

1 Wednesday, 6 December 2017

2 (10.00 am)

3 LADY SMITH: Good morning.

4 We return to oral evidence this morning and I'm  
5 going to ask Mr MacAulay to introduce the next witness.

6 Mr MacAulay.

7 MR MacAULAY: My Lady, the next witness is an applicant  
8 witness who wants to remain anonymous and wants to use  
9 the name "Janie" in giving her evidence.

10 LADY SMITH: Thank you.

11 Good morning, Janie.

12 "JANIE" (sworn)

13 LADY SMITH: Now sit down and make yourself comfortable.

14 That microphone in front of you will help to make you  
15 heard without you having to shout, so if you just turn  
16 and talk into the microphone, it will pick up your voice  
17 quite easily.

18 Mr MacAulay, when you are ready.

19 Questions from MR MacAULAY

20 MR MacAULAY: My Lady.

21 Hello, Janie. I don't want to know your date of  
22 birth but can I just confirm with you that your year of  
23 birth is 1961?

24 A. Yes, that is correct.

25 Q. I believe that you have provided a statement to the

- 1 Inquiry.
- 2 A. Yes.
- 3 Q. It is in that red folder in front of you and we will  
4 look at it in a moment, but before we do can I just say  
5 this to you. I will be asking you questions and these  
6 questions might involve dates.
- 7 A. Yes.
- 8 Q. Now if you don't remember something, just say you don't  
9 remember; do you understand that?
- 10 A. Yes.
- 11 Q. Also, if you do remember something as you are giving  
12 your evidence, then feel free to tell us about it.
- 13 A. Yes.
- 14 Q. So far as your statement is concerned, can I ask you to  
15 look at it. I want you to look at the last page of the  
16 statement. I'm going to give the reference number of  
17 the statement for the transcript; it is  
18 WIT.001.001.2215. The last page is at 2251. Janie, can  
19 I ask you to confirm that you have signed the statement?
- 20 A. That is correct, yes.
- 21 Q. And at paragraph 170 do you tell us:  
22 "I have no objection to my witness statement being  
23 published as part of the evidence to the Inquiry."  
24 A. That is correct.
- 25 Q. Are you on the last page?

1 A. Yes, the very last page, yes.

2 Q. And you also go on to say:

3 "I believe the facts stated in this witness  
4 statement are true."

5 Is that correct?

6 A. That is correct.

7 Q. You can leave that aside for the moment, Janie.

8 Can I ask you, first of all, about what you  
9 recollect of your life before you went into care because  
10 we are going to look at the time when you were in care,  
11 particularly when you were in Smyllum. But before that,  
12 what was your recollection of your life?

13 A. Before that, to be honest with you, I can't really  
14 remember. The only thing I can remember is when I got  
15 taken in the car to Smyllum; that's the first time  
16 I recall anything really to be honest with you.

17 Q. I think you certainly mention this in your statement,  
18 that you are aware, at least now, that you were in two  
19 other establishments before you went to Smyllum.

20 A. Yes.

21 Q. We know from the records we looked at that you were  
22 admitted to Smyllum in [REDACTED] 1965, so you would be  
23 aged about 4?

24 A. Four.

25 Q. Does that accord with your own recollection?

- 1 A. Roughly about that, yeah, because I was just a toddler  
2 then, I could walk.
- 3 Q. You had at that time a sister and a brother?
- 4 A. That is correct, yes.
- 5 Q. And they were both older than you?
- 6 A. Yes.
- 7 Q. And were they also admitted to Smyllum at the same time?
- 8 A. At the same time.
- 9 Q. Just running ahead, just to try and get the timings,  
10 according to the records we have seen, you were returned  
11 to your mother on [REDACTED] 1968, is that --
- 12 A. That's right.
- 13 Q. When you would have been aged about aged 7?
- 14 A. Roughly about that, yeah.
- 15 Q. You spent some months with your mother and then you went  
16 to Glasclune in North Berwick.
- 17 A. Yes.
- 18 Q. Was that on [REDACTED] 1969?
- 19 A. 1969.
- 20 Q. So you would still be around about 7?
- 21 A. Roughly about that.
- 22 Q. Again, just looking to what we have seen in records, you  
23 left Glasclune on [REDACTED] 1977 at the age of 16?
- 24 A. 16.
- 25 Q. So that gives us a time frame for your time in care.

- 1 A. Yeah.
- 2 Q. You have told us about the car going to Smyllum. Do you  
3 remember going into the building itself?
- 4 A. I do remember it, yes, clearly.
- 5 Q. Who was with you when you went there?
- 6 A. Well, we got taken in the wee black car. We got out and  
7 there was my cousin [REDACTED] at the  
8 time -- my mum, my big brother, my big sister. We went  
9 to the door and it was a girl with long blonde hair that  
10 answered it and then one of the nuns came.
- 11 Q. Then were you allowed into the building?
- 12 A. Yes, we got into the building.
- 13 Q. Did your mother and your cousin who was with you, did  
14 they go into the building with you?
- 15 A. They came in as well.
- 16 Q. What happened after that; can you remember?
- 17 A. Well, they left. As soon as they left, the they took us  
18 upstairs, my brother and sister and I, took us upstairs.
- 19 Q. When you say "they" --
- 20 A. The nuns, sorry.
- 21 Q. How many nuns were involved in that?
- 22 A. I would say about three standing round us when they were  
23 trying to cut our hair.
- 24 Q. That's when you were upstairs, is it?
- 25 A. When we got taken upstairs, yes.

- 1 Q. How were you taken upstairs?
- 2 A. The first time we were in there, we got taken upstairs,  
3 it is the first thing they done to us, chopping our hair  
4 off. I was crying because they chopped a bit of my ear.
- 5 Q. Did you have long hair?
- 6 A. I had long hair at the time, yes; my sister and I did.
- 7 Q. So in relation to the hair cutting then, were the three  
8 of you having your hair cut at about the same time?
- 9 A. At the same time, yes, because they were shaving my  
10 brother's hair at the time.
- 11 Q. Is that what happened to him, did you see --
- 12 A. Yes.
- 13 Q. Was your hair cut short?
- 14 A. Yes.
- 15 Q. You mentioned a moment ago that your ear was cut in that  
16 process.
- 17 A. When they were doing it, it kind of snipped, so  
18 I started screaming, trying to get off the chair, and  
19 then after that she dragged me through the room, tied me  
20 on the bed, put a pillow over my face, kept putting it  
21 over, on and off. That's the first thing that ever  
22 happened when we first went there and that's what  
23 happened to me.
- 24 Q. When you say you were tied to the bed --
- 25 A. Yes.

- 1 Q. -- who did that?
- 2 A. One of the Sisters at the time. Couldn't tell you what  
3 Sister it was at the time, but tied me to the bed, put  
4 the silver mask over me, the tape, and just kept  
5 throwing the pillow off and on me, like smothering me,  
6 like playing games with me at the time, which I didn't  
7 know at the time.
- 8 Q. You said you were screaming earlier on; did you carry on  
9 screaming when you were being taken to the bed?
- 10 A. I would have been, yeah, definitely.
- 11 Q. What reason did you think it was that they wanted to tie  
12 you to the bed and tape your mouth?
- 13 A. I never had a clue at that time.
- 14 Q. In relation to tying you to the bed, how was that done?
- 15 A. They just tied me to the bed, my legs at the bottom, my  
16 hands at the top like that (indicates) and tied me and  
17 then they put the silver mask -- the silver mask over my  
18 mouth.
- 19 Q. And when you say "to the bed", do I take it from the  
20 description that you have just given that you were  
21 actually lying on the bed?
- 22 A. On the bed.
- 23 Q. So your hands towards -- tied to the back part of the  
24 bed and your legs to the front part of the bed?
- 25 A. To the bottom and to the top, yeah.

- 1 Q. So that was on your first day?
- 2 A. That was on my very first day the cruelty started.
- 3 Q. What about your sister and brother? Did you see what  
4 happened to them at that time?
- 5 A. The only thing I can hear was -- because when you think  
6 about it it was the girls' dormitory and the only thing  
7 I could hear next door was my brother screaming and  
8 I could hear a lot of crashing, so I knew something was  
9 going on at the time with my brother, but I didn't  
10 eyewitnessed (sic) it, but I heard my brother screaming  
11 so they would have been beating him up obviously.  
12 I know that for a fact.
- 13 Q. He was in a different part then?
- 14 A. He was in a different part of the building with boys,  
15 but for that reason that day definitely next door in the  
16 bedroom my brother was screaming, so I knew something  
17 bad was happening to him.
- 18 Q. What about your sister?
- 19 A. Nothing -- I never seen my sister. I can't recall  
20 seeing my sister that day at all.
- 21 Q. And just looking to your location then in Smyllum. Did  
22 this place or part of the building have a name?
- 23 A. To be honest, I can't remember a name being there but we  
24 were all in different sections. There's all different  
25 sections in the building for different groups of people.

- 1 Q. Looking to the groups, was it divided up by age or in  
2 some other way?
- 3 A. Well, you got kind of like the older girls kind of next  
4 door in the room but they were the girls -- some of them  
5 had to kind of look after us, the older ones, but  
6 I couldn't recall what age they were, but I know they  
7 were a lot older than myself. Sometimes they were left  
8 to look after some of the kids.
- 9 Q. So they were in the same part of the building but in  
10 a different room?
- 11 A. In a different bedroom, yeah.
- 12 Q. How many beds were in your bedroom?
- 13 A. Three.
- 14 Q. And were the other two beds occupied when you were  
15 there?
- 16 A. My sister was over there, I was up -- no, she was there,  
17 I was up there (indicates), but the funny thing is you  
18 kind of got changed around and at times. You weren't  
19 always there. Maybe after six months, whatever, then  
20 I was over there and my sister would be there  
21 (indicates) in the same room.
- 22 Q. You mentioned three beds; was there somebody else in the  
23 third bed?
- 24 A. To be honest, I can't remember. I always knew my sister  
25 was there.

- 1 Q. Are you able to remember who was in charge of that  
2 particular area?
- 3 A. Well Sister [AFY] and Sister [AEX] were in charge of  
4 me, I know that for a fact. But the Mother Superior,  
5 that would have been Sister [AEG] at the time  
6 because my sister actually had Sister [AEG] as her  
7 householder.
- 8 Q. Are you saying that Sister [AEX] and Sister [AFY]  
9 were in charge of you?
- 10 A. Yes, uh-huh.
- 11 Q. And Sister [AEG] --
- 12 A. Was in charge of [REDACTED]
- 13 Q. Of your sister?
- 14 A. Aye.
- 15 Q. Did you have much to do with Sister [AEG]
- 16 A. Not really, no.
- 17 Q. So it was Sister [AEX] and Sister [AFY]
- 18 A. And Sister [AEX]
- 19 Q. But you told us about this initial episode of being tied  
20 to the bed and effectively gagged, I think you were  
21 saying.
- 22 A. Yes, definitely.
- 23 Q. Who did that?
- 24 A. The two of them obviously. Because they slept -- I was  
25 here, they slept through there, there was another door

1           there in my bedroom, and they would sleep there because  
2           they used to take me through there (indicates) and --  
3           but anyway, all the time I was always gagged and tied  
4           up, constantly for -- I don't know why, I really don't  
5           know why. But that happened to me all the years I was  
6           there. I was always tied up on that bed and left for  
7           hours.

8           Q. Who was involved in that?

9           A. Sister [REDACTED] AEX and Sister [REDACTED] AFY

10          Q. You were there from the age of 7; was that an ongoing  
11          issue --

12          A. Ongoing for years that happened to me.

13          Q. Did you understand why that was being done?

14          A. No. I just don't know.

15          Q. If you look at the normal day, you would get up in the  
16          morning and get ready for breakfast, let's assume.  
17          Would you then go to school at some point?

18          A. Well, I don't know what age I was when I started school  
19          because I was -- I went to school and her name was  
20          Miss [REDACTED] AEW, [REDACTED] That's  
21          only time I can recall because I remember getting the  
22          belt from Miss [REDACTED] AEW.

23          Q. So you went to school at least when you were school age?

24          A. Aye.

25          Q. And the school was within the area of Smyllum itself; is

1           that correct?

2           A. It would have been -- I can't -- I remember going to  
3           nursery once. Only once. Because that afternoon we had  
4           to sleep and I didn't want to sleep but you had to  
5           sleep, obviously an afternoon nap. That's the only time  
6           I can recall that.

7           But when I joined the actual school, low school,  
8           that was a Miss AEW but I don't remember lots of  
9           things in the class, no.

10          Q. That's fine. When you came back from school then, at  
11          some point you would have your tea or your dinner and  
12          what would then happen in relation to bedtime?

13          A. Well, you went to bed very early, like very -- because  
14          in the summer time you would actually be in your bed  
15          while the sun was out and things like that. It was  
16          constantly you just went to bed early.

17          Q. When you went to your bed for your bedtime to sleep,  
18          would you be tied to your bed at that point in time?

19          A. Not tied when you are going to bed, no. Just like when  
20          they wanted to punish you. I don't know why. They just  
21          kept tying me up on the bed and throwing me in the  
22          cupboard and locking me up.

23          Q. Did you see any other children being tied to the bed?

24          A. I have never, ever seen anybody else been tied to the  
25          bed, no -- but my sister witnessed it.

- 1 Q. Witnessed you being tied to the bed?
- 2 A. Yes.
- 3 Q. Am I to understand from what you are saying, Janie, that  
4 this was a process that was engaged in throughout your  
5 whole period?
- 6 A. Yes.
- 7 Q. Can you give me a feel for the regularity of it then?  
8 I mean, how often did this happen?
- 9 A. Just constantly, just constantly tied up on my bed.  
10 I would be aches and pains wanting to move. As soon as  
11 they released me it was a good feeling, like, you  
12 know -- it was just badness of them, just doing it  
13 because I didn't do anything wrong.
- 14 Q. From what you are saying, you did go for your breakfast  
15 and tea and school as well, so --
- 16 A. Yeah but I can't much remember in the class. I have  
17 been in the class, I know that, but not going to the  
18 class all the time, if you know what I mean. It is more  
19 like I was stuck in there actually in the home rather  
20 than going to class.
- 21 Q. Can I ask you about another topic then, Janie, and ask  
22 you about the food at Smyllum. Can we just talk about  
23 that for a moment or two. How did you find your food  
24 during your time there?
- 25 A. All I can remember to be honest is peas, getting peas

1           because my brother used to tell me not to eat them, like  
2           throw them on the floor, because they used to come round  
3           with powder and put powder in it and he used to go like  
4           that (indicates) kind of across from me -- because I  
5           hardly seen my brother and that was the only time  
6           sometimes, if we were eating, and I would do that  
7           (indicates) and like a sausage, that's all I can  
8           remember eating. That's all I can remember, to be  
9           honest with you.

10          Q. In your statement you do talk about pineapple.

11          A. Oh yeah. I hated them. Hated them.

12          Q. What was the position with pineapple?

13          A. They used to force me to eat them and if you were sick  
14             you were made to lick the sick and try and eat that.  
15             Obviously that's probably that's why they did tie me on  
16             my bed again probably because I wouldn't eat my  
17             pineapples because that could be a reason as well, but  
18             it was just like they were just being nasty.

19          Q. As far as the force-feeding was concerned, who was  
20             involved in that?

21          A. I can't really say because they were all different nuns  
22             at the time round you, you know, once you set the table  
23             and everything. So there was quite a few nuns at the  
24             time when you were all eating. So I can't really recall  
25             exactly and pinpoint that one.

- 1 Q. Perhaps I should have asked you about the dining area.  
2 Clearly there was a dining room that you went to have  
3 your meals.
- 4 A. When you first went in the door, if you go to the left,  
5 that's like the sitting room. Away at the back, there  
6 was like a black and white television away at the  
7 corner, but then they would set tables across here, kind  
8 of -- say this is the big place, the big dining room  
9 place with the television at the corner, because you had  
10 couches down there (indicates), and there was tables and  
11 there would be like a long table and everybody would eat  
12 off that.
- 13 Q. The people who would be eating in that area, would these  
14 be people in your area of the building -- and by that  
15 I mean children in your area?
- 16 A. There would have been obviously but it was quite a long  
17 table but --
- 18 Q. You do mention your brother. He ate with you, did he?
- 19 A. Yes.
- 20 Q. And your sister?
- 21 A. My sister as well, but I can't recall seeing them all  
22 the time there when we were sitting, but I remember my  
23 brother being across from me that day and he is like,  
24 put the peas, kind of chuck them and pretend they fell.
- 25 Q. You mention in that connection -- this is something you

1 talk about in your statement -- something about  
2 a powder, can you help me with that?

3 A. They'd come across and they'd lean over you and put  
4 something in and my brother recognised that -- not so  
5 much me at the time, but as soon as he done it and said  
6 it, get your peas and put them (indicates), that's when  
7 I realised, aye, there's something in there. I don't  
8 know what it was. I haven't got a clue.

9 Q. You also tell us in your statement, Janie, that outside  
10 your bedroom door there was a set of stairs that led to  
11 another door.

12 A. That's right, yeah.

13 Q. What was the position with that?

14 A. When you come out the bedroom, you go to the right and  
15 there's a big blue door. Right? They used to drag me  
16 in there, used to take me in there. At the time they  
17 called them -- it wasn't a nice name, I don't like the  
18 name to be honest with you, I will call it  
19 Down's syndromes -- there were all Down's syndromes in  
20 there, so nuns looked after them in there.

21 When they first took me, I was scared of them. In  
22 fact, they made me eat with them. It was a weird thing  
23 again, sausage and peas, which was weird. It is like  
24 I just got the same all the time.

25 Then I was scared of them, I was looking around

1 going "oh" and then they kept dragging me in there all  
2 the time to sit with them. After a while I actually  
3 started feeling sorry for them because it was scary at  
4 first to go into a place like that with loads of them in  
5 there.

6 Q. So these were children with some learning disabilities  
7 that were being cared for at Smyllum as well?

8 A. I don't know they were that cared for, to be honest.

9 Q. Are you telling me that on occasion you ate with these  
10 children?

11 A. Yes.

12 Q. Was that within their area or was that in the dining  
13 room?

14 A. In their area, through that big blue door, yeah.

15 Q. What about your sister and brother, were they --

16 A. I couldn't tell you about that. I haven't got a clue if  
17 they were taken in there because I never ever seen them  
18 in there with me.

19 Q. Do you know what Sisters were involved?

20 A. No, these are different Sisters that were in there  
21 because -- I don't know. It is just every Sister,  
22 except for one. They were all the same, to be honest  
23 with you, because they watched it, they seen it. They  
24 just didn't bother about us.

25 Q. During your time at Smyllum did you get some chores to

- 1 do?
- 2 A. Yes.
- 3 Q. What can you tell me about that?
- 4 A. I can always remember the staircase, the wooden  
5 staircase -- that's the bit where you go up to your  
6 dormitory. She made me clean the same bit for -- well,  
7 it felt like hours. She said, you had better be there  
8 when I come back to do that same bit, and I remember  
9 just scrubbing it and scrubbing it and scrubbing it and  
10 that was my cleaning bit. That was it. Just the same  
11 part.
- 12 Q. You say "she", who was that?
- 13 A. One of the Sisters, but I don't know what one it was.  
14 It is just -- because they are all mixed up. They are  
15 all kind of -- they are all -- it is hard to explain.  
16 It is like -- Sister **AEX** and Sister **AFY** were the  
17 cruellest to me because they stayed in the same bedroom  
18 as me, but only through another wee door in my bedroom.  
19 But the rest of them were just -- they seen it, they  
20 didn't bother, just turned a blind eye.
- 21 Q. You did mention, I think, before being put into  
22 cupboards or wardrobes.
- 23 A. Yes in my bedroom, yes.
- 24 Q. Can you tell me about that? How often did that happen?
- 25 A. That happened quite a bit because looking back now

1 I imagined that I was playing with a friend in there, it  
2 was a laddie that I was playing with and we used to kind  
3 of play little games because at the back there was holes  
4 and we used to kind of try and block them. Obviously  
5 I was imagining at the time, but I really thought it was  
6 real, but then there was times I would sleep and there  
7 was a time when I did sleep, she opened it, caught me  
8 sleeping, like you had to stand up because it was like  
9 the a wee wardrobe, so when you sat down you were kind  
10 of crushed like that (indicates) --

11 LADY SMITH: Janie, could you come back to the microphone --  
12 it's okay.

13 A. You were kind of crushed when you laid down because you  
14 were that tired standing up all day or whatever, all  
15 night long, and then you would have to stand up to kind  
16 of stretch yourself and then I fell asleep. I remember  
17 her opening the door, oh, you must like it because you  
18 fell asleep, and she would just shut me back in for  
19 hours again.

20 Q. And the "she" here, can you remember who this was?

21 A. Well one of the two, probably Sister **AEX** or  
22 Sister **AFY** .

23 Q. I think from what you are saying, it is usually one of  
24 those that was involved?

25 A. Yes, definitely.

1 LADY SMITH: Tell me about this cupboard: was it a piece of  
2 furniture or was it a cupboard of the sort that's part  
3 of the building.

4 A. A wardrobe in my bedroom.

5 LADY SMITH: A piece of furniture?

6 A. Yes, but there was no clothes in it.

7 MR MacAULAY: Why were you being put into the wardrobe?

8 A. I haven't got a clue, haven't got a clue. It is just  
9 like they like doing it -- maybe I was hyper or wanted  
10 to play, because I never, ever -- to be honest, because  
11 I never ever, seen green grass and that for years. You  
12 know what I mean? I never seen outside.

13 Q. That's one of the things you say in your statement that  
14 it was some time before you were allowed outside to  
15 play.

16 A. To play, yeah.

17 Q. I mean can you tell me what age you were when that  
18 happened? Because we know you left when you were  
19 7 years of age, so clearly between the age of 4 and 7  
20 that happened.

21 A. I started getting out because I remember running about  
22 the fields and up by the school. I remember running  
23 away up there just to get away, far away from it because  
24 we used to all try and get away up the woods just to get  
25 away from the home, so we were far away. That was nice,

1 I liked that.

2 Q. Do you know what age you were when you got out, so to  
3 speak?

4 A. Not really, no.

5 Q. If you can't tell me -- as I said to you at the  
6 beginning if you can't remember just --

7 A. Not really, no.

8 Q. Can I ask you about holidays and trips then. Of course  
9 you do tell us again about that, that there was -- that  
10 people would come to take people out.

11 A. That's right, yeah.

12 Q. Were you taken out on occasions?

13 A. There was two young girls, females, that came and took  
14 [REDACTED] and myself out and we went to the shows, but they  
15 were lovely, lovely girls.

16 There was a time they took us to this house, a big  
17 place, and it was like bunk beds that we got, everybody  
18 slept on a bunk bed. Then I remember kind of going to  
19 this beach, but it was all rocky, not so much sand, and  
20 telling us to get away over by the water, like  
21 (indicates), get over there, and I was like I didn't  
22 want to -- this was like winter actually -- and the  
23 waves were coming over and I didn't want to go near the  
24 water, but they kept telling me, "Just get further in".

25 Q. But generally speaking, when you were taken out by other

1 people, you had a reasonably good time; is that what you  
2 are telling me?

