- 17 Q. This is the incident you told us about before?
- 18 A. Yes. Looking in a door and seeing people being hit,
19 yes.
- 20 Q. By this staff member?
- 21 A. By this staff member, yes.
- 22 Q. You also mention in your statement, at paragraph 40, [REDACTED]
23 [REDACTED] BAC [REDACTED].
- 24 A. Mm.
- 25 Q. You say you called him "Black Bob"; is that right?

- 1 A. That's what I called him, yes.
- 2 Q. Because he wore overalls?
- 3 A. He wore overalls and he was dirty, he was [REDACTED],
4 but also his character was dirty. That was the
5 impression we had as children: that this is someone to
6 avoid, he was dangerous.
- 7 Q. You say the other kids warned you to stay away from him?
- 8 A. Yes.
- 9 Q. Did children say that to you?
- 10 A. Yes.
- 11 Q. Were you given any explanation as to why?
- 12 A. No, just -- well, I think, "Don't go in the shed with
13 him", or something like that, "Don't go in the boiler
14 room with him", that kind of thing. I just remember
15 getting warnings from other kids to avoid this person.
- 16 Q. And did you avoid him?
- 17 A. Yes, oh yes.
- 18 Q. You have mentioned already your recollection of seeing
19 people in the dormitories and this, I think, seems to
20 have become your recurring nightmare.
- 21 A. Mm.
- 22 Q. Can I just bring you to what the position was that you
23 actually remember as being the reality, if you like?
24 What did happen?
- 25 A. I think the difficult thing is memory's difficult

1 because of the whole thing of, you know, blocking things
2 out that you don't want to remember. We know that is
3 a fact: when you're traumatised, you can't remember.
4 It's part of the way of surviving. I know that. So
5 memory's a difficult thing to pinpoint.

6 But all I can go on is the feelings that
7 I experienced when I was there and the sort of images
8 that I remember seeing and feeling, and I remember
9 in the dormitories adults coming in during the night and
10 they felt to me more like intruders than people who
11 should have been there. That's how it felt to me.

12 That's a frightening thing, you know, where you're
13 in a dark dormitory and there's people, shadowy figures
14 wandering about, adult figures, and you don't know why
15 they're there.

16 Q. Did any of these figures approach you in the dormitory?

17 A. I remember being terrified that they would. That's my
18 memory: "I hope they don't come near me." I think
19 that's why I have a constant nightmare about it because
20 my memory is: please don't come near me. Now, that's
21 not a normal -- that shouldn't be a normal childhood
22 experience when you're in your bed at night, that there
23 are shadowy figures in your room and you're terrified of
24 them. That's my memory. I don't remember specific
25 things happening, but I remember the fear.

1 Q. Okay. One thing you tell us about is that you knew
2 Samuel Carr --

3 A. Mm.

4 Q. -- who we know died in 1964.

5 A. Mm.

6 Q. Was he a friend of yours?

7 A. I remember Sammy, I remember his blonde hair.

8 I remember he was a nice little boy. I remember him
9 being dead and I remember him being alive very shortly
10 before that. So the manner of his death, even as
11 a small child, to me felt very suspicious. When I --
12 the suddenness of his death was suspicious for me as
13 a child because it didn't make any sense. When I asked
14 about what had happened to him, what I got, I felt
15 at the time, was an excuse rather than an explanation:
16 oh, he went to the toilet in the night and the rats got
17 him.

18 I know even now that that was a lie because you just
19 know these things, intuition, that that was a lie. For
20 lots of reasons. The manner and the way it was
21 conveyed -- you know, it was conveyed in a way as to ...
22 shut up and don't ask any questions.

23 Q. Who did you ask?

24 A. I asked the nun. That was what I was told. But the
25 manner of the way that information -- it wasn't a case

1 of, oh, this terrible thing's happened, sit down, we'll
2 explain it to you. It was a manner of: don't ask any
3 questions, he went to the toilet, the rats got him, go
4 away now. That was the manner of how you were informed.

5 So I knew that the statement was false right from
6 the very beginning. The reasons for that are that he
7 was -- Sammy Carr was a perfectly healthy boy -- within
8 the context of that regime he was healthy. Then
9 suddenly he was dead in a very short space of time.
10 There seemed to be no narrative between him being
11 healthy and him being dead. He was just suddenly dead.

12 This made no sense to me and the answers I was given
13 I didn't believe at the time and I still don't believe.
14 I've spent all my life trying to understand what
15 happened to Sammy Carr. I believe myself he was killed.
16 I can elaborate, but I don't -- I wasn't a witness to
17 what happened to him.

18 Q. No.

19 A. But he didn't die going to the toilet. You know, one of
20 the reasons why I know that is it was -- sometimes
21 I feel like swearing but I won't swear. As a 5 or
22 6-year-old child in that place, it was impossible to go
23 to the toilet at night. How would you put a light
24 switch on? How would you get out of the dormitory? How
25 would you get to the toilet? I mean ...

1 Q. So on that basis you don't accept the explanation?

2 A. I don't accept it. I don't accept the explanation and
3 I never saw any rats when I was there. The only rats
4 that were there had nuns' habits on as far as I was
5 concerned.

6 Sammy Carr didn't die of -- he didn't fall over
7 a rat. A rat didn't bite him. I don't believe any of
8 that. I didn't believe it at the time, I don't believe
9 it now, and I just think the story is a fairy tale and
10 it was told to us to frighten us, I think, at the time.

11 You know, toileting was a huge issue in a place like
12 that. People were wetting the bed all over the place
13 because they were traumatised and they couldn't get to
14 the toilet. So what better way to sort of reinforce
15 that terror than to tell the children that, oh yes, if
16 you go to the toilet, the rats will get you and you'll
17 die?

18 Q. Can you remember if Samuel Carr shared the dormitory
19 with you?

20 A. No, he didn't.

21 Q. Well, can I leave that subject and move on to something
22 else, and that is your recollection of being taken out
23 of Smyllum for a short period of time? You talk about
24 that in your statement. Can you help me with that?
25 What happened there?

1 A. Being taken out?

2 Q. Yes.

3 A. Yeah, this is the other ... There are things about
4 Smyllum that I just never, ever forget, and that was one
5 of them. I just remember being taken by a man -- and
6 looking back now, thinking about it, a kind of
7 sleazy-looking character.

8 Q. Do you know what the purpose of this was?

9 A. It was to take me out to his house with -- the idea was
10 that he might foster me or give me a home or something
11 like that. So he would take me out to see if he liked
12 me.

13 Q. Were you given some explanation by --

14 A. My impression was -- at the time I was given an
15 explanation that this man was taking me out of Smyllum
16 to see if he liked me. So from my point of view as
17 a child this was someone who was maybe possibly going to
18 take me out of that place and give me a home. So
19 I remember being taken out by him in his car, I remember
20 driving to his house, I remember it was some kind of
21 bungalow of some kind and he had sort of a garden with
22 square patches of grass and some sort of bedding plant
23 type things, and going up the garden path and around the
24 house, and thinking that this was wonderful, an escape
25 route from Smyllum, I was going to maybe have a real dad

1 or something like that or live in this nice house.

2 That all felt like exciting at that time. Then
3 I went in the house, I remember being taken to the
4 bedroom, and then I don't remember anything else. From
5 that point, it just goes blank.

6 Q. You've talked about the man. Was there a woman involved
7 at all that you can remember?

8 A. Not that I remember, no.

9 Q. What happened after? What can you remember after that?

10 A. I can't remember anything. All I remember is I was
11 there for the next morning or the morning after.
12 I don't know how long I was there, but certainly it was
13 the next morning -- yeah, it was the next morning. He
14 took me to a sawmill where he worked, he took me to the
15 sawmill and I wandered around the sawmill while he spoke
16 to some other people, then he took me back to Smyllum,
17 dropped me off.

18 Q. What's your recollection of your experience when you
19 were back at Smyllum, having been dropped off?

20 A. He just dropped me off, he disappeared, there was nobody
21 there, it was dark, and I thought everyone had left, the
22 place was empty, there were no signs of life, there was
23 no way to get in. My recollection was again of just
24 being absolutely terrified of being abandoned and
25 dropped there. No one was coming back, how was I going

1 to live, how was I going to survive?

2 Q. What age were you, do you think, at this time?

3 A. I don't know, 6 maybe, something like that.

4 Q. And what happened?

5 A. I just was screaming, because I didn't know how I was
6 going to survive on my own. Then eventually a bus came
7 down the driveway and it was the kids coming back with
8 the nuns. They'd been away for the day. And I was
9 just -- it always makes me laugh, I was relieved to see
10 them. The nuns arrived back with all the kids on the
11 bus and I ran over to the bus in just sheer relief that
12 I hadn't been abandoned, and the door opened and this
13 nun came down the stairs and I was crying and she just
14 said, "And what are you snivelling at?" and walked past
15 me. And that was the way they treated you, you know.

16 Q. In that episode I think you tell us in your statement
17 there may have been -- part of it may have involved your
18 brother and sister.

19 A. Yes, my brother and sister were there too. They'd been
20 away somewhere too and had been dropped off.

21 Q. So you'd seen them on that occasion?

22 A. I'd seen them on that occasion. We were all there,
23 we were all standing crying because we had all been
24 dropped off from the various place we'd been, yeah, and
25 we were all -- yeah.

1 Q. You've indicated that you were probably at Smyllum for
2 about four years or so.

3 A. Mm.

4 Q. During that time, what recollection do you have of your
5 birthday being celebrated?

6 A. No, no birthdays, none.

7 Q. Do you mean no recollection or no celebration?

8 A. There just weren't any celebrations. Not only that, but
9 I don't remember actually having a name at Smyllum.
10 I don't remember anyone addressing me by my name, never
11 mind having a birthday.

12 Q. What about Christmas, do you have any recollection of
13 Christmas being celebrated?

14 A. No, no.

15 Q. There came a point in time when you left Smyllum and, as
16 we touched upon before, you left to go into foster care.

17 A. Mm.

18 Q. I think you tell us in your statement that that was
19 a phased operation.

20 A. Yes.

21 Q. It wasn't just a sudden thing that happened; is that
22 correct?

23 A. Yes.

24 Q. Can you help me with what happened there?

25 A. Yes, I think we went for a weekend, first of all, with

1 foster -- potential foster parents. Can I mention their
2 names? Probably not.

3 Q. You don't have to. We don't need to.

4 A. So potential foster parents. We went there for
5 a weekend and we enjoyed it. They seemed nice people --
6 they were quite elderly, you know, more like
7 grandparents than parental age, but we went there for a
8 weekend, then for a couple of weeks, and then back to
9 Smyllum and then eventually we were told that we would
10 be leaving Smyllum and going to stay with them.

11 Q. And I think that was around about 1965; is that right?

12 A. 1965, yes.

13 Q. When you were 7 or 8 years of age?

14 A. Yes.

15 Q. There is a section in your statement where you talk
16 about reporting abuse.

17 A. Uh-huh.

18 Q. Did you report the abuse that you suffered at Smyllum to
19 anyone?

20 A. When I came out of Smyllum?

21 Q. At any time.

22 A. At any time between then and now?

23 Q. Yes, let's look at that.

24 A. I reported the abuse in the late 1990s when there was --
25 a Sister Alphonso was being charged with physical abuse.

1 I can't remember sort of exactly what she was being
2 charged with, but she was being charged with some kind
3 of abuse of children in a care home. There was lawyers
4 involved -- I think it was Cameron Fyfe was the lawyer
5 at the time that was taking a lot of statements from
6 people.

7 It was in the press. So at that time I got in touch
8 with that same lawyer, Cameron Fyfe, and I gave
9 a statement to him. But I didn't take it any further
10 because it was this kind of no win, no fee sort of
11 thing, and they were starting to ask me for money and
12 I thought, "No thanks, I'll just leave it at that".

13 Also, I think I had been encouraged to report it to
14 the police. I think it was something to do with the
15 criminal injuries compensation or something you could
16 apply for, and in order to do that and in order to sort
17 of put your case forward to this lawyer, you had to
18 report it to the police. So I reported it to the
19 police.

20 Q. And you think that was the late 1990s?

21 A. Late 1990s.

22 Q. And I think you say in your statement it was

23 Tayside Police and a police officer came and spoke to
24 you?

25 A. Came to my house and took a statement, yes.

1 Q. And what happened to that?

2 A. Nothing happened after that.

3 Q. But what you say in your statement at paragraph 55
4 is that you minimised your abuse for years.

5 A. Yes.

6 Q. What do you mean by that?

7 A. Well, because I think it's only when you go into therapy
8 years later that you actually confront what happened to
9 you because -- I mean, throughout my life, throughout my
10 teenage years, when people asked me about my past,
11 I used to say things like, "It wasn't that bad". Well,
12 I used to not tell people at first because I was so
13 ashamed of actually being in care and of being in foster
14 care and so I would used to try and hide that from
15 people.

16 I didn't actually feel that I had been -- I didn't
17 actually feel it was a terrible experience; I was just
18 glad to have got out of it. And I just think it must
19 have been my way of surviving, not to actually --
20 I think it was all ... It's hard to explain these
21 things because it's only ...

22 When I first went into foster care when I was 7, it
23 was such a relief to have escaped the horrors of that
24 place that you just looked forward. That's all I can
25 say. You just looked forward. You tried and got on

1 with your life and you just minimise what had happened
2 to you, and it only hits you much later in life when it
3 actually hits you quite hard, which it did with me later
4 on.

5 LADY SMITH: Gerry, when you went to speak to
6 Tayside Police, did you tell them about Sister [REDACTED] EAC ?

7 A. Yes, I did.

8 LADY SMITH: And you told them about her beating you and you
9 having these memories of being terrified by her?

10 A. Yes, I did.

11 LADY SMITH: Thank you.

12 MR MacAULAY: You're telling me then about how it was much
13 later, really, that you began to focus on the nature of
14 the abuse that --

15 A. Yes. I think the reason why I say "minimise" is because
16 when I first went to see a therapist, I didn't -- he
17 said to me, "You don't seem to have any emotions about
18 anything", because I would talk about that I was in care
19 and in an orphanage and then I was in foster care and
20 all that, and he was saying to me, "You don't seem to
21 have any feelings about any of these things", and
22 I would start talking about some of the things I'm
23 talking about here and I would just have no feelings.
24 I think that's what I mean by numb, being numb. He
25 would say to me, "It's funny you don't have any feelings

1 about any of this", and I would say things like, "Well,
2 it wasn't that bad".

3 It's only -- you know, I think it's your way of
4 surviving, just to minimise it because if you think
5 about it, if you actually felt what had happened to you,
6 you couldn't function. So that's why I think you
7 minimise it in order to function because the emotional
8 overwhelm hits you much later on.

9 Q. Okay. So far as foster care was concerned then, you
10 were in foster care until about the age of 15, which
11 would take us up to 1973. You provide us with quite
12 some detail about life in foster care with your siblings
13 at paragraphs 60 to 84 of your statement.

14 A. Mm.

15 Q. I don't propose to go into the detail of that at present
16 because we're not looking at that at the moment, but
17 what you say is that mainly it was a positive
18 experience, although I think, on reading your account,
19 there were ups and downs.

20 A. Yes. It was mainly a positive experience in the
21 sense -- I mean, if I can put it this way, anything
22 other than being in Smyllum was a positive experience.

23 Q. Can we leave it at that for the present, Gerry, and move
24 on to when you left foster care when you were 15? You
25 went to a place called Campbell House --

- 1 A. Yes.
- 2 Q. -- in Banffshire for a relatively short period of time;
3 is that correct?
- 4 A. Yes. But can I just say, going back to it, if you don't
5 mind me saying it --
- 6 Q. No, no.
- 7 A. -- the thing about the foster care, although it was
8 hugely positive in many ways and probably helped me in
9 particular to make some headway with my life, it was the
10 same kind of very fundamentalist, Catholic, coercive,
11 "do what you're told" kind of environment. And the same
12 level of insecurity -- not the same level of insecurity,
13 but there was a level of insecurity there all the time
14 because we were quite regularly threatened with being
15 sent back to Smyllum. If you imagine at that time what
16 that would be like, you know, if you've just escaped
17 something like that and to be continually threatened
18 with it again, you know ...
- 19 Q. And then moving on to Campbell House in Banffshire, you
20 tell us that you were there until you were about 16.
- 21 A. Yes.
- 22 Q. From what I gather from reading your statement, it
23 wasn't a particularly pleasant experience for you.
24 Would that be a fair summary, without looking at the
25 detail of it?

1 A. Not particularly pleasant, no.

2 Q. And you have set it out in paragraphs 88 to 95. Again,
3 we're not looking at that for present purposes. You
4 then went to a Catholic hostel in Pollokshields for
5 a number of weeks and indeed you went back to your
6 foster parents for a period of time as well.

7 Having set that background, what I want to do is ask
8 you about something you mentioned earlier and that's
9 about your sister because you did want to tell us,
10 I think, a little bit about what happened in connection
11 with your sister. You do address that in your statement
12 at paragraph 78 and onwards. Can you tell us what you
13 want to tell us about that?

14 A. Well, my sister always suffered from depression when she
15 was a child and I think it goes right back to the fact
16 that she was a little bit older than us and she knew
17 very clearly what was happening to her right from the
18 beginning, aged 4. So she experienced the abuse from
19 the first second. She was aware of what was happening
20 to her in a way that we weren't to begin with.

21 She suffered from depression. I remember her being
22 depressed as a child. I remember her being depressed
23 when she was in foster care. And when she was 14, when
24 she reached adolescence, she was just doing the usual
25 things like staying out late, things like that, smoking

1 cigarettes, and she was sent away back to the nuns
2 again.

3 Q. These were different nuns?

4 A. These were different nuns. She was sent away to
5 Edinburgh to a hostel run by nuns. After what she'd
6 already experienced with nuns in Smyllum, she was sent
7 back to then.

