

1 Thursday, 11 January 2018

2 (10.00 am)

3 LADY SMITH: Good morning.

4 Could I take this opportunity to just remind people  
5 again of something I've said on a number of occasions  
6 during the hearings in this phase and it is to be  
7 careful to remember that although some people's names  
8 will be referred to as those who are alleged to have  
9 abused children in Smyllum or in Bellevue, those names  
10 cannot be repeated outside the hearing room as they are  
11 protected by a restriction order that I have issued.  
12 That is all explained on the website.

13 Likewise, occasionally names of applicants, as we  
14 call them, come out in circumstances where they've not  
15 waived anonymity, but they do have protection and they  
16 must not be repeated.

17 I'm delighted to see that the media and others have  
18 been very careful to adhere to this direction and I know  
19 that on occasions they've checked with the inquiry team  
20 to see that what they are proposing to do is acceptable.  
21 Please keep doing that; it's so important that anyone  
22 who's been assured that they will remain anonymous has  
23 that respected and knows that they can rely on it.  
24 Thank you.

25 Mr MacAulay. We have a witness, yes?

1 MR MacAULAY: Good morning, my Lady. The next witness  
2 I would like to call is Anne Marie Carr.

3 ANNE MARIE CARR (sworn)

4 Questions from Mr MacAULAY

5 MR MacAULAY: Good morning, Anne Marie.

6 A. Good morning.

7 Q. As her Ladyship has just mentioned, I will be asking you  
8 the questions this morning and I'll be basing my  
9 questions mainly on what you have said in the statement  
10 you've provided to us. That statement is in that red  
11 folder in front of you and I'll look at that in a few  
12 seconds.

13 But can I just say this to you at the beginning: if  
14 I ask you a question and you simply don't remember, then  
15 just say that you don't remember.

16 A. Right.

17 Q. Likewise, if something comes to mind that you hadn't  
18 remembered before but now remember, just feel free to  
19 tell us.

20 Can I just take you then to the statement,  
21 Anne Marie. I'm going to give the reference for the  
22 transcript and this will be a number, just for the  
23 transcript: WIT.001.001.3027. If I could ask you to  
24 open it up and go to the last page and that is 3053.

25 Can I ask you to confirm that you have signed the

1 statement?

2 A. I did sign it, yes.

3 Q. Also can I just ask you to look at the last paragraph,  
4 paragraph 169. Do you say there:

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

7 A. I did, yes.

8 Q. And also do you go on to say:

9 "I believe the facts stated in this witness  
10 statement are true"?

11 A. They are true.

12 Q. Okay. Thank you.

13 Anne Marie, I don't need to have your precise date  
14 of birth, but can I just confirm with you that you were  
15 born in 1954?

16 A. Yes.

17 Q. And you're one of a number of children in your family;  
18 is that correct?

19 A. Yes.

20 Q. How many of you were there altogether?

21 A. There was about six or seven.

22 Q. It was family circumstances, I think, that --

23 A. Yes, it was.

24 Q. -- ultimately led you going into care; is that correct?

25 A. Yes.

1 Q. So far as going into care was concerned, you and I think  
2 [REDACTED] and a younger brother were taken into  
3 care?

4 A. Yes.

5 Q. And the younger brother, we know because we've heard  
6 about him during the course of this inquiry, was your  
7 younger brother, Sammy?

8 A. Yes.

9 Q. I think when you were taken into care, you went into  
10 Smyllum with Sammy [REDACTED].

11 A. Yes.

12 Q. As far as the records that we've seen go to show, that  
13 happened on [REDACTED] 1960, so you'd be aged about 6.

14 A. Correct.

15 Q. Is that around --

16 A. Round about 6 or 7.

17 Q. But Samuel was much younger than you?

18 A. Yes, he was.

19 Q. Can you remember what age he was when he was admitted?

20 A. Roughly, say, about 2 or 3, or something, when I came  
21 in. I'm not too sure, but I think that's the age  
22 he was.

23 Q. Okay. Am I right in thinking -- and I'll ask you  
24 a little bit about what happened to Sammy later on --  
25 that shortly after something happened involving Sammy

1 and Sammy died, that you left Smyllum in [REDACTED] 1964,  
2 finally left Smyllum in [REDACTED] 1964?

3 A. Yes.

4 Q. Can I just go back to the time when you went to Smyllum  
5 first of all --

6 A. Yes.

7 Q. -- in 1960? When you were there, were you put into  
8 a particular section?

9 A. Yes, [REDACTED] into a section where the girls are; the  
10 boys were in another part of the convent.

11 Q. Do you remember what the name of the section was that  
12 you went into?

13 A. No, it was just all the girls were all one, there was  
14 all -- all the girls were together and the boys were on  
15 their side. We didn't have a name for the group or  
16 anything.

17 Q. [REDACTED] --

18 A. [REDACTED]

19 Q. When you arrived at Smyllum, I think you tell us that  
20 you were crying, you were upset at the time; do you  
21 remember that?

22 A. Yes. Actually -- you'll cry if you are going into  
23 somewhere you don't know and then you see the nuns.

24 Q. When you tell us in your statement that you got put into  
25 groups, what do you mean by that?

1 A. Well, one nun, the other nun, would have maybe, say, 12,  
2 13 -- it all depends how many people were there -- and  
3 then the other one would have 11. So we were all in the  
4 one bit but it was just different groups, but I can't  
5 remember my group.

6 Q. But as far as your group was concerned, was it worked  
7 out by age or was there some other way?

8 A. No, it was just the way they put you in. They didn't  
9 work it that way at all.

10 Q. [REDACTED]

11 A. [REDACTED]

12 Q. You have mentioned nuns. It was nuns that looked after  
13 you?

14 A. Aye, it was all nuns that was there -- and there were no  
15 staff that I knew anyway. It was all nuns.

16 Q. Can you remember if they were lay staff, if I can refer  
17 to them --

18 A. Not that I know -- I don't think so. In the other  
19 convents I was in they had staff, but not Smyllum.

20 Q. And I think you mention that later on you went to  
21 Nazareth House.

22 A. I went to Nazareth House after Smyllum.

23 Q. Were you put into a particular dormitory?

24 A. It wasn't a particular dormitory; it was a long  
25 dormitory with beds here and beds there (indicates).

1 Q. How many?

2 A. Oh, quite a lot. I didn't really take time to find --

3 it was all filled up on the side and that.

4 Q. So far as Sammy was concerned then, what happened to

5 Sammy when you got there?

6 A. Sammy was taken to the boys' side and ██████ taken with

7 another nun to the girls' side, showing ██████ where ██████

8 to go. She showed ██████ the place ██████ sit and watch

9 the telly and up in your bedroom where your bed was and

10 that.

11 Q. Throughout the course of your time there, did you see

12 very much of Sammy?

13 A. No, I did not.

14 Q. Did you see him from time to time?

15 A. Uh-huh. Only when we were chasing him away from the --

16 being where he shouldn't be, at the bins.

17 Q. I think you tell us later that he had a habit of going

18 to the bins.

19 A. Uh-huh.

20 Q. But do you remember any of the names of the nuns then

21 that had some involvement with you?

22 A. No, as I've told you from the beginning, I was so young

23 that I can't remember their names but I can remember

24 their faces. I wouldn't be able to remember -- only

25 about one or two, Sister ██████ AGI ██████ and that, but all the

1 nuns I don't know their names, not at the moment.

2 Q. But you do remember the name of Sister AGI

3 A. AGI uh-huh.

4 Q. You say one or two; was there another one?

5 A. I think there was a Sister Kathleen(?), but I don't know

6 the rest, to be honest with you.

7 Q. Can I ask you a little bit about the routine at Smyllum.

8 So let's take you to the morning when you got up; what

9 would happen?

10 A. They would come in, take the blankets off us, up, got to

11 say a prayer, then told to go and get washed, put on our

12 clothes. Then we had to make our bed and then we were

13 all lined up to go down to breakfast.

14 Q. So far as making your bed is concerned -- and I'll come

15 perhaps back to some of that later -- did you have to

16 make your bed in a particular way?

17 A. Yes, it was like an envelope, you know what I mean, the

18 bottom bit. It's how I still do it to this day.

19 Q. If you didn't do it properly did anything happen?

20 A. It would be stripped again and really battered.

21 Q. Who would batter you?

22 A. The nun.

23 Q. Can you remember the name of this nun?

24 A. No, I could -- if there were any nuns in front of me

25 I would be able to pick them out, but I can't remember

- 1           their names.  You're asking me a way back all these  
2           years and I did forget all about it, I didn't want to  
3           remember it and it all just came back up.
- 4       Q.  Just on that particular point, because I understand  
5           fully what you're saying, it was really the fact that  
6           the Sammy incident has been looked at more recently that  
7           has meant that things have come back to you?
- 8       A.  Yes.
- 9       Q.  But you have put it behind you for years and years and  
10          years until then; is that right?
- 11      A.  Yes.
- 12      Q.  Mealtimes then, what about mealtimes?  Can you remember  
13          what the food was like?
- 14      A.  Well, it was good and it wasn't good, but there's things  
15          that you didn't like that you were made to eat.  You  
16          were forced to eat, if you know what I mean.  But if you  
17          didn't eat it, you got kept back, you could be there all  
18          day, all night, until you ate it.  Even if you were sick  
19          in it, you were forced to eat it as well.
- 20      Q.  Again, I will perhaps have a look at that with you  
21          later.  So far as where you went for your meals was  
22          concerned --
- 23      A.  It was a dining room.
- 24      Q.  And was that for boys and girls?
- 25      A.  No, no.  See, the girls were here and the boys were

1           there (indicates). I never seen much of the boys unless  
2           we were at school.

3           Q. Was this a big area then?

4           A. It was a massive big place, yes.

5           Q. I can show you a photograph if that would --

6           A. Aye, that's fine. I know it all.

7           Q. Let's see if it's of any help to you. It's at

8           WIT.003.001.1283. (Pause). Do you recognise that?

9           A. But that's -- excuse me. That's not as big as when  
10          we were in. That looks as if it was many years ago.

11          Q. So do you think that's the area and the dining room that  
12          you would have your meals in or not?

13          A. No.

14          Q. You don't think so?

15          A. It wasn't as big as that. It could be my mistake, but  
16          I was young, you know what I mean?

17          Q. As you can tell, that's not a recent photograph.

18          A. No.

19          Q. Very well. So far as your leisure time was concerned  
20          then, did you have scope to play when you were at  
21          Smyllum?

22          A. Yes. We got allowed to play. We had a big thing out  
23          the back, the back ground, the play -- and we also had  
24          a playground with roundabouts and things like that. We  
25          could either play ball, skipping ropes, whatever we

1           wanted to.

2       Q. I think you tell us in your statement there was

3           a library in the home.

4       A. Oh aye, we had libraries. If you wanted a library, you

5           could go and get a book but I wasn't into reading.

6       Q. You tell us a bit about bath times. Were there

7           particular days allocated to having baths?

8       A. Yes, there were times. It wouldn't be -- if it wasn't

9           a Monday, it would be a Tuesday, unless anybody had an

10          accident or anything, they had to go and have a bath.

11       Q. And how was that organised, can you tell me?

12       A. Pardon?

13       Q. How was the bath time organised?

14       A. Well, depending how many baths we had, then four of us

15          or five of us got picked to go into the toilet at the

16          one time and when we came out, the other ones went in.

17       Q. And you do tell us in the statement about an incident

18          where there was a girl screaming?

19       A. That's correct.

20       Q. Do you know what happened?

21       A. There were four or five baths in the place, right? The

22          girl was -- we were in the other places getting

23          undressed and we could hear the girl screaming. We were

24          all talking about it, but we got skelped across the head

25          and got told to get into the bath and to stop gossiping

1           in other words. The girl was getting really, really --  
2           was screaming and we just couldn't get out the bath. We  
3           tried to come out of it and we just got flung back in it  
4           and told just to stay there until they took the lassie  
5           away.

6           Q. And what was the problem?

7           A. I don't know what happened, but according to her she was  
8           cheeky.

9           Q. What, sorry?

10          A. According to the nun, she was cheeky to her.

11          Q. I think you say in your statement that when you heard  
12          the girl screaming --

13          A. That's correct.

14          Q. -- you were told by the girl it was because the nun had  
15          roasted her with --

16          A. Aye, with very hot water, that's correct.

17          Q. Was that the background to it?

18          A. Aye. That was in the bath.

19          Q. And what happened to the girl, do you know?

20          A. No. I think she was taken to where you go to -- we've  
21          got like the nurse and doctor place there. She was  
22          taken down to that, but I think she had to go to the  
23          hospitals.

24          Q. You also tell us in your statement, Anne Marie, about  
25          certain trips that you had --

1 A. Oh yes.

2 Q. -- when you were at Smyllum. And in particular, you  
3 talk about a trip you took to Rosewell.

4 A. Aye.

5 Q. How long had you been at Smyllum when you went on that  
6 trip?

7 A. Maybe a year, two years, something like that. We  
8 weren't there long anyway.

9 Q. In your time at Smyllum, did you stay in the same  
10 dormitory or did you move?

11 A. No, I didn't move in the dormitory. I just stayed  
12 in the same ...

13 Q. And was it the same bed you had throughout the whole  
14 period?

15 A. Oh yeah.

16 Q. As far as the trip to Rosewell is concerned, I think  
17 that was an establishment run by the same order of nuns;  
18 is that right?

19 A. Yes, we would go on a day trip.

20 Q. You also make mention in your statement of an incident  
21 involving golf.

22 A. That's correct, the guy that got killed.

23 Q. Can you tell me what your involvement in that was?

24 A. We were up at Rosewell seeing -- it was a home for  
25 mental people, right. We were all up there and we were

1 getting -- got something to eat there and play, went out  
2 in the yard with that and the nuns were speaking with  
3 the other nuns, and then it came time for us to go home,  
4 so the buses came and the girls went on their bus and  
5 the boys went on their bus.

6 Q. Do I take it just from that that the trip to Rosewell  
7 involved a mixture of boys and girls --

8 A. Yes.

9 Q. -- on separate buses?

10 A. Separate buses we were in.

11 Q. What then happened after that?

12 A. We were on our way home when we stopped to get a rest,  
13 so the boys got out of the bus. The girls were going  
14 out to go and stretch our legs and that and we got told  
15 to go back and sit down because they were playing golf  
16 and the boy got hit with the golf thing on the side of  
17 his head and he was dead instantly before the ambulance  
18 and that came.

19 Q. I see. That's your recollection of what happened?

20 A. Uh-huh.

21 Q. In relation to birthdays, do you have a recollection of  
22 your birthday being celebrated at Smyllum?

23 A. No, we didn't get birthdays celebrated. We expected our  
24 family to come up and see us, which never happened.

25 Q. But insofar as the nuns, for example, acknowledging that

1           it was your birthday, did that happen?

2       A. I can't remember. I don't think we got anything.

3       Q. What about Christmas?

4       A. We did get something at Christmas, I can't take that

5           away from them.

6       Q. You mentioned visits. Did you have visits from family

7           members?

8       A. My grandmother and my younger sister [REDACTED]

9       [REDACTED]

10       [REDACTED] came to see us but she gave

11           us time to get used to the place. She was a very old

12           woman but she was ill and she came up with my young

13           sister to visit us. She was very upset when she was

14           leaving us on her way home, going right down the

15           thingummy, she collapsed and died.

16       Q. I think you tell us in your statement that she collapsed

17           when she got to the end of the driveway to Smyllum?

18       A. The driveway, yes.

19       Q. Is that right?

20       A. Yes.

21       Q. Thereafter, then, what about other family members? Did

22           you have any visits from other family members?

23       A. We just had visits from the welfare -- you call them

24           social workers now, but they were called welfare. He

25           used to come up and see us and leave money and things

- 1           like that to get you anything we needed but we never  
2           seen --
- 3       Q.   What you say in your statement is:
- 4                       "Mr McKenzie would come and see us often."
- 5       A.   He came up as often as -- more than the family ever  
6           done.
- 7       Q.   When he came, did you have the opportunity of speaking  
8           to him?
- 9       A.   We did speak to him in the place where you go when  
10           you've got visitors, but we weren't allowed to tell him  
11           anything that was happening because we would get it when  
12           we went back.
- 13      Q.   Why do you say that, Anne Marie? Was anything said to  
14           you about speaking -- saying anything to Mr McKenzie?
- 15      A.   We weren't allowed to even talk to anybody about  
16           anything. If we had had a doing or anything you weren't  
17           allowed to discuss it. And they always had a nun in  
18           anyway when we were getting visits.
- 19      Q.   Just when you say you weren't allowed to discuss it, did  
20           anybody tell you that you weren't to discuss anything of  
21           what was going on in the home?
- 22      A.   The nuns were good at that, telling you.
- 23      Q.   So what did you discuss with Mr McKenzie? Can you  
24           remember anything?
- 25      A.   Yes, he asked us how was things, do we need shoes, do we

1           need this and that.  If we needed shoes or we needed  
2           clothes or we wanted money for something, he would go to  
3           Mother Superior and leave a cheque there.

4       Q.  Did you see on occasion clothes being provided and --

5       A.  No, we didn't get any clothes.  We never seen any money  
6           either.

7       Q.  But so far as clothing is concerned, how was that  
8           arranged then?  How did you get the clothes you had?

9       A.  The clothes that we had was the clothes belonging to the  
10           convent.  We wore the convent clothes.  What he gave  
11           money for was to be put away whenever we came out of the  
12           convent to have clothes.  We never got it.

13      Q.  You also tell us in your statement, Anne Marie, about an  
14           incident where you were lying in the sun.

15      A.  Yes, that's correct.

16      Q.  Can you perhaps tell us about what happened on that  
17           occasion?

18      A.  On that occasion it was my own fault.  The sun was  
19           beaming, we were lying on the roundabout and it was  
20           going round, and when it came for lunch, the bell rang  
21           and I couldn't open my eyes because the sun had burnt  
22           them.  So the two nuns had to take me up the stairs to  
23           where the nurse and that was, and they lay me on the  
24           table, but when they were helping us up the stairs, they  
25           banged me -- that's how the nose has been broken, it's

1           never been fixed.

2       Q.   When you say they banged you --

3       A.   It's the way they were thingummying me up the stairs.

4       Q.   In any event you hurt your nose?

5       A.   Uh-huh.

6       Q.   And did you get some treatment for the nose?

7       A.   No.   That's how it's like that (indicates).

8       Q.   You also tell us about some rules, and I'll look at

9           other aspects of that in a moment, but there were

10          certain rules you had to follow within the home?

11       A.   Uh-huh.

12       Q.   Were you allowed to talk to boys, for example?

13       A.   No, we weren't allowed to mix with the boys.  Sometimes

14          if I seen my young brother we used to say hello to him

15          and tell him to go back to the ground.

16       Q.   If we are looking at some of the punishments, without

17          looking at any physical, were there punishments that you

18          could get that would deprive you of things if you did

19          something?

20       A.   Yes.

21       Q.   Can you help me with that?

22       A.   My gran left a big box, the orange -- where you keep

23          oranges in.  You had them in the shop.  She put all

24          sweets, comics, everything in it when she came up.  They

25          divided it out with everybody else.  We got some, but

1 I didn't think it was fair they divided somebody else's  
2 stuff out. Do you know what I mean?

3 Q. Could you also be stopped from having sweets at all if  
4 you did something --

5 A. Oh yeah. That was the main thing. You got stopped  
6 from ...

7 Q. I now want to ask you, Anne Marie, about some comments  
8 you make about what you refer to in your statement as  
9 abuse at Smyllum. Can you help me with that?

10 In relation to your position, what happened to you?

11 A. Well, if I wasn't doing as I was told or if I was  
12 carrying on or something and you'd been checked for it  
13 and if I carried on continuously, they just took you  
14 out, took you up the stairs, and they really, really  
15 thingummied you -- I would be screaming anyway but  
16 nobody would be hearing us because they weren't allowed  
17 to come up.

18 Standing all about your face, pulling your hair and  
19 everything. It was really terrible when we were going  
20 to bed at night as well because you never knew the  
21 minute they were going in and putting on the light and  
22 just pulling the blankets off you and just battering you  
23 and making you kneel on the floor.

24 If you wet the bed, you had to keep the wet sheet on  
25 your head until they took that --

1 Q. I'll come and look at that in a moment. Let's just look  
2 at the physical matters you're talking about. Who was  
3 involved in that?

4 A. The nun that we had for our group.

5 Q. You mentioned earlier Sister [REDACTED] AGI [REDACTED] She wasn't in  
6 your group?

7 A. She was mostly with the boys, but she came over  
8 sometimes when they were short of a nun on the girls'  
9 side. They really worked between the both of us, the  
10 girls and boys.

11 Q. And so far as she was concerned --

12 A. She was really, really bad.

13 Q. In what way?

14 A. She didn't stop kicking into you, punching you, and  
15 dragging you about the place.

16 Q. When you say kicking into you --

17 A. It was the black shoes they wore with the steel -- with  
18 the thingummies in the bottom, the tap things. They  
19 were really sore when they got into your face.

20 Q. You tell us in your statement that Sister [REDACTED] AGI [REDACTED]  
21 would belt you over the head.

22 A. Uh-huh.

23 Q. Did she have a belt?

24 A. No, she'd get the rosaries with the crucifix.

25 Q. You're telling us about yourself, but you also say she

- 1 hit a lot of people.
- 2 A. Oh, she hit everybody.
- 3 Q. Are these the girls you are talking about?
- 4 A. Aye. We didn't get to see the boys, as I tried to tell  
5 you.
- 6 Q. What were the reasons for this behaviour on the part of  
7 Sister **AGI** Why should she be doing that?
- 8 A. She might have told us to stop carrying on or something  
9 and we just continued to do it. But what we were  
10 supposed to do? We were out to play.
- 11 Q. You do tell us about an incident involving food and that  
12 was having to -- when you got semolina and prunes at  
13 dinner. What happened on that occasion?
- 14 A. We were called down to have our tea and we got our  
15 dinner and then the pudding came up and I had said  
16 I didn't want it because I don't like puddings and  
17 I don't like that that and she said, "You will eat it".
- 18 Q. Who is she?
- 19 A. Sister **AGI** And I says, "I won't", so I was there  
20 up to the next morning when the kids were getting up out  
21 of their bed because I refused to eat it. She forced it  
22 down me, but I was sick on my plate and she tried to  
23 make me eat it and I wouldn't, so I got a right doing  
24 then.
- 25 Q. But when you say got "a right doing", what --

- 1 A. Started booting into us, punching us, and saying,  
2 "You'll not be going out, you'll be punished". So when  
3 the girls went out to play, I wasn't allowed out. If  
4 you don't like anything, you don't eat it.
- 5 Q. Then when were you allowed out?
- 6 A. When Sister [REDACTED] AGI [REDACTED] said you could go out.
- 7 Q. When was that?
- 8 A. A couple of weeks after. I had to do some work in the  
9 corridors or something.
- 10 Q. You're talking about going outside to play, but when  
11 were you able to leave the dining room?
- 12 A. When the girls came down to get their breakfast I had to  
13 go up the stairs and get on my uniform for school.
- 14 Q. Are you saying you were there all night?
- 15 A. Uh-huh. She wouldn't let me go because I wouldn't eat  
16 it -- but I had been sick because she was forcing it  
17 down me.
- 18 Q. You are talking there about one incident, but did this  
19 just happen on one occasion, this being forced to try  
20 and eat --
- 21 A. To me, aye, but to a lot of other people it happened.  
22 But that was the only time I got forced it.
- 23 Q. What happened on to other people, what did you see?
- 24 A. If they didn't want their dinner, they'd put it away and  
25 they were told to sit there -- they could be sitting

1           there for hours and hours and they wouldn't eat it and  
2           they just pulled their hair back and forced it down  
3           their mouths .