3 A. I can't remember having a good time ever.

4 Q. Okay. You tell us in your statement that you went away  
5 with a couple --

6 A. Yeah, with the two girls.

7 Q. And they were lovely, so that is that incident?

8 A. They were lovely.

9 Q. But if you weren't then chosen to be taken out, what  
10 would happen then?

11 A. What happened to me and my sister was -- what they used  
12 to do, I think it was maybe once a year or something  
13 like that, I'm not sure about the times, but we would  
14 sit -- everybody would be sitting and then these parents  
15 would come in and they would pick you to take you away  
16 for a wee holiday.

17 I remember the first time [REDACTED] and I, we weren't  
18 picked, so we went -- there was like -- it is like  
19 cottages, like in Smyllum, but they put us up in this  
20 kind of attic place with a bed.

21 Q. When you say "they", who are you talking about?

22 A. The nuns, sorry. Obviously we would just have to lie in  
23 that bed all day long, all night long, probably for the  
24 whole week when everybody was away and then they take  
25 you down the stairs, you would still be in your nightie,

- 1           they'd take you down the stair again, peas and sausage,  
2           "Hurry up and eat that", then they would take you back  
3           up the stair and leave you there.
- 4       Q.   Do you know why, in that situation, you didn't simply go  
5           back to your ordinary bed in Smyllum?
- 6       A.   Not in Smyllum that time, no; that was actually in the  
7           house there. Kept there for maybe a week or something  
8           like that.
- 9       Q.   What about birthdays and Christmas? Do you have any  
10          recollection of birthdays, for example, being  
11          celebrated?
- 12      A.   Well, I remember -- it was with one of the nuns, I don't  
13          know what one it was -- and I don't know why I want to  
14          say London because I remember it was going shopping, it  
15          must have been Woollies -- I am sure it was Woollies  
16          I was in. They took me in there but I remember the  
17          bright lights, beautiful -- loads of lights outside. It  
18          was wonderful and then I am sure we went into Woollies  
19          at the time with one of the Sisters, but obviously we  
20          were looking round, but I didn't think I got any money  
21          to buy anything. That was that.
- 22      Q.   Do you think that was a birthday?
- 23      A.   I think it was Christmastime because there were masses  
24          and masses of lights outside.
- 25      Q.   But you do have a recollection I think of there being

- 1 a birthday cake on one occasion --
- 2 A. Yeah. That was the only time. Yeah. Well, I says,
- 3 "I'm not too well", I wasn't feeling -- I was always
- 4 kind of ill there anyway. But then they brought out
- 5 a cake, obviously it had been cut --
- 6 Q. Was it for your birthday or for another birthday?
- 7 A. Not for me, no. Then they gave everybody a bit of the
- 8 cake but me and went, "Oh, you're not too well so you're
- 9 not getting a bit". I was sick, I was like, "Oh I could
- 10 do with a bit".
- 11 Q. And Christmas itself, I think you tell us that you got
- 12 a new kilt at one Christmas.
- 13 A. They took that away from us because what happened was my
- 14 brother and -- we were going to run away, and we were
- 15 getting other people, like, to say we can run away but
- 16 someone went and told on us, so they took us upstairs --
- 17 it was like a square room where all the kind of kilts
- 18 were, where all the kind of wee dresses and whatever,
- 19 and they says you are not getting that now, you are not
- 20 getting your kilt. But I was sure my mum sent that, the
- 21 kilt, to us.
- 22 Q. But were you not going to get the kilts because you had
- 23 been planning to run away?
- 24 A. To run away, yeah.
- 25 Q. Was that part of the punishment for that plan?

- 1 A. Yeah.
- 2 Q. On that occasion did anything else happen to you? Was  
3 that the end of the --
- 4 A. Nothing happened there. That was that. That was that.
- 5 Q. I think you do tell us that your mother did come to  
6 visit you when you were at Smyllum.
- 7 A. Yes, once. Yes.
- 8 Q. Can you remember that -- can you tell us what happened?
- 9 A. Well, it was funny because I was tied onto the bed at  
10 that time again and I was so amazed -- I was tied  
11 straightaway and instantly she came back and untied me  
12 and I thought, wow, that was quick. And then she went,  
13 "Your mum's coming to visit you and you had better not  
14 say a word to her", meaning don't you say anything that  
15 happened in here and blah, blah, blah. I was like, oh  
16 god.
- 17 So anyway, my mum and [REDACTED] came -- my  
18 other cousin, she is a lot older than us -- to visit to  
19 tell us about my grandfather passing away. So my mother  
20 is sitting there, because she says she will be through  
21 in the room, looking through the keyhole and listening  
22 --
- 23 Q. When you say she, that was one of the nuns?
- 24 A. Yes. She said, "I will be listening to every word you  
25 say and I will hear everything so you had better not

1 open your mouth". So I remember kind of just staring at  
2 that door, my mum's talking away to me, telling me about  
3 my grandad, and I was kind of just sitting there numb,  
4 not saying a word back to my mum. I heard my mum  
5 saying, "God, **AAX** is not crying", for my grandad. And  
6 I was sitting and sitting and then my mum had to go  
7 away. And I remember going under the blanket and  
8 I started crying about my grandad. And she came out the  
9 room and she pulled the blanket off me and said, "What's  
10 the matter with you?" and I says, "Grandad passed away",  
11 well died, and she went, "Is that all?" And then put  
12 the -- so cold hearted -- and then put the blanket.  
13 Then I thought I could have told my mum everything  
14 because if she didn't hear that, because she asked me,  
15 "What happened, why are you crying?" so I thought, if  
16 she didn't hear that, then I could have told her  
17 everything.

18 Q. The nun on this occasion you are talking about, can you  
19 remember which nun that was?

20 A. To be honest -- Sister **AEX** Sister **AFY** was the  
21 only ones in those rooms, so it would be one or the  
22 other, to be honest with you. Because it is like they  
23 have got their halo on and, you know what I mean, it is  
24 all confusing, to be honest. They were both as bad as  
25 each other.

1 Q. Was there another occasion though when your mother came  
2 to visit shortly before you left Smyllum?

3 A. Well, there was another time, and it was kind of late  
4 on, it was dark. We were all in the living room and my  
5 mother suddenly appeared and we were hanging onto my mum  
6 and my sister was trying to tell my mum not to go away  
7 and the nuns were being so nice, all that quiet talking,  
8 I'm looking, going, "Why are they talking like that?"  
9 because they are normally kind of you know kind of solid  
10 and I thought they are talking very sweet and nice. But  
11 I wanted to tell my mum and my sister and I remember my  
12 sister grabbing onto my mum, "Don't go, don't go".

13 But then the kind of funny thing is, when they  
14 started talking that way, I was kind of like -- I kind  
15 of felt sorry for them. It is a weird situation you are  
16 in, because I thought, "I am actually feeling sorry for  
17 the nuns". That sounds weird.

18 Q. So that was that particular occasion?

19 A. Aye.

20 Q. Was there another incident when your mother came when it  
21 was a hot day?

22 A. Yes.

23 Q. What happened then?

24 A. Well, it was very hot and I had woolly tights on,  
25 a dress and a woolly cardigan on. My mum came to visit

1 me that day and my brother was there and my sister was  
2 there and we were outside just where the big white door  
3 is at the time. My mum says, why have you got all that  
4 on, it is too hot to have all that on, come on I will  
5 take your cardigan off, and I was like, no, no, no  
6 I will get a row, don't take it off, don't take it off.

7 But she took it off and I always remember my mum's  
8 eyes just going like that (indicates). She went, "Hold  
9 on, I will be back". I don't know where she went to,  
10 but now when you are older, you think she must have went  
11 to the phone box in the high street and probably phoned  
12 one of the social workers because I was all bruised.

13 Q. It was the bruising that she saw that caused her, you  
14 think, to make this phone call?

15 A. Definitely, definitely.

16 Q. Was this shortly before you left Smyllum?

17 A. Shortly before I left.

18 Q. Can you say how long before you left Smyllum this was?

19 A. Well, I always remember the nuns flapping after that --  
20 I know's youse might find that funny and weird but at  
21 the bottom of my bed they kind of found out that I said  
22 that I seen Jesus, you know, but that was when my  
23 grandad died, they were kind of flapping and then -- so  
24 obviously that has been reported by my mum, I know she  
25 wouldn't have let that go when she'd seen all the

1 bruises all over me.

2 That was that, but then it was like the cruelty kind  
3 of stopped, like it kind of just waved by.

4 Q. We are talking about two things here, I think. You have  
5 talked about your mother seeing your bruises and, you  
6 think, making a phone call. You are also talking about  
7 an episode where you thought you saw Jesus at the bottom  
8 of your bed. Was that a dream or was it some sort of --

9 A. I know it was real, I know it was real. I know you  
10 might laugh but I will always believe in that.

11 Q. That's fine. But is it after you said that had happened  
12 that the nuns --

13 A. No, sorry, that's when my grandpa -- that was after one  
14 of my Sisters left the room, that's when I saw Him at  
15 the bottom of my bed telling me everything will be okay.  
16 But then it was after that my mum must have come back  
17 and then she told me to take my cardigan off because it  
18 was boiling hot and I said, no, I will get a row, and  
19 that's when she noticed the bruises all over my body  
20 because I remember my mother's face. I will always  
21 remember her eyes, the way she just stared at it, but  
22 then she may have went away up because in those days  
23 they didn't have mobiles. I have a feeling that she  
24 went away to the town and phoned from a phone box,  
25 phoned one of the social workers. It was not long after

1           that that we got taken out.

2       Q.   The episode involving Jesus --

3       A.   Yes.

4       Q.   -- and I think the nuns became aware of that.

5       A.   They became aware of that.

6       Q.   Was it after that that what you called "the cruelty"

7           seemed to ease off?

8       A.   Yes, because they were all flapping at the time.

9       Q.   I think you did suffer from bed-wetting when you were at

10           Smyllum.

11      A.   Yes.

12      Q.   Did that go on for your whole time at Smyllum?

13      A.   Yes, because I was still peeing the bed when I went to

14           Glasclune, but they helped me out.  They were wonderful

15           in Glasclune.

16      Q.   What would happen then?  What was the procedure if you

17           did wet the bed?

18      A.   You used to have to put the sheets round -- wrap it

19           right round us but we used to have to stand in the

20           corridor before you got a bath.  We would all be

21           standing there in a line waiting to get in the bath.

22      Q.   On your first night at Smyllum, did you wet the bed on

23           the first night?

24      A.   More than likely yes.  I can't remember, I will be

25           honest with you.  I probably could have done but I have

1           always peed the bed when I was there. I was always  
2           peeing the bed.

3           Q. Were you given any treatment for wetting the bed?

4           A. They did say -- little tiny blue tablets they used to  
5           give you to stop peeing the bed, but my brother told me  
6           not to take them. He says just put them at the back of  
7           your tongue and later on spit them out, just pretend  
8           that you have took them. But what I used to find as  
9           well is my brother used to put them under his bed he  
10          said, but he got beaten up for that because they found  
11          them under the bed probably you know. They constantly  
12          gave you the wee blue tablets.

13          Q. You also tell us in your statement that you would be  
14          given injections at night.

15          A. That is correct, yes. Oh, they were good at that one.

16          Q. What was that for?

17          A. I haven't got a clue, but I used to see like spiders,  
18          the walls breathing, kind of look, back and forward. My  
19          sister used to see snakes. All sorts of gory things  
20          when they used to do that to us. They used to inject us  
21          anywhere.

22          Q. How often did that happen?

23          A. That happened quite a bit.

24          Q. You also mention what you describe as electroshock  
25          treatment at Smyllum. Can you help me with that? What

1           was that about?

2           A. We used to stand outside my bedroom in a line. We would  
3           all stand in a line to wait for it.

4           Q. How many?

5           A. Quite a lot of us.

6           Q. Children?

7           A. Yes, yes. It used to be -- it was a man with a kind of  
8           grey -- it was like kind of a grey colour -- what do  
9           they call it when you put it on, kind of like the white  
10          coats.

11          Q. A grey kind of coat?

12          A. But it was a kind of grey, aye. He was quite a stout  
13          man that used to do it. There would be a few Sisters  
14          actually standing there in my bedroom and they used to  
15          put the chair there and they used to put electric shocks  
16          on your head.

17          Q. Just to help me with that, can you describe what was put  
18          on your head?

19          A. It was like things on your head but it used -- okay, and  
20          you would be frazzled with it, in agony, and they used  
21          to put something on your tongue to stop you biting your  
22          tongue. They did that quite a bit actually.

23                 That time when we were all in the row as well they  
24          took my brother in and done the same to him, but we were  
25          all kind of crying because they got frightened, the nuns

1 and says, we've killed him, and then they're like,  
2 ██████'s dead, ██████'s dead, they have killed him. But  
3 then they managed to revive them, whatever took place,  
4 obviously he has conked out, so they managed to revive  
5 him. So we always had to stand in a line and get that.  
6 I don't know what that was about, why they done it.

7 Q. Were you ever told why that was being done?

8 A. No.

9 Q. The range of children then that had this treatment, if  
10 I can call it that, what age group are we talking about?

11 A. My age group. We were all toddlers. We were all just  
12 about that (indicates) at the time.

13 Q. So your own age group then?

14 A. Yeah.

15 LADY SMITH: Can I just take you back to what you said about  
16 Glasclune. You said when you went there they helped you  
17 deal with the bed-wetting.

18 A. Yes, very good. They were brilliant.

19 LADY SMITH: What did they do?

20 A. Well, when ██████ and ██████ and I got back, we went to  
21 Glasclune. On the first night I peed the bed and  
22 I went, ██████ I have peed the bed", "Oh no", because  
23 we didn't know what they were going to be like, the  
24 staff. She went, right, we will go through to the  
25 bathroom, she says, I'll wash your sheet and you get

1 a bath, jump in the bath. I got in the bath, she says,  
2 give yourself a wash, but then one of the staff walked  
3 in in the middle of it and I remember just looking up,  
4 oh no, we are in trouble and we are going to get  
5 a beating, and she went, "What are youse doing?" [REDACTED]  
6 kind of turned round from the sink and went, "AAX peed  
7 the bed and we are trying to wash the sheet", I always  
8 remember that. She says, "That's all right, [REDACTED] you  
9 go to your bed, I will get clean sheets for AAX, you  
10 get yourself washed down", and then she got jammies for  
11 me and it was beautiful. Aye.

12 LADY SMITH: And things got better after that with the  
13 bed-wetting, did they?

14 A. The only thing they do is they'd stop your pocket money,  
15 which was a good thing, so that was fine. If you were  
16 naughty, they would say, right, you are going to bed  
17 half an hour before time. So you kind of got  
18 rehabilitated -- is that the right word?

19 LADY SMITH: Yes.

20 A. Rehabilitation because we were kind of angry kids there.  
21 We were very angry. Anger came out a lot with us, but  
22 they were beautiful. They were like -- they would kind  
23 of put us aside in a room and, right, you can't do that  
24 kind of thing, and, if somebody gets you cross, just  
25 walk away. I started doing that, sticking my nose up

1           like, say what you want to say, you know, and that's the  
2           way they were in there. They were beautiful, absolutely  
3           beautiful people.

4       LADY SMITH: Thank you for explaining that, Janie.

5           Mr MacAulay.

6       MR MacAULAY: Just looking at the position then with regard  
7           to your siblings because you have told us about your  
8           brother and your sister being with you in Smyllum and  
9           being in the same part of the building, indeed your  
10          sister in the same room.

11       A. Yes, my sister was in the same room.

12       Q. What was the position then with mixing with your  
13          siblings during your time at Smyllum?

14       A. I didn't really see [REDACTED]. There was one time that  
15          I seen [REDACTED] -- my mum must have sent a parcel -- it is  
16          a brown parcel with like Smarties in it and wee kind of  
17          sweeties in it. I remember my brother shouting on me,  
18          " AAX , we've got a parcel, mum sent a parcel". He had  
19          opened it up but [REDACTED] would take most -- "No, you can't  
20          have them, because I am meant to have two", that was  
21          just my brother. Because I was quite happy with my  
22          Smarties, you know, because there I had never, ever seen  
23          a sweetie in the home -- but once I seen a sweetie in  
24          the home and they done that on the table, but I will  
25          tell you about that later.

1           So anyway, we got that and then the other time, when  
2           they were trying to teach me to whistle, my brother and  
3           a few other lads, because we were standing -- it is like  
4           there was a swing park, where the wee swing was at the  
5           become, there was a square bit and we were standing  
6           there. They were trying to teach me to whistle and one  
7           of their nuns came out and says, no, stop whistling  
8           because girls are not meant to whistle. I never got  
9           beaten or anything from her; she says, girls aren't  
10          meant to whistle, only boys, and then that was it. That  
11          was it.

12         Q. The sweetie episode you mentioned, actually can you tell  
13          us about that because it is something you do tell us  
14          about in your statement. What happened about the  
15          sweetie episode?

16         A. Yeah, right. Seemingly they tried to say that  
17          chocolates were stolen, these chocolates were stolen.  
18          I never, ever seen a chocolate in there. So they tried  
19          to blame me for stealing a box of chocolates. That was  
20          a weird one because I thought I have never seen  
21          chocolates. So they put a wee table in my bedroom and  
22          I sat there and they put a suckie sweetie there -- it  
23          was like a long kind of sweetie, like a fruit sweetie --  
24          and they told me not to eat it, not to touch it, but I'm  
25          sitting staring at it and I'm thinking, I want that

1           sweetie. So they went out the room and I put it in my  
2           mouth and starting sucking it and putting it back and  
3           thinking they won't ken I've done it. I got a beating  
4           for that, they beat me up for that, for sucking it.

5           The next time, I sucked it when they went out.  
6           I got a beating for that, but then like the kind of  
7           third time I thought I might as well just eat it and get  
8           the last beating. Because you were actually getting  
9           kind of used to the kind of beatings. It was like if  
10          you didn't cry, you got beaten, if you cried, you got  
11          beaten, you just couldn't win between them, so I thought  
12          I may as well eat the sweetie and get my last beating  
13          from them.

14         Q. Is that what you did?

15         A. Yes.

16         Q. I now want to look at the sort of abuse that you  
17           suffered when you were at Smyllum. What you tell us in  
18           your statement is that you were beaten practically every  
19           day.

20         A. Yeah, most days.

21         Q. I just want to look at the detail of that, if you don't  
22           mind. Who was responsible for that?

23         A. Well, the Mother Superior was very cruel to [REDACTED] and  
24           there was a time the Mother Superior was there and --  
25           because I told a little girl about my age that her

1 brother was in the Down's syndrome place. So they took  
2 me to the round table, as you call it, and they were all  
3 there, all the nuns round the round table, and they  
4 brought the little girl in with the Down's syndrome boy  
5 and they asked the little girl to beat me up. But she  
6 started crying saying, I don't want to beat her up,  
7 I don't want to beat her up. She was about my age. So  
8 they asked the wee boy who had this Down's syndrome to  
9 beat me up.

10 They took one of their belts off and gave it to the  
11 wee boy, but he was strangling me. I was trying to get  
12 under the table because I was that scared, trying to get  
13 under the table, but he took me -- he didn't know, it  
14 wasn't his fault, because he was a wee laddie, I know.  
15 But he's took me and he's strangling me with it and  
16 I remember choking and then they grabbed him off me.

17 Then they all held me and they just beat me and beat  
18 me until I blanked out because all I seen was black and  
19 when I woke up I was tied to the bed again. And I was  
20 just in agony over my body.

21 Q. That was a particular episode that you are telling us  
22 about. But looking more generally at the beatings that  
23 you tell us that you got practically every day, can  
24 I just ask you: were there particular nuns that were  
25 responsible for doing that to you?

- 1 A. More like Sister **AEX** and Sister **AFY** were the  
2 cruellest to me.
- 3 Q. Can you tell me in the course of these beatings that you  
4 have mentioned what would happen? What would they do to  
5 you?
- 6 A. Just always -- like when I was getting my ears done,  
7 like say in the bathroom, and it was like cotton wool  
8 stuff, I remember them sitting me on the bunker, they  
9 were kind of fiddling about with my ear, but I was  
10 struggling and my sister was there at the time, because  
11 she always spoke about that, and I fell off the bunker,  
12 so they took me and she started pulling on -- yanking my  
13 hair out, kicking me, and beating me to a pulp and back  
14 on the bed again, tied up. It's strange.
- 15 Q. Apart from that sort of beating, were any implements  
16 used in any of the beatings you suffered?
- 17 A. It was more like with their feet and their hands, but  
18 that time with the belt when I conked out.
- 19 Q. You also tell us in your statement that apart from the  
20 nuns beating you -- and you have mentioned the episode  
21 with the boy -- that also other girls who were at  
22 Smyllum would beat you. Can you help me with that?
- 23 A. They would tell them to start punching into you -- not  
24 actually batter you, can actually hit you, but some of  
25 them didn't want to do it.

1 Q. These are older girls?

2 A. They are older girls but I actually witnessed it for  
3 myself, that that happened. I was all right, but it  
4 wasn't very nice at all, but I think they were scared of  
5 the nuns, to be honest.

6 Q. Did that happen to you, were you --

7 A. No, I was all right.

8 Q. The occasion you mentioned involving the handicapped  
9 boy, were you left bruised after that?

10 A. I would have been, I was in agony. I was aches and  
11 pains after it --

12 Q. You do tell us --

13 A. -- sore for days.

14 Q. You do tell us about an occasion when you were setting  
15 the table in the dining room when something happened;  
16 what happened on that occasion?

17 A. They asked me to help them set the dining room, but  
18 I didn't know how to kind of set it up and then -- it  
19 was like when I was trying to eat with a fork,  
20 I couldn't eat right properly because I was kind of  
21 a lot younger then and they says, that's not the way you  
22 eat with a fork. That was after setting up that wee  
23 bit. I remember her just whacking me with it, but  
24 I remember grabbing the knife, I fell into the corner  
25 and I was trying to cut my throat just to get rid of

1 everything. I thought, I might as well just go. But it  
2 was the wrong way the knife, it was actually the blunt  
3 bit that I took hoping I could -- but then they grabbed  
4 it off me.

5 Q. What happened after that? Can you remember?

6 A. Back up the stair again and that was it really. I can't  
7 remember. So many times this just happened and happened  
8 and happened. I couldn't tell you how many times what  
9 they done, why they gave me a beating. That's all I can  
10 remember in that place, to be honest.

11 There was only one nun that was really nice and  
12 I had done a pee outside because it seemed too far away  
13 to get in for a pee, so I done it in the woods, but  
14 I got caught doing a pee, so I got dragged inside up to  
15 my bedroom. She told me to bark like a dog --

16 Q. When you say "she", again can you tell me --

17 A. One of the Sisters, Sister [REDACTED] AEX or Sister [REDACTED] AFY ,  
18 one of the two, because they were in my room because she  
19 went through there after it.

20 She told me to bark like a dog, act like a monkey,  
21 bending my fingers, nearly practically breaking them.  
22 Just everything really, to be honest with you.

23 Q. You were talking about the nun that was nice to you.

24 After that were you told to go and scrub your nails?

25 A. No, nails -- took me into the shower bit where there's a

1 sink, she was scrubbing them with a big brush and they  
2 were like bleeding, and one of the Sisters walked in and  
3 went, "What are you doing with that child?" But then  
4 she took her away outside, outside the door, obviously  
5 whispering, and she came back, the Sister that was doing  
6 that to my nails, making them bleed, threw me in the  
7 shower and left me under the shower for hours, just  
8 sitting there.

