

1 Thursday, 13 December 2018

2 (10.00 am)

3 LADY SMITH: Good morning. We return today to more oral
4 evidence to start the day and I think we may go on to
5 some read-ins later on.

6 MR PEOPLES: Yes, if time allows, I think we will try and
7 fit some in today.

8 The first witness this morning, my Lady, is a former
9 child in care who has waived anonymity. His name is
10 Adam McCallum.

11 ADAM McCALLUM (sworn)

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

13 It looks as though you're in a good position for that
14 microphone. Can I just mention, before we start your
15 evidence, it's really important that the microphone
16 picks you up, so stay just about where you are at the
17 moment. I'll let you know if there's a problem, but
18 I might need to get you to move in the future.

19 The red folder there, Mr Peoples will explain to you
20 about, and I'll hand over to him now and he'll tell you
21 what happens next.

22 Questions from MR PEOPLES

23 MR PEOPLES: Good morning, Adam.

24 A. Good morning.

25 Q. Can I just do a little bit of explanation. There is

1 a red folder in front of you and it contains a copy of
2 the statement you've provided to the inquiry. I'll ask
3 you some questions about that statement this morning.
4 You're very welcome to use it at any stage to refer to
5 or if I ask you about a particular part of it. You'll
6 also see, Adam, in front of you there's a screen and the
7 documents that we look at come on the screen as well and
8 you can see that your statement is also on the screen in
9 front of you. So you're free to use that.

10 You'll see sometimes there are names missed out,
11 blacked out, but you'll have a copy of the full
12 statement in the folder, so you can look at that if
13 you're in any doubt what's behind the parts that are
14 blacked out.

15 With that introduction, what I'll do now is, for the
16 benefit of our transcript of proceedings, I'll give the
17 identification number of your statement. It's
18 WIT.001.001.9685. You don't have to worry too much
19 about that, it's just for our benefit so we can identify
20 which part of the statement we're looking at.

21 Adam, if I could ask you first of all to open the
22 folder and if you could turn to the back page, which
23 hopefully is page 9705 or page 21 of your statement.
24 Can you confirm for me that you have signed your
25 statement on that page?

1 A. I did, yes.

2 Q. Can you also confirm that you have no objection to your
3 witness statement being published as part of the
4 evidence to the inquiry?

5 A. No.

6 Q. You have no objection?

7 A. No.

8 Q. And that you believe the facts stated in your witness
9 are true?

10 A. Yes.

11 Q. You might want to keep it open just in case you want to
12 look at it for any reason, but I plan to turn to the
13 first page for the moment. It's page 9685 of the
14 reference we give to the statement, page 1 of your
15 statement.

16 First of all, I'd just like you to confirm that you
17 were born in the year 1950; I don't need your date of
18 birth.

19 A. Yes.

20 Q. In your statement, Adam, you tell us a bit about the
21 background to going into care. You can take it that
22 we've read the statement and we know the detail. What
23 I will try to do at this stage is briefly summarise what
24 I think is the main background to your admission to care
25 at quite a young age; is that right?

1 A. Yes.

2 Q. We see in the statement that you've given that your
3 father had been in the Army --

4 A. Yes.

5 Q. -- but I think he had a problem, a drink problem.
6 Is that basically what you understand?

7 A. Yes.

8 Q. There came a point when your mother left the family
9 home, [REDACTED] ?

10 A. Yes, [REDACTED].

11 Q. You don't need to give the names. We'll try and keep
12 the names out if we can.

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16 A.

17 Q.

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19 A.

20 Q.

21 A.

22 Q.

23 A.

24 Q.

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A. [REDACTED]

Q. I think, before you went into care, your family had been living in Dundee.

A. Yes. In [REDACTED].

Q. And you had started school before you were taken into care; is that right?

A. Yes. Rosebank.

Q. You tell us that you think you were about 8 years of age when you went into care. Can I just say this? We've had a chance to look at some records. I don't know if you've seen any records that were made about you.