8 Q. Can I just stop you there? I think we know your
9 sister's not able to come to give evidence.

10 A. No.

11 Q. We won't look at the detail of that, but did she ever
12 tell you what had happened to her at Smyllum?

13 A. She's told me a couple of things, really. She talked
14 about eating grass, she talked about that. I mean, this
15 sounds a bizarre thing to remember, but a lot of what
16 happened there was bizarre. She remembered a nun taking
17 her out of bed and taking her down into sort of another
18 room. I don't know if you remember, but they used to
19 have these big metal milk churns that they had in the
20 back of wagons with a lid. She took her out of bed,
21 took her down to this room and put her in the milk churn
22 and put the lid on and left her in there. She told me
23 that.

24 Q. Did she tell you what age she was when that happened?

25 A. No, but I mean, she was 9 when she came out of there, so

1 she'd be ...

2 Q. Some time before that?

3 A. Some time before that.

4 Q. Did she say why this was being done?

5 A. No.

6 Q. So are these the two particular --

7 A. These are two particular things.

8 Q. -- incidents?

9 A. Yes, but it wasn't something we sat around talking
10 about, Smyllum. No, we were all separated, you know,
11 when we were teenagers. So by the time we got back
12 together again as siblings, it wasn't something we sat
13 round talking about. These things just came out on
14 occasions.

15 Q. I think we had digressed because you told me that your
16 sister was sent to a hostel run by nuns and that did not
17 have a particularly good impact on her.

18 A. No, it didn't. The other thing, it didn't have a good
19 impact on us, either, my brother and I, because we were
20 extremely upset that our sister was being sent away as
21 a punishment, and she was being sent away for the crime
22 of being an adolescent, basically. You know, you don't
23 realise that at the time, but when you're looking back
24 now as an adult, she was an adolescent, she wasn't a
25 delinquent, she wasn't in trouble, she just did

1 adolescent thing, pushing boundaries, that kind of
2 thing, and she was sent away for being an adolescent,
3 and she was sent away in the context of punishment, you
4 know, considering what she'd already been through.

5 Q. You tell us in your statement that this sending away of
6 your sister to a place run by nuns was something that
7 you thought destroyed her life.

8 A. It did destroy her life. We went -- we were in Glasgow
9 at the time, we were just teenagers, and we were allowed
10 to go and visit her one time. I remember going to see
11 her in this hostel and she was miserable, absolutely
12 miserable and depressed and alone in this hostel with
13 no -- she didn't want to be there, she was extremely
14 unhappy, she was away from us, she already suffered from
15 depression, and I'm absolutely convinced that that
16 experience was the final straw in terms of her being
17 able to make it as a human being. It broke her and
18 she's -- you know, she's a broken shell of a person now.

19 Q. You tell us about the fact that once she reached age 16
20 she was told by the nuns that she was no longer under
21 their care.

22 A. She was more or less put out and she was put into some
23 sort of lodging house that was a mixed lodging house --
24 male, female, all kinds of age groups -- and it wasn't
25 a safe place. She used to tell us -- told us a few

1 times about this. She was a young girl, a vulnerable,
2 damaged young girl, and she was put in this lodging
3 where there was all kinds of, without being too
4 judgemental, but unsavoury characters. And there was
5 a man trying to get into her room on a few occasions
6 that terrified her and she had to run away because she
7 was in fear for her life of whatever and she ran away
8 from there back to the nuns at the hostel and asked if
9 she could come back because she was terrified of the
10 place that they had put her, and they turned her away
11 and told her that she was 16 now and she was on her own.

12 Q. That does bring me to another topic that I want to ask
13 you about, really linked to that in a way, and that is
14 how would you describe the involvement of the social
15 services with you and your family after you left care?
16 You have given us the example of your sister's position,
17 but are you able to help me with that? It's something
18 the inquiry may be interested in.

19 A. There wasn't any involvement during so-called care,
20 really, as far as I remember. The only time social
21 workers were involved with us was if there was a crisis
22 of some kind, if our foster parents were struggling with
23 us or whatever, they would be called in. But there
24 wasn't any ongoing case studies or any ongoing sort of
25 looking at how things were developing or going. So

1 I didn't -- when I left care, there was nothing.

2 I mean, in fact, there just wasn't any real support.

3 Q. You left care at the age of 16; is that correct?

4 A. It's hard to say how that happened because when I was
5 16, I was still in care in terms of I was in a bed and
6 breakfast --

7 Q. Yes.

8 A. -- and I had a job. But the bed and breakfast I was in
9 was unsuitable because I was put there as an emergency
10 crisis, an emergency, somewhere to put me, but I wasn't
11 wanted in the place. Again, it was an insecure, unsafe
12 environment. I was being bullied by the person there,
13 so I had to escape from there for my own sanity. I ran
14 away, so I mean it's hard to say how care ended. I just
15 ran away from it.

16 Q. You ran away because of the environment you were in?

17 A. Because of the environment I was in, but the environment
18 I was in -- I mean, I was put in a bed and breakfast
19 with a mother and her son, and her son didn't want me
20 in the house from the minute I arrived. So social
21 workers had put me in a place where I wasn't wanted and
22 they never came to find out how I was getting on or if
23 I was managing. So I would come in at night and would
24 just be bullied by this young lad. So you know, in
25 terms of leaving care, I just left care because care

1 wasn't available.

2 Q. I think what you do tell us, Gerry, in your statement

3 is that for a time you had a fairly nomadic type of

4 lifestyle.

5 A. Yes.

6 Q. Is that correct?

7 A. Yes.

8 Q. Although you did track down your sister again,

9 I think --

10 A. I did.

11 Q. -- and had spent some time with her.

12 A. Yes.

13 Q. In fact, you then had some involvement with the

14 Open University.

15 A. Yes.

16 Q. Can you help me with what you did there?

17 A. This is where I'm going to break down.

18 LADY SMITH: Gerry, we could have our morning break now.

19 A. Could we?

20 LADY SMITH: I always break at about this time anyway.

21 Would it suit you if we broke now and started again in

22 about 20 minutes, something like that, if you're ready?

23 A. That would be great.

24 LADY SMITH: If you're not ready, let us know.

25 We'll adjourn just now.

1 (11.23 am)

2 (A short break)

3 (11.47 am)

4 LADY SMITH: Gerry, are you okay to resume now?

5 A. Yes, thank you.

6 LADY SMITH: We'll do that. But, please, if you want

7 another break, just say; it's easily achieved.

8 A. Thank you.

9 LADY SMITH: Mr MacAulay.

10 MR MacAULAY: Just before I go on to look at your

11 Open University experience, just to confirm with you and

12 clarify that the nuns that your sister was involved with

13 after Smyllum were not the Smyllum nuns?

14 A. No.

15 Q. Then, just before the break, I'd asked you about your

16 experience with the Open University and the

17 qualifications you did. Can you help me with what you

18 did there?

19 A. Yes. Well, I left school without any qualifications

20 because my schooling was disrupted through having to

21 move from different care homes and places. So I did an

22 arts foundation course through the Open University and

23 then applied for an access course to Dundee University

24 and did my degree at Dundee University.

25 Q. What was your degree subject?

1 A. English literature.

2 Q. Did you then do some teacher training?

3 A. Yes.

4 Q. You qualified, I think, as a teacher.

5 A. Yes.

6 Q. I think you spent some time teaching as well; is that
7 correct?

8 A. Yes.

9 Q. I understand from what you have told us in your
10 statement that you had a breakdown at a point in time
11 and in due course you took early retirement.

12 A. Yes.

13 Q. In your statement you also talk about the impact of
14 being in care, and let's in particular focus on Smyllum.
15 This begins at that part of your statement at
16 paragraph 115. In particular, you talk about the
17 emotional abuse that you suffered as part of the impact
18 that being in care had on you. Can you just help me
19 with that and develop that for me?

20 A. You mean as regards to my parents?

21 Q. Yes.

22 A. Well, as I say in that statement there, I feel that my
23 parents were demonised. We weren't -- we were more or
24 less told to forget about them.

25 Q. By whom? I'm interested in --

1 A. Basically by the foster parents, when we asked the
2 foster parents.

3 Q. So what about Smyllum, if you look at Smyllum?

4 A. I don't remember anyone talking to me about my parents
5 in Smyllum at all. It was only when we came out of
6 there. I had no information that I remember about my
7 parents when I was in Smyllum.

8 Q. So really, it was when you left Smyllum that --

9 A. It was when I left Smyllum that we wanted to know
10 because obviously when you're very young and your only
11 experience is of being in Smyllum, that's your whole
12 world. Unless someone's going to explain to you why
13 you're there, this is your world.

14 Q. And you had no explanation at Smyllum?

15 A. I had no explanation at Smyllum as to why I was there.

16 Q. You did find some information about your father, I think
17 about a postcard that had been sent by him.

18 A. As I said earlier, my sister had been pining for her
19 mother all her life because she had vivid memories of
20 her and so she'd always been looking for her and
21 eventually she traced her and she'd only been living not
22 that far away from us, and this information had been
23 denied her. The social services, everybody, must have
24 known something about the fact that she was there. So
25 our mother was living quite close to where we were for

1 years and years and years and no one would tell us.

2 Sorry, I've lost the thread of what I was ...

3 Q. I had asked you about a comment you make about the last
4 message that your father sent was a postcard.

5 A. The reason I mention that is because we found out from
6 our biological mother that when my sister was trying to
7 find out about her father, our biological mother told
8 her that the last piece of information she got from our
9 father was he had sent a postcard from Phagwara in
10 Punjab in India, and that was the last contact she had
11 with him. That's all she knew about him.

12 Q. And were the troubles going on in this time in the
13 Punjab that he had been caught up in?

14 A. There were. The Partition of India was happening at the
15 time. Millions of people were displaced, a million
16 people were killed in communal conflict. It was just
17 after India had become independent, the biggest mass
18 migration in human history. A holocaust, again, in
19 India for people, and my father must have been caught up
20 in that. If he went back to India, he must have gone
21 back there during that time, you know, just after
22 Partition where people were in refugee camps for years
23 and years and years and years after 1947 right into the
24 1950s. I was born in 1957, ten years after the
25 Partition of India. So if my father was here and he had

1 family in the Punjab, which was in a catastrophic state,
2 if he went back to India he must have been going back to
3 something like present day Syria or whatever to see
4 what was happening to his family. So he didn't just go
5 back to India like he was away on holiday or something.

6 Q. There was a reason.

7 A. There was a reason for him to be going there. I only
8 worked that out for myself years and years later by
9 trying to look into where he came from, what must have
10 been happening at the time, why would he have gone back
11 to India. So there was a reason why he went back to
12 India.

13 Q. Your mother, just looking to your mother, you were able,
14 as you've been telling us, to identify where your mother
15 was.

16 A. Yes.

17 Q. Indeed, you met up with your mother; is that correct?

18 A. Yes, I did.

19 Q. What age were you then?

20 A. I was about 30.

21 Q. From what I gather from reading your statement, you can
22 correct me if I'm wrong, it wasn't a good experience for
23 you.

24 A. It wasn't. As I say, it meant a lot to my sister to
25 find our mother because she had a memory, but I just got

1 a phone call out of the blue to say that she'd found our
2 mother, you'll have to come and see her, but she's in
3 a bad way and it's not a pretty sight. I couldn't not
4 go, but for me personally it was a mixed blessing.

5 I saw her for about 10 minutes and I just saw a wreck of
6 a person, a total wreck of a human being, and I had
7 no -- I felt no emotional, biological or any kind of
8 connection with what I saw. It was like something out
9 of a Dickens novel. I looked at this tragic, sad person
10 and I just left and I never went back.

11 Q. You tell us also in relation to the impact that Smyllum
12 has had on you -- again, you talk about Sammy Carr and
13 we've looked at that, but you also talk about what you
14 describe as the "abuse deniers".

15 A. Mm.

16 Q. I think you link that in your own mind at least to an
17 article you read in, I think, the Sunday Herald.

18 A. Yes, there was an article in the Sunday Herald while
19 this inquiry was going on and it was an academic from
20 a university in Scotland who was minimising the evidence
21 of what people like me are saying and trying to say that
22 we're exaggerating and things weren't as bad as it was
23 and all this kind of thing.

24 To me, that was not coincidental. I think there are
25 forces out there where there are people who are

1 apologising for what's going on and it seemed to me to
2 be more than a coincidence that this article was in
3 a double-page spread of the Sunday Herald the week
4 before I was about to give my statement. You know, this
5 was in December when this inquiry was actually ongoing.

6 He could have said that years ago, he could have
7 written that article at any other time, but that article
8 came out exactly to coincide with this inquiry. These
9 deniers, I think, should be brought to book in some way.
10 I really believe that, like in -- I don't want to
11 overstate this, but at the same time it makes sense to
12 me that in Germany it is a crime to deny the Holocaust
13 and I would like it to be a crime in this country for
14 academic apologists to be writing newspaper articles
15 denying facts of decades and decades and decades of
16 child abuse, to minimise it, and to put it in the press.
17 Because it's so upsetting that it's re-traumatising,
18 it's a crime in itself in terms of the way it impacts on
19 victims like me when you read these things in the paper,
20 when you're hearing these people denying your truth, you
21 know, and the fact that -- and I think they're doing it
22 deliberately because it was no coincidence it came out
23 exactly to coincide with the Smyllum inquiry.

24 Q. And you say you felt sick --

25 A. I felt sick, upset, confused. I felt as if I could feel

1 my head spinning when I read it. I think these deniers
2 know what they're doing because it's all part of the
3 systemic abuse. Part of the evil of it all is you
4 confuse people. If you've got a truth that you're
5 working hard to try and tell and you've got people out
6 there writing articles in the press with fancy academic
7 titles, your memories are a child's memory and then you
8 become confused or maybe you can't think straight, and
9 I think they know what they're doing, and that's why
10 I find it criminal that they're allowed to do these
11 things.

12 LADY SMITH: This, you think, was an article in the
13 Sunday Herald at the beginning of December 2017?

14 A. The beginning of December, yes. It was three days
15 before I was about to give my statement and I felt
16 myself confused, I felt myself not being able to think,
17 and I felt I might not go and give my statement. And if
18 I hadn't gone and given my statement because of that
19 article, then their job would have been done because I'm
20 sure that's the impetus behind it: let's throw all this
21 denier material out into the press to confuse victims.
22 To me, it's all part of the abuse.

23 MR MacAULAY: Can I take you to another paragraph in your
24 statement, Gerry, paragraph 135, so I can understand
25 what you mean by this. You say:

1 "I live in a double reality."

2 And you go on to say:

3 "[You] have emotional triggers all the time."

4 A. Yes. As I was saying about the stern faces of the nuns,
5 I can be in a shop or a restaurant -- well, restaurants
6 is another thing because of the whole impact of food.
7 But I get emotional triggers around food. I've had that
8 all my life as well where I can get stressed if I'm
9 standing in a queue.

10 Q. Why is that about food?

11 A. Because of the lack of food when I was in Smyllum. My
12 only memory is of smelling rotten food. So I'm sure
13 I didn't have enough to eat. So I get emotional
14 triggers around all kinds of things. If someone has
15 a severe expression on their face, if they pass me
16 in the street, I can get an emotional trigger that takes
17 me right back to the nuns and the way they used to treat
18 me, and that can stay with me and I can become -- or
19 a remark somebody makes that might be said, you know, in
20 all innocence, can have an emotional impact on me and
21 the remark will go round in my head for days and I can
22 become depressed over a comment somebody has made.

23 I can be hyper-vigilant over things. You know, if
24 a car slows down beside me, I can panic, even though
25 I know it's just coming up to the traffic lights. Even

1 rationally, if you rationalise something and you think,
2 the car's slowed down, the traffic light's at red, but
3 until I've worked that out, I often get immediate
4 impacts from ordinary everyday things that trigger quite
5 strong and powerful emotions.

6 Q. But you have sought and obtained treatment?

7 A. Yes, I have.

8 Q. You tell us about that in paragraph 151.

9 A. Mm.

10 Q. You have seen a psychologist and you have been diagnosed
11 with post-traumatic stress disorder.

12 A. Post-traumatic stress disorder, yes.

13 Q. Have you found that helpful?

14 A. I've found it helpful to understand my condition. He
15 diagnosed me with a number of schemas, one of them is
16 emotional deprivation, which is a key schema that I live
17 with where I'm quick to overreact to things. I don't
18 know how to manage my emotions sometimes by overreacting
19 or becoming upset too easily about the slightest thing
20 because there was no one when I was a child to soothe me
21 or look after me when I was upset. So I have all these
22 things -- that emotional deprivation is a huge part of
23 me. I've got an abandonment schema as well. And
24 mistrust. I find it very hard to trust people.

25 Q. But one thing you do tell us in your statement, Gerry,

1 is that your marriage has been important to you.

2 A. Yes.

3 Q. That has been a real source of support.

4 A. It's been a real source of support, yes. I'm very
5 fortunate.

6 Q. Can I take you to that part of your statement at
7 paragraph 163 -- perhaps before that, 158. You talk
8 about your involvement with survivor groups.

9 A. Mm.

10 Q. I think you got in touch with the late Frank Docherty at
11 a point in time; is that correct?

12 A. Yes.

13 Q. And you did meet him?

14 A. Mm.

15 Q. And you want to pay tribute to him?

16 A. I do want to pay tribute to Frank Docherty because
17 without Frank I wouldn't be here making this statement.
18 You know, it's a hard thing to live in silence with all
19 of this, a hard thing, because even if you go to see
20 a therapist, it's just a private affair between you and
21 him or her. Then you go home and it's still -- you're
22 living in this sort of isolated world of this happened
23 to you but the outside world doesn't know. So you're
24 having to live with the personal trauma of something
25 that people are just not aware of. So you're isolated

1 with that.