4       Q.   When you say they --

5       A.   I'm talking about the nun.

6       Q.   What about laypeople? Did you see any non-nuns, people  
7           who weren't nuns, engaging in this sort of behaviour?

8       A.   You mean the staff?

9       Q.   Yes.

10      A.   Aye, they helped, but they didn't have many staff in  
11         Smyllum. It was more the kitchen they were in.

12      Q.   Okay. Can I then take you to bedtimes and bed-wetting,  
13         because you have touched upon this already. Were you  
14         somebody who wet the bed?

15      A.   No.

16      Q.   But were there children in your area that did wet the  
17         bed?

18      A.   Yes.

19      Q.   What happened?

20      A.   Well, it would come bedtime, you'd say a prayer, and  
21         we'd get told, "Lights out at 9 o'clock". We were  
22         supposed to go to sleep, right, but people were scared  
23         to go to sleep because they didn't know who was getting  
24         pulled out their bed and who was getting the doing and  
25         then they would wet the bed. If the nuns had seen it,

1           they were drag outed out of the bed, sheet over the  
2           head, and it was kept there until she decided to tell us  
3           you could go back to bed.

4       Q.   Why were you waiting in your bed to see who would be  
5           chosen --

6       A.   Because she just random come up and just grabbed anyone  
7           out of their bed whenever she wanted to.

8       Q.   But what was the reason? Do you know what reason --

9       A.   They didn't need a reason to hit you.

10      Q.   Is this before you actually go to sleep you're telling  
11         us about or --

12      A.   Well, the lights are turned out at 9, right, so we could  
13         be all going into a sleep and the next minute you could  
14         hear their footsteps coming and it would be this one,  
15         the bedclothes pulled off, and then whoever it was,  
16         myself or anybody, sometimes people wet the bed.

17      Q.   So if somebody wet the bed or had wet the bed what would  
18         happen?

19      A.   The sheet would be put over their head and they would be  
20         told to kneel at the bottom of their bed until they  
21         decided to come back and tell them.

22      Q.   And what about in the morning? Did anything happen  
23         in the morning in relation to bed-wetting?

24      A.   Uh-huh. What happened was the sheet was taken from her,  
25         she had to go in and get washed, clothes on, and she was

- 1           made to wash all the sheets and -- if anybody else had  
2           wet the bed.
- 3        Q.   What would happen to them if they had --
- 4        A.   They got hit as well.
- 5        Q.   Just so I can understand, was there some sort of  
6           practice whereby if you wet the bed then the sheet was  
7           put over your head, is that --
- 8        A.   It was put on so you could smell your own urine and you  
9           wouldn't do it again.
- 10       Q.   How often did this happen?
- 11       A.   It just happened when people wet the bed or they heard  
12       us talking when we shouldn't be talking.
- 13       Q.   When you're talking, I suppose you may be talking when  
14       you haven't wet the bed --
- 15       A.   Uh-huh.
- 16       Q.   -- but if you were talking would something happen as  
17       well? You weren't allowed to talk at night?
- 18       A.   Not after we had said our prayers and it was 9 o'clock  
19       and the lights were out.
- 20       Q.   So what would happen if you were talking?
- 21       A.   Well, if she caught us, we knew it was happening.
- 22       Q.   When you say "she", are you talking about a nun whose  
23       name you can't remember?
- 24       A.   Uh-huh.
- 25       Q.   Was this one of the nuns in charge of the dormitory that

- 1           you were in?
- 2       A.   Yes.
- 3       Q.   You have already mentioned how people were hit.  But are
- 4           you saying that it wasn't just being hit with hands,
- 5           there were also kicks involved?
- 6       A.   Oh aye.
- 7       Q.   You have mentioned the, I think, the rosary beads or the
- 8           crucifix.  Were there any other implements used that you
- 9           can remember?
- 10      A.   No.
- 11      Q.   One thing you do say at one point is that you saw one
- 12           nun using a shoe.
- 13      A.   Uh-huh.  That wasn't to me, that was to one of the other
- 14           kids, but we were put away, we were told to get in.  But
- 15           we could hear her scream.
- 16      Q.   So a shoe was used?
- 17      A.   Uh-huh.
- 18      Q.   Did you see the shoe being used?
- 19      A.   We all seen it, but we were all shoved into another
- 20           room.
- 21      Q.   So far as your time at Smyllum was concerned then,
- 22           Anne Marie, and the sort of behaviour you have been
- 23           telling us about, how regular was this kind of treatment
- 24           that you've been discussing?
- 25      A.   Getting hit?

1 Q. Yes.

2 A. It went right on. It never stopped. Even the people  
3 before me and when I was there and it carried on after  
4 we left as well. It never stopped.

5 Q. As far as your own direct experience is concerned then,  
6 it was a regular --

7 A. It was a regular thing, uh-huh.

8 Q. Can I then ask you a little bit about your brother,  
9 Samuel? I think you have already told us you didn't see  
10 very much of him --

11 A. No.

12 Q. -- but on occasions you saw him. When you saw him, you  
13 mentioned him being in the area of bins; can you tell me  
14 about that?

15 A. We've got a big backyard and there's bins there for,  
16 like, say, stuff that you don't eat for the piggeries,  
17 and they are supposed to come and empty the bins.  
18 Sometimes they didn't get emptied, so rats started  
19 beginning to gather round. So we were out playing --  
20 not supposed to be in the girls' yard anyway, he's  
21 supposed to stay in his own yard, so [REDACTED]  
22 chased him back before the nun got hold of him because  
23 she would have hit him.

24 So when he got back, he was supposed to be sick over  
25 his food, and the nun had taken him up the stairs and

1 told him he wasn't getting any dinner, but he had been  
2 sick anyway and his urine wasn't urine, it was blood  
3 that was coming from him --

4 Q. You're looking ahead, I think, to what you may have  
5 heard. Before we come to that, you have mentioned  
6 Samuel and rats. Did you see him playing --

7 A. Oh aye, [REDACTED] took a stick off him. He had  
8 already killed a rat before, do you know what I mean,  
9 and he was chased back to the boys' playground.

10 Q. Was this some time before he died?

11 A. Aye, aye.

12 Q. But did you yourself see a rat or rats when you --

13 A. There were all rats all about where the bins were,  
14 uh-huh.

15 Q. So there were rats --

16 A. The girls weren't allowed that end anyway, although that  
17 was our playground. But we weren't allowed near the  
18 bins.

19 Q. Just to be clear, you saw rats in the area of the bins?

20 A. Oh aye. It's because the food was in it.

21 Q. But so far as the incident involving Sammy was  
22 concerned, you didn't witness what happened to Sammy  
23 involving a rat shortly before he died?

24 A. No. We've chased him umpteen times away.

25 So what we got told was when we seen the ambulance,

1 [REDACTED] -- and [REDACTED] taken to the Mother Superior's  
2 office and was given that Samuel had stabbed a rat, the  
3 blood had got into him, and he had a brain tumour or  
4 something and died in hospital. I didn't get to see  
5 him; [REDACTED].

6 Q. So you're saying that after certain events happened and  
7 Samuel was taken away from Smyllum --

8 A. Yes.

9 Q. [REDACTED]

10 A. [REDACTED]

11 Q. Did you then -- were you directly told by the  
12 Mother Superior?

13 A. Yes, [REDACTED] called into her office and she kept [REDACTED]  
14 up-to-date because I was too young, she said, to go and  
15 see him in the hospital, [REDACTED]

16 Q. But when he died you were told?

17 A. Yes, [REDACTED] told it was because of the rats and the rat  
18 poison.

19 Q. Did you see Samuel being taken away from Smyllum?

20 A. Yes, the ambulance was coming in the back entrance --  
21 that's where the girls' television room is -- and one of  
22 the boys came over and chapped the window to get our  
23 attention and [REDACTED] told  
24 [REDACTED], "That's your wee brother going in the ambulance",  
25 so [REDACTED] stood at the window but [REDACTED] checked but [REDACTED]

1           kept running back and it was the ambulancemen that was  
2           carrying my young brother out in a blanket.

3           Q. We know that there was a funeral service for Samuel --

4           A. That's correct.

5           Q. -- at Smyllum. Did you attend that service?

6           A. Oh yes.

7           Q. What about the burial? Did you go to the cemetery?

8           A. Yes, we all went. The whole convent went.

9           Q. To the cemetery?

10          A. Yes.

11          Q. You tell us in your statement there was some issue over  
12          a headstone for Samuel.

13          A. Uh-huh.

14          Q. What happened about that?

15          A. He never got the headstone that was supposed to be put  
16          up.

17          Q. Can you explain what the understand the position to have  
18          been?

19          A. Well, when he died and that, they said they were going  
20          to -- not to bother telling the family to get  
21          a headstone, they would put the headstone up for him,  
22          but it never happened.

23          Q. How do you know that? Is that something -- who told you  
24          that?

25          A. **BAC**, whatever his name was -- I don't know his last

1 name, he was [REDACTED] -- he was very fond of my  
2 young brother and all that, and he said not to tell  
3 the -- tell the family not to bother with the headstone,  
4 I'll get it up. But it never got up.

5 Q. Have you been back to the cemetery since?

6 A. Uh-huh. I go to the memorial every August.

7 Q. Do you know where Samuel is buried?

8 A. I know exactly where, at the end, but there's more kids  
9 on top of him now, so ...

10 Q. I suppose we don't really know that, but you know  
11 where --

12 A. Where he was, aye, because my uncle and my grandad was  
13 there at the funeral as well.

14 Q. What you say in your statement, if I can just be  
15 absolutely clear -- and this is at paragraph 103 --  
16 is that first of all you went to church for a Mass  
17 in the morning --

18 A. We always went to church.

19 Q. -- and that your grandad and uncle travelled from  
20 Greenock to go to the funeral; is that correct?

21 A. Yes.

22 Q. "We all went to the graveyard in Lanark and Samuel was  
23 buried there."

24 A. That's correct.

25 Q. You then say:

1           "My uncle and grandad were going to get a  
2           headstone."

3           Is that right, were they going to get a headstone?

4           A. Uh-huh -- well, they were going to get it, but then they  
5           was told not to get it because they were going to get  
6           it.

7           Q. When you say "they", the nuns told them that they would  
8           put a headstone on?

9           A. Uh-huh.

10          Q. But you mentioned --

11          A. Aye, and [REDACTED] --

12          Q. [REDACTED] --

13          A. Aye, that was the guy that worked with the boys.

14                I don't know his last name, but I know his last name's  
15                [REDACTED].

16          Q. Did [REDACTED] speak to you directly?

17          A. [REDACTED] -- [REDACTED] standing there when he said  
18                it because he was fond of him or something, he kept  
19                telling [REDACTED]

20          Q. You have told us about what happened to you in relation  
21                to being hit and so on. Were any marks left when you  
22                were hit by any of the nuns?

23          A. Oh aye, you got marks left. There was nothing much you  
24                could do.

25          Q. Where might you be marked?

1 A. When she was kicking you in the side and the back, there  
2 were marks there. When she got your face, you were  
3 bruised on it. There's not much they can give you for  
4 a bruise.

5 Q. Okay, but you had marks?

6 A. Oh aye.

7 Q. Did you see any other children --

8 A. I haven't actually seen no marks on anybody (inaudible)  
9 doing nothing. Some have been severe, some have been  
10 really bad, do you know what I mean? Other people got  
11 away lightly, not as bad as some of them.

12 Q. That's why I was asking -- you saw other children with  
13 bruises because of what happened; is that correct?

14 A. Yes.

15 Q. Can I then just take you next, Anne Marie, to when you  
16 came to leave Smyllum. We know you finally left in  
17 [REDACTED] 1964, very shortly after Samuel died.

18 A. Aye.

19 Q. How did you learn that you were leaving Smyllum?

20 A. The nun came and told -- after we had our breakfast, she  
21 told [REDACTED]  
22 [REDACTED] -- to go upstairs and wait there for her. When  
23 [REDACTED] went up there, [REDACTED] had to put on our clothes, not the  
24 convent clothes, the clothes that [REDACTED] came in with, and  
25 [REDACTED] asked why and she said everything will be revealed

- 1           when you go to the Mother Superior's office. That's  
2           when ■ went down and she told us where ■ going.
- 3           Q. Was a social worker involved in the process?
- 4           A. Yes, Mr McKenzie was sitting in the room that ■ had to  
5           sit in.
- 6           Q. Was it then that you were taken to Nazareth House?
- 7           A. It was Nazareth House, yes.
- 8           Q. Were you told why you were being moved from Smyllum to  
9           Nazareth House?
- 10          A. No. ■ weren't told why because people in there --  
11          I know there's boys been there 16, right up to they're  
12          18, so I don't see why we had to go, do you know what  
13          I mean?
- 14          Q. In any event, you went to Nazareth House and you tell us  
15          about your experiences there, beginning in paragraph 109  
16          of your statement. You tell us about that in your  
17          statement. We're not looking at that at the moment;  
18          I think you understand that.
- 19                 You also, I think, went to St Euphrasia's in  
20          Dalbeth.
- 21          A. Aye.
- 22          Q. Again, you do tell us about that up to paragraph 148 of  
23          your statement. I think you say you were at  
24          St Euphrasia's for about a year.
- 25          A. Yes, that's correct.

- 1 Q. After then you left care. What age were you when you  
2 left care?
- 3 A. Fifteen.
- 4 Q. Did you tell anyone after leaving care what had happened  
5 to you after Smyllum?
- 6 A. My children, when they were older.
- 7 Q. But until then did you speak to anyone?
- 8 A. I never spoke about it with anybody. We were made to  
9 believe that he was killed with a rat and that's what  
10 I lived with.
- 11 Q. Yes. There you're looking at Samuel's experience, but  
12 I'm looking at your own experience in relation to what  
13 you've told this inquiry and what happened to you --
- 14 A. Yes.
- 15 Q. -- and what you saw happen to others. Do I take it you  
16 told no one about that until you told your children?
- 17 A. I just put it at the back of my head. I didn't want to  
18 know about it. It was just really bad.
- 19 Q. One of the things you say in your statement is:  
20 "I never told anyone about the abuse I got in  
21 Smyllum because I just thought it was natural."
- 22 A. That's correct. I thought it was. I was young. What  
23 could I do? I couldn't hit her back or anything. She  
24 would have got the better of me.
- 25 Q. Insofar as Samuel was concerned, I think you know there

1           was a police investigation.

2       A.   That's correct.

3       Q.   Was it that that brought it all back to mind for you?

4       A.   It came back to me when a police officer, Lindsey, and

5           another officer came to my house and said to speak to

6           him, I brought her in and they were thingummying about

7           my young brother and she explained it in bits and I'm

8           going, "We got told he died with a rat, what are you

9           saying he was killed for?"  And that's how it came

10          about.

11       Q.   Yes, but that was many years after --

12       A.   Mm-hm.

13       Q.   -- many years after you had been in Smyllum, the police

14          investigation was many years afterwards?

15       A.   Aye.  I know that Davy Cowan in the police, aye, he done

16          all that.  Aye, I know -- is that the bit you're talking

17          about?

18       Q.   Yes.

19       A.   Aye, that's correct.

20       Q.   You really put Smyllum out of your mind --

21       A.   Until they came to the door.

22       Q.   Can I ask you a little bit about what you think the

23          impact of your life in Smyllum may have had on you.  Can

24          you help me with that?

25       A.   I'll be honest with you, yes, I've had violence and bad

1 times, but not all nuns were bad. There were only so  
2 many of them. So I can't pull them all down and I've  
3 already said that in my statement and I will say that.  
4 If it wasn't for some of them in the places I was in,  
5 I wouldn't know anything to this day. Do you know what  
6 I mean? But not all nuns are bad, but there were so  
7 very many of them in Smyllum who were really, really  
8 bad.

9 Q. In relation to your own lifestyle, do you think that  
10 what happened to you in Smyllum has had any impact upon  
11 the way you yourself have led your life, for example in  
12 connection with your children?

13 A. No. I don't ... I never -- I made sure what happened  
14 to me never happened to my kids.

15 Q. If we turn to your statement, looking to the final part  
16 of it -- it's on the last page of your statement. Can  
17 I take you to that, Anne Marie? The very last page. At  
18 166 what is said is this:

19 "It's okay to punish kids but not to beat them and  
20 jump all over them."

21 Do you see that?

22 A. That's correct, I did say that.

23 Q. Is that what you say happened to you at Smyllum?

24 A. Uh-huh, and other people. Do you know what I mean? I'm  
25 not just saying it was me got it; everybody got it.

1           If they're wearing the habit and they did have vows  
2           to God, they have no right to take people who go into  
3           their care and that thing.

4       Q.   I'm right in thinking, Anne Marie, that you are  
5           a staunch Catholic?

6       A.   An austere Catholic.

7       Q.   But this treatment was from Catholic nuns?

8       A.   All Catholics are not bad, you know what I mean, and  
9           just because of what's happened there, I'm not going to  
10          change my religion.

11      Q.   You go on to say in the next paragraph:

12                 "The best way to avoid children being abused is to  
13                 make sure better people are employed."

14                 Is that right?

15      A.   That's right.

16      Q.   And you go on to say:

17                 "I want people who have suffered abuse and the  
18                 people who have died to get justice."

19      A.   That's correct.

20      Q.   "I want the truth to come out."

21                 Is that correct?

22      A.   I did say that, yes.

23      Q.   "We can't all be lying. We need to be believed."

24                 And you have told us the truth today.

25      A.   Yes.

1 MR MacAULAY: Anne Marie, thank you very much indeed for  
2 coming to do that. I haven't been sent any questions to  
3 ask you. I don't know there are to be any questions,  
4 my Lady.

5 Questions from LADY SMITH

6 LADY SMITH: Can I check whether there are any outstanding  
7 applications for questions?

8 Anne Marie, there aren't any other questions for  
9 you, apart from one that I have. I hope this is easy  
10 for you to answer. I see from your statement that the  
11 police helped you find some of your papers --

12 A. Yes, that's correct.

13 LADY SMITH: -- from the order in London. Was that helpful  
14 to you?

15 A. Very helpful, because I got my Holy Communion that  
16 I made in there and things and I got photos of the  
17 school.

18 LADY SMITH: You say you got four photographs. What were  
19 they of?

20 A. Groups of us in school. I didn't even know my young  
21 brother was there because his hair had changed. That's  
22 how young he was. Holy Communion photos, which was  
23 lovely because we made the dresses ourselves. There was  
24 another one with loads of the other people in the  
25 convent. We've had to give them to -- you'll have to

1           answer that -- because they needed it to see, and I've  
2           not got them back.

3       LADY SMITH: But that gave you a glimpse of your own  
4           childhood that you could keep?

5       A. Yes.

6       LADY SMITH: And things like your communion certificate  
7           would be very important for you, I imagine.

8           Thank you for that and thank you for coming along to  
9           help us. That's been really useful and we really  
10          appreciate it.

11       A. Thank you very much.

12       LADY SMITH: I'm now able to let you go.

13                               (The witness withdrew)

14       LADY SMITH: Mr MacAulay.

15       MR MacAULAY: Now we have a window of opportunity for  
16          a statement to be read into the transcript because the  
17          next witness is programmed for 11.45. I think the  
18          statement will take probably about half an hour or so.

19       LADY SMITH: That would fit very well. So this is the  
20          statement that otherwise we would have read in  
21          yesterday?

22       MR MacAULAY: It is, my Lady. My learned friend Ms MacLeod  
23          will do that.

24       LADY SMITH: Thank you.

25

1                   Witness statement of "MARIE" (read)

2           MS MACLEOD: The statement to be read in is that of

3                   a witness who wishes to remain anonymous and to use the  
4                   name "Marie". The statement is at WIT.001.001.2955:

5                   "My name is Marie. I was born in 1961. My contact  
6                   details are known to the inquiry. I was brought up in  
7                   Paisley. Two of my siblings died. I was the third  
8                   youngest. There was quite an age gap between me and my  
9                   older sisters. I didn't know my older siblings very  
10                  well.

11                  "The reason that I ended up in care was because my  
12                  mother took ill with TB. She was either housebound or  
13                  admitted to hospital. My father was unable to cope with  
14                  us all, so it was agreed through the Social Work  
15                  Department to send six of us into care.

16                  "I was aged 6 when we went to Nazareth House in  
17                  Kilmarnock. I think that this decision was made through  
18                  our family contact with the Social Work Department. I  
19                  was only 6 years old when that decision was made so  
20                  I don't have a lot of memories of how it all came  
21                  about."

22                  Between paragraphs 5 and 13, my Lady, the witness  
23                  describes experiences at Nazareth House, so I will now  
24                  move on to paragraph 14 where she speaks of her time in  
25                  Smyllum between 1969 and 1976. That is on page

1 WIT.001.001.2957:

2 "Smyllum was mixed sex although the dormitories were  
3 single sex. I started at Ogilvy House. When I was  
4 about 11, I changed houses and went into St Joseph's  
5 House at Smyllum. I was in the same house as my sister  
6 but in a different dormitory. Ogilvy House stood on its  
7 own in the Smyllum grounds. There were about 25 boys  
8 and girls per house. When I arrived, I didn't know  
9 anyone else who was resident.

10 "I can remember that in the dormitory we had a small  
11 bedside cabinet for storing our stuff. I didn't have  
12 much stuff with me in those days. As I remember,  
13 I shared a dormitory with my sister and three other  
14 girls. I spent most of my time at Smyllum with them.

15 "I remember Sister **EAC** and two members of the  
16 care staff who were not sisters; they were called **AFM**  
17 and **AFQ**. Sister **EAC** was the staff member  
18 I dealt with when I first arrived. I think I met **AFM**  
19 and **AFQ** later on.

20 "Later on I had to deal with Sister **IAG**, she  
21 worked in St Joseph's. I dealt with her until the end  
22 of my stay. Sister **IAG** thought that she was quite  
23 amusing in the way she dealt with the children in her  
24 care. You only really had contact with the sisters who  
25 ran the house you were in. You didn't really come

1 across the other members of staff.