A. No.

Q. What the records tell us is that --

A. I must have been older anyway.

Q. You were.

A. Because [REDACTED] I couldn't have been 8 [REDACTED] you know. I had to be at least 10.

Q. I'll give you some dates that we've been given from some records that we've seen. On 17 February 1959, when you were nearly 9 years of age, you were committed to the care of the Corporation of Dundee [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] You don't need to worry about this, but for the benefit of the transcript, you were

1 committed under what was known as Section 66(2) of the
2 Children and Young Persons (Scotland) Act of 1937, and
3 according to the records, it was on the basis that you'd
4 been abandoned by your parents. That was the background
5 to the corporation stepping in and taking you [REDACTED]

6 [REDACTED]

7 A. I think [REDACTED] only abandoned by my mother; my father
8 didn't abandon [REDACTED]

9 Q. I hear what you're saying. That's the way it was put in
10 the records. You were taken into care under that
11 section because it was felt you needed to be taken into
12 a care setting.

13 As we know from, I think, some records -- and as you
14 tell us in your statement -- you were in various care
15 settings as a youngster. At one point you were in
16 secure accommodation and you were also in foster care
17 for a time, is that right --

18 A. Yes.

19 Q. -- before you went to Aberlour Orphanage?

20 A. I think we were with [REDACTED] BGC before I went to Aberlour.

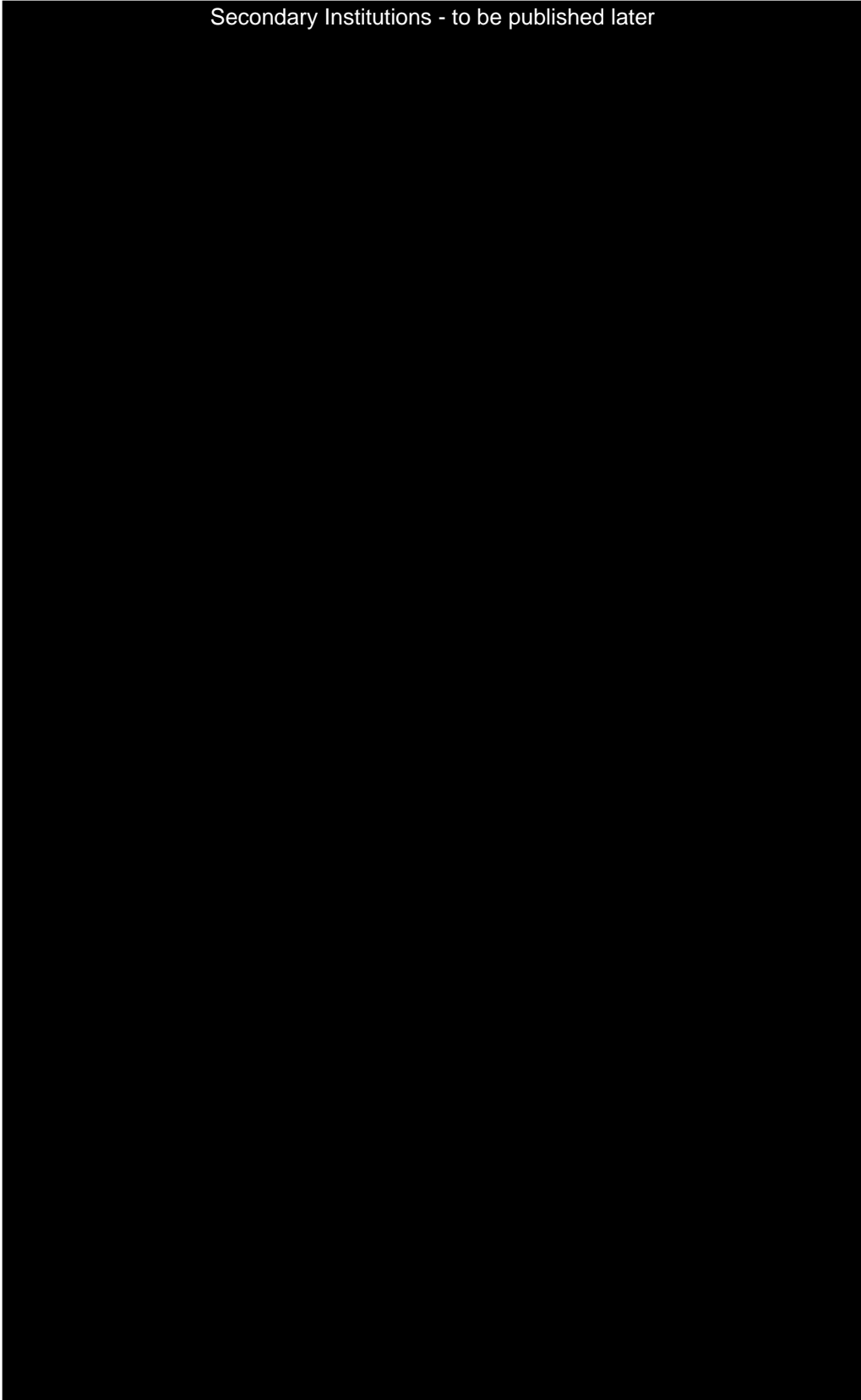
21 Q. Yes. You tell us in your statement that you were
22 fostered out to a foster parent in the Broughty Ferry
23 area of Dundee, Mrs [REDACTED] BGC She is mentioned in the
24 statement. [REDACTED]