2 I think that Frank pushing for this public inquiry
3 has been a really liberating thing and I wanted to pay
4 tribute to him because of the tremendous courage it must
5 have taken him, considering what he has experienced as
6 a child, to actually push and push and push for this,
7 because I think it's really important because if
8 a country doesn't know its own history, it doesn't know
9 anything.

10 Q. I wanted then to take you to the section of your
11 statement where you talk about, under the heading "Other
12 information", at paragraph 163 -- first of all, you want
13 records, you want your records to be recovered.

14 A. Mm.

15 Q. You go on to say at 164, as you've already mentioned,
16 that you want the government to introduce legislation
17 which makes it a crime to deny the abuse suffered in
18 these institutions.

19 A. I do. I feel very strongly about that. If I see
20 another article in the newspaper by someone denying all
21 of this, I would like to think that they would be
22 prosecuted. That's what I would like to think so that
23 I don't have to suffer any more. I would like to be
24 able, in the country I was born in, to open a newspaper
25 and read it without having to face these deniers

1 constantly telling me that my truth is not true.

2 Q. And your position is that Scotland has to face up to
3 this?

4 A. I think Scotland does have to face up to it. And
5 I think, if you don't mind me saying, I think it's
6 a terrible thing to think that there's a mass grave in
7 Lanark of hundreds of children just dumped in this
8 country. You know, these are the sort of things that we
9 read about in other countries and we're all appalled
10 about it. Kids are taught at school about the Nazis and
11 all the rest of it and this is always something that
12 happens somewhere else. But it didn't happen somewhere
13 else, from my point of view, as a child. There's a mass
14 grave in Smyllum. There might be others for all we
15 know. Children's bodies were just dumped. You know,
16 that cannot be ignored.

17 Q. The other point you make is that, at 165, is that you
18 say the nuns' apologies are meaningless and hollow.

19 A. They are meaningless and hollow because I don't --
20 I think their values are completely distorted. Whatever
21 their organisation stands for, it doesn't stand for
22 humanitarianism. I think their values are distorted.
23 And whatever they've got to say as far as I'm concerned,
24 it's a false consciousness that they'll be bringing to
25 this inquiry, whatever they've got to say, to protect

1 themselves.

2 Q. In a way, you've anticipated something I was going to
3 put to you and that is that the inquiry's understanding,
4 from having spoken to nuns who may have been there when
5 you were there, is that they maintain Smyllum was
6 a happy place and there was not the physical abuse.

7 A. That's why their apologies are hollow because they're
8 still in denial. How can you apologise for something
9 that you're denying? It doesn't make sense.

10 MR MacAULAY: Well, Gerry, you've had the opportunity to
11 voice your position to us today and thank you very much
12 indeed for that. It has been upsetting for you, I know,
13 but thank you for coming to give your evidence to the
14 inquiry.

15 My Lady, I haven't received any questions for Gerry
16 and I don't know if anyone intends to ask any questions.

17 LADY SMITH: Thank you. I'm just going to check whether
18 there are any outstanding applications for questions of
19 this witness.

20 Perhaps Ms MacLeod, you can confirm.

21 UNKNOWN SPEAKER: No thank you, my Lady.

22 Questions from LADY SMITH

23 LADY SMITH: Gerry, just before you go, I can't help but
24 notice that you are very articulate and you have a very
25 good command of the English language. Have you found

1 gaining this ability to use words to talk about your
2 feelings and your experience helpful?

3 A. Absolutely. I think part of when you're a small child
4 and a lot of these things are happening to you, you
5 don't have the words --

6 LADY SMITH: No.

7 A. -- you've only got the emotions.

8 LADY SMITH: How did you learn to have this command of
9 language? From your description it won't have come from
10 your school experience that was disrupted.

11 A. I just think it's a gift from God, basically. It's
12 a gift that I was given and I'm just making the most of
13 it. I think I was just very fortunate.

14 But one thing I would like to say is my sister,
15 which I haven't had enough time to talk about -- my
16 sister is in an institution just now where she's
17 completely broken, just like her own mother, and she had
18 a gift as well for music, and she was a really good
19 musician. I've got tapes of the music she played -- she
20 composed her own music, a very talented person. The
21 experience in Smyllum destroyed whatever she had. It
22 didn't destroy me, I managed, I was lucky, I had a good
23 partner who supported me. Without that, I might not
24 have managed. So yes.

25 LADY SMITH: Well, thank you very much, Gerry. It has been

1 of enormous assistance having your evidence here today
2 and I'm now able to let you go.

3 A. Thanks.

4 LADY SMITH: Thank you.

5 (The witness withdrew)

6 LADY SMITH: Mr MacAulay.

7 MR MacAULAY: We have another witness, my Lady, and that is
8 another applicant who wants to remain anonymous and
9 wants to use the name "Jack" in giving his evidence.

10 "JACK" (sworn)

11 Questions from Mr MacAULAY

12 MR MacAULAY: Hello, Jack. I'm going to ask you some
13 questions now based mainly on the statement -- that's
14 what's in the red folder in front of you and that's
15 where I want to go first of all. The number of the of
16 the statement for the purposes of the transcript is
17 WIT.001.001.2909.

18 Can I ask you to look at the last page? That's
19 page 2934. Can I ask you to confirm, Jack, you have
20 signed the statement.

21 A. Is it two six?

22 Q. Is that your signature that we see?

23 A. Aye, on the last page, aye.

24 Q. That's your signature. Do you also tell us at
25 paragraph 107:

1 "I have no objection to my witness statement being
2 published as part of the evidence to the inquiry"?

3 Do you see that?

4 A. I see that, aye.

5 Q. Do you also go on to say:

6 "I believe the facts stated in this witness
7 statement are true"?

8 A. Yes.

9 Q. I don't want to know your date of birth, Jack, but
10 I need to know the year of your birth so I can get
11 a time frame. Am I right in thinking that you were born
12 in 1965?

13 A. That's correct, aye.

14 Q. I'll be asking you questions based on the statement
15 mainly. If there's anything I ask you and you don't
16 remember, just feel free to tell me that. Likewise, if
17 there's something that comes to mind that you hadn't
18 remembered at the time of the statement, again just let
19 me know. Do you understand?

20 A. Aye.

21 Q. Can I just look at life before you went into care
22 because we know you went into care at Smyllum. I think
23 you had a relatively unhappy family life before you went
24 to Smyllum; would that be a fair summary?

25 A. That's correct, aye.

1 Q. But you lived with your parents and other brothers and,
2 I think, yes, two brothers; is that right?

3 A. That's correct.

4 Q. You tell us in your statement that your mother left in
5 about 1972; is that correct?

6 A. Yes.

7 Q. Your father wasn't able to cope with looking after you;
8 is that right?

9 A. That's right, aye.

10 Q. You do say in paragraph 8 that you have forgiven your
11 mother for leaving.

12 A. Well, my mother's passed on now, aye.

13 Q. Can you tell me what your thinking is? She did leave
14 you, but you forgive her for that?

15 A. She came back into my life as an adult.

16 Q. I think you tell us she was also subjected to violence.

17 A. Aye, severe violence, aye.

18 Q. So was that the reason why she left, really?

19 A. Aye. And I had lost a brother just prior to that, 1971.
20 I think that maybe put it out our heads.

21 Q. In any event, you and, I think, your brothers were
22 admitted to Smyllum Orphanage; is that right?

23 A. Well, eventually; we went to other homes first.

24 Q. It's Smyllum I want to focus on. I think for example
25 you went to a place called Eversley; do you remember

1 children gradually left.

2 Q. [REDACTED]

3 [REDACTED]

4 A. [REDACTED]

5 Q. [REDACTED] Were there any girls left there at the

6 time?

7 A. The last girl that I remember was [REDACTED] she

8 became a staff.

9 Q. Before --

10 A. She had been a child and she became a staff member.

11 Q. But that was before the place was closed down?

12 A. Right at the end, aye.

13 Q. Any other girls left at that time?

14 A. I can't mind who would have been the last lassie

15 leaving, but I remember [REDACTED] being the last ...

16 Q. When you then went to Smyllum, what you tell us in your

17 statement there is you were put into Roncalli House;

18 is that correct?

19 A. That's correct.

20 Q. What about your siblings?

21 A. They were in the same house.

22 Q. In the same house?

23 A. The three of us were in the same house.

24 Q. I think the position -- and you can correct me if I'm

25 wrong -- is that your brothers were both younger than

1 you.

2 A. Correct, aye.

3 Q. One was one year and another two years younger, I think.

4 A. That's right.

5 Q. But you were all kept --

6 A. All kept together in the home, aye.

7 Q. You tell us there that Roncalli House was separate from

8 the main building and the sister that ran Roncalli House

9 was Sister AEG.

10 A. That's correct.

11 Q. Were you in Roncalli House for your whole time in

12 Smyllum?

13 A. For the whole seven years, aye.

14 Q. Would you be able to identify Roncalli House if I was to

15 show you a photograph of Smyllum?

16 A. Aye, probably, aye.

17 Q. Let's see if this helps then. DSV.001.001.4661. This

18 will come on the screen for you, Jack.

19 You'll see some effort has been made to try and

20 identify different places. Can you see that there is

21 a little box towards the bottom saying "Roncalli House"

22 and there's a yellow line taking you to the right of the

23 main building? Does that give an idea as to where it

24 was?

25 A. There's the house. It would have been ...

1 Q. It was apart from the main building; is that right?

2 A. It was apart, aye.

3 Q. I think what this is trying to do is point to a building
4 that's separate from the main building.

5 A. Is that there?

6 Q. Can I ask you, because the screen is behind you --

7 LADY SMITH: If you can just stand up, maybe, Jack, and show
8 us.

9 A. This is Roncalli House (indicating).

10 MR MacAULAY: There's two indications for Roncalli House
11 because that's the information --

12 A. That is Roncalli House. That was sat at the back, aye.

13 Q. So that's the correct one?

14 A. That's the school up there, isn't it?

15 Q. Yes.

16 A. Aye.

17 Q. So as we can see, it is separate from the main building?

18 A. That's correct, aye.

19 Q. Okay, Jack, thank you for that.

20 Apart from Sister **AEG** that you have mentioned,
21 were there also civilian staff that worked in
22 Roncalli House?

23 A. There was, aye.

24 Q. I think you provide us, in paragraph 14, with the names
25 of those staff. We needn't look at the detail, but how

1 did you get on with the civilian staff? Let's just
2 touch on that for the moment. How did you find them?
3 A. The staff were all right at times, but they done things
4 and all ...
5 Q. We'll look at that then in due course.
6 A. Aye.
7 Q. But so far as Roncalli House was concerned, I think you
8 tell us there was boys and girls at this time, it was
9 mixed?
10 A. It was mixed, aye.
11 Q. But you tell us you were kept separate?
12 A. Separate rooms, aye.
13 Q. And the other houses you mentioned -- St Mary's,
14 St Joseph's, Ogilvy House, St Anne's and
15 St Kentigern's -- they were separate sections within the
16 whole of the Smyllum establishment?
17 A. Aye.
18 Q. Do you remember your first day at Smyllum?
19 A. Aye, very much.
20 Q. What can you tell us about it?
21 A. I remember travelling up to Smyllum and going up that
22 big avenue and through the big gates and seeing that big
23 house. I thought I'd went to Australia. And arriving
24 there with a car and all the other children running
25 round the car and then going up the stairs and going

1 into the big main building with a social worker that was
2 there. I couldn't tell you who that was.

3 I was getting passed on and then we got allocated to
4 Roncalli House. There was loads of seats in that big
5 room. It looked massive. Being a child, it looked even
6 bigger than it probably was. And then we were put to
7 the Roncalli House. I can remember my first meal,
8 macaroni and cheese, and that was (inaudible) and
9 planning to run away on the first night. That was
10 just -- I'd just arrived.

11 Q. So far as the first meal was concerned, what you tell us
12 in your statement is you were allowed to leave that if
13 you wanted to?

14 A. Aye.

15 Q. And can you remember if you ate it or not?

16 A. I probably picked at it because it was strange food.

17 Q. How many children do you reckon then that there were in
18 Roncalli House at that time?

19 A. It was 20 a house.

20 Q. Twenty?

21 A. There were four tables with six people each table,
22 usually a staff member and one of the older ones.

23 Q. That's for mealtimes?

24 A. For mealtimes, aye.

25 Q. In relation to where you slept, can you tell me about

- 1 the arrangements for that. How was that set up?
- 2 A. There were bigger rooms, smaller rooms, boys' and
- 3 lassies' rooms.
- 4 Q. Were you in a room with your brothers or was the set-up
- 5 somehow different?
- 6 A. The first room I remember being in was the big room --
- 7 it maybe slept eight -- and having big shutters, big
- 8 wooden shutters, and there was about eight boys in it.
- 9 Q. Your brothers, were they in that room?
- 10 A. Aye.
- 11 Q. They were with you there?
- 12 A. When I first went in.
- 13 Q. Did that change? Did you move to a different size room?
- 14 A. Aye, there was rooms that maybe held four and three.
- 15 You went where you went.
- 16 Q. So over the period that you were there, from 1974 to
- 17 1981, were you in different rooms within Roncalli House?
- 18 A. Aye.
- 19 Q. In the main, did you remain with your brothers?
- 20 A. I think the first night they put us all in one room
- 21 together, the first period I mean, and we were kept
- 22 together because we did stick together.
- 23 Q. Thereafter, do you know if you -- can you remember if
- 24 you stayed with your brothers when they were there or
- 25 when you separated?

- 1 A. I think as time went on, years maybe, we were in
2 different rooms ...
- 3 Q. Was there some sort of age grouping of children in
4 Roncalli House? Were you with boys perhaps closer to
5 your own age than, say, your younger brother, for
6 example?
- 7 A. Mainly. The boys would all be roughly the same age.
- 8 Q. In your statement, Jack, you tell us a little bit about
9 the routine. In the mornings, for example, you had to
10 make your beds. Can you just tell me a little bit about
11 that? How was that done?
- 12 A. It was regimented. I remember you had to make your bed
13 perfect, envelope corners. If you -- I was a bed-wetter
14 so --
- 15 Q. I'll come to look at that in due course.
- 16 A. You would tuck them into the bottom of your bed and your
17 bed had to be perfect, you know what I mean.
- 18 Q. And if they weren't?
- 19 A. They would be stripped and made to do it again until you
20 got it right.
- 21 Q. Who would do the stripping?
- 22 A. Sister **AEG** would do it and, on occasion, the staff
23 would do it and all.
- 24 Q. Would someone like Sister **AEG** inspect the bed to see
25 if it had been properly done?

- 1 A. It would be inspected, aye, as we woke up.
- 2 Q. And if it didn't pass her inspection, then it would be
3 stripped and you would be required to do it again. Did
4 that happen to you?
- 5 A. To me, aye. It happened to me and then I ended up with
6 a different kind of sheets -- so mine were kind of
7 just -- they flipped there (indicating), let's call it.
- 8 Q. I see. Then you would go down for your breakfast,
9 is that -- after the beds were made, you'd go for
10 breakfast?
- 11 A. You would go in for breakfast, aye.
- 12 Q. What about bathing and washing? Can you help me with
13 that? You do tell us, I think, for example, that Sunday
14 was bath night.
- 15 A. Aye.
- 16 Q. What happened on bath night?
- 17 A. You'd get bathed, but you would use -- the bath had been
18 used several times. People had been in it before you
19 and you'd go in it and then people would come in it
20 after you.
- 21 Q. I think you tell us that sometimes the water would, as
22 you put it, would be a bit mucky because of that.
- 23 A. Cloudy, aye.
- 24 Q. You also talk about Sister **AEG** and the metal comb.
25 Was that something that happened on the Sunday?

1 A. That was called fine-toothed comb night, for nits and
2 that, check your hair and all. That would be every now
3 and again you'd be checked for that, aye.

4 Q. Was that Sister **AEG** who did that?

5 A. To my recollection, aye, it was the sister, aye.

6 Q. How was that, can you help me?

7 A. Painful, you know what I mean. Sometimes it was done
8 with -- it was painful, the way she dug it in.

9 Q. You say it was painful the way she dug the comb in?

10 A. Aye.

11 Q. Did you tell her it was painful?

12 A. I would probably say "ouch".

13 Q. You made it clear to her that it was painful?

14 A. Aye, but I wouldn't say kind of, "Stop it", if you know
15 what I'm talking about. You just got on with it. That
16 was that.

17 Q. At night when you went to bed, I think you tell us the
18 bedtime times would depend on your age.

19 A. Aye.

20 Q. So what range of times are we talking about then for
21 going to bed?

22 A. To make it simple, the weer ones went early and then
23 it would be half an hour later maybe, depending on what
24 you were talking about, age.

25 Q. What you say in your statement at paragraph 21 is:

- 1 "We weren't allowed access to the toilet."
- 2 A. That's right, aye.
- 3 Q. Can you help me with that?
- 4 A. Once you were in bed and you were in that room, that was
- 5 you for the night.
- 6 Q. But if you wanted to the toilet, you couldn't get up to
- 7 go to the toilet?
- 8 A. Well, I got up. I was a bed-wetter. I would get up
- 9 and -- I'd have peed in the corners or whatever because
- 10 I didn't want to pee that bed.
- 11 Q. Who told you weren't allowed access to the toilet?
- 12 A. Oh, the sister told us.
- 13 Q. Sister AEG ?
- 14 A. Aye.
- 15 Q. Do you know why you weren't allowed access to the
- 16 toilet?
- 17 A. Just when you went to bed, that was it; you were in for
- 18 the night.
- 19 Q. Where was the toilet in relation to the bedrooms that
- 20 were in Roncalli House?
- 21 A. There would have been through -- you'd have to go
- 22 through the door and then through a wee hall and it
- 23 would take you into the stairwell and they would be just
- 24 to the right.
- 25 Q. Not far away then?

