

1 Tuesday, 1 May 2018

2 (10.00 am)

3 LADY SMITH: Good morning and welcome to the second week of
4 the case study into institutions run by the Sisters of
5 Nazareth. As we said on Friday when we closed, we'll
6 return to witnesses' oral evidence this morning and into
7 this afternoon.

8 Before I invite Mr MacAulay to call the first
9 witness, I have to issue an apology, although I do so
10 with the added rider that this is not our fault. There
11 is a problem with the provider of our server this
12 morning and it means that we cannot get documents
13 displayed on the small screens through our document
14 management system. That is dependent on an Internet
15 connection coming from the server and it is coming and
16 going, if I can put it this way, and I don't want to
17 trouble you with getting into part of a document and
18 then it not being available in full.

19 Through the excellent skills of our team to the
20 left, who deal with the document management, using
21 a MiFi procedure, they have managed to get the big
22 screens working so anything we're displaying will be
23 displayed on the big screens, but I'm sorry about those
24 of you who are looking to see the documents on the small
25 screens. You can't. So don't worry, it is not you

1 having problems with your own skills in using those
2 screens; it's a problem with the server. As soon as
3 it is up and running again properly, of course we'll let
4 you know. They know about the problem and they're
5 working on it.

6 Mr MacAulay.

7 MR MacAULAY: Good morning, my Lady. The next witness is an
8 applicant who wants to remain anonymous and he wants to
9 use the name "Ned" when giving his evidence.

10 "NED" (affirmed)

11 LADY SMITH: If you get yourself into the right position
12 near that microphone, it'll make it much easier for us
13 hear you and then you don't have to shout. Mr MacAulay
14 will explain what he wants you to do with the red file
15 in a moment.

16 Mr MacAulay.

17 Questions from MR MacAULAY

18 MR MacAULAY: Good morning, Ned.

19 A. Good morning.

20 Q. The first thing I want to confirm with you is the year
21 of your birth. Am I right in thinking that you were
22 born in 1962?

23 A. That's correct.

24 Q. In that red folder you'll find your statement. I want
25 you to turn to the last page of the statement. I'm

1 going to give the reference for the transcript and it's
2 WIT.001.001.3977. If you go to the very last page, can
3 I ask you to confirm that you have signed the statement?

4 A. That's my signature, yes.

5 Q. And do you also tell us in paragraph 114 that:

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

8 A. That's correct.

9 Q. And you go on to say in the last sentence:

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

12 Is that correct?

13 A. That's correct.

14 Q. Can I touch, first of all, Ned, on your life before care
15 because I think we are going to look at, in particular,
16 your life in care when you were in Nazareth House in
17 Aberdeen. But before that, I think you lived in Glasgow
18 with your family; is that right?

19 A. Yes, that's correct.

20 Q. And so far as that is concerned, you had three older
21 sisters at that time?

22 A. That's correct.

23 Q. You provide us with some information in your statement
24 in connection with your family background. I don't
25 propose to dwell on that, but looking to that

1 background, is it the case that you were taken into care
2 and you were in a number of different places before you
3 ended up in Nazareth House in Aberdeen?

4 A. That's correct, yes.

5 Q. Without looking at the detail, I think one can trace
6 through your records, for example, that in 1966 you were
7 in Nazareth House Cardonald.

8 A. Yes.

9 Q. Do you have any recollection of that?

10 A. No.

11 Q. Because you'd only be 3 or 4 at the time?

12 A. Yes.

13 Q. You were very young?

14 A. Yes, that age, yes.

15 Q. You also spent a little time in Smyllum; do you have any
16 recollection of that?

17 A. No.

18 Q. Indeed, you were also in Nazareth House in Kilmarnock.
19 What about that? Any recollection of that?

20 A. No recollection of that, no.

21 Q. In any event, so far as the records go to show, you were
22 admitted to Nazareth House in Aberdeen on

23 [REDACTED] 1968 and you'd be about 6 or so at the time.

24 Does that fit in with your own recollection?

25 A. Yes.

1 Q. Just moving ahead, you left, according to their records,
2 on [REDACTED] 1972 when you were nearly 10. Again,
3 does --

4 A. Yes, that fits in.

5 Q. So you were there roughly for about four years or so?

6 A. Yes.

7 Q. I think, as we see from your statement, after you left
8 Nazareth House you were in other places.

9 A. Yes.

10 Q. But I think, as you're aware, the particular focus of
11 your evidence today is on Nazareth House in Aberdeen.

12 A. Yes.

13 Q. When you went to Aberdeen in [REDACTED] 1968, what about
14 your sisters, what was the position with regard to them?

15 A. Initially I thought they had been moved on before me
16 from Cardonald, but later, as an adult and reading the
17 social services I've only just received recently,
18 I realise that I'd travelled to Aberdeen, to
19 Nazareth House, with them.

20 Q. What can you tell me about the set-up once you
21 understood what it was like when you were there? By
22 that I mean boys and girls, were they separated?
23 What was the position?

24 A. When I arrived in Nazareth House -- I always remember
25 being in the parlour at the beginning. I only ever

1 remember my older sister, and I think she was helped to
2 instruct with the nun that I was being taken over to the
3 boys' side and they were going to the girls' side.
4 Obviously, being that age, I wasn't understanding too
5 much what really was going on, but I was being guided
6 towards marble stairs and I remember the stairs, I can
7 still see the stairs. I was getting taken up the stairs
8 and I began to realise that I was being taken away from
9 my sisters.

10 At that point I was struggling, as any child, I'd
11 imagine, would do. I was dragged up the stairs,
12 physically dragged up the stairs, three or four flights
13 of stairs or whatever, and I was locked in a cupboard.

14 Q. Was that on your first day?

15 A. That was on my first day arriving in Nazareth House.

16 Q. And do you know who it was that locked you in the
17 cupboard?

18 A. Not at all. I wasn't aware of the nuns or who they were
19 at that time.

20 Q. You do tell us in your statement -- and this is at
21 paragraph 8 -- and can I just say, Ned, that the
22 statement will come on the screen in front of you, so
23 it's sometimes easier to work off the screen.

24 LADY SMITH: Is that one all right? Yes. Just tell us if
25 it does, because we have a problem with some of the

- 1 screens. Do you have it on your screen?
- 2 A. I've got it on my screen, yes.
- 3 MR MacAULAY: What you tell us that you're not sure if there
4 was a Sister [LFB] who was in charge of you, but you
5 had a lot to do with her; is that right?
- 6 A. I'm not 100 per cent sure if Sister [LFB] was there
7 that day I arrived, but Sister [LFB] became apparent
8 in my life from that point.
- 9 Q. Another sister you mentioned in that paragraph, while we
10 are looking at it, is a Sister [LFZ]. What you say
11 about her is that she was okay; what do you mean by
12 that?
- 13 A. I had no -- my only memory of Sister [LFZ] was she
14 was playing football -- the Aberdeen Football Club team
15 had won the Scottish Cup, I think it was 1972, whenever
16 it was, and there had been an arrangement for the home
17 to bring some of the players. She came out and she
18 played football with us that day. I think she was
19 a younger nun. I think, even at that age, you kind of
20 understand somebody who's very attractive and she was
21 attractive, she was a likeable person. But that was my
22 only experience of her. What she was like outside of
23 that I haven't got a clue, but for that day and that
24 experience, compared with the fact of Aberdeen Football
25 Club, even being a Celtic supporter and they'd lost, it

1 was always a memory of -- and Sister [REDACTED] LFZ was part
2 of that good memory.

3 Q. If we look at your own position, were you in a group of
4 children when you were there?

5 A. Yes, I was in a group of -- obviously in the boys' side
6 it was all males, I'm not sure what floor we were on or
7 whatever, but we were in a floor and Sister [REDACTED] LFB
8 seemed to be in charge of that area.

9 Q. How many can you think were in your group, if you look
10 at that particular group?

11 A. Maybe 20. Maybe. I'm not 100 per cent sure on that.

12 Q. The age range -- because you were about 6 when you went
13 there --

14 A. Yes.

15 Q. -- what was the age range within the group itself?

16 A. Six to 12/14 roughly. There were some older boys.
17 I remember some certain boys' names, obviously I won't
18 mention, but certain boys older, yes.

19 Q. What's your recollection about the sleeping arrangements
20 then?

21 A. I have not much recollection of that, really.

22 Q. Well, what you do tell us is that you went to a local
23 school; is that right?

24 A. Yes. It took -- it seemed to take a couple of weeks
25 before I ended up being enrolled in school or whatever,

1 and I hadn't seen my sisters up to that point. Then all
2 of a sudden we were sent out to the front of the home
3 and there was two buses and everybody seemed to just
4 rush on to whatever bus and whatever. I mean, it might
5 have been the case, as I've said in my statement, that
6 the buses were mixed, and I have said that a few times,
7 but I'm not 100 per cent sure. All I'm sure is the big
8 rush to get to the bus and people jumping on the buses,
9 really.

10 Q. What can you tell us then about your life at the school,
11 the first school you were at?

12 A. St Peter's. Well, I had a positive memory as one of the
13 teachers used to try and bribe me, but I was out of
14 control. My behaviour was out of control and that was
15 a manifestation of what going on in Larchgrove. There's
16 no doubts to me about that. When I went to school I was
17 disruptive and I think the teacher, she used to give me
18 chocolates and stuff, but not only do I think it was for
19 a bit of sympathy, it was also to try and educate the
20 other children when you had such a disruptive person as
21 me in the classroom.

22 Q. Did it end up with you having to go to another school?

23 A. Yes, I was expelled from St Peter's.

24 Q. How long do you think you were at St Peter's?

25 A. Maybe a year, maybe eight months, I'm not sure. I think

1 they tried to help me and I think some of the social
2 worker reports indicate they tried to help me. I was
3 getting more out of control as time passed.

4 (Pause)

5 Q. We've been talking about schooling and I think you were
6 moved to another school; is that correct?

7 A. Yes, that's right, yes.

8 Q. And do you remember the name of that particular school?

9 A. I found out it was St Joseph's, but there was another
10 school on top of that, but I went to St Joseph's and
11 again my behaviour deteriorated and eventually I was
12 sent to what I would imagine was a special school.

13 Q. How long did you spend in St Joseph's?

14 A. Again, six months, three months, four, roughly. No more
15 than six months.

16 Q. And the special school then, did you go there with other
17 children from Nazareth House or by yourself?

18 A. No, I then walked from the home to this place to --
19 myself.

20 Q. And what age do you think you were by then?

21 A. I must have been 9, 8 or 9.

22 Q. So you'd been -- if you were about 6 when you got to
23 Nazareth House, you'd been there for two or three years
24 before you came to that situation?

25 A. Yes.

- 1 Q. You do tell us in your statement you started getting
2 bullied when you were going to that school. What was
3 happening?
- 4 A. I was going to school and the religious element of life
5 I was just learning about and you were obviously a bit
6 of a sore thumb coming from Nazareth House and you stuck
7 out quite a lot. I used to walk by the Protestant
8 school and I was identified as being one of the children
9 in care and three lads used to bully me, used to spit on
10 me, and it was just a lot of fear at that point. But
11 I did enjoy the special school I was going to. I
12 enjoyed it for the first time. I seemed to enjoy it.
13 There were musical instruments, there was stuff that my
14 mind tuned into and I quite liked the place and it was
15 ironic that I was going through the process of being
16 bullied and still wanting to go.
- 17 Q. So the bullying happened on your way to school?
- 18 A. On my way to school, yes.
- 19 Q. Did there come a point in time when you decided to do
20 something about that?
- 21 A. Yes.
- 22 Q. What did you do?
- 23 A. Well, I got up a bit earlier that morning, one morning,
24 because I was now leaving myself, and I was basically
25 getting woke up and leaving myself. Well, I had planned

1 to attacked, I planned to fight back. I got a lump of
2 wood and hid behind a wall and I was further down the
3 road to where I used to meet them and then I had a good
4 idea of the general direction they came from. I hid
5 behind a wall and I waited, and the three of them walked
6 round the corner and the person who was the main
7 agitator of this, I hit him with the lump of wood in the
8 face.

9 Q. What then happened?

10 A. Well, I was taken back to Nazareth House. There was
11 obviously a big commotion. I believe the child's
12 parents appeared and I believe the police were there
13 at the time. But there was certainly people in
14 authority and there was obviously a lot of concern about
15 the action I'd taken.

16 Q. Did that result in you not going back to that school
17 again or did you go back?

18 A. Yes, I was confined then to Nazareth House.

19 Q. Can you tell me how long -- because we'll come to when
20 you left Nazareth House in 1972. Can you tell me how
21 long you were confined to Nazareth House before you
22 actually came to leave?

23 A. I was hanging about and I was a -- I had overcome a lot
24 of fear of Nazareth House, I'd overcome a lot of fear of
25 Sister [REDACTED] LFB . It was a case of the beatings and the

1 pulling of the hair and the slappings -- it was a case
2 of: is that all you're going to do? I'd overcome that.

3 When I was confined to Nazareth House, I was still
4 out of control, so I was sneaking out, climbing out of
5 windows, basically running away from the home, and at
6 times going into Aberdeen, going down to the harbour.
7 There was a lot of things going on.

8 Q. But how long do you think this went on for before you
9 came to leave?

10 A. About two months, maybe.

11 Q. Okay. I'll come back to some of the things you've been
12 mentioning a little moment ago.

13 Before we do that, can I just ask you about one or
14 two aspects of the routine at Nazareth House. For
15 example, birthdays. Was your birthday celebrated in any
16 way?

17 A. Oh, not at all.

18 Q. What about Christmas, what happened at Christmas?

19 A. I only remember one Christmas we were taken to some hall
20 in Aberdeen and we were all in a queue and we all knew
21 that whatever person got as a present in the front of
22 the queue, that was what you were getting as well. So
23 the selection box that you got had already been opened
24 and given to somebody in front of you. So you knew what
25 you were getting, and that's the only time I ever

1 remember a Christmas -- well, Christmas being
2 acknowledged.

3 Q. What about visits? Did you get visits when you were in
4 Nazareth House in Aberdeen?

5 A. None at all. I was told at one point my mother and
6 father were coming up to see me and I remember being
7 dressed up and sitting in the front room -- there was
8 a kind of parlour room at the front door. I remember
9 sitting and we were all waiting for my mother and father
10 to turn up, but they never turned up.

11 Q. And when you say "we were all", were your sisters with
12 you?

13 A. Yes, my three sisters were brought over.

14 Q. Just on that, over your period in Nazareth House, the
15 four years or so, what sort of contact did you have with
16 your sisters?

17 A. At the beginning none. After I initially arrived, none.
18 And as the weeks passed, when I was enrolled in school
19 and we were rushing to the buses, as I said earlier, my
20 sisters just became other children. We never spoke.
21 There was a part of me that resented my sisters and was
22 jealous of them, the fact that they were all together
23 and I was alone.

24 Q. The other thing I want to ask you about is what trips
25 and excursions you might have had when you were in

1 Nazareth House. You do tell us in your statement you
2 went twice to Tomintoul, a holiday camp; is that right?

3 A. Yes, there was a place called Tombay and it was out in
4 the country. The girls went there first and they would
5 come back, but there would be some girls left behind to
6 clean up, get ready, whatever, and then the boys would
7 arrive. And that is why I said that at one point
8 I arrived, one of my sisters had been left and remained
9 there. And for that, maybe the first three days,
10 I mixed with one of my sisters. I enjoyed Tomintoul,
11 I enjoyed the countryside, yes.

12 Q. What kind of activities or excursions did you have when
13 you were there?

14 A. We used to go swimming. They used to walk us down -- we
15 used to walk down a hill and you'd go over this bridge
16 and there was a whisky distillery behind it and there
17 was a pool and we -- I learned to swim. I remember
18 getting flung in by my sister and I learned to swim.
19 I had good memories of being in the country and good
20 memories of the freedom and the nuns that were there --
21 I don't believe for one minute Sister [REDACTED] LFB was
22 there -- and I enjoyed it.

23 Q. Can I ask you also about healthcare. I think you tell
24 us that, for example, you broke your arm when you were
25 at Nazareth House; is that correct? So you needed

- 1 medical attention for that?
- 2 A. Yes.
- 3 Q. Did you have any other medical problems that you
- 4 required attention for?
- 5 A. Yes, I had an accident in Tomintoul. There was only one
- 6 bike and there was a hill going straight down from
- 7 Tombay to the bottom of a bridge. And me, being the
- 8 person I was, I wanted a shot at that bike, not knowing
- 9 it was a girls' bike, because it was just a bike. But
- 10 I climbed on to the bike and went down that hill, having
- 11 never been on a bike before in my life, and I hit the
- 12 brakes and the bike went forward and I fell and the bar
- 13 that would have been there for a boy's bike wasn't and
- 14 I fell straight into it and it hit me in the groin
- 15 severely.
- 16 Q. And did you suffer an injury from that?
- 17 A. I believe I might have ruptured myself at that time.
- 18 I had no medical knowledge obviously, but my penis was
- 19 bleeding and I was in a lot of pain for a couple of
- 20 days.
- 21 Q. Were you taken to hospital?
- 22 A. No.
- 23 Q. Did you get any medical treatment?
- 24 A. No.
- 25 Q. I want to look, Ned, at the way you say you were treated

1 when you were at Nazareth House. You begin telling us
2 about that in your statement at paragraph 21. The first
3 thing you begin telling us is that, certainly in the
4 first few weeks or so, you regularly tried to see your
5 sisters; is that right?

6 A. Yes, that's correct.

7 Q. Can you elaborate upon what happened?

8 A. It's obviously a few days until you realise where your
9 sisters were and you're coming down the stairs and
10 you're now getting taken to the chapel. I can describe
11 the two red lights I remember -- and you're getting more
12 knowledgeable about where who is and what is happening,
13 and I found out my sisters were obviously on the other
14 side, and I began to see an avenue to get to there.

15 I started trying to get there a few times at night,
16 not in the beginning because certain things happened,
17 but I started trying to get there at night-time and
18 trying to get to my sisters.

19 Q. And what happened?

20 A. Well, I was punished for that on a few occasions:
21 slapping, punching -- not so much punching, slapping,
22 pulling the hair, dragged about, pulled up the stairs.
23 The locking in the cupboard happened at the beginning,
24 but that wasn't continuous; that only happened at the
25 beginning because eventually I detached myself from my

1 sisters because at one point they brought my older
2 sister, [REDACTED], over -- my older sister came over and
3 she told me that they were being punished for the way
4 I was behaving and my resentment towards them then
5 changed to betrayal of how they'd betrayed me.

6 Q. Can I say, don't worry about names because --

7 A. Sorry.

8 Q. -- we are not going to publish the names. Was there
9 a particular sister that was involved with you when you
10 were trying to see your sisters?

11 A. Sister [REDACTED] LFB, it was always Sister [REDACTED] LFB.

12 Q. One thing you tell us is sometimes she would drag you by
13 the hair along the floor.

14 A. She did on many occasions, it was just a regular
15 occurrence. It was just something you got used to.
16 I've always thought about the details of this and
17 I always thought, well, it's like going to a football
18 match, you know, you don't always remember the details,
19 but you certainly remember who got beat and I remember
20 who got beat: I got beat.

21 Q. And the cupboard you've mentioned, do you know how many
22 times you were put into the cupboard?

23 A. Two or three times at the beginning when I was desperate
24 and trying to get over to my sisters, but that began to
25 wane and that began to not be an issue any more.

1 The slapping, the pulling of the hair, was
2 continuous and then the more out of control I became,
3 then a stick came out and Sister [REDACTED] LFB would be
4 hitting me on the hand with a stick. Then if you closed
5 your knuckles, you'd be getting hit on the knuckles. So
6 the more violent or disruptive I became, she would then
7 raise her violence to try and control me.

8 Q. So far as being locked in the cupboard was concerned,
9 I know that stopped after a period of time, but how long
10 would you have been in the cupboard?

11 A. It's very hard as a child to have a sense of time, but
12 it's a good hour, it's a good hour of kicking and
13 screaming, and at first you're doing that for long
14 periods, two hours, whatever, and then eventually you
15 realise that nobody's coming. And then when you start
16 learning that when you quieten down they eventually come
17 and open it, so you learn from that. It's a process of
18 responding to the environment that's round you and
19 obviously self-preservation is a natural thing. But it
20 was hours.

21 Q. And the size of the cupboard, can you give me an
22 understanding?

23 A. I could stand up, I would describe it as a telephone
24 box, but I'm obviously influenced of being an adult and
25 my experiences of the world around me. At some point

1 I was imagining it to be a kind of confessional box or
2 an area of solitude for maybe the nuns or whatever. But
3 I know that it was the kind of top floor.

4 Q. And was there a light in the cupboard?

5 A. No.

6 Q. It was dark?

7 A. It was dark.

8 Q. If you turn back to your statement for the moment, Ned,
9 at paragraph 23 and 24, I just want to understand what
10 the situation was here in paragraph 23 where you say
11 that:

12 "Sister **LFB** took great pleasure in being able to
13 hit me when it was least expected."

14 I just want to understand what you mean by that.

15 A. I believe that she was -- I believe she took pleasure in
16 it because she was calculated with it. It was sneaky
17 and it was -- you know, at times you would be standing
18 there and you thought the punishment maybe would be over
19 and she would maybe give you a slap or two, and then she
20 would be giving you a kind of lecture and you'd begin to
21 think that's that part done and everything would be okay
22 and there'd be something, she'd distract you, bang, and
23 then it'd be another slap another slap and another. So
24 it hadn't finished. But it seemed that she would get
25 you to relax and believe that it was over and done with

1 and everything was okay. And I say that -- I describe
2 that as being devious in that sense, yes.

3 Q. You do go on to say that she enjoyed inflicting
4 suffering; why do you come to that view?

5 A. Well, to be that calculated, to be able to be that
6 devious and use that intelligence -- and it's something
7 I understand from my later life, that intelligence to do
8 that, you would imagine there would be pleasure in that
9 and a sense of "I'm intelligent, I'm cleverer than you
10 and you're a child and I've got the power" in that
11 sense.