25 [REDACTED]

Secondary Institutions - to be published later

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Secondary Institutions - to be published later

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5 Q.

6 A.

7 Q.

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9 A.

10 Q.

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16 A.

17 Q. Okay. If I go to page 8 of your statement, Adam, which
18 is page 9692 of our numbering, you'll see that you've
19 got a section in your statement headed "Leaving foster
20 care". What you tell us is that the Social Services
21 people came and picked you up one day to take you to
22 Aberlour, as it turned out.

23 A. Yes.

24 Q. Did you have any idea that this was going to happen or
25 where you were going to go?

- 1 A. No.
- 2 Q. Did they tell you anything?
- 3 A. No. They don't talk to people like [REDACTED]
- 4 Q. So you didn't have any idea what was going to happen
5 next?
- 6 A. I didn't even know where they were taking [REDACTED] They just
7 put [REDACTED] in a car and [REDACTED] driving for hours.
- 8 Q. And you ended up in Aberlour?
- 9 A. In Aberlour. [REDACTED] dumped off there and that was it.
- 10 Q. It's quite a long way from Dundee to Aberlour in those
11 days.
- 12 A. It's a hundred and odd miles, maybe 200 miles.
- 13 Q. So you weren't given any warning that this was where you
14 were going or why?
- 15 A. No.
- 16 Q. I think you tell us about that at paragraph 49 of your
17 statement.
- 18 Just to get some dates again, Adam -- and we've got
19 these dates from the records that we've seen -- it
20 appears that the records indicate that you were admitted
21 to Aberlour Orphanage on 10 October 1961 when you'd be
22 11 years of age.
- 23 A. Yes.
- 24 Q. If I can tell you now, just so we've got a time frame
25 for this, you were discharged from Aberlour on

1 27 October 1964.

2 A. Was it 1964?

3 Q. Yes, you were aged 14.

4 A. No, I was 15.

5 Q. You think you were 15?

6 A. Yes, definitely 15.

7 Q. Don't worry. I think the indications -- it's not

8 important because I think we don't need to worry too

9 much about whether you were 14 or 15. You were there

10 for quite a spell.

11 A. A couple of years.

12 Q. Yes. And just so that we're aware, at that point you'd

13 got into a bit of trouble and you had been committed by

14 the court to Oakbank Approved School; is that right?

15 A. Yes.

16 Q. And you went there after that?

17 A. Yes.

18 Q. If we go back to your statement, Adam, on page 9. Your

19 memory was that you were there from about 12 to 15;

20 that's paragraph 55. You tell us a bit about what

21 happened when you first arrived, on the final paragraph

22 on page 9, paragraph 57, that you were -- it looks like

23 you were being assessed in the first week.