2 "I remember the name of the teachers at Smyllum's  
3 school: we had a Miss AEW and a Mrs Sweeney. They  
4 were both very nice. There was also a teacher who we  
5 nicknamed IAR. She spent the whole time  
6 shouting and bawling at us. She used to belt us.

7 "All I can remember was that, when we all arrived,  
8 we were met by Sister EAC. We were split up and  
9 sent to different houses. We were told to go to our  
10 dormitories to change and then come down for our dinner.  
11 There were no introductions to the other children.

12 "You would be woken up at 7 in the morning.  
13 We would wash and then go down for breakfast. After  
14 that, you got ready to go to school. I think that you  
15 also had to do the dishes. You had to have your school  
16 uniform on. You had to go back to your house to eat  
17 your lunch. After that you went back to school. After  
18 school you could play. I think there may have been some  
19 homework to do. You would then go for your dinner.

20 "After dinner you may have been allowed to watch  
21 some television before you had a bath and went to bed.  
22 You would be put to bed according to your age with the  
23 youngest going earlier.

24 "I don't think that we had a bath every night.  
25 I know that you had to share the bathwater with the

1 other residents. If you were last in the queue, the  
2 water was cold and dirty.

3 "I can't remember the nuns supervising us during the  
4 bathing and brushing of teeth before you went to bed;  
5 you just looked after yourself.

6 "I remember the television room. You were allowed  
7 to watch television up to the time you went to bed.  
8 I did used to go to the Brownies. I found the walk back  
9 was so dark and scary I didn't go back. Before I went  
10 to foster carers for weekends, I used to go to the  
11 pictures with the others. We could spend our pocket  
12 money on sweeties.

13 "The food wasn't great. You were made to eat it.  
14 It was tasteless. I still can't eat fried eggs as  
15 a result. When you refused to eat, they would make you  
16 sit and look at it until you ate it. I remember sitting  
17 there for hours at a time. They would tell us that  
18 there were starving children in the world and we should  
19 be grateful for what we were eating.

20 "You would have to say prayers every night and  
21 attend church on a Sunday. You had special clothes for  
22 a Sunday and for Easter and Christmastime. The religion  
23 was forced on you by the sisters. You had to make  
24 Holy Communion. There were visiting priests.  
25 I remember serving them meals and taking their

1 cigarettes to them. I had very little dealings with the  
2 priests.

3 "The primary school was in the grounds of Smyllum.  
4 That is where I attended school. You had a school  
5 uniform which you had to wear. I used to see my  
6 siblings in the school but I didn't associate with them;  
7 it was not the done thing. I just think that the  
8 sisters didn't like you associating with family.

9 "When I graduated to secondary school I went to  
10 Our Lady's High School in Motherwell. It was a fair  
11 distance from Smyllum. I had to get the bus at 7.40  
12 in the morning to get there on time. It took about  
13 an hour to travel there.

14 "I do recall that I did not tell anyone at high  
15 school that I went to Smyllum. One day one of the  
16 teachers announced it to the class. It was quite  
17 demeaning for that to be pointed out, but it didn't seem  
18 to bother the other pupils. They were interested what  
19 it was like and asked me lots of questions.

20 "I know that we did get homework but I never used to  
21 do it. I remember getting the belt for not doing  
22 homework. There was too much going on in the home.  
23 I just couldn't manage to do the homework. There were  
24 exams at school. I think that I did the minimum  
25 required to get through school.

1            "There was one occasion when the sisters took us  
2            into a room and explained to us about sex education and  
3            changes in your body. They didn't make it easy to get  
4            sanitary towels. On the first occasion I needed  
5            sanitary towels I was told that the sister was having  
6            a tea break and I would need to wait. I was eventually  
7            given a personal supply.

8            "We did get to go on holiday to Girvan. We used to  
9            play on the beach. I have a vivid memory of playing on  
10           the beach and being badly sunburnt. It happened every  
11           year. The sisters used to hide under their brollies to  
12           avoid the sun. They would treat your blisters with  
13           calamine lotion, which was very painful. We were never  
14           given any suncream.

15           "When it was your birthday they just left a card on  
16           your bed. It wasn't very personal. I do remember  
17           getting a small present. I can recall getting a small  
18           teddy bear on one of my birthdays.

19           "I spent all of my Christmases either at the family  
20           who were kind of my foster parents or at my sister's.  
21           I think you got a couple of small presents to take away  
22           with you.

23           "I remember that my father visited me four times  
24           during my eight years there. My sisters visited me  
25           maybe on two occasions over the eight years that I was

1           there.

2           "I think that my social worker was called  
3 Mrs Fairlie. I didn't see her after she brought me to  
4 Smyllum. There was a lot of social workers that visited  
5 while I was at Smyllum. The only one I can remember was  
6 the last one; he was called Mr Brannigan.

7           "The sisters were always present when you were  
8 visited by the social workers. You didn't dare say  
9 anything that could cause trouble.

10          "I think that we had medical help through a local  
11 doctor called Dr Allan. I only saw him on a couple of  
12 occasions. I don't recall being seen by a dentist.

13          "I can't remember having a problem with bed-wetting.  
14 However, I do remember the sisters would tell the whole  
15 dormitory if someone had wet their bed or had an  
16 accident. I think some of the girls had a really hard  
17 time when they were wetting the beds.

18          "I started going to a family for weekends when I was  
19 about 10 years old. My sister came with me. Before we  
20 started going, my sister and me were not consulted about  
21 the weekend arrangement. All I remember was that the  
22 female foster carer came into our dormitory one day.  
23 One of the sisters pointed to my sister and me and that  
24 was it. After that, we went every weekend. They would  
25 call at Smyllum on a Friday night and return us on

1 a Sunday night. My sister and me shared a room.

2 "It was not a good arrangement: the male foster  
3 carer was 73 years old; his wife was much younger. She  
4 worked shifts as a nurse. She was always tired at the  
5 weekends so we didn't do much. She liked my sister; it  
6 was obvious that she was not so fond of me.

7 "The female foster carer used to slag off my own  
8 family. She would do things like ask me, where are they  
9 now? She would say that we were lucky to be with her  
10 and her husband. As time went by, we only went every  
11 other weekend. Later, it was only one of us every other  
12 weekend. She eventually told us that she couldn't  
13 manage any other visits because of her shifts.

14 "On reflection, I don't think that this was such  
15 a good thing to do. All my friends were back at  
16 Smyllum. I would have preferred to have stayed with my  
17 friends. They were bonding together and I wasn't  
18 getting the chance.

19 "The couple were an odd couple to be doing foster  
20 care. The foster care arrangement finally finished  
21 after an incident involving the male foster carer.  
22 I blame the incident on the female foster carer. She  
23 had told her husband that I liked him.

24 "There was no formal discipline at Smyllum that  
25 I was aware of. The sisters just used to slap you or

1 hit you with whatever they had in their hands. It was  
2 a constant regime of hitting and slapping. You just did  
3 your best to avoid it. It was part of the routine. You  
4 could receive a slap or be hit with whatever the sisters  
5 had in their hands at the time.

6 "It was indiscriminate. It was very hard to escape  
7 the constant threat of violence. You were very glad  
8 that it was someone else and not you when they were  
9 being hit. All the sisters were handy with their slaps.  
10 I didn't get too many slaps as I was a quiet girl.

11 "On one occasion I was serving the priests their  
12 meals. Whilst doing that I also took them cigarettes.  
13 Some of the cigarettes were stolen. I got the blame  
14 despite the fact that I didn't smoke. I think it was my  
15 sister that stole the cigarettes. That didn't matter.  
16 I was slapped by one of the sisters.

17 "I remember on one occasion I was in the cloakroom,  
18 Sister IAG came up to me. She asked me what I was  
19 doing and I said nothing. She then slapped me across  
20 the face and told me to go and do something. I remember  
21 that because it was particularly painful.

22 "There was one occasion that happened during  
23 a member of staff's birthday. A cake had been made.  
24 Another girl and me agreed to take the cake to the  
25 member of staff. When it came to the time to take the

1           cake it was 9 o'clock at night. It was pitch dark.  
2           We were both frightened of the dark so we refused to go.  
3           Sister **AGK** then set about me about a slipper for about  
4           20 minutes. I still refused to go. I couldn't see if  
5           I was injured as she hit me on my back. That was one of  
6           the most violent things that happened to me, although  
7           I wasn't scarred or anything like that.

8           "I was once told to get back into the bath as I was  
9           still smelling. It was said in front of the other  
10          girls. That was demeaning.

11          "I remember an incident involving two of the other  
12          girls, Theresa McGrane and another girl. I didn't see  
13          the incident, but I was told about it by the girls when  
14          they were talking. They told me that a visiting trainee  
15          priest inappropriately touched one of them. They tried  
16          to report it to the sisters but were told to forget it.

17          "The teacher I knew as **IAR** was terrible for  
18          shouting and bawling at you. She used to hit you  
19          indiscriminately with a belt. The belt was a leather  
20          strap. There was no rhyme or reason for the punishments  
21          she handed out; she was just a very angry woman.

22          "On one occasion I was on weekend foster care with  
23          the foster family. I would have been 15 years old at  
24          this time. I was on my own with the male foster carer;  
25          his wife was away. My sister was back at Smyllum. The

1 male foster carer touched me in my private areas and  
2 tried to kiss me. I managed to get away from him. When  
3 his wife came back from church that day, she saw me  
4 crying. I think she assumed it was because she hadn't  
5 taken me to church. She then took me back to Smyllum; I  
6 was very upset. I couldn't tell the sisters what had  
7 happened. My roommate saw I was upset. She saw I was  
8 crying. She told the sisters that I was upset. The  
9 sisters immediately dismissed me being upset as  
10 attention seeking. We were told to forget it.

11 "I never went back to that household after the  
12 incident. I think my sister continued to go to the  
13 family. I felt bad about it, but there didn't appear to  
14 be any other incidents. My sister continued to go there  
15 until she was 16. I can't remember any occasion when  
16 the sisters asked me how my weekend there had gone.

17 "I was at Smyllum until I was 16. It was decided  
18 that I would move in with my older sister. There was no  
19 preparation from the social worker. I was not able to  
20 cook or do simple things like manage money. I had been  
21 in Smyllum for eight years and it was all I knew.

22 "To be quite honest I would have preferred to have  
23 remained at Smyllum rather than go to my sister's house;  
24 all my friends were at Smyllum and I knew what the  
25 routine was there.

1            "I can remember that before I left Smyllum my sister  
2            phoned the nuns and asked whether I wanted to stay with  
3            her. I felt quite pressured after that to stay with my  
4            sister. A decision was made that I would go to my  
5            sister's. I remember being very upset because I didn't  
6            want to go.

7            "When the day came to leave, I just packed a case,  
8            walked down the hill and went to my sister's house. My  
9            other sister remained at Smyllum when I left. I knew  
10           that moving in with my older sister was not a good  
11           option as there was not much room there. There were  
12           already too many people living at her house. There was  
13           not enough room. My sister got money for me living  
14           there. My sister was only after the money.

15           "After I left Smyllum, I had no contact with the  
16           social workers.

17           "I stayed with my older sister for about 3 years.  
18           I stayed with her until I met my husband. At the time  
19           I was doing various youth training scheme courses and  
20           working at different jobs. I received no social work  
21           assistance.

22           "After I met my future husband, we managed to get a  
23           house together. I had no space at my sister's. It was  
24           a great relief to have my own house. We got married.  
25           I gave birth to two daughters. I now have four

1 grandchildren with another one on the way.

2 "I did try on two occasions to report what had  
3 happened to the me to the sisters. They told me I was  
4 attention seeking and to forget what had happened.  
5 There was no one else to tell. If you tried to tell  
6 someone, they didn't believe you.

7 "I have never discussed what happened to me with  
8 anyone -- that includes my family. I have never  
9 reported what happened to the police. It wasn't until  
10 I saw all the press articles about Theresa McGrane that  
11 I realised I had a duty to support her and to tell my  
12 story.

13 "I feel that I want to protect my family more than  
14 anything. I don't want them to be involved with the  
15 social work. I find it hard to trust people.

16 "I started engaging with the Scottish Child Abuse  
17 Inquiry in order to support Theresa McGrane. I never  
18 used to think much about my time in care. Now, as  
19 I remember things, I find myself crying and getting  
20 upset. I am starting to tell my family what happened to  
21 me in Smyllum. Being able to talk about it is very  
22 helpful.

23 "I obtained my records from the Social Work  
24 Department. I have read through them. There is very  
25 little information in my records about my time at

1 Nazareth House. There is limited information about my  
2 stay at Smyllum. There are concerns listed but there  
3 was very little or no action taken. The records confirm  
4 that the family liked my sister but were not so keen on  
5 me.

6 "I am not a member of any of the survivor groups.  
7 I have been in touch with Theresa McGrane after she  
8 appeared in the media. It was such a pleasure to catch  
9 up with her after 50 years.

10 "I think that there should be someone making more  
11 regular inspections of the actual establishments. There  
12 should be one-to-one meetings with the social workers  
13 and not group meetings. I would always sit in the  
14 background at these group meetings as I was very shy.  
15 It was the others that did the talking and I was quite  
16 happy with that.

17 "I hope that the sisters realise that what they did  
18 to us had an effect on all the children that were in  
19 their care. I hope that the sisters acknowledge  
20 publicly what they did to the children in that care.

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

25 The statement was signed by Marie on

1 4 December 2017.

2 LADY SMITH: Thank you very much, Miss MacLeod.

3 I think, as Mr MacAulay indicated, the next witness  
4 will be ready to give evidence at 11.45; is that right?

5 MS MACLEOD: That's right, my Lady.

6 LADY SMITH: So are we proposing to have an early break and  
7 come back at 11.45 because there is not enough time to  
8 fit in another read-in, is there?

9 MS MACLEOD: No, there is not.

10 LADY SMITH: Very well. We will adjourn now until 11.45 am.  
11 (11.15 am)

12 (A short break)

13 (11.45 am)

14 LADY SMITH: Mr MacAulay.

15 MR MacAULAY: My Lady, the next witness I would like to call  
16 is William Whicher.

17 WILLIAM WHICHER (sworn)

18 Questions from Mr MacAULAY

19 MR MacAULAY: Good morning, Billy.

20 A. Good morning.

21 Q. Your name is William Whicher?

22 A. Yes.

23 Q. Am I pronouncing your second name correctly?

24 A. Absolutely.

25 Q. I think in the time that I'll be focusing on in

1           particular your surname was O'Donnell.

2       A.   That's correct.

3       Q.   But you changed from O'Donnell to Whicher later on in

4           life; is that correct?

5       A.   Yes.

6       Q.   Was Whicher your mother's maiden name?

7       A.   It was my mother's maiden name.

8       Q.   I'll be asking you questions based on your statement and

9           you have a copy of that in front of you.

10      A.   Yes.

11      Q.   Before I embark upon that exercise, can I just say to

12           you that if there's something I ask you and you can't

13           remember, just say that.

14      A.   Absolutely.

15      Q.   Likewise, if something comes to mind that you haven't

16           mentioned before --

17      A.   That's more likely!

18      Q.   And you think it's relevant, then feel free to tell us.

19           Do you follow that?

20      A.   Yes.

21      Q.   Can I take you briefly to your statement to begin with.

22           I'm going to give the number for the transcript and it

23           is at WIT.001.001.3101.

24           If I can ask you to open up that red folder and if

25           you could go to the last page -- that's at page 3126 --

1           can I just get you to confirm, Billy, that you have  
2           signed the statement?

3           A.   Yes, that's my signature.

4           Q.   And do you say in the last paragraph:

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

7           A.   That's correct.

8           Q.   And you go on to say:

9                        "I believe the facts stated in this witness  
10          statement are true."

11          A.   Yes.

12          Q.   I don't need to know your actual date of birth but  
13          I need to know your year of birth to get a time frame  
14          for what I want to ask you about.  Am I right in  
15          thinking that you were born in 1948?

16          A.   That's correct.

17          Q.   Can I just look at your life before care, because we're  
18          going to look at your care at Smyllum.

19          A.   Yes.

20          Q.   Before care, did you live in your family with a number  
21          of brothers and sisters?

22          A.   Yes.

23          Q.   I think you had three older sisters and one older  
24          brother?

25          A.   Yes.  There was originally eight of us altogether.  But

1 a couple died very young -- the time span I didn't even  
2 know who they were, what their names was or anything.  
3 But my main would be my sisters [REDACTED] and my  
4 brother [REDACTED] There was [REDACTED] but I didn't actually  
5 know her as she died while I was in the handicapped  
6 home.

7 Q. Okay. What I think I can take from you there is that,  
8 as far as your sisters are concerned, there was quite  
9 a significant age gap between yourself --

10 A. Yes, absolutely, 19 years from the oldest one.

11 Q. [REDACTED]

12 A. [REDACTED]

13 Q. [REDACTED]

14 Did you have a serious road accident when you were  
15 quite a young child?

16 A. When I was five I was run over by a bus.

17 Q. Because of that, did you have to go into hospital for  
18 a considerable period of time?

19 A. Oh yes. I was in and out of hospital over the next few  
20 years for different operations.

21 Q. Were you then -- did you also have to go to a home to  
22 be --

23 A. Yes, a handicapped home in Largs.

24 Q. Was that for --

25 A. I couldn't walk. I was in a wheelchair, more or less,

1 for two years. They gave me a lot of therapy. They  
2 actually told my parents that I would never walk again.  
3 But this is in 1953, the National Health had been going  
4 for five years at the time, or my parents wouldn't have  
5 been able to afford the operation, but it was also an  
6 experimental time. They were trying to heal people as  
7 opposed to just not do more damage.

8 In the old days they used to say, don't walk, you'll  
9 do more damage than good, but they did a lot of therapy  
10 and that helped strengthen my legs so I was able to walk  
11 with the aid of calipers for a couple of years.

12 Q. In the time that you were in receipt of this therapy at  
13 a home in Largs, I think you tell us --

14 A. Yes.

15 Q. -- you were told that your mother had died.

16 A. Yes.

17 Q. And I think you also learnt that your father had died.

18 A. Apparently he died a year before, but I'd no knowledge  
19 of it.

20 Q. When you came to leave the home, both parents had died  
21 by then?

22 A. Absolutely, yes.

23 Q. I think what you tell us in your statement is you came  
24 to leave the home at about the age of 8.

25 A. I would be about that.

- 1 Q. You thought the accident happened when you were about 5?
- 2 A. It happened in 1953. The reason I'm being so specific  
3 about the date it was the day the Queen was doing her  
4 coronation through -- in the streets coming along  
5 Pollokshaw Road and we lived there and I was looking out  
6 the window. We managed to get my mother, who was  
7 bedridden at the time, to the window. And I was  
8 pestering my mother about why the Queen wasn't wearing  
9 a crown and that and they sent me across the road to get  
10 an ice cream -- I think just to get rid of me -- and on  
11 the way there I got run over.
- 12 Q. Looking to those dates then, to your date of birth, and  
13 1953, and the date of the coronation, you'd be about 5  
14 when the accident happened?
- 15 A. Yes, definitely, yes.
- 16 Q. So when you left the home in Largs then you tell us you  
17 went to live with one of your older sisters?
- 18 A. Yes, [REDACTED] She was the one that had actually raised me  
19 because my mother was bedridden and my sister was  
20 14 years old at the time, so I was handed to her for her  
21 to look after me. She was there when I come out, she's  
22 the one that came down to Largs to pick me up to take me  
23 back in in the bus.
- 24 Q. Was your older brother there as well?
- 25 A. He would have been back in the house. [REDACTED]

- 1 [REDACTED]
- 2 Q. In any event, because of family circumstances, it was  
3 thought that it would be desirable for you to go into  
4 care [REDACTED]
- 5 A. [REDACTED]  
6 [REDACTED]
- 7 [REDACTED] the authorities then decided because my sister was  
8 now expecting her second baby, that the whole thing  
9 would have been too much for her and then [REDACTED] told  
10 [REDACTED] going away for three weeks, but it turned into  
11 seven years.
- 12 Q. So far as that is concerned, you went to Smyllum [REDACTED]  
13 [REDACTED]
- 14 A. Yes.
- 15 Q. According to the admission records that the inquiry has  
16 seen, you were admitted to Smyllum on [REDACTED] 1957  
17 at the age --
- 18 A. Is that right?
- 19 Q. 1957. Does that fit in with your own recollection, aged  
20 about 8 or 9?
- 21 A. I'd be 9 then in that case.
- 22 Q. 8 or 9?
- 23 A. I would be 9 because I was born in 1948, so ...
- 24 Q. It would depend on when in the year --
- 25 A. Yes, 8 or 9, yes. In fairness to me, from the day of

1 the accident to the date of Smyllum, to me it is just  
2 one long thing, rather than that was one home and then  
3 going into the other it just seemed the same to me.  
4 I was away from my family for ten years. So kind of in  
5 my mind, that's what you think.

6 Q. Can I go back to the time in the home when you were  
7 getting your therapy. Did you get any schooling when  
8 you were there?

9 A. No.

10 Q. You had come out of there and had spent a fairly short  
11 period of time with your sister and you then go to  
12 Smyllum; is that how it was?

13 A. Yes.

14 Q. Again, according to information -- I think you tell us  
15 yourself you left Smyllum in about 1963.

16 A. Yes.

17 Q. When you'd be 14 or 15?

18 A. Well, because my birthday was in [REDACTED] I was let go in  
19 [REDACTED] because I wouldn't be starting a new school year.  
20 Normally when you're 15 is when you leave the place, so  
21 technically I left when I was 14, only about a month  
22 before the date I was due to go anyway.

23 Q. Can I then take you to your arrival at Smyllum. Who  
24 took you there, first of all? Can you remember?

25 A. I can't actually remember who took me to Smyllum. I'm

1           assuming it would be the authorities because I think  
2           I would have remembered the journey with my sister. I'd  
3           be guessing, to be honest.

4       Q.   Okay. [REDACTED]

5       [REDACTED]

6       A.   [REDACTED]

7       Q.   [REDACTED]

8       [REDACTED]

9       A.   [REDACTED]

10      Q.   So far as you were concerned, what was the name of the  
11      section or unit that you went into?

12      A.   I believe I went to the Sacred Heart, which would have  
13      been up from the 8-year-old kind of group. [REDACTED]

14      [REDACTED]

15      [REDACTED]

16      Q.   I think in due course you go to St Anthony's.

17      A.   Yes, I go through them all: I went to St Anthony's and  
18      then St Vincent's eventually.

19      Q.   And these units or sections, they're determined by age?

20      A.   That is right.

21      Q.   So far as the Sacred Heart were concerned, what you tell  
22      us in your statement is that you thought that was  
23      a smaller dormitory?