9 Q. So the other nun had come --

10 A. And I never seen her again.

11 Q. She had obviously interrupted what was going on --

12 A. Yes, she did. She actually said that, "What are you  
13 doing with that child?" Like she was really angry with  
14 the Sister for doing that.

15 Q. You also tell us in your statement about an episode, or  
16 perhaps more than one episode, that involved putting  
17 tubes down your throat. Can you help me with that? How  
18 did that happen?

19 A. Well, I quite believe -- because I know myself was  
20 undernourished because sometimes they would starve you,  
21 you wouldn't eat, you wouldn't get your tea at times,  
22 and when you couldn't eat what they would do is put the  
23 tubes down your throat and I remember biting  
24 Sister FAS s finger because I was screaming because  
25 I didn't want these tubes down my throat, obviously to

1 force-feed me. But at the time I didn't know what was  
2 going on at the time and why and blah, blah, blah.

3 I remember -- I don't know -- struggling and  
4 I managed to bite Sister **FAS**'s finger and she called  
5 me for everything, you know, what a bitch and whatever.

6 Q. This is a different nun that you are mentioning,

7 Sister **FAS**

8 A. Yes, she was the one that takes the nits out your hair.

9 Q. Was this just one occasion this happened then with the  
10 tubes?

11 A. With the tubes I can remember that time -- that was the  
12 only time with the fingers, biting her finger.

13 Q. Was this attempt to feed you with a tube in that way  
14 unsuccessful then? It didn't work?

15 A. Well, I could have blacked out, or whatever, I don't  
16 remember, to be honest, but I always remember biting her  
17 finger through that.

18 Q. You also tell us about an episode where you saw a nun  
19 with a tomato box.

20 A. It is a big box, right, we were all sleeping and I don't  
21 know what time it was, she woke the whole dormitory up,  
22 shouting her head off stating there was a baby -- one of  
23 the Sisters done a sin and had a baby and we are going  
24 to bury the baby alive for her sins. So we have had to  
25 live with that for years.

1           But then I'm saying to myself years later, were they  
2           just trying to play with our heads, was it true, was it  
3           real? Because it is a hard one to take in, that one.  
4           Because I'm thinking, were they just trying to make us  
5           demented? Was there really a baby in the box?

6       Q. You also tell us about being woken up during -- early  
7           and have a meeting with priests, and something happened  
8           with the priests; can you tell me about that?

9       A. Yes, they used to take us downstairs to the living room  
10           to make us sit on their knee, me and my sister, and we  
11           used to have to wiggle, they used to tell you to wiggle  
12           on their knee.

13      Q. On whose knee?

14      A. Some of the priests and monks, they would dress up like  
15           monks, kind of the big things, the hats they've got,  
16           like the big veil thing, and we used to sit on their  
17           knees and we used to have to wiggle on it, and they  
18           would take us off and shouting "You dirty bitch" and all  
19           this to us, "You're nothing but this and that", and I'm  
20           thinking, but you're telling us to do it.

21      Q. How often did this happen?

22      A. Quite a few times that happened to me and my sister. It  
23           was only me and my sister that was actually down the  
24           stair. There was a few of them sitting there, about  
25           three or four roughly, and the nuns would actually sit

- 1 and watch that and tell you what to do and then they  
2 would drag you off, calling us for everything. They  
3 told us to do that, do you know what I mean, so they  
4 were making us feel dirty.
- 5 Q. You also mentioned something about the nuns and other  
6 boys.
- 7 A. Yes.
- 8 Q. What was that about?
- 9 A. In my bedroom Sister **AEX** and Sister **AFY** would be  
10 in that room, and they would send a boy through to, you  
11 know -- you know, like up and down, but then they would  
12 kind of be sore, I would be sore, out the side, it  
13 wouldn't actually go in, if you know what I mean, and  
14 they would be like, I'm sore, the boys would be sore.
- 15 Q. Is this some sort of sexual activity you are talking  
16 about?
- 17 A. Yes.
- 18 Q. You don't want to go into the detail of it?
- 19 A. No.
- 20 Q. But the nuns had some involvement in this?
- 21 A. Oh yes, because they would stand and watch.
- 22 Q. How often did this happen?
- 23 A. That happened quite a few times, quite a lot of times.
- 24 Q. Who were the boys?
- 25 A. About my age roughly as well at the time, just little

1           boys as well.

2           Q.   So boys in Smyllum?

3           A.   Mm.

4           Q.   You do say, Janie, in your statement that photographs  
5           were taken of you when at Smyllum.

6           A.   Yes, in my bedroom.  But I had to smile.  They made you  
7           smile to get a photograph taken.  Don't know what that  
8           was for.  I haven't a clue.

9           Q.   Were you wearing clothes when the photographs were  
10          taken?

11          A.   No, I was naked.

12          Q.   Who took the photographs?

13          A.   Some of the Sisters.  Could be Sister **AFY** or  
14          Sister **AEX** taking them.  They would be standing  
15          there and they would say "Smile!" and you kind of  
16          smiled.  It wasn't real the smile.

17          Q.   Was it just yourself?

18          A.   Just myself.

19          Q.   Do you know what the reasoning for this was?

20          A.   Not at the time, no.  Not at the time, no.

21          Q.   You also tell us about an incident that seemed to be  
22          some form of ritual.  Can you help me with that?  What  
23          was that about?

24          A.   Well to be honest nowadays I think they were a cult, but  
25          what happened was they would take us from our bed at

- 1 night, they would take us to the big field --
- 2 Q. When you say "us", who are the us?
- 3 A. Like my sister, my brother, other kids from the
- 4 dormitories.
- 5 Q. And the "they" --
- 6 A. Quite a lot of us.
- 7 Q. The "they" there, who are the they that are doing this?
- 8 A. The Sisters.
- 9 Q. How many Sisters are you talking about?
- 10 A. Quite a lot, quite a lot of the Sisters, maybe five,
- 11 six, maybe more. Kind of like -- I don't know, I didn't
- 12 count at the time. And they take us downstairs into the
- 13 big field, make us all in a circle, dance round a tree,
- 14 then after that they took us to the back of the
- 15 church -- because there used to be a church there, the
- 16 chapel -- and they would take us down the stair, it was
- 17 quite dingy and dark with candles. They took us to the
- 18 bottom of it and there would be a big slab, a big square
- 19 slab. They lay me on that --
- 20 Q. What happened in the fields? You were taken to
- 21 fields --
- 22 A. The field in front of the home.
- 23 Q. What happened there?
- 24 A. We danced round a tree. In a circle.
- 25 Q. And was anything being said when this dancing was going

1           on?

2       A. To be honest, I don't know. I just remember dancing

3           round the tree in a big circle, going round it and round

4           it.

5       Q. Was this the children and the Sisters?

6       A. Yes.

7       Q. After that do you say you went into the chapel?

8       A. Went into the chapel.

9       Q. And what happened then?

10      A. Went down the stairs, it was quite dark, very dark, wee

11      candles lit, got right to the bottom, there was a big

12      slab, everybody sat round -- even the children sat round

13      and the nuns. I was sitting on one of the nun's knee,

14      she gave me a lollipop and after that they laid me on

15      the slab and they said, "The devil is coming out now".

16      And he came out with a big kind of hoody and that, with

17      the big hoods, came round to me, done a certain thing to

18      me.

19      Q. Who, so I can understand it?

20      A. I don't know who the guy was.

21      Q. It was a man?

22      A. Yes.

23      Q. It was wearing some outfit?

24      A. Yes, like the monks wear, the big thing. They said it

25      was the devil and he was doing something to me, blah,

1           blah, blah.

2           Q.   Again I don't want the detail but, when you say he was  
3           doing something, was it something sexual?

4           A.   Yes, with his tongue.   But anyway then after that they  
5           took me outside, buried me alive, left me there.   But  
6           the funny thing is one of the Sisters said in my ear,  
7           "Don't worry, **AAX**, you're not getting taken, don't  
8           worry, you will get back out".

9           Q.   She was whispering?

10          A.   She whispered in my ear one -- of the nuns said, "Don't  
11          worry, you will get back out".

12          Q.   Where were you put?

13          A.   It was like a big drain thing at the side of the chapel.

14          Q.   Did you say a drain?

15          A.   Aye, it is like a big drain, it's like a silver thing,  
16          they lifted that and put me there all night.

17                    One of the Sisters just whispered in my ear --  
18                    saying that, I think that's what kept me alive that  
19                    night because I was struggling.   I was struggling.  
20                    I didn't want to go in.   But when one of the Sisters  
21                    says, "Don't worry, **AAX** you will get out, you are  
22                    like -- you will be --" you know, I kind of -- I am sure  
23                    that's what kept me alive because I was thinking that  
24                    when I was under there but I couldn't move.   So  
25                    obviously I fell asleep and in the morning they opened

1           it up, let me out -- and I remember the sun, I could  
2           remember -- probably, I was in there a few days and  
3           I was like, I remember the sun hitting my eyes,  
4           I couldn't see and then they dragged me up the stair  
5           into a bath. It was meant to be blood because it was  
6           all red because they said, "You are going into a bath  
7           with blood". I was struggling not to get in there.  
8           Struggling. I was screaming. Now that I'm older it  
9           probably was dye, red dye, but they made out it was  
10          blood to me.

11         Q. You went into the bath?

12         A. Yes. Soaked me under it and everything.

13         Q. I think also you tell us that just before you left  
14          Smyllum that some boxes were put into your room.

15         A. Aye, it was like toy boxes, that's right.

16         Q. What was the position there? Why was that being done?

17         A. Well, I don't remember them going in, but when I was in  
18          that bedroom, it must have been just before I was  
19          leaving because it was like toy boxes in a row and me  
20          and my sister -- they put us in there, we were crouched  
21          and they were sitting on the box, we were screaming to  
22          get out --

23         Q. So you were put into one of the boxes?

24         A. My sister as well.

25         Q. In the same box?

1       A. No, a different box, because they were all wee square  
2       boxes, and they sat on them and we were screaming and  
3       screaming to get out and they were going to say, You are  
4       in there forever, you will never get back out", kind of  
5       all these things in your head and suddenly I got out but  
6       that's the kind of treatment that they would do to  
7       people. Definitely.

8       Q. And do you think this was --

9       A. Play with their heads --

10      Q. -- on your last day?

11      A. On my last day they took me to the round table --

12      Q. I will come to that in a moment, but do you think this  
13      episode with the box was at about that time?

14      A. Yes, definitely, because I got out after that. Not  
15      straightaway after that, but I got out after that.  
16      Because it was just be in your bedroom one time and then  
17      the next minute those play boxes were put in.

18      Q. Before we look at when you came to leave Smyllum, I just  
19      want to ask you about things that might have happened to  
20      you outwith Smyllum, in other places. I mean you tell  
21      us for example in your statement about being taken to  
22      another house outside Smyllum. Do you remember that?  
23      What happened there?

24      A. In the holidays you mean?

25      Q. I think it is in paragraph 82 of your statement where

1           you say that:

2           "One of the Sisters used to take me to a house  
3           outside the home. I think the house belonged to a young  
4           girl."

5       A. No. What happened was one of the Sisters took me,  
6       ██████████ and I, to her house, which must have been her  
7       house, but she was still in her robe, her kind of  
8       uniform. I remember we slept in the same bed as her,  
9       but she never done nothing to us -- no, that was it --  
10      she says, "Go in the wardrobe, there's coat hangers  
11      there", and I remember thinking, I don't want to open  
12      that, no. Because I thought she was going to lock me in  
13      it and I was like, I'm not opening that wardrobe, no,  
14      I don't want to open it. She said, "How, why?" I said,  
15      "Because you will lock me in." She said, "I'm not going  
16      to lock you in".

17           Then after that me and my sister got to sleep beside  
18      her but she was in the middle and we -- my sister  
19      mentioned it as well, I always remember that years  
20      ago -- and I remember kind of -- away from the -- kind  
21      of actually going away from the Sister like that  
22      (indicates) and she thought there was a problem  
23      obviously, but I don't know if she reported anything of  
24      that.

25      Q. I think that may be a different incident from the one

1           you told us in your statement because in your statement  
2           you tell us about being taken to a house belonging to  
3           a young girl and it was near the swing park and  
4           something happened then.

5           A. Oh yes, aye. One of the Sisters used to take me. Now  
6           there is a swing park just outside the gates and there  
7           was a row of houses. They are still there to this day.  
8           They are still there, those houses. She used to take me  
9           in there and she said to the girl, "Now, I enjoy  
10          everything that's going on" -- I always remember the  
11          words, like I enjoy it, to the young girl, saying that  
12          to the young girl. Then when I had to go through to the  
13          bedroom, she's lying there, the nun, with her legs  
14          bloody open and all that, and I had to lick her, you ken  
15          what I'm talking about, and still telling the girl  
16          that --

17          Q. Licking her private parts?

18          A. Yes, and telling her that I enjoyed doing that. I hated  
19          it because I used to just shut my eyes, you know, and  
20          try and kind of put it to the back of my head.

21          Q. You say in your statement at least that the people in  
22          the house used to drug you and do certain things to you.

23          A. That is right. It's pills. They gave me pills, like  
24          wee pills you would get. But obviously the young girl  
25          that was there, maybe it wasn't her fault maybe she was

1           scared. I don't know, that was the weird thing because  
2           I thought I wonder if she was ever in Smyllum and they  
3           got her the house, I don't know.

4        Q. But the people in the house, there were other people in  
5           the house as well, was there?

6        A. No it was one of the Sisters and the girl, and that was  
7           it.

8        Q. Another incident I just wanted to ask you about finally  
9           in relation to what happened to you and that's one time  
10           when you and your sister were taken out of bed at night  
11           and taken somewhere.

12       A. Yeah.

13       Q. Can you tell me about that?

14       A. Right, what happened was we got taken out of our beds,  
15           it was really dark, got taken into a van. They put  
16           a blanket over us. I remember trying to get up from the  
17           blanket and then I got punched. I always remember the  
18           guys that obviously were driving and who was in front  
19           shouting like, "There's the bobbies, we'd better go that  
20           way".

21                Then they took us to this place. They tried to put  
22           a straitjacket on me at the time, but they were laughing  
23           because it was too big for me --

24       Q. Are you at the place now?

25       A. Yes.

- 1 Q. So you are taken to a place?
- 2 A. Yes.
- 3 Q. Was that fairly close to Smyllum, do you know?
- 4 A. It was years later when I used to think back as well  
5 where it was and thinking, I'm sure it was there,  
6 I could be wrong, I could be wrong, but I always thought  
7 it was -- I always got the name wrong, it was always at  
8 the tip of my tongue. Don't know why I always think it  
9 was that place that my sister and I went to.
- 10 Q. In any event, you are there and you are in a room; is  
11 that correct?
- 12 A. It is like a kind of cell, like a cell, and then these  
13 guys were trying to put a straitjacket on me and they  
14 were laughing.
- 15 Q. So there were men there?
- 16 A. Yes.
- 17 Q. How many? Can you remember?
- 18 A. I was that confused -- there was quite a few anyway.
- 19 Q. What about nuns? Were any nuns there?
- 20 A. I didn't see them actually there but they took us in the  
21 van. They were sitting in the van with us.
- 22 Q. And what happened then in the place?
- 23 A. Then after that, because the straitjacket was too big  
24 for me, they threw us on the floor, like a wee mat  
25 thing, and then they started beating into us with

1 sticks, injecting us, and then all I could hear was my  
2 sister screaming because she was there and I was lying  
3 there (indicates), I was -- they told us to put my face  
4 to the wall, not to look. My sister was screaming and  
5 then, bang, I was conked out, that was it. So I don't  
6 know how long I was there for, to be honest with you.  
7 I haven't got a clue.

8 Q. You provide some detail about this in your statement, we  
9 needn't look at the detail, but in due course were you  
10 taken back to Smyllum?

11 A. Later on in time, yes.

12 Q. Did you tell anybody about what had happened to you?

13 A. Not there, no. Not there. Not in there. Not in the  
14 home. Because then they said if I had any kids, they  
15 would take my kids away, so it was quite frightening --  
16 until I went to Glasclune and that's when it all came  
17 out.

18 Q. We are coming to that now then. Can I take you to the  
19 day when you leave Smyllum. You have told us you were  
20 taken to the round table; is that a sort of parlour area  
21 within Smyllum?

22 A. That's upstairs. That was the very, very top part where  
23 obviously probably the Sisters sat and ate there and  
24 things like that.

25 Q. But you are taken there; what about your brother and

1 sister?

2 A. It was just myself.

3 Q. What happened then on that occasion?

4 A. Seemingly there was a social worker there and I can

5 remember what she looks like: kind of slim, kind of

6 blonde kind of hair, slim. She took a crystal to me and

7 she kind of kept going like that (indicates), with your

8 eyes to follow this crystal, and she says at the end of

9 it all, blah, blah, blah, then she says, "Do you

10 remember anything that happened here?" and something

11 made me stop and I thought I had better say no because

12 if I say yes I might never get out of here. So I went,

13 "No, I can't remember nothing, I don't remember a thing,

14 anything that happened in here".

15 Q. Are you suggesting this was an attempt to hypnotise you?

16 A. Yes.

17 Q. Do you think this was a social worker?

18 A. They said it was a social worker.

19 Q. Had you seen a social worker before at Smyllum?

20 A. Not really, no.

21 Q. In any event, that was your last day and that's when you

22 left?

23 A. Yes and then afterwards I says, "I can't remember

24 anything that happened here", because I knew I had to

25 say that, I just knew I had to say that. Then, they

1           says, right, you can pack your stuff and you can go, and  
2           then that was it really. Then we got out.

3           Q. When you came to leave did you leave with your brother  
4           and your sister?

5           A. I would have done at the time, but that's the funny  
6           thing, I can't remember. Unless it was days later we  
7           got out, I don't know, because I can't remember that  
8           bit, getting away.

9           Q. I think, as we discussed earlier, Janie, you left  
10          Smyllum on [REDACTED] 1968, when you were aged about 7.

11          A. That would have been about 7.

12          Q. You went to stay with your mother?

13          A. Yes, that is right, we did actually, because that was us  
14          taken away in the same car. That is right. Because  
15          then we went there to Pilton, that is right,  
16          (inaudible) circus.

17          Q. That's where your mother was staying at the time?

18          A. Yes.

19          Q. After about six months or so you go to Glasclune in  
20          [REDACTED] 1969?

21          A. Right.

22          Q. I think that was run by Barnardo's.

23          A. Yes.

24          Q. Judging by what you have told us already, I'm not going  
25          to look at the detail of what happened at Glasclune,

1           that was a perfectly acceptable experience for you.

2           A. Beautiful experience in Glasclune for me.

3           Q. That was a much smaller place, wasn't it --

4           A. Yes, that was much smaller Glasclune.

5           Q. -- compared to Smyllum?

6           A. Yes, because we were all actually together in Glasclune,

7           we could mix with the boys or brothers or sisters, we

8           could mix with each other.

9           Q. You left Glasclune in [REDACTED] 1977, when you were 16.

10          A. Yes.

11          Q. So you were there for quite a considerable period of

12          time?

13          A. Yes.

14          Q. Did you go to the local schools then when you were

15          there?

16          A. I went to a special class for -- I went to primary then

17          went to a special class just to try and catch up in all

18          my like work, because I was quite slow at the time.

19          Q. Can I ask you about this: did you go to visit Smyllum

20          while you were at Glasclune?

21          A. Yes.

22          Q. What was the purpose behind that?

23          A. Well, I say to one of the girls when I was about 13/14,

24          something like that, that I was going back to stab

25          Sister [REDACTED] AEX and Sister [REDACTED] AFY I really wanted to

1 do that to them. I really wanted to harm them.

2 Q. To stab them?

3 A. Yes. So [REDACTED] told Eric and Doris.

4 Q. Eric and Doris ran the home?

5 A. Yes, I says I am going to run away and I am going to get  
6 a bus and I am going to do this and that to them, so  
7 [REDACTED] went and told Eric and Doris.

8 Q. What age were you then, can you remember?

9 A. I would be about 12, 13, 14, kind of that age at the  
10 time when I said it to [REDACTED]. So she went away and  
11 told them, so Eric and Doris took me into the office and  
12 says, "Right, we heard that you are wanting to do this  
13 to Sister [REDACTED] AEX and Sister [REDACTED] AFY ". So I says,  
14 "Well, [REDACTED] is lying", but they knew right away  
15 because I mentioned [REDACTED] without saying who said  
16 that, they went, "Yes, she did say that, [REDACTED] AAX ". But  
17 I have always taken my hat off to [REDACTED] to this day  
18 because I still seen [REDACTED]

19 So they sat and spoke to me and they says, [REDACTED] AAX , if  
20 you will do something like that, you will not have any  
21 friends, nobody will want to know you as you are growing  
22 up because they will be scared of you. So I took that  
23 in turn and thought, yes, you are correct, you know, you  
24 are right there.

25 So what she said is, what we will do is get one of

1 the staff, Donna Ferrier, to take you, like say next  
2 week, or something like that, then you can go back with  
3 Donna. So anyway that following week I went to Donna on  
4 the train, I was walking down the path. As I'm walking  
5 down the path, I'm getting more scared. I'm like --  
6 then I gets to the door but the strangest thing was that  
7 little girl that answered that door when I first went  
8 there, the girl with long blonde hair, and I went to  
9 Donna I said, "That's the same girl who was there when I  
10 first came here". I don't know what happened there,  
11 that was the weirdest thing that ever happened to me as  
12 well.

13 Then one of the Sisters came, "Oh come in", and all  
14 this. But I was getting scared as I was going in.  
15 I was like, I don't really want to be here. And then  
16 she took me up to my bedroom where I was, that was  
17 a playroom after that, the children were sitting round  
18 in a circle, very quiet, then she went, "This is AAX  
19 that used to live here", and all this, but I was looking  
20 down at them and I'm going, "This is still happening".

21 Their wee eyes were staring at me, I always  
22 remember, just staring at me, looking up at me, and I'm  
23 going, "This is still going on". I could feel it in my  
24 blood, everything. I thought, Donna, I just want to  
25 leave, I just want to get out of here.

1           So we came out, walking up the path, and I told the  
2           staff at Glascune: Donna, it is still happening.

3           Q. Did you enquire as to whether either Sister [REDACTED] AEX or  
4           Sister [REDACTED] AFY were there?

5           A. I asked, yes, as soon as I got to the door, the Sister  
6           came to the door after that girl with the long blonde  
7           hair answering it, which was strange to me, because I  
8           said that to Donna coming out, I went, "That seemed like  
9           the same girl that answered the door as when I was  
10          a kid", but that's the first thing I say to them, is  
11          Sister [REDACTED] AEX and Sister [REDACTED] AFY here. That's the  
12          first thing I says to her. Oh no, they've left, they're  
13          away now.

14          Q. So that was the position?

15          A. Yeah.

16          Q. Just looking to the time frame, if you are into your  
17          teens, then we are talking about the 1970s when you went  
18          on this visit, would that be about right, some time in  
19          the 1970s?

20          A. I'm funny with dates, but my age group -- I know my kind  
21          of age at the time.

22          Q. So if you were 14, let's say, then that would take you  
23          into the mid-1970s.

24          A. Right.

25          Q. Looking to your year of birth being 1961, so it would be

1 the mid 1970s when you went on that visit.