24 A. Yes, as soon as you went in, you went to the hospital

25 and they assessed you, checked you out, things like

1 that. It depends how violent you were or how timid you
2 were depending on what house you were going into.

3 Q. I think you are making the point that you think that the
4 way they decided which house you went into was how you
5 behaved in the first week. If you were getting into
6 trouble or fights, you'd go to one house, and if you
7 were a much quieter or more easy to manage child, you'd
8 go to a different house. Is that what you think the
9 system was?

10 A. That's how it was.

11 Q. That's what it was like for you anyway.

12 A. Yes. That's what I believe happened, anyway. Because
13 the first week I was there, man, I was fighting.

14 Q. If you go to the next page of your statement, Adam, at
15 paragraph 58, I think you can't remember the name of the
16 house you were put into, but you say it wasn't one of
17 the easy ones, and you tell us why you think you were
18 put there, that you had been getting into fights --

19 A. Yes.

20 Q. -- at the hospital where you were being assessed?

21 A. The first two days I was there, I was fighting.

22 Q. It's a long time ago now and maybe I'm asking
23 a difficult question, but can you remember why you were
24 fighting at that point? What was causing you to feel
25 you had to fight and be aggressive?

1 A. To me, it was being a new person, you know. Other
2 people, man, the same age as [REDACTED], they'd give you
3 stick, try and rub you up the wrong way. One person
4 tried it, I picked up a brick and hit him on the head
5 with it.

6 Q. There was a bit of testing of the new people, and you
7 reacted and sorted things out in your way?

8 A. Yes. That's how it happened. That's how it is.

9 LADY SMITH: This business of picking up a brick when you
10 were about 11 years old, had you seen people behaving
11 like that in your life before you went to Aberlour?

12 A. I've always been told if somebody's giving you hassle,
13 pick up the nearest thing and hit them on the head with
14 it.

15 LADY SMITH: Who told you that?

16 A. My dad.

17 MR PEOPLES: Also, although we didn't go into the detail,
18 apart from being in foster care you had been in some
19 kind of secure setting before you went to Aberlour,
20 hadn't you?

21 A. Yes --

22 Q. Because you'd got into a little bit of trouble?

23 A. -- in Dundee.

24 Q. Did you see that sort of behaviour going on there as
25 well, that people fought and asserted themselves?

- 1 A. Not in the secure unit, no. It didn't happen in the
2 secure unit.
- 3 Q. But you stood up for yourself in the way that you
4 thought was --
- 5 A. I thought was right.
- 6 Q. Based on what you'd been taught, if you like?
- 7 A. Yes.
- 8 Q. Did you see other children doing that at that time, that
9 were new to the place?
- 10 A. There was always fights in Aberlour. Always.
- 11 Q. Would the staff know that fights were going on?
- 12 A. Sometimes they did, yes, and sometimes they never.
- 13 Q. Did they do anything to stop them when they knew of them
14 happening? Did they try to intervene or break them up?
15 Can you remember?
- 16 A. A couple of them would say, "Right, into the ring and
17 fight in the ring if that's what youse want". The other
18 ones would turn their back and walk away and leave you
19 to it.
- 20 Q. So they would sometimes just leave you to it to fight it
21 out and sometimes they'd say, well, if you want to take
22 your aggression out, get into the boxing ring and do it
23 in a boxing match?
- 24 A. Yes. The boxing ring wasn't any good because you'd kick
25 and everything else. It's not allowed in the boxing

1 ring.

2 Q. It wasn't the boxing we see on television then?

3 A. No, no.

4 Q. Was it a bit more like Thai boxing with feet as well?

5 A. Street fighting.

6 Q. Did you have gloves? Boxing gloves?

7 A. Oh, we had boxing gloves on.

8 Q. But was it anything goes when you were in the ring?

9 A. If somebody hits you, man, you're going to kick them

10 back.

11 Q. Was there a referee?

12 A. No, there wasn't any referee. It was the, what do you

13 call it, the gym master, he'd be there.