12 Q. You tell us about an incident involving a nun who had
13 died in the home --

14 A. Yes.

15 Q. -- and what you had to do; can you tell me about that?

16 A. Yes. We obviously didn't know or understand death at
17 this point. We were just taken down to chapel, as we
18 usually were, and went in a queue and it seemed
19 different because it wasn't like people going to
20 Holy Communion or the normal Stations of the Cross or
21 whatever at the time.

22 We were in a queue and there was a coffin in front
23 of us and then you began to realise that all the
24 children were approaching the coffin and people were
25 looking over this dead body and whatever. I could just

1 see a flimsy coffin that I thought I was going to knock
2 over because I always was a bit clumsy as a child as
3 well.

4 I was not so much frightened because I didn't know
5 what was going on. We went over to the coffin, I looked
6 into the coffin, and we had to -- we were told to kiss
7 her hand, yes. There was a nun standing there and
8 we were told to kiss her hand.

9 Q. And how did you feel about that at the time?

10 A. At that time there was no immediate fear or concern as
11 such at that point, it was later on that it became
12 powerful to me after the incident we were up the stairs
13 and the story started going about that if you hadn't
14 kissed this dead nun's hand, she would come and get you.
15 And there was a story going about of somebody called the
16 Limping Nun, and that at night-time this nun that had
17 died, if you hadn't kissed her hand, she was going to
18 come across, she was going to be limping along the
19 corridor to get you --

20 LADY SMITH: Ned, can you remember about the microphone?

21 You're creeping backwards again.

22 A. Sorry.

23 So it would be a case of lying in bed and you
24 believed this. Whoever was doing it did go along the
25 corridor and did limp and did drag their back foot

1 behind them and I heard this. I heard this going on and
2 I was terrified, I was petrified.

3 MR MacAULAY: You've been telling us about Sister [REDACTED] LFB 's
4 behaviour towards you. You were there for about
5 four years or so. Over that period, did this behaviour
6 continue or did it ease off? What was the situation?

7 A. Is this regarding the nun?

8 Q. It's regarding Sister [REDACTED] LFB 's behaviour towards you.

9 A. Sister [REDACTED] LFB 's behaviour -- I think she gave up at
10 some point with the stick and the violence because other
11 things were taking over. I was now being violent in
12 school and I was now being violent most places and
13 I went and I was fighting back. She was trying to
14 control me, but the slapping and the pulling of the hair
15 and the -- none of it was working. In that case I think
16 she left me to try and be dealt with by other people.

17 I was out of control, you know. Her behaviour
18 towards me was of no consequence any more. I wasn't
19 frightened of her any more, I wasn't frightened of the
20 regime, I was running away. I was quite proud of myself
21 in what I was doing.

22 Q. How often did you run away?

23 A. About three or four times.

24 Q. And did anything happen to you when you got back?

25 A. Well, you'd be hit about and slapped about, but again

1 that was nothing. What are you going to do? As I have
2 said in the statement I can't remember because, again,
3 I can't remember all the incidents. It was just
4 a common theme that you just got used to as part of the
5 deal as such.

6 Q. You do talk about bed-wetting in your statement, Ned.

7 A. Yes.

8 Q. Did you wet the bed?

9 A. I did at the beginning, yes.

10 Q. What happened if you wet the bed?

11 A. I always remember they would put the sheet round over
12 your shoulders, and they would be obviously soaking in
13 urine, and you would queue up waiting to be taken into
14 the bathroom. I'm pretty sure there were three
15 industrial baths, but in any case you would wait for
16 when it was your turn, you would put the wet sheet down,
17 and then you'd be dragged over to the bath and
18 I described it like a sheep dip: in you went, out you
19 went. Sometimes the bath would be freezing cold,
20 sometimes it'd be boiling hot, sometimes it would -- the
21 one in Aberdeen would be very, very cold and the windows
22 would be open so you'd never see the steam or -- you had
23 no idea what you were facing because a lot of the times
24 the wind was blowing through and you had no idea of how
25 cold the water was or how warm the water was.

1 Q. You mentioned there was a queue; would there be others
2 in the same situation?

3 A. There would be other children in the queue, yes.

4 Q. Who was organising this process?

5 A. I can only -- the only thing that I remember besides all
6 that, what I've just said, is seeing the nuns' arms for
7 the first time because they would roll up their sleeves
8 as they were dipping you into the bath so I know it was
9 the nuns who were dipping me into the bath.

10 I've become aware as an adult there were other
11 civilians working in Nazareth House but I have no memory
12 of them. I don't know -- everything I dealt with was
13 with Sister [REDACTED] LFB and other nuns taking us to Mass or
14 anything like that. The civilian people I don't
15 remember.

16 Q. When you wet the bed in the morning then, who would come
17 to see if you had wet the bed? I just want to
18 understand what the process involved.

19 A. It'd be a nun in the morning. It would be a nun coming
20 in in the morning, but you would wake up and know
21 that -- your shame and you would get into the routine
22 that you had to pick up the sheet and you couldn't hide
23 it. This was -- and you were being abused by other
24 children -- not abused, but you were being slagged off,
25 "pissy bed" and "stinky" and it was quite obvious you

1 had wet the bed. And you just fell in and conformed to
2 the rules so that you just picked up the sheet and you
3 went because the alternative was that you were going to
4 be dragged or hit or whatever to make sure that you
5 conformed to what was happening. This was all a rush to
6 get you to get to that bus to get to school.

7 Q. But the first couple of times that you did it, what
8 happened? Clearly, you weren't aware of the process
9 until you did it. So did something happen to you the
10 very first couple of times you did wet the bed?

11 A. They would come round and check the bed and pull the
12 sheets back and get you out of bed and look at the
13 sheets and then you were guided and told what to do.
14 I hope that's ...

15 Q. And that would be by a nun or nuns who were there at the
16 time?

17 A. I only remember ever dealing with nuns.

18 Q. Can I also ask you about something else you tell us in
19 your statement at paragraph 27, that happened when you
20 were in the TV room in the evening. What happened?

21 A. Well, it was a dark TV room and somebody used to sit me
22 on their knee and they would fondle me, they would put
23 their hand down my genitals and fondle me, and at
24 whatever point I needed the toilet or whatever, they
25 would take me into the toilet and pull my trousers down

1 and fondle me as I was urinating, and that was the cover
2 of what he was doing, helping me to do the toilet. I am
3 a bit older for this and he was fondling me and it was
4 just molestation, yes.

5 Q. How often did this happen?

6 A. It seemed to go on for a couple of months and then as
7 a consequence of that, my behaviour at school -- I used
8 to at one point I always remember I pulled my trousers
9 down and threatened to urinate on the desk in front of
10 the whole class. And I think it was a manifestation of
11 what was going on because I don't understand why I done
12 it, but my memory and the shame of that memory has
13 always been there, yes.

14 Q. And do you know who it was that was doing this to you?

15 A. No, I've never understood that. I'm not sure if it was
16 an older boy, and again learning as an adult that there
17 were civilian staff working there, it might have been --
18 I know it was a male, but I have no memory of who it
19 was.

20 Q. I think you say this began with you sitting on someone's
21 knee.

22 A. Yes. He was sitting me on his knee in the TV room and
23 I know it was a male, yes, definitely.

24 Q. I want to put a document on the screen for you. I'll
25 put it on and then ask you about it. It's

1 WIT.003.001.0072. This document is a document that you
2 prepared; is that correct?

3 A. Yes, that's correct.

4 Q. We've blanked out anything that might identify who
5 you are. What was the background to you preparing this
6 document?

7 A. Well, I was in prison at the time and I was getting
8 a bit of education and I was doing a GCSE and I learned
9 that I could write a bit and I wrote a play regarding --
10 it was really regarding prisons, but that led to me
11 writing about the care system. I wanted to write about
12 the care system.

13 I must stress I wasn't writing about me; I wanted to
14 write about the care system and the consequences of the
15 care system and the consequences of punishment, the
16 consequences of crime or whatever is punishment. But
17 it's the consequences after that and that's what -- that
18 was the theme of what I wanted to write. And I began
19 writing about the care system.

20 Q. So far as the document we're looking at is concerned,
21 I think -- is this essentially an extract or --

22 A. This is an extract from that book, yes.

23 Q. And when you say a book, you have written a book?

24 A. Well, it was a book, yes.

25 Q. And when was this?

1 A. I said 15 years, but it was more than that, it was
2 a good 18 years ago.

3 Q. If we look at this document, for example, let's move
4 towards the bottom of the page, because you talk about
5 Nazareth House and you say:

6 "The nun who would be in charge of me, or at least
7 dished out the control and punishment, was named
8 Sister [REDACTED] LFB ."

9 A. Yes.

10 Q. And you say:

11 "This person would have the most profound effect on
12 me as a child and as a fully grown adult. She taught me
13 fear, paranoia and violence."

14 A. Yes, that's correct.

15 Q. But you say she had a profound effect on you?

16 A. Totally. I learned a lot from her. The deviousness
17 that I described. I learned that I would take whatever
18 advantage I would have to take in later institutions.
19 From the childhood system up until I was 16, I learned
20 that if you were going to fight, you had to be devious,
21 take advantage of anybody being vulnerable, if they
22 turned their back on you. At one point, I waited until
23 somebody went to sleep. I conspired with the experience
24 that I believe that I'd received from Sister [REDACTED] LFB .

25 Q. You do tell us in detail about what you've been telling

1 us in evidence about bed-wetting. You mention that in
2 this document.

3 A. Yes.

4 Q. And you also mention the sexual abuse that you
5 suffered --

6 A. Yes.

7 Q. -- from this unknown individual that you've mentioned to
8 us.

9 A. Mm-hm.

10 Q. There came a point in time then, Ned, when you left
11 Nazareth House. As I've taken from you already, that
12 was in about [REDACTED] 1972.

13 A. Yes.

14 Q. How did it come about that you came to leave
15 Nazareth House?

16 A. At that point, as I say, I was confined and sneaking out
17 of windows and I wasn't going to school, and there was
18 an outhouse across from the boys' side and there was
19 a skylight opened, and I decided in my wisdom that I'd
20 climb up and have a look at what was inside. So
21 I climbed up on the roof and climbed into the skylight
22 and I seen all this memorabilia from years ago from the
23 Sisters of Nazareth with banners, "Please help the Poor
24 Sisters of Nazareth", and begging bowls and all this
25 stuff that was relative to when they were begging, when

1 they needed money. At that time they obviously didn't.

2 I kind of panicked, there was some strange feeling
3 that I shouldn't have been there, so I climbed out in
4 a panic and a bit of a rush and I fell off the roof and
5 broke my arm. It was a compound fracture, my bone had
6 come out my arm, and I was taken to Aberdeen Royal
7 Infirmary or Aberdeen Hospital and they put me in
8 plaster.

9 I was quite proud of the plaster. I can remember
10 being proud of the plaster. It seemed to be different.
11 But I quickly realised it was a tool, I quickly realised
12 that I could use this as a weapon. The next time --
13 I think it was a couple of days later -- Sister [REDACTED] LFB ,
14 whatever, because of the concern of the public and the
15 hospital and prior to that with the police, there was
16 always an effort to make sure everything seemed calm and
17 nice in Nazareth House, and maybe when I came back from
18 hospital the day or the day after, Sister [REDACTED] LFB come
19 down to give me the usual chastisement or whatever, and
20 I attacked her, I hit her with the plaster.

21 Q. Where did you hit her?

22 A. Where?

23 Q. Yes.

24 A. I just struck out and hit her. I don't know if I hit
25 her in the face or whatever, but I remember getting her

1 hat off her, the veil off her head, which I was
2 delighted about and, yeah, I attacked her, and then the
3 next day or the day after I was immediately removed.

4 Q. How did this attack end? Did she --

5 A. She got down and whatever happened, other nuns came or
6 whatever, but when I say "attack", it was a case of
7 her -- she's over me and it was as much to me as
8 self-defence. I describe it as an attack because me
9 seeing this as a weapon (indicating), and being quite
10 willing to fight back, to me that's ... maybe a certain
11 amount of provocation, but I had a responsibility for
12 the way that I attacked back, yeah.

13 Q. When Sister [REDACTED] was chastising you or saying things
14 to you, what sort of things was she saying to you, just
15 generally over the piece, over the time?

16 A. I can't remember the words. It was always the violence,
17 it was always the fear and always aware of what was
18 going to happen next. But not the words, just you're
19 a horrible child, you bring so much attention, why you,
20 why you. And just questions ... Nothing that was so
21 verbally abusive that I remember that affected me.

22 What affected me was the violence. Looking back in
23 my life and how my personality developed from that
24 point, it's the violence that's always stayed with me.
25 The sexual molesting was never a big deal to me. I look

1 back on that and at one point I was asked by
2 a psychiatrist, did I have an erection when I was being
3 molested, and I replied that it felt better than getting
4 battered and it did. So I hold no shame and I know
5 a lot of people do and a lot of people have been
6 affected by it profoundly.

7 That wasn't for me. It was the violence that
8 overpowered everything.

9 Q. And from what you've told us, Ned, that violence was
10 coming from one person so far as you're concerned.

11 A. Sister [REDACTED], yes.

12 Q. Would other sisters be aware of the treatment that you
13 were being given by Sister [REDACTED]?

14 A. Yes, because there was occasions when I began to
15 understand or believe there was a bell in the centre of
16 the home and they would ring it and it seemed to be to
17 call other nuns or bring other nuns to that area or ...
18 sometimes I believe it was to tell you what time Mass
19 was. Everybody knew what time Mass was, but there was a
20 bell and to me it seemed like it was a signal because if
21 I was caught trying to get to the girls' side, the bell
22 would be rung a number of times and then Sister [REDACTED]
23 would appear.

24 Other nuns would see what was happening. Other nuns
25 would see me being dragged up those stairs, other nuns

1 would see.

2 I was bringing trouble to that home from every
3 direction. There was no question. At one point
4 I believe St Peter's school sent me to a child
5 counsellor and I never knew about that again until I was
6 an adult. To read some of the things that the
7 counsellor said was, you know, saying that I was
8 a scapegoat, basically saying I was a normal child and
9 totally disputing why they were sending me there.

10 Q. Well, then when you came to leave Nazareth House
11 Aberdeen, you went to Auldhouse Boys' Home, which was in
12 Pollokshaws in Glasgow; is that right?

13 A. That's correct.

14 Q. And in your statement, we're not going to -- that was
15 a local authority home, but in your statement, we're not
16 going to dwell upon what happened to you there, but
17 I think you say it wasn't a pleasant experience.

18 A. Not at all.

19 Q. But, according to the records the inquiry has seen, you
20 left in [REDACTED] 1974?

21 A. That's correct.

22 Q. So you'd be aged 11 to 12 at about that time?

23 A. That's correct.

24 Q. I think when you left, you went back to stay with your
25 father; is that right?

1 A. That's correct.

2 Q. And that was not a pleasant experience as well?

3 A. My father didn't want me. My father wasn't there. My
4 father was actually working in Arbroath from Monday to
5 Friday and it wasn't his house, it was my gran and my
6 grandfather's house.

7 But all of a sudden -- I'd not seen him since going
8 into Nazareth House and all of a sudden I've appeared in
9 Auldhouse and for whatever reason, I started being taken
10 to him at a weekend. I think I was taken there for two
11 weekends and then the third weekend I was sent myself
12 and I went into the house and I told him, well, that's
13 me free, kind of, I've got to stay with you now.
14 He wasn't having it and he marched me from Maryhill to
15 Thornliebank, we walked it, and when we arrived at the
16 gate at Thornliebank -- and Mr [REDACTED] LGT refused to take
17 me back.

18 Q. That's Auldhouse?

19 A. This is in Auldhouse. And at that time I thought he
20 just hated me because again I'm fighting back and I just
21 believed he hated my guts. But later in life I found
22 out the supervision order had run out.

23 But my father didn't want me. My father couldn't
24 cope with any of us. He wanted nothing to do with the
25 family. He put us into care and as far as he was

1 concerned -- and I'm not making out that he was such
2 a bad man. He couldn't cope. The divorce or split up
3 with my mother affected him very, very strongly and he
4 didn't want anything to do with anybody and couldn't --
5 he wasn't capable of looking after us.

6 But I was sent back to him and he didn't want us and
7 I was taken back to Auldhouse that night. He marched me
8 right back to Auldhouse and Mr **LGT** refused to take
9 me.

10 I then returned to -- my father dragged me all the
11 way back to Maryhill to the flats and I stayed there for
12 a period of time. He became violent and then I became
13 violent and my violence became more serious.

14 Q. And what you tell us is that he, on one occasion,
15 strangled you and you lost consciousness.

16 A. He used to come back from Montrose after working all
17 week. He would come back on the Friday night steaming
18 drunk and my grandfather was bedridden. My granny would
19 be in the house desperate for him to come home with some
20 money, waiting to be looked after financially in that
21 sense. He used to -- instead of coming straight home,
22 he would go to the pub and come back at 11.30,
23 12 o'clock at night, and he would be steaming drunk and
24 ranting and raving about my mother and everything that
25 happened.

1 He would be violent, slap me about, punch me, it was
2 a wee bit more serious than before. One night he held
3 me against the wall and strangled me unconscious.

4 Q. I think you eventually retaliated to that and stabbed
5 him.

6 A. A couple of weeks later the same thing happened. He
7 came back drunk, started chasing -- I used to hide under
8 my grandfather's bed, who was bedridden, and sometimes
9 my grandfather would be trying to hit him with the
10 walking stick to keep him away. He dragged me out by
11 the feet and he was hitting me about the house and we
12 ended up in the kitchen and I picked a knife up and
13 I stabbed him.

14 Q. In any event, against that background, were you taken to
15 Larchgrove assessment centre?

16 A. I was out of control, again, to another level, because
17 my father was away and after that incident his violence
18 stopped because I was quite tall for my age and he
19 realised that I could fight back. So I could stay out
20 until whatever time I wanted. My father sometimes said
21 to me, "Either be in at 9 o'clock or don't bother coming
22 back". Well, that was just permission for me to stay
23 out all night.

24 I was running about the streets, I was like a feral
25 child. I would be going to the chip shop at 11 o'clock

1 at night, getting the fish and the chips that were left
2 over that they weren't able to sell. I'd be sat in the
3 bakery in the morning with broken biscuits. I'd been
4 washed and looking clean -- I didn't care about any of
5 that. Glasgow seemed to me to be quite a friendly
6 place. When the pubs shut at night, you could get a few
7 bob off some drunk or whatever.

8 I was just running about doing whatever I wanted.
9 My father had no control over me. I was sniffing glue
10 at the time. The police took me a couple of times, they
11 arrested me -- well, they never arrested me, they took
12 me to the police station, and my father came at one
13 point to pick me up and I broke away from him and I ran
14 away again. He got fed up just trying to even get me
15 any more.

16 Then the police got involved and they sent me to the
17 Children's Panel and I was taken to Larchgrove under
18 the -- I thought at the time it was for care and
19 protection, but I found out now that it was because of
20 outwith parental control.

21 Q. And that was, I think, in 1975?

22 A. That's 1975, yes.

23 Q. I think you tell us you were supposed to be there for
24 three weeks. It was an assessment centre, but you were
25 there for several months in fact; is that correct?

1 A. No, I found out I was there for 397 days.

2 Q. What you tell us in your statement at paragraph 50, if
3 you just look to that, is once you were in Larchgrove
4 what you say is:

5 "I went there as a small fish in a big pond.
6 Nazareth House prepared me for Auldhouse and Auldhouse
7 then prepared me for Larchgrove and Larchgrove would
8 prepare [you] for prison."

9 A. That's correct.

10 Q. And you did end up in prison?

11 A. I've been in many prisons.

12 Q. Again, I don't want to look at the -- I think again
13 Larchgrove is a local authority establishment. I don't
14 want to look at the detail of what happened in
15 Larchgrove. Again, you provide us with that in your
16 statement. I think you tell us you were there for about
17 four months.

18 A. Yes. See, it was ... It was over the years, I realised
19 I'd been there quite a long time. As I was writing
20 stuff like this and learning a wee bit more about
21 Larchgrove and realising it was an assessment centre,
22 and always remembering the panel would say, "You're
23 going to Larchgrove for six weeks' assessment", but it
24 was only when I got my social work file last year, in
25 fact, my involvement with this inquiry, I received my

1 social work file after that, I'd made these statements
2 and written all this stuff long before I got them, the
3 paperwork of my social work file. But on my social work
4 file, it says that I was in Larchgrove for 397 days.

5 Q. But you went from Larchgrove to St Philip's List D
6 school in Airdrie?

7 A. Yes, that's correct.

8 Q. Looking to that, that was an establishment that was of
9 assistance to you?

10 A. I described it as saving a drowning boy.

11 Q. When you left St Philip's, looking to life after care,
12 I think you tell us in your statement that you joined
13 the navy; is that right?

14 A. Yes, that's correct.

15 Q. But you also had times you spent in prison?

16 A. Yes. I was discharged from the navy for serious
17 violence and it just continued on. There was a lot of
18 serious violence in my life. I went into prison for
19 five years for GBH, section 18 with intent. There's
20 been a lot of fights, a lot of serious fights and a lot
21 of serious fights involving weapons.

22 LADY SMITH: Just going back to St Philip's, you describe it
23 as saving a drowning boy.

24 A. Yes.

25 LADY SMITH: What was it that St Philip's did that got it

1 right for you that other places hadn't done?

2 A. The staff. The staff showed kindness and I describe it
3 in a way that if you misbehaved, they shamed you for
4 your misbehaviour; they didn't shame you for being
5 a human being. And there was a kind of good cop/bad cop
6 situation going on. There was three -- the headmaster,
7 Jim Kane -- I don't know if I can mention names --

8 LADY SMITH: We don't need the name, but it doesn't mention
9 if you do.

10 A. He was the headmaster and he had an air about him of
11 authority and discipline, but there was a heart and you
12 knew that -- you just knew that he was a kind man.
13 There was a man called Mr McGechan and Mr Hughes, again
14 very disciplined. Mr Hughes apparently used to be
15 a prison officer and as a result of that -- well, I'll
16 be completely honest, I've never spoken to the man,
17 really. I spoke to him twice in my lifetime, once two
18 years ago and three days ago I phoned him up to assure
19 him that anything in this inquiry that's been said, that
20 nothing will ever be said bad about St Philip's, because
21 they treated us well and they were nice. And not just
22 the fact that they were trained; they were good human
23 beings.