2 A. Yes, definitely, because I know I was in high school at  
3 the time. I was definitely in high school at the time.

4 Q. As we have already established, Janie, you left  
5 Glasclune when you were 16.

6 A. Yes.

7 Q. Without looking at the detail of this, what you tell us  
8 is after Glasclune, as you put it, you went here, there  
9 and everywhere. You went to different places after you  
10 left Glasclune?

11 A. That is right, yes.

12 Q. I think you had quite a difficult time after you left;  
13 would that be a fair summary of your life after  
14 Glasclune?

15 A. Yes.

16 Q. The reporting of the abuse. Now, did you report what  
17 had happened to you at Smyllum as you have told us to  
18 anybody?

19 A. Well, in Glasclune, Eric and Doris spoke to my sister,  
20 me and my brother, took us into the office -- because it  
21 maybe was the way we were behaving at the time, I don't  
22 know. They thought at first maybe my mother had to do  
23 with something, the way we were kind of behaving. And  
24 they came out with it, your mother, and [REDACTED] went, no,  
25 it was the nuns that done blah, blah, blah, blah, blah,

1           blah, blah. So I felt I could speak out because of my  
2           brother opening up, because I was always scared to open  
3           up. So I thought, yeah, I can speak up now, and then  
4           I told Eric and Doris parts of mine, [REDACTED] told about  
5           hers, [REDACTED] told about his.

6           Q. Do you think the full story, as you have set out in your  
7           statement and have told us today, would have been  
8           disclosed to Eric and Doris?

9           A. Well, I have got a feeling they would have been writing  
10          that down because every detail what you do in the home  
11          they have got to put that in a log, like if you were  
12          naughty, "AAX was naughty, she is not getting her  
13          pocket money", they had that in a file. When we spoke  
14          about what took place in Smyllum, I know for a fact they  
15          would have wrote that down.

16          Q. What I'm asking you is: do you think then you did tell  
17          them what you have told us in your statement and also  
18          what you have told us today?

19          A. Part of it because there was a part when I came out with  
20          something and I told them what Sister [REDACTED] AEX and  
21          Sister [REDACTED] AFY made me do to them, well Doris kind of  
22          went, you are lying, [REDACTED] AAX, so I got up and ran away, to  
23          run out the office, thinking, god, I'm not getting  
24          believed because of the what happened in the nunnery  
25          that time and I tried to speak up. She went, no, come

1 back, I believe you, I believe every word. Because the  
2 last time, when I tried to speak up to one of the  
3 Sisters on the couch, and this girl was kind of rocking  
4 back and forward, and I'm kind of looking at the girl  
5 and then I have tried to tell one of the Sisters and  
6 that would have been Sister **FAS**, the one that takes  
7 your nits and all that out, and I tried to tell her what  
8 they kind of made me do, and she went, "You are a liar,  
9 you are disgusting", and that was the other time when  
10 they took me -- when they all came down whispering down  
11 behind my back, there were loads of them, and that's  
12 when they dragged me off the couch, took me upstairs,  
13 and gave me electric shocks again.

14 Q. What I'm asking, Janie, when you spoke to Eric and  
15 Doris, eventually over the period you spoke to them  
16 about your time at Smyllum, did you tell them all that  
17 you put in your statement and what you have told us  
18 today?

19 A. No, because the nearest I got to what -- to them when  
20 I told them that Sister **AEX** and Sister **AFY**  
21 wanted me to do to them, that was the nearest I got in  
22 there. But then afterwards, when we got to leave the  
23 office, she goes, look, if you feel you want to come  
24 back and tell us any more, you can come back and let us  
25 know. But then, just as I have walked away, I have kind

1 of run back into the office and said this and that and  
2 she's like, **AAX**, we will kind of leave it now, and  
3 I was like right, but not in a bad way, I think she was  
4 wanting us to kind of get on -- but I was wanting to say  
5 everything at that time, I was wanting to say this is  
6 what they have done, go and get them.

7 Q. But over a period of time you told them what had  
8 happened to you?

9 A. The police?

10 Q. No, over the time you were there, did you tell them --

11 A. Not really because it was kind of -- I think Eric and  
12 Doris were trying to protect the children in there  
13 because they were coming from abused families as well  
14 and blah, blah, blah. So they had to kind of protect us  
15 in there because I think if they had to go to the police  
16 and do this and that, then anything could have happened  
17 to us in the home, so they were kind of trying to  
18 protect all of us.

19 Q. Can I ask you this: in relation to the police, did you  
20 at some point speak to the police about what had  
21 happened to you at Smyllum?

22 A. Years later that came about.

23 Q. Years later?

24 A. Yeah.

25 Q. Can you let me understand what happened there. Did you

1 go to the police or did they come to you?

2 A. I went to Kathleen Nutt --

3 Q. She was a press person?

4 A. Yes, that's it, up at -- I was told to go up to -- it

5 was a news place, the big massive place up the Bridges

6 where I first spoke to Kathleen.

7 Q. Can you tell me when that was? What year?

8 A. When that was? Going back years now.

9 Q. In your statement you mention sort of 2007. I don't

10 know if that's --

11 A. (Inaudible) was 10, maybe 10 at the time. Going a way,

12 way back. See, I'm funny with dates. Funny with dates.

13 Q. In any event, in more recent times. It is when you were

14 an adult and --

15 A. Yes, I was an adult at the time.

16 Q. So you became involved with this press lady?

17 A. Yes.

18 Q. And was it through her that you made contact with the

19 police?

20 A. Yes.

21 Q. Can you tell me about that, what happened?

22 A. They came up to speak to me. I gave them details of

23 what took place in Smyllum.

24 Q. What was their reaction to that?

25 A. Well, there was a lady and a man, and when I tell them

1 something, it was funny, because they kind of laughed.  
2 And I thought, why are you laughing? It was a certain  
3 thing I said that I had to do to one of the Sisters and,  
4 I don't know, it could have just been a nervous laugh or  
5 something, they were kind of like ha-ha, so I was  
6 like -- so I got a bit feart thinking, why are you  
7 laughing like that, what's funny about that.

8 I can't remember because they came out with  
9 something stating, yes, yes, it's all right, we know, we  
10 know, which was a weird one. But then I got a phone  
11 call stating like months and months afterwards, that  
12 Sister [REDACTED] AEX was going up to court. I thought, "Where  
13 about?" and they says, "We can't tell you that, [REDACTED] AAX .

14 Q. So what came of it then, this meeting you had with the  
15 police so far as you are aware?

16 A. Well, I was hoping they were going to get them and put  
17 them in jail.

18 Q. But that didn't happen?

19 A. No.

20 Q. Did you tell them most of what had happened to you at  
21 Smyllum?

22 A. Yes, yes.

23 MR MacAULAY: My Lady, I don't have too long to go with  
24 Janie's evidence, but it might be a good time to have  
25 a short break.

1 LADY SMITH: Yes. We usually have a break about this point  
2 in the morning anyway, Janie --

3 A. Okay.

4 LADY SMITH: -- so everybody gets a breather, particularly  
5 the stenographers, who have been working away since your  
6 evidence started at 10. So we will have a break now and  
7 sit again at about 11.45 am.

8 (11.30 am)

9 (A short break)

10 (11.45 am)

11 LADY SMITH: Mr MacAulay.

12 MR MacAULAY: My Lady.

13 Janie, you tell us in your statement -- and I'm not  
14 going to take you through the detail of it -- about what  
15 impact your experience at Smyllum had on you and on your  
16 life. One of the things you do tell us is that you did  
17 spend some time in hospital as a result of what you saw  
18 your experience to have been.

19 A. That is correct, yes.

20 Q. I don't want to look at the detail of that, but you also  
21 tell us that you have gone to the graveyard at Smyllum,  
22 is that right --

23 A. That's correct, yes.

24 Q. -- to put flowers down for the children who are buried  
25 there?

1 A. Yes.

2 Q. If I take you back -- can I take you to your statement  
3 then, Janie, on page 37 of your statement. At  
4 paragraphs 168 and 169 you set out some final thoughts;  
5 do you see that?

6 A. Yes.

7 Q. Would you like to read these or shall I read them for  
8 you?

9 A. I don't mind. If you want to read them, that would be  
10 good, thank you.

11 Q. Very well. I will read that for you:

12 "No matter what age they are, we deserve justice.  
13 I think that the people who abused me should be taken to  
14 court, punished and sent to jail for what they did.  
15 I remember the police said to me that the people who  
16 abused me may be old and frail. I said to them that  
17 what people are forgetting is that we were also frail  
18 when we were kids. We didn't have the strength to fight  
19 back. We were too weak to fight back. Even though they  
20 are old and frail, they should be told exactly what  
21 their crimes were and then be made to sit in jail. They  
22 should be punished. They have separated a lot of  
23 families. They have taken away a lot of people and  
24 I suspect they have also murdered people. We should get  
25 justice. They are now just sitting back, thinking they

1 have got away with it. That gets to me.

2 "The funny thing is, I know two wrongs don't make  
3 a right. I can't be cruel. I have a heart. I think  
4 that they will they will all be punished some time  
5 another way because of karma. I think that I am  
6 a better person than them and they can get just what's  
7 coming to them. Thinking these two things at the same  
8 time confuses me."

9 I think that sets out your final thoughts.

10 A. Yes, that is correct.

11 Q. Can I just say this to you, Janie: the nuns who may have  
12 been at Smyllum during your time have been spoken to by  
13 the Inquiry. So far as they are concerned their general  
14 position is that children were well cared for and were  
15 happy at Smyllum. What's --

16 A. There might have been ones that didn't get harmed, there  
17 could have been certain ones that didn't get harmed, but  
18 most of the majority did.

19 MR MacAULAY: Thank you. Janie, that's all the questions  
20 I have for you today.

21 My Lady, no written questions have been submitted to  
22 me and I don't know if any other questions are to be  
23 asked.

24 LADY SMITH: Thank you.

25 Can I just check whether there are any outstanding

1 applications for questions? No? I see a lot of shaking  
2 heads. Thank you.

3 Janie, thank you very much for coming along this  
4 morning to talk to us. It has been very helpful and I'm  
5 now able to let you go.

6 A. Thank you.

7 (The witness withdrew)

8 LADY SMITH: Mr MacAulay.

9 MR MacAULAY: The plan now is to, probably before lunch,  
10 have read in two statements. I think we will have time  
11 for that before lunch because they will both take about  
12 half an hour a piece. Ms Rattray will read the first  
13 and Ms MacLeod the second.

14 LADY SMITH: Thank you, Ms Rattray.

15 Witness statement of "ALISON" (read)

16 MS RATTRAY: My Lady, the first statement is from a witness  
17 who wishes to remain anonymous and has adopted the  
18 pseudonym of Alison and her statement can be found at  
19 WIT.001.001.2272.

20 LADY SMITH: Thank you.

21 MS RATTRAY: "My name is Alison. I was born in 1950. My  
22 contact details are known to the Inquiry. I am a widow  
23 and I have two children who are away from home but stay  
24 locally.

25 "My mother and father are both deceased. Our family

1 home was in Paisley.

2 "I was one of eight children. My parents liked to  
3 drink and were always fighting. We were all in and out  
4 of care. I was in Smyllum Park twice.

5 "The first time I was in Smyllum was in 1955 when  
6 I was 5. I was there for one year. My younger brother  
7 was also there but we were split up. I don't know why  
8 we went in; maybe my mum was having another baby.  
9 I didn't like it.

10 "I have memories of the cold baths we were put in  
11 and being hit by nuns. I can't remember names from the  
12 first time.

13 "I don't recall leaving Smyllum to go back home, but  
14 I know I did not want to go back. We went back to the  
15 family home.

16 "After leaving Smyllum the first time I went home,  
17 but I also went to stay in Barrholm in Largs. I don't  
18 know why. When I went there all my brothers and sisters  
19 were also in there.

20 "Then I was in a convalescent home. I had a bad  
21 heart and had to go in there. I wasn't at those places  
22 for long and they were both fine.

23 "In 1960 when I was 10, I went back to Smyllum.

24 "The second time I went in was after my dad was  
25 involved in a car accident in Paisley. He went to

1 hospital for a long time after that.

2 "I remember Mrs MacFarlane, a social worker, came to  
3 the house we were in. We were all at somebody's house  
4 for a wedding and we were taken to a big medical centre.  
5 I don't remember any parents being there.

6 "My brothers and sisters and myself were taken to  
7 the medical centre. My older brother stayed at home.  
8 Two of my sisters were already in other homes.

9 "The five of us had medicals at the medical centre  
10 and then we were taken back home. After a couple of  
11 days the welfare came back and took us to a Social Work  
12 building in Paisley.

13 "They held a Children's Panel for us and we were all  
14 taken to Smyllum. I remember screaming that I didn't  
15 want to go back to Smyllum.

16 "We were taken to Smyllum that second time by our  
17 social worker, Christine McCaig. On our first day  
18 I remember going in the big doors. The Sisters split  
19 our family up and my brothers were taken away to the  
20 boys' side.

21 "My sister who was 4 went to St Theresa's dormitory.  
22 My sister who was 6 and I went to the Angel Guardians  
23 dormitory.

24 "I remember I wanted to see my sister and my  
25 brothers but we were split up and I was not allowed to

1 see them.

2 "Before Smyllum, I went to a special school in  
3 Paisley because of my heart and my respiratory problems.  
4 When I was there I always had a sleep in the afternoon.  
5 On my first day at Smyllum I thought it would be the  
6 same. After lunch I went up to my bed.

7 "I got into quite a lot of bother for that.  
8 Sister **EAA** found me sleeping that first time and  
9 told me that didn't happen at Smyllum.

10 "We got up at 7.30 am, made our beds, tidied the  
11 dorm and went down for breakfast.

12 "If you had wet your bed you were punished.  
13 Ms **HBO** would drag you out of your bed and put  
14 you in a cold bath. She was a carer who worked there.  
15 It never happened to me, but she did it to my sister.  
16 I saw her dip her in and out of a cold bath.

17 "At bedtime, all the youngsters went to the dorms  
18 for 8.30 pm. One of the older kids would be sent to  
19 check they were in their beds. That was done on a rota.

20 "Between 9 pm and 9.30 pm, the older kids would have  
21 their prayers with Sister **HBP** then go to bed.

22 "The first dormitory I was in was the  
23 Angel Guardians. There were about twenty girls in the  
24 dormitory and we were all under 13.

25 "from age 14 I went to St Mary's dormitory. That

1           dormitory was divided into 20 to 25 cubicles. They had  
2           side walls and were open at the bottom. There was  
3           a curtain there to give a bit more privacy. You had  
4           a wee bed and a wardrobe.

5           "We had baths most mornings. If you didn't then you  
6           would have a shower. Showers came later though; to  
7           start with it was only baths.

8           "Breakfast was porridge and we had white and brown  
9           bread. You only got brown if you finished your white.

10          "We ate in a big hall, but that all changed later  
11          and we had our meals at the front of the dorm. That was  
12          in St Mary's dormitory where we did everything in the  
13          dorm.

14          "The food was not the best. One particular meal we  
15          had was a stew with bacon rind and egg in it. It was  
16          made by Sister Rosalie. We all hated it. There was  
17          a Sister Eckenham(?) who came up from London to look  
18          around and she changed things. After she came up, we  
19          never had that meal again.

20          "The first Friday of every month was called  
21          Good Friday. We had a religious meal. We had a special  
22          supper that day, which was a boiled egg, a lump of  
23          cheese, and a bag of crisps.

24          "There was a fire in Smyllum and the kitchen went up  
25          in flames. We couldn't get meals so we got breakfast

1 down at the school. Then the kitchen got all  
2 modernised.

3 "I once got caught stealing ice cream from the  
4 fridge-freezers in the kitchen. Sister **HBP** caught  
5 us eating it in the dorm and I got battered for that.

6 "Sister **EAB** once caught us smoking and took us  
7 to the top clothes room. She asked a girl if she had  
8 been smoking and told her she was the colour of smoke.  
9 This girl was a coloured girl.

10 "if you didn't eat your food you would have to sit  
11 until it was finished or it was left for you to eat at  
12 the next meal. The nuns would slap you to try and make  
13 you eat it.

14 "That happened to me with Miss **HBO**. She  
15 pulled my cheeks and my ears. I was also slapped by  
16 Sister **AFU** and Sister **EAB** at mealtimes.

17 "Sister **EAB** had big hands and would slap and  
18 punch me. She would have you for anything. She used  
19 a leather belt on me.

20 "When we were outside during the day, everyone  
21 played together. When we were inside, you just played  
22 in your own dormitory area.

23 "There were some books and toys but not a lot.  
24 I remember a television and a small gramophone. I think  
25 there were some games. We played at set times and more

1 or less all day on a Saturday if we were not at the  
2 pictures.

3 "If you were on front door duty on a Saturday you  
4 would get paid 25p. You had to stay back and speak to  
5 anyone that visited so that you could go and get a nun  
6 for them.

7 "We played no sports at all. We were always  
8 supervised by a nun and usually by Miss **HBO**.

9 "On Saturdays we would go to the pictures. If you  
10 were 11 or younger you got 2 shillings and if you were  
11 12 or over you got 3 shillings. We walked there and  
12 back in file, two at a time.

13 "There was also a donkey and we would go and play up  
14 by the farm in Smyllum. Smyllum had their own farm with  
15 cows and milk. **BAC** seemed to do all that.  
16 **BAC** was the **BAC** who did the furnace and other  
17 jobs around the place.

18 "We went to a camp place in West Linton on holidays.  
19 It was for two weeks every year. Only the older ones  
20 got to go, not the whole home. It was boys and girls.

21 "I remember West Linton because one year I was  
22 swimming and got caught in a whirlpool type thing.  
23 I was getting pulled under and was really drowning.

24 **BAC** helped me out and I went to the sick  
25 bay.

1            "I finished up spending two weeks in the sick bay  
2 and missed the whole holiday.

3            "We once had a trip to London. I remember we saw  
4 St Paul's Cathedral and the Houses of Parliament. We  
5 got new clothes and uniforms. We had brown trousers,  
6 cardigans and jumpers.

7            "We also went to St Andrew's. Those were good times  
8 because things changed for two weeks. They were happier  
9 times when things were more open and no one was getting  
10 pulled up. The nuns were there but it wasn't the same.

11           "At Christmas there was more church than anything.  
12 We had a better meal on Christmas Day but it was not  
13 a happy Christmas or anything.

14           "we got some presents but not a lot. I got  
15 a conductress set at a party. A woman told me it was  
16 the wrong gift and I had to put it back. Then I got to  
17 pick another for myself from a line of presents.  
18 I picked a clock which I used to set alarms for  
19 Sister HBP in the mornings.

20           "There was a big Christmas tree in the main hall but  
21 there wasn't any other decorations.

22           "We also went to a Celtic Football Club Christmas  
23 party. So if you were in favour you got picked to go to  
24 that. That was very good and some of the players would  
25 be there.

1 "I may have got a birthday card from my parents but  
2 the nuns didn't mark your birthday at all.

3 "Visiting was on Saturdays unless it was for  
4 a special occasion. My mum visited once and told me  
5 I was getting out. That never happened.

6 "My dad visited me a few times once he got out of  
7 hospital. He came to see me about five or six times.

8 "I remember we once went on a bus trip to Ayr and  
9 I saw my dad selling papers. Sister **EAB** shouted  
10 at me to get back from him and I told her it was my  
11 daddy. My dad asked if he could take us round the town  
12 but he was told no.

13 "The social workers would come round but they never  
14 did any good. Sister **EAB** or whoever would always  
15 sit in so you couldn't tell the social workers anything.

16 "My social workers were Christine McCaig and  
17 Mrs MacFarlane. I saw them about twice a year.

18 "You were never on your own with any visitors, even  
19 with your parents. The Sisters were always hanging  
20 about.

21 "The only time I ever saw my brothers was at primary  
22 school in Smyllum. I never saw them outside of school.  
23 When they were aged 11 and 10 they were both moved to  
24 Falkland in Fife. Nobody even told us they had been  
25 moved away.

1            "I would see my sister as she was in my dormitory,  
2 but I would get hit if I tried to see my other sister.  
3 She was in Angel Guardians and we were not allowed to go  
4 into that section.

5            "My brothers and sisters and myself were fostered  
6 out to the same family when I was about 12 or 13. It  
7 didn't last long as the woman that fostered us was  
8 a right battleaxe.

9            "Work included polishing the bare floors with red  
10 Cardinal polish. We did that on our hands and knees.  
11 That stopped after Sister EAL arrived.

12           "We also had to clean the dormitories and make our  
13 beds, but I don't remember an awful lot of hard physical  
14 work.

15           "We went to primary school at Smyllum. Then we went  
16 up to St Mary's Public School for secondary education.  
17 It was just outside the grounds of Smyllum.

18           "After school it was back to Smyllum for prayers and  
19 then we would go outside to play. I was in the top  
20 class and Sister EAA did the teaching.

21           "When we were in secondary, at St Mary's, all the  
22 kids knew you were from Smyllum because of our Smyllum  
23 clothes. We stood out because we didn't have the school  
24 uniform. They would point and laugh at us.

25           "We had a green or wine-coloured checked dress made

1 of rough heavy wool. We wore tackety shoes which made  
2 sparks off the ground and we had a grey pinafore.

3 "Things changed for the better after Sister **EAL**  
4 arrived. She got us new shoes, a new school uniform and  
5 Sunday clothes. She made a big difference. She was the  
6 Mother Superior who took over from Sister **BAF**

7 "I was always frozen cold. I remember  
8 Sister **HBP** gave me a really heavy knit pink  
9 cardigan to keep me warm. That was very nice.

10 "Sister **EAA** used a ruler to punish you in  
11 school. She would use the thin edge and hit your  
12 knuckles and the backs of your hands for getting your  
13 sums wrong.

14 "We said prayers every day in the morning and  
15 evening. Then again before and after every meal. About  
16 two or three times a week we went to the chapel in the  
17 mornings and we had benediction in the evening.

18 "There was a doctor I saw. He gave me check ups.  
19 I was on tablets for my heart. There was also a dentist  
20 we saw.

21 "I once ran out of the dentist's practice when they  
22 were trying to inject my gums to get a tooth out.  
23 Sister **AFU** slapped me across the face for that.  
24 She took me back the next day to stop me running away.

25 "I did get the tooth out and the dentist told me to

1 go back and go to bed for a rest. I did but then  
2 I slipped out and went to see my dad at St Mary's  
3 Hospital.

4 "When I got back I was in trouble because I had  
5 missed my medication for my heart. Sister **FAM** was  
6 shouting and pointing at me, jabbing my chest. She was  
7 angry about me missing my medication. Sister **AFU**  
8 slapped me across the head for sneaking out.

9 "Two girls and me once ran away and we went to  
10 Edinburgh. We were about 13 or 14 years old and we  
11 hitchhiked.

12 "We went to one of the girl's father's house, but he  
13 had no money and was upset that we had run away. The  
14 other girl's dad was the same so we went to the police  
15 station. The police took us in and contacted Smyllum.

16 "We told the police we didn't like it at Smyllum.  
17 You just didn't tell them about it all, not like I'm  
18 telling you now. The police weren't interested in that.

19 "**AEX** and Sister **HBP** came to get us and we  
20 were taken back to Smyllum in a car. We all got a right  
21 battering. We were punched and slapped a lot.