24      A.   Yes, definitely, yes.

25      Q.   How many children were catered for?

- 1 A. I don't think I was -- in that dormitory that long --  
2 Probably only about 15 or 20 in that one.
- 3 Q. Was it a single dormitory or were there different rooms?
- 4 A. No, it'd be a single dormitory. There was no divisions.  
5 When you were in the dormitory, the whole thing was  
6 open-plan.
- 7 Q. Was there a particular nun that was in charge of that  
8 particular dormitory?
- 9 A. There would have been; I don't remember much about the  
10 actual nuns at Sacred Heart.
- 11 Q. What you tell us in the statement is that:  
12 "I know that Sister [REDACTED] AGI was there at  
13 Sacred Heart for a number of years."
- 14 A. Yes.
- 15 Q. Was she there when you were there?
- 16 A. Oh yes. Yes. She was one of the good nuns, you know.
- 17 Q. You think you were in Sacred Heart for about a year?
- 18 A. It'd probably be about that. That would work on the  
19 timeline. That would be about right.
- 20 Q. Is it after that you moved to St Anthony's?
- 21 A. Yes.
- 22 Q. So you'd be about 10 when you went to St Anthony's?
- 23 A. Yes. I'd be there a couple of years before I went to  
24 St Vincent's.
- 25 Q. And indeed you then say you went to St Vincent's because

- 1           it was for the older boys?
- 2       A.   Yes.
- 3       Q.   Who was in charge of St Anthony's, which nun?
- 4       A.   Well, when you go to the dormitory, it's a different nun
- 5           that's in charge of you during the day.  They have
- 6           separate duties.  So the nun at St Anthony's I wouldn't
- 7           really remember -- there was no real problems with her.
- 8       Q.   Then in relation to the daytime responsibility --
- 9       A.   Ah, different.  That was Sister **AGI** or
- 10       Sister **EAD**
- 11       Q.   And was it Sister **EAD** in particular who was involved
- 12       with you when you moved to St Anthony's?
- 13       A.   Yes, very much so.
- 14       Q.   Were these two dormitories catering simply for boys?
- 15       A.   Oh yes.  The boys and the girls were totally -- they
- 16       could have been in two separate homes.  There was no
- 17       interaction.  The only time you got any interaction was
- 18       at school -- and the playground was separated even then.
- 19       But there was no -- it was a total -- they were over
- 20       where the main entrance would be and you wouldn't see
- 21       them from one day to the next.
- 22       Q.   Can I then just ask you a little bit about your
- 23       experience at Smyllum.  One of the things you talk about
- 24       quite early on in your statement is about bed-wetting.
- 25       A.   Yes.

- 1 Q. Can you just tell me a little bit about that?
- 2 A. Yes. The bed-wetters -- what would happen in the  
3 morning, when you all got up, the nun would come round  
4 after you said your prayer and she would check  
5 everybody's bed to see if it was wet or not. Then the  
6 bed-wetters would then have to take their sheet and be  
7 marched out in front of everybody to be humiliated and  
8 also chastised. They would get a beating for it, but it  
9 was the same people all the time. The people that wet  
10 the bed were the ones that wet the bed. It wasn't like  
11 six one day and then a different six. It was the same  
12 people. Even I knew as a kid, what's the point of  
13 hitting them every day, you know.
- 14 Q. If we just start from the beginning at the time at  
15 Sacred Heart, this practice about bed-wetting we will  
16 talk about, was that also something that was in play  
17 when you were in Sacred Heart?
- 18 A. Oh yes, yes. That was right through.
- 19 Q. So let's just look at what happened in a little bit of  
20 detail. If children wet the bed and the sister comes in  
21 in the morning and discovers the bed is wet, can just  
22 tell me what you recollect as to what happened then?
- 23 A. Well, you'd have a kind of roll-call, who wet the bed  
24 that day, you might have six one day, three or four the  
25 next, but it would be the same group of people. Usually

1 as a rule you'd see the people that wet the bed -- the  
2 ones that don't never did it. I don't recall anybody  
3 ever wetting the bed that wasn't a regular bed-wetter.

4 Q. You were not a bed-wetter?

5 A. No, no. [REDACTED] It was a big problem for him.

6 Q. We'll come and look at that in a moment. What you say  
7 in your statement:

8 "It was the same kids every day."

9 A. Yes.

10 Q. But what then happened with the sheets?

11 A. Well, it depends who was in charge at the time. Some  
12 treated it harder than others, like sometimes you could  
13 even get it rubbed in your face.

14 Q. Who would do that?

15 A. Well, the nun would do it. You know, call them, say,  
16 filthy and things like that, you know.

17 Q. Is there any particular nun that you can identify who  
18 did that sort of thing?

19 A. Well, I can't think of a nun that didn't do it.

20 Sister [REDACTED] AGI [REDACTED] wasn't in charge of getting people up  
21 in the morning, so she would have been the only one that  
22 would have probably treated it any different, but some  
23 would get more angry -- some nuns would get more angry  
24 about it than others.

25 Q. You have mentioned Sister [REDACTED] EAD [REDACTED] later: what about her,

- 1 did you see her doing this?
- 2 A. Oh, you didn't want Sister **EAD** looking to see who wet  
3 the bed. She was quite -- she used to lose her temper  
4 so quick. So what would start off is just chastising,  
5 depending on the reactions of the child, how far she  
6 went, you know. She seemed to --
- 7 Q. Was she involved then in this inspection process --
- 8 A. Yes.
- 9 Q. -- and what you've been telling us about what would  
10 happen with the sheets and so on?
- 11 A. Not in Sacred Heart she wasn't, but in the older ones.
- 12 Q. Apart from what you told us about the sheets, was there  
13 any physical punishment?
- 14 A. Oh yes, of course. They nearly always hit you in the  
15 back of the leg so they know that's a bare part. Even  
16 when you're fully dressed you've got short trousers on,  
17 so they could hit you there and it would be painful, you  
18 know. I'm trying to think what else they done when  
19 they --
- 20 Q. In relation to the bed-wetters, just focusing on that  
21 part of it --
- 22 A. I remember they got marched out, some would have to go  
23 and wash the sheets, but generally they just went for  
24 the cleaning, you know. They all had -- the bed-wetters  
25 all had special covers on the bed that protected the

1 bed. It didn't protect them from it the nuns, but they  
2 protected the beds. Well, the others, we wouldn't have  
3 had that. We wouldn't have needed it.

4 Q. Then just looking to the physical side of things, you  
5 say that children who wet the bed would be struck on the  
6 back of the legs?

7 A. Well, generally. It depends. If they were fully  
8 dressed then that's a bare part that is easy to hit.  
9 But sometimes they would just get a clout round the face  
10 and that.

11 Q. In relation to hitting the legs, was that with a hand or  
12 was there any implement used?

13 A. Quite often it was the hand. If they had an implement,  
14 say like a ruler or something like that, they would hit  
15 you with that, but if it was breakfast time then you  
16 might get hit with a ladle or something.

17 Q. And again, we might perhaps look at mealtimes.

18 A. They used whatever they had more or less to hand.

19 One nun did have a strap, her own strap, most of  
20 them didn't have a strap. She would have used that.

21 Q. And who was that nun?

22 A. It wasn't Sister **EAD** and I can't remember the name of  
23 the nun to be honest, but she was known for having the  
24 strap hanging at her side.

25 Q. You have mentioned that **██████████** did have a problem

1 with bed-wetting.

2 A. Yes.

3 Q. I think what you tell us in your statement is that you  
4 didn't really find that out until you moved into the  
5 same dormitory as him.

6 A. That's right, I didn't know.

7 Q. And that was St Vincent's then?

8 A. Yes.

9 Q. Because he was a bigger boy and at a point in time you  
10 were there at the same time as he?

11 A. We were there for a short time before he left because  
12 we were getting round about that age.

13 Q. What did you discover then when you moved to  
14 St Vincent's about [REDACTED] position?

15 A. I had already felt sorry for the bed-wetters anyway, but  
16 when I realised [REDACTED] -- now this was a big problem  
17 because I would now -- the kids would have a go at me  
18 because he's wet the bed.

19 Q. Why was that? Why did they have a go at you?

20 A. That's what kids do, isn't it? They pick on whatever  
21 they can. Because I'm associated with him, you know.

22 Q. And how was he treated?

23 A. He would get the hiding the same.

24 Q. What about the sheets, the practice with the sheets?

25 A. It was more you had to carry them out and parade them,

1           so there was no doubt what you were being chastised for.  
2           Then you would get hit and then sent back to your bed to  
3           sort it out, you know, because you had to make your bed  
4           before you left the hall.

5       Q.   Okay.  This practice then of people -- letting people  
6           know that you had wet your bed, what did you think about  
7           that at the time?

8       A.   It's almost like the nuns encouraged the other kids to  
9           chastise them for wetting the bed, you know.  So you  
10          would get that.  That would be the idea of parading  
11          them, you know.

12      Q.   Throughout your time at Smyllum in the three dormitories  
13          that you were in, was this a practice that was followed  
14          throughout --

15      A.   All the way through.  All the way through, yes -- even  
16          after 1961, when the government got involved, they still  
17          done the exact same.

18      Q.   When you say the government got involved, what --

19      A.   Apparently in 1961 there must have been some kind of  
20          change in the law or something from a pure charity to  
21          government subsidies because the whole thing changed.  
22          We got an extra pair of shoes, we got different clothes.  
23          The dining room was divided from being all the kids  
24          together on long tables to being an area with four kids  
25          to one table, but there would be 20 in that section.

1           And we got more pocket -- we were actually allowed to  
2           leave the premises on a Saturday to go to the pictures.

3           Q. Up until then you had to stay within the premises?

4           A. Oh yes. We left the premises twice a year: one was for  
5           Lanimer Day, and the one was to go to the Rio cinema.  
6           We all got marched down there for that. It was just  
7           twice you would leave. You'd have no other reason to  
8           leave. The place was so big, we used to go for a walk  
9           on a Sunday: it was about 6 miles and we never left the  
10          premises.

11          Q. Coming back to [REDACTED] experience then in  
12          connection with bed-wetting, did you ever discuss that  
13          with [REDACTED]

14          A. It's a bit embarrassing. I didn't want to make it worse  
15          for him. I didn't even tell him other people were  
16          having a go at me for it.

17          Q. Did you feel embarrassed for him?

18          A. Absolutely, 100 per cent, yes.

19          Q. [REDACTED]

20          [REDACTED]

21          A. [REDACTED]

22          [REDACTED]

23          Q. Can I move away from the bed-wetting scenario and look  
24          at what you tell us in your statement, Billy, about  
25          chores that you had to do when you were there.

- 1 A. Yes.
- 2 Q. Can you help me with that? Can you tell me what  
3 chores --
- 4 A. Every kid's assigned a job because obviously the nuns  
5 are watching you so they can't be doing the job. So  
6 they didn't have any cleaners in, so each person was  
7 assigned different jobs. Like my job in the morning  
8 before breakfast was to sweep the yard. It was an okay  
9 job in the summer, but come the autumn you've got leaves  
10 blowing everywhere, you'd try to get them, but when the  
11 wind blew them, then it was your fault and you'd get  
12 into trouble for not having them altogether.
- 13 But it got even worse in the winter because you'd be  
14 trying to brush the snow away and your hands would be  
15 freezing and you would have to scrape the ice away and  
16 that. So that was just one of the jobs, but you had  
17 different jobs.
- 18 I had one where I'd be -- they had a machine called  
19 a blocker. All it was was just something about the size  
20 of this folder (indicates) and it would be on the stick  
21 and you'd just polish the floor with it.
- 22 Q. Coming back to the sweeping of the yard, if you didn't  
23 do the job to the satisfaction of the person who was  
24 looking at it, what then?
- 25 A. Every time you done a job, whatever the job was, before

1           you could go for breakfast, the nun would have to come  
2           and inspect it to see if you'd done a good job. They  
3           wouldn't say you'd done a good job, they would just say  
4           you could go for breakfast.

5           If there was time before breakfast for you to finish  
6           doing it, you would. If not, you'd go for breakfast.  
7           But there was no -- it was not a case of right or wrong.  
8           There was only wrong. If you'd done a great job they  
9           wouldn't say, "That's a nice job, you can go", just,  
10          "Okay, you can go, O'Donnell". They seemed to find  
11          faults in things that weren't there half the time  
12          anyway.

13         Q. If fault was found, whether it was there or not, what  
14          would happen?

15         A. Well, it depends on what nun found it. Some nuns would  
16          verbally tell you; with others you'd get hit.

17         Q. When you say "get hit", can you give us an  
18          understanding --

19         A. That would normally in the back of the leg or they'd  
20          grab your arm, swing you round and hit you in the back  
21          of the leg --

22         Q. And you are indicating there by using your arm.

23         A. Because they would grab your arm and they would swing  
24          you round from the back and then hit you on your bare  
25          legs.

1 Q. A slapping motion on your bare legs?

2 A. Yes, quite a hard slapping motion.

3 Q. You also tell us a little bit about a job you had in the  
4 kitchen.

5 A. That was one of the better jobs.

6 Q. That was one of the better jobs?

7 A. Especially if you got it in the winter, you're in out  
8 the cold, so you'd be there. But I don't think I was  
9 very fast when I was a kid, you know. In every sense  
10 I was about two years behind development-wise. I was  
11 smaller. I was extremely, extremely thin, but I was  
12 always slow at doing things. You'd get things like  
13 peeling the potatoes, doing the potatoes, you'd put them  
14 into the machine, and then the machine would spin round  
15 and then the potatoes would come out. But because in  
16 them days there was no way of preserving food, the thing  
17 would be rotten or there'd be big eyes and I'd be trying  
18 to cut the bad bits out.

19 Q. Yes.

20 A. And I'd get into trouble because, one, I was wasting  
21 time, and the other, I was wasting food.

22 Q. And getting into trouble would involve what?

23 A. You'd be hit. If you were in trouble, it always comes  
24 with being punished physically, not just verbally.  
25 That -- 90 per cent of the time.

1 Q. You do mention in your statement, Billy, that as  
2 you have just touched upon, that you were small for your  
3 age.

4 A. Very small.

5 Q. And that might have been related to the physical  
6 problems you had as a child?

7 A. Yes. My sister said to me -- this is later on in  
8 life -- I said, why was I so skinny, was I always that  
9 way? She said before the road accident, you were just  
10 normal, but after the road accident, you went extremely  
11 thin.

12 Q. But the fact that you were small and so on, did that  
13 have an impact as to --

14 A. Very much so, because now you're in with kids, say, when  
15 you're in with the 10 year-olds, right, well, you're  
16 about the size of an 8-year-old, so it's easy for people  
17 to pick on you. And that went all the way through, so  
18 by the time I was 12, I still only looked like  
19 a 10-year-old.

20 Q. And were you picked upon?

21 A. Yes.

22 Q. By the other children?

23 A. If you put a lot of kids together, it is human nature  
24 they're going to pick on the weakest. They're being  
25 picked on so it's just natural to pick on someone.

1 Q. Did you get the blame for things you weren't responsible  
2 for?

3 A. Oh yes. If something happened, they'd say, O'Donnell  
4 done it, and the nuns would never enquire whether I'd  
5 done it or not; as far as they were concerned they had  
6 the culprit and then they'd punish you for it.

7 A lot of times, say at the end of the day, you'd  
8 sometimes go in and watch TV for half an hour or  
9 something, and somebody would move a chair or something  
10 and I'd get the blame for it and I would be sent to bed  
11 and I hadn't moved. For the amount of hitting you'd  
12 think I was a troubled child but I was so withdrawn.  
13 I really hardly spoke to people, so it's not like  
14 I was -- I mean, I never, ever answered a nun back.  
15 I just -- whatever they done, they just done. It's not  
16 like you were going to run away from them either because  
17 where are you going to run to? You just let them do it.

18 Q. Insofar as other children were concerned, are you saying  
19 that in essence you were being bullied by the children?

20 A. Yes.

21 Q. To what extent do you think the nuns would be aware of  
22 that?

23 A. I don't know about aware, but I don't think they cared.  
24 For instance, if somebody was bullying me and the nun  
25 walked round the corner or something and found me being

1           bullied, she would just hit both of us for fighting.  
2           She wouldn't try to find out what was happening, are  
3           you're being bullied; you're both fighting, you're both  
4           in trouble.

5           Q. You do identify a particular incident with a particular  
6           nun who showed you some kindness.

7           A. Ah, Sister Mary, yes.

8           Q. Can you tell me about that?

9           A. We were playing in the main yard and Sister AGI  
10          was in charge of us and Sister Mary came down and called  
11          me over. Normally, if a nun called you over, you'd just  
12          try to think, what am I going to get the blame for, but  
13          for some reason I didn't with Sister Mary.

14          What she done, she took me by the hand -- the nuns  
15          never take you by the hand, you'd walk in front of them  
16          so they can keep an eye on you. She took me by the hand  
17          and we walked all the way up to St Anthony's dormitory  
18          and then she knelt down and she got a present out for  
19          me. It was a set of guns. She gave me that and gave me  
20          a hug. I'd never had a hug before. And I was so  
21          withdrawn, I don't even think I said thank you.

22          I didn't know what to say. And then she said she was  
23          leaving and that's probably why she was doing it.

24          So she might have noticed that I was being bullied,  
25          so I wasn't -- because I wasn't always -- I always

1 thought she was a good nun but I didn't think I was one  
2 of her favourites or anything like that. I just thought  
3 it was one that didn't hit me and was ...

4 Q. Did you know where she was working -- was she in one of  
5 the particular dormitories you mentioned?

6 A. No, I didn't actually see her that much. That's what  
7 makes the whole thing more surprising. Usually,  
8 Sister [REDACTED] AGI or Sister [REDACTED] EAD were the main ones,  
9 but she wasn't there long. As far as I remember, she  
10 was only there about a year. The other sisters were  
11 there much longer.

12 Q. Was she replaced so far as you can remember?

13 A. Yes, I wouldn't know that.

14 Q. You also tell us about an incident when you were picking  
15 strawberries.

16 A. Yes.

17 Q. What age were you then?

18 A. I'd be about 11 then. It was a privileged job, so I was  
19 glad to get it. What you'd do, you go into the orchard  
20 and you'd pick all the strawberries and you'd put them  
21 in the little punnets. The ones that are really fresh,  
22 they can't be kept because they will be off by the time  
23 they get to the shops, so what they'd do for payment,  
24 they would give the kids -- but I had nothing to hold  
25 them so I put my all my strawberries in my shirt and

1           then I went behind the entrance round by the church and  
2           ate them before anybody could find out I got them.

3       Q.   Yes.

4       A.   Then when I came back, I realised my shirt was all red  
5           and then I got a hiding for that, but I wasn't upset  
6           with that because I'd think, at least it's for  
7           something, you know.

8       Q.   So you'd done something --

9       A.   Yes, I was in the wrong if my shirt was all red, but I'd  
10          got my strawberries, so it was a good day for me.

11      Q.   Do you know who gave you the hiding for that?

12      A.   No, I don't remember, but I know got ...

13      LADY SMITH:   Billy, did you say there was a practice of  
14          selling the strawberries to local shops?

15      A.   They must have sold them locally because when you went  
16          there, you put them all in the punnets and they'd ready  
17          probably to go to the local shops --

18      LADY SMITH:   Not to come into the kitchen to feed the  
19          children with?

20      A.   No.   You never got any -- the only fruit you ever got,  
21          was at Easter -- and I think this was after 1961 -- we  
22          got an orange at Easter for two years, that was it.  We  
23          never got any fruit -- you might have got a crab apple,  
24          but that would be it.

25      LADY SMITH:   They're a bit bitter.

1 A. Yes. It was a luxury then.

2 LADY SMITH: Were there fruit trees in the orchard?

3 A. Oh yeah, there was quite a big orchard. There were  
4 fruit trees and all sorts of things there -- plums,  
5 I know that.

6 LADY SMITH: What happened to the fruit from the fruit  
7 trees?

8 A. No idea.

9 LADY SMITH: You didn't get it?

10 A. No, it wasn't for us. Whatever they were growing them  
11 for was to pass on. You never got anything from the  
12 orchard.

13 LADY SMITH: Thank you.

14 A. That never happened.

15 MR MacAULAY: Well, that brings me on to the topic of food,  
16 I think, then, Billy. That's something you do talk  
17 about in your statement as well. Can you just help me  
18 with that? What was the food like?

19 A. The food was -- it was pretty bland at the best of times  
20 because everything was steamed. They didn't cook it  
21 as -- they had these big steamers. They put everything  
22 in the steamers so it all kind of tasted the same. You  
23 would be getting the potatoes and there would be the big  
24 eyes, you'd be trying to cut them out -- just generally,  
25 the food was very bland. It wasn't a good time, the

1 mealtime, because you had to finish your meal. If you  
2 don't finish your meal, then you'd get it for the next  
3 meal before you start, and then if it was overnight,  
4 you'd get it for breakfast. You'd get a hiding in  
5 between that ...

6 Q. Would there be any attempts to make you eat the feed?

7 A. Oh yes, yes. Like sometimes they would force-feed you,  
8 which -- it is very hard to eat when you are crying, you  
9 know, so I would be trying to do that. I had a couple  
10 of beatings off of Sister **EAD** -- I'm not talking  
11 about getting hit, I'm talking about beatings -- where  
12 she just lost her rag and you just curled up into a ball  
13 and let her kick you.

14 Once she broke my tooth. She has hit me so hard  
15 I fell over and broke a tooth. So I had to go to school  
16 the next day with a broken tooth and then wait to see  
17 the dentist.

18 Q. And this was Sister **EAD** you're talking about?

19 A. Yes, and I was told just to say I fell over.

20 Q. By whom?

21 A. By Sister **EAD**

22 Q. Was that what you did?

23 A. Well, yeah, of course.

24 Q. The force-feeding you have mentioned, what nun or nuns  
25 would be involved in that process?

- 1 A. For me it'd Sister [REDACTED] EAD [REDACTED] most of time the time but  
2 maybe the other kids had their own sister who didn't  
3 like them or something ...
- 4 Q. Did you see other children being made to eat their food?
- 5 A. They'd be made to eat their food. Force-feeding, not so  
6 much, but you would -- I mean, what would happen, you'd  
7 be taking so long -- there was a couple of times when  
8 I was talking so long to eat my evening meal that now  
9 it's too late to go and watch the television, so she  
10 would then tell the other kids, "You can't watch the  
11 television because O'Donnell's taken so long", so now  
12 all the other kids hate me -- they didn't exactly love  
13 me anyway but they would have a reason now to hate me.
- 14 Q. Who's the "she" you're talking about there?
- 15 A. Sister [REDACTED] EAD [REDACTED].
- 16 Q. You mentioned "O'Donnell has taken so long". So far as  
17 being referred to by the sisters, what name did they  
18 use?
- 19 A. O'Donnell. Always surnames. The only time you really  
20 found out or used somebody's first name, even among the  
21 boys, is if there were brothers, like [REDACTED],  
22 he had [REDACTED], [REDACTED] and another brother. So  
23 you'd refer to them by the first name. Other than that  
24 it would be second names.
- 25 Q. Even with other children?

1 A. Yes, even the ones you liked. You weren't meaning it in  
2 a bad way, that was just their name, you know.

3 Q. The times that you were beaten by Sister [EAD] and you  
4 curled up on the floor, as I think you've indicated, and  
5 what you said is that she would lose her temper.