24 Whatever reason nuns became nuns, they must have had
25 their own bitterness before they became nuns. When we

1 met these staff they were kind and probably had had
2 a good life and had the right motivation to be where
3 they were.

4 LADY SMITH: That's really helpful, thank you, Ned.

5 MR MacAULAY: What you tell us in your statement -- and this
6 is at paragraph 92 -- is that throughout your life
7 you've been in 24 institutions --

8 A. Yes.

9 Q. -- which include children's homes, remand centres and
10 adult prisons.

11 A. Yes.

12 Q. Some were for short-term, but others were more longer
13 periods.

14 A. Yes, remand, being transferred from one to the other,
15 a couple of riots, moved from one prison because of
16 that, you know.

17 Q. But in the last number of years, you've broken that
18 particular cycle of going into institutions like
19 prisons?

20 A. Yes. I've had friends who -- I've had friends for
21 30 years, 40 years, and one of them was a student social
22 worker in St Philip's at the time and I'm still friends
23 and in fact I'm married to -- his wife is my
24 sister-in-law and I'm married to obviously the sister,
25 my wife sitting here. And there's been a close --

1 sorry, I'm losing it here.

2 There's been a close friendship with a lot of good
3 people around me who have brought out the good in me.
4 Because no matter what prison I've been in, I've always
5 been able to look in the mirror and say, "I'm okay, I'm
6 decent". There are not many fights I have had in my
7 life where the person wasn't willing to fight me or the
8 other person hasn't tried to intimidate me or bully me.

9 I react and I react because of fear and I take it to
10 the extreme because I'm frightened of what might happen
11 to me if I don't. I can't avoid conflict because
12 I believe the longer I avoid the conflict the worse the
13 conflict will become. I think that was a theme from
14 Larchgrove.

15 Q. If we go back to your statement at paragraph 82 there is
16 a section headed "Impact". You try and give us some
17 inside information as to the impact -- in particular of
18 life in Nazareth House, because that's what we're
19 focusing on today -- has had on you. I think you
20 mention this in your other document but what you say is:

21 "Sister LFB in Nazareth House taught me fear,
22 paranoia and violence."

23 And you say because of the way you were treated, you
24 became more violent.

25 A. Yes.

1 Q. What makes you believe that?

2 A. Because that's what I learned. I can describe myself as
3 a reasonably intelligent person and I pick up things
4 quickly and I pick up things that you have to respond to
5 the environment in a certain way to survive or come
6 across and even protect yourself later on -- it would
7 become later on I was pleased that I learned what
8 I learned and had been taught in Nazareth House because
9 it did save me, certainly in Larchgrove and certainly in
10 Longriggend and Barlinnie, wherever you want to go.

11 But yeah, I believe that whatever intention there
12 was, I learned from Sister [REDACTED] LFB not only that
13 violence was the norm, that it was a power and it was
14 a good thing, it was a good thing to have on your side.

15 As I grew up as an adult, that became more apparent
16 because if I was walking down any corridor in any prison
17 or any other place, the people who were going to pick
18 a fight with somebody or bully somebody, they weren't
19 going to pick on me. I don't mean that in an egocentric
20 way, I just mean that in my appearance -- sometimes
21 a London or Glasgow accent can be an advantage.

22 Q. One thing you do tell us in your statement at
23 paragraph 94 is that, from leaving Nazareth House, you
24 never saw your sisters for about 40 years.

25 A. That's correct.

1 Q. Have you seen them in --
2 A. Yes, my father had a stroke and he was lying in
3 hospital. I thought he had died. He had a stroke about
4 20-odd years ago and I went up to the hospital. In
5 fact, I was advised by a friend to go up to hospital,
6 not for him but for me, to do the decent thing and go up
7 and see him. So I went up to the hospital, brought him
8 pyjamas and stuff, and the stroke was so severe that
9 he was paralysed, he couldn't speak, and I thought he'd
10 be dead. I thought that's the end of that.

11 And I left and then I found out 18 months ago that
12 there was a private investigator looking for me and
13 I never responded to the phone call at the beginning
14 because I didn't know what it was about and I obviously
15 thought it was something bad. But it turned out that
16 all the time that he'd been in the hospital, he must
17 have been receiving benefits and these benefits had
18 accumulated.

19 Then there was a will made and there was a will made
20 to divide a certain amount of money, relatively small,
21 but to divide up the amount of money between myself and
22 my three sisters. They found my three sisters, but they
23 couldn't find me. Then they went and -- the private
24 investigator went to an address that I used to be in --
25 I got a message through somebody -- eventually I got

1 a message that this person was looking for me and would
2 I please contact him, that it was a good thing. So
3 I did contact him and I found out that my father had
4 died and I found out that there was money to be
5 collected. And as I say, it was relatively small, but
6 the first question, have you found my sisters, and they
7 had found my sisters.

8 We then wrote a letter to the lawyer dealing with
9 it, myself and my wife wrote a letter, saying, look,
10 this is where we are and if you want to contact us, do
11 so. They phoned immediately. Initially, we had a bit
12 of contact. My older sister -- we came over to see her.
13 She just couldn't cope with it. She had thought I had
14 died a long time ago and she actually said to me she'd
15 been mourning all her life and for me to turn up and
16 bring -- I got a text from her -- to bring her back to
17 the past like that, she just couldn't emotionally deal
18 with it. So we're no longer in contact. We were in
19 contact for 12 months, but ...

20 Q. Had you last had any contact with your sisters when you
21 left Nazareth House?

22 A. They were in a hostel in Willesden Street, they were in
23 a hostel in Maryhill when I was 16 and I went to see
24 them then, and then I joined the navy. Of course,
25 I wasn't allowed to go into the hostel or anything like

1 that, it wasn't a contact. I had just chapped the door
2 to find out -- when I found out they were actually
3 there.

4 Again, the nuns controlled this hostel and I left,
5 I joined the navy, and I never, ever seen them. I never
6 knew where they were after that, really.

7 Q. You do tell us in your statement that you have had
8 psychological input over the years; is that right?

9 A. That's correct, yes.

10 Q. Both I think in prison and after prison?

11 A. Yes, that's correct.

12 Q. I think you studied psychology, did you? Do you tell us
13 that in your statement?

14 A. Yes, I studied it looking for myself. It wasn't a case
15 of trying to be an academic; I was trying to find
16 myself.

17 I found the education in Frankland quite enjoyable
18 and quite -- you know, I picked up things that I didn't
19 think I was able to pick up. I started reading
20 psychology, I started reading stuff about personality
21 development, and began to understand -- and it was for
22 me, for my own personal understanding of the situation.
23 When I left, when I finished the five-year prison
24 sentence, I got -- before I left, I got enrolled in
25 university and I went to university, hoping to study.

1 But it was a masters -- sorry, it was a degree that was
2 beyond me. When I started looking that I had to do
3 statistics and stuff, you know, Mann-Whitney and all
4 that, you know, correlations, I got a bit lost with it
5 all and my confidence went that I could do this.
6 Because I was going in there looking to believe that
7 I could sit in a room and help -- because I'd been in
8 a counselling situation in the Frankland Prison with
9 a lot of serious prisoners and there was a lot of
10 honesty in the room and a lot of people in there who had
11 experienced violence as children. A lot of things in
12 common. A lot of things in my personality in common.
13 A lot of brutal honesty and a lot of reckless behaviour.

14 But the ego was dropped and there was no room to be
15 telling stories, to get sympathy, to impress anybody.
16 I felt I could pass that on in some way, but the degree
17 was beyond my capability of education.

18 Q. But I think you say somewhere in your statement that
19 it's what you've become that's important to you now;
20 is that right?

21 A. Sister LFB in Nazareth House, Auldhouse, Larchgrove,
22 all of that, I came to terms with because of the help
23 I got and certain questions I was asked.

24 As I said the other day, somebody asked, you know,
25 a counsellor -- my mind, 12 years ago, was in

1 a completely different place, especially after
2 Lord Drummond's ruling. I was thinking the only voice
3 I'm ever going to get is going to be in a criminal court
4 where I'm the accused and then I'll go to prison for
5 life, and that's where my head was at.

6 I broke down to a doctor. Luckily enough, she was
7 very aware of my emotional state and referred me to
8 a forensic psychiatrist. When I went to see him,
9 immediately he challenged me and he challenged my
10 thinking and in some cases -- again, he was the one that
11 asked me to say, well, why don't you think about why
12 they became nuns, what were they like before they became
13 nuns. So it humanised it to me a bit more.

14 Again, in certain things, in Larchgrove, with
15 a certain individual, I began to understand he didn't
16 put the cell there. I'm getting locked in cells when
17 I'm 12, but he didn't put the cell there. So it
18 lessened my personal hatred towards that man. Slowly
19 but surely, the way he challenged my brain -- I began to
20 understand that he got me to tell him the things that
21 I was expecting him to tell me. When that came out of
22 myself, I had a better understanding of who I was and
23 I could let things go.

24 Q. If I could then turn to the final part of your
25 statement, Ned -- this is at paragraphs 109 onwards --

1 one of the things you do mention there is that it seems
2 ironic and completely wrong that you were put back with
3 the man who'd put you into care in the first place. Are
4 you critical of the authorities for that?

5 A. Totally. There was never a time -- I don't believe that
6 house was ever assessed before I was ... The truth of
7 it was Mr [LGT] in Auldhouse wanted rid of me because
8 I was getting -- again, like Sister [LFB], when
9 I first arrived in Auldhouse I was terrified of that
10 man. He was a physical, wiry man, fast, very capable at
11 fighting, you know, whatever military experience he had,
12 he knew a bit of what I would describe as judo. He
13 would hold your hand and squeeze your knuckles and put
14 his fingers in your ears. He was good at this violence
15 and he was a fighter and I was terrified of him.

16 But slowly but surely, my fear of him began to leave
17 and I began to -- you know, I wanted, as I said in my
18 statement, when I was going to school, I wanted to be
19 the best fighter in that school. When I arrived in
20 a new institution, I would find out who was the best
21 fighter in that school or institution and I would be
22 fighting him by lunchtime because that would cancel out
23 bullying and I would let everyone see what I was going
24 to do and then I would be left alone. Those were the
25 intellectual stuff that was developed from

1 Nazareth House.

2 Q. Another thing you say there at paragraph 110 is that:

3 "If you leave the care system at 16 without any
4 support and are living in a bed and breakfast, you're
5 lost."

6 A. Totally.

7 Q. So you need support; is that the point you're making?

8 A. Totally. Do you know, I remember getting my first job.
9 I got a job in Anderston Cross and I wanted to go to
10 work. I knew there was something beyond the life I'd
11 experienced, and with the help of certain friends at
12 St Philip's, I understood that I was going to grow up,
13 I was going to become an adult, and there were certain
14 things I had to do.

15 I got a job and within a couple of weeks being
16 in that bed and breakfast I'm now homeless again and I'm
17 still going to work and I'm getting washed in
18 Glasgow Central station. You know, I wanted to be
19 decent, I wanted to do well for myself, I wanted to do
20 all the things that normal people would do. But there
21 was emotional issues that always got in the way of that.

22 Q. You needed support, in other words?

23 A. Totally. From that point -- do you know, at 16 to 18,
24 if there had been another hostel or an area where you
25 were -- the people I went to in that bed and breakfast

1 at Maryhill were doing it for financial reasons, for
2 whatever they were getting from the council, that's why
3 they were doing it. You need a hostel situation where
4 there's freedom enough to become an adult and freedom
5 enough to become competent at dealing with interviews
6 and dealing ... You need that support, totally.

7 I joined the navy to run away. I joined the navy
8 for a bed. I applied for the navy, the air force and
9 the army, basically within three or four days of each
10 other. I didn't care what one I joined; it was a bed
11 I was after.

12 Q. The other point you make in the next paragraph is that:

13 "People who work in care establishments have to be
14 the right people and are doing it with a heart to do the
15 job."

16 Are you pointing in particular to the St Philip's
17 experience to make that comment?

18 A. Totally. There was a combination in St Philip's where
19 there was older men who hadn't the academics behind
20 them, but they were very good with children. And then
21 in other lives you'll meet people who have all the
22 academics in the world but can't deliver. But these
23 people without the academics could deliver. It's
24 a combination of the three. Essentially, it's the heart
25 of the person to care for the child, not about their

1 career or their ambitions to move up the ladder of the
2 next stage of who they want to be.

3 Q. Finally, Ned, your hopes for the inquiry, as you set out
4 in your statement?

5 A. To acknowledge -- to acknowledge that we're being honest
6 and to acknowledge that Scotland, as a country, should
7 be ashamed that it's taken so long for this to happen,
8 bearing in mind that all the other countries -- and
9 a lot of them were dragged just as much as Scotland --
10 we've been dragged to this, we've been dragged to sit in
11 this room. The 21 years since I first reported this has
12 hurt me a lot more than what the care system hurt me.

13 MR MacAULAY: Very well, Ned. Thank you for coming today to
14 give your evidence.

15 My Lady, I have asked questions that have been
16 submitted to me as I've gone along and, unless there are
17 any other questions -- I have certainly not been made
18 aware of that.

19 LADY SMITH: I see lots of shaking heads. No more
20 applications for questions? No.

21 Ned, that's all the questions we have for you. I'm
22 sure you feel that's probably quite enough because
23 you've been giving evidence since 10 o'clock, but
24 thank you very much for coming along today and being so
25 helpful and frank and open about your life since you

1 were a child. It's, as I say, very, very helpful to the
2 work we have to do here, and I'm now able to let you go.

3 A. Thank you.

4 (The witness withdrew)

5 LADY SMITH: Morning break?

6 MR MacAULAY: Yes, I think so, my Lady.

7 LADY SMITH: We'll take the morning break at this stage and
8 I can also then get an update on what's happening with
9 the server.

10 (11.24 am)

11 (A short break)

12 (11.48 am)

13 LADY SMITH: I gather normal service has been resumed.

14 I hope everybody's got their screens working now.

15 That's good news.

16 Mr MacAulay.

17 MR MacAULAY: My Lady, the next witness is also an
18 applicant, he wants to remain anonymous and he wants to
19 use the name "Graham" when giving his evidence.

20 LADY SMITH: Thank you.

21 "GRAHAM" (affirmed)

22 LADY SMITH: Please sit down and make yourself comfortable.
23 That's as far forward as the microphone will go, so all
24 I would ask is you don't let yourself drift backwards.
25 The microphone needs to pick you up so that people

1 at the back can hear you and also so that the
2 stenographers can do their work.

3 Mr MacAulay.

4 Questions from MR MacAULAY

5 MR MacAULAY: Good morning, Graham.

6 A. Good morning.

7 Q. The first thing I want to ask you is to ask you to
8 confirm the year of your birth; not your date of birth
9 but the year of your birth. Am I right in saying you
10 were born in 1962?

11 A. Yes, that's correct.

12 Q. In the red folder you'll find your statement. For the
13 transcript the reference is WIT.001.001.4722.

14 If I could ask you to turn to the very last page of
15 the statement, can I ask you to confirm that you've
16 signed the statement.

17 A. I have.

18 Q. Do you tell us in the last paragraph:

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

21 Is that right?

22 A. That's correct.

23 Q. Do you go on to say:

24 "I believe the facts stated in this witness
25 statement are true"?

- 1 A. That's true.
- 2 Q. I'll be asking you questions essentially based on your
3 statement, Graham. If there's something I ask you and
4 you can't remember, let's say for example a date, just
5 say so.
- 6 A. Okay.
- 7 Q. Likewise, if something comes to mind as I'm asking you
8 questions that you feel that you should let us know,
9 again just feel free to tell us. Do you understand
10 that?
- 11 A. Yes.
- 12 Q. Can I touch upon your life before care. I think you
13 have older brothers, two older brothers, and an older
14 sister; is that correct?
- 15 A. That's correct.
- 16 Q. Before you went into care, and we're going to look at in
17 particular Nazareth House in Aberdeen, you lived with
18 your family?
- 19 A. Yes.
- 20 Q. Your father was involved in a rather tragic accident and
21 that, as I think you learned later in life, had an
22 impact upon him --
- 23 A. Yes.
- 24 Q. -- and upon your family life?
- 25 A. Yes.

- 1 Q. In due course were you admitted to a house at
2 Drumbreck Road run by Quarriers?
- 3 A. Yes, that's correct.
- 4 Q. Do you have much recollection of that?
- 5 A. I remember quite a bit of it.
- 6 Q. And you are aged about 3 or so at that time?
- 7 A. Roughly 3 or 3 and a half to 5 and a half.
- 8 Q. Having spent a little time there, were you then sent to
9 Nazareth House in Aberdeen?
- 10 A. That's correct.
- 11 Q. Were you sent there with your two older brothers and
12 your older sister?
- 13 A. I was, yes.
- 14 Q. According to their records, you were admitted there on
15 [REDACTED] 1967 and you left on about [REDACTED] 1967, so
16 you were there for about two and a half months,
17 something of that sort. Does that fit in with your own
18 recollection?
- 19 A. I know that to be the fact now. It doesn't sort of go
20 with my recollection because it seemed like a long time.
21 It didn't seem like -- I was shocked myself when I found
22 out I was only there those 10 or 11 weeks.
- 23 Q. How long did you think afterwards that you'd been there?
- 24 A. I thought I must have been there six or nine months.
- 25 Q. You'd be over 5 when you were there.

- 1 A. Yes.
- 2 Q. So you were very young, but do you have some
3 recollection of what happened there?
- 4 A. Yes, yes.
- 5 Q. If we look at the routine that you tell us about in
6 Nazareth House then, this is looking at paragraph 12
7 onwards, what recollection do you have of the routine?
- 8 A. I remember the main routine was -- as you woke up in the
9 morning, you had to go into a very long room which was
10 filled with nothing but sinks; I have a very clear
11 recollection of that. That's where we all stood in our
12 underwear and got washed in the mornings.
- 13 Q. What about bedtime? Do you remember much about
14 bedtimes?
- 15 A. I don't recall too much. I remember the long dormitory.
16 I can only remember one of my brothers being there with
17 me. I think my older brother was in another dormitory,
18 so I didn't have much contact with him.
- 19 Q. What about your sister then?
- 20 A. She was separated from us all altogether because that
21 was one of the things that I wanted -- I think with
22 four, before I went into care, if you can understand, in
23 quite a tight house, I used to top and tail with my
24 sister in the bed, so we were quite close.
- 25 Q. So when you were in Nazareth House then, you say you

1 were separated. Did you see your sister thereafter at
2 points in time?

3 A. No. I didn't see her at all. But we did go to church
4 on a Sunday, where the boys and girls came together.
5 But I don't have any recollection of that, that's
6 something my sister told me, so ...

7 Q. Did you make some efforts to see your sister that you
8 can remember?

9 A. I did. I remember constantly trying to climb a wall
10 because I was told she was over the other side of it and
11 I was trying to obviously tie up with her and climb this
12 wall, but I still didn't see her. I was dragged back
13 and told not to -- the boys and the girls were separate
14 and I was told very clearly.

15 Q. Who dragged you back?

16 A. It was the nuns.

17 Q. What did that involve? Can you just describe what
18 happened on these occasions?

19 A. The fear from the situation always has been -- it was
20 just: you do not go near the girls, you do not try to go
21 to the girls' quarter. I remember just crying and
22 saying I wanted to see my sister. That was my focus
23 at the time.

24 Q. Did you receive any punishment of any kind for trying to
25 climb the wall on the occasions you tried?

1 A. No. It seems so minor, but the thing I remember most
2 was getting nipped, getting nipped constantly. It was
3 such a strange -- I know it's not serious in any way,
4 but actually getting nipped all the time by people.
5 I remember it being really painful. That's all.

6 Q. Where were you nipped?

7 A. Just on the arm and the torso, just constantly nipped.
8 It was a strange thing. Well, when I look back on it,
9 it's strange. I just remember hating them because of
10 that constant nipping. When we were dragged to the
11 beach as well, every day, if you stepped out of line or
12 you didn't keep up, you were nipped. It was a way -- it
13 was a strange thing.

14 Q. Do you remember any of the nuns that engaged in this
15 behaviour?

16 A. No.

17 Q. On paragraph 11 of your statement you mention two nuns.
18 Sister [REDACTED] LVC who was a sister there and you say
19 she was excellent.

20 A. She was.

21 Q. Can you just elaborate on that? What do you mean when
22 you describe her as excellent?

23 A. I think when you're not with your family or whatever and
24 you find somebody that's actually caring towards you,
25 she was definitely the one person that was very good

- 1 with us, just ... was good with us.
- 2 Q. Okay. The other sister you mention there is
- 3 Sister [REDACTED] LTX ; that's another name you remember?
- 4 A. Yes.
- 5 Q. What can you tell me you remember about her?
- 6 A. I just remember her being very strict. She seemed to be
- 7 in charge. I don't know if she was in charge, but to me
- 8 she felt as if she was in charge. She was just very
- 9 strict, shouting at everybody in terms of -- this is my
- 10 head, but I just remember a bell getting hammered
- 11 constantly at the bottom of the stairs and we all had to
- 12 run and she'd be shouting commands and things like that.
- 13 Q. Do you have any recollection of her doing anything to
- 14 you during your time there?
- 15 A. Not anything that I can remember.
- 16 Q. When you got to Nazareth House, I think you were aged
- 17 about 5, but in any event I think you went there at
- 18 a time when the school term was ongoing; is that
- 19 correct?
- 20 A. I don't know, I don't know of any -- I don't have any
- 21 real memory of that, all I remember is where I was. So
- 22 I don't know what was going on with schools and things.
- 23 Q. In any event, you're there for at least part of the
- 24 summer holidays --
- 25 A. Yes.