22 "One of the Sisters battered one of the girls with  
23 a hairbrush for screaming and shouting. That happened  
24 in the dormitory when all the other girls were in the  
25 beds. They would have seen it and been aware of it all.

1 "There was a lovely wee sister, Sister Vincent. She  
2 came from another dormitory and gave us sandwiches.

3 "When we ran away to Edinburgh, Sister **EAL**  
4 spoke to us. She said I was upsetting my sisters with  
5 my running away. She said I would get sent to  
6 Bishopton. I didn't know what that was, other than  
7 a bad place. She used that to try and settle me.

8 "We tried running away a second time but  
9 **BAC** caught us. We asked him not to say  
10 anything but he took us in and we got another hammering.  
11 That was from Sister **HBP** and we were punched and  
12 slapped by her. I was with two other girls.

13 "Miss **HBO** was always hitting us and pulling  
14 our hair. She was bad to us. She was a carer and did  
15 the laundry. She had been there for years. She might  
16 have been at Smyllum as a resident as a younger person.

17 "I remember that she would make a boy sit on a potty  
18 for hours on end and she would shout and bawl at him if  
19 he didn't do anything:

20 "Sister **EAB** once told me I wasn't getting home  
21 and that my mother wasn't even married. I came out with  
22 some comment back to her. She went mad at me for  
23 talking back. She took me to the top clothes room and  
24 hit me with her belt. She hit me a good few times on  
25 the back of my hands.

1           "There was hitting for the least wee thing. It was  
2 a daily occurrence.

3           " [REDACTED] was not a nice person. He had a hut  
4 next to the furnace where he [REDACTED] He  
5 tried to get his hands up your skirt all the time. He  
6 was bad.

7           "I didn't tell anyone at the time about the nuns and  
8 the beating. No one would believe you. You couldn't  
9 tell the nuns about [REDACTED] because they wouldn't  
10 believe you either."

11           At this stage, my Lady, Alison speaks of her and her  
12 siblings going into a foster care for six months and she  
13 then returned to Smyllum where she stayed until the age  
14 of 15. At this point I will move to paragraph 102 which  
15 is at WIT.001.001.2284:

16           "I have not made any reports to the police and there  
17 have been no criminal proceedings:

18           "When I was 15 and leaving Smyllum, I then went to  
19 live with family. It didn't quite work out though.

20           "I got a job at a leather works. The morning I was  
21 starting I put on ankle socks and the family all started  
22 laughing saying I couldn't go out like that. It was  
23 a big joke to them but I didn't understand, nobody had  
24 told me any different.

25           "I was only with them for about six weeks. One

1 night when they were all drinking and gabbing I went to  
2 the bathroom, jumped out the window and ran to Paisley.

3 "The Social Work then put me in a foster house and  
4 I got a job in the mills. I was only there a couple of  
5 months.

6 "Then I went to live in a girls' hostel. I ran away  
7 from there to try and find my mother.

8 "I found my mum but she was always drunk. I was  
9 only with her for about two weeks. Then I went and  
10 stayed with my older sister for about six months. After  
11 that I stayed with my aunty.

12 "I just seem to have been one to run away all the  
13 time. I could never settle anywhere. I was always  
14 running away, but I wasn't sure what I was running away  
15 from.

16 "Then I met my future husband when I was 18. We  
17 were eight months together and then we got married.  
18 I was 19 when we were married.

19 "I continued to work after I was married. Then  
20 I had my children and didn't work for about ten years.  
21 Then I went back to work for about 11 years as a home  
22 help.

23 "Smyllum had a big impact on my life. I have  
24 treated my kids and my husband the same way I was  
25 treated there.

1 "Everything was regimented in Smyllum. With my  
2 husband he would say he was going for a pint. If I said  
3 to him to be in at 7 pm and he came in five minutes late  
4 I would scream at him. Everything was down to time.

5 "If I was going somewhere I would always make sure  
6 I was there for 5 minutes before I was meant to be  
7 there. With food I would make my children eat all their  
8 meals. If they said they didn't like it or didn't want  
9 it, I would tell them they had to eat it. I would smack  
10 them if they didn't eat their food. That was all  
11 I knew.

12 "I would give them the same meal as their father as  
13 I had no idea about portion sizes. Then I would expect  
14 them to eat it all. Things like that.

15 "Even with things like clothes, I couldn't buy my  
16 own. Everything is given to me and picked by my family  
17 for me. Things like wallpaper and furnishings and  
18 everything like that. I just can't cope with it. I'm  
19 used to everything just being there.

20 "I recently managed to order a suite, but I had to  
21 do it online. I find all that very hard. It's always  
22 been the same. It's like living in a bubble.

23 "I told my husband about Smyllum and I told my kids.  
24 They have always been very understanding and supportive.  
25 I have also told my psychiatrist and the people in

1 hospital when I was there.

2 "This is the most I have ever spoken about it.

3 "I ended up having a breakdown when I was about 37.

4 I went into hospital as an inpatient. I was there for

5 about six weeks. It was all because of Smyllum.

6 Everything comes back to Smyllum. I have never been

7 able to get it out of my head.

8 "I attend a psychiatrist every three months for

9 severe anxiety and depression. I have been on

10 anti-depressants since I left Smyllum aged 15.

11 "I do see a counsellor but I feel she just sits and

12 doesn't listen. After my husband had died she even

13 asked me if I ever see my husband.

14 "Smyllum has had a big impact. I have no

15 confidence. I never go out. My life was all centred

16 around my husband and two kids.

17 "I think my daughter is possibly heading the same

18 way. My experiences in Smyllum have definitely impacted

19 on how I brought up my children and it seems to be

20 impacting on them too.

21 "I don't think I have done anything wrong but I'm

22 not happy about the way I brought them up.

23 "I met a local woman who introduced me to the

24 episcopalian church, so I have been along a few times.

25 I helped by making lentil soup for their brunch-and-

1 browse sessions. This is an ongoing thing every month.  
2 I feel it is helping.

3 "I'm trying to push myself to get away from it and  
4 get on in life. Smyllum is always there and I just want  
5 to get it out of my head.

6 "My happiest times just now are with my wee dog.

7 "I do not have any records and I have never applied  
8 for any records from Smyllum.

9 "Samuel Carr is a six-year-old boy that died in  
10 Smyllum. There was a television programme about him.  
11 I was there when he died. I was at the chapel and we  
12 were all made to look at him in his coffin.

13 "His death had a big impact in there. We were told  
14 he died because he ate rat poison. That was not from  
15 the nuns; it was just rumours and stories.

16 "The television programme said that the nuns had  
17 kicked him in the head. The reporter then said that  
18 Sammy had died of a brain hemorrhage. Seeing that  
19 programme really upset me and made me want to tell my  
20 story to the Inquiry.

21 "I think that the Social Work should speak to  
22 children in homes when there are no nuns about to listen  
23 in. I think slapping should be banned. I think they  
24 should make sure that all children are in pairs all the  
25 time.

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

3 "I believe the facts stated in this witness  
4 statement are true."

5 My Lady, Alison signed her witness statement on  
6 11 September 2017.

7 LADY SMITH: Thank you. Thank you Ms Rattray.

8 Witness statement of MARGARET (read)

9 MS MACLEOD: My Lady, the next statement to be read in is  
10 the statement of a witness who wishes for her first name  
11 to be used, and that is Margaret. The witness statement  
12 is to be found at WIT.001.001.0713:

13 "My name is Margaret. I was born in 1950. My home  
14 life was as normal as normal can be. I lived in Glasgow  
15 with my parents and three sisters. I had an older  
16 sister and two younger sisters. I was brought up Roman  
17 Catholic.

18 "My mother got TB when I was five years old and had  
19 to go to hospital. My sisters and I were put into  
20 a home as my dad couldn't look after us at the time. My  
21 Social Services notes tell me that I went into Smyllum  
22 Children's Home in Lanark on [REDACTED] 1955 with my  
23 sisters. The younger two sisters went to a different  
24 place to me and my older sister.

25 "My memories from the first time in Smyllum are

1 vague and I don't remember much. I was only 5 years old  
2 and I think I was in there for around 11 months. I know  
3 it wasn't pleasant. I got beaten up quite a lot by the  
4 nuns.

5 "I wet the bed, which I had never done before I went  
6 in. It wasn't a pleasant experience the first time  
7 round.

8 "We came out on [REDACTED] 1956 and went back to  
9 stay with my mother who was now better.

10 "I was home for around 18 months. After that time,  
11 my mother abandoned us. On [REDACTED] 1958 she put me  
12 and my sisters in a taxi and sent us to my dad's  
13 brother's house. She told us that our dad would pick us  
14 up from there the following day.

15 "My dad came to see us the following day but he  
16 didn't pick us up. He told us that he couldn't look  
17 after us and didn't know where our mother was. The  
18 records show that my aunty contacted my maternal  
19 grandfather, who didn't know where my mum was and  
20 wouldn't take us in. My aunty then contacted the RSPCC.  
21 My father was in prison.

22 "A big green van turned up soon after and I knew  
23 where we were going. I remembered the van from the  
24 first time we were taken to Smyllum. All four of us  
25 were taken to Smyllum. This was on [REDACTED] 1958.

1           "When I got into Smyllum through the big gates,  
2 I just went mad. I was quite rebellious anyway. I had  
3 a complete meltdown. I got out the van and started  
4 running. The men who were driving the van caught me and  
5 took me into the home. That was it. We were in there  
6 until [REDACTED] 1960.

7           "There were a lot of buildings within the grounds.  
8 They went all the way around the grounds and there was  
9 a big turret at the top. There was a centre courtyard  
10 between the buildings. This was where we could be any  
11 time we were outside. It was like a prison courtyard.

12           "I think my younger sisters were put in a separate  
13 part of the home because they were younger. I never saw  
14 my two younger sisters the entire time I was in the  
15 home. I had no contact with them at all. I asked to  
16 see them but the nuns told me to get on with what I had  
17 to do and that they weren't allowed to see me. They  
18 never let me see them. My older sister didn't see them  
19 either.

20           "The home had dormitories and there were a lot of  
21 us. It was a big dormitory with wrought iron beds all  
22 over the place. I was next door to my older sister.

23           "They gave us clothes when we went in. We wore  
24 these little ill-fitting dresses. We had ordinary  
25 clothes and socks and shoes. I think the clothes had

1           been donated. They weren't matching dresses. I don't  
2           remember any uniform for school. He didn't need coats  
3           or anything because we never went out. Our hair had to  
4           be cut short. I had long hair when I went in and it had  
5           to be cut short.

6           "I wet the bed all the time for a good year or more.  
7           When I wet the bed, I was made to put the wet sheets  
8           from my bed around my head and walk up and down the  
9           dormitory. This was in front of other children in the  
10          dormitory to make an example of me. I wasn't the only  
11          one who wet the bed. All the children got this  
12          treatment. This was a daily thing for me after I wet  
13          the bed. It just went on and on and on. People used to  
14          laugh at us. It was just humiliating. It got to the  
15          point where people just didn't laugh anymore but if they  
16          didn't laugh, they got smacked by the nuns.

17          "The sheets would then be put in the bath, which was  
18          next to the dormitory, to be washed. If you wet the  
19          bed, you had to hand wash your sheets yourself. When  
20          dried the sheets would be left at the end of your bed  
21          and you had to make your own bed.

22          "My older sister swapped the sheets two or three  
23          times when I wet the bed because she knew I would get  
24          beaten up. The nuns cottoned onto this because they  
25          knew she didn't wet the bed. She got slapped for doing

1           this. She had only been doing it to help me.

2           "The nuns had a room just off the dormitory where  
3 they would stay most of the time. They used to come in  
4 the night and drag me out of the bed to go to the toilet  
5 because I was a bed-wetter. It never did any good  
6 because I carried on wetting the bed anyway.

7           "I stopped wetting the bed all of a sudden. I don't  
8 know if it is because I got used to the place and  
9 settled into it. There were new children coming in and  
10 they would wet the bed and the same procedure carried on  
11 with them.

12           "When we woke in the morning, we had to scrub the  
13 floors. The home had stone floors. We had to kneel  
14 down with scrubbing brushes and buckets and scrub the  
15 floors. Then we would go to chapel and pray before  
16 having breakfast. Then we would go into the courtyard  
17 and they would make us do stupid things like get  
18 skipping ropes and make us skip. This was for exercise,  
19 I suppose. Then we would go to school, which was a  
20 short walk from the main building. It was within the  
21 grounds. After school, we'd come back and do more  
22 cleaning. Then we'd have prayers again, dinner and bed.

23           "I can't remember much about weekends. I think we  
24 cleaned all the time. People were probably assigned  
25 different jobs because I was always cleaning and

1 scrubbing floors. I also cleaned the chapel stone  
2 floors and the offices, as well as making beds. That  
3 must have been my job. I am sure other people had other  
4 Jobs, maybe in the laundry or wherever.

5 "A lot of us had to share a bath. There would be a  
6 line of people for the bath and you would go in one by  
7 one. If you were first in line, you got very hot,  
8 scalding water. We would go in one after the other. If  
9 you were last in line, the water was cold. There was no  
10 order for the line. It was just pot luck. If you were  
11 in the middle, you were lucky because although the water  
12 would be dirty, it would not be too hot or too cold.

13 "Some people just disappeared. There was this one  
14 girl, who was quite spirited, like myself. She was  
15 always getting beaten up for one reason or another like  
16 me. The nuns beat her up so badly one day in the  
17 bathroom. I was screaming. All of the kids were  
18 screaming. There were three nuns involved. They beat  
19 her up so terribly and then I never saw her again. It  
20 is terrible when you think about it because we were just  
21 kids and we couldn't do anything for her. I don't know  
22 where she went. I must have been aged 8 or 9 when that  
23 happened. She would have been a similar age to me,  
24 maybe a bit younger or a bit older. She was in  
25 a dormitory. I don't remember anyone's names.

1 "I had a problem with my left ear since I was  
2 a young child, before I went into the home. I used to  
3 get infections a lot when I was younger. When I was in  
4 school, I was made to sit at the back of the class. I  
5 couldn't hear very well because of my ear but the nuns  
6 assumed I wasn't listening and took it as a slur against  
7 them. They would make me stand in the corner wearing a  
8 hat that had 'dunce' written on it. They thought this  
9 was amusing and did it to me for a long time. They would  
10 also grab me by my left ear and pull me around by it.  
11 The dunce hat was used on other girls too. We were all  
12 daft dunces and imbeciles as far as they were concerned.  
13 My sister was very clever though. She never had the  
14 dunce's hat on.

15 "I was later moved to the front of the class. By  
16 this time I was way behind everybody else in the class  
17 so I just gave up. I never did well at school because  
18 of the problems I had. The nuns thought I was thick and  
19 stupid.

20 "I don't remember any outside teachers; it was just  
21 the nuns who taught us. The school we went to was in  
22 a local area so there may have been outside teachers in  
23 other classes.

24 "When the nuns beat us they would kick us. They had  
25 these little black shoes with lace ups and a little heel

1 on them. They used to click-click-click all over the  
2 place. They kicked me a lot and beat me with a cane.  
3 They also beat me with a big leather strap. The  
4 beatings took place in the dormitory and also in school,  
5 especially for me.

6 "The nuns would regularly lock me in a cupboard.  
7 The cupboard wasn't in the dormitory. It was in one of  
8 the other rooms. It also had cupboards above it where  
9 sheets and blankets were stored. It was pitch black in  
10 the cupboard. There was no space to lie down or stand  
11 up. I would sit in a foetal position. I spent more  
12 time in the cupboard than I did anywhere else.

13 "I think I was always put in there because I was  
14 angry at the way I was being treated and so quite  
15 rebellious. I would be put in there for a long time.  
16 Sometimes I would miss dinner and once I was kept in  
17 there overnight and only taken out in the morning. They  
18 would lock it from the outside. Other children were  
19 also put in there. When they would take me out, they'd  
20 put another child in there. That was normal routine.

21 "One day we were all told to file up in a line  
22 behind one another and walk up the stairs. This was in  
23 the turreted part of the building at the front. We had  
24 never been in that part of the building before. Nobody  
25 knew what was happening. As we were walking up the

1 stairs, we could smell an awful smell. I mentioned it  
2 to one of the girls but nobody knew what it was. We  
3 walked all the way up the stairs and when we got to the  
4 top, there was a nun laid out on a bed. At first I  
5 thought she was sick but realised she was dead. The  
6 place stunk. All the girls were screaming and crying.

7 "The nuns told us to kiss this dead nun on the head.  
8 I thought, 'No way, I'm not doing that'. I refused to  
9 do it. The nuns grabbed me by the hair and dragged my  
10 head down to kiss the dead nun. As they forced my face  
11 close to hers, I spat on the dead nun. That was it.  
12 They dragged me by my hair all the way down the stairs  
13 whilst telling me I'd rot in hell, then threw me in the  
14 cupboard. I don't know how long I was in there that  
15 time.

16 "I had never seen a dead body before that. I was  
17 only 8 or 9 years old. I don't know how long she had  
18 been dead for but it must have been a while as the smell  
19 was awful. She was probably one of the nuns who had  
20 beat the living daylight out of us. I wasn't going to  
21 kiss her. I didn't want to do it.

22 "I think these people were very deprived in their  
23 own lives. They were supposed to be giving their life  
24 to God. This was their vocation so I don't understand  
25 why they were treating us this way. It was as if they

1           were deprived of something and they were taking it out  
2           on little kids.

3           "I had friends but I don't remember anybody's name.  
4           I saw lots of children beaten up by the nuns but  
5           unfortunately I don't remember anyone's name. We were  
6           just numbers in there. I don't think any of the  
7           children knew who anybody was in there. I don't remember  
8           if the nuns used our names or what they called us, if  
9           they called us anything. They didn't really communicate  
10          with us very much at all. The only time they  
11          communicated with us was when we had done something  
12          wrong and they were being nasty to us. They never sat  
13          with us or read to us or played with us.

14          "My big sister was with me most of the time and that  
15          was the only comforting thing. I know that she tried to  
16          look after me the best she could but there was nothing  
17          she could have done. She used to say to me, 'Just try  
18          not to be so naughty and they won't throw you in the  
19          cupboard' or whatever it was that they were doing. I  
20          just couldn't bring myself to be civil to them because  
21          they were just so nasty and horrible to everybody. How  
22          could I try at that age to be normal when they were  
23          treating me the way they were. There was nothing normal  
24          about it.

25          "I don't really think my sister suffered from them

1 because she was different to me in lots of ways. It  
2 didn't seem to faze her as much as it did me. She went  
3 along with it. She wasn't as spirited as me and I have  
4 to be honest with myself: I probably brought a lot of my  
5 mistreatment on myself by being naughty. If you're  
6 naughty at home your parents will probably smack you but  
7 these people beat you all the time. It was viscous and  
8 nasty.

9 "There were many nuns but I remember two nuns in  
10 particular. One was Sister **EAA** and the other  
11 Sister **EAB**. They were both the most vicious to  
12 me. Sister **EAA** was there the first time I went in  
13 because I remember seeing her as soon as I walked in.  
14 These two nuns were the ones who done most of the damage  
15 to me. The other ones were nasty as well but I don't  
16 remember their names.

17 "Sister **EAA** was there constantly. She was in  
18 my dormitory the entire time I was there. I am sure she  
19 will be long gone by now. I was in there when I was 10  
20 and she must have been about 30 years old. That was  
21 56 years ago.

22 "I was in the playground one day and I fell and cut  
23 my knee. I cleaned it but it was bleeding and the nuns  
24 wouldn't give me anything to put on it. I kept telling  
25 them that my knee was bleeding but they wouldn't do

1 anything about it. The next morning my knee had swollen  
2 up. I had to scrub the floors and had a bucket of water  
3 that was as big as me and a scrubbing brush. I got down  
4 on one knee but couldn't bend the swollen one. I was  
5 trying to scrub the floor and I could hear  
6 Sister EAA click-clicking along the stone floor.  
7 You could hear the nuns coming before you could see  
8 them. I would start to shake as soon as I saw her.  
9 I was also nervous because I couldn't kneel down and  
10 I spilled water from the bucket all over her shoes. She  
11 kicked me from here to Sunday. She kicked me all over  
12 the place.

13 "I was in such a state that I ran away from her and  
14 hid in a cupboard. I thought that that was the one  
15 place they wouldn't find me because they always locked  
16 me in the cupboard as a punishment. I hid in the  
17 cupboard where sheets and blankets were kept. This was  
18 above the cupboard they would usually lock me in.  
19 I stayed in there most of the night and missed dinner.  
20 This cupboard didn't lock so I eventually I crept out of  
21 it and went to bed.

22 "The nuns must have seen me when I got into the  
23 dormitory and I slipped into bed. Sister EAA and  
24 another Sister, whose name I don't know, dragged me out  
25 of the bed and into the bathroom. They beat the living

1           daylights out of me in the bathroom. They bent me over  
2           the bath and whacked me on the backside with a strap and  
3           a cane. Then they dumped me back into bed. My knee was  
4           very bad for a long time after that. I never saw  
5           a doctor.

6           I don't remember there ever being any matron or  
7           nurse. I don't remember any of the other children  
8           seeing a nurse either.

9           "When I would wake in the morning, I'd have yellow  
10          discharge coming out my ear. It would be stuck to my  
11          ear like a scab. I'd have to wash the pillowcases.  
12          That was fine, but it was the way the nuns treated me  
13          with my ear problems that wasn't. They seemed to have  
14          so much fun pulling my ear when it was bleeding. I used  
15          to scream and beg them to pull my other ear, if they had  
16          to pull my ear. They had found out my weakness and they  
17          played on it. It was their way of getting to me. This  
18          carried on the whole time I was in there. They pulled  
19          other children by the ear also. I never got any  
20          treatment or attention for my ear.

21          "There was no playtime built into the day. We were  
22          either cleaning or at school. We would clean before and  
23          after school. We also cleaned at weekends. If we were  
24          outside, it was just in the courtyard, which was like a  
25          prison courtyard.

1           "There were toys that were probably donated by  
2 people. They were kept in a big room. They were for  
3 everybody and we all played with them together. I only  
4 remember ever being allowed to play at weekends, maybe  
5 on a Sunday.

6           "I don't remember there ever being a library. They  
7 probably thought I was too stupid to read books anyway.

8           "There were never any trips. We never went out of  
9 the big front gates of the Smyllum home. I never went  
10 outside those grounds the whole times I was in there.  
11 I never saw green grass.

12           "I only ever had one visit from my family and that  
13 was from my aunty. This was my mother's sister who  
14 lived with my grandad. I said to her that these people  
15 are cruel and were beating me up. She told me not to be  
16 silly and they were nuns who didn't do things like that.  
17 I told her that they were doing things and they made  
18 sure they never bruised your face and only hit you in  
19 places that couldn't be seen. She never believed me.  
20 My mother or dad never visited.

21           "I don't remember anybody ever coming to check on us  
22 or inspect the place.

23           "We were encouraged to get involved with people from  
24 the outside. The nuns allocated me a man and a woman,  
25 who I was to call Aunty Mary and Uncle Jim.

1 I don't remember their surnames but they were  
2 lovely. They would come to visit me. They told me they  
3 didn't have any children of their own. They would also  
4 send me parcels of Smarties, Fruit Pastilles and penny  
5 caramels. They would send me them in a little box every  
6 month. I used to share them with my sister and other  
7 friends. This went on for a few months. They also sent  
8 me Christmas presents.