- 1 A. No, they weren't far, no.
- 2 Q. You have mentioned the dining arrangements. What was
3 the food like during your time there?
- 4 A. For me it wasn't very nice. It was lumpy, everything
5 seemed lumpy.
- 6 Q. You talk about being given lumpy porridge for breakfast;
7 did you have to eat it?
- 8 A. All our meals we had to eat.
- 9 Q. Pardon?
- 10 A. All our meals we had to eat.
- 11 Q. What if you weren't able to eat whatever was in front of
12 you?
- 13 A. If it was a school day, you always had to go to school,
14 but you'd be made to sit until you ate it -- and it
15 could be force-fed.
- 16 Q. Who would do the force-feeding?
- 17 A. Sister AEG mainly.
- 18 Q. And how would that be done? Can you tell me?
- 19 A. Your head getting pulled back and a spoon or a fork
20 forced into your mouth. Your natural reaction was to
21 spit it out, and it would be put back on your plate, so
22 you had to learn to get rid of it.
- 23 Q. How did you learn to do that?
- 24 A. I threw it down radiators, hid it in tea towels.
25 I swapped with other kids, I would eat something they

- 1 didn't like and vice versa.
- 2 Q. You're telling us about what happened to you and the
3 force-feeding of yourself; did you see that happen to
4 other children?
- 5 A. Aye.
- 6 Q. How regular an occurrence was this?
- 7 A. It was as regular as you did -- you had to find a way
8 how to get rid of it and then you learned to adapt. So
9 the sooner you learned to get rid of it, that was it, if
10 you know what I'm talking about. But you had to do it
11 without her seeing you or a staff member seeing you.
- 12 Q. What if you were seen trying to get rid of food?
- 13 A. Well, you would get a slap and then put back on your
14 plate or whatever because this was all down the black
15 babies --
- 16 Q. I was going to ask you that: what explanation were you
17 being given for this sort of approach to feeding?
- 18 A. People were hungry in Africa, that is what I remember,
19 and we should be grateful that we're getting fed.
- 20 Q. And this practice of force-feeding that you've told us
21 about, Jack, did this continue throughout your whole
22 period at Smyllum?
- 23 A. Definitely in the early -- the longer -- the place was
24 starting to dwindle, so it became ... They used to do
25 all the cooking in the one place, so then it was all

1 just delivered to each of these houses, but then we
2 started like cooking for yourself, and it got better,
3 the food got better, because they were going to the cash
4 and carries and it was more kind of -- because they
5 cooked like in a big pot. That was the kind of --
6 "orphanage gruel" we called it. You know what I mean?

7 Q. So it moved from being orphanage gruel, as you've called
8 it, to something that was more edible?

9 A. More edible. It became more edible just through cooking
10 in each of the houses. The staff would cook for the
11 20 children whereas before it came from a big -- the big
12 kitchen and it wasn't nice, if you know what I mean.

13 Q. You were there in 1974. Are you able to tell me when
14 this change happened?

15 A. I would probably say three, four years into that period.

16 Q. Okay.

17 A. I couldn't give you an exact date.

18 LADY SMITH: Can I ask you just to pull your chair a little
19 further forward? When you come nearer the microphone,
20 we can hear you more clearly. They're funny to play
21 around with, but you'll find yourself what works best.
22 Thanks.

23 MR MacAULAY: You also tell us in your statement, Jack,
24 about schooling and when you started at Smyllum, I think
25 you went to the school that was in-house, so to speak.

- 1 A. That's right, aye.
- 2 Q. I think you tell us you enjoyed school; is that right?
- 3 A. I enjoyed school in that period, aye.
- 4 Q. You then moved on to a Catholic secondary school,
5 I think, in Wishaw; is that correct?
- 6 A. That's correct.
- 7 Q. How did you get on there?
- 8 A. My schooling went downhill. I was runner-up to the dux
9 at primary. When I went there I was a bed-wetter and
10 I was up washing my sheets and drying them.
- 11 Q. And that's something I think you tell us about.
- 12 A. I've got to tell you that. So my schooling was affected
13 and I became a gambler and played with the school
14 football team. It went downhill, let's say, from the
15 middle of second year.
- 16 Q. What you're saying -- and we'll talk about your
17 bed-wetting shortly -- is that because of the
18 distraction involved in dealing with your sheets at
19 night --
- 20 A. Aye.
- 21 Q. -- that impacted upon your abilities at school. Is that
22 essentially what you're saying?
- 23 A. Definitely, aye.
- 24 Q. Gambling is something you mentioned more than once
25 I think in your statement. My impression from reading

1 your statement, Jack, is that you were a fairly
2 successful gambler.

3 A. I was, aye.

4 Q. And what did you gamble on?

5 A. I gambled my dinner money every day.

6 Q. That's what you used as your stake?

7 A. Aye.

8 Q. On what, horses?

9 A. Cards. Cards or throwing coins nearest the wall or --

10 Q. So this was at school really?

11 A. At school, aye.

12 Q. Somebody you do mention in your statement is
13 ██████████ BAC ██████████ who you describe as ██████████. How
14 did you get on with Mr ██████████ BAC ██████████ ?

15 A. Myself personally?

16 Q. Yes.

17 A. We thought he was great. He ran the football team.

18 Q. And what about other boys? Did you see how he got on
19 with other boys, other children?

20 A. ██████████ BAC ██████████ was ██████████, he sorted things -- and he was
21 the guy who -- and boys are boys and he would come
22 looking for youse or whatever, you know what I mean, in
23 his wee motor.

24 Q. Sorry, you say boys will be boys and he would come
25 looking for you?

1 A. If you were misbehaving, BAC would come and try and
2 get hold of youse, try and find youse or whatever,
3 because we were always away in the woods or whatever or
4 different things.

5 Q. And why would he be trying to find you?

6 A. To -- he sort of reprimanded. BAC would be the one
7 who would give you a cuff or whatever, you know what
8 I mean, if you were out of order or doing what boys do,
9 if you know what I mean.

10 Q. Did that happen to you then, did you receive --

11 A. Aye, I had a couple of cuffs and that. On one occasion,
12 I'd smashed his toilet pan in -- what's the word for
13 it? -- his workshop. I'd climbed in and stood on his
14 toilet pan and smashed it and they found out everything,
15 so he took me out -- and it was my birthday that day --
16 and he gave me a hook.

17 Q. When you say "a hook", was that a punch?

18 A. A punch, aye.

19 Q. Where was the punch, what part of your body?

20 A. On my cheek.

21 Q. Did you see him hitting other children?

22 A. Aye, I'd seen him hit -- giving them a cuff, aye.

23 Q. Are you saying it would be to reprimand for the child
24 having done something?

25 A. Aye. If we were away -- we'd be away up orchards,

1 farms, the woods, and he would come up with his motor --
2 and you could hear his motor and we would be hiding and
3 if he caught you -- also we would try not to get caught,
4 you know what I mean, but he would deal with you and,
5 "I'll report you back to the nuns". To be honest,
6 we would rather have had the cuff off [REDACTED] in all
7 honest, you know what I mean, but ...

8 LADY SMITH: Why? Why would you have preferred a cuff from
9 [REDACTED] than it getting back to the nuns?

10 A. It just -- I had respect for him, as in he ran the
11 football team. We knew we were being boisterous, but
12 a cuff -- you'd get a cuff and that would be it,
13 finished.

14 LADY SMITH: But what if it was reported back to the nuns?

15 A. Oh, you could be -- you could get a few more cuffs and
16 maybe kept in for a week and not allowed to go to
17 football. Different things, whatever punishment they
18 knew would get to you.

19 MR MacAULAY: You talk about your leisure time and football.

20 You were keen on football?

21 A. Oh, I loved football.

22 Q. So to be stopped from playing football would be quite
23 a significant punishment for you? Is that fair?

24 A. Oh aye, definitely.

25 Q. But, as you said, it was [REDACTED] who ran the football

- 1 team?
- 2 A. Aye.
- 3 Q. So would that mean that you'd have quite a lot of
4 contact with Mr BAC ?
- 5 A. Lots of contact with him, training -- we even --
6 , we would go down and he would tell us stories of
7 the past and we loved listening to them, you know. Five
8 or six of us would go.
- 9 Q. I was about to ask you: was there a particular group of
10 boys that Mr BAC was involved in? You mentioned
11 five or six. Are we talking about a group of boys?
- 12 A. I'm sure there was many more, over the years, but if you
13 played football, you were more in BAC kind of ...
14 he would be more interested in you, if you know what I'm
15 talking about.
- 16 Q. Okay, yes. So far as birthdays were concerned, were
17 your birthdays celebrated during your time in Smyllum?
- 18 A. In Smyllum if it was somebody's birthday, they would
19 bake a cake, aye, and it would be celebrated. Each kid
20 would --
- 21 Q. What about presents, would you get presents on your
22 birthday?
- 23 A. I think you got something. It wouldn't have been much.
24 I can't mind getting --
- 25 Q. And Christmas then, would you have some --

- 1 A. Christmas was good times. We were invited to parties
2 and we got presents at Christmas, aye.
- 3 Q. I want to ask you now about visits and what visits you
4 got when you were at Smyllum. I think what you tell us
5 in your statement that you did get regular visits from
6 a social worker.
- 7 A. The social worker, I remember, it was Bob Hay, and he
8 used to come out about every six weeks to visit us.
- 9 Q. When he came to visit would you be there with your two
10 brothers?
- 11 A. That's right.
- 12 Q. So he would see the three of you together, so to speak;
13 is that correct?
- 14 A. Aye, we would see him in a room, you know what I mean,
15 the three of us.
- 16 Q. Can I take you to paragraph 46 of your statement. It's
17 actually on the screen. If you just look at either the
18 screen or the copy in front of you, you confirm there
19 that:
- 20 "I think we saw our social worker once every six
21 weeks. If he was on holiday, we would maybe miss our
22 spot. Prior to our social work visit Sister **AEG**
23 would say, 'Everything's all right, boys?', and we would
24 say, 'Aye, sister, everything's fine.'"
- 25 Can you just help me with that? Why was this

1 conversation taking place with Sister [REDACTED] AEG ?

2 A. That would usually happen a couple of days prior to the
3 visit. It was just to alert us, keep us on our toes and
4 let us know in case we were to say anything. So we knew
5 to keep quiet. So that's what we did.

6 Q. To keep quiet about what?

7 A. About what was happening in the home. So we were
8 getting a wee kind of warning, so we would keep quiet.

9 Q. And did you keep quiet then?

10 A. Well, I know me and my brother [REDACTED] did. I've since
11 found out my brother [REDACTED] KAV was talking to Bob Hay unknown
12 to us.

13 LADY SMITH: If you hadn't been pressured in this way, what
14 do you think you'd have wanted to tell the social
15 worker?

16 A. Well, I'd imagine some of the things that were
17 happening, if they've asked us the questions.

18 LADY SMITH: What things?

19 A. About the freezing baths and getting beat up and the
20 spoon, getting made to eat and things. And he used to
21 ask us, but we wouldn't say nothing, we would keep
22 quiet.

23 MR MacAULAY: I'm going to move on to look at some of these
24 things, but so far as your brother [REDACTED] KAV speaking to the
25 social worker was concerned, it was only quite

- 1 recently --
- 2 A. Aye.
- 3 Q. -- you found out from him that he had mentioned some
4 matters. Did he tell you what he had mentioned to the
5 social worker?
- 6 A. He got his letters back from the social work and he told
7 me -- he never told me as a kid. He'll be 52 this year
8 and that was, say, about a year ago, 18 months ago he
9 told me that he'd been talking to Bob Hay about things
10 that were happening.
- 11 Q. Let's look at that then because there's a section of
12 your statement, Jack, where you talk about what's
13 described as abuse at Smyllum. You have already
14 mentioned bed-wetting. Can you just describe to me what
15 happened then? You knew you would be wetting the bed at
16 night?
- 17 A. Aye.
- 18 Q. And you have told us already you weren't able to go to
19 the toilet. Did you wet the bed?
- 20 A. I wetted the bed right up until high school. It was
21 mortifying.
- 22 Q. What would happen then if you wet the bed?
- 23 A. If I wet the bed in the morning -- what I used to do is
24 I'd get up and try to dry my sheets but then I realised
25 that it smelled, I found out that. Then I was up,

- 1 I would wash them and then dry them through the night.
- 2 That's why my schooling got --
- 3 Q. Before we come to that, Jack, can I put it this way,
- 4 were you caught with your sheets wet because you had wet
- 5 the bed?
- 6 A. I'd been caught, aye. I tried to kid on, aye.
- 7 Q. Before we go on to what you tried to do to, as it were,
- 8 kid on, who caught you, first of all?
- 9 A. The sister. The beds were inspected on a daily basis
- 10 for envelope corners, them getting made, and all the
- 11 bed-wetters were checked and I was a bed-wetter.
- 12 Q. So I get the name, who was it that caught you then?
- 13 A. Sister **AEG**.
- 14 Q. What happened? What happened to you if you were caught
- 15 having wet the bed?
- 16 A. The bed -- if she caught you, you'd have to strip the
- 17 bed, you could be put in a cold bath, or you had to go
- 18 and get a bath, and then you'd take the sheets down to
- 19 the laundry and then you would be bathed and have to
- 20 come into the bit where -- this was to where everybody
- 21 was having their breakfast and you would be degraded:
- 22 "Look, here come the fishes".
- 23 Q. Sorry?
- 24 A. "Here come the fishes." When you start to get to 12,
- 25 13, it was embarrassing because obviously young kids --

1 it was to mock you and have a laugh at you. That was
2 the worst bit about it. So that's why, as I say,
3 I started doing what I done because I couldn't handle
4 the shame.

5 Q. Again, I'll come back to what you tried to do before
6 you -- but on how many occasions do you think you were
7 caught out and made to suffer this degree of humiliation
8 you have mentioned?

9 A. Scores and scores. Maybe even hundreds.

10 Q. Over a period?

11 A. I didn't realise why I wet the bed but I know now it was
12 because I seen the extreme violence from my father and
13 I was nervous ... I found that out as an adult, people
14 tell me. I didn't realise why. I used to sit on my
15 mother's knee. That's why that carried on. That's why
16 I wet the bed.

17 Q. Okay. You mentioned having a bath. That would be
18 something that would happen if you were caught, you'd
19 have to have a bath?

20 A. Aye.

21 Q. What about the water, how would the water --

22 A. It would be run cold, that one.

23 Q. Leaving aside the degrading thing about what happened
24 later for the moment, was anything done to you
25 physically if you wet the bed?

1 A. Oh aye, you could be slapped about a wee bit, you know
2 what I mean.

3 Q. By whom?

4 A. The sister usually.

5 Q. Sister AEG

6 A. Aye.

7 Q. When you say "slapped" --

8 A. Don't get me wrong, I'd been beat up by the staff and
9 all, but the sister was the main -- she ran the place.
10 It was her house, her rules.

11 Q. And when you say "slapped", can you give me some
12 understanding as to what would happen?

13 A. Well, on your bare skin you'd be rattled with big hands.

14 Q. With what, sorry?

15 A. She had big hands and you would be obviously marked --
16 we had been beat up, basically that was thingummy -- but
17 the worst bit for me was the degrading bit. I couldn't
18 cope with that. It some affected me.

19 LADY SMITH: You remember her having big hands?

20 A. Oh aye. I remember as a boy, but I remember these big
21 hands.

22 MR MacAULAY: Would the degree of slapping vary depending
23 on --

24 A. There was just three staff at a time in our house, which
25 basically was one and -- the sister and the three staff

1 ran it.

2 Q. If you look at Sister AEG and when she slapped you

3 for the bed-wetting, as you have told us about, was it

4 one or two slaps, or would it vary depending?

5 A. It would vary. It could be several.

6 Q. Would she say anything to you when this was going on?

7 A. She'd say some words, aye.

8 Q. What sort of words would she say?

9 A. Just degrading you, like ...

10 Q. Can you give us some examples?

11 A. "Pee the beds", "Fishes", "Have you been swimming last

12 night?" Things like that. It wasn't nice.

13 Q. You have told us on more than one occasion that the

14 worst of it was the humiliation that you had to suffer.

15 A. Aye, definitely.

16 Q. I just want to understand how that happened because

17 you have indicated that the sheets were taken off the

18 bed; would that be by yourself?

19 A. Oh aye, you would have to.

20 Q. Would you then have to carry the sheets somewhere?

21 A. Aye, down to the launderette, aye.

22 Q. You wouldn't be required to wash the sheets or would

23 you?

24 A. No, you'd just take them down. We wouldn't have to wash

25 them -- at that period, anyway.

1 Q. And after that, then, would you be going for your
2 breakfast?

3 A. Once you were bathed up, you'd come down --

4 Q. Would this whole process mean you'd be going in for
5 breakfast after the other children were there already?

6 A. They would have started. They'd be well into their
7 breakfast and you'd have --

8 Q. I just want to understand then what happened when you
9 went into the dining hall to have your breakfast. You
10 said something would be said.

11 A. Mm.

12 Q. Can you help me?

13 A. Obviously she wouldn't always be in every time you came
14 in, but if she was in, terms like "the fishes", that's
15 what sticks in my mind, all that, and, "Here are the
16 bed-wetters coming", and that. It was just humiliating.

17 Q. Was that Sister AEG ?

18 A. Aye.

19 Q. What response would that get from the other children who
20 were there?

21 A. A few chuckles and laughter and that.

22 Q. You found that upsetting?

23 A. Of course, aye.

24 Q. That then, I think, is the background to what you've
25 already mentioned about getting up to do something with

1 your sheets. Can you just elaborate upon that for me,
2 Jack, if you can?