14 Q. He'd be looking on?

15 A. He'd make sure that nobody really got injured.

16 Q. Seriously hurt?

17 A. Yes, nobody got seriously hurt.

18 Q. And who was the gym master in your day?

19 A. A Mr **BGL** I'm sure.

20 Q. What memories have you got of Mr **BGL** while he's

21 mentioned? What sort of character was he?

22 A. I would say a reasonable guy, you know. But he made you

23 do what he wanted you to do.

24 Q. And if you didn't?

25 A. Well, that's another matter altogether.

- 1 Q. Tell us how he'd deal with that situation. Did he try
2 to --
- 3 A. He gave you --
- 4 Q. Get you to do things?
- 5 A. It's like, in Aberlour, you used to have -- it wasn't
6 sports, it was more gymnastics and stuff like that.
7 Once a year, you done that, and I was picked -- one of
8 the best three, so we had to do this in front of a big
9 audience.
- 10 Q. Like a sports day type thing or a day when people came
11 to --
- 12 A. I think it was most of the people that come, man, were
13 the people that supported Aberlour.
- 14 Q. So you had to perform for them?
- 15 A. Yes.
- 16 Q. And was this gymnastics then?
- 17 A. Yes, stuff like that. And the other one was boxing.
18 They had the boxing ring out and they'd all come up and
19 sit round and watch the guys fight each other.
- 20 Q. And did you take part in this?
- 21 A. No, no, no, I'm not that kind of fighter. Never been
22 that kind of fighter.
- 23 Q. But you were asked to do the gymnastics though?
- 24 A. Yes. I was pretty good at it.
- 25 Q. Going back to Mr **BGL** what sort of person was he? Did

- 1 he ever lose his cool or his temper or get angry?
- 2 A. Oh yes.
- 3 Q. What would he do on these occasions?
- 4 A. Well, he gave you a slap maybe. He would kick you out
- 5 the gymnasium.
- 6 Q. Kick something in the gymnasium?
- 7 A. Just tell you to get to get to wherever and he'd throw
- 8 you out.
- 9 Q. You say he slapped you. Can you give us an idea of how
- 10 he would slap you?
- 11 A. He'd gave you a slap and you'd know you'd got a slap.
- 12 Q. On the face?
- 13 A. On the face, on the head, anywhere round there.
- 14 Q. Was that with his bare hand?
- 15 A. Yes.
- 16 Q. Was it open or clenched?
- 17 A. Like that (indicating).
- 18 Q. An open hand?
- 19 A. We were only kids. An adult that's three times older
- 20 than you and twice as big as you, giving you a slap,
- 21 you're going to feel it.
- 22 Q. So it was sore?
- 23 A. Yes.
- 24 Q. And quite a forcible slap?
- 25 A. Yes.

- 1 Q. Did it leave any injury or mark?
- 2 A. No, the guy wasn't that stupid.
- 3 Q. Did other boys get slaps from him?
- 4 A. Yes. It's the same as when you were at the meals and
5 you wouldn't eat all your meal. I don't like fat on my
6 meat and I would take the fat off and put it to the
7 side. You got beat up for not eating it.
- 8 Q. Who would beat you up?
- 9 A. Your housemaster.
- 10 Q. And how would the housemaster do this beating?
- 11 A. With a ladle.
- 12 Q. With a ladle?
- 13 A. Yes.
- 14 Q. How would he use the ladle?
- 15 A. Slap you on the head with a ladle, whack.
- 16 Q. He would just whack you with a ladle?
- 17 A. Yes.
- 18 Q. How often would he do that if you were not eating
19 what was put in front of you? How many times would he
20 strike you with the ladle?
- 21 A. He'd only had have to strike you once with it.
- 22 Q. He only had to do it once?
- 23 A. Yes, and then you'd eat it.
- 24 Q. How sore was it to get the ladle?
- 25 A. It was sore, yes.