6 A. Yes. She would start off telling you off for something,  
7 right, and then she would just lose her temper.

8 I remember once she was slapping me across the face  
9 and I just went into hysteric laughter. You know  
10 hysterics -- even then I knew this wasn't right but I  
11 was just screaming and she left me alone for a couple of  
12 weeks after that. I think she realised she was going  
13 too far.

14 Q. Going back to mealtimes --

15 A. That was at a mealtime that happened.

16 Q. So in relation to mealtimes then, were there a number of  
17 occasions when you were struck by Sister [EAD] because  
18 of what -- you weren't eating your food?

19 A. Yes.

20 Q. And just coming back to the force-feeding, what did that  
21 involve exactly?

22 A. Sometimes she would hold the mouth and then try to spoon  
23 it in, you know. But I mean, if a child's crying,  
24 you'll get little chance of getting -- you'd be crying,  
25 you know.

1 Q. And would you be crying?

2 A. Sorry?

3 Q. Would you be crying?

4 A. Oh yes, I suppose, a lot of times, yeah.

5 Q. Would she be doing this on her own or would she get any

6 assistance from other --

7 A. Once they split the dining rooms into, say, 20 people as

8 opposed to the long one, one nun would be in charge of

9 each section. I was just unfortunate to have

10 Sister **EAD** in charge of mine.

11 Q. The breaking of your tooth, you have mentioned that.

12 That was in the course of one of these incidents you

13 have told us about.

14 A. Yes. I fell on the ground. I used to have buckteeth

15 and I lost half the tooth and I had to go to the

16 dentist. When I went to school -- at this point I'm

17 in the senior school, you know, so I must have been

18 about 12 -- and they asked me was I okay with it, I said

19 it's just a bit cold, but it's not painful at the

20 moment. Then I had to wait for a dentist's appointment,

21 but I was warned to tell both the school -- at this

22 point I was in St Mary's School, which is not owned by

23 nuns, this is a proper school, and then I would have to

24 go to the dentist down the town. So I was told to just

25 say I fell over.

- 1 Q. To the dentist and to the school?
- 2 A. Yes, to anyone.
- 3 Q. Just to be clear, that was Sister **EAD** I think --
- 4 A. Yes. Well, she done the damage, aye.
- 5 Q. You mentioned earlier being sent to bed early.
- 6 A. Yes.
- 7 Q. Was this something that happened to you on a number of
- 8 occasions?
- 9 A. Yes, because I would get the blame for the thing too.
- 10 You weren't allowed to talk when you were watching
- 11 television -- this would be in the evening, you'd be
- 12 watching a bit of television. Now, if anybody spoke
- 13 they would get sent to bed, but I always seemed to get
- 14 the blame for the talking. I never spoke to anyone
- 15 anyway. So kids didn't want to speak to me so it's not
- 16 like I was involved in conversations with people. But
- 17 once she had noticed somebody speaking, somebody's
- 18 getting the blame. I'd get sent to bed early and then
- 19 I'd be sitting up there waiting on the other kids.
- 20 Sometimes I would fall asleep. That made it worse
- 21 because then I would wake up when the other kids came
- 22 in, then I wouldn't be able to get back to sleep.
- 23 Q. Is this something that, I think you tell us, might have
- 24 affected you in your life?
- 25 A. It's the one thing more than anything that's affected my

1 whole life because when I come out of the orphanage,  
2 because that was the punishment, going to bed early and  
3 no TV, I couldn't go to bed. I used to sit up all night  
4 before I went to work. My sister would try to get me to  
5 go to bed and I'd offer to clean the flat or do  
6 something so she wouldn't be so angry. All through my  
7 life, all through my relationships, my partners would  
8 want to go to bed and I was there watching TV -- half  
9 the time it would be rubbish, I'd be watching Polish  
10 adverts or anything, just something. Even now I have  
11 a big problem now. But because I'm now retired, I tend  
12 not to have -- I just go to bed when I'm tired, try to  
13 get my eight hours' sleep, and wake up regardless of  
14 what time it is and then carry on.

15 But when you're trying to work a job and do things  
16 and have a relationship, it's a big, big problem.  
17 I went for hypnotherapy several times, it wasn't  
18 National Health, I paid for it myself. It helped  
19 a little for a week or something, then it'd be back in,  
20 and then eventually I went to see a head psychiatrist  
21 for that. I paid quite a lot of money for it.

22 I don't know what happened when she hypnotised me,  
23 but when I come round she told me just to carry on  
24 watching the television, so whether I had a reaction or  
25 whatever -- I did try to get out her what happened, but

- 1 she wouldn't ...
- 2 Q. Can I ask you about one particular incident you tell us  
3 about in your statement. It's in connection with  
4 another person who had been picking on you.
- 5 A. Oh, [REDACTED], yes.
- 6 Q. It's in paragraph 45 of your statement. Can you tell me  
7 what happened there?
- 8 A. Well, I had a problem hearing because of what  
9 [REDACTED] BAC done to me, which we'll come to later.  
10 So I had a problem hearing. So when the teacher said  
11 something, I thought she was asking a different  
12 question. I answered it and I answered it and I said,  
13 [REDACTED] brother helped me", but it was a totally  
14 different question. At this point I didn't realise and  
15 then he took offence at that and whatever I was saying  
16 wasn't offensive but he started picking -- and this went  
17 on for months -- and then one night --
- 18 Q. When you say "picking on you", what did he do?
- 19 A. Well, just generally, he'd be pushing me and shouting at  
20 me and things like that. Once you got somebody like  
21 that in your face, you don't get rid of them.
- 22 Q. Was he a bigger boy?
- 23 A. He'd be the same age but everybody was bigger than me  
24 because of my problems size-wise, so in a sense  
25 everybody was bigger than me.

1           One night, I must have been sleepwalking or  
2 something, but I went over and I got on top of him and  
3 started hitting and punching him and I wouldn't stop and  
4 a nun came and dragged me off. But that actually  
5 worked. He left me alone after that.

6       Q. Can I just ask you a little bit about school. You have  
7 touched on school already. It's the primary school,  
8 that was in-house?

9       A. Yes, the nuns taught you.

10      Q. And then you moved on to St Mary's?

11      A. Yes.

12      Q. And how did you find school?

13      A. Well, I had a problem when I went to school at first  
14 because I'm going to school as an 8-year-old, but  
15 I hadn't been to school and I hadn't been to school for  
16 a couple of years now, so I had no idea what was  
17 happening. I remember when I was first there, they had  
18 a singing class and the nuns says, somebody's out of  
19 tune, and the boy next to me -- his name was [REDACTED] -- he  
20 said, it's O'Donnell, miss. She said, okay, you be  
21 quiet now. I took everything literally, so I stayed  
22 quiet. So when it came to the next singing lesson,  
23 we were taking the seats, and I said, I'm excused,  
24 sister, so I would get sent to the back with my sum  
25 books, and would just be doing sums while they were

1           having a music lesson, and that went all through school  
2           and nobody ever questioned it until I went so St Mary's  
3           and the singing teacher said, no, you can't be excused,  
4           you must be able to sing. I said, no, I'm excused, I'm  
5           allowed to sit at the back. So she made me do the  
6           scales, like do-re-mi, so I did that, and she said,  
7           that's all right. But from being all right, I still  
8           don't know what happened that I ended up just going back  
9           to sitting at the back of the class and all through  
10          school I never took a singing lesson.

11         Q. I think you tell us that when you got to secondary  
12          school, you did well.

13         A. Yes. When I was in primary school, I came -- my first  
14          year I came about 28th out of, I think, something like  
15          36/38. But then I gradually moved up a little. By the  
16          time I got to 12, I was about 11th in the class. But  
17          when we went to the proper school with proper teachers,  
18          I was always finishing second or third. I got very high  
19          marks.

20         Q. And particularly good at maths you tell us.

21         A. Anything to do with maths, like technical drawing, even  
22          the woodwork and all that, and I was very good at  
23          geography. In maths I was getting 95 per cent, you  
24          know. I had more higher marks in my classes than anyone  
25          else, but I was bad at English, so that affected --

1           because when I would do my history, I wouldn't know how  
2           to spell the names, so I'd be marked down for that.

3           Q. Can I then move on to ask you a little bit about washing  
4           and having showers and so on.

5           A. Yes.

6           Q. Can I just understand what the regime was then at  
7           Smyllum in connection with either having baths or  
8           showers? Can you help me with that?

9           A. The very first day I was there, I had a bath. After  
10          that, I never had another bath the whole time I was  
11          there, but you always had the showers. But most of the  
12          time the water was cold because what they would have to  
13          do -- **AHP?**, who was the **AHP?**, would start up the  
14          boiler, getting it going, so by the time the other kids  
15          were washed, you wouldn't get half the kids washed  
16          before the water went cold, so you would just have  
17          a cold shower.

18          Q. What about being checked whether or not you were  
19          properly clean?

20          A. Well, yes. They used to check to see -- behind the ears  
21          was a favourite. They'd check behind the ears and say,  
22          "You haven't washed there", and then give you a slap and  
23          send you back in. So you'd go back in, you'd be washing  
24          there -- your neck was another thing. But after  
25          a while, you'd realise that -- after you got chastised,

1           you'd make sure they're clean before you'd get out and  
2           then they would look -- it was just a reason to hit  
3           you, there was nothing wrong with my ears.

4           Q. So even though you had taken care to wash your ears and  
5           your neck --

6           A. Because after a while I really took extra care. I'd be  
7           scrubbing them and that to make sure they were clean.  
8           It just seemed like a way that they could find fault --  
9           they were always looking for faults.

10          Q. Can I ask you about birthdays, Billy, and to what extent  
11          was your birthday acknowledged and celebrated during  
12          your time there?

13          A. Well, when my first birthday was coming up, I had to  
14          actually borrow some chocolate from someone on the  
15          Saturday. I said, sorry, I am getting my parcel, my  
16          birthday is coming up. Nothing ever happened and I  
17          never got my parcel and I never got anything.

18          Q. Were you told you were going to get a parcel?

19          A. No, I assumed, I suppose. It's my birthday. I was  
20          expecting something but I never got anything. Then  
21          I ended up getting into a fight with a boy because  
22          I didn't have the chocolate to give him back. Then  
23          after that -- I mean, the nuns or nobody never  
24          acknowledged your birthdays. That was never an issue.  
25          It was only -- even -- you just didn't bother saying

- 1 anything, you just carried on as normal.
- 2 Q. Did you discover afterwards from your sister that
- 3 parcels had been sent in?
- 4 A. My sister says she sent parcels in, she sent chocolates
- 5 and clothes and things but I never, ever got any of
- 6 them. Even later in life when we were talking about it
- 7 with my sister, she swore she was sending them in.
- 8 I know she would have because I was special to her
- 9 because she was only 14, so I was like her firstborn.
- 10 She wouldn't have lied to me about it. She must have
- 11 sent -- but I mean, I don't recall any of the kids
- 12 getting parcels, really, you know, so maybe it was just
- 13 the practice.
- 14 Q. Do you recall any birthday being celebrated?
- 15 A. No, I never -- after the first one, I didn't even want
- 16 to acknowledge it then. It was never mentioned by the
- 17 nuns. Nobody's birthday was mentioned. It was just
- 18 another day, no big event.
- 19 Q. What about Christmas then? Did you get presents at
- 20 Christmastime?
- 21 A. They made sure every child got a present. They done
- 22 that. One year my sister came to see me and then she
- 23 gave me a present, but they put the other present back
- 24 that they'd already gave me. That was -- you got the
- 25 present -- I don't know how this happened. You'd get

1 the present on Christmas Day -- every kid got a present  
2 of some kind -- but then you'd never seen them after  
3 that for some reason. It's not like you you'd have it  
4 a month or something and break it; somehow you just  
5 didn't have them after that.

6 Q. Do you know what happened to them?

7 A. No, no idea. In my case, I would be expecting mine to  
8 be stolen off me anyway by the older boys, but none of  
9 the kids seemed to have them. On Christmas Day you'd  
10 have them and you'd be playing with them and then  
11 I don't know.

12 Q. Was there anywhere in your area where there might be  
13 toys -- where you could play with toys?

14 A. They had some toys and when it rained you went into this  
15 big hall and there would be some, but it would be like  
16 broken toys and things. Like you used to get hold of  
17 a skate, never seen a pair of skates, but you'd have one  
18 skate and you'd all be having goes on it. There would  
19 be a few toys, maybe some torn comics, but the toys  
20 weren't a big factor in the home; they were a side  
21 effect, if anything.

22 Q. You mentioned your sister visiting you; what about any  
23 other family members?

24 A. Visiting me?

25 Q. Yes.

1 A. My other sister, [REDACTED], come up once. My brother, [REDACTED]  
2 [REDACTED], he come up, but he said he got a hard time  
3 [REDACTED]

4 Q. But he did come to see you?

5 A. He came to see me once, yes.

6 Q. What about anyone from either the social work or the  
7 welfare department?

8 A. Oh, there was none.

9 Q. You didn't have any visits?

10 A. None. When I was there I got none. I never, ever seen  
11 a social worker in all the time I was there.

12 Q. If we look at paragraph 80 of your statement, you're  
13 telling us there about a game that involved golf and  
14 golf balls.

15 A. What happened is most of the time you'd play football  
16 but now and again they would have a golf game.

17 [REDACTED] BAC [REDACTED] would have half a dozen balls he would  
18 then knock into where all the kids were out in the field  
19 and whoever got the ball could then go up and have a go.  
20 So you'd have -- after the six were hit, you'd have the  
21 kids, they would go and take a shot and the others  
22 waiting to take the shot, because it would take too long  
23 if you only used the one ball and you were waiting on  
24 the person coming back. So there was a line of people  
25 queueing up to take their shot. What they used to do --

- 1 I used to catch it in the air --
- 2 Q. The golf ball?
- 3 A. Yes. I was a bit worried that if, say, like, I knocked  
4 it down and then got it, I'd end up with a load --  
5 of course, I'm small so the odds of me coming out with  
6 a ball would be zero. Sometimes I could palm it down  
7 and run. The minute I got it I would just run up there  
8 so nobody could take it off me.
- 9 Q. Did you manage to do that?
- 10 A. I done it twice. That was an achievement! I done it  
11 twice, but that was it. But most of the time I never  
12 got it or if I got near it, I'd just end up with a load  
13 on top of me and then I'd have no chance.
- 14 Q. You mentioned a name you have mentioned already and  
15 that is Francis McColl --
- 16 A. Yes.
- 17 Q. -- who we know died.
- 18 A. Yes.
- 19 Q. Did you have any involvement in that?
- 20 A. Yes, I was on the field. He was waiting his turn.
- 21 Q. Was that at Smyllum or was that somewhere else?
- 22 A. I'll be honest, in my mind I can see it on the football  
23 pitch, but part of me's thinking: were we on holiday  
24 when this happened? We used to go away to Perth,  
25 Aberfoyle or somewhere. I wouldn't -- in my mind I can

1           see Smyllum because that's where we used to play it, but  
2           that particular occasion, I would have to guess.

3           Q. You're not clear where it was?

4           A. No, I'm not 100 per cent clear whether we were --  
5           because it would be no different if we were playing the  
6           game.

7           Q. Can I just understand, were you playing the game?

8           A. Oh yes. 100 per cent. We were definitely playing the  
9           game.

10          Q. Did you see what happened?

11          A. Yes, yes. I was in the field. The kids were there and  
12          somebody went to hit the -- and Francis was -- if I'm  
13          ready to take the shot and I'm facing out, right,  
14          Francis was to the left, so he must have been next to  
15          get the shot. I would be out in the field there waiting  
16          on the ball being hit. The next thing I know, Frankie  
17          went down and then --

18          Q. Did you see him being hit?

19          A. Yes, yes. You could see him being hit okay. I'll be  
20          honest with you, at this point you're not thinking it's  
21          serious, but we're still waiting on the ball being hit,  
22          ironically, and then nothing's happening, so you start  
23          making towards where Frankie was and we were chased  
24          away --

25          Q. But just to be clear, was there somebody supervising

- 1           this?
- 2       A.    BAC and one of the nuns was there.
- 3       Q.    This particular game, if we call it a game, who had
- 4           introduced this game?
- 5       A.    BAC           It was always BAC that
- 6           played that game. Francis was a good kid, just a normal
- 7           kid, you know.
- 8       Q.    Was he a friend of yours?
- 9       A.    Yes, very close. He was one of what I call my normal
- 10           friends. There were four of us used to hang together.
- 11           One was a coloured kid that everybody picked on, but
- 12           he was teaching me to run because he was a good runner
- 13           and I wasn't long out of the calipers and he was showing
- 14           me how to strengthen my legs and teaching me to run, so
- 15           we got on well there. The other boy, ██████████ I think
- 16           he was of Italian stock, but he was very small as well.
- 17           So we used to hang together.
- 18           But Frankie -- you see, everybody liked Frankie
- 19           anyway, we got on well, ██████████
- 20           ██████████ a big advantage in a place like
- 21           that, it's like having protection, you know. But he was
- 22           normal. The only problem Frankie had -- he had
- 23           a problem hearing. If you were facing him, he would
- 24           hear you, but if you turned away, he wouldn't.
- 25       Q.    Just to be clear, Billy, looking to this part of the

1           game when this boy swung the golf club -- and it was  
2           a boy who used --

3       A.   Yes.

4       Q.   Another boy?

5       A.   Yes, I believe so, yes -- funnily enough, you don't  
6           normally get the girls and the boys in the same --  
7           I mean, mixed, but I've got a feeling there were some  
8           girls there, but I can't remember exactly. I just  
9           remember I was more interested in getting the ball, to  
10          be honest.

11       Q.   Did you actually see the golf club making contact with  
12          Francis?

13       A.   Yes, because he was to the left. The kid swung the club  
14          round --

15       Q.   Where did it hit him then?

16       A.   You know, Colin, I've just realised what's happened.  
17          (Pause)

18       Q.   Would you like a break? I can see you're upset.

19       A.   What's happened is ... When the kids moved back,  
20          Frankie wouldn't have heard them. That's what happened.  
21          He just didn't hear them. As simple as that. Up to  
22          this point, it didn't make sense, but I wasn't thinking,  
23          you know. Because if he was facing out ready to take  
24          his shot and the nun would be behind him telling people  
25          to move back, he just wouldn't have heard it.

- 1 Q. When you say the nun, what about BAC
- 2 A. Well, they would be together, one or the other.
- 3 Whenever you got your shot, everybody had to stand back.
- 4 You were told to stand back. But if he wasn't facing
- 5 that way, he wouldn't have heard it.
- 6 Q. And I think what sparked that thought off was asking you
- 7 whether you actually saw the golf club --
- 8 A. Yes, I did see it.
- 9 Q. Can you tell me where it hit him, which part of his
- 10 body?
- 11 A. It hit him here (indicates).
- 12 Q. You're pointing to your --
- 13 A. The temple. It would be the left side. And he just
- 14 went down. He wouldn't have been there if he thought --
- 15 we just thought he'd be hit and he'd be up in a minute.
- 16 Q. You're able to put a time frame on this because you say
- 17 in your statement that you remember it was in 1961.
- 18 A. Yes.
- 19 Q. So you'd be 12 or 13 at about that time?
- 20 A. No, I'd be turning -- 1961, what would I be? I remember
- 21 I was moving up because I reached an age -- I would get
- 22 moved up to St Vincent and that's why you remember the
- 23 thing. So it was near my birthday.
- 24 Q. You were born in 1948 --
- 25 A. Yes.

- 1 Q. -- so it would depend on --
- 2 A. The trouble is if I say my birthday, is that a problem  
3 because I've given my date of birth?
- 4 Q. It's not a problem at all.
- 5 LADY SMITH: It's a matter for you.
- 6 A. [REDACTED] was my birthday, so it would have been, give or  
7 take a day -- I wouldn't remember it because it was my  
8 birthday, but I would remember it because I was getting  
9 moved up to St Vincent's, so you'd get an extra half  
10 hour up at night. So that's why I remember it was near  
11 my birthday, so it would have been one or two days  
12 either side of that.
- 13 MR MacAULAY: So you were 12, possibly 13 then, at the time?
- 14 A. Yes.
- 15 LADY SMITH: Why does it strike you that Francis -- or  
16 Frankie, as I think you called him -- wouldn't have  
17 heard the warning?
- 18 A. Because he was partially deaf. I didn't have good  
19 hearing, but he had a real problem. It was a medical  
20 thing he had. He couldn't hear right. Now, if you're  
21 facing him and talking to him, not that he lip read, he  
22 just got the vibes. He could understand it.
- 23 LADY SMITH: It would no doubt help if he could see the  
24 person speaking as well.
- 25 A. Yes. If he had his back to you, he probably would just

1 not hear it at all. So that's probably what's happened.

2 MR MacAULAY: I think you learned subsequently -- you were  
3 told, I think, by Sister [REDACTED] AGI -- that he had died  
4 some time --

5 A. Yes, that's the only one I could ask.

6 Q. Say that again.

7 A. Sister [REDACTED] AGI would have been the only one I could  
8 have asked. I'd get into trouble if I asked anyone  
9 else.

10 Q. Could you have asked Sister [REDACTED] EAD about it?

11 A. Please. No. I'd never talked to Sister [REDACTED] EAD if  
12 I never had to.

13 Q. So far as referring to this as a game was concerned, did  
14 this game ever happen again after this incident?

15 A. I don't recall it ever happening again after that. It  
16 happened several times before. It wasn't a regular  
17 thing. I mean, you did it a couple of times a year, so  
18 it was a big deal, you know. It was like a special  
19 treat. Most of the time it was just football that you  
20 played.

21 Q. There's a section in your statement where you talk about  
22 abuse at Smyllum Park. We've already covered quite  
23 a bit of this, I think. You begin by telling us --  
24 you have already told us that you were regularly beaten  
25 by Sister [REDACTED] EAD, particularly at mealtimes.

- 1 A. Yes.
- 2 Q. But not just at mealtimes?
- 3 A. No, no, but mealtimes were a big problem because I was  
4 only a very slow eater, you know what I mean? And even  
5 now, I'm not exactly fast. I do take longer than other  
6 people when I'm eating. So I wouldn't finish the meal  
7 in time and that would upset her. She'd come round --  
8 sometimes the food was so bad you really didn't want to  
9 eat it anyway.
- 10 Q. So far as Sister [REDACTED] AGI [REDACTED] is concerned, you describe  
11 her as a saint in your statement.
- 12 A. Yes -- it's not that she hugged you or looked after you,  
13 she just didn't hit you. Say like when I say I'm late  
14 for things, she'd be saying to me, "Don't you be last  
15 into heaven", instead of hitting me, that point of view,  
16 you know. Sister [REDACTED] AGI [REDACTED] was good to all the kids, it  
17 wasn't like where Sister Mary probably liked me, it  
18 wasn't a case of that. Sister [REDACTED] AGI [REDACTED], she just liked  
19 kids; she didn't unnecessarily chastise them.
- 20 Q. You have mentioned [REDACTED] BAC [REDACTED] already and I think  
21 you tell us about a particular incident in connection  
22 with [REDACTED] BAC [REDACTED]
- 23 A. The potato picking.
- 24 Q. What happened there?
- 25 A. What they did, they'd picked certain kids to pick the

1 potatoes at that time of year, late in the year. I was  
2 picking the potatoes, and the tractor had gone by and I  
3 had cleared all my bit and put them in the bag. Then  
4 the bag fell over, but I wasn't that near the bag, but  
5 I could see the bag -- say, it'd be the equivalent of  
6 where that desk is (indicates).