- 1 Q. -- because you're there [REDACTED] into [REDACTED]?
- 2 A. All I can remember is Aberdeen must be freezing in the
3 summer because it was freezing cold at the beach every
4 day.
- 5 Q. We'll come to the beach.
- 6 Can I ask you about visits. Did you receive any
7 visits from family members?
- 8 A. We had one visit from my gran -- she preferred to be
9 called "nanny" -- my mother's mother.
- 10 Q. For that visit, then, did she see you at all together or
11 what was the arrangement?
- 12 A. No, it was individually. We had to sit with a nun and
13 she was in the room. I remember being brought in and
14 sat with her and was quite excited. She had a big box
15 of sweeties she brought up for us, so you're more
16 excited -- she wanted to give us some but she wasn't
17 allowed to. We was told by the nun that they would be
18 sorted out later on, we'd get them later after the
19 event.
- 20 Q. And did you get the sweeties later?
- 21 A. No -- maybe I just can't remember it, but no. When
22 I asked for them, I was told that they were for
23 everyone, they weren't just for us. That might have
24 been the right reasons, I don't know, but at the time it
25 didn't feel too good.

- 1 Q. But did you get some sweeties?
- 2 A. I don't ever remember getting any, no.
- 3 Q. What about your mother? I think from what you remember
4 she didn't visit.
- 5 A. No.
- 6 Q. Did she tell you something afterwards about your move to
7 Aberdeen and her knowledge of it?
- 8 A. I've got -- there's two things happening here. There's
9 one, what I remember, and there's one what I've found
10 out since in the last few months. So there's two
11 things. There are other pieces in between where we did
12 talk very briefly in the household, but it was one of
13 these strange situations. My mother would mention when
14 we were in the home -- it was always referred to as "the
15 home" -- but then if we tried to talk about it then she
16 wouldn't discuss it. But she would maybe mention it
17 casually about, "When you were in the home", but if we
18 tried to raise it and talk about what happened, it was
19 never, ever accepted. It was shuttered away.
- 20 I only ever remembered my mother and father visiting
21 us once, but that was in Drumbreck Road, and I remember
22 them taking us very clearly to -- I forget the name of
23 the park next door to it. Kelvingrove Park -- was it
24 Kelvingrove?
- 25 Q. Bellahouston Park.

1 A. I remember them taking us there. And my dad bought us
2 balsa wood aeroplanes and that's the first time
3 I remember seeing them. But from information I've
4 received recently, my mother actually visited us every
5 week and I have no recollection of that at all.

6 Q. Can I just ask you now about things that happened to you
7 when you were at Nazareth House. You tell us in
8 paragraph 21 what your worst memory is. Can you tell me
9 a little bit about that, Graham?

10 A. I woke up one morning and I had done the toilet in bed
11 and I was covered in excrement. I was dragged out of
12 the bed and I had to take my sheet and I was dragged
13 into the main room where all the sinks were. I was
14 paraded in front of everyone else and the nun was
15 basically saying, "What do we do to boys like this?" and
16 everybody's shouting at me and pointing at me and
17 laughing at me. So this is a very, very clear memory
18 for me.

19 The worst part of it was that my brother was telling
20 them to leave me alone and of course he ended up in
21 a fight and he actually got beat up by the others
22 because he was trying to protect me. So that's
23 something I've still not ... It's still not something
24 I've talked to him about to this day.

25 Q. Okay. If I can just unpick a little bit of that. You

1 wake up and, as you've said, you've done the toilet in
2 bed. Do you know if that was early on in your time at
3 Nazareth House or not?

4 A. I honestly don't know when it was.

5 Q. But you said that you were dragged to the washroom; who
6 did that?

7 A. I had to drag the sheet behind me, I remember, because
8 I didn't want to, but I had to take it with me and that
9 was it.

10 Q. Who told you to do that?

11 A. A nun.

12 Q. Do you know who she was?

13 A. No.

14 Q. I think what you're telling us is that other boys who
15 were there were essentially making fun of you; is that
16 right?

17 A. Yes, they were absolutely encouraged.

18 Q. Encouraged by whom?

19 A. The nun.

20 Q. In what way?

21 A. It was, "What do we do to boys like this?" so I remember
22 just standing there, crying, obviously embarrassed,
23 covered in this, and I remember everybody laughing at me
24 and calling me smelly and stinky and all the rest of it.
25 So it was a moment ...

1 Q. You say your brother became involved. Did he become
2 involved with the other boys?

3 A. He was telling them to leave me alone and I ended up --
4 he started getting hit.

5 Q. Did the nun do something about that? Did she try and
6 stop that from happening?

7 A. I don't remember. I just remember him crying as well,
8 so you know ...

9 LADY SMITH: And you were what, 5 years old?

10 A. 5 and a half-ish. I would say that it's one of these
11 things that bothered me quite a lot time, whether you
12 really know something happened at that age. I was very
13 aware when I brought up my own two boys, I watched them
14 from the ages of when I was in care to think what they
15 knew, because personally I thought kids didn't know too
16 much, but I was surprised at how intelligent kids are at
17 that age and how much they remember and I'm very aware
18 that my own kids can remember very clear things from
19 that age today that were good memories for them,
20 obviously, you know, different things, going to Disney
21 or whatever, so they're very clear. So I don't doubt
22 anything I remember at all. I think I'm very clear on
23 it.

24 MR MacAULAY: I think what you tell us in your statement
25 is that it wasn't just then but for some time afterwards

1 that other boys called you names.

2 A. Yes.

3 Q. Can you remember what sort of names you were called?

4 A. It was just like smelly -- I always just remember,

5 "Smelly, smelly", because I'd actually done the toilet

6 in my bed. I didn't know until recently that my

7 brother -- it's a strange thing in a family of four

8 people who have been in care and the four of us have

9 never discussed it. I find it quite strange that -- you

10 don't talk to anyone about it and I consider in many

11 ways what happened to me is not really that

12 earth-shattering. It might just be a product of its

13 time, I don't know, but when I look back on it --

14 I don't know what I'm trying to say -- it's strange.

15 I've lost the thread there, I'm sorry.

16 Q. I think you do tell us in your statement, Graham, that

17 it did have an impact on you, this particular episode.

18 A. Yes, yes. A similar incident happened -- I actually

19 don't know whether I mentioned this within the

20 statement. When I got back home to Greenock and when we

21 moved back as a family, a few months later I did the

22 same thing again in bed and what I did was I tried to

23 put on my school uniform without anybody noticing that

24 I'd made a mess of the bed. As life would take me, as

25 I was standing there with my brothers and sisters and

1 the other kids up the close who used to come to our
2 house before we all left, my mother said, "What's that
3 smell?" Then she pulled my trousers and said, "Look at
4 the state of you, what are you doing?" So it was an
5 immediate reaction to having been, I believe, humiliated
6 before.

7 So all that happened was my mother did the exact
8 same thing -- not calling me smelly or anything, but she
9 did the exact same thing, stripped me in front of the
10 other kids and, "Look at the state of you". So it did
11 happen again.

12 It had a long-term effect on me. When I got
13 married, I was frightened to sleep in the same bed as my
14 wife because I was always -- edge of the bed stuff
15 thinking I'd either wet or do the toilet in bed and
16 there's no real justification for that because I hadn't
17 in all the in-between years of getting married, but it's
18 just something that I was really uncomfortable sharing
19 a bed with somebody.

20 Q. Can I then ask you about your trips to the beach when
21 you were at Nazareth House. Were these regular trips?

22 A. Yes. It felt like a daily occurrence. All I remember
23 was going to that beach constantly and freezing. As
24 I say, I now know it was the summer and I'm thinking all
25 I remember is it being freezing there.

1 LADY SMITH: As you say, it was Aberdeen; it's not the
2 warmest place in Scotland.

3 A. I don't know Aberdeen. I didn't know it was that cold,
4 so I'm not that aware of it. A lot of people say the
5 east coast is far warmer, so ...

6 MR MacAULAY: So can I just understand the set-up? How
7 would you get to the beach from Nazareth House?

8 A. I can only remember walking. I don't know any other
9 route. I don't remember any transport to the beach.

10 Q. It's quite a distance, I think, from Nazareth House to
11 the beach.

12 A. I don't know how long it is at all. I have no idea.

13 Q. And were you with a group of children then?

14 A. Yes, yes. There was definitely a group of children. We
15 definitely went with three or four nuns and a bunch of
16 kids.

17 Q. What sort of ages?

18 A. I certainly remember people round about the same age as
19 me. I don't remember a lot of older kids and whatever.
20 I just remember -- maybe that's where I was sat, you
21 know, if I was sat with other kids more my own age.
22 I only really remember kids my own age. My brother
23 talks to me about when he went to the beach, but I don't
24 remember him or anyone else there; I just remember
25 a bunch of younger kids.

- 1 Q. Were there boys and girls or was it just the --
- 2 A. That's a good question. I honestly don't know. I can't
- 3 remember.
- 4 Q. But in any event, you go down to the beach and what
- 5 timescales are we talking about? When would you be
- 6 there and when would you leave?
- 7 A. I don't think I could give you an honest answer to that.
- 8 Q. Do you think you'd be there for the day?
- 9 A. I think we were there for a few hours. Definitely there
- 10 for a few hours. I don't know if it was just to keep us
- 11 busy or whatever, keep us out of the house.
- 12 Q. And were you still at this time asking nuns if you could
- 13 see your sister?
- 14 A. I think that was a question that I asked from beginning
- 15 to -- I finally met up with her again going on the
- 16 minibus to go back home.
- 17 Q. If you did anything like that or anything else that
- 18 might have annoyed the sisters, did anything happen?
- 19 A. As I said, this thing about nipping. The main things
- 20 I remember from the beach was being -- getting sand
- 21 poured into my milk. We used to have small bottles of
- 22 milk -- it was actually glass bottles -- and they used
- 23 to cup their hand and put the sand in and make you drink
- 24 it.
- 25 If you were saying things or you weren't doing

1 things correctly, they would take the sandwiches they
2 had for you and dip it in the sand and make you eat it.
3 So it was a horrible thing, something that -- if you can
4 think of just been chewing sand, it's bad enough doing
5 it by accident, but doing it in sandwiches wasn't
6 a pleasant thing. That's my main memory of the beaches,
7 being made to eat sand and drink sand amongst the food
8 and milk.

9 Q. When you say "made to", what would that involve?

10 A. It was stuffed in your face and you were told to eat it.
11 It was quite a ... It was just if you didn't behave or
12 you didn't just sit there quietly, and you were
13 misbehaving, you would walk away or wander away, and
14 they would force this sand on you.

15 Q. How often did this happen to you that you can remember?

16 A. A few times. It's my main memory of the beach. It is
17 the main thing that I can remember. I couldn't tell you
18 how many times it happened, but it's something that
19 happened quite a number of times.

20 Q. What about other children? Did you see this happening
21 to other children?

22 A. Yes, it wasn't just me. Other people were sitting there
23 crying, saying, "I don't want to eat that", and getting
24 forced or, "I don't want to drink that milk", and you
25 could actually see it all floating on top of the milk.

- 1 It wasn't pleasant.
- 2 Q. And when you say "forced", just explain what you mean
3 about that.
- 4 A. Just eat it, you know. I don't mean forced in terms of
5 getting hit or anything, not like that, but just being
6 told in no uncertain terms to eat it or drink it.
- 7 Q. One other thing you mentioned in your statement at
8 paragraph 24 is the use of carbolic soap. Can you help
9 me with that?
- 10 A. It was quite a strange thing because that never come up
11 in my original statement when I give the statement.
12 Then it was funny, I walked into a place one day and the
13 first thing I smelt was carbolic soap and it just come
14 back to me and I remember back to the sinks and getting
15 these big square pink bars getting forced into our faces
16 and our mouths. It's got a very, very distinctive
17 smell, if you've never smelt it, and I've only smelt it
18 in the last 40 years very recently and it was purely by
19 accident. When I smelt it it took me straight back to
20 Aberdeen.
- 21 Q. Why was it being rubbed in your mouth?
- 22 A. I don't know. It was being pushed in your face and in
23 your mouth as well. It was a strange thing. I don't
24 know for what reason.
- 25 Q. And who did this?

1 A. Nuns.

2 LADY SMITH: Was this when they were washing you or not?

3 A. I don't ever remember a nun washing me. I remember
4 standing and you had to keep yourself clean. That's
5 what I'm saying, everybody lined up and you got an
6 allocated sink and you just washed yourself.

7 LADY SMITH: So this was at some point other than the time
8 of day you'd be washing, the nun would be pushing soap
9 into your face?

10 A. Yes. I can't actually remember exactly when it
11 happened, but all I do is I know that carbolic soap was
12 absolutely forced on us, you know. I don't remember if
13 it was at night-time or morning or whatever. I really
14 don't have that clear a memory.

15 LADY SMITH: Right, thank you.

16 A. I remember the taste of it, that's all.

17 LADY SMITH: And the smell, you said?

18 A. And the smell.

19 LADY SMITH: It does have a very distinctive smell.

20 A. Yes. I've not smelt it -- I forgot all about it. It
21 was only a recent thing when I walked out somewhere and
22 immediately that was -- it was an trigger. So that's
23 why I never had it in my original statement. I had no
24 recollection of it until that happened.

25 LADY SMITH: Thank you.

1 MR MacAULAY: If we look at paragraph 27 of your statement,
2 Graham, what you say there is:

3 "Apart from Sister [REDACTED] LVC [who you've already
4 mentioned], none of the nuns tried to make us welcome or
5 comfortable at Nazareth House. I just don't think any
6 of the nuns had child skills."

7 Can you just elaborate on that? What made you think
8 that?

9 A. I didn't think at the time, I think I thought about it
10 later in life that there was no -- you've got to think
11 back if you're a kid. When you're with your parents, in
12 a typical west of Scotland family, you're not huggy,
13 touchy-feely in any way, you're still quite
14 stand-offish, but there is a certain amount of love
15 there if you hurt yourself or skin your knee, or things
16 like that. There are moments where it would almost be
17 normal in terms of your mother giving you a hug. But
18 certainly there was nothing at all that I felt that
19 warmed me at all towards that whole experience, apart
20 from my encounters with Sister [REDACTED] LVC, who treated
21 us like children. She was quite an individual. She
22 used to play football and things like that. So she was
23 a nun with a difference. She was definitely one to do
24 types of things like that.

25 So I remember that very clearly. She was, you

1 know -- she wore a completely white habit as well,
2 I remember, because you could see her running all over
3 the football field, the big playing fields we went to.
4 But I think it's just the difference of that, where if
5 you could remember back at that sort of age, you're just
6 going into a bed, you're not getting your mother or
7 anybody there, so there was no real warmth anywhere.
8 I think you feel very much that you're on your own and
9 try and fend for yourself type thing, whereas
10 Sister [REDACTED] LVC, if there was any shining light in
11 Nazareth House, she was the one.

12 Q. There came a time when you left Nazareth House and
13 you've already told us you thought it was a much longer
14 period than the records might indicate. But you went
15 back into your family life when you left; is that right?

16 A. Yes.

17 Q. So far as life after care is concerned, I think what you
18 tell us in your statement is that you had what you
19 describe as a fairly normal childhood afterwards.

20 A. Yes.

21 Q. You give us information about what you did when you went
22 to work, and I think you now run your own business. We
23 needn't look at what it is, but you have your own
24 business, I think, now; is that right?

25 A. That's correct.

1 Q. Impact. Can I just ask you a little bit about any
2 impact that your time in Nazareth House might have had
3 on you. You begin by telling us you don't think that it
4 had a massive impact upon your life. Is that your view?

5 A. Well, sort of, you make what you do of your own life,
6 don't you? You have to look at things ... I think
7 I went through a period of ... I did [REDACTED] and
8 all these things. I was quite strong and things like
9 that -- and of course [REDACTED] was an awkward one
10 because I didn't like going to the church and that was
11 definitely the association with Nazareth House. So you
12 do all these type of things.

13 But as I became older, I completely went away from
14 religion. I read a lot of eastern religions and things
15 like that, became a wee bit more into -- not practising
16 or anything, but more into reading about Buddhism and
17 different things. There comes a point when you read
18 that stuff and you read the word acceptance and you
19 understand acceptance, you have to say, right, that's
20 then and this is now, where am I going and what are you
21 doing, and you accept that things happen to you in life
22 and that's just the way it is, you know.

23 Overall, do I let it impact me? No. Do some things
24 come up at times in your head? Yes. I think that's
25 mainly because it's never, ever been talked about, even

1 between siblings.

2 I hear people saying things like -- people get
3 together and talk about things and I've never, ever
4 talked to anyone -- I'm not saying that other people
5 don't, but the fact that I couldn't even talk to my own
6 family about it ... Do you want me --

7 Q. Yes, carry on.

8 A. I think about 15 years ago there was an item on TV about
9 this which came on TV one night and it clearly said
10 Nazareth House and about abuse and the time period it
11 mentioned is exactly the time when my family were there.
12 I was sitting with my mother and father, I was just up
13 visiting them, and my mother immediately jumped up and
14 turns the TV off. So that's how much these things were
15 discussed. She heard it very clearly, "Abuse of
16 children Nazareth House", the time period she knew
17 we were there, and all they do is turn the TV off and
18 talk about something different.

19 So for me it's quite a strange thing that you can't
20 talk about, so I've just accepted that I don't talk
21 about it. I think about it at times, but, as I say, is
22 it a product of its time? I don't know. I don't judge
23 it. I don't blame these people for saying they did this
24 and they did that. I even said when I gave my
25 statement, maybe this was just normal and I don't think

1 it's ... But I was advised by the people, no, no,
2 you have to tell this story and say it because I didn't
3 think that I had that much to say.

4 Q. One thing you have told us about is your separation from
5 your sister and clearly you got together after you left
6 Nazareth House, you were back in family. Did the
7 separation from your sister affect your relationship
8 with your sister, do you think?

9 A. My sister won't come forward. My sister is the most
10 bitter person out of all of this, all of this period.
11 She has absolutely never come to terms with the whole
12 thing.

13 LADY SMITH: How old was she when you went to
14 Nazareth House?

15 A. She was 4 years older than me, she was 9.

16 LADY SMITH: Thank you.

17 A. But she has never ... She didn't just hate the
18 experience of being in the homes, but she blamed my
19 parents for it as well. She couldn't come to terms with
20 it. I'm still in contact with my sister, we do meet,
21 maybe once every six weeks or whatever, get together,
22 and she knows I've come forward here, and she doesn't
23 want anything. She doesn't want to report it, she
24 doesn't want anything, because her own partner and
25 children don't know that she was ever in care. That's

1 what I mean by you really don't mention these things.

2 But today, she's still bitter. I managed to talk to
3 her recently about it because she will come up and ask
4 me, "What's happening? How are you getting on?" I've
5 told her, not a lot to tell, but I've told her what is
6 ... so far. But she is just bitter. She is absolutely
7 bitter about the whole experience.

8 MR MacAULAY: Has she ever said to you how she might have
9 been treated when she was there?

10 A. Both her and my older brother -- and he was six years
11 older than me -- both of them will not talk about it at
12 all. She was almost -- in terms of speed, they had
13 a family come to see her to take her away when she was
14 in Aberdeen, so she was already lined up with no real
15 justification on that.

16 I mean, since this process began, I got some records
17 from Glasgow Council, from the Social Work Department,
18 et cetera, and it detailed quite clearly that my mother
19 was doing everything desperately to get us back. She
20 came to see us every week, which I don't remember, but
21 she was trying -- and they moved us from Drumbreck Road
22 to Aberdeen without her say-so, and even the social
23 worker at the time questioned why that happened, why
24 there was any reason that happened.

25 My sister, actually, put a wee bit of light on that

1 and said it was my mother's mother: she didn't want us
2 in Drumbreck because it wasn't Catholic and she wanted
3 somewhere Catholic and the only place that could take us
4 was Aberdeen.

5 Q. I think the point you're making about your sister being
6 lined up, I think what you're saying is that at a point
7 in time when she was still in Nazareth House, there was
8 some plan or possible plan that she may be fostered.

9 A. Yes, a family came to meet her, took her out for a day,
10 and she was, "What's all this about?" but at that point
11 my parents managed to take us back.

12 Q. You've already told us, Graham, about the impact having
13 done the toilet in your bed has had, even in your adult
14 life. You have mentioned that. What about the sand
15 in the milk and in your sandwiches? Has that left you
16 with any lasting memory or impression?

17 A. It's one of these things that only comes back to me --
18 I'm a great lover of seafood, but the only thing that
19 happens is if I'm eating mussels or something and
20 there's grit in it, there's an instant memory. It is
21 just one of those things. It brings back the memory.
22 I don't want to go back to Aberdeen. I don't want to
23 think about it. I'd rather it didn't come up, so I have
24 tried to live my life not thinking about it. But it
25 raises itself, you know.

1 Q. Okay. What you tell us at paragraph 39 -- and I'll just
2 read that sentence out -- is:

3 "What the nuns did to me has driven me away from the
4 church."

5 A. Yes.

6 Q. Is that your position?

7 A. Yes. [inaudible] away from organised religion in any
8 way, more to do with organised religion. I've no time
9 for it, personally. I don't want to take anybody else's
10 beliefs away from them, but it's certainly not something
11 that I see as a positive.

12 Q. If we look at paragraphs 44 and 45 onwards, you talk
13 about going back to Bellahouston Park and I think that's
14 where your parents used to take you when you were at
15 Drumbreck Road; is that right?

16 A. Yes.

17 Q. You say what happened to you makes you think about
18 children in care; can you elaborate on that?

19 A. It's one of the sad things of this world. You see that
20 a lot of children are in care as the money gets tighter
21 and families get into more despair. Obviously this is
22 going to -- this is a growing problem, I believe.
23 I don't like the idea of it. I don't know any way that
24 there is that you could police it properly. It seems to
25 be from everything you read from charities to everything

1 that certain types of people gravitate towards
2 vulnerable people, whether it's children or adults in
3 care or whatever. There seems to be some sort of sick
4 mentality that they'll head towards it.

5 If I could change the world tomorrow and get every
6 kid out of care tomorrow and do it, it would be a great
7 thing, but I'm sure it's also a necessity as well
8 somewhere that some kids have to do it, but the only
9 thing I would hope for out of all this is that people
10 have to police it better.