- 1 Q. Did that leave any marks?
- 2 A. No, because he just banged you across the head with it.
- 3 Q. And it made you eat what was in front of you?
- 4 A. Because we were young and we understand, you know, that
- 5 this ladle was going to come up if you didn't eat it.
- 6 You used to sit beside somebody you knew you could beat
- 7 up --
- 8 Q. To get them to take it?
- 9 A. If you didn't want it, "There you are, you're having
- 10 that", and we used to give it to them.
- 11 Q. So you got wise to what would happen if you didn't eat
- 12 so you tried to pass it to someone else who you could --
- 13 A. Yes. There'd be somebody, somebody that you could beat
- 14 up. You'd say, "Right, there you are", and he wasn't
- 15 going to do anything about it.
- 16 LADY SMITH: What was this ladle made of?
- 17 A. Metal. A metal ladle.
- 18 LADY SMITH: A soup ladle, that sort of size?
- 19 A. Yes, it'd be that size.
- 20 MR PEOPLES: Would it just be the handle of the ladle he
- 21 would hold and --
- 22 A. The lump, the ball part used to get you on the head.
- 23 Q. So you'd hold it by the handle of the ladle and then hit
- 24 you with the ladle?
- 25 A. Yes.

- 1 Q. And he'd only need to do that once?
- 2 A. Yes, and then you understood.
- 3 Q. Did you get that treatment sometimes?
- 4 A. Yes, I have had that treatment.
- 5 Q. How often did you get it before you got wise?
- 6 A. About twice.
- 7 Q. And then you realised you had to do something?
- 8 A. Yes.
- 9 Q. Did other children -- did you see other children getting
10 the same treatment?
- 11 A. Yes, everybody got the same treatment, everybody.
- 12 Q. We know that you were in Aberlour maybe around about 11
13 to 14/15. So we know what age you were when you were
14 there. What ages were the other boys or children
15 getting this?
- 16 A. Anything from babies to 14.
- 17 Q. But did they all get the ladle if they didn't eat?
- 18 A. I don't know about the all of them; I just know the ones
19 that were in our house.
- 20 Q. And were they the same ages as you, the boys in your
21 house?
- 22 A. Yes.
- 23 Q. So you saw them get this treatment?
- 24 A. Yes.
- 25 Q. And did you stay in the same house for the whole time

- 1 you were in Aberlour?
- 2 A. Yes, the whole time. Sometimes they made you scrub the
3 floors.
- 4 Q. Yes. Was that just part of your daily routine?
- 5 A. No, that was a punishment.
- 6 Q. To scrub the floors?
- 7 A. Scrub the floor.
- 8 Q. What sort of behaviour would get that sort of
9 punishment?
- 10 A. Going out and plundering apples, going down the village
11 and getting some apples and coming back.
- 12 Q. When you say plundering, do you mean taking them from
13 someone's garden or taking them from someone's shop?
- 14 A. From the trees. Obviously the tree belonged to
15 somebody --
- 16 Q. Yes, I know --
- 17 A. -- and you used to pick the apples at night time when
18 there was no one about.
- 19 Q. So you just took some apples off a tree and if you got
20 caught or found out, you were punished?
- 21 A. Yes, you had to scrub the floors.
- 22 Q. Can you just describe -- how big a task was that to do
23 if you got the punishment? You're looking round the
24 room.
- 25 A. Yes. It's about the size of this room.

1 Q. You'd have to scrub the floor?

2 A. Yes.

3 Q. A floor the size of this hearing room?

4 A. Yes.

5 Q. Was it a wooden floor?

6 A. A wooden floor, yes.

7 Q. When you say you had to scrub the floor, what would

8 you have to do when you say you had to scrub it? What

9 would they make you do?

10 A. Get a bucket and scrubbing brush and scrub the floor.

11 Q. Were you on your knees?

12 A. Yes.

13 Q. And scrubbing --

14 A. With a scrubbing brush.

15 Q. Just to wash the floor, scrub it?

16 A. Scrub it clean.

17 Q. Did you have to polish it afterwards?

18 A. Yes.

19 Q. You had to clean it and polish it?

20 A. After it had dried.

21 Q. How did you have to --

22 A. With cloths.

23 Q. Again on your hands and knees?

24 A. Yes. No machines.

25 Q. How long would this sort of punishment last in terms

1 of --

2 A. It took you something like maybe a day to scrub the

3 floor.