9 "We would be made to write to our allocated visitors  
10 and thank them for the gifts. They also sent me  
11 a picture of themselves sitting on a picnic blanket.  
12 I don't know where that picture went but it was the only  
13 thing I had in there. We had no other belongings.

14 "The nuns would make a big fuss in front of  
15 Aunty Mary and Uncle Jim about how well I was treated.  
16 I told the couple that the nuns didn't treat us well and  
17 they were beating us up but they probably thought I was  
18 just being silly.

19 "After a few months the parcels stopped coming.  
20 I asked the nuns where my parcels were and they said  
21 I wasn't getting them any more because I wasn't sharing  
22 them with people. I played up about that and was really  
23 quite angry, so I wrote to Aunty Mary and Uncle Jim and  
24 said not to send me any more parcels because the nuns  
25 were not giving them to me. I also wrote that the nuns

1 were beating me up and I didn't like it in there.

2 I never heard anything back.

3 "One day, maybe months later, I was told to clean  
4 the nuns offices. As I was cleaning, I found a parcel  
5 with my name on it. I thought that Aunty Mary and  
6 Uncle Jim had started sending parcels to me again.  
7 I picked it up to take it out of the office and the nuns  
8 walked in. They took it from me and beat the living  
9 daylights out of me again. They told me I wasn't to  
10 touch anything in there. They threw me out of the  
11 office and I never got the parcel.

12 "A while later I was in the office cleaning again  
13 and I found the letters that I had written to Aunty Mary  
14 and Uncle Jim. They had never been sent. The nuns had  
15 probably realised that I was saying things that  
16 I shouldn't be saying and wanted to keep the couple away  
17 from me. I don't know what they told the couple about  
18 me.

19 "They might have told them that I had moved on and  
20 allocated another child to them. I really don't know.  
21 I never saw the couple again. I loved them and they  
22 loved me and the nuns took even that away from me.

23 "We never got anything for birthdays or Christmases.  
24 We would be in the big hall at Christmas and people  
25 would have sent in presents and donations. Aunty Mary

1 and Uncle Jim had sent me a little red Betty sowing  
2 machine. It was a lovely thing. I kept that.  
3 Everything else that was sent was divided between  
4 everybody else.

5 "Towards the end of us being there, my mother asked  
6 for a visiting order to see us. It was granted and  
7 within weeks, we were allowed home.

8 "When I left the nuns took my Betty sewing machine  
9 off me. I was crying my eyes out. I was only 10 years  
10 old. I told them I didn't care about anything else but  
11 I wanted this little machine. They wouldn't give it to  
12 me and said I was selfish. That was the only thing I  
13 wanted because it was mine. I had been given it by the  
14 only people who had treated me well. They wouldn't let  
15 me have it.

16 "We came out on [REDACTED] 1960. I was in there just  
17 short of three years. The four of us got out on the  
18 same day. That was the first day I saw my sisters since  
19 we'd gone in. I left through the big gates that I had  
20 entered through when I arrived. The only time in three  
21 years I ever walked through those big gates was the day  
22 I left. This was the first time I was to see green  
23 grass again in three years.

24 "Nobody knew where my mother had gone after she  
25 abandoned us. We found out when we got out that we had

1 another little brother so she obviously went off with  
2 someone. The man she had the baby with became my  
3 step-father. He was wonderful.

4 "We went back to live with my aunty and grandfather  
5 for a while. This was the aunty who had visited us in  
6 the home. The agreement with Social Services was that  
7 we could get out the home as long as we lived with our  
8 mother at our grandfather's house, without my mother's  
9 partner.

10 "My mother and aunty didn't get on very well so my  
11 granddad told us we had to get out after a while.  
12 Social Services found us a room. It was a big room with  
13 a shared kitchen and bathroom. It was in Hill Street in  
14 Glasgow. We lived there for a while before getting a  
15 council house in Blackhill. We all lived there with my  
16 stepfather and my new little brother.

17 "When I came out, I was very angry with my mother  
18 about all of this. I told her about the abuse straight  
19 away. She didn't believe me and told me not to be  
20 stupid. My older sister told her it was true and that  
21 the nuns used to beat me up terribly. My older sister  
22 remembered everything. Having looked at the Social  
23 Services papers, I can now understand in hindsight why  
24 she didn't do anything. She was on probation for  
25 abandoning us. Social Services were watching her and

1 visiting her to make sure we were looked after. She  
2 probably didn't want to rock the boat with the  
3 authorities. I think that is why she didn't do anything.

4 "As we got older, my sister and I would discuss what  
5 happened in the home with our mum, and we did so until  
6 we were into our thirties and forties. My older sister  
7 would say that I was always being naughty and it was  
8 awful for me. I think our mother was in total denial.  
9 She also never took anything seriously except for  
10 herself. She wasn't a very nice mother.

11 "I haven't spoken to my mother or my older sister in  
12 over 20 years. My brother died and things happened that  
13 led to me not talking to him. One of my younger sisters  
14 has passed away now. I am now very close to my other  
15 younger sister. She remembers being in the home but  
16 doesn't remember anything about the place. She was  
17 younger and in a nursery type of place. It was smaller  
18 than the area we were in and I'm sure they had different  
19 people looking after them.

20 "I obtained my Social Services notes in 1993, as  
21 I was interested how it all started and because I didn't  
22 have much memory of what happened when I first went in.

23 "I married and had my daughter. I then got divorced  
24 and moved to England. I got a new partner and we were  
25 together for about 18 years before we got divorced.

1 I then met my partner two or three years after my  
2 divorce. I have two good kids. I'm retired now after  
3 working for 13 years. My partner died a number of years  
4 ago.

5 "After we had been together a couple of years, we  
6 were in Glasgow visiting my stepdad, so I also visited  
7 Smyllum. I wanted to show my partner where it was.  
8 This was before all the news stories broke. We went  
9 through the big gates. The building was run down and  
10 derelict by this time and had no windows. The big  
11 entrance door was boarded up. I said I wanted to get  
12 inside. I just felt like I had to get inside so my  
13 partner lifted me up and helped me through a window that  
14 was broken. I went up the stairs and I remember when  
15 I got part way up the stairs, I saw a dormitory with  
16 beds in it. I don't know if it was my dormitory but it  
17 was very surreal. I didn't dwell on it too long and  
18 went back out.

19 "There was a building next door with people living  
20 in it. I knocked on the door and the people came out.  
21 I asked them if they knew anything about the home. They  
22 took us in for a cup of tea and I told them I used to be  
23 in the home. They said they had got a sign from God to  
24 come to live there. They asked us to sit and pray.  
25 I thought it was quite bizarre. There was a cottage at

1 the end of the field, at the bottom of the lane, there  
2 was a man there who we spoke to. He said he was  
3 an orphan and spent most of his life in the home. He  
4 would cut the grass and do odd jobs there. I chatted to  
5 him about some of the nuns and he said he had  
6 photographs. He remembered Sister EAA who he  
7 thought was lovely. He gave me a picture of her, I had  
8 the picture blown up.

9 "My partner and I would often go on into charity  
10 shops to see if I could find a Betty sewing machine just  
11 so I could get one but I never found one. That was the  
12 only thing that was mine in Smyllum and I wasn't allowed  
13 to have it.

14 "My partner and I went to Ireland on holiday after  
15 we had been together three years in 1998. He went out  
16 to get the papers in the morning and returned with the  
17 News of the World and told me Smyllum was all over the  
18 papers. People had come forward. We sat for hours  
19 reading them. At that time I had a sense of relief  
20 because even though I had told my kids and told my  
21 partner about the abuse at Smyllum, I got the feeling  
22 that people thought I was exaggerating or talking  
23 nonsense. I knew they believed me but there was never  
24 any proof. At that moment the press coverage was all  
25 I wanted and all I needed. I needed to know it wasn't

1 just me it was out there now and we would be believed  
2 now.

3 "I felt very relieved about that. There was a phone  
4 number for Cameron Fyfe saying that anybody involved  
5 should ring them.

6 "The following morning was a Monday and I rang  
7 Cameron Fyfe's office and arranged a meeting to give my  
8 statement in Glasgow. My partner and I stopped off in  
9 England to get fresh clothes and headed straight to  
10 Glasgow, where I gave the statement. I started getting  
11 phone calls from newspapers asking if I wanted to sell  
12 my story. I have no idea how they got my details.

13 "I know people did go to the papers and that is how  
14 the truth came out, but everyone's individual feelings  
15 are different. I had to appreciate that someone good  
16 did go to the newspapers or it might not have come out  
17 in the first place. I am a private person and I told  
18 them I didn't want to get involved with newspapers.

19 "The court action side of things with Cameron Fyfe  
20 went on for a long, long time. We had to get Legal Aid  
21 to raise an action for damages. I sent them nearly  
22 £1,000 over a period of time. They said they needed  
23 £350 to get things moving, which I didn't really have at  
24 the time. I was only earning £76 a week. I sent the  
25 money however.

1           "Cameron Fyfe also told me I would need to get  
2           a psychiatric report done and I agreed to do it. I went  
3           to see a clinical psychologist in England to have it  
4           prepared. This was in 1998. The doctor had obtained  
5           all my medical records from my GP. The report cost me  
6           £450, but I never saw a copy once it was prepared.  
7           I was also receiving counselling through my doctor.

8           "I finally received letters from Cameron Fyfe to say  
9           that 12 test cases had gone forward but because of time  
10          bar, they could not do anything. As far as I was  
11          concerned then that was it all over. I had told my  
12          story about what happened and I didn't care it wasn't  
13          going any further.

14          "I joined INCAS around that time. My partner, my  
15          sister and myself went to an INCAS meeting in Glasgow  
16          and I met with Frank Docherty. I met a lady there  
17          called Helen. She was one of the ladies who spoke on  
18          the podium. I sat and listened to everyone else. It  
19          was ironic because I had never meet these people and  
20          they had never met me yet our stories were the same.

21          "I never heard back from Cameron Fyfe and it was  
22          Frank Docherty who told me where my documents were.  
23          I didn't even know that Cameron Fyfe had gone bust.

24          "I sent away for my documents and files and I only  
25          got them this year in February or March 2016. That was

1 the first time I had seen my psychiatric report. It was  
2 hard to read. According to the report I am severely  
3 clinically depressed. I have passed a copy of the  
4 report to the Inquiry, as well as my Social Services  
5 reports covering the years 1955 to 1961.

6 "I never got my £1,000 from Cameron Fyfe. According  
7 to the paperwork, they said they sent me my cheques and  
8 paid my money back but I never received anything.  
9 I looked at the stubs in my file but there are no cheque  
10 numbers or anything on them.

11 "About a year or two ago my son contacted me after  
12 seeing the McLelland Report and he sent me a link to it.  
13 Then much more recently the Inquiry sent three letters  
14 to me. They had gone to my old flat because by that  
15 time I had moved in with my partner. My son collected  
16 them and read them out to me.

17 "Prior to my son contacting me, I had no intention  
18 of talking to anyone about it in a public forum because  
19 my stepfather was still alive in Glasgow and I didn't  
20 want him opening a paper and reading about me. I had to  
21 think of the bigger picture and other people's feelings.  
22 I had never spoken to my stepfather about what happened  
23 to me. He died two years ago. I am quite a private  
24 person.

25 "I went back to Smyllum one more time with my

1 partner and my sister. There was redevelopment going on  
2 by that time.

3 "Cameron Fyfe sent me a letter with contact details  
4 of a woman who remembered me from Smyllum. I didn't  
5 remember her but I contacted this woman.

6 "She spoke of a boy who had been beaten really badly  
7 by the nuns and she suspected he had been buried in the  
8 garden. I didn't remember anything about this boy.  
9 This woman was convinced that children had been going  
10 missing from there. She also thought that the nuns from  
11 Smyllum worked in France too.

12 "I tried to find out if I could get my records from  
13 my time in Smyllum to see if I could get details for  
14 Aunty Mary and Uncle Jim but I was told the records had  
15 all been destroyed in a fire.

16 "When I came out of the home aged 10 years old,  
17 I ended up in a children's hospital in Aberfoyle because  
18 of my ear. It was like a convalescent place. I don't  
19 know how long I was in there. The staff at the hospital  
20 would wheel me to the window to get some fresh air.  
21 After leaving the hospital I had to go to the clinic  
22 three times a week before school, to get a big needle in  
23 my ear. It was called blue stone.

24 "I am deaf now in my left ear. I have had two major  
25 operations on it, as well as two or three smaller

1 operations. I still have infections all the time.  
2 I now have a false cavity in my ear. I have regular  
3 visits to England to a hospital twice a year. I have to  
4 go for the rest of my life. If I have infections then  
5 I have to go between my regular visits also.

6 "I know that if I had had any treatment the three  
7 years I was in Smyllum my ear problems would never have  
8 been so bad. I know that the abuse in Smyllum for so  
9 long and having nothing done about my ear has led me to  
10 having major operations in my ear.

11 "I have been treated for depression in the past,  
12 I have been on Prozac. I probably thought I was mad  
13 anyway as these people had convinced me that I was  
14 stupid. You start believing it. I don't feel depressed  
15 now. As the years have gone on I try not to dwell on  
16 things, but I still have moments.

17 "My mother was not a practising Roman Catholic but  
18 her side of the family was protestant. My father was  
19 a Catholic so we were all baptised Roman Catholic as you  
20 followed your father's faith in those days. I'm not  
21 religious any more.

22 "My education has been affected. I was told I was  
23 never good in Smyllum. There have been times in later  
24 life that I have tried things to better myself. I once  
25 enrolled in a computer course. I only went there three

1 times because I felt people were looking at me and  
2 thinking that I didn't really know anything because I  
3 was taking so long to learn. I was becoming very  
4 claustrophobic and anxious because I thought people were  
5 looking at me and thinking I was silly. I think my time  
6 in Smyllum has affected the way that I learn.

7 "I'm terrified of the dark, thunder and lightning.  
8 I won't go in lifts or get on aeroplanes. I'm afraid of  
9 enclosed spaces. My windows have to be open all the  
10 time. I can't even go to big indoor shopping centres.  
11 They make me anxious. I don't like to feel shut in.  
12 I feel this is from all the times I was locked in the  
13 cupboard at Smyllum.

14 "I feel like I have to be in control of everything  
15 for myself. Everything needs to be planned. I think  
16 back now to certain rituals I did as the children were  
17 growing up, like I had a compulsive disorder. They must  
18 have thought I was nuts. I still have rituals that  
19 I need to go through with things. Everything is  
20 institutionalised and everything has to be done  
21 a certain way. I have never been late for anything.

22 "I have not had any counselling lately. I have just  
23 gotten on with my life. For me, it was important to  
24 getting it out there as people already knew it had  
25 happened. I was just looking for acknowledgement.



1 readings. The first will take approximately 30 minutes,  
2 'the second and third will be 20 minutes and 5 minutes.

3 LADY SMITH: Thank you very much.

4 Witness statement of "JACK" (read)

5 MS RATTRAY: The next read-in is from a witness who wishes  
6 to remain anonymous and is using the pseudonym of  
7 "Jack".

8 For the purposes of this read-in it would be helpful  
9 if I provided a small amount of context.

10 LADY SMITH: Thank you very much.

11 MS RATTRAY: When Jack -- this statement can be found at  
12 WIT.001.001.2362.

13 When Jack gave a statement to the Inquiry he didn't  
14 know the name of the establishment in which he lived as  
15 a child. However it has since been confirmed that the  
16 establishment was Smyllum and Jack is now aware of  
17 that --

18 LADY SMITH: Thank you.

19 MS RATTRAY: -- but the statement is read in the context of  
20 him not knowing that at the time:

21 "My name is Jack. I was born in 1951. My contact  
22 details are known to the Inquiry.

23 "My father was a hard man. He was a hard drinking,  
24 hard working, hard fighting man. But then he would have  
25 been called a macho man. My mother was from Bridgeton,

1            somewhere that was the exact polar opposite of  
2            Gallowgate where we lived. She was a protestant. She  
3            converted to Catholicism when she married my dad. She  
4            took up the religion more fervently because she was  
5            a convert. She was at chapel practically seven days  
6            a week. I was in fear of my dad. My mother was  
7            a moaner.

8            "I have one younger brother and had one younger  
9            sister. I think my sister was three years younger than  
10           me. She died when she was young. She was in the home  
11           with me. My younger brother wasn't born at the time  
12           I went into care.

13           "I was a sickly boy. I had meningitis when I was  
14           born. I was put in calipers. They were like tin legs.  
15           I had the calipers off by the time I went into care.  
16           I'm not sure when exactly they came off. My illness  
17           left me deaf in one ear. They thought that I might not  
18           be able to walk. I was confined indoors because of  
19           that. I was restricted. I couldn't go anywhere. That  
20           made me a timid boy. I was scared.

21           "We stayed in rooms. It wasn't houses. It was  
22           rooms in tenements. My mother had TB. She had to go  
23           into a sanatorium. My dad was working and couldn't keep  
24           us so he put me and my sister in the home. That was  
25           when I was about six years old. I wouldn't know

1 anything about whether there were court orders or  
2 anything like that putting me in the home. I don't  
3 remember.

4 "I don't really know when I went into the home  
5 exactly. I have photographs of me and my sister sitting  
6 outside of the front of the home. On the back of one of  
7 the photographs is written the year, 1957. I must have  
8 been there in 1957. It could be around 1956 that I went  
9 there. I think my mother was in the sanatorium for  
10 2 years, so I take it from that that we were in the home  
11 for 2 years. The best I can say is that I was at the  
12 home for a period of 2 years for some time in the 50s  
13 between the ages of 4 and 8.

14 "I can't say whether I was there for a continuous  
15 block or whether it was staggered. That said, I can't  
16 remember being out for a while and returning.

17 "I don't know where the home was. There's something  
18 that makes me think it was in Renfrew. I don't know  
19 what makes me think that. It could be somewhere that  
20 sounds like Renfrew. It was a big house with its own  
21 grounds. It was built of blond sandstone. It stood by  
22 itself. It had an expanse of grass at its front. There  
23 was an iron fence around it. There was no fountain or  
24 anything like that about it. We weren't out that much,  
25 so I can't really describe the area around the home.

1           "The place was massive. I had never been in a house  
2           that big. I was used to staying in a room. I had never  
3           seen a place that size before. It was overwhelming and  
4           overpowering. It seemed excessive to me.

5           "I have photographs that show the place. You can  
6           see it in the background. The photographs show that the  
7           lower basement windows had bars over them. The ground  
8           floor windows don't. It had flower pots outside.  
9           There's big urns with flowers in them. Another  
10          photograph shows big parkland around the house with  
11          an iron fence around the grounds. There's lots of trees  
12          and rhododendrons.

13          "The place wasn't full but it was quite full. There  
14          were two wings. There was a lassies' side and a boys'  
15          side. I think there were about 50 children in my  
16          dormitory. But I don't know how many dormitories there  
17          were in the building:

18          "The age range of people there was about my age and  
19          lower. I know that my sister was about three years old  
20          at the time, so maybe that would have been about the  
21          youngest there.

22          "I don't remember seeing babies. I can't remember  
23          what age the kids there went up to.

24          "I would love to know where it is. I don't know  
25          why. Maybe I'd escape some demons if I found out. It's

1 not demons in the worst sense. I just have a bad smell  
2 about the place.

3 "I cannot remember the exact name of the order who  
4 looked after us. They were called something like the  
5 Sisters of the Poor or the Sisters of Mercy. They wore  
6 black had white floppy winged hats. I remember the nuns  
7 were all in austere black, shoulder-padded habits with  
8 a big white bib. They wore black belts. They had  
9 rosary beads around their middle. They were dressed  
10 like that from head to toe. It was almost like a hijab  
11 that they wore:

12 "It was all nuns who ran it. I don't remember any  
13 other staff. There were quite a few nuns there.  
14 I would say there were about ten nuns there alongside  
15 the Sister Superior. The Sister Superior was in charge  
16 of them. The Sister Superior was like God in there.  
17 I can't remember the names of any of the nuns. I don't  
18 want to remember the names of any of them. They were  
19 pretty much all Gestapo. They were physically and  
20 mentally bad. One of two of them were quite kind.

21 "It was a strict Catholic disciplinarian system. It  
22 was draconian. It was bleak and austere. The nuns were  
23 mentally powerful. They subsumed you. They had total  
24 power. You were only a wee boy and you were fighting  
25 against the Catholic Church. The nuns wanted you to

1 fear them. They succeeded.

2 "I can't remember anything about being taken to the  
3 home or my first day. I just remember being there.  
4 I went there with my sister. I do remember that she got  
5 taken away from me. They were bad separating my wee  
6 sister and me. My sister was like my boss before I went  
7 in there. She was my wee guard. She fought my battles.  
8 She stood in for my pals. I needed her because I had  
9 been sickly and not gone out. I lost all that when  
10 I went into the home. It was brutal.

11 "I didn't have much contact with my sister whilst  
12 I was in the home. We were in separate dorms. We  
13 weren't allowed to play together. The only time we met  
14 was when our dad came up to see us.

15 "I have never given much thought about being  
16 separated from my parents and whether that affected me.  
17 Being separated from my sister did affect me though.

18 "You were got up about 6 o'clock in the morning.  
19 A nun would come in and wake you. You then got washed,  
20 you then had breakfast. We had breakfast in the dining  
21 hall. After that we came back up the stairs to the  
22 dormitory. We would then make our beds. We might have  
23 made our beds before we went down. I can't really  
24 remember.

25 "That would be it then. We just had to sit in our

1 dorm for the day. There was a nun who would watch us.  
2 She would supervise us. I would just sit on my bed all  
3 day. That was the same for all the boys. That's about  
4 all I remember from the daily routine. If other things  
5 happened, I have not registered it.

6 "I can't remember any of the detail of the routine  
7 about going to bed. The dormitory was massive. It was  
8 sparse. There were about fifty in my dormitory. We  
9 were all lined up before we went to bed. It was like  
10 an army of weans. I think there were about four or five  
11 nuns allocated to our dormitory. They were committed to  
12 our dormitory. They used to patrol us at night.

13 "The nuns would get us up for a wash in the  
14 mornings. We had to stand lined up at a sink. We used  
15 a brush to do our nails and things like that. You had  
16 to scrub your hands and things. You got a bath once  
17 a week on a Saturday night.

18 "I have no memories of what the food was like.  
19 I don't have any memories of eating in there. I can't  
20 remember getting anything to eat.

21 "I can't remember a uniform or anything about  
22 clothes. I don't remember having anything of my own.  
23 There wasn't pocket money or treats or anything like  
24 that.

25 "I can't remember going to school whilst I was

1           there. I would be telling a lie if I said I remembered  
2           anything like that. I don't remember education or  
3           anything like that.

4           "I was never taken on holiday by these people.

5           "I don't remember Christmas. I don't remember being  
6           taken out for Christmas. I don't remember birthdays or  
7           anything like that.

8           "I can't recall playing with a ball or getting  
9           outside or anything like that. I don't remember being  
10          outside. When I think about it, all I remember of the  
11          day is sitting in the dormitory. I remember there were  
12          other weans in there with me and we were all just  
13          staring out of the window. I remember looking at green  
14          grass and a couple of bushes. I don't remember seeing  
15          anyone else outside.