11 Q. One thing you do tell us in paragraph 46 is that some
12 years ago, 10, 12 years ago, you decided to go back and
13 visit Nazareth House; is that correct?

14 A. That's correct.

15 Q. What prompted that visit?

16 A. My brother moved to Aberdeen, of all places. My brother
17 works in social work, he works in courts and things,
18 helping people, doing background reports on prisoners.
19 He used to work up at the prison and things. So he had
20 moved up to Aberdeen -- I think he was in Montrose first
21 and then Aberdeen, or the other way round. He said,
22 come up and stay at Aberdeen, we'll go along the beach
23 and all the rest of it.

24 So there's a few very prominent songs of our time in
25 Aberdeen, if I think back to Aberdeen. I don't think

1 I mentioned it anywhere, but if you hear "Mr Tambourine
2 Man", "San Francisco" -- there's a couple of songs like
3 that, as soon as you hear it, you could think back to
4 the beaches because they used to have loudspeakers
5 playing this all the time.

6 So he said, come up and we'll walk along the beach.
7 We did and it wasn't a good idea. He said, "Let's go
8 and I'll show you where Nazareth House is". So we
9 actually drove up, we looked at it, I says, "Right,
10 okay", and he says, "Let's go in", and I said, "I don't
11 think ...". Anyway we went in. The nun there was very
12 nice, she invited us in, took us in for a cup of tea,
13 a biscuit and things, and she asked us, "Were you abused
14 when you were here?" and of course we went, "No",
15 because before I came forward, if I'm perfectly honest,
16 before I came forward with this I actually said I was
17 never abused, you know.

18 Although when you read out some of these things and
19 you start to actually analyse it, if somebody took one
20 of my boys and stuffed sand and things, I would go for
21 them -- in the nicest possible way, I would not be happy
22 with that. But if anyone ever asked me when I was in
23 care, I would say, "No, certainly not, I wasn't abused",
24 because I didn't see any of that as abuse. It was
25 only -- I was asked back the question by a professional

1 within this organisation, "Did I think it was normal?"
2 and my statement, I believe, at the time, was, "Was it
3 just a product of its time? Have we moved on so much
4 that a lot of things are not allowed today in the 70s or
5 the 60s, that's the way everything happened". I don't
6 know. I'm not the one to judge all that. That's not my
7 position.

8 Q. In any event, you end by saying that what you would like
9 to see is improvements in monitoring of living standards
10 for anyone in care.

11 A. Absolutely.

12 MR MacAULAY: Well, thank you for your evidence, Graham.

13 My Lady, in asking the questions I've asked, I think
14 I have posed the questions that have been submitted to
15 me to be asked and I don't know if there are to be any
16 more questions.

17 LADY SMITH: Let me check. Are there any outstanding
18 applications for questions? No.

19 Graham, thank you very much for coming along today
20 and sharing the memories you have of that, albeit short,
21 time that you were in Nazareth House in Aberdeen. It
22 adds to the picture very helpfully and I'm now able to
23 let you go.

24 A. Can I say one thing?

25 LADY SMITH: Certainly.

1 A. I would just like to thank the people who have been
2 looking after me from the beginning, [REDACTED] and [REDACTED].
3 I think everything about their approach and how they've
4 looked after somebody like myself has been unbelievable
5 in terms of professionalism, every step of the way, and
6 I'd just like to thank them.

7 LADY SMITH: Well, thank you for saying that so openly.
8 That does reassure us. We do try to get it right and
9 it's very good to hear from you that it's working.
10 Thank you.

11 (The witness withdrew)

12 LADY SMITH: Yes, Mr MacAulay.

13 MR MacAULAY: My Lady, we do have time, leading up to
14 lunchtime, to have one statement read in.

15 LADY SMITH: Yes, let's do that.

16 Witness statement of "JACK" (read)

17 MS MACLEOD: This is a statement of a witness who wishes to
18 remain anonymous and he wishes to use the pseudonym
19 "Jack". The statement can be found at WIT.001.001.3887:
20 "My name is Jack. I was born in 1951. My contact
21 details are known to the inquiry.

22 "I was born in St Francis Maternity Hospital.
23 I think it was run by the Poor Sisters of Nazareth. My
24 parents lived in Glasgow. My mother had children very
25 young. It was the 1940s and 1950s. She was only 15 or

1 16 years old when she had me.

2 "I was sent to Nazareth House in Kilmarnock as
3 a baby aged 2. I do not really remember anything about
4 my experience there. I left aged 7.

5 "I was sent to a home called Belsa House. It was
6 a stopgap before going to Nazareth House in Aberdeen.
7 I was always sent back there when I had a stopgap
8 between homes. It was run by a woman called
9 Mrs McClusky. I discovered years later that
10 Mrs McClusky had tried to adopt me when I was aged 5.
11 My mother had refused her permission. My mother didn't
12 want anyone else having us either. I have no memory of
13 being taken to Nazareth House in Aberdeen."

14 My Lady, the admissions registers for Aberdeen show
15 this witness going in in [REDACTED] 1952.

16 "The home was mixed. The boys and girls were kept
17 separate. We were not allowed to mix with each other or
18 our siblings. The boys were kept on one side, the girls
19 on the other. I didn't know I had sisters there.

20 "The home was run by nuns and was steeped in the
21 faith of the Catholic Church. We were surrounded by
22 religion noon until night. It gave the impression of
23 being purely holy and pious:

24 "I don't remember the details of the first day. My
25 first memory is one of sharp shock. The nuns were

1 vicious, I had never experienced anything like it. They
2 were unbelievable.

3 "If I wet the bed I had to have a cold bath first
4 thing in the morning. All the bed-wetters lined up
5 in the bathroom together. There were two or three baths
6 and we would share the water.

7 "I would then go to Mass at 7 am. I was an altar
8 boy so I had to be there. Mass was for one hour. I had
9 to go to Mass twice on Sunday. I learned the whole Mass
10 in Latin. I picked it up quite easily. There was an
11 attitude of 'pick it up or else'. I can still recite
12 the Mass in Latin today.

13 "After Mass we would go for breakfast. The food was
14 fine. There was always enough of it. We all sat
15 together on big tables. We ate in the dining room.
16 I think it was also used as a playroom. Breakfast was
17 just porridge. It wasn't bad especially if you managed
18 to get the cream from the top of the milk.

19 "We had free meals for lunch at school. Dinner was
20 in the dining room. I was often excluded from dinner
21 for being naughty. It didn't take much. It just
22 depended on the mood of the nun in charge that day.
23 Sometimes it was for bed-wetting the night before.

24 "If I was excluded I would going to the dump behind
25 the home and scavenge for food. I would find Brussels

1 sprouts and eat them.

2 "We were not allowed sweets or any extra food. If
3 sweets were handed in by visitors, it was taken away by
4 the nuns.

5 "On feast days we would get treats and better food.
6 If the feast day was the same day as one of the nuns,
7 they would put on a big spread. Nobody wanted to get
8 into trouble on these days as they would miss out.
9 Feast days were sometimes two or three times a week.

10 "When I arrived at Nazareth House, I didn't know
11 I had any brothers or sisters. I remember
12 Mother Superior called me into her room one day. There
13 were three girls standing in there. She told me the
14 girls were my sisters. There were also two men in the
15 room. They were CID police officers. My father had
16 been murdered. He was a gypsy. The police had
17 photographs and they wanted my sister to identify him.
18 She was 13 years old then. I was 7 or 8.

19 "I learned then that I had two older sisters and one
20 younger one. I remember being excited because I had
21 three sisters that I didn't know about. I didn't know
22 if my sister knew about me before that day. She made
23 a special point from that day onwards to meet me at the
24 gates to walk to school.

25 "After breakfast we would all go to school, I think

1 it was called St Peter's school. It was both a primary
2 and a secondary school. The school taught children from
3 Nazareth House and from the local area.

4 "When we left the home in the morning the girls
5 would go out one gate and the boys out the other. My
6 older sister used to wait for me at the gate. She would
7 comb my hair into a curl every day. She looked after
8 me. We had to hide from the nuns so that we weren't
9 seen together.

10 "We walked to school unsupervised so we could walk
11 together. We knew what time we had to be at school.
12 After school I would walk home with the other kids.

13 "When I got back to the home I would have to learn
14 my catechism and Masses in Latin. It took me an hour
15 every day. I had to learn the Masses otherwise I would
16 have been registered as a reject. You didn't want to be
17 a reject. The nuns placed a lot of emphasis on that
18 kind of thing.

19 "We were allowed to play until dinnertime. There
20 was a playroom but it didn't have any toys or games or
21 books. There wasn't a TV or radio. We would play tig,
22 kick the can or hopscotch.

23 "Sometimes on feast days the nuns would give us the
24 toys that had been handed in by visitors. The toys were
25 always removed after the feast day.

1 "After dinner, I had to learn my catechism. I can't
2 remember there being any holidays or days out. School
3 holidays came and went with no real difference to our
4 daily routine. Every day was the same except Sundays.
5 On Sundays we would have Mass twice.

6 "I was told my birthday was the day after my actual
7 birthday. It was never marked by Nazareth House. I did
8 not have a cake or any cards or presents. The nuns
9 didn't go in for that sort of thing. When I got married
10 years later, I discovered that my birthday was actually
11 the day before.

12 "I got my confirmation lines from the home and it
13 was noted there. I never had any explanation about why
14 they had told me my birthday was a day later.

15 "Christmas was a busy time at the chapel. I can't
16 remember anything else about Christmas. I don't recall
17 ever receiving a Christmas present. I'm sure there
18 would have been a party. Easter was a purely religious
19 holiday. We did not receive any chocolate eggs or
20 anything of that nature.

21 "I never had any visits from family. My mother
22 never contacted me or came to visit. My grandmother was
23 Irish and lived in Dublin and she never visited.

24 "I was visited by a social worker maybe once a year.
25 I don't remember ever seeing a doctor or dentist whilst

1 at Nazareth House. I did not receive any injections or
2 vaccinations. I don't remember ever getting sick.
3 I can't remember ever having any personal possessions.
4 If I had had a teddy bear it would have been taken away
5 and put in the bin by the nuns. We did not receive any
6 pocket money.

7 "Clothes and shoes were provided to us by the home.
8 We didn't have a uniform for school; we were just given
9 cast-offs by other boys. We never got anything new.
10 I wore short trousers until I was 13.

11 "The abuse started not long after I had arrived at
12 Nazareth House. I was 7 years old. There was
13 a [REDACTED] who worked there called [REDACTED] LDS .
14 I think [REDACTED].
15 I didn't know much about him and tried to keep out of
16 his way. I used to go to the dump near the boiler room
17 to pick Brussels sprouts to eat when I had been excluded
18 from dinner.

19 " [REDACTED] LDS worked in that area and would take me to the
20 boiler room. I thought I was getting a slapped bum for
21 wetting the bed.

22 "In the boiler room [REDACTED] LDS tied me up. He put a gag
23 in my mouth. He would caress me at first and then slap
24 me. He would then beat me up. He always used his
25 hands. I couldn't defend myself as my arms were tied

1 up.

2 "It didn't always happen in the boiler room.
3 Sometimes he would take me to one of the little rooms
4 upstairs in the home. He would tie me up and gag me
5 in the same way as in the boiler room.

6 "There were never any nuns present when the abuse
7 took place, but I am sure they were in collusion with
8 [REDACTED] LDS , Sister [REDACTED] LDR in particular. I would see her
9 speak to [REDACTED] LDS about me. It looked like she was
10 instructing him to punish me. He would then come and
11 take me to the little room or the boiler room and was
12 allowed to hit me. The nuns saw him hit me and didn't
13 care.

14 "After [REDACTED] LDS had finished abusing me, he would give
15 me sixpence to buy sweeties. [REDACTED] LDS would abuse me at
16 least once a week. It started when I was 7 years old
17 and went on until I was nine. I knew it wasn't right.

18 "As an adult looking back, I would say that there
19 was a sexual element to the abuse for [REDACTED] LDS . The
20 gagging and hitting definitely gave [REDACTED] LDS pleasure. I
21 never heard any of the other boys mentioning similar
22 experiences with [REDACTED] LDS . I would be very surprised if
23 I was the only one he was interfering with.

24 "Sister [REDACTED] LDR and Sister [REDACTED] FAF were the two
25 cruellest nuns. Sister [REDACTED] LDR would slap me straight

1 in the face and head. It just depended on her mood. At
2 Mass I was made to sit next to her. She would
3 deliberately stamp on my feet with her heels during the
4 hymns. She was also the one who would send **LDS** to
5 punish me.

6 "Sister **FAF** would use a hairbrush to hit us
7 all the time. She would throw it at you too. We never
8 did anything to deserve it.

9 "I think Sister **FAF** was more of a tyrant
10 towards the girls than the boys. My sister told me that
11 she hit them a lot. The nuns would only talk to us
12 about religion. Every aspect of life at Nazareth House
13 was run by the nuns and steeped in religion. There was
14 no affection of any description.

15 "I remember having a deep terror of the
16 Catholic Church. It was instilled into us by the nuns.

17 "There was a chapel in the home. Downstairs in the
18 chapel were the catacombs. It was where they kept the
19 coffins and we were all scared of it. My sister had to
20 help wash the bodies down there. The nuns would
21 terrorise us with stories of what could happen to us.

22 "When one of the nuns died, there would be a Requiem
23 Mass. At Requiem Mass there would be an open coffin.
24 The girls would have to line up to kiss the dead body.
25 I remember some of the girls vomiting with fear.

1 "I must have been a mischievous child as the nuns
2 always singled me out. They would say that I had the
3 face of an angel and the nature of the devil. That
4 phrase has always stuck with me.

5 "I wet the bed throughout my time at Nazareth House.
6 There were two or three of us who would wet the bed
7 regularly. We had to sleep with an electric machine
8 under our sheets. It had an alarm that would sound when
9 you wet the bed. It would give you an electric shock.

10 "In the morning the nuns would wrap the wet sheets
11 around you. You were made to stand in front of the
12 other boys to be ridiculed. We would then have to line
13 up in the bathroom for a cold bath. I tried not to
14 sleep so that I wouldn't wet the bed. I was too scared
15 to get up in the night to go to the toilet.

16 "I can't remember why I was moved on to another
17 home. It was Kilmarnock Social Work that moved me.
18 Maybe it was because I had run away a few times and the
19 police had returned me. No one explained to me what was
20 going on or why I was moving."

21 My Lady, the admission register from Aberdeen has
22 this witness leaving Nazareth House Aberdeen in
23 [REDACTED] 1957.

24 LADY SMITH: Thank you.

25 MS MACLEOD: "I did not have anyone that I could tell about

1 the abuse at Nazareth House. I never reported it to the
2 social workers or to the police. When the police asked
3 me why I had run away, I would just say I didn't know.
4 I knew fine well why I had run away but I didn't trust
5 them. I didn't trust anyone."

6 In paragraph 57 of the statement, the witness speaks
7 about time he spent in Red House in Musselburgh between
8 the ages of 10 and 13. That goes on from paragraphs 57
9 to 70, my Lady.

10 Then in paragraph 71 the witness speaks of
11 Bellsford House in Kilmarnock. From paragraphs 72 to 96
12 of his statement, the witness speaks of his experiences
13 at St Ninian's in Fife where he was between the ages of
14 12 and 13.

15 In paragraphs 97 to 100 of his statement, the
16 witness speaks about his life after care, including
17 a stay of around one year that he spent in
18 [REDACTED] Hospital.

19 From paragraph 101 onwards, the witness discusses
20 the impact of him of his time in care and I'll pick up
21 the statement there at paragraph 101, which is on page
22 WIT.001.001.3902:

23 "The impact on my mental health has been
24 devastating. I have learnt not to trust anyone. I have
25 no confidence. I turned to drugs to try to block

1 everything out. I was an addict for 30 years. I have
2 a drug counsellor and a community psychiatric nurse.
3 I see them regularly. I am clean now. I have been
4 diagnosed with historic post traumatic stress disorder.
5 It has been attributed to the abuse I suffered in care,
6 the abuse at Red House in particular.

7 "I have been seeing psychiatrists for years. It has
8 been beneficial. It has brought me to the point where
9 I can talk to the inquiry. My drug counsellor and CPN
10 have encouraged me to speak about my experiences.

11 "I was completely institutionalised by the time
12 I came out of hospital. I feel that I was broken before
13 I even started. I had no qualifications at all.
14 I started offending. It was always crimes of
15 dishonesty; I never committed any crimes of violence.
16 Generally, I would break into safes. There was no
17 deterrent effect to committing crime for me. I felt
18 safer in prison than in the outside world."

19 In paragraphs 105 to 110 of the statement the
20 witness speaks about his family relationships and I'll
21 pick up the statement again at paragraph 110, which is
22 on WIT.001.001.3904:

23 "I think my older sister was abused during her time
24 in Nazareth House. She never speaks about it. She
25 breaks down if Nazareth House is ever mentioned,

1 especially if she has had a drink. I am sure it would
2 have been the same [REDACTED], [REDACTED] LDS [REDACTED].

3 "My experience in care has completely destroyed any
4 faith I had. The nuns were vicious and totally
5 incapable of looking after children. The brothers were
6 priests and as far as I am concerned they are a bunch of
7 hypocrites. They taught me not to trust anyone. It has
8 affected my whole life. I often wonder how I would have
9 turned out if no abuse had happened and they had just
10 done their job.

11 "I have never seen any records from the care homes
12 I lived in. I have been given the details of Future
13 Pathways, who I hope will be able to help me locate my
14 records."

15 I'll then move on to the final page of the
16 statement, my Lady, and to paragraph 115, which is on
17 WIT.001.001.3905.

18 "I hope the inquiry fulfils its purpose. If there
19 is anyone still working in care abusing children, I hope
20 the inquiry finds them. I hope the inquiry stops them
21 from ruining anyone else's life.

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

1 Q. Were you born on [REDACTED] 1964?

2 A. I was.

3 Q. You have in front of you your statement in the red
4 folder. I'll give the transcribers the reference.
5 WIT.001.001.4375. If I could ask you to go to the last
6 page of the statement. Can I ask you, Chris, to confirm
7 that you've signed the statement.

8 A. I have, yes. That's my signature.

9 Q. Do you say in that last paragraph:
10 "I have no objection to my witness statement being
11 published as part of the evidence to the inquiry"?
12 Is that --

13 A. Yes, that's correct.

14 Q. Do you go on to say:
15 "I believe the facts stated in this witness
16 statement are true"?
17 A. Yes.

18 Q. [REDACTED]
19 [REDACTED]
20 [REDACTED]

21 [REDACTED]

22 A. [REDACTED]

23 Q. [REDACTED]
24 A. [REDACTED]

25 Q. It would appear that there was social work involvement

1 with your family from quite a very young age; is that
2 right?

3 A. Yes.

4 Q. I think, when you were very young, you were placed in
5 foster care.

6 A. I was, yes.

7 Q. You provide us with information about your family
8 circumstances in the first number of paragraphs in your
9 statement and also about the various places where you
10 went. For example, in paragraph 10, one of the places
11 you went to was a place called Castle Craig in
12 Peebleshire; is that correct?

13 A. Yes, that's correct. It's now a rehabilitation place
14 for drug and alcohol dependency.

15 Q. And what age do you think you were when you were there?
16 Can you remember?

17 A. It would have been between 72 and 73; it was certainly
18 before admission to Nazareth House. [REDACTED]

19 [REDACTED]

20 [REDACTED]

21 Q. Ah yes.

22 A. Yes.

23 Q. In any event, you then -- what you tell us in
24 paragraph 13 is when you were between 6 and 8 you were
25 in Dunclutha Children's Home in Dunoon.

1 A. Yes.

2 Q. I think you say you only have vague memories really of
3 being there.

4 A. Yes, I do have vague memories.

5 Q. After Dunclutha, you were back home for a while, but
6 then you went to Gryffe Children's Home in Bridge of
7 Weir?

8 A. Gryffe, yes.

9 Q. You give us information about Gryffe in your statement.
10 We're not looking at Gryffe at the moment, we're looking
11 the Sisters of Nazareth, so things you say about Gryffe
12 will not be overlooked, it's just they're not relevant
13 to what we're doing today.

14 A. Yes.

15 Q. According to your social work records, the Glasgow
16 Council records, you were, I think, in Gryffe from
17 [REDACTED] 1974, would that accord with your own
18 recollection?

19 A. Yes.

20 Q. Aged about 10?

21 A. Yes.

22 Q. You were there for several months and again, according
23 to the records, you left in [REDACTED] 1974.

24 A. Yes, that's about right, [REDACTED]
25 [REDACTED]

1 [REDACTED] until they could fix the placement at
2 Nazareth House Aberdeen, which would have been roughly
3 [REDACTED] 1974.

4 Q. Yes. And I think you thought that you went from Gryffe
5 to Aberdeen.

6 A. Yes.

7 Q. So far as the Aberdeen Nazareth House records are
8 concerned, you were admitted to Nazareth House in
9 Aberdeen on [REDACTED] 1974.

10 A. Yes.

11 Q. So you were aged about 9?

12 A. Yes.

13 Q. There isn't a record for when you left, but there is
14 a letter. I'll perhaps just put the letter on the
15 screen for you, Chris. That might give us a clue as to
16 when you left. This is NAZ.001.003.5516.

17 So we're looking at a letter from Glasgow University
18 Settlement Family Centre, dated 12 January 1978. You
19 can see it's addressed to Sister [REDACTED] LDX at
20 Nazareth House. Can you see that?

21 A. Yes.

22 Q. I think the background to this letter is you had run
23 away from Nazareth House --

24 A. That's right, yes.

25 Q. -- before this. And as we can see from the second

1 paragraph of the letter, although it's blacked out, but
2 I'll read it to you:

3 "Christopher is quite clear that he wants to stay
4 home and all the boys were certain that that would be
5 his decision."

6 So you were being asked as to whether you were going
7 to go back and you were saying, no, you were not?

8 A. Yes.

9 Q. This is dated January 1978. I take it then you had run
10 away a little time before that.

11 A. I had run away before the Christmas of that year,
12 I think, or it might have been the New Year, I'm not
13 sure. I can't remember when I ran away.