3 A. I wasn't the only bed-wetter.

4 Q. No.

5 A. So [REDACTED] or [REDACTED] me and him used to get up and
6 we'd wash them and dry them so we wouldn't have to go
7 through that shame and humiliation in the morning.

8 Q. Would you be getting up some time during the night?

9 A. We would have to sneak out with a chance of getting
10 caught, but that was better than the embarrassment and
11 humiliation in the morning. So we would wash them and
12 put them on the big radiators -- and these rooms were
13 pitch dark. Once those shutters shut, the next time you
14 seen daylight was through the wee holes in the morning.
15 You'd be going across the wall and that trying to find
16 the door. That's what we did. We washed them and then
17 dried them.

18 Q. How did you dry them?

19 A. On the big radiators, the big, old-fashioned radiators,
20 and we would dry them on that.

21 Q. That would take some time?

22 A. It wasn't too bad because it was nylon and they were
23 massive big thingummies, but it would take time. You'd
24 be tired the next day.

25 Q. So you do all that and you put the sheets back on your

- 1 bed; is that correct?
- 2 A. Aye.
- 3 Q. And do I take it that this process, then, of drying the
4 sheets, putting them back on the bed, meant that the
5 sheets were dry in the morning?
- 6 A. Well, you wouldn't -- you'd have to have that bed made.
7 You couldn't get in bed without that sheet on. So you'd
8 have to dry it, then put the sheet on, then go back to
9 bed.
- 10 Q. When the inspection was carried out in the morning, the
11 sheets would be dry?
- 12 A. Unless you wet it again, but they would be dry, aye.
- 13 Q. And you have already mentioned that this whole process
14 impacted upon your schooling in secondary school;
15 is that correct?
- 16 A. Correct.
- 17 Q. Can you tell me how often you think you had to get up to
18 wash wet sheets?
- 19 A. I was quite regular. I mean to try and put a scale on
20 it, it could be two or three times a week at periods.
21 Sometimes I was dry. You weren't allowed liquid at
22 a certain point, I know. But all the other kids -- that
23 was a part of the humiliation, as well. You weren't
24 allowed a drink. Say they were getting Irn Bru or
25 diluting juice. It was hurting to think that the wee

1 ones were getting a drink and you were one of the older
2 ones -- I mean, I was in high school, 12, 13, 14. So
3 that was the way it was.

4 Q. Being deprived of a drink, would it be obvious to other
5 children that you were not getting a drink?

6 A. Aye, you were targeted. They knew you were one of the
7 bed-wetters.

8 Q. Would this be before bedtime these drinks would be
9 available? Some time before bedtime?

10 A. After 7. Seven sticks in my mind that you weren't
11 allowed a drink after.

12 Q. You have already mentioned the feeding experience that
13 you had and how that happened. You mention in your
14 statement that if the food was on the floor, it would be
15 scooped back off the floor and put on your plate.

16 A. Aye.

17 Q. And would you then be made to eat it?

18 A. Well, if they'd seen you throwing it away, then they
19 would put it back on, or if you spat it out on
20 occasions -- but if it was just lying like -- back to my
21 gambling, I was good at my gambling and I used to pay
22 people to eat my dinner. I actually paid them because
23 I was good at the gambling. I would give somebody
24 two bob to eat my dinner and I would get chips and
25 Coca Cola maybe up the road.

1 Q. You also say in your statement that if you were caught
2 swearing, something happened to you.

3 A. That's right, aye.

4 Q. What happened?

5 A. They would put soap in your mouth.

6 Q. Do you know what kind of soap that was?

7 A. It was carbolic.

8 Q. Who would do that?

9 A. The sister.

10 Q. Sister AEG?

11 A. She was the chief one, she dealt with the punishments.

12 Q. And smoking, did you get caught smoking?

13 A. I never smoked, but I know people did smoke and she just
14 put them in vinegar and made them smoke them.

15 Q. Put the cigarettes in vinegar?

16 A. I played football -- I wasn't into smoking, but aye.

17 MR MacAULAY: My Lady, it's just coming up to 1 o'clock.

18 LADY SMITH: Would that be a convenient point to break?

19 Jack, we take a lunch break at about this time, so
20 I think we'll do that now and come back to your evidence
21 at 2 o'clock, please.

22 (12.57 pm)

23 (The lunch adjournment)

24 (2.00 pm)

25 MR MacAULAY: Hello again, Jack.

1 Before the break you'd been telling us a little bit
2 about your own experience with bed-wetting and I think
3 you also mentioned in passing that there was someone
4 else that was involved in the sheet washing and sheet
5 drying exercise with you. But apart from that, were
6 there other children that you were aware of who also wet
7 the bed?

8 A. Aye.

9 Q. What sort of treatment did they receive?

10 A. The same, it was similar.

11 Q. One of the things you tell us in your statement
12 is that -- this is at paragraph 58:

13 "When we wet the bed or didn't eat our food, the
14 level of violence depended on their moods."

15 Do you see that towards the bottom of that page?

16 A. Aye, that's right, aye.

17 Q. "We could get a cuff on a good day, but we could also be
18 beaten to a pulp and we were degraded."

19 You've talked about the degrading that happened, can
20 I just understand this business about "depending on
21 moods" as to what would happen to you?

22 A. That's the way I've gathered it as an adult because it
23 varied on the -- depending on the -- I couldn't say
24 you'd get two slaps every time something -- it was just
25 on the day. So I can only put it down to it depending

- 1 on their frame of mind on that day.
- 2 Q. But "beaten to a pulp", that seems quite strong
3 language. What do you mean when you talk about --
- 4 A. What I mean is that they'd larrup you with Scholls or
5 sandals. We could be --
- 6 LADY SMITH: Jack, could you get a bit closer to the
7 microphone?
- 8 A. Sorry.
- 9 LADY SMITH: No need to apologise; most people aren't used
10 to talking into a microphone every day.
- 11 A. What I meant is that we could be -- whatever came to
12 hand at times we could be beat with. I don't know if
13 you remember the big wooden Scholls with the wee leather
14 straps and rubber sandals and the likes of that. So we
15 could be getting a right good thingummy with them.
- 16 MR MacAULAY: You mentioned Scholl sandals.
- 17 A. Wooden sandals, sandals made of wood --
- 18 Q. Yes. And who would use that?
- 19 A. Sister **AEG** used it on us.
- 20 Q. And apart from Scholl sandals, what else do you say she
21 used?
- 22 A. Rubber sandals that stung like --
- 23 Q. And were these implements that she would have to hand?
- 24 A. Whatever kind of came to hand on the occasion.
- 25 Q. And so far as you think --

- 1 A. And the sandals, she wore sandals herself, obviously.
- 2 Q. Did she?
- 3 A. Aye.
- 4 Q. Would she take a sandal off then in order to do this?
- 5 A. On occasion, aye.
- 6 Q. One of the things you say there as well in that
7 paragraph is about being made to stand on freezing
8 floors for hours; do you see that?
- 9 A. That's right, aye.
- 10 Q. Can you help me with that, tell me what that's about?
- 11 A. If you misbehaved or anybody misbehaved they would
12 switch the telly off and if it was you individually you
13 would be made to go in a corner and stand in it. It was
14 out by the larder kind of area near the back doors,
15 places like that. You'd be made to stand near where the
16 washing got done. So it was like concrete floors and
17 things like that. It wasn't like carpet or lino you'd
18 have now sort of thing. It'd be that -- you'd be made
19 to stand until they came back.
- 20 Q. How long could that be?
- 21 A. It could be hours, periods of an hour, two hours,
22 longer.
- 23 Q. Was that something that happened to you?
- 24 A. It happened to me, aye, and it happened to my brothers.
25 It happened to -- there was nae select thing going on,

1 it was whoever was in trouble -- although there were
2 people who were more classed as favourites.

3 LADY SMITH: Did you have anything on your feet when you
4 were standing on these floors?

5 A. It was bare feet, although we all had slippers and
6 housecoats and that, but we would be put into the corner
7 as a punishment.

8 MR MacAULAY: Who would tell you to do that?

9 A. Sister **AEG**. She was in charge, so ...

10 Q. When you were struck with either by the hands or sandals
11 by Sister **AEG** would marks be left?

12 A. Aye, obviously red marks, you'd be stinging, stinging
13 red marks.

14 Q. And if Sister **AEG** was using a sandal, which parts of
15 your body would be the target?

16 A. Well, your hind end, I'll call it.

17 Q. Your backside?

18 A. Your backside, aye, or sometimes your back, places like
19 that. Your legs would be targeted and all.

20 Q. You touched upon this a few seconds ago and you talk
21 about this in your statement: you say that
22 Sister **AEG** had her favourites.

23 A. Aye.

24 Q. How did that manifest itself? How did that appear?

25 A. Some of the kids come in from babies and they became, by

1 the time -- she had her certain favourites. Everybody's
2 got favourites. There would be a couple that would be
3 classed as what we called favourites.

4 Q. What difference --

5 A. They wouldn't maybe be subjected to what we maybe we
6 received. You know what I mean?

7 Q. And did you think this was unfair at the time?

8 A. Well, naturally, anybody would think it's unfair, would
9 they not?

10 Q. You do give an example of an incident that didn't
11 involve Sister **AEG** striking you but somebody else --
12 that's in paragraph 61 -- where there was something that
13 caused you to laugh when you were serving as an altar
14 boy; is that right?

15 A. That's right, aye.

16 Q. What happened on that occasion?

17 A. We were doing the Mass for the Easter Vigil and one of
18 the boys tripped over the cables, the wires for the
19 microphones, and we went into laughter and we couldn't
20 stop for the whole Mass. Every time we looked at each
21 other somebody would ... And that's what happened. We
22 laughed all the way through it and then the priest
23 slapped my brother across the face after it.

24 Q. The priest slapped --

25 A. My brother, my young brother, aye.

- 1 Q. What effect did this have on Sister [REDACTED] AEG when she
2 knew about it?
- 3 A. Well, when she heard about it, she was angry and
4 I believe she confronted the priest -- or she told us
5 she did.
- 6 Q. And what did she say to you about it?
- 7 A. She just said, "Nobody will hit our boys, my boys".
- 8 Q. I think --
- 9 A. Because he had no right to, he was a priest for Lanark,
10 St Mary's, so he was nothing to do with us, so she
11 defended us.
- 12 Q. I think you told us that Mr [REDACTED] BAC [REDACTED] BAC ,
13 did hit boys.
- 14 A. Aye.
- 15 Q. So did Sister [REDACTED] AEG know about that?
- 16 A. I think it was just he was basically -- that was part of
17 the way it was done. So I think he just had a free
18 role. I can't say any more than that, but he just done
19 it.
- 20 Q. Do you know if she knew about that?
- 21 A. I'd imagine she did.
- 22 Q. You've been focusing on Sister [REDACTED] EAG . What about the
23 other nuns that were at Smyllum during your time?
- 24 A. Aye, there was a couple there.
- 25 Q. Were there any other nuns that you came across that you

1 can tell us about?

2 A. There was a Sister **AHM**. She battered me with a

3 doormat and slapped me a few times on one occasion.

4 Q. On one occasion?

5 A. Aye.

6 Q. Can you remember what that was for?

7 A. I can't remember what it was for, but I vividly

8 remember.

9 LADY SMITH: What do you say she did with a doormat?

10 A. My head, she hit it off the door --

11 LADY SMITH: Off the doorpost or the door frame or

12 something?

13 A. The workshop door.

14 LADY SMITH: The workshop door?

15 A. It was outside, aye.

16 MR MacAULAY: And I think you said she slapped you as well?

17 A. Aye.

18 Q. Can you remember what was the reason for that?

19 A. That's what I'm saying. I'd have been -- I might have

20 been misbehaving, but -- well, in her eyes.

21 Q. You tell us in your statement that Sister **AHM** was

22 a Hibs fan; is that right?

23 A. That's right, aye.

24 Q. How did you know that?

25 A. She told us. She used to sing a couple of wee songs.

- 1 Q. About Hibs? About the football team Hibs?
- 2 A. Aye. I was football mad, so it amused us to hear her
3 sing her wee songs.
- 4 Q. Was that the only occasion you had any involvement of
5 that kind with Sister **AHM** ?
- 6 A. Aye because everything was done in-house, you know what
7 I mean? Sister **AEG** was in -- you know what I mean.
- 8 Q. That's what I was going to ask you about: in relation to
9 the different houses, how much did you have to do with
10 the nuns that might have been in charge of other houses?
- 11 A. You had your own house, but if you were misbehaving or
12 you were out, obviously they could -- they were still
13 part of the home, so they could -- they would do what
14 the kind of thingummy, you know what I mean?
- 15 Q. Are there any other nuns whose names you can remember --
- 16 A. Aye, I can remember a few of them, aye.
- 17 Q. -- that had some involvement with yourself in the sense
18 of either hitting you or ...
- 19 A. There was one, Sister **AHV** -- I think it was
20 Sister **AHV**. She threatened to hit me, but she never
21 got round to it. Then she moved on.
- 22 Q. So you're really talking about essentially
23 Sister **AEG** but also Sister **AHM** and this threat
24 you got from Sister **AHV**
- 25 A. Aye, that was the ones that were in my thingy.

1 Q. And you have mentioned [REDACTED] BAC [REDACTED] already and in
2 particular the episode where I think you broke
3 a lavatory pan; is that right?

4 A. That's correct, aye.

5 Q. On that occasion you tell us -- and this is in
6 paragraph 63 -- that he punched you?

7 A. That's right.

8 Q. What you say there -- I'll read this out to you:

9 "He went for me with one hand and I ducked out the
10 way. He punched me with the other and assaulted me.
11 That was his job."

12 I just --

13 A. It wasn't actually his job, but he was [REDACTED],
14 [REDACTED], whatever you want to call him, [REDACTED]
15 [REDACTED]. But that was what he
16 done, [REDACTED] BAC [REDACTED], as I said earlier, reprimanded you. If
17 you were misbehaving, you expected a cuff or, "I'll
18 report you to the nun". The threat of being reported to
19 a nun, that would be worse.

20 Q. And something you mentioned before in your evidence, you
21 also say in the next paragraph, that:

22 "Civilian staff were cruel and lifted their hands to
23 the children as well."

24 Is that right?

25 A. That's correct, aye.

1 Q. And you mention a particular lady, you mention her name
2 and that she would punch you into your back.

3 A. That's right.

4 Q. Did that happen on more than one occasion?

5 A. Aye, on several occasions.

6 Q. And you say you witnessed things happening to other
7 people as well?

8 A. Aye.

9 Q. What are you talking about there? What sort of things
10 are you talking about?

11 A. Things I've already spoken to you about: people getting
12 slapped, beaten. This is the staff you're talking
13 about?

14 Q. Yes.

15 A. Aye, slapped, beaten, and similar kind of things, you
16 know, but to a scale that wasn't as bad as the nuns
17 would be, but they lifted their hands, aye.

18 Q. You go on to say:

19 "That's the way it was, the way you learned to
20 survive. There was severe cruelty, it became normality
21 to us."

22 A. That's right.

23 Q. Can you explain what you mean by that reference to it
24 being normality?

25 A. It was just normal. That was the way it was. You just

1 had to learn to survive as best you could. If I was
2 letting you take the thingummy for it, then I wasn't
3 getting it. That was the way we survived.

4 As I say, with the eating, getting rid of our food,
5 we learned how to cope, survive, to the best of our
6 ability. That's the only way to explain it. And
7 sometimes it was cruel, as in cruel for other kids.
8 Because they were getting the blame or they were getting
9 the beating. You were just glad it wasn't you. That's
10 the way it was. It became survival. That's the way it
11 was.

12 Q. Can I then move on, Jack, to when you came to leave
13 Smyllum. Smyllum was shutting down, as we mentioned
14 before. I think what you say in your statement is that
15 at the end it was essentially -- this lady who became
16 a member of staff and Sister **AEG** who were left?

17 A. That's right.

18 Q. And is this in connection with the section that you were
19 in?

20 A. Ours was the last house to shut, Roncalli House, aye.

21 Q. In that final period then, what you do say is that
22 Sister **AEG** attitude had changed.

23 A. Definitely, aye.

24 Q. Can you explain that?

25 A. In the last year, my two brothers had gone to Glasgow to

1 the hostel and there was so few of us, it was just one
2 going away, one going away, and I remember it with
3 sadness because this was your family and pals and
4 we were like a family. We've still got a bond, the ones
5 I've kept in touch with.

6 [REDACTED]
7 [REDACTED] Things got easier
8 because there was no -- when I went first in there, it
9 was like an iron hand. There was no reason to continue
10 that because by then they were starting -- the new place
11 was shutting down.

12 That's my recollection: it was shutting down, things
13 got easier, the food was better. In fact I even mind
14 times that we'd just get something out the chippy that
15 night because there was so few of us. You know what
16 I mean? Even the Saturday night they weren't -- things
17 weren't the way it had been. It dwindled.

18 Q. What you say there is:

19 "Sister [REDACTED] AEG attitude had changed. There was
20 no need to be cruel any more because [you say] there was
21 hardly anyone left."

22 A. Remember, that is me saying that in 2017. I'm trying to
23 think how -- the reason why it became, and that's the
24 only way I can see it. There was no reason to beat you
25 up or put you in a freezing bath at that stage.

1 Q. I think one of the things you do say is you haven't got
2 any real recollection of that last year because --
3 I think what you say is it was essentially a blank.

4 A. It was very -- I was saying that when I had done the
5 thingummy. That last year just, it was -- I was dogging
6 school, it was just -- I didn't want to be at school and
7 it just -- my two brothers went through and I just can't
8 mind much about it.