7 Q. So that's a couple of yards away?

8 A. Yes. I couldn't have caught it if I wanted to. But he  
9 came up, because I've seen the bag and I haven't caught  
10 it, he came up, one almighty smack round the ear and  
11 sent me flying because he said I should have stopped it.  
12 I couldn't have stopped it if I wanted to.

13 Q. Did that blow that you received from him affect you?

14 A. Yes. After that, I couldn't hear right. I really --  
15 I used to try and sit at the front of the class to hear.  
16 It wasn't so much the volume was the problem, it was the  
17 clarity. So I would hear them saying something and I'd  
18 misunderstand -- that's what got me into trouble with  
19 that [REDACTED] because I misunderstood what was said.  
20 Sometimes they would say something and for some  
21 reason -- this often happened -- I'd be on a different  
22 subject because I thought they said something.

23 Q. This incident involving [REDACTED] BAC [REDACTED] and the  
24 potatoes, what age were you then, Billy?

25 A. I was still in the junior school, so I would have been

1 about 11-ish, between 11 and 12 kind of thing.

2 Q. You did end up in his band.

3 A. What they do -- I don't know why he picked me for the  
4 band, I wasn't even good at music at school.

5 Q. But you were picked for his band?

6 A. He just took a load of kids together and then he would  
7 try and get you to play a trumpet. We'd had no musical  
8 influence at all, but he would try to get you -- and it  
9 was the same song, McNamara's Band, every time. And  
10 I could never get it right and he used to get so mad.  
11 But it wasn't just -- in fairness, he would be bad to  
12 a lot of kids.

13 Q. Let's just look at your position, first of all,  
14 in relation to what happened to you in connection with  
15 **BAC**. What happened?

16 A. When he was upset with you -- he had a big booming  
17 voice, he'd be shouting at you and that's quite  
18 intimidating, you know. Other times he would just hit  
19 you. But the time he hit me, with the potatoes, that  
20 was particularly bad because he caught me so hard that  
21 time. But other times he'd hit you it wouldn't -- he  
22 didn't do what Sister **EAD** did, he didn't fly into an  
23 uncontrollable rage and hit you, but he would hit you  
24 all the time. None of the kids really liked **BAC** and  
25 I think most of us felt he shouldn't have been in charge

1 of us anyway. He was only there for the football.

2 Q. Being in his band -- and plainly you'd be involved in  
3 band practice.

4 A. Yes.

5 Q. How was that being managed by him?

6 A. Well, he was obviously in charge of the band. I wasn't  
7 actually there very long because I just couldn't get the  
8 hang of it, but they would get a band together and then  
9 they would play --

10 Q. How long do you think you were involved then in --

11 A. It would only be a few months. Once it was clear that  
12 I couldn't even get the basics of it, you know,  
13 I really ...

14 Q. How would he try to teach you? What would he do?

15 A. What he'd do, you'd all be sitting there and then  
16 because we couldn't read music, he would go,  
17 "Boo-boo-boo-boo-boo, McNamara's Band". I only had  
18 a short bit but I kept getting it wrong.

19 Q. What happened if you got it wrong?

20 A. You'd get hit. He'd give you a dig but not an  
21 uncontrollable dig. It would be a hit.

22 Q. Just with a hand?

23 A. Yes.

24 Q. So far as football was concerned, I think you tell us  
25 you weren't particularly good at football.

1 A. I'll be honest with you, later on in life I turned out  
2 to be quite a good footballer, but then I was too skinny  
3 and I had no strength in my legs to kick a ball and I  
4 just couldn't keep up. We used to have a game, five  
5 a side. Now, everybody had to touch the ball or you  
6 couldn't score a goal. So sometimes the other kids  
7 would come over and try and give me the ball and that,  
8 you know, but if you weren't a good footballer, **BAC**  
9 didn't like you anyway --

10 Q. Coming back to the band position, you say at one point  
11 in your statement -- and this is in paragraph 92 -- that  
12 he would say, "Go faster", and things like that --

13 A. Yes.

14 Q. -- and:

15 "He would have a stick and bat me with that."

16 A. Because he would have the baton, wouldn't he? He would  
17 have the bat and hit you with that --

18 Q. Where would he hit you?

19 A. Just anywhere. Wherever was nearest. You'd be trying  
20 to get out of the way of it. You'd tend to -- whenever  
21 they tried to -- you instinctively tried to turn your  
22 back. I remember Sister **EAD** broke a brush over my  
23 back when I turned away. One of the brooms, she broke  
24 the handle. **BAC** would have the baton, being in  
25 charge, and he'd hit you with that, you know.

1 Q. And not in any particular part of the body? How about  
2 the top of the head, for example? Would he tap you on  
3 the top of the head?

4 A. You'd have ducked by that time. You couldn't run away  
5 in these situations because that would just make the  
6 whole thing worse because then he would be upset. So  
7 you would take it but you would try to protect yourself.

8 Q. But you've told us about your involvement with the band  
9 for a short period of time and also the potato bag  
10 incident.

11 A. Yes.

12 Q. But otherwise, did you have any particular involvement  
13 then with [REDACTED] BAC during your time at Smyllum?

14 A. Well, he was always sort of there. I know he's  
15 [REDACTED], but he was always there because he would be  
16 trying to teach people the football or get a football  
17 side. He was big into the football. He'd try to get  
18 a really good side together and he would hold some  
19 tournaments and things, and house tournaments.

20 Q. So far as physical involvement with him, you have given  
21 us the examples you have given us --

22 A. He was also in charge of the gymnasium. We used to do  
23 -- they'd have, you know, with the horse and you'd do  
24 things like the flying angels and things like that and  
25 you'd have the medicine ball and you'd be climbing the

1 ropes. Well, he was in charge of all that.

2 Q. What you say in your statement is he was a vicious man.

3 A. Yes, yes.

4 Q. You have given us the examples you have given us. Are

5 there any other instances where as far as you are

6 concerned --

7 A. Against the other kids?

8 Q. Yes or --

9 A. He was always having goes at the kids. In fact, one kid

10 squared up to him one day to fight him and we were all

11 cheering the kid on -- not too loudly because we would

12 get into trouble, but we were all holding his back.

13 This kid was actually quite muscly and BAC was

14 a strong man, he was , he was strong. But

15 the fight never happened, but they squared up for it.

16 It shows you the feeling that the kids had against him.

17 I don't think anybody liked BAC , to be honest.

18 Whatever they were doing, it didn't matter whether you

19 were in the gymnasium or on the football pitch. But he

20 did have favourites: the ones that were good at football

21 were his favourites.

22 Q. So he had his favourites?

23 A. Yes, the ones that were good at football, yes. That was

24 a big, big thing to BAC the football, because we'd

25 play against other schools and things.

1 MR MacAULAY: My Lady, it's 1 o'clock. I'd hoped to finish  
2 Billy before 1, but that's not going to happen. I have  
3 a little bit to go, not too much. Perhaps we can deal  
4 with it at 2 o'clock.

5 LADY SMITH: Billy, we'll stop now for the lunch break and  
6 start again at 2 o'clock.

7 (1.00 pm)

8 (The lunch adjournment)

9 (2.00 pm)

10 MR MacAULAY: Good afternoon, Billy.

11 Can I now ask you about a topic that you discuss in  
12 your statement in connection with sexual abuse. Do you  
13 understand me?

14 A. Yes.

15 Q. I think there came a time when you did suffer some  
16 sexual abuse when you were at Smyllum. Could you  
17 perhaps, as best you can, tell us about that?

18 A. Yes. It wasn't by the authorities, it was the other  
19 children. You got the different ages and that, you  
20 know, but the older kids who were obviously getting more  
21 developed, but the [REDACTED] brothers were the main ones  
22 that caused the problem, especially for me anyway.

23 I think there were three brothers. I don't know the  
24 names individually, but I remember they used to grab you  
25 in the cubicle.

- 1 Q. What ages, so far as they were concerned, were they?
- 2 A. Oh, they would have been probably about the 14 mark, 13,  
3 14. But also the [REDACTED] brothers were actually big for  
4 their age, if you know what I mean. They were the  
5 opposite of what I was. They looked older.
- 6 Q. What age were you when this started?
- 7 A. It started when I was about 11. It went on for a couple  
8 of years.
- 9 Q. Could you tell us then what it was that happened?
- 10 A. Well, as we went to the toilet they would sometimes grab  
11 you into the cubicle and then try to make you put their  
12 thing in their mouth.
- 13 Q. When you say "thing", you mean their penis?
- 14 A. Yes. The worst thing was the smell of the whole thing.  
15 That's what I remember more. I think a lot of it  
16 I tried to block out, but that, and then they'd try to  
17 get you to touch them, et cetera. It happened so many  
18 times, you would try to make sure when you had to go to  
19 the toilet they weren't about.
- 20 Q. And when you say "they", were --
- 21 A. The [REDACTED] brothers were the biggest ones for me, but  
22 there were some other older kids that would stand watch  
23 while they went in so nobody could come in.
- 24 Q. You're talking about your own experience. Did you say  
25 how long that went on for?

1 A. Probably a couple of years, just under, probably, until  
2 they got caught.

3 Q. How regular an occurrence was this?

4 A. It would certainly be a weekly thing but -- several  
5 times a week, it just depends. Because I don't -- it  
6 wasn't a case of they were just doing it to me, they  
7 were doing it to other kids.

8 It wouldn't always be like -- they were in the older  
9 -- they would be in St Vincent's, they wouldn't always  
10 be interacting with us, like your own groups. They  
11 tended to keep you -- except when you were all in the  
12 playground you were all thrown together. But by and  
13 large, you were kept apart.

14 Q. How do you know they were involved with other children?

15 A. Kids talk, isn't it? They don't talk in detail about  
16 it, but they'd be saying, "I don't want to go yet", and  
17 you'd know the reason why. Sometimes you would see --  
18 when he would grab me, you'd see one of the others  
19 grabbing someone else and taking them in the cubicle.

20 Q. When you say somebody else, are you talking about  
21 younger children?

22 A. Yes, yes.

23 Q. But did just mention a little moment ago that they were  
24 caught?

25 A. Yes. They were caught. Because what happened is

1 we were all called into the gymnasium hall for  
2 a meeting, they called all the kids in. This is very  
3 unusual because this never happened. They called us all  
4 in there and nobody had any idea why we were called  
5 there. When we got there, they had what we used -- the  
6 horse we used for the gymnasium, but the legs were down,  
7 so it was only about that high (indicates).

8 Q. That height is, what, 2 or 3 feet off the ground?

9 A. Yes. And they had the brothers there. Now, I hid  
10 at the back because once I started seeing what they were  
11 there for --

12 Q. You say they were caught; do you know how that happened?

13 A. No.

14 Q. So you just know it as a matter of fact?

15 A. I know it wasn't me. It was some other kids they were  
16 caught with. **BAC** gave a speech about what they'd  
17 done and that.

18 Q. Can you remember what was said in the speech?

19 A. No, I was trying to hide out the back. I thought I was  
20 going to get hit. I thought they were going to call me  
21 and give me a hiding because the fact that I was the  
22 victim in that case, any of that didn't matter. If you  
23 were caught doing something, you're as guilty as the  
24 person doing it, so I genuinely thought he was going to  
25 call me up and give me the same thrashing.

1 Q. And have you any recollection now as to what was in this  
2 speech?

3 A. Yes, he did say he had interfered with a few of the  
4 younger boys and that, and they had several in there --  
5 it wasn't just the one [REDACTED], there was several done  
6 there.

7 Q. Several?

8 A. Of the [REDACTED] boys, that kind of gang. They were there  
9 together.

10 Q. How many are you talking about?

11 A. I think there was about four of them up there, but  
12 I wouldn't like to say, it could be one or two either  
13 way, but I believe it was about that.

14 Q. Looking to the children who were there, if I can call  
15 it, as the audience to see what was happening, how many  
16 children were there?

17 A. Oh, everybody was called in. All the kids were there.  
18 So there would be about a hundred kids.

19 Q. Boys and girls?

20 A. Oh no, they wouldn't have any access to the girls.

21 Q. So it was just the boys?

22 A. Yes. The boys and girls were a totally separate part of  
23 the thing.

24 Q. I'm just interested to know who was present.

25 A. Just the boys.

- 1 Q. What about the nuns?
- 2 A. They'd be there, yes.
- 3 Q. Did you see the nuns there?
- 4 A. But they weren't the ones -- **BAC** was the one  
5 that was giving the punishment and giving the  
6 chastisement.
- 7 Q. I follow that. I just want to know who was there,  
8 Billy. The boys are there?
- 9 A. Yes.
- 10 Q. And also there are nuns there?
- 11 A. Yes.
- 12 Q. Can you remember any of the nuns, names of the nuns?
- 13 A. I honestly wouldn't remember what nuns were there.
- 14 Q. Can you tell us what happened then?
- 15 A. What did happen, they said why they were being punished  
16 and then they put them over the horse and whacked them.  
17 Each got their turn.
- 18 Q. When you say whacked --
- 19 A. They were put over the thing and then whacked on the  
20 bare bum with -- I think it was a cane they had at the  
21 time.
- 22 Q. And who was doing the whacking?
- 23 A. **BAC**. He was administering all the --
- 24 Q. So he struck each of the individual boys --
- 25 A. Yes.

1 Q. -- on the bare bottom?

2 A. Yes.

3 Q. With the cane?

4 A. Yes. Bent them over the horse and he punished them with

5 the cane.

6 Q. Do you know how many blows each --

7 A. No, I was too busy hiding because I thought I was going

8 up next. The reason I thought I was going up next --

9 the nuns didn't try to work out who was right or wrong.

10 It's like if I was being bullied and a nun walked round

11 the corner, we would both get hit for fighting, nothing

12 to do with who's right or wrong. They didn't care who

13 was right or wrong; you were both fighting. The fact

14 that I'm being bullied was irrelevant. So I thought by

15 the same token that I would get into trouble because

16 I was involved in it.

17 Q. I think you told us you had not told anybody at that

18 time --

19 A. No, I never told anybody. I thought they might have

20 told on me.

21 Q. Okay. In any event, you say this public punishment took

22 place --

23 A. Yes.

24 Q. -- and BAC was the person who was managing

25 it?

- 1 A. Yes.
- 2 Q. What happened after that insofar as any abuse of you was  
3 concerned? Did that stop?
- 4 A. Yes. Yes. It all sort of went away then. Plus, I was  
5 getting older at this point as well, so I might have not  
6 been as interesting for them.
- 7 Q. This is something that's happening, as it were, within  
8 the walls of Smyllum?
- 9 A. Yes.
- 10 Q. Do you know if the behaviour that they were being  
11 accused of was reported, for example, to --
- 12 A. I would doubt very much. They handled everything  
13 in-house. I had no knowledge it was ever reported, but  
14 I wouldn't think for a minute it ever would be. There  
15 would be a record of it if it was reported, but we were  
16 never questioned. The matter just went away.
- 17 Q. Indeed, did you ever tell anyone until the inquiry about  
18 what had happened?
- 19 A. No. When I say I told nobody -- up until I was  
20 interviewed, my children didn't even know. I told them  
21 about Sister **EAD** and that, but I never told them  
22 about anything sexual. In fact, even when I had the  
23 meeting and they took the statement, my daughter was  
24 there. I told my son later on the phone and all he said  
25 was -- he said, I assumed you just didn't want to talk

1           about it because you couldn't be there for seven years  
2           and it'd be unlikely that nothing like that happened, so  
3           he assumed it happened anyway, but he wouldn't have said  
4           anything to me.

5       Q.   How did the boys that were being punished react to this  
6           punishment?

7       A.   I don't know.  I just -- when they were punished and  
8           you'd -- get out of there quick, I was happy that  
9           I never got called.  I mean, I genuinely felt I was  
10          going to get called up.  Because whenever anything was  
11          done, it doesn't matter, or anything's done, if you're  
12          involved in it, they're putting your name up, you know,  
13          and half the time they put your name up for things  
14          you haven't done, so I just assumed that I would get  
15          into trouble, so I was just trying to -- I had to worry  
16          about myself at that point so I was staying at the back  
17          out of the way, you know.

18      Q.   Can I just leave that episode aside then, Billy, and  
19          thank you for telling us about that.

20                You tell us also about what would happen if a nun  
21          died at Smyllum.

22      A.   Yes.

23      Q.   Did nuns die during your time at Smyllum?

24      A.   Yes.

25      Q.   Can you remember --

1 A. What they would do, when a nun died, everybody had to go  
2 over to the main hall, on the girls' side, and then they  
3 would be lain in rest. What you would do, each of you  
4 got up and you would kiss them on the forehead like that  
5 (indicates) and then move on.

6 I didn't have a big problem with it. A lot of the  
7 kids were frightened and you could see some of them  
8 crying. To me, I just couldn't understand why the nuns  
9 were so upset. They said, oh, she has gone to heaven.  
10 I thought, where did she want to go in the first place,  
11 what's the problem? I thought if going there is that  
12 bad, is it religion? I mean, a lifetime in heaven's got  
13 to be better than a few years on earth. So for a kid,  
14 that's what I'm thinking. I'm thinking, why is  
15 everybody upset?

16 Q. Do you know how many times this happened?

17 A. Twice. I know when I went up to the -- the corpse was  
18 stiff. You had to kiss the forehead and move on, you  
19 know, and then all the kids are all lined up doing the  
20 same.

21 Q. What age were you the first time you had to --

22 A. The first one? I'd only be about 10 on the first one.

23 Q. Did you ever run away?

24 A. To where?

25 Q. You never did?

1 A. There was nowhere to run to. I was there because nobody  
2 wanted me.

3 Q. Were there children who did run away?

4 A. There was. The [REDACTED] brothers ran away. They got  
5 caught and got a hiding.

6 Q. When you say they got a hiding, how do you know that?

7 A. [REDACTED] BAC -- that's just a public thing to discourage the  
8 other children. They'd do it in front of everyone when  
9 it's like that.

10 Q. So what happened?

11 A. [REDACTED] BAC -- I think in that case they got -- there's  
12 a special leather strap that the Sister Superior has,  
13 and that's brought out for special occasions. So they  
14 would have got that.

15 Q. Did you actually see that happening?

16 A. Oh yes, yes. The idea was so everybody could see so  
17 they don't do it. People didn't run away because they  
18 were gets; they just didn't know where to go. Where are  
19 you going to run to?

20 Q. So far as that particular episode you are telling us  
21 about, who administered the punishment?

22 A. [REDACTED] BAC .

23 Q. With the strap?

24 A. Yes.

25 Q. What did that involve?

- 1 A. The hands out. It was a thick strap, you know.
- 2 Q. You're putting your hands out in front of you crossed?
- 3 A. Yes, like that. You get that. I think it was six each  
4 or something. I can't remember. They ran away several  
5 times, so they -- after the third time, they just  
6 disappeared, nobody seen them. So I'm assuming they  
7 were sent to maybe another home or back to Glasgow.
- 8 Q. But on each occasion when they were returned did you  
9 have a similar sort of public type punishment?
- 10 A. Yes, twice, but then the third time they just never  
11 reappeared.
- 12 Q. So far as being threatened with anything was concerned,  
13 was there a particular threat that was mentioned if  
14 something was being done wrong? The reason I ask that  
15 is because you talk about being threatened with going to  
16 a borstal, for example.
- 17 A. Oh yeah, yeah. That was if you didn't behave yourself,  
18 you could be sent to a borstal somewhere else. But as  
19 it happened, one of the kids that had been sent to the  
20 borstal come back. He was dressed immaculate compared  
21 to us and he said it's worse here than the borstal.  
22 He was telling us about all the training they gave you,  
23 they teach you things in the borstal; they never taught  
24 you anything in the orphanage.
- 25 Q. What you call the special strap that was used, you say

- 1           it was for the Mother Superior; is that right?
- 2       A.   Yes.  It used to hang in her office.  It was more
- 3           a psychological thing because Sister EAD beatings
- 4           was worse, but this was more psychological.  You were
- 5           being punished specifically, you were sent to wait in
- 6           her office and get your punishment.
- 7       Q.   Did that happen to you?
- 8       A.   A couple of times.
- 9       Q.   Would that involve being struck on the hands?
- 10      A.   Yes.
- 11      Q.   By the Mother Superior?
- 12      A.   Yes.
- 13      Q.   Can you describe the belt?
- 14      A.   What, the punishment?  The strap was a big strap.
- 15           I mean, this was like infamous within -- if you ...  It
- 16           wasn't just getting hit with the strap, it was everybody
- 17           knew you were being sent there to be punished.  I think
- 18           it had a couple of slots on it, so it was like
- 19           a three-pronged type thing.  It did sting.
- 20      Q.   Made of leather?
- 21      A.   Oh yes, thick leather.  The actual name -- it was called
- 22           the Rock Gelly, but somebody told me that was the place
- 23           where they made the straps, but we knew it as the
- 24           Roch Gelly, but I always thought I was saying it wrong,
- 25           but apparently there is a place that made these special

- 1 leather straps.
- 2 Q. Did you say Rock Gelly or Lochgelly?
- 3 A. I think we called it Rock Gelly but it probably was  
4 Lochgelly. I thought it was Gelly, so I thought I was  
5 saying it wrong anyway, you know.
- 6 Q. So far as hoping to go home would be concerned, no doubt  
7 you did think about going home.
- 8 A. All the time, yes. I was only meant to be there for  
9 three weeks.
- 10 Q. And were you ever told that there might be a chance of  
11 you leaving?
- 12 A. When I went there, I was only meant to be there for  
13 three weeks to give my sister a break. I remember  
14 I cried myself to sleep for a couple of weeks and  
15 I thought, "I'll be out of here shortly". The three  
16 weeks come and go, so I ask when I'm going out, and they  
17 said something like, "You're going out at Christmas", it  
18 could be Easter, whatever was coming up next. That  
19 came, nothing happened, and they would say the next  
20 thing. So after a year or so, you just stop asking.  
21 You know you're there until you're 15 and you're waiting  
22 until you're 15 before you can get out.
- 23 Q. Coming to that, there came a day when you did leave, and  
24 that was, I think you told us, shortly before your 15th  
25 birthday.