16          "I can't remember there being anything for us to do  
17          in the dorms. I can't remember toys or games. I don't  
18          recollect any television or radio. I don't remember any  
19          books.

20          "I don't remember having a pal. It's funny because  
21          weans make pals. I can't understand how I don't  
22          remember making pals. You would think, being in that  
23          bleak place, you would have found a soulmate but I never  
24          found one.

25          "I can't remember any chores or work.

1 "God wasn't thrashed into my head. That came later  
2 by the Catholic Church at school after I left the home.  
3 I don't remember going to Mass whilst I was in the home.  
4 I think I did have to pray. I remember being on my  
5 knees by the bed first thing in the morning. I can't  
6 remember there being anything like a chapel in the  
7 place. There might have been.

8 "When there were visitors the nun would tell us and  
9 we had to go and get washed and changed. We weren't  
10 pre-warned about visits; we were just told that the  
11 visitors were there. The nun would then take us down to  
12 the foyer of the house. We met our visitors in the main  
13 foyer. I think that visiting time was at the weekend.

14 "My dad came to visit. That's the only time  
15 I remember being taken out of the home. I remember that  
16 my dad came to visit once or twice over the two years.  
17 It might be more. He had a scooter first of all, but  
18 later on he had a motorbike and a sidecar. He came out  
19 in those to see us. I remember him taking us out on the  
20 scooter and later on taking us out in his sidecar. He  
21 took us out on a run. I remember us being on the road  
22 and in the countryside. I think he was allowed to take  
23 us out of the grounds because he was a parent. Maybe he  
24 had more leeway because of that.

25 "My granny and aunty used to come and see us as

1 well. That was my dad's mum and sister. I think my  
2 granny and aunty came up once a week. They were both  
3 from Gallowgate. They would let us out into the garden  
4 in the grounds. I can't remember how long the visits  
5 lasted. My granny and aunty used to bring us oranges  
6 and things like that.

7 "I have no recollection of inspectors or anyone  
8 official coming to the home. I didn't have a social  
9 worker that came to see me.

10 "I don't remember any regular healthcare. The only  
11 thing I remember was one incident. I don't remember how  
12 long I had been at the home when I did this. You used  
13 to get a collar stiffener in your shirts. They were wee  
14 white things. It was a wee plastic bar. I deliberately  
15 pulled one of those out of my shirt collar and stuck it  
16 in my ear. I was trying to make myself deaf.

17 I remember doing that in my bed in the home. I kept  
18 shoving it in and it go stuck. I don't know why I was  
19 inflicting pain on myself but I was in pain. Maybe it  
20 was a cry for help?

21 "I managed to damage my ear. I burst my eardrum.  
22 They took me to the hospital. I can't remember which  
23 hospital. I can't remember staying in the hospital.  
24 Thank god it didn't have long-term effects because I was  
25 deaf in my other ear from the meningitis.

1           "My memories of the abuse I got off the nuns is more  
2           general. I was very young. There is nothing in  
3           particular that stands out. It's maybe because I was  
4           used to violence when I went into the home. My dad used  
5           to beat my mother. I remember that. You couldn't  
6           escape from it because we were all in the same room.  
7           I remember my dad being drunk and giving beatings to my  
8           mum. Maybe I was inured to violence and that is why  
9           nothing sticks out?

10           "I did know that the nuns were beating us up and  
11           doing bad things. I knew that the nuns were doing  
12           things that they shouldn't have been doing. I was only  
13           a wee boy but I knew it wasn't right.

14           "The nuns in charge of our dormitory would beat us.  
15           They were bad to us. They would physically beat us with  
16           their hands in the dormitory. They did it mainly at  
17           bedtime and night-time when there were no witnesses.  
18           I don't know why it happened at that time. I don't know  
19           whether that was when their shift changed or something  
20           like that.

21           "The nuns would sometimes hit us with their beads.  
22           They would hit you everywhere. Nothing was sacred.  
23           Most of them were bad. We didn't deserve that.  
24           I really don't know why they were doing it. It seemed  
25           that they were doing it for no reason at all. It seemed

1 that they were just doing it out of badness. It  
2 happened whenever they took the hump. If they had a bad  
3 day, we would get a doing. I would be lying if I tried  
4 to give you a number for the times I got a beating.  
5 I can't remember. It felt like we were getting beatings  
6 quite regularly.

7 "The nuns in charge of our dormitory would make you  
8 stand. They would humiliate you in front of the other  
9 weans. They would humiliate you verbally. They would  
10 say bad things about you. They would say you were a  
11 'pauper' and a 'bastard' and things like that. It  
12 didn't make me feel good them saying things like that.  
13 They were bad. They tried to demean you. I'd be lying  
14 if I tried to give a number for the amount of times I  
15 got verbally abused. I can't remember. It felt like it  
16 was quite regular.

17 "I saw the nuns beat my sister. They did that in my  
18 dormitory. Me and my sister were supposed to be going  
19 out for the day. We joined up in the dormitory. The  
20 nun singled out my wee sister and gave her a beating.  
21 She took my sister up the back and started slapping her  
22 about her head. She slapped my sister's face. My  
23 sister was only 3. I don't remember the name of the  
24 nun. When I was noticed seeing my sister get slapped  
25 I was told to face the front by the nun. That's the

1           only time I recall seeing my sister getting a beating.

2           "I didn't get to see my sister many times because we  
3           were separated in the home. My sister would tell me  
4           when my dad and granny visited that she was getting  
5           doings. I remember her telling me what happened in her  
6           own words.

7           "It didn't matter who we were. We all got it. We  
8           all got the beatings and the verbal humiliation. I saw  
9           the nuns doing these things to other weans. We didn't  
10          get a kind word off of the nuns I knew. I think looking  
11          after us was seen as a chore for them. I dare say that  
12          was what the thinking was in those days.

13          "I cried every night I went to bed. I was on the  
14          bed crying every night. I was only a wean. I have no  
15          happy memories there. I just remember it being a big  
16          bleak place. It was like jail. I can compare it to  
17          things now like that but I couldn't do that back then.  
18          It was confinement. It felt as if I had been there all  
19          of the time. The only good thing that came out of my  
20          time in the home was that I wasn't sexually abused.

21          "I wet the bed. I was sometimes a regular  
22          bed-wetter. We used to get a doing for that. The nuns  
23          used to beat you on your legs with a belt. They would  
24          beat you. They did that at night-time. They would find  
25          out you wet the bed because they would inspect the beds.

1 They would make you stand up wet in front of everybody  
2 and humiliate you. They would make you change the bed.  
3 They would make you wash your sheet. You did that  
4 outside the dormitory in a wash hand basin.

5 "Sometimes they gave you a clean sheet but sometimes  
6 they didn't. Sometimes they would take your mattress  
7 away. They would make you sleep on the springs with no  
8 mattress or sheet. That happened to me once. I had no  
9 covers or anything. The same things happened to  
10 a couple of the other boys as well.

11 "I can't remember anything about leaving the place.  
12 My next memory is being back home. Even that memory is  
13 kind of fuzzy. I think I left because my mother had  
14 come out of the sanatorium. I know the only reason we  
15 were staying in the home was because my mother was  
16 staying in the sanatorium. I don't know whether I went  
17 back to Gallowgate. I take it I did. I never went back  
18 into care after I returned home.

19 "I couldn't tell my mother or my dad about what was  
20 going on. I couldn't tell anybody. Nobody would  
21 believe me. No one would think nuns would do that. If  
22 I told people they would have just said, 'Nuns wouldn't  
23 do that to you'. That was the hard part.

24 "I don't know why I felt I couldn't tell my  
25 relatives about what had happened to me. I just

1           couldn't tell them. The nuns were in authority. My  
2           relatives wouldn't have believed me. In those days if  
3           you said a doctor had cut out your heart and the doctor  
4           denied it, they would have believed the doctor. You  
5           didn't question authority.

6           " In later life I tried to tell a priest about what  
7           had happened to me during confession. I was about 15.  
8           I was becoming a bit of a rebel at that time. The  
9           priest was from St Philomena's. That was my parish at  
10          the time. I knew the priest but I can't remember the  
11          priest's name. He was old. I told him in the  
12          confessional box that I had been getting doings off  
13          these nuns when I was in the home. I don't really know  
14          why I chose to tell him at that time. It was the first  
15          time I had told anybody about what had happened. The  
16          priest just told me to leave. He wouldn't accept it.

17          " In later life I also told a couple of my cousins  
18          what had happened to me.

19          " I never went to anybody formally like the police.  
20          The police wouldn't have believed me anyway.

21          " When I left the home I think we lived in Gallowgate  
22          in the East End. We later moved. I went to school when  
23          I came back to the family. Later on I lost my wee  
24          sister. I'm not sure when that was after I came out.  
25          She was five. I remember coming off the bus school bus

1 in Easterhouse and someone telling me that my sister had  
2 been killed. I wasn't sure what that meant. I was then  
3 taken away to my auntie's to stay. My mother was  
4 grieving. It was a big blow.

5 "Later on we moved to a notorious gangster area.  
6 I was supposed to go to grammar school because I had  
7 passed the eleven-plus. I didn't though. I ended up at  
8 a new comprehensive secondary school. I was sent to see  
9 a psychiatrist by the school when I was 13. That was  
10 because I had been playing truant.

11 "The psychiatrist wanted to know why I was missing  
12 school. They tested me. I was quite intelligent and  
13 wasn't getting where I should have been getting.  
14 I didn't know what was happening. I know now, in  
15 hindsight, where I could have been. The psychiatrist  
16 said I was excellent and normal. He said I was a normal  
17 boy and that I was just being a bit of a rebel.

18 "I eventually ran away from home when I was about  
19 15. I don't know why I ran away. I ultimately became a  
20 structural engineer. I was married but now I'm  
21 divorced. I have five kids."

22 "I have put it all into the trash can. It can  
23 consume you. I've had to deal with it. I've not let it  
24 consume me. If you hold onto things it makes you a bad  
25 person. You're better forgetting about the thing. I've

1 always been optimistic about life and looked forward.  
2 It's not the be all and end all of things. I've lived  
3 my life. I know that things that happen in your  
4 childhood can affect you in later life. I don't think  
5 it's messed up my life or my head. I don't think so.

6 "When I was younger I went through the angst of  
7 trying to explore myself. I went through a period of  
8 trying to understand myself. It wasn't my fault.  
9 I couldn't have done anything about what happened to me.  
10 It was just circumstance.

11 "I have tried to come to terms with things. I have  
12 tried to be pragmatic. I have tried to think, why was  
13 this done? And why was that done? I can't account for  
14 other people's actions. I have got to think about the  
15 thinking back then. The thinking has all changed now.  
16 It was all different back then. I try to rationalise  
17 things. I don't really think about it at all.

18 "I don't really think it has affected me too much.  
19 It has a bit, but I wouldn't say it's ruined my life.  
20 I have had other things to think about. The wee bit  
21 that affected me was what the nuns did to my wee sister.  
22 What they did to her was cruel.

23 "I have never had any support or treatment for what  
24 happened back then. I have been strong enough to deal  
25 with it myself. I'm not daft. I can read. I can

1 overcome things.

2 "I have never tried to get my records. I would like  
3 to know where I was staying in order to expel my demons.  
4 Sometimes seeing a place makes things tangible.  
5 Speaking to the Inquiry makes things tangible and  
6 I would like to know where I was.

7 "I think the Catholic Church has to come out and  
8 tell the truth. They have got to open up and let  
9 everybody know what they have done. They need to do  
10 that and let everybody move on. It wouldn't really make  
11 a difference to me now if they did that but they need to  
12 do that. Since the beginning of time the  
13 Catholic Church has done nothing but tell lies. It's  
14 just a monolith for making money.

15 "I don't blame them. I really don't. That's what  
16 the times were about back then. You were seen and not  
17 heard. You had to obey your elders and doff your cap.  
18 You had to do what you were told. That was what you had  
19 to do when I was a wee boy. I don't know whether that  
20 was good or bad. But that is what it was like.

21 "A lot of people wouldn't listen to me for a long,  
22 long time. I want to put my protest in. I want to let  
23 people know what has happened. I want a record. I want  
24 people to know what happened to people, what happened to  
25 me and that it is all true. Nobody believed us for

1 a long time but it is true.

2 "No wean should go through what we went through.  
3 Nobody has got the right to mess a wean's head up.  
4 Nobody's got the right to take a childhood away from  
5 a wean. That lives with you forever. Anybody who wants  
6 to do those things deserves to be locked up.

7 "I just don't want these things to happen to any  
8 other wean. That's the main reason I'm speaking to the  
9 Inquiry. I'm not in this for any financial gain or  
10 anything like that. I'm not speaking out because of  
11 egotism or revenge or anything like that. I just want  
12 to get it on the record that this happened to me and it  
13 happened to a lot of other people.

14 "I have no objection to my witness statement being  
15 published as part of the evidence to the Inquiry.  
16 I believe the facts stated in this witness statement are  
17 true."

18 The statement was signed by Jack on 7 August 2017.

19 LADY SMITH: Thank you Ms Rattray.

20 Ms MacLeod, I think it was indicated it would be the  
21 shortest statement first, is that right?

22 MS MACLEOD: That is right, my Lady.

23 The next witness statement to be read in is from  
24 a witness who would like her first name to be used and  
25 that is "Annmarie". The statement is to be found at

1 WIT.001.001.2031.

2 Before I read part of this witness statement,  
3 my Lady, I will explain that in the statement this  
4 witness describes certain experiences at various  
5 establishments, including Castlemilk in Lockerbie, and  
6 three Nazareth Houses in Cardonald, Kilmarnock and  
7 Aberdeen. Her evidence in relation to Smyllum only will  
8 be read in at this point and the remainder of her  
9 statement can be considered at a later stage.

10 LADY SMITH: Thank you.

11 Witness statement of ANNMARIE (read)

12 MS MACLEOD: "My name is Annmarie. My date of birth is  
13 1960. My contact details are known to the Inquiry.

14 "My parents are both dead. I have two older sisters  
15 and one younger brother.

16 "I have a clear memory of living at home with my  
17 family. At that time we were living at Whiteinch in  
18 Glasgow. There was a lot of drinking and violence  
19 between my mum and dad. I remember getting taken away  
20 then put back a few times.

21 "As far as I'm aware, we were eventually taken into  
22 care by the Social Work Department, although I don't  
23 remember ever actually seeing them. The police got  
24 involved and it was through the child protection place  
25 in Glasgow. As far as I know we became wards of court.

1           "According to my records, I was first in  
2           Smyllum Orphanage in Lanark in 1967. Between 1967 and  
3           1969, I was also in Castlemilk in Lockerbie,  
4           Nazareth House in Cardonald, Nazareth House in  
5           Kilmarnock, until finally going into Nazareth House in  
6           Aberdeen in 1969.

7           "The first place I have memories of is Smyllum.  
8           I would have been 6 or 7 years old. I'm not sure where  
9           it was or who ran it. I remember there were a couple of  
10          nuns in our building at Smyllum but there were other  
11          nonreligious staff there too. There were other nuns who  
12          worked at the chapel and at the school in the grounds.  
13          There was a school just behind the place.

14          "I was there with my sisters. They were kept  
15          together and I was on my own. I don't know where my  
16          brother was.

17          "I remember one day a woman, not a nun, was brushing  
18          my hair and it was tuggy. She pulled my hair. I said,  
19          'Ow, ow, ow', so they hit me with the hairbrush. The  
20          brush broke in half. She went away and brought back  
21          a great big brush with a dustpan. She said that big  
22          brush was the only thing that would get through my hair  
23          she used it to brush my hair. That was the only thing  
24          that happened to me in Smyllum.

25          "I remember seeing other girls who had wet the bed

1 and they would be humiliated. They would either be made  
2 to hold the wet bedsheets up or made to stand up and put  
3 the wet sheets on their head. I didn't wet the bed.  
4 That was the nonreligious staff and not the nuns that  
5 made them do that.

6 "I saw other girls get hit if they didn't do what  
7 they were told or had done something wrong. The  
8 nonreligious staff would hit them about the head with  
9 a tool or whatever they had in their hand.

10 "I was never hit in Smyllum but I have no happy  
11 memories from Smyllum. I wasn't shown any love and  
12 affection. To the staff that worked there I was  
13 nothing, absolutely nothing, just a number.

14 "I didn't get any visits from my family and I'm not  
15 aware of anyone from the Social Work Department or  
16 anyone in authority coming to see me.

17 "I was only there for about a week. Then we went  
18 back home for a while. I think the next place I was  
19 taken to was either Castlemilk or Nazareth House,  
20 Cardonald."

21 As I said, my Lady, the witness then goes on to  
22 describe her experiences of other establishments. So  
23 I will move on to paragraph 135, towards the very end of  
24 this statement, which is on the final page at  
25 WIT.001.001.2057:

1            "I am happy for my details to be shared as necessary  
2            for the purposes of this Inquiry. I do not feel that  
3            I need anonymity throughout this process. I have no  
4            objection to my witness statement being published as  
5            part of the evidence to the Inquiry. I believe the  
6            facts stated in this witness statement are true."

7            The statement was signed by Annmarie on  
8            17 August 2017.

9            LADY SMITH: Thank you.

10            Witness statement of "ALISON" (read)

11            MS MACLEOD: My Lady, I would now move on to the second  
12            statement. This is a statement of a witness who wishes  
13            to remain anonymous and wishes to use the pseudonym  
14            "Alison".

15            LADY SMITH: Thank you.

16            MS MACLEOD: This witness statement can be found at  
17            WIT.001.001.2132.

18            I should say, my Lady, that during the statement at  
19            various points the witness makes reference to a book she  
20            has. She has provided the Inquiry with a copy of this  
21            book. It is a book which is entitled "Old Lanark" by  
22            Rona Wilson. In fact, some of the photographs,  
23            including two we have looked at already during these  
24            Inquiry hearings, have been taken from the book: one of  
25            the school at Smyllum and one at the girl's dining room.

1           These photographs can be found at WIT.003.001.1283 and  
2           WIT.003.001.1284.

3       LADY SMITH: Thank you.

4       MS MACLEOD: "My name is Alison. I was born in 1949. My  
5           contact details are known to the Inquiry.

6           "My mother and my father were married and later  
7           divorced. I have been told that my mother and father  
8           were no longer in a relationship when I was conceived.  
9           They both had new partners. They bumped into each other  
10          on a Christmas night out and got together for old times'  
11          sake. My birth date ties in with them having met up  
12          around Christmas.

13          "My mother and father are deceased. I never met my  
14          father. I don't know the circumstances of how I ended  
15          up in care. I was born in an ex-army hut in Pollok. It  
16          was a place where prisoners of war had been kept.  
17          People had started to live thereafter the prisoners were  
18          repatriated. I visited the site as an adult. The huts  
19          were gone. It was so small. You would miss it if you  
20          blinked as you went through it. It was really just  
21          a field. I was speaking about it recently to a friend  
22          and he produced a photograph of himself standing at the  
23          site. You can see the huts in the background.

24          "I don't know who was living in the hut with my  
25          mother. I believe people squatted in them, but I don't

1 know whether my mother was squatting or lived there  
2 officially.

3 "In later years, I met up with my mother's sister  
4 and she told me that I was about 2 when I went into  
5 Smyllum. She said that my mother couldn't care for me.  
6 She had me down to London and then brought me back  
7 because she just couldn't cope.

8 "I also found out that my mother's two sisters had  
9 wanted to look after me. My mother refused to allow my  
10 aunt to take me. My aunt lived in England and drove all  
11 the way up to ask if she could have me. She had one  
12 daughter, who was older than me. I wish I had gone down  
13 there; I would have had a better life. I have been told  
14 my mum was a bit jealous of her sister and that's why  
15 she refused to let me go with her.

16 "My aunt was told by the welfare officer,  
17 Ms McKendrick, that she couldn't have me because she had  
18 two children of her own. Ms McKendrick's office was on  
19 Union Street in Hamilton. She was the Chief Welfare  
20 Officer. I met her for the first time when I was about  
21 5.

22 "I don't know whether there was a court hearing for  
23 me to be taken both care or whether it was done  
24 voluntarily.

25 "Given how young I was, I have no memory of going

1 into Smyllum. My baptism certificate shows that I was  
2 baptised in St Mary's Church in Lanark, so I was  
3 obviously baptised after I went into Smyllum. That just  
4 dawned on me when I was looking at the certificate last  
5 night. St Mary's was next to Smyllum. I was baptised  
6 in [REDACTED] 1952. I was two and a half years old. That  
7 helps to confirm when I went into the home.

8 "Smyllum was run by nuns. I don't know what the  
9 religious order was. They wore great big headdresses in  
10 those days. They frightened the wits out of me.  
11 I don't remember any of the nuns' names. That's the one  
12 thing I regret.

13 "My very first memory of Smyllum is getting moved to  
14 another part of the building, which I think was around  
15 the time I was to start school. I think I was about 4  
16 or 5. I can't be specific about what age I was when  
17 things happened or how long I was in places.

18 "I remember being taken into a cloakroom, which had  
19 stone walls and floors, and a nun took my hat and coat  
20 off. There were a lot of people around me. I was so  
21 shy. My head was always down. I wouldn't have looked  
22 at anybody. I was then taken up a set of stairs into a  
23 room, which I call the play area. This is the place  
24 where I spent most of my time. When I think back to it,  
25 I feel that I was always in that wee room, never

1 anywhere else.

2 "I don't know how many children were there or the  
3 age range. I think I was one of the younger ones.  
4 I only ever saw girls in Smyllum, except on one  
5 occasion. I found out many years later that boys had  
6 been in Smyllum too, so they must have had their own  
7 areas.

8 "It was a huge old house, with a large entrance  
9 hall. It had been standing since the 1800s. I do not  
10 think it had been updated in all those years. I have  
11 got a book which has old pictures of Smyllum in it. The  
12 pictures are just as I remember it. I went back to  
13 visit with my two daughters when I was in my 30s. We  
14 took sweets and fruit but it was boarded up. We were  
15 told it got boarded up just two years before.

16 "The dormitory was right next door to the play area.  
17 There were rows and rows of beds. It always seemed so  
18 overcrowded.

19 "We got out of bed and washed ourselves in the  
20 morning. We then lined up to go into the food hall.  
21 The food hall was along the same corridor as the  
22 dormitory. We all walked in a straight line in silence  
23 into the food hall.

24 "We would go back to the play area after the food  
25 hall and then run up the wee hill to the school.

1            "I drew a picture of the play area some years ago  
2            which shows the layout of the room. There were little  
3            cupboards along one of the walls, with windows above  
4            looking out to the outside play area. All of the  
5            children had a cupboard each and a key. There were  
6            windows on the opposite wall and a big fire against  
7            another wall, with a fireguard from floor to ceiling in  
8            front of it. The communal bathroom was at one side of  
9            the fire, and there was a cupboard full of jars and  
10           sweets on the other side. There was an area at the  
11           other side of the room with toys, such as prams, dolls  
12           and dolls' houses. It had rope barriers round it. We  
13           could see the toys but weren't allowed to play with  
14           them.

15           "We got a sweetie at 6 o'clock before we went to  
16           bed. It was always a liquorice allsort, which are still  
17           my favourite. When I went back as an adult to visit, I  
18           was told that a local cafe used to donate sweets to the  
19           home, so that's probably where my liquorice allsorts  
20           came from.