9 As I say, it was just dwindling down. I don't know
10 if that makes sense. Everything was just dwindling down
11 into -- and fears were coming into my life: what
12 am I going to do for work, what am I going to do? You
13 know what I mean?

14 Q. According to what records we've seen, you left in
15 [REDACTED] 1981.

16 A. [REDACTED] aye.

17 Q. And you went to Glengowan House in Glasgow?

18 A. That's right.

19 Q. Your brothers were there ahead of you; is that right?

20 A. That's correct.

21 Q. I won't go into the detail of that particular place, but
22 what sort of age group was that catering for?

23 A. It was supposed to be for teenagers getting ready for
24 getting into life and have their own places and that,
25 really between 16 and 18, but my brothers were younger.

1 There was occasion when [REDACTED] and KAV, I think they were
2 about 13 and 14 coming up for 14 and 15 maybe.

3 Q. And you at that time were aged, what, 15, 16?

4 A. I was a week before my 16th birthday when I come back to
5 Glasgow.

6 Q. And that establishment, I think, was that run by the
7 Catholic Church?

8 A. Aye.

9 Q. You do provide us with some information about what that
10 place was like. You also indicate what different jobs
11 you had, including, for example, the job as an
12 apprentice plumber; do you remember that?

13 A. No, I was offered an apprentice plumber.

14 Q. You knocked that back? You are quite right.

15 A. I didn't have the confidence. The guy gave me a week to
16 decide and I chose to be a Youth Opportunity painter.

17 Q. But you had a number of different jobs over a period of
18 time?

19 A. In the hostel?

20 Q. When you were at the hostel, yes.

21 A. I had a couple of jobs, aye, two or three, aye.

22 Q. You tell us in paragraph 77 that you were at Glengowan
23 for about 18 months.

24 A. That's right.

25 Q. And you left in about 1983; is that correct?

- 1 A. Aye, just on Hogmanay, I got popped out, aye.
- 2 Q. You were asked, I think, when you gave your statement,
3 about the reporting of abuse -- and you have touched on
4 this already -- I think you yourself never told anyone
5 about anything that had happened to you at Smyllum.
- 6 A. Sorry, say that again?
- 7 Q. You yourself never told anyone, like a social worker,
8 for example, anything that happened to you in Smyllum.
- 9 A. No, kept it to myself, aye.
- 10 Q. You provide us in your statement, Jack, with some
11 information about life after leaving care. We know that
12 you had children and that they were -- you're very fond
13 of your children, you explain that in your statement.
14 I think you also made some contact with your father;
15 is that right?
- 16 A. Aye.
- 17 Q. After quite a number of years; is that correct?
- 18 A. Are you talking about when he went out of my life?
- 19 Q. When he came back in, when you made contact with him
20 after you left care.
- 21 A. Aye. Well, I met him for a brief period, aye.
- 22 Q. You also talk about the impact that you think your life
23 in care had on you, is that right, if you look at
24 paragraph 87 of your statement? In particular, you
25 provide some quite detailed information about having

1 a drink problem.

2 A. Aye. I'm an alcoholic, aye.

3 Q. But there were times when you had a drink problem, then
4 you stopped drinking. I think you tell us when you were
5 33 you stopped drinking.

6 A. I stopped for seven years, aye, and then I --

7 Q. And then did you get back on the drink?

8 A. For four and a half years, aye.

9 Q. But I think you went to Alcoholics Anonymous.

10 A. That's right.

11 Q. And that was beneficial to you?

12 A. Definitely, aye.

13 Q. So you've been off the drink for quite some time now?

14 A. Nearly eight years again.

15 Q. I want to ask you about this, because it's clear from
16 what you say in your statement that you love children,
17 and not just your own children, but children generally.
18 Is that fair to say?

19 A. That's fair, aye, definitely.

20 Q. For example, you give the example of having been the
21 kinship carer for your ex-partner's granddaughter.
22 I want to ask you about paragraph 93, where at the very
23 end you say that you've been to schools in Africa.
24 Do you see that?

25 A. Aye, I have done a lot of charity work.

- 1 Q. Can you help us with that? What did that involve?
- 2 A. It involved going to Africa with the Prince and Princess
3 of Wales Hospice, through their work, and doing all --
4 going to schools and charity stuff. Then I went to the
5 Gambia with my ex-partner and we went to the schools and
6 brought them sharpeners, rulers, pencils, all that carry
7 on, rubbers, which I enjoyed.
- 8 That's what I did when I got off the drink.
9 I looked back to my childhood and people had helped me,
10 so that's what I did.
- 11 Q. Okay. I think you tell us you're also in touch with
12 other children who had been at Smyllum.
- 13 A. I have, aye. I've got a few people, aye.
- 14 Q. And did you find that some of them had also had quite
15 a troubled existence after they left Smyllum?
- 16 A. Definitely. Every one of them.
- 17 Q. Involving, for example, alcohol and even other matters?
- 18 A. Drugs, handling relationships and women. I've seen my
19 brother -- my brother's in a bad way with drugs and
20 drink.
- 21 Q. You do tell us, I think, in paragraph 97 that you became
22 homeless quite recently, but have you managed to sort
23 that out?
- 24 A. I have indeed, aye.
- 25 Q. Good. I get the impression you're quite an optimistic

1 sort of person because you say there:

2 "I'm still laughing."

3 A. Aye, I love to laugh, aye.

4 Q. You have never had any form of counselling; is that
5 right?

6 A. Regarding my childhood, no, I've never.

7 Q. I want to take you to paragraph 100 in your statement,
8 Jack. It's that last sentence that I just want to ask
9 you about. The paragraph begins by saying:

10 "All my life I never had anybody to talk to."

11 Then you say:

12 "Now I'm able to talk about it, I had to be taught
13 it wasn't all my fault."

14 Can you explain that? What do you mean by that?

15 A. That was people in the fellowship that -- when I got put
16 into these places it wasn't my fault and I just never
17 talked about it and they just says to me, you were
18 a child, you know what I mean. I had been left at
19 Anderson Bus Station when I was 7 with my two young
20 brothers. I never had a mother, father, aunties,
21 uncles, like normal people have. I was left. So when
22 I went on the drink, I had nobody to answer to, so that
23 was the way my life went.

24 Q. You then have a section, "Lessons to be learned", and
25 one of the points you make, for example, is that kids

1 want love and stability. Is that --

2 A. That's very true, aye.

3 Q. If you turn to page 102, if I can just pick this
4 sentence out because it does, I think, stand out, and
5 that's halfway down:

6 "Damaged kids end up damaged adults."

7 A. That's my belief, aye. It's my experience.

8 Q. You provide us with some final thoughts, Jack, and you
9 begin by pondering:

10 "I often wonder what happened to the nuns."

11 Do you see that?:

12 "Maybe it was sexual frustration. Maybe looking
13 after 20 children was too difficult."

14 What's the context that you're looking at there when
15 you're making these comments?

16 A. My comment on that is I'm wondering why they done it.
17 I've tried to have an open mind and ask myself -- I've
18 thought about this for many, many years -- I'm nearly
19 53 -- why they did it. That's the best I can come up
20 with. Was it that? And looking after 20 kids wouldn't
21 have been easy either, you know what I mean? So I've
22 tried, I have often thought in my head, why would you do
23 that and why would you ... So that's what that is,
24 basically, for me.

25 Q. But you tell us in the next paragraph that you've

- 1 forgiven Sister **AEG** .
- 2 A. Yes. That's down to my AA. It's learning -- I've done
3 things that I shouldn't have done myself. I've done the
4 12-step programme and I was able to go out and I took
5 flowers and chocolates up to that woman.
- 6 Q. That was the next thing I was going to ask you about:
7 you went to visit her --
- 8 A. That's right, aye.
- 9 Q. -- and you gave her chocolates and flowers. When was
10 that?
- 11 A. When?
- 12 Q. Yes.
- 13 A. I couldn't get an exact date, but it wasn't that long
14 ago, one of the times.
- 15 Q. You're talking about, what, the last couple of years or
16 more recently?
- 17 A. Last couple of years. I have been out there many times
18 to take my daughters and friends.
- 19 Q. You tell us about her present situation, but actually
20 I think you've already told us, when you were a boy, she
21 had hands like shovels and you have mentioned that
22 already.
- 23 A. I remember when you're wee, they always look bigger,
24 don't they?
- 25 Q. And just if I can pick up the next paragraph, again you

1 said you have forgiven her. And then you go on to say:

2 "I am not here to crucify that nun; I'm here to tell
3 the truth."

4 A. That's right.

5 Q. That's your position?

6 A. Aye.

7 Q. And perhaps the final point I want to ask you about,
8 Jack, is at paragraph 106, when you talk about the cross
9 at St Mary's Lanark which was there to commemorate the
10 Smyllum children who died in the two World Wars.

11 I think there was a change made to that by the local
12 priest.

13 A. That's right, aye.

14 Q. What happened there?

15 A. The cross had been in Smyllum all those years and then
16 obviously when it shut down they moved it to St Mary's
17 and it was still the Smyllum boys that had the plaque
18 and then they changed it, the priest changed it, which
19 I felt was rank, because that was for the boys that came
20 for -- and he changed that and it just stuck in my mind
21 that he shouldn't have done it. It was for the boys who
22 grew up in the home.

23 Q. You called yourselves "the Smyllum boys"?

24 A. That's right.

25 Q. Was there something of a bond then between you?

1 A. See, if you grow up in that environment, you've got
2 a bond, the ones that were there, and even the ones, if
3 I was to meet them, that I grew up with, they were like
4 your brothers and sisters. You know what I mean?

5 Q. The final point then, you say that:

6 "When I read that there were 11,601 children at
7 Smyllum, [you] reckon the one is [you]."

8 A. I couldn't believe that. "The one at the end," I said,
9 "That must have been me", aye.

10 MR MacAULAY: Thank you very much indeed, Jack, for coming
11 to give your evidence.

12 My Lady, I haven't received any questions for Jack
13 and I don't know if there are to be any questions.

14 LADY SMITH: Are there any outstanding applications for
15 questions? No, thank you.

16 Jack, thank you. That has been a vivid and very
17 helpful account of your time at Smyllum, in particular
18 [REDACTED] is obviously
19 very important to you and to us to have heard that
20 account. So I'm now able to let you go.

21 A. Thank you.

22 (The witness withdrew)

23 MR MacAULAY: My Lady, the next witness is Fiona Young.

24 LADY SMITH: Thank you.

25

1 FIONA YOUNG (sworn)

2 Questions from Mr MacAULAY

3 MR MacAULAY: Hello, Fiona. I think your name is

4 Fiona Young; is that correct.

5 A. Yes.

6 Q. You have provided the inquiry with a statement. It's
7 in that red folder that's in front of you. I'll be
8 asking you questions on the basis of what's in your
9 statement. There's a bit that I want you to look at in
10 a second or two, but before I do that, I just want to
11 give the reference of the statement for the transcript;
12 that is WIT.001.001.2935. If I can ask you to look at
13 the last page of the statement in the folder. That's at
14 2954.

15 Can I ask you to confirm that you have signed the
16 statement?

17 A. Yes, I have.

18 Q. Looking at the last paragraph, do you tell us:

19 "I have no objection to my witness statement being
20 published as part of the evidence to the inquiry"?

21 A. That's true.

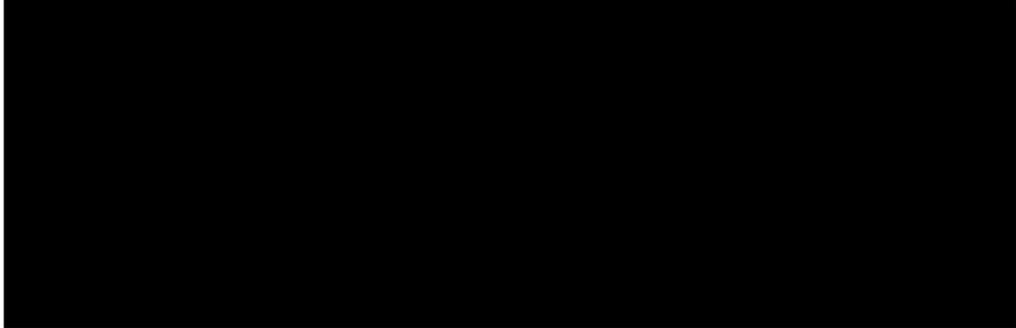
22 Q. Likewise do you go on to say:

23 "I believe the facts stated in this witness
24 statement are true."

25 A. Yes.

1 Q. I don't particularly want to know your date of birth,
2 but as far as your year of birth is concerned, were you
3 born in 1967?

4 A. Yes.

5 Q. 

6

7 A.

8 Q.

9 A.

10 Q. Looking to your life before care, would it be right to
11 summarise that as saying it wasn't a particularly happy
12 family existence?

13 A. No. No.

14 Q. Was it because of that unhappy background that you ended
15 up going into care?

16 A. Mm-hm.

17 Q. Is that correct?

18 A. Yes.

19 Q. I think you went to Smyllum 

20 ?

21 A. Uh-huh.

22 Q. You may not be aware of the exact date but from records
23 the inquiry has seen, it would appear that you were
24 admitted to Smyllum on  1973. So that would mean
25 that you were about 5 or 6.

1 A. It's earlier than I thought it was.

2 Q. I know you say that in your statement and it's easy to
3 get bits wrong.

4 A. Yes.

5 Q. I should have said to you, by the way -- because I do
6 say this to all the witnesses -- if I ask you something
7 you don't remember, just say so. Likewise, if there's
8 something that comes to mind that you think we might
9 like to know, again, feel free to tell us. But as you
10 say, you thought it was possibly 1974?

11 A. Yes.

12 Q. But looking at your age, would you be about 5 or 6 when
13 you were admitted?

14 A. Mm-hm, mm-hm.

15 Q. Is that right?

16 A. Yes.

17 Q. So far as the information we have from the records is
18 concerned, it would appear that you left Smyllum on
19 [REDACTED] 1975. So you'd been there for under two years?

20 A. Mm-hm.

21 Q. Is that correct?

22 A. Longer than I thought.

23 Q. Longer than you thought?

24 A. Mm-hm.

25 Q. Well, if you were there for that sort of -- if you left

1 at about the age of 7 or 8, does that fit in with your
2 own recollection?

3 A. I just remember going back to primary school at Forth
4 and I think I joined about Primary 3.

5 Q. Okay. We'll come back to when you actually leave later
6 on in your evidence. But so far as going to Smyllum was
7 concerned then, were you taken there by a social worker?

8 A. Yes.

9 Q. 

10 A. 

11 Q. And do you remember the social worker's name?

12 A. Mr Sage.

13 Q. Did you have some further contact with Mr Sage during
14 your time at Smyllum?

15 A. Vividly I can remember him visiting. I only really
16 remember Mr Sage going from the sort of foster care,
17 temporary foster care, and then I think  went to
18 hospital, and then I can remember him dropping  at
19 Smyllum.

20 Q. But not seeing him after that?

21 A. No.

22 Q. You don't have any memory of that?

23 A. No.

24 Q. I'm correct in thinking that certainly at that time you
25 were not a Catholic, your family were not Catholics?

- 1 A. No.
- 2 Q. You were Protestants?
- 3 A. Mm-hm.
- 4 Q. But Smyllum was essentially a Catholic institution?
- 5 A. Yes.
- 6 Q. And that's something that was relevant when you look at
7 your time at Smyllum; is that correct?
- 8 A. Yes.
- 9 Q. But before we look at that, when you went to Smyllum
10 first of all then, was there a particular part of the
11 building that you went to?
- 12 A. It was the front building, [REDACTED] ent in, and it was like
13 a front parlour and there were stairs -- the stairs were
14 all carpeted. And I briefly remember just sitting, [REDACTED]
15 [REDACTED] and Mr Sage spoke to the nuns and then
16 I think [REDACTED] were taken into a canteen and had something
17 to eat, and then [REDACTED] were shown up to dorms.
- 18 Q. [REDACTED]
19 [REDACTED]
- 20 A. [REDACTED]
- 21 Q. Do you remember the name of the section in Smyllum that
22 you went to?
- 23 A. No.
- 24 Q. Can you describe it for me? You talked about dorms, so
25 was there more than one dormitory?

1 A. Yes. The building [REDACTED] was at the back of the
2 main building and there was like an archway that took
3 you into like a big garden, and it was an annex, like
4 a fire escape stairway up the right-hand side of it, but
5 it also linked to the main building.

6 Q. If I was to show you a photograph, do you think you'd be
7 able to identify --

8 A. Oh yes, uh-huh.

9 Q. Would you?

10 A. Mm-hm.

11 Q. The photograph I want to look at has identification
12 marks on it, but if you just ignore those for these
13 purposes. It'll be on the screen for you in a moment.
14 DSV.001.001.4661. We are looking at an aerial
15 photograph of Smyllum. An effort has been made to try
16 to identify certain parts. Can you under reference to
17 that tell us where you think you were? Would it be
18 better to look at a plan that didn't have the yellow
19 markers?

20 A. It would be better to see it from the front rather than
21 the aerial.

22 Q. Yes. We don't unfortunately have a -- well, we have one
23 frontal photograph, but it may not help you. It comes
24 after Smyllum had stopped being --

25 A. I can recognise the gardens, the farm plots. [REDACTED]

1 at the back.

2 Q. Would you mind turning round, standing up, and looking
3 at the plan behind you on the big screen? If you can
4 maybe give an idea as to ...

5 A. This was the front house here (indicating).

6 Q. You're pointing to the front part.

7 A. Uh-huh. So [REDACTED] at the back. That looks familiar
8 (indicating). This was like a courtyard, there's
9 a garage underneath there. So I think -- or it could
10 have been over this way (indicating).