- 1 A. Yes, because when my birthday fell I wouldn't have  
2 started the new school season.
- 3 Q. In relation to reporting what had happened to you or  
4 telling anyone what had happened to you at Smyllum, did  
5 you discuss it with anybody?
- 6 A. No. When you're there for seven years, that is life,  
7 it's just normal. It's not abnormal, there's nothing to  
8 tell as such. Do you get what I mean? That was just  
9 life as it is. I had enough problems. When you're out  
10 of the orphanage, it's a whole different world because  
11 now you're not prepared for this.
- 12 I was only out two weeks and I ended up in  
13 hospital -- I got beat up by some kids because in the  
14 orphanage when you had a fight, generally you'd fight  
15 one on one; Glasgow had different rules. You just got  
16 jumped and beat to bits and I was in hospital for  
17 a couple of weeks.
- 18 Q. When you left Smyllum with your sister --
- 19 A. Yes, my sister, [REDACTED].
- 20 Q. I think at a point in time you went to London; is that  
21 right?
- 22 A. Oh, whenever I had an argument of any kind, I would just  
23 walk away from it. We had an argument -- I can't even  
24 remember what the argument was about, but I thought,  
25 "I'm going". So I just packed my bags and started

1 walking to London. But unfortunately -- you could  
2 easily get a lift in them days, you just thumbed a lift,  
3 it was quite normal. But the argument was on the  
4 Friday. There's no lorries running. So I'm walking and  
5 I'm walking along the London Road and I walked a few  
6 miles at that point and I'm thinking, this is not a good  
7 plan, but I don't know what else to do, I can't go back  
8 to my -- too proud to go back. I had to keep going.  
9 I got all the way to Hamilton, just outside Hamilton,  
10 which is about 14 miles, and I'm still walking with no  
11 plan and a car pulled up.

12 So the car was -- say, like, I'm here and where the  
13 door is, where the car pulled up, so I think he's  
14 pulling up for me, so I'm running up with my little case  
15 and he's dropping his girlfriend off, so I just turned  
16 and carried on, and she goes, "Give him a lift". As  
17 luck had it, he was going all the way to London, he had  
18 some kind of a car dealership and he was driving a car  
19 that was to be delivered to London, so he took us all  
20 the way. That was just a stroke of luck or I wouldn't  
21 have known.

22 Q. What age are you then?

23 A. 15. I wasn't long out the orphanage.

24 Q. You spent time in London on the streets, putting it  
25 broadly?

1       A. What happened, when I gets to London, it's not a good  
2       plan because I don't know what I'm going to do, so  
3       I went and had a cup of coffee and it cost a fortune.  
4       I didn't have much money anyway because I hadn't planned  
5       it. I had no idea what to do. I thought I'd better get  
6       rid of my bag because I'll look homeless otherwise, so I  
7       put it in St Pancras Station, at the left luggage.

8                I didn't have a plan but I thought I'll get a job or  
9       something. For a couple of days it wasn't working out,  
10      but Covent Garden in them days was a fruit and veg  
11      place, you could put your hands through the railing and  
12      grab a bit of fruit, maybe a banana and an orange or  
13      something. So I done that a couple of times and after  
14      that I thought I'd better get a proper job.

15               I went to Soho and went round the back where the  
16      Chinese restaurants are and offered to wash some dishes  
17      for some food. So I did that a couple of times and what  
18      I done, I slept in Hyde Park, and sometimes I would go  
19      on the Circle line and get some sleep -- because on the  
20      Circle line, as long as you come back off at the same  
21      point, it costs you virtually nothing, so I could get  
22      some sleep that way.

23      Q. Cutting a long story short then --

24      A. I'm sorry.

25      Q. No, not at all, it's very interesting. But you were

1 taken back to Glasgow?

2 A. Yes. The police arrested me in Hyde Park with -- not so  
3 much arrested me, took me in. Because when I was 15  
4 I only looked about 12, but I didn't realise I was  
5 vulnerable. I wasn't thinking like that. So the police  
6 picked me up, took me to the station, and they said,  
7 "We'll put you in there for the night in the cell. We  
8 won't lock the door". I said, I don't care if you lock  
9 the door. I'd just seen the bed. I crashed out. They  
10 brought me breakfast in the morning and they'd obviously  
11 been in contact with my sister who then sent the fare  
12 down and I went back to Glasgow.

13 Q. You do tell us also in your statement about some aspects  
14 of your life thereafter, Billy; I'm not going to go into  
15 the detail of it. You get married, for example, and  
16 I think you then are separated. But you eventually  
17 settled in London; is that right?

18 A. Can I say one other thing about -- back to when I was  
19 15? Because I wasn't prepared for it, I walked away  
20 another time in an argument, but I still had nowhere to  
21 go, so I slept in railway carriages for three months  
22 before I got myself sorted out. That's all part of the  
23 same thing, just not knowing how to handle an argument,  
24 just walk away, which was a trait for the rest of my  
25 life, to be honest.

- 1 Q. Again, you tell us about that, but you do have some  
2 success because --
- 3 A. Oh yes, yes.
- 4 Q. -- because you get into the club scene; is that right?
- 5 A. Yes.
- 6 Q. And you become the owner of a number of clubs?
- 7 A. What happened is because I had this problem with the  
8 sleeping thing, I started getting jobs where I worked at  
9 night-time. So I got into the bar trade and then  
10 I started running pool tournaments. Then I talked  
11 someone into coming into a partnership and we opened  
12 some pool clubs. We opened half a dozen in the end, all  
13 very successful.
- 14 Q. You tell us that eventually you became chairman of  
15 professional pool players for the UK and indeed did  
16 refereeing work on television.
- 17 A. Yes. I was the first official referee in Britain for  
18 American pool. When I was team manager of the  
19 United Kingdom pool team, when we went to Vegas to  
20 play -- this is in 1991 ... I was already an official  
21 referee here, I sat their test, and so I became the  
22 first official referee in Britain. So when Match Room,  
23 Barry Hearn and that, wanted to run some tournaments,  
24 they contacted me and asked me to be senior referee.
- 25 Q. But you are now retired as I think you told us earlier

1 on.

2 A. Yes.

3 Q. In one part of your statement you talk about the impact,  
4 you say, that being in Smyllum has had on your. I think  
5 we've touched on these issues before with the sleeping  
6 problem, for example.

7 A. Yes. All through my life, yes.

8 Q. Perhaps you also mention your ability to maintain  
9 relationships.

10 A. Yes, I walked away a lot. That's back to the same thing  
11 about being -- you're meant to stay and discuss and work  
12 out the problems. I just thought whenever they did  
13 that, it was time to move on, which I did a bit too  
14 often, I'm afraid.

15 Q. As you tell us, you have a very good relationship with  
16 both your children.

17 A. Yes. Very good, yes. I'm lucky, yes.

18 Q. If we look at the last part of your statement then,  
19 Billy, you do say at paragraph 146 that you don't  
20 believe in religion any more.

21 A. The nuns will cure you of that.

22 Q. You go on to say:

23 "I sometimes wish there was a God to deal with  
24 Sister **EAD**."

25 A. Well, so Sister **EAD** would have to face God and

1 explain what she done in his name.

2 Q. I can tell you that the inquiry has spoken to sisters  
3 who were there at your time, including Sister **EAD**,  
4 and her position is that she wouldn't do anything to the  
5 boys.

6 A. No.

7 Q. If they were really bad, they'd be sent to the  
8 Mother Superior; what's your reaction to that?

9 A. It's complete lies. It was a closed environment, they  
10 were never answerable to anybody.

11 I think a lot of the problems goes back to when  
12 somebody becomes a nun, when you're young, you think  
13 they've got the calling, God's called them, so they  
14 become a nun. That's not the real reason. They became  
15 a nun because in the 1950s and 1940s they couldn't get  
16 an education in Ireland, or they might be working on  
17 a farm and want to get off the farm, or maybe the father  
18 didn't have the dowry money for them to get married.  
19 Once they become a nun in Ireland, they'd get a certain  
20 amount of respectability and they'd get an education.  
21 So it's nothing to do with God's calling, which we  
22 obviously thought at the time. It's just an easy way  
23 out.

24 Q. If she was to suggest that she wouldn't do anything to  
25 the boys, what --

- 1 A. Total lies, total lies.
- 2 Q. You don't accept any of that?
- 3 A. I've got to be honest with you, I've found it very  
4 unlikely that other people that have spoke at this thing  
5 haven't mentioned Sister [REDACTED] EAD because she was the  
6 worst of them. So I would find it very hard to believe  
7 that others -- my reason for coming here originally was  
8 to back up their story, even though I never know what  
9 they said, I know what happened, so I know what they're  
10 liable to say, and I would think [REDACTED] BAC and  
11 Sister [REDACTED] EAD would be the two main culprits that would  
12 come out bad in all this.
- 13 Q. As you tell us in your statement, Billy, in terms, you  
14 say at paragraph 145:
- 15 "I'm very clear in my mind about the things that  
16 happened."
- 17 A. Yes.
- 18 Q. And that you have a good recollection of what happened  
19 to you.
- 20 A. Yes. It's very clear in my mind a lot of it. Probably  
21 a lot of things happened, but because of nobody  
22 interacting then, you remember things when you discuss  
23 them. Because there hasn't been any of that, there are  
24 probably lots of things happened that I've forgotten  
25 about or maybe take a name or a word and it might bring



1 (2.35 pm)

2 MR MacAULAY: My Lady, there's to be one more oral witness  
3 this afternoon, a short witness, and thereafter we would  
4 have time, I think, to have two statements read into the  
5 transcript.

6 This next witness wants to remain anonymous and will  
7 use the name "Mary" in the course of her evidence.

8 LADY SMITH: Thank you.

9 "MARY" (sworn)

10 Questions from Mr MacAULAY

11 MR MacAULAY: Good afternoon, Mary.

12 A. Good afternoon.

13 Q. I'm going to ask you some questions based on the  
14 statement that you've given to the inquiry. A copy of  
15 that statement is in front of you in the red folder.  
16 I will provide the transcript with the number of the  
17 statement and that's WIT.001.001.3084. Can I begin by  
18 taking you to the last page and that's 3091.

19 Can I ask you to confirm, Mary, that you have signed  
20 the statement?

21 A. Yes.

22 Q. And also to confirm that you say:

23 "I have no objection to my witness statement being  
24 published as part of the evidence to the inquiry."

25 A. No.

1 Q. You believe the facts stated in this witness statement  
2 are true?

3 A. They are true.

4 Q. Thank you.

5 I don't need your date of birth, but can you confirm  
6 that you were born in 1938?

7 A. Yes.

8 Q. You are here today not to speak directly to any  
9 experience you had in care --

10 A. No.

11 Q. -- but to tell us, give us some sort of insight into  
12 some experience that your mother had while in care;  
13 is that correct?

14 A. That's right.

15 Q. So far as that is concerned, your mother was Scottish?

16 A. Yes.

17 Q. And she was born in 1913?

18 A. Yes.

19 Q. Is that right?

20 A. Yes.

21 Q. What you tell us in your statement is that she was  
22 a member of quite a large family --

23 A. Yes.

24 Q. -- in the Motherwell area of Scotland?

25 A. Yes.

- 1 Q. Can you tell us a little bit about the background about  
2 how it came to be, from your understanding how, how she  
3 came to go into the care?
- 4 A. I'm not sure, I think it might have been because her  
5 father died, but I am not sure about that.
- 6 Q. Do you know, from speaking to your mother, when you were  
7 able to understand what she could say, that she had  
8 brothers who died in the First World War?
- 9 A. She had three brothers that died in the First World War.
- 10 Q. There was some arrangement ultimately that meant that  
11 your mother, and I think a brother and a sister --
- 12 A. That's right, yes.
- 13 Q. -- went to Smyllum Orphanage; is that correct?
- 14 A. Yes. We were in touch with the nuns and they said  
15 they'd got records of the three of them being there.
- 16 Q. Have you asked for records or have you just asked for  
17 the information?
- 18 A. My daughter phoned up or emailed and they said that they  
19 were definitely there, but they couldn't give us the  
20 records of when they were there.
- 21 Q. I think we can tell by looking at records that have been  
22 provided to the inquiry that the three of them were  
23 admitted to Smyllum in [REDACTED] 1917.
- 24 A. Right.
- 25 Q. That would mean that your mother would be 3 or possibly

1 4.

2 A. Oh gosh.

3 Q. Is that a surprise to you?

4 A. Mm-hm, yes.

5 Q. Did you think she was older or younger?

6 A. I thought she might be older, but I didn't know.

7 Q. Very well. If she was born in [REDACTED] 1913 and admitted in

8 [REDACTED] 1917, then that would appear to suggest that that

9 would be her age. So she was very young when admitted

10 there.

11 A. Yes.

12 Q. She left, according to what we understand, at the age of

13 15; is that right? Is that your understanding?

14 A. She said she left there and she was sent to work in

15 a presbytery in London somewhere.

16 Q. So that would be about 1928?

17 A. Yes.

18 Q. Certainly the late 1920s.

19 A. Yes.

20 Q. Looking to that timescale, it would appear that she'd

21 spent quite a number of years, perhaps 11/12 years, in

22 Smyllum. Is that your understanding? Sorry?

23 A. Sorry. (Pause)

24 Q. Is that perhaps upsetting for you --

25 LADY SMITH: Take a moment because that's important new

1 information you probably want to absorb.

2 A. Yes. Sorry.

3 LADY SMITH: Do you want a break?

4 A. No, I'm okay.

5 LADY SMITH: Let me know if you do. I'm sorry we couldn't

6 let you know this before.

7 MR MacAULAY: I think what's taken you aback --

8 A. I didn't realise she'd been there so long.

9 Q. Because she was there at such a young age according to

10 the information we have.

11 A. Yes, I'm fine.

12 Q. Okay. What I think you did know, though, is your mother

13 left Smyllum when she was 15.

14 A. I knew that, yes.

15 Q. So by looking to her date of birth, that was about 1928.

16 A. Yes.

17 Q. What I really want to ask you about, Mary, is

18 conversation or conversations you had with your mother

19 about her time in Smyllum.

20 A. Right.

21 Q. There was a time when I think you did have

22 a conversation.

23 A. We did, yes.

24 Q. Can I perhaps ask you what age were you at that time?

25 A. I think I must have been late 20s.

- 1 Q. Your mother then, what age would she have been by then?
- 2 A. Late 40s maybe. Yes.
- 3 Q. Can you tell us what happened then when you had this
- 4 conversation?
- 5 A. We were just -- she was at my house one day and she just
- 6 was quiet and then she just started to talk about it.
- 7 Just out of the blue, really. She'd never mentioned
- 8 anything before and she never mentioned anything after.
- 9 Q. On this occasion, was it Smyllum she was talking about?
- 10 A. Yes.
- 11 Q. Can you tell us what she said?
- 12 A. Part of it was that you were put in a bath of -- if you
- 13 wet the bed, you were put in a bath of cold water.
- 14 Q. Did she say anything else as to what would happen then?
- 15 A. I can't remember.
- 16 Q. If we look at your statement -- there's no difficulty in
- 17 looking at your statement, Mary: it's on the screen, but
- 18 it's also in front of you. I think you deal with this
- 19 in paragraph 7 of your statement.
- 20 A. Yes.
- 21 Q. You thought when you made the statement that your mother
- 22 might have been in her 50s.
- 23 A. Yes.
- 24 Q. Out of the blue, as you've indicated, for no apparent
- 25 reason, she started to talk about it.

1 A. Yes, that's right ... summer or winter.

2 Q. I'm sorry.

3 A. I'm just reading "summer or winter". That was true.

4 Q. So what you said in the statement:

5 "She said that if she wet the bed, the nuns would

6 put her in a cold bath and just leaving her sitting

7 there, summer or winter."

8 Is that what she said to you?

9 A. Yes.

10 Q. Was the context here of wetting the bed?

11 A. Yes.

12 Q. You go on to tell us a little bit more about what she

13 said. What else did she say in this conversation?

14 A. She said one of the nuns was nice to her and gave her

15 a piece of cake ... I'm just reading what it says on

16 here: they went to church every day whether it was cold

17 or ...

18 Q. In relation to the cake, you've said in the statement

19 that your mother said that was unusual.

20 A. Yes.

21 Q. What was your reaction to that?

22 A. Well, at the time I thought, well, it didn't seem normal

23 because I thought for her to remember just getting

24 a piece of cake because you would think that they would

25 get cake quite often, but it just seemed unusual for her

- 1 to remember that she got a piece of cake.
- 2 Q. And you go on to tell us that your mother told you that  
3 the nuns were very strict.
- 4 A. Yes.
- 5 Q. Are you able to elaborate upon that at all?
- 6 A. Not really.
- 7 Q. Did she not say anything more than that? Was that as  
8 far as she went?
- 9 A. Yes, she just said, oh, they were really, really strict.  
10 I think what happened was because she could see that  
11 I was getting cross, you know, she sort of stopped  
12 talking.
- 13 Q. And you were getting cross, were you?
- 14 A. I was getting cross -- and to this day I can't remember  
15 why I didn't sort of follow it up.
- 16 Q. Why were you getting cross at that time?
- 17 A. Well, because of what had happened and I thought  
18 possibly the nuns could still be alive.
- 19 Q. When you say "what had happened", what were you focusing  
20 upon?
- 21 A. Well, on being put in a bath of cold water and left  
22 there. And then thinking about, well, she was so  
23 pleased she got a piece of cake. You had to wonder why  
24 that made such an impression on her.
- 25 Q. You said your mother stopped talking about this.

1 A. When she knew that I was getting upset. Then she made  
2 me promise I wouldn't tell my sisters, but they were  
3 only young at the time, because I was older than --  
4 well, 12 years older than one and 17 years older than  
5 [REDACTED] and she was really upset, you know. She said,  
6 "Promise me you won't tell them". I don't know why she  
7 didn't want -- well, they were young, probably. That  
8 was the reason. She never spoke to my sisters, even  
9 when they got older.

10 Q. Did she ever speak about this matter again?

11 A. No.

12 Q. Did you ever seek to raise it with her again?

13 A. No, and I just don't know why.

14 Q. Well, that's as may be, but if you look at what you say  
15 in paragraph 11 of your statement then, you say there  
16 you found what she was saying unbelievable.

17 A. Mm-hm.

18 Q. Are you there focusing on the cold bath episode?

19 A. Yes. I wondered -- I thought, well, what else was she  
20 going to say, but I don't know because she didn't say  
21 anything else.

22 Q. Your mother did give you some information about what her  
23 life was like after she left Smyllum.

24 A. Yes.

25 Q. But she ended up, of course, meeting and marrying your

- 1 father; is that right?
- 2 A. That's right.
- 3 Q. Thereafter, were there things that your mother did that  
4 perhaps in hindsight you --
- 5 A. We thought was funny at the time, but ...
- 6 Q. Can you give us some examples?
- 7 A. If she came round to stay with either my sister or  
8 myself or my other sister, if we had biscuits or  
9 anything, she'd take the biscuits home with her or take  
10 one biscuit home with her, a couple of biscuits, and  
11 then she'd put them under the seat at home -- or  
12 anything that was sort of precious to her, she would  
13 keep under the cushion on the chair she sat on, she'd  
14 keep it under the cushion. If we tried to move them --  
15 pretty hopeless.
- 16 Q. So she had this tendency to guard --
- 17 A. Yes.
- 18 Q. -- items. Anything else you can tell us about?
- 19 A. Emotionally -- well, at the time I suppose we didn't  
20 really think a lot, but she didn't show emotions very  
21 much.
- 22 Q. What about things like birthdays? Did she show interest  
23 in birthdays?
- 24 A. Not really.
- 25 Q. How were birthdays organised then in your house?

- 1 A. My father always organised them.
- 2 Q. And domestic chores, what about that?
- 3 A. Not really. The only thing she would do is wash your  
4 milk bottle for about half an hour until it was  
5 absolutely shining and polished, and if you said, "Mum,  
6 just please put the bottle out", she would have to carry  
7 on, which we didn't really think much about at the time,  
8 but you sort of wonder why.
- 9 Q. You also mention, I think, that if you mentioned her  
10 childhood, that she would go quiet; is that correct?
- 11 A. Sorry, I didn't quite hear.
- 12 Q. You say in your statement that if her childhood was  
13 raised with her, then she would go quiet.
- 14 A. Oh yes. Yes.
- 15 Q. She didn't want to discuss it?
- 16 A. No, no.
- 17 Q. I should have taken this from you, but your mother died  
18 in 1996.
- 19 A. Yes.
- 20 Q. What about yourself then? Do you think the way your  
21 mother was had any impact upon you? You're now the  
22 second generation.
- 23 A. Yes. I think it did, really.
- 24 Q. In what way?
- 25 A. Well, because she never -- she was a good mother, she

1           was a good mother, but emotionally she never said she  
2           loved you or showed any -- I know she cared, but she  
3           didn't show any outward sign of caring. But you just  
4           knew she did. It's hard to explain.

5       Q. I think what you say in your statement is you feel you  
6       possibly lost out on a degree of affection?

7       A. Yes. Now that we realise what happened, we think it --  
8       if we'd known, it could have been so different.

9       Q. We needn't go through the detail of what you set out in  
10       paragraphs 28 to 31, but you set out some details there  
11       about what you consider the impact on your own life to  
12       have been.

13      A. Yes.

14      Q. One of the things you say towards the end of your  
15      statement is that someone should be checking the  
16      children and interviewing them confidentially to find  
17      out how things are going and to prevent the influence of  
18      outside sources.

19      A. Definitely.

20      Q. That's your view?

21      A. Definitely.

22      Q. And you go on to say:

23                 "I just hope other people get the justice they're  
24                 looking for from the inquiry."

25      A. Yes.

- 1 Q. That's your hope?
- 2 A. Yes. You wouldn't want it to happen to any other  
3 children.
- 4 MR MacAULAY: Thank you, Mary, for coming today as a sort of  
5 second generation person to tell us about your mother.  
6 I haven't received any questions to put to you and  
7 I don't know if there are to be any questions,  
8 my Lady --
- 9 A. Could I possibly ask whether we could find out whether  
10 my mother's sister was -- you know, there's a mass  
11 grave.
- 12 MR MacAULAY: Yes.
- 13 A. We just wondered whether her sister, [REDACTED], was  
14 buried there. She died. My mother said she had the  
15 sleeping sickness, but we don't know whether she's  
16 buried there or not.
- 17 MR MacAULAY: My suggestion would be that you should contact  
18 the Daughters of Charity and make that -- I think you're  
19 perfectly entitled to make that request and ask them to  
20 tell you.
- 21 A. Right.
- 22 MR MacAULAY: That would be my --
- 23 A. We have tried to find out, but they said that they  
24 didn't have any records, all the records were with the  
25 inquiry.