14 Q. But in any event, the latter part of 1977 or early 1978?

15 A. Yes, that's correct.

16 Q. On that basis you would have been in Aberdeen for some,
17 what, three to four years, something of that sort?

18 A. Yes, that's right.

19 Q. There's some reference here to returning money. You'll
20 see that in the last paragraph.

21 A. Yes.

22 Q. I think, as you tell us in your statement, you had taken
23 some money in order to pay for your way to get home from
24 Nazareth House --

25 A. Yes.

1 Q. -- and there was a request for the money to be returned.

2 A. To be returned. Do you want me to elaborate on that?

3 Q. I think we'll come to that part of the statement.

4 A. Yes.

5 Q. 

6 A. 

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11 Q. So far as the building itself is concerned, I think we
12 understand it's quite an imposing granite building, the
13 main building.

14 A. Yes.

15 Q. And if we look at a photograph at NAZ.001.001.0254, and
16 if we move down to the bottom, do you recognise it
17 there?

18 A. Yes, I do. That's the main entrance from
19 Claremont Street. There's actually -- at the end of
20 this path as you're walking up to the building, there
21 was a marble gateway and entrance, central, which led
22 you on to that main front door.

23 Q. While we're looking at the photograph then, when we come
24 to see where you were located, does this photograph help
25 us at all?

- 1 A. It does.
- 2 Q. Can you help us on that?
- 3 A. Yes. The ground floor was all kind of administrative.
- 4 If you went in that door (indicating), to the left was
- 5 a kind of grand kind of lounge area with a big table and
- 6 stuff. We were greeted by the nuns when we went there
- 7 with the social worker folk and so on.
- 8 Then, when we were handed over to
- 9 Sister [REDACTED] LDX [REDACTED], who was the nun who was to be in
- 10 charge of us, we went up the stairs inside the building,
- 11 and as you're looking at that photograph, if you look on
- 12 the left there's -- before you get to the roof windows,
- 13 that very top level there along there (indicating),
- 14 that's where we were located.
- 15 In fact, I think the roof windows were -- my bedroom
- 16 would have been one of the ones on the left there, and
- 17 I shared the room with four other boys in that bit
- 18 there.
- 19 Q. When you say "the room", that's your bedroom?
- 20 A. Yes, the bedroom.
- 21 Q. So there's five of you in the bedroom?
- 22 A. Well, four.
- 23 Q. Four altogether?
- 24 A. Yes.
- 25 Q. [REDACTED]

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[REDACTED]
A. [REDACTED]

Q. [REDACTED]

A. [REDACTED]

Q. When you mention Sister [REDACTED] LDX [REDACTED], she was the sister in charge of your unit; is that right?

A. Well, yes, there was Sister [REDACTED] LDX [REDACTED] and usually two young female, always female, care workers in our group, but anyway there was always like two young females, maybe aged 19 upwards, early 20s and so on, yes.

Q. Did your group have a name, was it a unit, a group?

A. No, it was Sister [REDACTED] LDX [REDACTED]'s group. It was a group, but we called it "our group" or "Sister [REDACTED] LDX [REDACTED] LDX [REDACTED]'s group".

Q. Do I take it from that that there were other groups?

A. Yes. The only one that I really remember was Sister [REDACTED] LSI [REDACTED]'s group, which was kind of near us when we moved to the new group. When we moved from the main part of the building, we were put into a laundry

1 that had been converted into a living space for us,
2 which had a kitchen, a dining room, and all these
3 different things, and a sitting room, and then the
4 different rooms. That was like completely renovated and
5 new and we moved from that bit to there.

6 Q. When you say "we", was that Sister [REDACTED] LDX 's
7 group?

8 A. Yes, the whole group.

9 Q. But the other groups were in other parts of the --

10 A. Yes, they were in other parts of the building, yes. And
11 the one that I remember -- because Sister [REDACTED] LDX
12 often spoke to Sister [REDACTED] LSI and they worked closely
13 together, although Sister [REDACTED] LSI wouldn't have taken
14 any decisions or any responsibility over us, but her
15 group was quite near us as well.

16 Q. Were the groups, at least at this time, quite
17 autonomous, by that I mean were they looking after
18 themselves so to speak?

19 A. Yes, basically. Whichever nun was in charge of that
20 specific group, then she had the say in any punishments
21 or any decisions about care.

22 Q. Did you become aware of there being a Mother Superior
23 in the building at this time?

24 A. Yes. At the time I was there, I remember Mother [REDACTED] LKO
25 was the Mother Superior. But she was like a distant

1 figure and we never really -- we never got to know her
2 at all.

3 Q. Okay. Can I ask you also to look at this document,
4 which sets out some statistics? It'll come on the
5 screen. It's NAZ.001.001.0265.

6 This is something that has been prepared on behalf
7 of the Sisters of Nazareth. You'll see it's described
8 as:

9 "Statistics of numbers of children and babies at
10 Scottish Nazareth Houses (1925 to 1984)."

11 If you look to the left, you'll see the figures that
12 are put forward for Aberdeen.

13 If we go on to the next page to get to the time when
14 you were there, that's page 0266, can we see that in the
15 1974 era there were 41 boys and 50 girls. That's about
16 91 children altogether.

17 A. Altogether.

18 Q. What was your own impression as to numbers when you were
19 there?

20 A. I would say that's about right. From recollection --
21 and I'm going only from kind of thinking back about how
22 many different groups, including families, that were
23 there --

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I would say that that number that I gave you of about 15 at that time would be roughly right, yes.

Q. From what you're saying then, are you talking about there being different ages within the group?

A. Oh yes. The oldest boy was working and he was about 18. He had a room of his own in the place.

Q. You mentioned your own room and can I just ask you to look at this photograph and see if it means anything to you. That's NAZ.001.001.0256.

This is said to be the boys' dormitory in the 1960s, Sister **LFB**'s group. This is before your time, but do you recognise this at all?

A. Well, I think if you're looking at that, then that looks like the style of -- not those beds specifically, but the kind of layout of that room and kind of the structure of it, it looks more like a room that would be in the older unit.

Q. Right.

A. But it doesn't resemble anything like when we moved into the renovated laundry, the big laundry place that we moved to.

Q. You have mentioned that before. When you moved to the big laundry section then, were you still divided into

1 bedrooms?

2 A. Yes.

3 Q. And again, how many?

4 A. Four, four or so. I know that although -- actually,

5 they changed the kind of people that I was sharing with.

6 So like, I had [REDACTED] to one side.

7 I had [REDACTED] to another side and then

8 there were two other lads across from us. So it was

9 kind of a different -- [REDACTED]

10 [REDACTED]

11 Q. [REDACTED]

12 [REDACTED]

13 A. [REDACTED] the girls

14 were in a separate bit apart from us, but in the same

15 converted laundry area. The girls were up the top end

16 and all the lads were down the bottom end. [REDACTED]

17 [REDACTED]

18 Q. But still in Sister [REDACTED] LDX [REDACTED]'s group?

19 A. In Sister [REDACTED] LDX [REDACTED]'s group, and again, the kind

20 of ... It was usually one or two young female carers.

21 The only other person that came into that was a local

22 man who had fought in the war, an older guy, and he

23 would come in with his dog and take us out to putting

24 and to the swimming and things like that.

25 Q. We've been talking about your group and how there were

1 other groups; what sort of interaction would the groups
2 have with each other?

3 A. With other groups?

4 Q. Yes.

5 A. Very little. You would see them on occasion when you
6 were going to school. When you were at primary school,
7 there was a bus laid on from Nazareth House to
8 St Peter's. You would have interaction with the other
9 kids from the other groups then at the time you were
10 getting on your bus going to school and again at school
11 and coming back. But in relation to in between times,
12 for the normal kind of, if you want to call it, family
13 living or the living, mealtimes and all that, there was
14 no interaction. We had separate meals and things.

15 Q. You've already mentioned on more than one occasion the
16 move to what had been the laundry area. How long do you
17 think you had been in the main building before you were
18 moved to the new area?

19 A. I think about a year.

20 Q. So if you were 9 when you went in, you're about 10 or
21 thereabouts?

22 A. That would be right, yes.

23 Q. One thing you do say in your statement is that after you
24 moved there, things changed and you say that was because
25 you didn't have the same scrutiny from other nuns.

1 A. Well, that may be it because actually there was
2 a closer -- it was closer to other people when you were
3 in the older bit. You remember when I showed you, as
4 you're looking, as you're going into the building and
5 I said my room would have been top left and that level
6 was where our group were? Well, the other groups were
7 quite close and other nuns would be in and about the
8 place. Some of the older nuns you would often see on
9 the stairway going up to where our group was living.
10 Some of the nuns that had been there for some time, who
11 were quite kind and so on -- Sister **LKG** was
12 particularly kind at giving sweets and things to kids,
13 although the nun who was in charge of us frowned upon
14 this.

15 Q. That's Sister **LDX**?

16 A. Yes. But then -- where were we with that, sorry?

17 Q. I think we were talking about scrutiny and you had been
18 telling me when you were in the older part there were
19 more people around.

20 A. Yes.

21 Q. What I think you're suggesting is when you moved to the
22 old laundry area --

23 A. We were really quite apart from the rest of the
24 institution there, so yeah, the laundry room was
25 overlooking something grove, either Albion Grove or --

1 yes, Albion Grove, I think it was. So it wasn't the
2 Claremont Street, it was the complete opposite side, and
3 it was very apart from the main Nazareth House building.

4 Q. Can I ask you a little bit about the routine, Chris.

5 Let's look at the morning, for example.

6 A. Yes.

7 Q. At what time were you required to get up in the morning
8 normally?

9 A. About 7 o'clock. Yeah, that's about right. But there
10 was always kind of that routine of usually washing and
11 brushing teeth, because baths, I think, were maybe twice
12 a week, or it says it there, bath twice a week. So
13 baths were twice a week, yeah.

14 Q. You've already mentioned the young female helpers; would
15 they be involved in the morning routine or not?

16 A. Really only when we went down to breakfast because they
17 would be preparing the dining area for breakfast along
18 with a domestic woman, who was usually a local -- well,
19 there was one in particular that I remember, her name
20 was Ruby, who was really nice. She was an Aberdonian
21 woman who would come in and do the porridge and all
22 that. The female carers, they'd be helping out at that
23 end. So they weren't really involved; it was
24 Sister LDX who did the getting-up routine.

25 Q. The female carers, were they living on the premises or

1 not?

2 A. Yes, they had a room.

3 Q. Just focusing on those, the female helpers, one thing
4 you say in your statement at paragraph 60 is that:

5 "They were never cruel to us."

6 A. No, they weren't. I mean, those women that I mention
7 there, they were really nice.

8 Q. Can you give some examples?

9 A. Well, Bernadette Ferry, for example, she lived in one of
10 these like mobile home places, but it was really modern
11 and stuff. She would take us away to her house and
12 things like that, or where she was living in this sort
13 of modern mobile home thing. She would take us out for
14 the day and she was really quite funny. She was witty
15 and all that and kind of -- there was always laughter
16 around when she was on duty and stuff. I think she left
17 when she got married.

18 The girl Julie was -- the English girl I just
19 remember as Julie. She came up with her boyfriend and
20 took us to Stonehaven and to Dunottar Castle on a day
21 trip and stuff. Once she left, she came and visited
22 again with her boyfriend.

23 Then the girl, Linda -- again, they all had similar
24 personalities. They were really -- they weren't cruel
25 in any way. They didn't give us -- didn't lay out

1 extreme punishments or anything like that.

2 Q. Okay. You also mention the food in paragraph 63. Can
3 you tell us a little bit about the food then at
4 Nazareth House?

5 A. Yes, most of us didn't like it. Often, if it was
6 like -- the meat was really -- you couldn't chew it and
7 stuff. I don't know if I mention there, but -- oh yeah,
8 I do mention there about the drawers. Particularly the
9 girls that were in the unit with us, they were putting,
10 like, their food into the drawers that were underneath
11 the dining table. Sister [REDACTED] LDX was wondering
12 where the smell was coming from and we all got punished
13 for that. It was basically the drawers -- she'd
14 established where this smell was coming from and it was
15 because some of the food was so inedible that they were
16 putting it in the drawers.

17 Q. What happened then? What was Sister [REDACTED] LDX's
18 reaction once they found out?

19 A. Well, she would be angry, she would be asking people who
20 it was and looking at where people would have been
21 sitting. So like we all had set places, so like it was
22 clear -- let's say, that some of the girls that had been
23 doing it -- because it was where their seat was.

24 So she removed all the drawers at this point and
25 then they got thrown -- and then the punishment would be

1 to your room, to the laundry room, things like that, and
2 isolation to the homework room, just to be isolated from
3 everyone else and not in the living room area and stuff.

4 Q. What you say there is that:

5 "When she found out, she went mental."

6 A. Yeah, that would be about right.

7 Q. What do you mean by that?

8 A. Shouting at us all, particularly when she had worked out
9 that, you know -- I remember her saying, for example,
10 "██████████, you sit there, so it must be you've put that
11 food there", and all that. But when she was in a rage
12 about things, she would lash out as well and then, after
13 the lashing out, punching or whatever, there would be
14 the isolation punishment, which was common.

15 Q. So the lashing out, just let me understand exactly what
16 that would involve? Can you help me with that?

17 A. It would involve punching on the head and kicking in the
18 lower part of the body, your legs and stuff like that.

19 Q. Did that happen to you?

20 A. Not for that incident, no.

21 Q. But that happened to others for that incident?

22 A. Yes.

23 Q. You mention leisure time as well in paragraph 65.

24 I think you mention that there were board games, books
25 and toys. Can you provide some details about that?

1 A. Well, just -- I remember Cluedo. At the time there was
2 a Mastermind and all that stuff. These were provided
3 mainly by local people -- and like all of our Christmas
4 presents that were at the foot of the bed were provided
5 by local people, things like Monopoly and all that.
6 We would play these games in the main living room area.

7 Q. And sometimes you'd watch television there as well?

8 A. TV, oh yeah. Reading that, it just came in my head when
9 you said about television. Things like -- at the time,
10 thinking back to when it was, there would be Benny Hill
11 on and things like that. This would be totally
12 inappropriate. So she would be away doing stuff and she
13 came in and if we had it on a channel which was an
14 inappropriate programme in her eyes, like Benny Hill and
15 different things that were quite crude, then she
16 would -- I keep saying go mental, but that's
17 possibly ... I mean, maybe I'm using that term because
18 that is how you would -- if you're observing her
19 behaviour, you would think like that.

20 I know that a girl that was in Nazareth House who
21 was my best friend, who was in the same group as me and
22 we went to school together and secondary school, and
23 we were best friends, and when I met her in recent
24 years, I don't know if I can say this, but she used the
25 term "psychotic bitch", which kind of, when I'm looking

- 1 back at the language that I'm using in this, kind of
2 would sum it up.
- 3 Q. I think that's a term you do use in your statement, in
4 fact, later on.
- 5 A. Oh do I? Right.
- 6 Q. So we can understand what you mean then when you say
7 someone's gone mental, again, if you are able to tell us
8 what that person would do.
- 9 A. There would be shouting, going into a rage, really
10 angry, and then lashing out at times as well.
- 11 Q. Schooling. You mention schooling and that you went to
12 St Peter's primary school initially because that's the
13 age you were at.
- 14 A. Aye.
- 15 Q. How did you find school?
- 16 A. Yeah, I enjoyed it, I liked -- I made friends there.
17 Although they were a bit bewildered as to why I couldn't
18 mix with them outwith school, which was one of the rules
19 in Nazareth House, that you weren't -- when you came
20 back from school, you were in the grounds sort of thing.
21 We weren't allowed to mix with other kids outwith the
22 school -- sorry, outwith Nazareth House. I mean school
23 friends. That's what I meant.
- 24 Q. Did you find you'd had your education broken because,
25 for example, you'd been in Gryffe for a period?

1 A. No, the period before Nazareth House, there was a lot of
2 going in and out of different care homes, so there was
3 that interruption, [REDACTED]

4 [REDACTED] But
5 one thing about Aberdeen is that it did seem
6 education-wise, thinking back, to be a period where
7 there was some consistency. I have good memories of
8 St Peter's in Aberdeen, although boys like me [REDACTED]
9 [REDACTED] were mostly in remedial classes, which was
10 basically that you got extra support from a remedial
11 teacher.

12 Q. Then you tell us about holidays and trips. Girvan in
13 particular was a place where you'd go to holiday.

14 A. Yes.

15 Q. Was that something you enjoyed?

16 A. Yes. They owned a holiday home, like a kind of villa
17 type place, overlooking the Ailsa Craig at Girvan and we
18 went there. Things were a wee bit more relaxed then.

19 Q. What about trips and excursions?

20 A. Aye, the zoo, Aberdeen Zoo. We went there. We went to
21 Aberdeen beach a lot and oftentimes we would walk there
22 in the summer and then spend the day at the beach with
23 a packed lunch. And then trips to the park, the main
24 park, I think, was Duthie Park maybe.

25 Q. You also say that you did get the opportunity of going

1 and staying with your mother --

2 A. Yes.

3 Q. -- at Glasgow once a year.

4 A. Yes.

5 Q. For how long would you --

6 A. Well, sometimes -- mainly in the summer, but I do

7 remember that [REDACTED] had been put home to mother at

8 Christmastime. She often -- I mean, I know that

9 Sister [REDACTED] LDX [REDACTED] said these were excuses on her

10 part, but even in later life she said she didn't like

11 the Christmas period and about memories about the past

12 and things. So it would be maybe the summer would be

13 more likely [REDACTED] would be home for a period, in the

14 summer.

15 Q. What about Christmas? How was Christmas celebrated at

16 Nazareth House when you were there?

17 A. Obviously, you're in a place, a Catholic institution,

18 nuns, all -- it was very much religious orientated.

19 There was the midnight Mass and all of that, and I was

20 an altar boy.

21 Q. What about presents? Did you receive some presents?

22 A. Yes, toys, books. Generally, what we got was like new

23 clothes at Christmas. You would use them then for your

24 Sunday best, for the chapel on a Sunday, and then once

25 they had kind of passed it a bit, you would then start

- 1 wearing them to school. Things like that.
- 2 Q. What about what one might refer to as the traditional
3 Christmas meal? Would you have something along these
4 lines on Christmas Day?
- 5 A. Yes, definitely.
- 6 Q. And birthdays, were your birthdays celebrated?
- 7 A. Yes, we used to get one item. I remember on my last
8 birthday there, she bought me a waterproof cagoule and
9 you'd get a card. I don't remember a cake. I'm not
10 sure if they did that, I can't remember.
- 11 Q. You tell us also in your statement about visits you had
12 from your social workers. I think you mentioned two
13 particular social workers.
- 14 A. Yes.
- 15 Q. Did they visit from time to time?
- 16 A. Yes. Chris Hargreaves came up a fair bit. Before him
17 it was an American woman, Miss Williamson, who I noted
18 was in some of the social work records. But later on,
19 it became Chris Hargreaves and then his successor was
20 Karen Clarke.
- 21 Q. I think you say your mother also visited when you were
22 in --
- 23 A. She would often come up with the social workers. She
24 wouldn't have been mentally well enough to travel on her
25 own like that, so yeah.

- 1 Q. And you mention others that you had some connection
2 with, for example a person who took you swimming from
3 time to time.
- 4 A. Yes, Colin. There he is, yes. That's the guy. The
5 ex-army -- I mention it there, yes, that's right. Then
6 Joe and Claire were an Irish couple that I got to know
7 really know. He was a joiner and I got paid for working
8 with him. He did these sort of built-in cabinets that
9 were fashionable at the time, bedroom units and all
10 that, and this kind of wood panelling stuff that he
11 would put up. So I helped him with jobs like that at
12 the weekend. That was Joe and his wife was Claire and
13 they'd often take me overnight as well at their place.
14 Colin would come in regular because he lived right there
15 at the home and he took us to the pitch and putt and
16 swimming.
- 17 Q. What about healthcare then? Because I think you do tell
18 us that you did suffer from either dizzy turns or panic
19 attacks.
- 20 A. I didn't know what they were then, but I now understand
21 that it's related to mental health and they were panic
22 attacks. When I say sickness, I was actually physically
23 sick often after breakfast or after mealtimes and I was
24 physically sick. I was constantly nervous and I took
25 these dizzy turns particularly in busy places, for

1 example the chapel. At Nazareth House there was
2 a chapel within the institution.

3 So I used to often try and get to serve Mass as an
4 altar boy because I would be panicky in the crowd and
5 she then stopped me from running out of the chapel when
6 I was like this, panicked and dizzy and all that, and
7 she would block me.

8 Q. And she, is that Sister [REDACTED] LDX

9 A. Yes, Sister [REDACTED] LDX would sit there and I'd be
10 right beside her and she would stop me from going out
11 when I was in a panic about this, being in the crowd and
12 the noise and stuff.

13 Q. Do you associate your panic attacks with any form of
14 treatment that you had at Nazareth House?

15 A. Well, I ... I can only say that I didn't have these --
16 the sickness, dizziness and the panic and wanting to get
17 out of a situation, running like that, until I was in
18 Nazareth House. At the time that that was happening to
19 me, where I was having these dizzy turns and panic and
20 so on and wanting to run away from certain situations
21 where there was crowds of people, at the same time
22 Sister [REDACTED] LDX was putting me in isolation in
23 various places, abandoned parts of the home and things
24 like that. So at the time, all of this sort of
25 dizziness and marching me, I don't know ...

1 She marched me to the hospital -- not to the
2 hospital, to the doctor, who was just along the road.
3 He said I was homesick.

4 Q. We'll perhaps look at that in a little while, but as
5 we can perhaps all understand, religion was important in
6 Nazareth House.

7 A. Yes, yes.

8 Q. One thing you say in paragraph 82 is that -- I'll read
9 out what you say:

10 "The religious side involved us constantly being
11 told of our worthlessness."

12 Can you see that? What do you mean by that?

13 A. What I mean by that is often [REDACTED] LDX [REDACTED] would refer
14 to the circumstances that we came from. She would put
15 down my parents, about their inability to look after us
16 because of their mental health issues, and then tell us
17 that we were worthless.