11 Q. It's very confusing with the aerial photograph.

12 A. It is.

13 Q. Not to worry. Not to worry.

14 In any event, you don't know what the name of that
15 particular section might have been?

16 A. No, I didn't know there was names.

17 Q. Okay. But in that particular section you've talked
18 about dorms in the plural, so there were a number of
19 dormitory areas?

20 A. Yes, there was different areas.

21 Q. And can you help me with that? Can you remember how
22 many areas there were?

23 A. I just remember there was a house where older girls used
24 to live; that was at the back of the home. It was
25 separate. And I remember [REDACTED] dorm, but I knew there was

1 children that [REDACTED] seen. I wasn't really aware --
2 I didn't really visit other places. I just knew that
3 there was children that weren't within my dorm that [REDACTED]
4 see maybe in the playground or at school.

5 Q. How many children do you think were in your dorm?

6 A. I think there were four bedrooms and each dorm would
7 have about four to six beds in it.

8 Q. What you tell us in your statement -- and I can take you
9 to that, it's at paragraph 15 -- is that there were four
10 dorms in different colours: pink, green, blue and
11 orange.

12 A. Yes.

13 Q. And there was one -- only one girls' dorm?

14 A. The pink dorm.

15 Q. The other three must have been for boys?

16 A. Yes.

17 Q. Just looking at the -- perhaps just to finish that, you
18 thought there was maybe six to eight bedrooms in the
19 room that you were in; is that correct?

20 A. Yes.

21 Q. [REDACTED]

22 A. When I first arrived, [REDACTED] I had to share
23 a single bed because there wasn't a spare bed.

24 Q. We'll look at that in a moment as to where you went.

25 Can you tell me how many children altogether there were

1 in that section, when you look at the four rooms or four
2 dorms you're talking about?

3 A. I'd say about 20, 24.

4 Q. And there were boys and girls?

5 A. Mm-hm.

6 Q. 

7 A. 

8 Q. Something you do say is that a bed became available in
9 the orange dorm --

10 A. That's right.

11 Q. -- which was the boys' dorm; is that correct?

12 A. Mm-hm.

13 Q. What then happened?

14 A. I was moved into the spare bed in the orange dorm.

15 Q. And how did you feel about that?

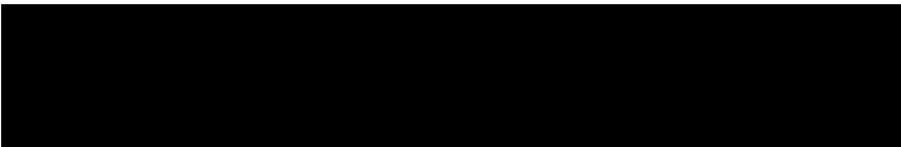
16 A. I was glad to get my own bed. Back at the time I didn't
17 really think of the inappropriateness, although I found
18 it quite difficult sometimes with the boys in the room.
19 Looking back now, I can see how undignified and
20 inappropriate it was.

21 Q. If I can ask you this: you were at that time, I think --
22 we thought that maybe you were 5 or 6 years of age.

23 A. Mm-hm.

24 Q. The boys, what sort of age range are we talking about?

25 A. They were a couple of years older than me.

- 1 Q. How long did you spend in that particular orange room,
2 if I can call it that?
- 3 A. I was in there until I can remember.
- 4 Q. So you might have spent your whole time there?
- 5 A. Yes.
- 6 Q. Was there anything about the behaviour of the boys that
7 was of any concern to you?
- 8 A. They used to humiliate me and say that -- they would
9 stand up on their beds and say that they can make
10 themselves look like me and they would make their
11 physical anatomy look -- their penises look like
12 a vagina, and they would laugh at me and I used to just
13 put my head under the covers.
- 14 Q. Was this behaviour at a time when you went to bed then?
- 15 A. Yes, usually at bedtime.
- 16 Q. Okay. Did you tell anyone about this?
- 17 A. No.
- 18 Q. And how long did this behaviour go on for that you can
19 tell us?
- 20 A. Oh, most of the time there.
- 21 Q. Okay. Did you understand that the dorms were split
22 under reference to age?
- 23 A. No, not at the time. No, I didn't.
- 24 Q. 
- 25

1 A. 

2 Q.

3 A.

4 Q.

5 A.

6 Q. Okay. Can I just ask you a little bit about the routine
7 then, so far as you can remember what that was. You do
8 tell us a bit about that in your statement, that you'd
9 get up early, for example, to go to school.

10 A. Mm-hm.

11 Q. And you'd have -- what about breakfast? Was there
12 a special dining room for your unit?

13 A. Yes.

14 Q. And is that where you'd have your breakfast and your
15 food?

16 A. Yes, it was a dining room where we went for all our
17 meals.

18 Q. Would that just be those who were in your own unit?

19 A. Yes.

20 Q. One thing you do tell us, Fiona, in connection with bath
21 night is that Sunday night was the night for having
22 a bath.

23 A. Mm-hm.

24 Q. This is something that I think has been of concern to
25 you as to how this was managed.

1 A. Mm-hm.

2 Q. Can you tell me about that?

3 A. Well, it was just ... Sunday night was just bath night.

4 What I can think and recall is it was a Sunday night

5 because we had school on the Monday and we just all

6 queued up.

7 Q. When you say "all", who do you --

8 A. All the residents, all the children. We queued up and

9 we just -- it was one bath for everybody. You just

10 stood in a queue and it was just like a production line.

11 One went in, the other came out, and you were in for

12 like seconds. Enough as to get washed down and that was

13 it.

14 Q. But when you queued up, what was your state of clothing?

15 A. We were naked.

16 Q. Were there boys and girls in the queue?

17 A. Uh-huh, mm-hm.

18 Q. Of different ages?

19 A. Yes.

20 Q. And what was the age range?

21 A. I think the older dorm was up to about 17/18. I'm not

22 sure. But they were certainly a lot older.

23 Q. How was it managed? Was there somebody there who was

24 looking after what was going on?

25 A. No, there was just a nun that was making sure that we'd

1 got into the bath and got out. I'm sure there was two
2 bathrooms. I'm quite sure the boys had a separate --
3 we were in the same area, but it was like two different
4 queues, boys and girls.

5 Q. So were the queues then in different parts of the room,
6 so the boys wouldn't be seeing the girls and vice versa?

7 A. Oh no, you were queued -- the rooms were together, a
8 bath there and bath there (indicates), and we all queued
9 up in what I would call a foyer because the vanity room
10 or the sinks was there (indicates), and the sleepover
11 room where the nuns would sleep was there (indicates),
12 and there was like a table in the middle and the
13 toiletry unit was there as well. Boys would be in one
14 queue and the girls would be in another queue.

15 Q. So was each queue visible to the other?

16 A. Aye, mm-hm. Mm-hm.

17 Q. So far as the bathwater then, as far as the girls --
18 from what I understand from you're saying, the girls
19 shared a bath and the bathwater in that bath?

20 A. Mm-hm.

21 Q. And was there a particular order in which the girls, if
22 you take the example of the girls, would have their
23 bath? By that I mean would it be the youngest to the
24 oldest or --

25 A. No, I can't remember that there was an order, I just

1 remember that we queued, and if you were in the front of
2 the queue the bath would be hot. If you were in the
3 middle of the queue it was just right, and if you were
4 at the end of the queue it was freezing. That's all
5 I can remember about it.

6 Q. Did you find yourself in different positions in the
7 queue over the period that you were there?

8 A. Aye.

9 Q. So sometimes it was hot for you?

10 A. Mm-hm.

11 Q. Sometimes just right and other times cold?

12 A. Mm-hm.

13 Q. Is that --

14 A. Yeah.

15 Q. You also talk about food and talked about the dining
16 room. What was the food like?

17 A. It wasn't very pleasant. The only thing I remember
18 about it was whether you liked it or whether you didn't,
19 you had to eat it.

20 Q. I'll look at that with you shortly. But what you tell
21 us is that you dare not eat your food, you had to eat
22 it?

23 A. Oh, you had to eat your food, yeah.

24 Q. Schooling, you also talk about that, and we know, there
25 was a school within Smyllum itself.

1 A. Mm-hm.

2 Q. Is that the school you went to initially?

3 A. Initially, yes.

4 Q. Did that change because of your religion?

5 A. Yes, that changed because of my religion. Mr Sage -- my
6 family had some input as well. They didn't want us to
7 have a Catholic education.

8 Q. What then happened?

9 A. I got moved to Robert Owen Primary School.

10 Q. Was that a local primary school?

11 A. Yes, I could see it directly from the dormitory that
12 I was in. We could see it over the back.

13 Q. 

14

15 A. 

16 Q. 

17

18 A. 

19 Q. You also talk about chores. Did you have chores to do
20 at this time when you were there?

21 A. Oh, every day you had your chores.

22 Q. What sort of chores did you have to do?

23 A. One chore in particular that I remember was cleaning the
24 shoes. The stairs from up into the dorm, the annex,
25 brown shoes were lined up one side, black up the other.

1 We had to go up the stairs and polish each pair of
2 shoes.

3 Sometimes we'd work in the laundry putting the
4 clothes through a wringer. You had to tidy, obviously,
5 your main area and your bedroom. You had -- sweeping,
6 cleaning floors, general chores.

7 Q. Take the shoe cleaning, for example, how long would that
8 sort of task take you?

9 A. A good while.

10 Q. What's a good while? Is it --

11 A. Well, you're talking maybe 20 kids' shoes up both sides.
12 You didn't do that on your own, somebody would be on the
13 brown and somebody would be on the black, and they had
14 to be shining, so you're talking -- it could be a good
15 hour.

16 Q. You mentioned the laundry as well and you have got some
17 recollection of having to use the wringer --

18 A. Mm-hm.

19 Q. -- for clothes.

20 A. Yes.

21 Q. Were there other children from Smyllum who also worked
22 in the laundry at the same time?

23 A. Yes. I think the girls from the other house that
24 I spoke about, I think a lot of them did chores in the
25 laundry as well.

1 Q. So these were older girls?

2 A. Yes.

3 MR MacAULAY: My Lady, I think we tend to have a short break

4 at this point for the stenographers.

5 LADY SMITH: Yes. Just before we do that, can you remember

6 what the wringer looked like?

7 A. Aye.

8 LADY SMITH: Can you tell me?

9 A. It was like two big rollers and it had a handle.

10 LADY SMITH: Yes, one of those very basic old-fashioned

11 wringers?

12 A. A mangle.

13 LADY SMITH: You had to feed the laundry through between the

14 rollers and turn this handle?

15 A. Yes.

16 LADY SMITH: Thank you. We'll take a break now.

17 (3.00 pm)

18 (A short break)

19 (3.10 pm)

20 MR MacAULAY: Can I ask you a little bit about your leisure

21 time when you were at Smyllum? I think what you tell us

22 in your statement is that after your chores, whatever

23 they may have been, you would have free time to

24 yourself?

25 A. Yes.

1 Q. One thing you didn't do, according to what you tell us,
2 is you didn't go into the playroom much because you
3 witnessed something there that put you off?

4 A. That's right.

5 Q. I'll come and look at that shortly. But you were
6 allowed to play outside?

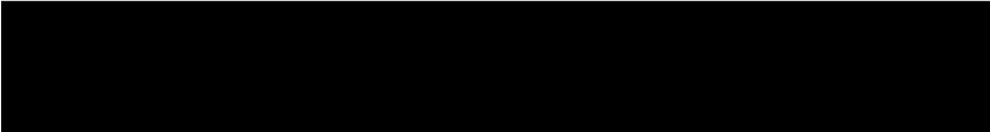
7 A. Yes.

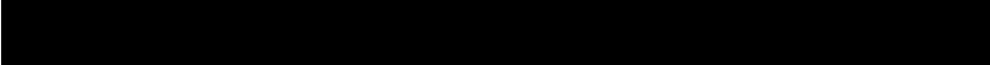
8 Q. And you took advantage of that, did you?

9 A. Yes.

10 Q. And you enjoyed that?

11 A. Yes. I was mainly outside when I could be.

12 Q. 

13 A. 

14 Q. You remember one Christmas while you were at Smyllum and
15 you tell us that you did get some gifts on that
16 occasion.

17 A. Mm-hm.

18 Q. Was Christmas celebrated?

19 A. Not that I can recall. It was more chapel and it was
20 more a kind of religious thing. You got a gift in the
21 morning at the bottom of your bed, but after that it was
22 just like another day.

23 Q. But you do remember getting dressed up and going to
24 a Christmas party?

25 A. Yes.

1 Q. You do tell us about that. And birthdays, you were only
2 there for perhaps under two years, but you do indicate
3 that on birthdays there would be a cake, usually?

4 A. Usually the family would bring a cake in. I can't
5 remember my own birthday [REDACTED], I only
6 remember [REDACTED] because there was a specific
7 incident about that. But I don't remember any of my own
8 birthdays or anything.

9 Q. So far as religion is concerned, you have already told
10 us that you weren't a Catholic, but there was an
11 incident that I think involved communion; is that
12 correct?

13 A. Yes.

14 Q. Can you tell me about that? What happened there?

15 A. Well, it was -- communion in the chapel within the home,
16 the girls were all dressed up in their pretty dresses
17 and at the time I loved flying saucers, which was
18 a sherbet sweet in rice paper, and I thought that this
19 was what they were getting when they went up for
20 communion, so I started crying and kicked off in the
21 chapel because I wanted what I thought was
22 a flying saucer.

23 Q. And that's because it looks like --

24 A. Yes, rice paper. So the nun basically grabbed me by the
25 scruff of the neck and took me out to the corridor and

1 asked me what was wrong with me, and I said that
2 I wanted some bread. She says ...

3 Q. Just take your time.

4 A. (Pause). She says, "You're not worthy of our father's
5 bread".

6 Q. Is that something that's remained with you over the
7 years?

8 A. Mm-hm.

9 Q. Again, we'll look at things that happened in a moment.

10 But as far as other members of staff were concerned, you
11 do tell us that there was a lady member of staff there
12 who was particularly kind to you; is that right?

13 A. Yes.

14 Q. And how did that manifest itself?

15 A. Well, it was one night I was sick and I got up and
16 I think she was a cleaner. I had been sick and I went
17 to the sleepover room, chapped the door and the nun that
18 was there got up and she put me into the sick room. The
19 next morning, because I wasn't at school, I was to go
20 and do chores with this lady, who -- I believe her name
21 was Margaret. She took me round about the home, I was
22 helping her with the chores.

23 Then at one point I can remember her taking us to
24 her house. I could take you to her house, I couldn't
25 tell you the address, but I can remember it vividly: it

1 was a white house and it had purple flashing. She was
2 always kind. But that's the only kindness that I can
3 remember ever in there.

4 Q. Okay. So far as visits were concerned, you do tell us
5 that some family members did visit you.

6 A. Yes.

7 Q. And in particular your father would come and take you
8 out?

9 A. Mm-hm.

10 Q. [REDACTED]

11 A. [REDACTED]

12 Q. [REDACTED]

13 A. [REDACTED]

14 [REDACTED]

15 [REDACTED] they gave me
16 sort of a hard time when I was getting ready for my
17 visits.

18 Q. [REDACTED]

19 [REDACTED]

20 [REDACTED]

21 A. [REDACTED]

22 Q. I now want to ask you about certain things that happened
23 at Smyllum that you tell us about in your statement.
24 You begin by saying at paragraph 54 that the nuns were
25 really, really strict and it wasn't a nice place to be.

- 1 A. Mm. Yes.
- 2 Q. Can you elaborate upon that for me?
- 3 A. Well, just as I said, you would get slapped for the
4 silliest things, like speaking when not spoken to, when
5 you were running when you should be walking. Just
6 sometimes it was as if they were in the mood, you would
7 get a slap and you didn't even know what you were
8 getting it for.
- 9 [REDACTED] had learning disabilities and [REDACTED]
10 [REDACTED] a speech impediment, and she used to get slapped and
11 told to speak properly. [REDACTED] was
12 a bed-wetter, he was only about 3 or 4, so he was
13 obviously quite mischievous, so he used to get bad
14 beatings.
- 15 Q. If I just stop you there. In relation to [REDACTED]
16 bed-wetting, do you know how that was handled by those
17 who were in charge of him?
- 18 A. Oh, it was terrible. He used to have to parade the
19 corridor naked with his wet sheets.
- 20 Q. Did you see that?
- 21 A. Sometimes, yes. He was made to take them down to the
22 laundry and there was like two big sinks that I can
23 remember -- there might have been more -- and he was
24 made to wash them, then he'd be made to go upstairs and
25 have a bath, and he always said it was a cold bath.

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[REDACTED]

[REDACTED] But it was a big, big thing, bed-wetting. And I was quite fortunate that I wasn't a bed-wetter, but even the girls got mistreated if --

Q. Let's stick with the boys and we'll come to the girls in a moment. You mentioned [REDACTED] having to walk naked.

A. Yes.

Q. With his --

A. Sheets.

Q. Was he carrying his sheets?

A. Yes.

Q. Were there other boys who were in the same position?

A. Yes.

Q. And you saw that, did you?

A. Mm-hm.

Q. How often did this happen?

A. Well, when you got up in the morning you would go to the vanity room to get washed, so if you were at the basins getting washed or in the queue to get washed, you would see the children who had wet the bed walking with the sheets. So that was an everyday occurrence.

Q. What about the girls then? What was the position with the girls?

A. The girls were made to do the same thing.

1 Q. Were they naked?

2 A. Mm-hm. Yes.

3 Q. You yourself were not a bed-wetter?

4 A. Not that I can recall, no.

5 Q. Were there bed-wetters in the room that you were in?

6 A. I don't know. I think they were older. The boys in my

7 room were older, so I can't remember any bed-wetters

8 round there. I can just remember seeing, in the vanity

9 area, the kids walking with their sheets down to the

10 laundry.