1 MR MacAULAY: Perhaps that should be your first port of  
2 call. Have you contacted them recently?  
3 A. My daughter has.  
4 LADY SMITH: You probably don't have the date of admission  
5 of your mother's sister, the date of admission to  
6 Smyllum, do you?  
7 A. I think they all went in together, but I am not sure.  
8 LADY SMITH: When she left -- was it a younger sister or an  
9 older sister?  
10 A. I have a feeling she might have been younger.  
11 LADY SMITH: Right.  
12 Mr MacAulay is right: you should make the request of  
13 the Daughters of Charity, but if the answer is they  
14 think there's information in documents that they've  
15 handed to us, of course you can let us know and then  
16 we can see if we can process an answer for you --  
17 A. Thank you.  
18 LADY SMITH: -- from the information we have.  
19 A. Because I would really like to find out about that.  
20 LADY SMITH: That's readily understandable.  
21 MR MacAULAY: Indeed. I think I put the date of admission  
22 to you, this being [REDACTED] 1917. I can tell you,  
23 according to the records, that your mother's sister was  
24 an older sister.  
25 A. Oh, an older sister?

1 Q. Her date of birth, according to the records, was  
2 [REDACTED] 1910. But these are records, as I've said,  
3 that you should be able to speak to the Daughters of  
4 Charity about.

5 A. Right.

6 LADY SMITH: Yes. Separately, any information about  
7 children who died or were buried, you should ask them  
8 about that.

9 A. Right. Thank you.

10 LADY SMITH: Let me just check whether there are any  
11 outstanding applications for questions. No?

12 There are no more questions for you, Mary, and it  
13 just remains for me to thank you very much for coming  
14 along and giving us a unique insight, as Mr MacAulay has  
15 already alluded to, of what it was like to be the child  
16 of somebody who was in Smyllum for quite a long time  
17 in the early 20th century.

18 A. I didn't realise it was that long.

19 LADY SMITH: Thank you very much. I'm now able to let you  
20 go.

21 A. Thank you.

22 (The witness withdrew)

23 LADY SMITH: Mr MacAulay.

24 MR MacAULAY: Now, my Lady, as I indicated, we do have time  
25 to read in two statements, relatively short statements,

1 in the time available.

2 LADY SMITH: So we could do one before the mid-afternoon  
3 break and one -- well, we could take the mid-afternoon  
4 break now.

5 (Pause)

6 We'll take a short break and keep it to 5 minutes.

7 (2.56 pm)

8 (A short break)

9 (3.00 pm)

10 Witness statement of "JEMIMA" (read)

11 MS MACLEOD: The first of the two statements to be read in  
12 is one of a witness who wishes to remain anonymous and  
13 use the name "Jemima". The witness statement is to be  
14 found at WIT.001.001.3092:

15 "My name is Jemima. I was born in 1948. My contact  
16 details are known to the inquiry. I am speaking to the  
17 inquiry about my father. As a child, my father lived in  
18 Blantyre. He was one of three boys and there were three  
19 girls, six in total. Two girls died by the time they  
20 were five and the other girl lived on to marry and have  
21 family.

22 "Their father was a regular soldier. He had been  
23 a miner. I don't know if he went into the army in 1913  
24 or 1914. Their mother, very soon into the marriage,  
25 became an alcoholic. So I think the father tried his

1 best to keep things going.

2 "When I went through their lives, every child was  
3 born in a different house. They must have been very  
4 poor and just moved from one place to another.

5 "Their mother, because of the alcoholism, finally  
6 left them at some point, maybe 1913 or 1914. The eldest  
7 sister tried to keep them, but she couldn't. Their  
8 father was away in the army. In those days there was no  
9 compassionate leave. She was only a young girl herself;  
10 she'd have been about 15. My father told me there was  
11 no fire in the house and it was cold. The eldest sister  
12 was trying to get food for them.

13 "She was put into service. The authorities came and  
14 put the three boys into Smyllum. He was six, he said,  
15 'People took them away'.

16 "I call my father's youngest brother a different  
17 name because that's the name he was born with and the  
18 name he was registered with. But his death was  
19 registered at Smyllum as being another name. He was  
20 baptized as that other name because the Catholic Church  
21 in those days didn't recognise names unless they were  
22 Christian names. When he died at Smyllum in all  
23 probability he didn't have his birth certificate. He,  
24 my father's youngest brother, died in 1918 when he was  
25 8. The nuns must have gone to the church in Blantyre,

1 St Joseph's, to find out what he was baptized as.

2 I don't know what they called him while he was there.

3 "I don't know when exactly they went into Smyllum or  
4 when they came out, but it would have been 1918 at some  
5 time. My father said it was a terrible, grim place. At  
6 that time children lived in a poor situation, so they  
7 had a much greater acceptance of bad conditions. The  
8 difference was they weren't well treated, where they had  
9 never known abuse at home.

10 "You had to read between the lines. I can just see  
11 him sitting there, putting his hand on his face, saying,  
12 'Oh, it was a terrible, terrible grim place'. So you  
13 took what you wanted from that.

14 "My father said that his brother, my uncle, tried to  
15 look after them. From what he had said, his brother was  
16 very quiet. His other brother was younger and cried all  
17 the time. He wanted his dad to come home. They didn't  
18 miss their mother.

19 "The youngest brother came ill and was sick. He was  
20 waiting for his daddy to come home. My father said his  
21 youngest brother died of a broken heart because his  
22 daddy didn't come home. That's not the case. From the  
23 paperwork I have, my father's younger brother died in  
24 Smyllum from the influenza epidemic of 1918 to 1919.

25 "The boys' sister was in service when they were in

1 Smyllum. She got one day off a month and she visited  
2 them.

3 "A lady came to visit me later on. She had gone to  
4 Smyllum as a teenager with her mother to visit my father  
5 and his two brothers. Her mother possibly knew my  
6 father's father, my grandfather. She said they pleaded  
7 with her, 'Take us home with you'.

8 "There was a war on for most of the time they were  
9 in Smyllum and their father was in the army in Ireland  
10 for some of the time. I don't know how often he visited  
11 them but he visited at least once, as soon as he could,  
12 after the youngest brother had died.

13 "I have one photograph of my father and my father's  
14 brother, two brothers altogether. My father's brother  
15 and my father are wearing the Smyllum uniforms.

16 "My father had beatings on the head at Smyllum from  
17 one of the nuns. He said one was particularly nasty and  
18 hit him on the ears. It definitely happened there  
19 because the later family talked about it. It was spoken  
20 about in conversation at my grandparents' home. There  
21 would be talk of it. People didn't talk in front of  
22 children but you would glean things from the  
23 conversation.

24 "He told me he was made deaf as a wee boy but you  
25 didn't start asking him questions because it was a sad

1 part of his life.

2 "The impression I had from my father was that there  
3 was no affection at Smyllum. At the end of his life my  
4 father had to go into a nursing home. There was a nurse  
5 there called Helen who took a great deal of time with  
6 him. He said to me, 'I'm going to call Helen  
7 "Sister Helen" because the only nun who was kind to me  
8 at Smyllum was Sister Helen'.

9 "My grandfather came out of the army and secured  
10 a house in Greenock. He brought my father's brother and  
11 my father to live with them in Greenock. My grandfather  
12 worked for the Board of Trade. He was a very good  
13 father. My father's sister was married and didn't live  
14 with them.

15 "My father must have been educated because he wrote  
16 beautifully and he was good with numbers. He always  
17 read books and newspapers.

18 "Both my father and his brother served an  
19 apprenticeship in the shipyards in Greenock. After  
20 that, his brother went into the army. For the duration  
21 of the war my father worked as an asphalt boiler man on  
22 road works over the country. He stayed with his father  
23 until his father died in 1932. Then he came to stay in  
24 Stonehouse with his sister.

25 "My father's brother was discharged from the army

1 because he had cancer. My father rented a wee flat and  
2 nursed him until he died. After that he went to lodge  
3 in Lark Hall with his friends.

4 "My father met my mother in 1946. My mother had  
5 been married briefly and had a daughter. They married  
6 in 1947. He trained as a mechanic in a fibreglass  
7 factory and worked there until they closed. He then  
8 went on to work elsewhere. He trained as a spray  
9 painter there and was in charge of a paint shop. He  
10 worked there until he was 67. After that he went on to  
11 work part-time with my uncle in a factory until he was  
12 69. He spray painted old machinery being overhauled to  
13 be sent to Third World countries.

14 "I had a wonderful relationship with my father. He  
15 was a very affectionate person, which is surprising from  
16 being in care. He was a kind person, a nice person. He  
17 and I were extremely close. He wouldn't have told you  
18 things that upset you. My mum worked on a Saturday so  
19 we spent a lot of time together at the weekend, maybe  
20 more than young people do. We were great friends  
21 together. One time I asked him, 'Would it be okay if  
22 I called you ...' and I said his name. He said  
23 of course, of course. I called him his own name after  
24 that.

25 "When I got married I was loath to leave him but we

1 saw him all the time. He was up at my house all the  
2 time. My dad and mum went on a lot of holidays to  
3 Canada. We had a nice family. My father always did his  
4 best to do the right thing.

5 "My father had a wonderful relationship with my  
6 sister. When mum said to her that she was going to get  
7 married, my father said, oh that's good because I'll  
8 have somebody for both hands now. She and my father got  
9 on very well all her life. She called her son after  
10 him.

11 "My gran, my mother's mother, became as if she was  
12 my father's mother. My grandparents thought my father  
13 was wonderful. He had good relationships with older  
14 ladies. He was very fond of the lady who had visited  
15 him in Smyllum. She carried on visiting him and came to  
16 our house when I was wee. Two older ladies from  
17 Greenock came to his funeral.

18 "As a result of the beatings at Smyllum, my father  
19 was very, very deaf. He had hearing aids all his life.  
20 I remember him going into the Murray Hospital in Glasgow  
21 to see if there was anything they could do but they  
22 couldn't because both his ears had been punctured.

23 "I don't know how he managed. He would only hear a  
24 person who came close to him. If anyone else started to  
25 speak he couldn't differentiate between all these

1 voices, especially in a big company. It was a just  
2 a babble.

3 "Both my father and his brother were to be going  
4 into the army; that's what the family did. He didn't  
5 get in because he was so deaf. He tried again in 1939,  
6 but same thing, he was refused. Lots of chances he  
7 could have had in life he didn't have because of his  
8 hearing.

9 "My father had an industrial accident at work  
10 because he couldn't hear. He saw two or three men  
11 manoeuvring a machine on to a table and when someone  
12 said, "Right", he didn't take his hands away. His  
13 fingers were in a terrible state for years.

14 "He was a very religious man. He gave a lot of  
15 money to the Catholic missions. Whenever he met a nun,  
16 he put his hand in his pocket. I gave money to the nuns  
17 -- you can't stop it, it's part of you. There is a  
18 lovely wee nun from the Sisters of Nazareth who sits in  
19 Hamilton and I give money to her. She is a wee old  
20 lady. She doesn't ask anyone for anything, but it was  
21 surprising the number of people who talk to her.

22 "My father had no sympathy with himself and it  
23 manifested as 'I will have to work hard to have a job'.  
24 He didn't sit and wait for people to give him things, he  
25 just got on with it. I didn't realise the difference

1 between my father and my mother's upbringing until I was  
2 much older. I just thought everybody had been brought  
3 up the way my mother was brought up.

4 "Once it came out that there was a mass grave for  
5 the children at Smyllum I never gave a thought to the  
6 fact that there wasn't some sort of structure for the  
7 children's burial. I'm glad my father was dead by that  
8 time.

9 "When we were in the car going through Lanark, up  
10 past the cemetery on the main road, my father used to  
11 say, 'Our wee', and he would use his brother's name, 'is  
12 in there'. He thought his youngest brother was in the  
13 cemetery. He never said he wanted to go down there and  
14 see if he could find him. It wouldn't be a memory he'd  
15 want to bring up.

16 "In the cemetery at Lanark there are lots of graves  
17 of nuns and priests. There must have been priests  
18 coming from here, there and everywhere. They couldn't  
19 have all been in Lanark; the headstones are new. I have  
20 been to where I think the children are. I don't know  
21 where the children are buried; there's nothing to tell  
22 you. I've been to the Smyllum memorial. The nuns paid  
23 for it. I think it's totally inappropriate for them to  
24 talk about the children who never went home.

25 "They must have had plans. You can't just bury 400

1 in a field. They must have known where they'd already  
2 buried. It's inconceivable to say you don't have plans.  
3 You couldn't possibly bury people without plans and the  
4 dates you buried them.

5 "The nuns would be given money, either through  
6 a government or council grant. They didn't take your  
7 children out of the goodness of their heart. They were  
8 paid for that. They must have had to tell the  
9 authorities when the children arrived and when they  
10 departed, be it back to their parents or to bury them.  
11 Information is there somewhere. They would be claiming  
12 for each child. Their funeral would need to be paid  
13 for.

14 "My uncle never married. I don't think my father  
15 would have married if it hadn't been that he had known  
16 by mother since they were teenagers. He was quiet and  
17 reserved and the fact that he was deaf didn't help.

18 "My father didn't make friends casually but he made  
19 them well. His friendships were very close. A friend  
20 became like a brother to my father right to the end of  
21 his life.

22 "The last thing on my father's mind would have been  
23 abusing anyone. He couldn't have; being in Smyllum made  
24 him strive. He didn't speak about Smyllum a lot but  
25 when he did, you could see it in his eyes. It upset

1 him. He never went back to see the place. I think he  
2 blotted a lot of it out. I think having a good father  
3 to come back to helped a lot. His sister was lovely  
4 too.

5 "I had real difficulty finding my father's youngest  
6 brother's death certificate because he was registered as  
7 a different name. I phoned the Sisters of Charity in  
8 London and got no information at all. I wanted to know  
9 when he was buried and whether there were any dates they  
10 could have given me about the boys. They said, we don't  
11 have any records, we can't tell you. There was  
12 something about a fire. They weren't prepared to  
13 disclose anything. I would have been prepared to pay  
14 any costs but the door was just closed.

15 "I went to the town house at Hamilton and the lady  
16 that looks after the historical records very kindly  
17 helped me find the microfiche records of the birth and  
18 deaths of my father's brothers and sisters.

19 "They don't know how many children died at Smyllum.  
20 They only have the names of 150 children. I would like  
21 to add the names of the two that I know of to the  
22 records.

23 "When I tried to trace my father's youngest  
24 brother's death certificate, there is another child who  
25 died on the same day named next to him. They were both

1 registered by Sister Louise.

2 "Were the children buried in a bit of sacking or a  
3 coffin? Who dug the grave? Where are they buried?  
4 It's not possible for the nuns to shut their eyes and  
5 say they don't know. The nuns' order does know and they  
6 should be made to tell. That's something the  
7 investigation needs to find out.

8 "I want the world to know that we wouldn't let those  
9 things happen again. As with other things in the  
10 Catholic Church, it's time they told the truth about  
11 what happened and not to hide things. I would like the  
12 order to admit the things they've done.

13 "I would like to think that the children who were in  
14 there who are still alive feel that they have a worth in  
15 this life. Worth is taken away from you when you're  
16 treated like that.

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

20 The statement was signed by Jemima on  
21 20 December 2017.

22 LADY SMITH: Thank you very much.

23 MS MACLEOD: The next statement, my Lady, is the statement  
24 of James Murray Haddow.

25 It was initially planned that this statement would

1           be read in tomorrow, but because we have the time  
2           available today, I propose to read it now.

3       LADY SMITH: Absolutely. Let's move on to it now.

4           Witness statement of JAMES MURRAY HADDOW (read)

5       MS MACLEOD: It's to be found at WIT.001.001.3079:

6           "My name is James Murray Haddow. I prefer to be  
7           called by my middle name, Murray. I was born in 1925.  
8           My contact details are known to the inquiry.

9           "The only qualification for childcare that I have is  
10          a certificate for social studies. This was a course run  
11          by Glasgow University. It involved both practical work  
12          and academic studies. At that time this was the only  
13          available social work course. I became very interested  
14          in children's residential care. This remained the case  
15          throughout my career.

16          "I started work in 1950 as a childcare officer  
17          in the Wolverhampton area. This was until 1952. I then  
18          became a children's officer in the same area until 1959.

19          "I recall an occasion when I removed three teenage  
20          boys from a Roman Catholic establishment in Liverpool.  
21          I moved the boys to a residential home that was closer  
22          to their families in Wolverhampton. There were no  
23          allegations of mistreatment or abuse at the Roman  
24          Catholic establishment but I just felt that they were  
25          not being cared for as they should have been. The

1 atmosphere I felt wasn't suitable to bring up young  
2 boys. It was all priests with no female staff. I think  
3 that this showed I could identify issues with the care  
4 of children and I was prepared to take action where  
5 I had concerns.

6 "In 1959 I started my first role within children's  
7 residential care. This was at the Mear Children's Home,  
8 Starbridge, Worcestershire. I remained there until  
9 1964.

10 "In 1964 I moved to the Ross and Cromarty area.  
11 This was as a children's officer and I was based in  
12 Dingwall. During my time there the new social work  
13 units started to be created.

14 "As a result of this, the children's departments  
15 were absorbed into these newly created units. I worked  
16 in the role of children's officer at Dingwall until  
17 1969.

18 "I moved to Wigtonshire in 1969 and was appointed as  
19 the director of social work. I remained there until  
20 1971. In 1971 I was contacted by a colleague,  
21 Bob Winter. Bob knew me through my various roles in the  
22 social work. Bob asked if I wanted to move to Greenock  
23 and work as the assistant director of social work.  
24 I accepted this offer and stayed there until 1974.

25 "I became the divisional organiser for the Clyde

1 region in 1974. I remained there until I retired.  
2 Whilst I was there, Bob Winter seconded me to Glasgow.  
3 Bob asked me to look at improving the standard of  
4 childcare in Glasgow. At that time Glasgow had  
5 a recognised practice of placing children from that area  
6 to foster homes in the north of Scotland.

7 "I produced a report with a series of  
8 recommendations. I also organised a series of courses  
9 which involved both residential and field staff.

10 "My experience of inspections whilst I was involved  
11 with the social work was that they were always very  
12 detailed. You were always aware that the Inspectorate  
13 were around. The Scottish Inspectorate were quite  
14 high-powered people. It was always difficult to know  
15 what they were looking for. I can't remember if there  
16 were regular inspections of residential care  
17 establishments. I don't know, if an inspection took  
18 place, whether this would be planned or unannounced.

19 "When I worked with the social work there was  
20 a statutory requirement to visit a child in care  
21 regularly. I think it was at least every three or  
22 possibly six months. My understanding is that this  
23 would have been the same throughout Scotland. All  
24 visits would have to be recorded in the child's case  
25 file. The social workers' supervisor would be required

1 to ensure that their caseload was up-to-date and that  
2 visits took place.

3 "Whilst I was based at Greenock between 1971 and  
4 1974 I was in charge of a number of childcare officers.  
5 One of these officers was off on long-term sick and  
6 I noticed an overdue visit for a child in Smyllum.  
7 I can't remember when this was, only that it was during  
8 the time I was at Greenock.

9 "I had to make an appointment for the visit; this  
10 was always the case for any Roman Catholic  
11 establishment. You couldn't just turn up; it had to be  
12 by arrangement. I don't remember how far in advance of  
13 a visit this appointment would have to be made.

14 "The first thing I noticed when I arrived was that  
15 it was a large daunting building. I was met at the door  
16 by a nun. The nun didn't introduce herself to me.  
17 There was very little conversation. I was taken to  
18 a large room like their assembly hall. There were two  
19 chairs in the middle of the room, I sat in one of the  
20 chairs and the nun left. The nun returned with this  
21 poor girl. I felt sorry for her as it must have been so  
22 bewildering for her not knowing why I was there to meet  
23 her. The girl sat beside me in the other chair.  
24 I can't remember if I was introduced to the girl. The  
25 nun took up a position on a chair within hearing

1 distance of us. This caused me a lot of alarm that  
2 a child should be in this setting where the staff took  
3 that sort of attitude with the children in their care.

4 "I tried to explain the reason for my visit but  
5 I don't think she took any of it in. The normal reason  
6 for such a visit would be to try and establish details  
7 of the child's family and build a relationship with the  
8 child. I got the impression that at Smyllum no outsider  
9 was going to be given the opportunity to build up  
10 a relationship with one of the children in their care.

11 "I recall that at that time all the Catholic  
12 establishments had the same reputation. They felt that  
13 you were intruding. It was their job and they didn't  
14 want you interfering. The sad thing was that this was  
15 accepted by the social work department that they were  
16 different from other residential homes.

17 "I would have recorded the visit in the child's case  
18 notes. This visit was nothing exceptional for visits to  
19 Catholic homes. I would probably not have highlighted  
20 any concerns in the report. I would just have recorded  
21 my contact with the girl.

22 "Another experience of a Catholic home that I recall  
23 was again when I was at Greenock. I had to take two  
24 boys to the approved school of St Ninian's Gartmore.  
25 The priest met me at the door and he took the boys from

1 me and closed the door without saying a word.

2 "I visited numerous other children's care homes  
3 whilst I worked with the social work in Scotland. Many  
4 of these establishments were very good. As a matter of  
5 courtesy you would contact them to inform them of  
6 a visit. Other times you could turn up unannounced.  
7 The social work and the home worked together to ensure  
8 the best care for the children. I thought that this was  
9 how a child in care should be looked after.

10 "When I worked at Greenock I ran a pretty tight  
11 ship. I was the boss. I never had to highlight any  
12 concerns or report these to the authorities. When  
13 I have read the media coverage of the inquiry, it didn't  
14 come as any surprise to me that abuse had been reported  
15 in children's homes.

16 "I would hope that the inquiry will ensure that  
17 there will be no further reports of abuse within  
18 children's care homes. I do have concerns how effective  
19 the inquiry will be if it takes too long.

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

24 The statement was signed by Mr Haddow on  
25 19 December 2017.

1 LADY SMITH: So that tells us he was 92 when he provided  
2 that statement, does it?

3 MS MACLEOD: That's correct, my Lady.

4 LADY SMITH: That of itself perhaps explains why he's not  
5 here to tell us in person the evidence he has to give.

6 MS MACLEOD: Yes.

7 LADY SMITH: Thank you.

8 MS MACLEOD: My Lady, that completes the evidence for today.

9 Tomorrow we'll hear evidence from two applicants in  
10 person and, if there's time, we may have two -- up to  
11 two -- read-ins. There aren't two read-ins scheduled  
12 for tomorrow, but we may bring some forward if time  
13 allows.

14 LADY SMITH: I am happy to do that if that is possible.

15 Thank you very much. We'll finish there for today  
16 and I'll sit again at 10 o'clock tomorrow morning.

17 (3.25 pm)

18 (The inquiry adjourned until 10.00 am  
19 on Friday, 12 January 2018)

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I N D E X

1

2 ANNE MARIE CARR (sworn) .....2

3 Questions from Mr MacAULAY .....2

4 Questions from LADY SMITH .....39

5 Witness statement of "MARIE" (read) .....41

6 WILLIAM WHICHER (sworn) .....55

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8 "MARY" (sworn) .....133

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10 Witness statement of JAMES MURRAY .....160

11 HADDOW (read)

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