21           "I spent most of my time in the play area. I don't  
22           remember how many kids were this there with me. I just  
23           remember us all playing about in this horrible room. We  
24           weren't allowed to play with the toys, so we just ran  
25           about in the room and amused ourselves.

1            "I didn't have any special friends. The other kids  
2 didn't want to know me. I was so quiet. I was very,  
3 very shy. I noticed that some kids had friends. They  
4 were probably a bit more talkative than me.

5            "We wore a uniform, which was a black dress with  
6 a white pinafore over it. We all had the same haircut.  
7 It was a bowl haircut above the ears, not very stylish.  
8 It was so regimented. Everybody was the same.

9            "As I said, we all had a cupboard and a key but we  
10 didn't have anything to put in them. I remember  
11 deciding to save up my liquorice allsorts. I put them  
12 in the cupboard until I had ten. I took them out one  
13 night and put them on my wee pinny. I was sitting with  
14 my sweeties on my lap and kids came running up to me  
15 saying they would be my friends forever if I gave them  
16 a sweetie. I gave all my sweeties away so they would be  
17 my friends.

18           "There were wee steps from the play area which led  
19 down to a tiny door. The door opened out to the front  
20 of the building, where there was a small square  
21 playground with swings and a roundabout. There was one  
22 other thing in the playground, but I can't remember what  
23 it was. We played out there sometimes. We didn't get  
24 out every day, only on rare occasions.

25           "The nuns didn't read us stories, nor did they have

1 access to books or comics. I don't remember there being  
2 a radio, but I remember we used to sing a song which was  
3 a Eurovision song, sung by somebody called Teddy. The  
4 words were, 'There's a bird in the tree, there's a tree  
5 in the meadow ...' I don't know where I had heard it.  
6 We sang another song, "Where will the baby's dimple be?"  
7 which was my wee party piece when I got older. I think  
8 we sang these songs just to amuse ourselves.

9 "The food hall was exactly like the photograph in my  
10 book. There were rows and rows of tables and benches.  
11 There seemed to me to be hundreds of kids in the room.  
12 I don't know where they all came from. We had to be  
13 quiet during meals. The nuns would walk up and down the  
14 whole time, watching what you were doing, waiting to  
15 reprimand you.

16 "I don't ever remember getting a good dinner. The  
17 food was awful. I used to pass it on to someone else  
18 when I couldn't eat it. There was always someone  
19 hungry. I didn't eat very much. I remember eating the  
20 bread. It always nipped my tongue. I used to wonder  
21 why. I know now it was because of the blue mould on  
22 it."

23 "I got introduced to school not long after I moved  
24 to the building where the play area was. We'd go down  
25 the stairs in the play area, out the back of the

1 building and walk up a wee hill to school. I might be  
2 wrong but that's how I remember it.

3 "I think the school was just for the children in  
4 Smyllum. We all wore the black dress and a white  
5 pinafore. The teachers were nuns. The school was just  
6 like the pictures in the book I've got. I remember the  
7 classroom so well. There were rows and rows of desks  
8 and glass partitions between the classes. You could see  
9 through to the other side.

10 "I remember watching the teacher writing numbers on  
11 the board one day, and we had to copy them down. I used  
12 to do the figure 8 by putting two noughts together. The  
13 teacher saw me doing it and hit me across the fingers  
14 with a ruler. It was so sore. The ruler came down so  
15 hard on me. I was crying.

16 "I used to write with my left hand. They knocked  
17 that out of me by constantly hitting me over the hands  
18 with a ruler. I remember the nun saying, 'This is  
19 evil'. When I left the orphanage and went to an outside  
20 school, my first teacher there was the same. She hated  
21 anyone writing with their left hand. For some reason,  
22 it seemed to be a problem back then.

23 "So that is what I remember of school at the  
24 orphanage. I was always getting chastised for trying to  
25 write with my left hand. I was a good wee girl too.

1 I would never have crossed the line. I always did what  
2 I was told. I was so scared of the nuns.

3 "I have a memory of walking along a jetty with  
4 a tall man who was wearing a long coat and hat. I don't  
5 know if it was a trip out. We walked to the end of the  
6 jetty and the water was up to the same height as the  
7 jetty. I remember thinking we were going to walk into  
8 the water. I was so scared. I can still remember how  
9 frightened I was. I was hiding behind the man. I don't  
10 remember my females being there. There were other  
11 people around but I don't know who they were. I was  
12 always going about with my head down.

13 "I have another memory of walking up the stairs on  
14 the outside of a house, and then going into the house.  
15 I don't know if it is connected to the memory of being  
16 on the jetty or whatever that was a different day  
17 together.

18 "The only other time I remember being out was when  
19 we were taken to Lanark for Lanimer day. There's  
20 a picture of Lanimer day in my book. I remember seeing  
21 all the floats going past and waving the wee flag I had  
22 been given.

23 "I think it was Christmas when I got a bottle of  
24 fizzy juice for the first time. I drank it through  
25 a straw and it went up my nose and gave me such

1 a fright. I never drank it again for years because  
2 I was frightened of that sensation. I don't remember  
3 getting presents for Christmas or ever seeing  
4 a Christmas tree.

5 "I don't think they celebrated birthdays. There  
6 were probably too many of us.

7 "The church was right next door to the orphanage.  
8 It was very small. I don't know if it was really just  
9 for the nuns. We used to go on Sundays. I was baptised  
10 in there. We said our prayers before and after meals.  
11 We also knelt down by our beds and said prayers at  
12 bedtime.

13 "I remember the Mother Superior coming up to me one  
14 day. I assume she was the Mother Superior. She was so  
15 scary. I don't know how long I would been in Smyllum  
16 when this happened. She took me to the dormitory and  
17 got me dressed in a blue scratchy dress. I then  
18 followed her along parts of the orphanage I had never  
19 seen before.

20 "I remember looking all around me as I walked behind  
21 her. Everything seemed to big to me. The floors and  
22 walls were wooden. The floor was highly polished and so  
23 shiny. You could eat your dinner off it. We got to a  
24 set of double doors, and the Mother Superior suddenly  
25 stopped and gave me a lecture. She was very stern. She

1 put her face right into mine. It was very frightening.  
2 She said, 'Now, I don't want you to talk unless you're  
3 spoken to. Be on your best behaviour'. I wouldn't have  
4 said 'boo' to anybody at that point in time.

5 "She opened the double doors and I just stood there.  
6 I saw all these children lined up. They were all lovely  
7 wee girls in pretty dresses and ribbons. I don't know  
8 where these kids came from. They certainly weren't from  
9 Smyllum. I had never seen any of them before. All the  
10 kids in Smyllum wore a uniform and had bowl haircuts.  
11 These wee girls looked so out of place.

12 "I was put right in the middle of all the wee girls  
13 and we were all spoken to, more or less in the same way  
14 the Mother Superior had spoken to me earlier. There  
15 were other nuns in the room too.

16 "After they got us all sorted, the doors opened and  
17 lots of men and women came in. They started inspecting  
18 all of us. They went through our hair looking for nits,  
19 looked in our ears and checked our teeth. It was like  
20 a cattle market. Every time I think back to it now,  
21 I remember how terrible it was. It was so humiliating.  
22 I just stood there. I didn't know what was going on.  
23 Nobody explained to me what was happening.

24 "All the wee ones in the pretty dresses got paired  
25 off with people and there was me, the typical wee orphan

1 left standing alone. Eventually the people who later  
2 became my foster parents, came up to me. I would later  
3 call them mum and dad. My mum tapped me on the shoulder  
4 and said something like "Come on, darling, you come with  
5 me". I will never forget it.

6 "I walked out into the hallway and the big front  
7 doors were open. I went out to the steps and saw  
8 a lady, Miss McKendrick, and a car with a chauffeur. It  
9 was a beautiful big limousine. It was Miss McKendrick's  
10 car. We all went to my mum and dad's house in the car.  
11 That was them taking me home for a trial weekend.  
12 I think it was a weekend. It was a few days anyway.

13 "We were dropped off at the house and I still didn't  
14 know what was going on. It would have been nice if it  
15 had been explained to me. I was about five, but I was  
16 bright for my age. I was very aware of things. I have  
17 always been very aware of things. I judge them right  
18 away. I know what kind of people they are as soon as  
19 I see them. I have always been like that. I think it  
20 is down to the fear that's in me. I was always  
21 frightened of my own shadow.

22 "The first thing my mum gave me was a bag of  
23 sweeties, all to myself. I couldn't believe it.  
24 I remember asking if they were all for me. I only ever  
25 got one sweetie a day. That brought me round a wee bit

1 and made me comfortable. I remember asking where my  
2 dorm was and she took me upstairs to a wee plain room  
3 with a bed in it.

4 "My mum went out early the next day and brought me  
5 a doll and a nice new dress. She realised how  
6 uncomfortable I was in the scratchy one. I played with  
7 the doll all weekend. She also gave me a little ring  
8 that'd been hers when she was a little girl. It was a  
9 rose gold signet ring. It fitted me perfectly. I wore it  
10 the whole weekend. I was so proud of it.

11 "Everything was fine during the visit. I remember  
12 my dad talking and playing with me. I can't remember  
13 much more, other than being taken back to Smyllum in the  
14 chauffeur driven car.

15 "When I went back to the orphanage, the nuns took my  
16 nice dress off and put my uniform back on me. They took  
17 the ring and doll from me, both of which were never seen  
18 again.

19 "My brother was in Smyllum when I was there. That's  
20 where I met him for the first time. I don't know when he  
21 went in. It might have been the same time as me. I know  
22 that he wasn't in long. My father took him out and  
23 raised him.

24 "I met my brother when we were all taken out one day  
25 to play in one of the fields. The field was part of the

1 premises. There were trees around it and lots of other  
2 trees beyond it. It looked lovely. All the kids were  
3 running around playing, and my brother approached me. He  
4 must have recognised me. I didn't notice if there were  
5 other boys around at the time.

6 "I didn't know my brother. I remember he had a wee  
7 badge on the lapel of his jacket and wore short trousers  
8 and woolly socks. He told me he was my brother, and I  
9 said he wasn't. I asked him for his badge, but he  
10 wouldn't give it to me. There were no adults present. It  
11 was just me and him. It only lasted about 5 or 10  
12 minutes.

13 "I think the meeting was set up by the nuns. That  
14 was the one and only occasion we were taken out to that  
15 field. I never saw another boy in Smyllum the whole time  
16 I was there. I never saw my brother again until I met up  
17 with my mother and siblings when I was about sixteen.

18 "I had one visit from my mother in Smyllum. That was  
19 another occasion when I was put into the blue, scratchy  
20 dress. The Mother Superior came and got me again. She  
21 took me down to a big hall full of folded up tables and  
22 chairs. I've since thought that maybe that was the food  
23 hall for the boys.

24 "I saw a lady sitting by herself. She was wearing a  
25 black and white suit and a wee hat. She was very smartly

1 dressed. She had two white buttons in her ears. I didn't  
2 know what earrings were, so that's what I thought they  
3 were. I can't remember everything we talked about, but I  
4 do remember her saying that I was getting big and that  
5 she was my mum. I said to her "Are you going to take me  
6 home to yours?". She gave me a tube of Smarties, which  
7 I ate straight away as I knew I wouldn't get to keep  
8 them.

9 "I now wonder if that was her coming to see me  
10 because she knew I would soon be getting fostered. That  
11 was maybe her last chance to see me. That's what I do:  
12 I think about all these things now and surmise what was  
13 going on. I don't know for sure.

14 "I don't know why nobody ever visited me. Seemingly  
15 my aunts knew that I was in there.

16 "I was never visited by Miss McKendrick. I didn't  
17 go home with the foster family until quite a while after  
18 I had met them. I had no ongoing contact with them  
19 after the first meeting. I never saw them again until  
20 I went to live with them permanently.

21 "I got the impression that the nuns were frustrated  
22 at having to be there. I do not think they wanted to be  
23 looking after kids. We were always being told to be  
24 quiet. Children were to be seen and not heard.  
25 I always remember the nuns being so cold towards us and

1           chastising us all the time.

2           "You would get smacked and put to bed if you spoke  
3           in the food hall. I remember kids being dragged out of  
4           there by the neck for speaking or doing something else  
5           the nuns didn't like.

6           "The nuns never showed any concern, warmth or love  
7           for us. They weren't nice or caring. There were no  
8           cuddles. In some ways, I think it taught me some lessons  
9           in how to be a good mother. I gave my kids what I never  
10          had. I loved my kids to bits and was always kissing and  
11          cuddling them. I respected them. If they weren't happy  
12          about something, I'd explain it to them. The nuns never  
13          explained things to me. They were just so cold.

14          "We got smacked and sent to bed without dinner if we  
15          got caught playing with the toys in the play area.  
16          I think I did it only once or twice. Whether you got  
17          told off or smacked and sent to bed, depended on the  
18          mood they were in.

19          "We were smacked and sent to bed without dinner, for  
20          one thing or another on numerous occasions. We were  
21          playing in the play area one day and a kid found a potty  
22          and did a pee in it. We all found it funny. One of the  
23          nuns came in and went spare. We wouldn't say who had  
24          done it at first, and then someone must have said who it  
25          was. The wee girl got smacked and put to bed. I could

1 hear her screaming in the dormitory. Everybody was  
2 frightened. We all got lectured and put to bed for not  
3 having spoken up.

4 "We used line up for our bath in the communal  
5 bathroom. I was first in the queue one day. I could  
6 see the steam rising from the bath and didn't want to  
7 get in. It was obvious, even to me as a kid, that it  
8 was too hot. I remember holding back and saying  
9 something like, "No, burny". The nun smacked me and  
10 told me to get in. I had to get in. I remember  
11 screaming with the pain. The water must have come up to  
12 the top of my legs. I had marks there for a long time.  
13 I don't know what happened after that. I don't know if  
14 I was left in there. I might have blacked out. I don't  
15 know whether I got taken to the hospital, but I do  
16 remember the pain. You would expect an injury like that  
17 to be documented somewhere. I don't know if they did  
18 that.

19 "There was an incident when I wet the bed.  
20 I remember the nun coming through to the play area,  
21 shouting my name out and then dragging me by the scruff  
22 of the neck into the dormitory. She took me to my bed  
23 and shouted "Did you do that?" I was so scared. She  
24 then pushed my down and rubbed my face into the wet  
25 sheet. I was then made to stand with the wet sheet over

1 my head. I don't know how long I stood there with the  
2 urine soaked sheet on me. I cried and cried. It was  
3 terrible. I don't remember ever wetting the bed again.  
4 I saw other kids being chastised in the same way.

5 "I remember the day I left Smyllum for good.  
6 I think I was about five or six. I was taken by a nun  
7 from the play area to get dressed in the blue scratchy  
8 dress again. I remember my mum was upset that I didn't  
9 come out with the things she had given me. She knew the  
10 blue dress irritated me and asked the nun why I was  
11 wearing it. She then asked about the doll, dress and  
12 ring she had given me. They said they didn't know where  
13 they were. I was crying when I realised I wasn't  
14 getting these things. I had forgotten about them.  
15 I was then taken home in Miss McKendrick's chauffeur  
16 driven car."

17 My Lady min the next paragraphs the witness goes on  
18 to describe her time in foster care from paragraph 69  
19 down to paragraphs 142.

20 LADY SMITH: Yes.

21 MS MACLEOD: 142 is on WIT.001.001.2157. Then from 142 to  
22 162 the witness then describes making contact with her  
23 own family.

24 LADY SMITH: Yes.

25 MS MACLEOD: I will then move on to paragraph 162 which is

1 on WIT.001.001.2160.

2 I should say that in this paragraph again when the  
3 witness refers to her mum and dad, she is speaking about  
4 her foster parents.

5 LADY SMITH: These are the foster parents, yes.

6 MS MACLEOD: "I lived with my mum and dad until I was 19.

7 I had left school at 15, and just worked away in my job.  
8 I got £3 and 14 shillings in wages and they took £3 for  
9 digs money. I had to buy clothes and toiletries with  
10 what I had left. I was good at my job and was  
11 appreciated. I used to get overtime on a Saturday. My  
12 mum and dad asked me for extra money when I got a rise  
13 or did overtime, but I got wise to that and stopped  
14 telling them about any extra money.

15 "Life was still the same living with them but I was  
16 a bit older and wiser. I used to stay over at my pal's  
17 house quite often.

18 "I married my husband just to get out of the house.  
19 It was an escape route. We lived in Glasgow at first  
20 and then moved to East Kilbride. We have two daughters  
21 and seven grandchildren.

22 "My mum and dad used to visit us. I was their only  
23 child."

24 Again, my Lady, that is referring to the foster  
25 parents.

1            "They came up on a regular basis to visit the kids.  
2            They were so good to the kids. It became like a kind of  
3            competition between them and my parents-in-law to see  
4            who could given the kids the most presents. I'm not  
5            bitter about it. It was just so different to how I was  
6            treated.

7            "I looked after my mum and dad as they got older and  
8            became ill. I used to do things like decorate and lay  
9            carpets for them. I was a good daughter.

10           "I was married for 21 years. In those days you made  
11           your bed and had to lie in it. My husband was very  
12           jealous. I was beginning to find my voice and he was  
13           jealous of that. We had arguments and fights. He would  
14           hit me and I would hit him back.

15           "I left my husband in 1990 and later got divorced.  
16           I met a new partner and was with him until he died about  
17           six years ago. We were engaged to be married, he was  
18           the love of my life."

19           In the next three paragraphs my Lady, 169 to 171,  
20           the witness speaks about her foster family again. So  
21           I propose to move on to paragraph 172 on page  
22           WIT.001.001.2162, where the witness starts to discuss  
23           reporting the abuse and the impact it has had on her.

24           My Lady, I should point out that in the section in  
25           relation to foster care the witness describes some abuse

1           that she experienced while in foster care. That will be  
2           relevant to some of what she says in the next few  
3           paragraphs.

4       LADY SMITH: Thank you.

5       MS MACLEOD: "I have never made any reports to the police or  
6           any other authority. It has taken me a long time to  
7           speak about my experiences. I have started to speak  
8           about it a bit more now. My friend has been helping me  
9           a lot. I have also spoken to another friend, I have  
10          told my daughters some of it. I haven't given them the  
11          full details.

12                 "My husband was the first person I told. I didn't  
13           give him the full details. I think my friend is the only  
14           person I've told everything to. If you're a private  
15           person, you don't want everybody to know your business.  
16           Also, you blame yourself for being treated like that.  
17           You think you must have been bad, even though I know  
18           that I wasn't a bad person.

19                 "I think the Inquiry was the impetus I needed to  
20           start speaking about my own experiences. Other people  
21           were coming forward and it is a little bit easier  
22           knowing you are part of a group, that others have had  
23           similar experiences.

24                 "I have spoken to some people who are involved with  
25           the INCAS group, but I have not had any specific help or

1 support from them.

2 "My overall memory of Smyllum is that I was always  
3 frightened. I was frightened to speak. I wasn't good  
4 at conversations for a long time. I was just so shy, so  
5 frightened of doing wrong, even when I came out of  
6 there. I was so cowed. I think they knocked any  
7 confidence I had out of me. I never felt worthy.  
8 I don't think I have fully recovered from that. I think  
9 that feeling is still in me.

10 "My experiences in Smyllum definitely affected me in  
11 my later years. I always remember thinking about it  
12 even after I left. I used to sit in school and think  
13 about the things that happened. I couldn't concentrate  
14 on my lessons for thinking about things. It was just  
15 constantly there. It's followed me for a long, long  
16 time. I think the fact that I was so afraid all the  
17 time explains my demeanour nowadays. I did eventually  
18 grow up and start speaking up for myself but it took  
19 a long time to do that.

20 "I think all the school moves when I was in foster  
21 care affected my education. That's one of my biggest  
22 regrets. I was always behind in class. I did do a bit  
23 better at the latter end of my secondary schooling but  
24 probably not enough. I left school at 15 and didn't go  
25 on to further education. I think I didn't have the

1 tools to do it then.

2 "I always felt that I wasn't intelligent and felt  
3 that I had to prove myself. I did that by working hard  
4 and doing well for my family. As my girls got older,  
5 I went out to work and did really well in the jobs  
6 I went into. I held management positions in retail and  
7 won performance awards from various employers, but  
8 I still feel that I didn't reach my full potential.

9 "Also, it's not until you get older that you realise  
10 just how you were treated by the staff at school.  
11 I felt that the schools always had it in for me, because  
12 I was poor and maybe didn't look good. I always felt  
13 inferior. I was always frightened of teachers and  
14 doctors, anybody in authority, really. I never felt  
15 worthy. That was the case up until maybe only a few  
16 years ago.

17 "I didn't dwell on my past too much when my kids  
18 were wee. As you get older you think back and want  
19 answers as to how this was allowed to happen. I keep  
20 thinking back to my experiences in care and can't  
21 understand how somebody could be treated like that.  
22 I think about it a lot.

23 "I am really close to my grandkids. I look at them  
24 and think about what I went through as a child. I can't  
25 bear the thought of them ever being treated like that.

1 My youngest granddaughter is four. I'd hate for anybody  
2 to touch her or chastise her, yet the people who were  
3 supposed to look after me had the right to do that to  
4 me.

5 "I took my four year old granddaughter to see Santa  
6 and she didn't like him. You can see a change in her,  
7 even at that young age, when she doesn't like or trust  
8 somebody. I had that fear and mistrust all the time.

9 "I have always been a very nervous person. I have  
10 tried to hide it. Friends would describe me as hyper.  
11 I have always got to be on the go. I have been on  
12 antidepressants for years. I sometimes feel that I'm  
13 lucky to have turned out the way I am. I know of kids  
14 who suffered more at the hands of the nuns than me and  
15 didn't turn out to be good. They went down the wrong  
16 road. I always wanted to be better, always be good and  
17 do well, which I did in my later years.

18 "It never occurred to me that it might be possible  
19 to get a copy of my records from South Lanarkshire  
20 Council. I intend to make enquiries now. Now that I'm  
21 talking about my life, I have even more questions I want  
22 answered.

23 "Lessons must be learned so that no child goes  
24 through anything like that again. People need to be  
25 properly trained to work in children's homes. I don't

1           suppose there was any such training available for the  
2           nuns in those days. They didn't even want to be there  
3           anyway. Children need to be loved and cared for by  
4           people who want to do the job.

5           "I feel so let down by the welfare department. They  
6           saw the places I lived in and the number of schools  
7           I went to. They should have sussed out my foster dad  
8           a bit better. There needs to be a lot more scrutiny.  
9           I think they are much more strict when doing adoptions  
10          and fostering now. I hope the level of scrutiny is  
11          enough.

12          "I have no objection to my witness statement being  
13          published as part of the evidence to the Inquiry.  
14          I believe the facts stated in this witness statement are  
15          true."

16          The statement was signed by Alison on 21st  
17          August 2017.

18          LADY SMITH: Thank you very much.

19          MS MACLEOD: My Lady, that concludes matters for today.

20          Tomorrow we will hear oral evidence from three applicant  
21          witnesses and there will also be one reading.

22          LADY SMITH: Thank you. So it is three oral tomorrow. Yes  
23          I see that. Thank you very much.

24          That's the end of the hearing for today and we will  
25          resume at 10 o'clock tomorrow morning with the next

1 witness. Thank you.

2 (3.15 pm)

3 (The Inquiry adjourned until  
4 10.00 am on Thursday, 7 December 2017)

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