11 Q. The slapping you mentioned, who slapped you?

12 A. It was usually the nuns or the staff that were there.

13 Q. And what would that -- what would the nature of the

14 slapping be? Can you give me an understanding?

15 A. It would just be a right slap across the jaw. Sometimes

16 they would grab your hair at the back of the neck, pull

17 you back and slap you. It was just -- it was a general

18 thing, you just learned to live with it.

19 Q. Would that cause you to be in tears?

20 A. Oh aye. It was painful. Sometimes you would get

21 another one for crying.

22 Q. You're talking about the use of hands then, are you --

23 A. Mm-hm.

24 Q. -- with the slapping? Was anything else used apart from

25 the person's hands?

1 A. Well, I got hit with a brush on one occasion. My father
2 was coming to visit me. I was sent to get my brush from
3 what I would call a vanity unit and to go into the
4 vanity room and get my hair brushed by the nun. [REDACTED]

5 [REDACTED]
6 I couldn't find mine, so I took [REDACTED] and she
7 knew it was [REDACTED] so she rattled me over the hand
8 with the brush. And she says, "That's [REDACTED]
9 brush", and I said, "But [REDACTED], I can use her
10 brush", and she just kept rattling me with this brush
11 and at that point my dad came in.

12 Q. How many times did she hit you with the brush? Can you
13 tell me?

14 A. A few times, but she just kept rattling me with this
15 brush.

16 Q. Did your father see that?

17 A. Mm-hm.

18 Q. What happened?

19 A. I can remember him really, being really, really angry,
20 and I think he reported it or tried to report it, but
21 I don't know what happened after that.

22 Q. I want to ask you about food because I touched upon
23 mealtimes and you said you daren't not eat your food.

24 A. Mm.

25 Q. That's what you said earlier. Can you just tell me

1 about what would happen at mealtimes?

2 A. We all gathered in the dining room and the food used to
3 come up through the kitchen, which was down in the
4 basement. You'd get served your food and then you'd sit
5 at the table and the nuns would just walk about checking
6 to see if you weren't eating your food they would say,
7 "Get your food eaten", and if you didn't eat it, you
8 would be force-fed it.

9 Q. Did that happen to you?

10 A. A few times.

11 Q. Can I have some understanding of what was done to
12 force-feed you?

13 A. Again, it was the hair at the back of the neck -- they
14 would and just try and ram it into your mouth.

15 Q. Would it be two people involved in that process?

16 A. Usually one.

17 Q. Would you be crying when this was happening?

18 A. Yes.

19 Q. You're talking about your own experience. Did you see
20 that happening to other children?

21 A. Oh, it was an everyday thing, yes. Mm-hm.

22 Q. Was anything said by any of the nuns when this was
23 happening? Were they saying why they were -- why they
24 were making you eat your food?

25 A. Just like, "Be grateful for our Father's food", and,

1 "People are starving, there's children starving". It
2 was just ... Just constantly pulling you by the back of
3 the hair and slapping you and force-feeding you, and,
4 "If you don't eat it, you'll get it for breakfast or
5 dinner or lunch".

6 Q. Did that happen to you?

7 A. Not to me, no.

8 Q. Did you see it happening?

9 A. I seen it happening, yes. The worst thing was porridge.
10 A lot of children wouldn't eat porridge and a lot of
11 times at dinner time that's what they got for their
12 dinner.

13 Q. You mentioned earlier something that happened on [REDACTED]
14 [REDACTED] birthday.

15 A. Mm-hm.

16 Q. Can you help me with that? I think on his birthday
17 he was out playing somewhere. What happened?

18 A. There was like an allotment and there was a raised
19 bed, it had a cover on it, and [REDACTED] used to say -- he
20 called it Dracula's coffin. We were playing up there.
21 At that time the climate, it was a bit better than it is
22 now, so at that time of year -- it was 10 March -- and
23 we were out playing and we were sent out to come in for
24 a bath. And he wouldn't come in. He refused to come in
25 because he was playing Dracula's coffin. So eventually,

1 ██████████ and I gave up and we went up into the queue to
2 get a bath and the next I seen was ██████ getting brought
3 up the stairs, the same stairs that we used to polish
4 the shoes on, literally by the ear.

5 Q. Being pulled by the ear?

6 A. Yes.

7 Q. Who was doing that?

8 A. The nun. Off the floor, pulled by the ear, and he was
9 stripped naked and put to the end of the queue. So then
10 we get bathed and as normal, we went into the dining
11 room for supper, which would normally have been
12 a birthday cake, sing happy birthday, and they didn't
13 sing happy birthday, they cut up the birthday cake and
14 they served up cake and a glass of milk to every kid bar
15 ██████████ and ██████ and I. That was his punishment.
16 Because he wasn't doing what he was told.

17 Q. You already mentioned that the playroom was an area that
18 you would not go into very much and there was a reason
19 for that.

20 A. Mm-hm.

21 Q. What was the reason for that?

22 A. Well, there was a playroom, there was a TV room, and the
23 playroom obviously had toys and there was a piano in it,
24 and a boy -- I can just remember him having red hair,
25 he was in my dorm -- he was playing the piano, the nun

1 came in and told us it was time for bed, and we used to
2 go from there into the TV room. This boy kept playing
3 the piano and he wouldn't stop and he just kept like --
4 he wasn't playing a tune, he was just bang-bang-banging
5 on the keys. The nun got him again by the hair on the
6 back of his neck and she slammed his head off the piano
7 two or three times, shouting, "You were told! You were
8 told!" I don't know if it was his nose bleeding or
9 what, I just remember there was blood everywhere, and
10 that really freaked me out. After that, I just didn't
11 go into that room because every time I went in, I just
12 seen this blood. And I thought I was 6 or 7, but
13 obviously at 5 years old it would have freaked me out.

14 Q. You say this boy was in your dormitory, so he might have
15 been a little bit older than you?

16 A. Mm-hm.

17 Q. Did you see him after that?

18 A. I don't remember seeing him after that. I'm not saying
19 that I didn't see him. I just don't remember seeing
20 him. I know he wasn't in the dorm that night because it
21 really frightened me, the fact that I'd seen this and
22 wondered where he was, but I can't remember if I had
23 ever seen him again.

24 Q. You also tell us that you saw other children being
25 physically abused.

- 1 A. Mm-hm.
- 2 Q. Can you help me with that? How often was this something
3 that you saw, children being --
- 4 A. It was an everyday occurrence. It was just nasty.
5 I remember one night being in the TV room and some kids
6 coming in and saying -- I can't remember, I think his
7 name might have been [REDACTED] I'm not sure, but saying
8 [REDACTED] spewing his guts up, which at that time I knew
9 was his stomach. He's spewed his stomach up. So me
10 being inquisitive, we all went to look into the dorm to
11 see what he had brought up, thinking it was his stomach.
12 And the nun, again, had him by the back of the hair,
13 rubbing his face in this vomit. I think he had been
14 intoxicated, so he was obviously one of the older guys,
15 and he had come in intoxicated with alcohol -- I can
16 remember this smell of drink -- and she basically just
17 rubbed his nose in the vomit. So again, that freaked me
18 out, so I left.
- 19 Q. And the boy, what was he -- how was he reacting?
- 20 A. He was screaming.
- 21 Q. If we look at your statement again, Fiona, at
22 paragraph 58, what you say there is this -- and I'm
23 going to read part of it to you. It'll come on to the
24 screen in a moment. Page 2946.
- 25 "I wasn't severely physically abused."

1 Is that your position? You didn't consider you'd
2 been severely physically abused?

3 A. Then, no, I didn't think -- because of what I'd seen
4 getting done to other people, I didn't think I was
5 severely physically abused. And as I say, it was more
6 mental torture. But now, this last few months has just
7 made me realise how severely abused that I was.

8 Q. You mention again -- you do mention what you call the
9 mental torture and the lack of dignity.

10 A. Mm-hm.

11 Q. You talk about the fact that you were stripped naked and
12 having to stand in a queue for a bath as being part of
13 that; is that right?

14 A. Mm-hm.

15 Q. You also go -- you have told us about these other
16 points. You also say:

17 " [REDACTED] were told
18 [REDACTED] n't God's special children --"

19 A. No.

20 Q. "-- because you weren't Catholics."

21 Who said that to you?

22 A. The nuns.

23 Q. Was this said once to you or --

24 A. All the time, all the time. It was more said when
25 Mr Sage got [REDACTED] moved to Robert Owen and got [REDACTED] taken out

1 the Catholic education. [REDACTED] used to get abuse. [REDACTED]
2 need to walk past St Mary's to go to Robert Owen, [REDACTED]
3 [REDACTED] and the kids at St Mary's would bully [REDACTED]
4 because [REDACTED] were going to Robert Owen, which was
5 a Protestant school, and they when [REDACTED] got to Robert Owen
6 some of the kids would bully [REDACTED] because [REDACTED] came from
7 a Catholic home, and some of the kids in the home would
8 bully [REDACTED] because [REDACTED] 't God's special children.

9 Q. But so far as the expression "God's special children",
10 that's one that you say came from the nuns?

11 A. Yes.

12 Q. And it wasn't said once, it was more than once?

13 A. Oh, all the time.

14 Q. You've been talking in particular about the nuns and the
15 way they behaved towards yourself and other children;
16 are you able to tell us any of the names of these nuns?

17 A. I wish for the sake of this inquiry I could, but
18 I can't -- and personally I'm quite glad I can't, but
19 I wish for the sake of the inquiry I could tell you
20 a name. Even the night I went to the sick room, I can't
21 even put a face. I've just -- it's just a total block.

22 Q. Can I ask you this: do you know if -- did you understand
23 that any particular nun might have been in charge of the
24 section that your dorm was in?

25 A. They were just all nuns to me.

- 1 A. Mm-hm.
- 2 Q. Is that roughly when you think -- what age you were when
3 you came to leave?
- 4 A. I just remember starting back at Forth Primary School.
- 5 Q. You have mentioned that already.
- 6 What about the reporting of abuse at Smyllum? Did
7 you ever say anything to anybody?
- 8 A. I used to try and say to my aunt.
- 9 Q. When she came to visit?
- 10 A. Mm-hm. But her answer would be, "Just be thankful
11 you've got a roof over your head".
- 12 Q. So did you mention it then to your aunt or did you
13 mention that you were being slapped?
- 14 A. Aye, we would say things that had happened, but it was,
15 "Just be thankful you've got a roof over your head".
16 And even after my life in Smyllum, I used to get that
17 every other day, even as a teenager: just be thankful
18 you've got a roof over your head.
- 19 Q. What about the social worker? Did you have visits from
20 a social worker after you were in Smyllum that you can
21 remember?
- 22 A. We had a social worker right up until -- I would say
23 until I was about 16, 17.
- 24 Q. I understand that, but when you were at Smyllum did
25 you have visits from a social worker that you can

- 1 remember?
- 2 A. Not that I can remember. I know that Mr Sage did have
3 input, but I can't really remember seeing him much.
- 4 Q. What you tell us in your statement -- in fact, you only
5 really started to talk about Smyllum and what happened
6 when you started to have some counselling; is that
7 right?
- 8 A. Mm-hm.
- 9 Q. And that was in the 1990s, quite some time afterwards?
- 10 A. Yes.
- 11 Q. You provide us with some information, Fiona, about what
12 life was like after Smyllum. That's from paragraph 68,
13 I think, right through to paragraph 74 of your
14 statement. But to put it in short, notwithstanding some
15 difficulties, you pursued your own ambition to go into
16 nursing?
- 17 A. Mm-hm.
- 18 Q. Is that right?
- 19 A. Yes.
- 20 Q. That was your ambition?
- 21 A. Yes.
- 22 Q. And you realised that ambition?
- 23 A. Mm-hm.
- 24 Q. You ended up being a qualified pharmacy assistant?
- 25 A. That's what I am now, yes.

1 Q. And it's a job you enjoy?

2 A. I love my job.

3 Q. And in particular, it's a job that involves you being
4 involved with people?

5 A. Yes.

6 Q. And looking after people?

7 A. Yes, mm-hm.

8 Q. Can I ask you about what you consider the impact of life
9 in Smyllum to have been on you, if you're looking back?

10 A. Up until recently I used to say that it made me
11 a stronger person, but this past wee while I haven't
12 really felt that strong and I've had to seek counselling
13 again.

14 Q. Okay.

15 A. But I knew that I could never, ever treat anybody the
16 way that I seen myself [REDACTED] and other children
17 treated, and I think that's what wanted me to get into
18 the path of caring.

19 It caused some difficulty with my children. It
20 caused difficulty with relationships. My daughter to
21 this day suffers terrible anxiety. My young son, you
22 would have thought he was malnourished at one point
23 because I couldn't make him eat his food and he just was
24 such a fussy eater. I had him at dieticians and
25 everything, but I couldn't force him to eat. It was

1 just all these wee silly things that played on my mind.

2 Q. But one of the things you do tell us in your, statement
3 and you provide us with some details about, is that
4 abuse is something that you just have not been able to
5 tolerate in any way in your life.

6 A. I did tolerate it. I allowed myself to be sexually
7 abused [REDACTED]. Again, I kept
8 that to myself, I didn't speak about it. I spoke about
9 it when I was in my 20s, [REDACTED]
10 [REDACTED] I've never done anything about
11 it; the man took his own life.

12 But it got to a stage where I thought these things
13 were supposed to happen and then when I grew up I went
14 to college and done a social care course, and I realised
15 that they were all wrong.

16 Q. Yes. And I think I was putting my question in the
17 context of the time you were in the caring profession.
18 In that context, because of your experiences in care,
19 you came to a realisation that any sort of abuse --

20 A. Oh, would not be tolerated, no, no. I was actually --
21 any abuse I seen I reported, which classed me as
22 a whistle-blower. In a job that I loved -- I was
23 assistant manager with a private care provider -- my
24 manager at the time done things, spoke inappropriately
25 to residents, and I reported him. For nine years I was

1 witch-hunted and had a terrible time and eventually took
2 voluntary redundancy because I couldn't cope with it.

3 Q. That's one example and you give other examples. I am
4 not going to dwell on these because we can look at these
5 ourselves.

6 Then if I can take you, Fiona, to paragraph 90 of
7 your statement, where you set out your hopes for the
8 inquiry. If I can just look at that. If I can just
9 read that paragraph:

10 "I explained when I first made contact with the
11 inquiry that I'm not looking for anything for me.
12 I feel for those families who want justice for the
13 things that happened in Smyllum. I know what happened,
14 and I've come to give evidence in the hope that it might
15 help those families. I think it's only through the kids
16 who were there coming forward that these things can be
17 proved."

18 A. Yes.

19 Q. Does that reflect --

20 A. Yes, because I don't think anybody -- I don't know that
21 any of the Local Authorities or any of the organisations
22 will admit to any of this. I think it's the kids that
23 suffered; they need to have a voice. I was persuaded by
24 my aunt and my partner, who are with me today, that
25 I should come forward and, to be honest, it's been more

1 traumatic that I expected it to be. But I felt strong
2 about it at the time. But, no, people suffered a lot
3 more than what I suffered.

4 Q. And that's what you say, I think, in the next paragraph,
5 91:

6 "I hope the kids who suffered more severe abuse than
7 me can get closure."

8 A. Yes.

9 Q. "It might even help them just knowing that people who
10 witnessed it are coming forward and giving them that wee
11 bit of backing and support."

12 A. Mm-hm.

13 Q. That is your position, is it?

14 A. Yes.

15 Q. You say at paragraph 92 -- you begin by saying:

16 "I don't think that there is any hope for the
17 sisters from Smyllum -- I don't know how they've been
18 able to live with themselves. Part of me hopes that
19 every one of them is now gone. I'm not a vindictive
20 person."

21 Do you see that?

22 A. No, I'm not. I've not got a bad bone in my body.

23 Q. But I can say to you that the inquiry has spoken to
24 sisters who may have been there at the same time as
25 yourself. I'm not saying they were directly involved

1 with you because you don't remember the names, but the
2 general position taken by the Daughters of Charity
3 sisters is that Smyllum was a happy place and there was
4 no physical abuse of the kind that you have been telling
5 us about. What is your reaction to that?

6 A. Well, all I can say is that people that can commit the
7 abuse that they did to children, I could expect them to
8 lie about that. It's only natural they're going to lie.
9 They've lied about it while it's been happening, so why
10 now admit to it?

11 MR MacAULAY: Very well, Fiona. Can I say thank you for
12 coming to give your evidence to the inquiry. I can see
13 it has been quite upsetting for you, but you have come
14 through it, thank you for that.

15 I can say to your Ladyship that no questions have
16 been submitted for Fiona.

17 LADY SMITH: Thank you.

18 Can I check whether there are any outstanding
19 applications. No? Thank you.

20 Fiona, thank you very much for coming today. As
21 Mr MacAulay's already said, it's plain that it has not
22 been an easy thing for you to do, but you've come and
23 you've given me a clear account of what you remember.
24 You have done it carefully and you have coped with it
25 being upsetting, which is an enormous achievement on

1 your part, and I hope you realise that as you go away
2 today. Thank you very much. I'm now able to let you
3 go.

4 A. Thank you.

5 (The witness withdrew)

6 LADY SMITH: Mr MacAulay?

7 MR MacAULAY: My Lady, that is essentially all we have for
8 today. Tomorrow there are three witnesses lined up to
9 give oral evidence and, because we had planned
10 originally to have a read-in today, we'll perhaps carry
11 that over to tomorrow.

12 LADY SMITH: We can be flexible and fit it in at a suitable
13 point.

14 Thank you, everybody. I'm going to adjourn now
15 until 10 o'clock tomorrow morning.

16 (3.45 pm)

17 (The inquiry adjourned until 10.00 am
18 on Thursday, 11 January 2018)

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