18 I mean, I know with my own sons that I build them
19 up, you know, and if they do something well then I'll
20 congratulate them and encourage them, whether that's to
21 do with my older boy's work or my younger boy's school
22 or his college.

23 But with [REDACTED] LDX [REDACTED] you were constantly being
24 told of how stupid you were. She picked on things. If
25 you wet the bed she would pick on you, and you would get

1 the punishment of having to clean the sheets in the main
2 laundry area and things like that.

3 And referring back to where you came from, the
4 situation that you had come from in Drumchapel and all
5 of that, and the difficult social circumstances that
6 you'd come from. She would pick on you for these
7 things, like, you know, your mother's in hospital again,
8 is your father ever going to get out of hospital.
9 Things like that, referring back to the situation that
10 led us to be in care in the first place.

11 Q. And you've mentioned Sister [REDACTED] LDX . What about
12 other nuns? Did you have this sort of behaviour from
13 other nuns that you can remember?

14 A. No, because they weren't in charge of us. We had
15 little -- other than Sister [REDACTED] LSI , who was pleasant
16 always, with me anyway, we didn't have this from other
17 nuns. As I said, some of the other nuns that we came in
18 contact with, particularly the novice nuns who were just
19 coming in, they would accompany us maybe on holiday as
20 part of their training to Girvan. I remember one young
21 nun who was really nice. And then, as I mentioned
22 earlier about nuns like Sister [REDACTED] LKG , like, she was
23 always very kind. So I can't say that I had any kind
24 of -- but they wouldn't decide punishment on whatever
25 happened to us, because they weren't part of that. They

1 ran the other groups so they wouldn't have anything to
2 do with decisions about our care in any way.

3 Q. Can I then just start to focus on some of the treatment
4 that you say you did suffer when you were in
5 Nazareth House. You begin by talking about this in
6 paragraph 85 onwards. You describe a night-time routine
7 that involved a nun coming round with a torch. What was
8 that about?

9 A. That takes us back to ...

10 Q. Before you moved?

11 A. Before we moved. You know that sort of picture that you
12 showed with that older kind of room with the beds and
13 stuff that you showed us earlier? Well, you can imagine
14 that set-up. There was a corridor going right along and
15 there was a window that the nuns could look out from the
16 corridor and look in at us in our bedroom area.

17 So she would shine the torch in the window like that
18 (indicating), as she's walking round, checking us all.
19 They would also come into the room and check for
20 bed-wetting.

21 Q. What time of night would this be? When would this be?

22 A. 1 o'clock, 2 o'clock in the morning maybe, when you're
23 sleeping, when you're in bed. But sometimes you'd be
24 woken up by the torch and stuff being shined about.

25 Q. What if someone had wet the bed?

- 1 A. Well, then they would be taken out of the bed and
2 punished for wetting the bed --
- 3 LADY SMITH: Chris, can I invite you to move back towards
4 the microphone? It does make it easier for the
5 stenographer and everybody at the back to hear you.
- 6 MR MacAULAY: You said they would be taken out of bed even
7 at 1 o'clock, 2 o'clock in the morning?
- 8 A. Yes, and told to strip their bed.
- 9 Q. Did that happen to you?
- 10 A. No, because I didn't wet the bed.
- 11 Q. Did you see this happening to other children?
- 12 A. Yes, I did.
- 13 Q. What else happened then? If they were told to strip the
14 bed, what happened next?
- 15 A. Sometimes they would be told to put the wet sheets on
16 their head, things like that. There was one girl in
17 particular -- and I have to say that myself and the
18 other children joined with the nuns in humiliating
19 people who wet the bed. There was one girl who, in
20 particular, we constantly just put down because she was
21 a bed-wetter.
- 22 Q. Although you didn't wet the bed, do I understand from
23 what you're saying that there were children in your area
24 who did wet the bed?
- 25 A. Yes, that would be right. Some of the boys that I was

1 in the room with.

2 Q. Would you be woken up then by what was going on?

3 A. Yes.

4 Q. What would these boys do? What would happen? If she
5 took the sheet off the beds, did you say they put them
6 on their heads?

7 A. Well, that, and then marched them to the laundry area to
8 go and wash them.

9 Seeing that older unit, there was an area where
10 there was a whole row of sinks and you could wash
11 bedding there but also that's where we went to get our
12 hair washed or get hair treatment, like lice treatment
13 and stuff. They would line you up on this, in the older
14 bit, and you would get this -- either hair washed or
15 treatment like that. But that's the area where they
16 would be taken to wash the sheets.

17 Q. Would they then come back to bed after having done that?

18 A. Well, yeah, but they would obviously have no sheets on
19 their bed and they'd be put to bed like that.

20 Q. You've mentioned this happening to these children. What
21 nun or nuns were involved in this process?

22 A. Well, that would be whoever would be the nun on night
23 duty. They were the nuns who in that older unit --
24 there was some contact with them through this ...
25 I don't know, we might have said it was the night nun,

- 1 you know from memory.
- 2 Q. What about Sister [REDACTED] LDX [REDACTED] at this point in time?
- 3 A. No.
- 4 Q. And in the morning would anything happen to these
- 5 children who had wet the bed?
- 6 A. I don't know. Unless it had been found that they had
- 7 wet the bed in the morning; is that what you mean?
- 8 Q. Could that be the case?
- 9 A. That could be the case. If it was discovered in the
- 10 middle of the night, it would be dealt with in the
- 11 middle of the night with the humiliation and the wet bed
- 12 sheet on them and to be marched away to go and wash it
- 13 and then put back into bed again without the beds
- 14 getting changed.
- 15 Q. And in the morning then?
- 16 A. In the morning then the same -- and in particular one
- 17 girl, [REDACTED], who we constantly put down about her
- 18 bed-wetting, she was always in the laundry area --
- 19 thinking now to the new group, she was always in the
- 20 laundry area washing her -- she'd be in her wet night
- 21 things and washing the wet sheet.
- 22 Q. You say you put the people down and you joined in. You
- 23 mentioned that yourself.
- 24 A. Mm-hm.
- 25 Q. What was being said or done to --

- 1 A. Taunting them, "Pee the bed".
- 2 Q. Why? Why were you taunting other children?
- 3 A. Because that was the way that we were behaving towards
4 one another. And everyone had a nickname to be -- the
5 nun would put the bed-wetters down and we would join in.
6 Then people had nicknames to kind of -- picking faults
7 in their character or the way they looked, whether it
8 was wetting the bed or -- for example, I got called "ape
9 face" or "Gaylon" and stuff like that, because
10 apparently I had [REDACTED]. Silly things like that.
- 11 It may seem funny, yeah, when you're thinking back,
12 it's kind of ridiculous, but it isn't because that was
13 the kind of atmosphere it was. It was an atmosphere of
14 bullying and putting others down, and the nun did that.
15 Sometimes we joined in, in particular when it came to
16 the bed-wetters because they got really humiliated.
- 17 Q. One thing you say about the old group, if we call it
18 that, before you moved to the laundry, in paragraph 87
19 is that although you say Sister [REDACTED] LDX was
20 severe, you don't remember her punching or kicking you
21 in that old bit. Is that your recollection?
- 22 A. Yes. I'm kind of using the language that I would have
23 used at the time, when we were living at the old home,
24 the old bit. Because that's how we would refer to it.
- 25 Q. And I think we understand what you mean.

1 A. Yeah. And that would be right. I don't remember
2 Sister [REDACTED] LDX [REDACTED] punching out or kicking me
3 in the -- when our group was situated in the old part of
4 the building before we went to the renovated new
5 building.

6 Q. But I think you do tell us that there were things that
7 she would do, even in the old bit.

8 A. In the old bit, if I can just say -- I don't know
9 whether I said it here, but she would put us in
10 isolation. That was always part of her punishment. The
11 lashing out and all that seemed to just come towards --
12 you know, when we moved. But she would lock you in
13 darkened rooms, put you in darkened rooms and leave you
14 there for hours.

15 Q. That's what I want to ask you about then. What would
16 she do that for? What would you have had to have done
17 to be locked in a dark room?

18 A. I can remember [REDACTED] -- can I say names?

19 Q. Yes, they won't be published.

20 A. So [REDACTED] was one of the kids that was in the room
21 with me when I was up -- when I first moved, when
22 I first went to Nazareth House, and we'd be playing --
23 it was a kind of old kind of cushioned linoleum, and
24 we would be throwing the bulls, marbles, and playing
25 about with them on the floor, and if you got caught

1 doing stuff like that, when you should have been in your
2 bed, things like that, she would get really angry about
3 and she'd take you out and put you in isolation. So
4 just for boisterous kind of behaviour like that.

5 Q. And you say isolation. Can I just understand where
6 you'd be put if you were being put in isolation?

7 A. Either a storage room somewhere where there might be old
8 bits of furniture and stuff like that. A room that's
9 disused.

10 Q. Would the door be locked?

11 A. Yes.

12 Q. And how long might you be in that room by yourself?

13 A. I was, yes. So maybe three, four hours, or leave you
14 there until morning in extreme cases.

15 Q. Did that --

16 A. That would have only been once or twice where you were
17 left there all night.

18 Q. Did you have -- was there any sort of furniture in the
19 room that you could lie on or sit on?

20 A. Well, no, because it was like just -- you know like
21 drawers and things that they had just ... It was like
22 an abandoned room at the top of the building.

23 Q. And you're talking about the main building here?

24 A. Yes.

25 Q. One of the areas that you mentioned here in your

1 statement is a small mortuary room.

2 A. Yes.

3 Q. Can you tell me about that?

4 A. Yes.

5 Q. First of all, where was it?

6 A. Yes, exactly. You see when I'm saying that there was
7 a kind of grand entrance before -- it wasn't in the
8 picture, but just as you're leading up to the main door.
9 So that was central. Right? And that was
10 a walk-through bit with steps leading up and then you
11 walked straight into the main door. But to the left and
12 to the right was these two big gates with a driveway
13 either side. On the left side, as you're facing,
14 looking towards the building going into it, if you went
15 through that main gate area on the left, then if you
16 walked through there and just up a wee bit, there was
17 a small mortuary room there. That was used as
18 punishment.

19 I think I was there once, maybe twice, but I know
20 that there was coffins there and I wouldn't know whether
21 there was a dead elderly person or not in them because
22 in Nazareth House we had elderly people in a couple of
23 the units and if they passed away, then that's where the
24 coffin would be stored, in that small room.

25 Q. Do you know what age you were when that happened to you?

- 1 A. Well, 10 onwards. Between 10 and 12.
- 2 Q. How did you feel about it?
- 3 A. I was terrified, I was alone, I didn't -- I started
4 screaming. She didn't leave me in there for long, maybe
5 an hour or two. My understanding is that she did this
6 to other people as well.
- 7 Q. I think you mention in particular an incident involving
8 [REDACTED].
- 9 A. Oh yeah.
- 10 Q. What can you tell me about that?
- 11 A. Is it 90? This bit?
- 12 Q. 89, I think.
- 13 A. Oh 89, yes. (Pause). Oh right. You see how that
14 follows on in the sentence from the mortuary room? He
15 wouldn't have been isolated in the mortuary room for
16 a week. What I mean by that is he was put in isolation
17 for a week and I know where he was put. That was in the
18 new group where we had a homework room and he was put in
19 there and all she did was feed him jelly for a week.
- 20 Q. Was there a reason for that?
- 21 A. I don't know. Again, these kind of punishments were for
22 boisterous behaviour and so on.
- 23 Q. I think what you tell us there in the statement is that
24 [REDACTED] was isolated for a week all because he
25 never ate his jelly.

- 1 A. That's right, yes.
- 2 Q. And he was put in the room and fed jelly all week?
- 3 A. Yes, that'd be right, yes. She had a thing about if you
4 didn't eat food -- and that goes back to, you know, the
5 putting the food in the drawers, because if you didn't
6 eat it then you were in trouble with her.
- 7 But I know that when [REDACTED] was let out of that room,
8 after this week's isolation, he attacked her in anger
9 and he kicked her.
- 10 Q. When you say in isolation --
- 11 A. He was not allowed to mix with anyone, he's been left in
12 there on his own in that small homework room, the
13 homework room.
- 14 Q. Did the room have windows?
- 15 A. Yes, one window. It overlooked -- I might be wrong
16 here, but it's either Albion Grove or something like
17 that, but it's where that new converted bit was, and it
18 overlooked -- it was the opposite side from
19 Claremont Street.
- 20 Q. Would he be allowed out to go to the toilet?
- 21 A. Yes, he must have.
- 22 Q. What about other meals? You talk about he was fed
23 jelly, but did he have other meals?
- 24 A. No, he was given jelly for a week. [REDACTED]
25 [REDACTED].

1 Q. You also mention [REDACTED] also suffering this
2 isolation punishment.

3 A. Yes.

4 Q. [REDACTED]

5 A. [REDACTED]
6 [REDACTED]
7 [REDACTED]

8 MR MacAULAY: My Lady, I see it's just past 3 o'clock.

9 Probably the stenographers would welcome a break.

10 LADY SMITH: Indeed. How long do we think?

11 MR MacAULAY: I'll certainly finish by 4 o'clock.

12 LADY SMITH: It makes sense to give the witness a break as
13 well.

14 We'll have a mid-afternoon break and start again in
15 5 or 10 minutes, something like that.

16 (3.00 pm)

17 (A short break)

18 (3.13 pm)

19 MR MacAULAY: You have mentioned a number of streets in
20 Aberdeen, and there's a map on the screen. Does that
21 help you in identifying the streets?

22 A. I'm presuming that Aspire Grove is Nazareth House --

23 Q. Yes, I think that's right.

24 A. -- because that's now been changed into flats, so that
25 would be right then. See where the thing says "Hometown

- 1 Bakers" (sic).
- 2 Q. Would you mind turning round and looking at the map
3 behind you, which might help.
- 4 A. Right. So see the bit where it says "Hometown Bakers",
5 just to the left of that would have been one of those
6 main gated areas, the gate, the main wrought iron gates.
7 So if you go in there and right to the back of what says
8 Aspire Grove, then that looks out on to Union Grove.
- 9 Q. We see that, yes.
- 10 A. The laundry would have been right at the very back of
11 Aspire Grove or the former Nazareth House.
- 12 Q. You mentioned a street to the side. Was there a street
13 at right angles to Claremont Street?
- 14 A. That's Granton Place, and one of the groups,
15 Sister [REDACTED] LSI [REDACTED]'s group, was partly on Granton Place.
- 16 Q. I see. Okay, thank you.
- 17 We've talked about the isolation processes that were
18 in place. In paragraph 91, you mention again the fact
19 that you had panic attacks and you'd have to run out of
20 church.
- 21 A. Yes.
- 22 Q. You'd be punished for that; is that right?
- 23 A. Yes.
- 24 Q. What would happen?
- 25 A. Well, the punishment would be placed -- I keep using the

1 term "isolation", which is basically just either put in
2 the laundry area, put in the homework room -- this is
3 back in -- this is in the new group now.

4 Q. Yes.

5 A. This is in the converted laundry when we lived there.
6 It would be -- also I seem to remember she used the old
7 bit of the building where there was a maze of corridors,
8 as you're walking to the chapel, which is central in the
9 building. I think I mention somewhere about all of
10 these scary looking statues, with stigmata on Christ's
11 hands and all this stuff, and they were very realistic,
12 they looked real. And she would often leave you
13 isolated in these corridors as well.

14 Q. You say there that sometimes you'd be put in isolation,
15 if I can use that term, even for a whole day and that
16 you would be hallucinating and panicking.

17 A. When I mention that about hallucinating, I do remember
18 being put in the laundry room -- this is the small
19 laundry which was part of the new group where we were.
20 I was in there so long that I started to imagine I was
21 seeing things going across the floor and things like
22 that. Although I had managed to get a book from
23 somewhere and I started reading that, and I was actually
24 put in these rooms and things like that that --
25 particularly if I was left in the homework room in the

1 new unit, that there was access to books and I read
2 a lot of Dickens in that time. I read a book about
3 a young boy called Dominic Savio, who was made a saint,
4 and it was his life story and I found that.

5 Q. One thing you tell us about Sister [REDACTED] LDX is that
6 she could go into a rage.

7 A. Oh yeah.

8 Q. And what would happen then?

9 A. Well, she would shout, pick -- she often picked things
10 up, so whether it was like a sweeping brush, something
11 like that, or if she was doing something to your hair,
12 either washing it or whatever, she would often grab
13 a brush and hit you over the head with it. You know,
14 a hairbrush, this time, and hit you over the head with
15 the handle of the hairbrush.

16 Q. You tell us about one incident when you were sick after
17 breakfast --

18 A. Uh-huh.

19 Q. -- and you had to go outside or you were put outside.

20 A. Yes.

21 Q. Can you tell me about that episode?

22 A. What happened there was I was physically sick after
23 breakfast. I remember I had been changing into my white
24 school shirt and my tie and I had socks on and
25 underpants, and that's all I had on. You know when

1 we were looking at the map earlier and it overlooked
2 Union Grove, where there was an exit there at that side,
3 she put me out there and it was overlooking Union Grove.

4 Now, there's grey granite tenements there and I was
5 freezing cold, it was the middle of winter, and because
6 she was often doing these things to me, like putting me
7 in these darkened rooms or whatever, or putting me out
8 in the cold, I thought I could run across to the people
9 in the tenement houses and say to them -- this was what
10 was going through my head at the time, I could go over
11 there and tell them what she was doing.

12 I just had the white school shirt on, socks and
13 underwear and it was Aberdeen, the middle of winter, and
14 I was freezing and she had left me out there.

15 Q. How long were you out there for?

16 A. Maybe about three-quarters of an hour at that time.

17 Q. You tell us about another occasion when

18 Sister [REDACTED] LDX came into the dorm to put the
19 lights out and you weren't kneeling saying your prayers
20 at the time, as I think you were supposed to be doing;
21 is that right?

22 A. The routine at bedtime was that you had to be kneeling
23 down in your pyjamas, kneeling down saying your prayers
24 when she came in for lights out and going to bed. This
25 night she came in and it was pandemonium and we were all

1 throwing pillows at each other and carrying on and
2 we were in various states of undress. She shouted,
3 "This is not a nudist colony!" and flew into a rage, and
4 she took us all one by one and took us to various exits,
5 whether that was through the old bit, because there
6 was -- there was a corridor that led from the main
7 building into where the renovated laundry area was. She
8 put us all out at different points alone, not like
9 paired up [REDACTED]
10 [REDACTED], we were all put outside, all the boys that
11 were in that room.

12 So that would be me, [REDACTED], [REDACTED] and two other
13 boys. And we were -- I remember the bit that she put me
14 out of was a fire exit that led to the kind of middle --
15 is it a concourse you might call it? -- the middle area
16 of Nazareth House. She put me outside that fire exit
17 and I just had my underwear on and it was snow on the
18 ground and it was snowing.

19 Q. And how long were you out there for?

20 A. I was out there for an hour or so.

21 Q. You've been telling us things that happened to you and
22 indeed to others, but did you see other children also
23 receiving the same sort of treatment as you've been
24 describing about yourself?

25 A. Yeah, yeah. I saw often the same sort of punishments

1 meted out to other kids. I mean, I was called sister's
2 pet because I was allowed to go round to the chip shop
3 or the newsagent's or stuff like that for her, but
4 I didn't feel much of a pet because I wasn't really
5 being treated very well if I was.

6 Q. What about other staff? Did the other staff know
7 what was going on?

8 A. Well, yes, they would have witnessed this because it was
9 clear to see. Her behaviour was there for everyone who
10 was around to see, mainly us, the kids that were there.
11 But certainly, these young women who were there, yeah,
12 they would have seen that. They would have witnessed
13 it. I don't think they had much power to do much about
14 it given their age. They were all very young.
15 I imagine they would have been pretty scared of
16 Sister [REDACTED] LDX [REDACTED] as well.

17 Q. And other sisters, so far as you're aware, did they know
18 what was going on?

19 A. I think Sister [REDACTED] LSI [REDACTED] must have known, given the
20 closeness. As I showed you -- it was Granton Place --
21 that was actually -- there was a main kind of garden
22 door, a kind of walled area, where if you walked through
23 you could go through to Sister [REDACTED] LSI [REDACTED]'s bit. That
24 was just at the side of where we were staying. So it
25 was very close.

1 Q. Can I take you then, Chris, to when you came to leave
2 Nazareth House. We've already touched upon this. You,
3 I think, ran away, essentially; is that correct?

4 A. Yes, I did.

5 Q. I think you took some money that had been collected for
6 paper rounds, is that right, to pay for your fare?

7 A. Yes. I notice there -- I wrote it in a Topper annual,
8 which was some kind of hardback comic book, and there
9 was a secret upside down diary in the middle, and
10 I wrote on it:

11 "I'm running away today. I've had enough of this
12 nun and this place."

13 That would be about right, yes.

14 Q. And that's what you did, you went back to Glasgow?

15 A. I stole money which was the paper boys' money. We all
16 had paper rounds in Aberdeen and according to my friend,
17 she said that she carried my papers for me and I didn't
18 actually do the paper round. But we all had paper
19 rounds and we made money from it and we would place our
20 money along the worktop in the kitchen area beside an
21 envelope with our name on it. The day that I ran away,
22 I stole all this money thinking it would fund me
23 escaping to Glasgow, yes.

24 Q. And we've looked at the letter. I think that was
25 written to Sister [REDACTED] LDX on 12 January, where

- 1 you've made it clear that you will not be going back.
- 2 A. Yes.
- 3 Q. But you were taken back, I think, by your social worker,
4 is that right, to collect your clothes?
- 5 A. I was taken back by the social worker to collect my
6 clothes.
- 7 Q. Did you tell the social worker why you left?
- 8 A. Yes, she would have known.
- 9 Q. But did you tell her why?
- 10 A. Yes.
- 11 Q. What did you say to her?
- 12 A. I said because of her cruelty and because of her
13 behaviour, that I'd had enough of it. I think -- yeah.
14 So that would have been Karen Clark at that time. She
15 drove me up of a weekend, it -- was a long holiday
16 weekend -- and her and her partner, who was not a social
17 worker, just her partner, they both drove me up in a wee
18 red Citroen car and we stayed at youth hostels for
19 a night or two.
- 20 Q. You were home for a spell and then went into residential
21 care again. I think you tell us it was the Gilshochill
22 Assessment Centre in Maryhill.
- 23 A. Yes, that is correct.
- 24 Q. I think you tell us in your statement, at paragraph 109,
25 you had good memories of this particular establishment?

1 A. Yes. It was supposed to be -- I mean, this wasn't
2 a children's home, this was a step away from a List D
3 school or a secure unit. It was an assessment centre,
4 and some of the boys were quite rough compared to what
5 I was used to in Aberdeen. But the staff I have
6 remained friends with some of them, I'm still in contact
7 with some of them, yeah.

8 Q. Can I just ask you about the reporting of abuse. You
9 deal with this beginning at paragraph 112 of your
10 statement. You did say things to your social workers
11 about what was happening to you, is that correct, when
12 you were in --

13 A. Yes, that'd be right, Chris Hargreaves, yes.

14 Q. So at paragraph 113, this is a quote that I think you've
15 taken from a social work record; is that right?

16 A. Uh-huh.

17 Q. Let's see if I can get that up on the screen. That's
18 GLA.001.002.0332.

19 A. That's the document, yes.

20 Q. Let me just find my copy. So if we turn to the bottom
21 of this document, first of all it's a document I think
22 that's dated 23 August 1977. So that's dated before you
23 run away.

24 A. Yes, that's correct, that's while I was in the home,
25 yes.

1 Q. If we look towards the bottom, under the heading
2 "Assessment" at paragraph 2 -- and I think you've quoted
3 this in -- this is quoted in your statement, but I'll
4 read it from the document:

5 "The [REDACTED] present placement in Aberdeen and
6 Nazareth House is far from satisfactory. The distance
7 involved makes contact far from easy and [REDACTED] not
8 see nearly enough of [REDACTED] mother or come home
9 frequently enough.

10 "The chief disadvantage with moving [REDACTED] would be
11 that [REDACTED] have settled in Aberdeen, both in the home and
12 at school. However, the writer has heard some
13 grumblings from [REDACTED], both about the home and
14 Sister [REDACTED] LDX [REDACTED], who is in charge [REDACTED]."

15 I think he goes on to say:

16 "In addition, the writer feels that
17 Sister [REDACTED] LDX [REDACTED] could have done more to enable [REDACTED]
18 [REDACTED] to spend longer at home this summer."

19 And there's some mention of Smyllum. But the
20 reference to grumblings that we see there, what had you
21 said to Mr Hargreaves before he made this note?

22 A. It would have been about Sister [REDACTED] LDX [REDACTED]'s
23 aggression. There is actually another document which
24 I did try to find in my own social work records pile.

25 Q. Is that the document you mention at paragraph 114, if we

1 go back?

2 A. Yes. The only thing about this document -- and I've
3 just worked this out after trying to find it -- is that
4 it's likely not referring to the period that I was in
5 Nazareth House, because it says:

6 "There continues to be complaints [REDACTED]
7 about Sister [REDACTED] LDX [REDACTED]'s aggression."

8 I do remember reading that, but I couldn't locate
9 it, and I think it's a later report than the one that we
10 just looked at there. [REDACTED]

11 [REDACTED]

12 [REDACTED]

13 [REDACTED]

14 I will try and get that to the inquiry because
15 I think it is an important report by Chris Hargreaves.

16 Q. Can I say we have various powers to recover documents
17 and we have recovered the document on the screen, but
18 not the document you mentioned, so again we'll see if
19 we can get hold of that.

20 A. Yes.

21 Q. In paragraph 115, you make a mention of
22 a Father Tom Gibbons --

23 A. Yes.

24 Q. -- and his role.

25 A. Yes.

1 Q. What was his role?

2 A. Well, his role was basically to oversee the running of
3 all of these homes run by Catholic orders of nuns. I'm
4 not sure about the Christian Brothers, whether they had
5 separate -- but he was connected to the Archdiocese of
6 Glasgow. Tom Gibbons' role was to kind of oversee all
7 of this. He frequently came on visits from Glasgow to
8 Aberdeen.

9 All I remember about Tom Gibbons -- who became
10 Cardinal Gibbons in recent years. Tom Gibbons came to
11 Girvan when we were on holiday and we found him
12 extremely funny and a really witty guy. But I think he
13 greatly failed us because his job was to oversee the
14 running of these places and all this stuff was going on.

15 Q. At the time you were there?

16 A. At the time that I was there, yes.

17 Q. I think you tell us you never told him about the
18 treatment itself that you were being subjected to.

19 A. [REDACTED] didn't tell Father Gibbons about that, no.

20 Q. You also tell us that you reported the abuse to the
21 police around 1998/1999; is that right?

22 A. Yes, that would have been to the police in Cambuslang.
23 I went to the police station there and spoke to
24 a children and families officer then.

25 Q. What were you telling the particular person you spoke

- 1 to?
- 2 A. Pretty much what I've explained in my statement to the
3 inquiry.
- 4 Q. What was the response to that?
- 5 A. He noted it, but the thing is we were advised to do this
6 by the solicitor who was dealing with this class action
7 at the time. It was -- Cameron Fyfe of Ross Harper
8 Murphy had advised a group of us, whether from
9 Nazareth House or other places, to give a statement to
10 the police because of the criminal injuries compensation
11 claim at the time.
- 12 Q. And did anything ever come of the statement you gave to
13 the police so far as you're aware?
- 14 A. Well, I know that it was used when we made the claim to
15 the criminal injuries, and we won that on appeal. It
16 had to go to appeal before any settlement was made,
17 yeah.
- 18 Q. But in relation to your actual complaint to the police,
19 did you ever get any response as to what had happened to
20 that?
- 21 A. Well, we didn't really get much of an answer from the
22 procurator fiscal regarding the cases and about my own
23 specific case, no, nothing came of it from the
24 procurator fiscal.
- 25 Q. I think you tell us you actually wrote to the procurator

1 fiscal.

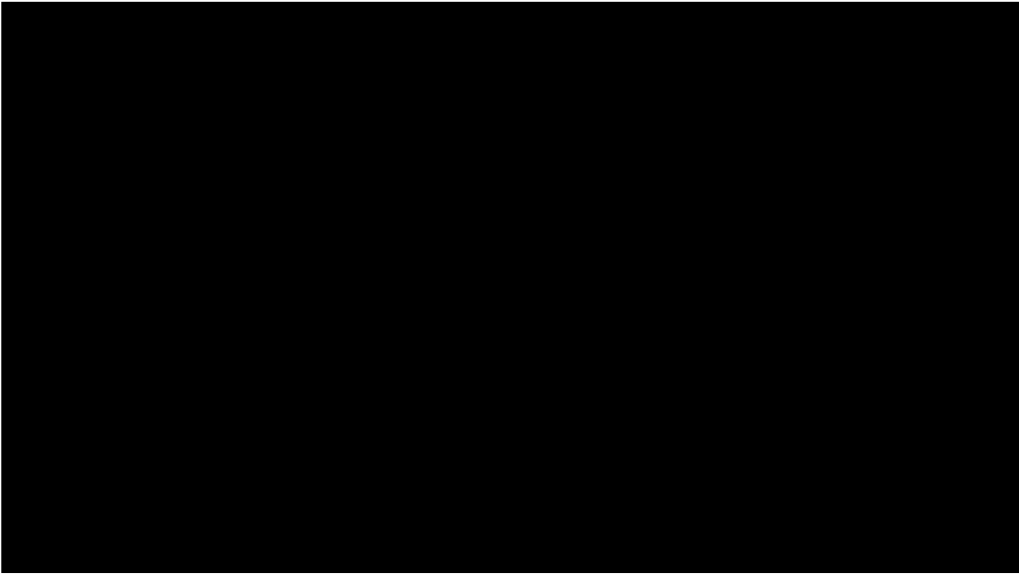
2 A. I did.

3 Q. Can you remember what year that was?

4 A. It must have been after 2006 because I think 2006 was
5 the year we got the criminal injuries compensation.
6 I think it was after that.

7 Q. Okay. You also, I think --

8 A. Oh yeah, sorry. I've just noticed there that ...
9 (Pause). Yeah. They decided not to take the case any
10 further



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19

Q.
A.

20 LADY SMITH: In paragraph 115 when you're referring to
21 Father Tom Gibbons, you say he didn't do his job
22 properly. What is it you're getting at there?
23 A. What I'm trying to say is if Tom Gibbons -- if his job
24 was to oversee the running of these various institutions
25 that were connected to the Catholic Church, even though

1 they were run by what they call independent religious
2 orders, what I'm saying here is that although they deny
3 they have any role in some of these -- or they have
4 denied that to me in the past and other people who have
5 asked questions of them, Tom Gibbons nonetheless had
6 a role to play in this, and that was to oversee the
7 running of these homes.

8 What I'm feeling about that is that Father Gibbons
9 should have been more thorough in his approach and, in
10 particular, from memory, the nuns were always around
11 whenever there was people coming to visit to look at our
12 welfare.

13 LADY SMITH: You've anticipated my next question, which
14 is: was it the case that he couldn't get to speak to
15 children on his own?

16 A. That would probably be right, because we were never --
17 yeah. So there was not an opportunity for us, even when
18 Tom Gibbons came to Girvan to the holiday place and
19 he was being jokey and he was quite flirty with some of
20 the young attractive women that were maybe there, the
21 young carers and stuff, we wouldn't have had an
22 opportunity to speak to Tom Gibbons on his own.

23 LADY SMITH: Thank you.

24 MR MacAULAY: You also had some correspondence with the
25 Catholic Church directed towards

1 Cardinal Thomas Winning.

2 A. Yes.

3 Q. Can I put this on the screen for you: BSC.001.001.0092.

4 A. I haven't seen this for years.

5 Q. What we have here is a copy of a letter from yourself in
6 August 2000. Do you see that? It's addressed to
7 Cardinal Thomas Winning. You set out some information
8 about yourself and about what happened to you at
9 Nazareth House; is that correct?

10 A. Yes.

11 Q. So in the second paragraph you say:

12 "I'm a 36-year-old man with the psychological scars
13 left by my years under the 'care' of
14 Sister [REDACTED] LDX during the above time. I feel
15 compelled to write to the Church because I'm angry at
16 the denial of the hierarchy that abuse exists within the
17 walls of the Roman Catholic Church, whether it be
18 physical, mental or sexual."

19 Do you see that?

20 A. Yes.

21 Q. Does that remind you as to what prompted this particular
22 letter?

23 A. Well, yeah. I just thought it was time to do something.
24 If it's 2000, it was before the petition and I note that
25 I used the term "mental" instead of "emotional",

1 which -- I think it was a social worker that corrected
2 me and said, "You don't use the term 'mental', you use
3 'emotional'", but yeah, that's -- yeah. It actually
4 looks quite angry and I guess I was angry at that time.
5 It looks like an angry letter, yeah.

6 Q. If you look at the second half of the second paragraph,
7 you say:

8 "Victims of abuse like me need a firm message of
9 support from the church. Healing is lengthy and tough
10 and if the hierarchy don't acknowledge the abuse despite
11 corroboration, many may never fully recover."

12 A. Mm.

13 Q. "You, like others in your church, would appear to
14 condone violence against children by your flat denial
15 that it exists."

16 Had there been some denial by this point in time by
17 the church in Scotland?

18 A. Yes, I think I had a face to face with the secretary of
19 Cardinal Winning round about that time. He said that
20 one of the things that Christ taught was about
21 forgiveness, so then he thought that we should forgive
22 whatever happened in the past.

23 Q. I think that was a meeting you may have had after this
24 letter, was it? Was that meeting prompted by the
25 letter?

1 A. Yes, and I think I said there needs to be
2 acknowledgement, but he was hoping that we would forgive
3 before there was any acknowledgement, you see? That was
4 kind of the way it was going at that point in time in my
5 discussions with the church.

6 Q. You do set out in the next main paragraph, and on to the
7 next page, a number of things that had happened to you,
8 particularly at the hands of Sister [REDACTED] LDX . So
9 you provide some details there as to what had happened;
10 is that right?

11 A. Yes, that'd be right.

12 Q. As you've indicated, this did prompt a response. If you
13 look at BSC.001.001.0092, this looks like a note of
14 a meeting because it's dated 5 September 2002, and it
15 begins by saying under the heading:

16 "Outcome of assessment:

17 "I arranged to meet Chris Daly -- "

18 Do you see that?

19 A. Yes.

20 Q. And that is from David Ramsay. Do you remember meeting
21 David Ramsay?

22 A. Yes, I do remember meeting him.

23 Q. Just to read on:

24 "He said that he wanted a personal reply from
25 Cardinal Winning and he wanted the cardinal to

1 acknowledge the abuse by nuns at Nazareth House and to
2 apologise publicly for it. I told him that I would pass
3 on his comments."

4 And so on. Did you ever get an acknowledgement?

5 A. No.

6 Q. In your statement, Chris, from paragraph 122 onwards,
7 you provide us with some details as to what impact you
8 say your life in care has had on you.

9 A. Yes.

10 Q. I'm not going to look at the detail of that, but is it
11 the case that you have very recently become a student?

12 A. Yes, I have.

13 Q. You're now in fact, at this moment in time, in the
14 course of exams?

15 A. Yes. I'm studying a social policy and sociology degree
16 at Stirling University. I gained entry through an
17 access course and I had really great support from
18 Future Pathways, which has been set up to help with
19 things like getting textbooks for the course and things
20 like that. They have been really helpful.

21 Q. Indeed that's what you say at paragraph 133, that the
22 Future Pathways support fund has been very beneficial to
23 you.

24 A. It has, yes, at university.

25 Q. Do you see your studies as being part of a therapeutic

1 process as well?

2 A. I do, yes. I really value education, perhaps because of
3 the issues I had in childhood where there was such
4 a lack of education or it was so kind of fragmented
5 throughout my childhood, including even going into
6 secondary education. So I really value education and
7 it is therapeutic for me to go through this process of
8 gaining my degree.

9 Q. Can I take you to what you say at paragraph 137 of your
10 statement because you tell us there that you met
11 Sister [REDACTED] LDX [REDACTED] again and that was [REDACTED]
12 [REDACTED] in 1984; is that right?

13 A. Yes, that's correct.

14 Q. By now she had left the order?

15 A. Yes. That's right.

16 Q. You were about 21 at that time?

17 A. I would have been 21, yes.

18 Q. [REDACTED]

19 A. [REDACTED]
20 [REDACTED]
21 [REDACTED]

22 Q. [REDACTED]
23 [REDACTED]

24 A. [REDACTED]
25 [REDACTED]

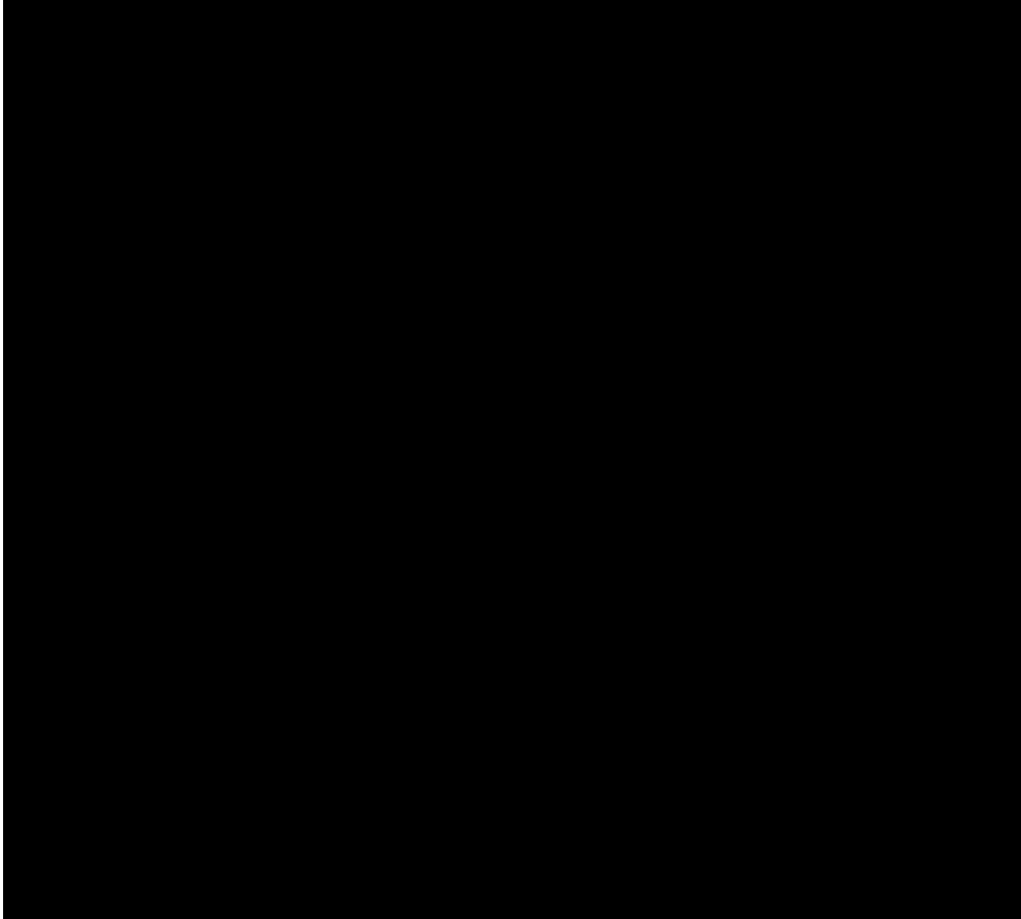
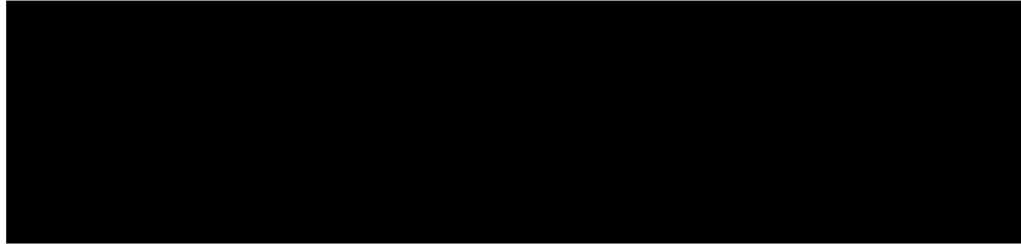
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Q. Can I then turn to the final section of your statement,

9

Chris, paragraph 140 onwards. You're looking there

10

really to what you see the lessons for the future might

11

be. Are you able to summarise your thoughts for us?

12

A. From where?

13

Q. From paragraph 140 onwards.

14

A. Yes, okay.

15

(Pause)

16

Well, you know, I'm supporting a young woman

17

18

-- and she was brought up in care -- aged about 28 or

19

so. I think pretty much all of the issues about having

20

no continuity of care and so on and the kind of

21

environment that she was being brought up in really

22

hadn't changed a great deal.

23

I think she's been left scarred by her -- so really,

24

there's not much changed, but I think for her generation

25

anyway, looking -- yeah. So yeah.

1 I go again, in 143, about education, just to
2 reaffirm what I'd said, that it's very important to me
3 and I think that kids in care really should have a right
4 to education like everybody else and a right to benefit
5 themselves in the future through education. So I guess
6 what I'm saying there is they should be able to achieve
7 and be given all the support to achieve that others do.

8 Q. And can I pick up a comment you make from paragraph 144,
9 and that's that you say:

10 "I've heard talk and read in a document somewhere
11 that organisations blame my parents and the situation
12 that we came from."

13 You go on to say:

14 "That's no excuse for what happened to us in
15 Nazareth House."

16 A. Yeah. Well, I think I'm using the term that I'm just
17 about to say there, I notice that I've written it --
18 said it there in my statement, so it's care and
19 protection.

20 I feel that, given the circumstances that we came
21 from, then that's exactly what we should have received
22 within the care system, care and protection.

23 I keep going back to it: I believe that these people
24 weren't acting within the law, even though we're talking
25 about decades ago. There was the various Children's

1 Acts that were in place at that time to protect
2 children, and quite obviously that is not what happened.
3 We didn't get that care and protection that was a right.

4 MR MacAULAY: Very well, Chris. Thank you for coming to
5 give your evidence. Those are all the questions I have
6 for you --

7 A. Thank you.

8 MR MacAULAY: -- and I've put the questions to you that I've
9 been asked to put to you as I've been asking you
10 questions.

11 My Lady, unless there are any further questions that
12 I'm aware of, that's the end of his evidence.

13 LADY SMITH: Are there any outstanding applications for
14 questions? No.

15 Chris, that's the end of the questions we have for
16 you. I know it has been a long afternoon, but it has
17 been really helpful having you come along to explain
18 your memories of your time in Nazareth House in
19 Aberdeen, so thank you very much for that --

20 A. Thank you.

21 LADY SMITH: -- and the trouble you've taken to go into some
22 of the details and the documents and so on. I'm now
23 able to let you go.

24 A. Thank you.

25 (The witness withdrew)

1 LADY SMITH: During that witness's evidence, there was again
2 a mention of Sister [REDACTED] LTX . I remind people of what
3 I said before lunchtime: her identity is subject to
4 a restriction order and cannot be repeated outside of
5 this room. There was also mention on numerous
6 occasions, of course, of not only Sister [REDACTED] LDX
7 but of her family name. She is protected by my general
8 restriction order and likewise her name -- neither of
9 her names, if I can put it that way -- can be mentioned
10 outside this room.

11 Mr MacAulay, where does that take us?

12 MR MacAULAY: That probably takes us to the end of play for
13 today. Tomorrow, my Lady, there are four witnesses
14 lined up to give evidence.

15 LADY SMITH: Right, thank you very much.

16 We'll rise now for the day and start again at
17 10 o'clock tomorrow morning to hear the first of
18 tomorrow's four witnesses. Thank you.

19 (3.53 pm)

20 (The hearing adjourned until
21 Wednesday, 2 May at 10.00 am)

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