4 Q. To scrub it?

5 A. Yes.

6 Q. What about polishing?

7 A. The same.

8 Q. So you could be doing this for quite a long time?

9 A. Two or three days, yes.

10 Q. Did you get a chance to go to bed between?

11 A. Yes. They made you do so many hours and that was you.

12 Q. And you went back to finish it off?

13 A. You went back until it was done.

14 Q. Did you get your meals during these periods?

15 A. Yes.

16 Q. You were fed?

17 A. Yes.

18 Q. But they made you do it from start to finish, until it

19 was scrubbed and polished, as a punishment?

20 A. Yes.

21 Q. Apart from being a punishment, did children of your age

22 or other children have chores to do anyway, like

23 polishing or scrubbing?

24 A. Yes. You had to clean the baths every day, make your

25 beds, clean the dormitories, and clean the house, you

- 1 know.
- 2 Q. What would happen if they didn't think you'd done it
- 3 well enough, these chores?
- 4 A. Do it again.
- 5 Q. You'd be asked to do it again?
- 6 A. Yes.
- 7 Q. And you made your bed. Were you a child who wet the
- 8 bed?
- 9 A. Sometimes.
- 10 Q. What happened on those occasions if you wet the bed?
- 11 A. Strip the bed, go get a bath -- you always had a bath in
- 12 cold water if you wet the bed.
- 13 Q. If you wet the bed?
- 14 A. It was cold water.
- 15 Q. What if you weren't a bed-wetter and took a bath, was
- 16 the water cold?
- 17 A. No, it was hot.
- 18 Q. So only bed-wetters would get a cold bath?
- 19 A. Yes.
- 20 Q. What was the thinking behind that?
- 21 A. I have no idea. We didn't think about these things.
- 22 Q. I just wondered if anyone told you why you were getting
- 23 a cold bath rather than a hot bath.
- 24 A. No.
- 25 Q. Because you would get hot baths sometimes, would you?

1 A. You'd get a hot bath at least once a week anyway. The
2 housemistress would come into the bathroom and make sure
3 that everybody was washing themselves properly and stuff
4 like that.

5 Q. So if a child wet the bed in the dormitory or house you
6 were in, then one of the things that could happen would
7 be they'd go for a cold bath?

8 A. Yes.

9 Q. They'd have to strip their bed of the wet sheets. What
10 would happen to the wet sheets?

11 A. They would go to the laundry.

12 Q. Who would take them there?

13 A. I have no idea.

14 Q. You didn't have to take them?

15 A. No, you put them in a basket and that was it. There was
16 a big huge basket and we threw everything in the basket
17 and somebody came and got them and took them away.

18 Q. When it was discovered that a child had wet the bed, was
19 anything said by the housemaster or housemistress about
20 what had happened?

21 A. Yes.

22 Q. What sort of thing was said?

23 A. The easy way to explain it is Jeremy Kyle. It is the
24 easiest way to explain it. You listen to Jeremy Kyle
25 and you hear him talking and screaming and slagging

1 people off --

2 LADY SMITH: Adam, just move in line with the microphone

3 again. You're leaning away from it. That's better.

4 A. That's what happened. They'd get everybody in the big

5 room, the big hall, and they'd pick on one person and

6 start -- well, I'd say abuse. They would say things

7 about him and bring him to the front and show

8 everybody: this is him and blah, blah, blah. And bring

9 him down to that. That's what they used to do.

10 MR PEOPLES: Make them feel very small --

11 A. Yes.

12 Q. -- and humiliate or ridicule them?

13 A. Yes, the same as Jeremy Kyle, what he does on the telly.

14 And I keep saying, that's wrong. He's inciting

15 violence, man. You know what I mean?

16 Q. When this was done, this was done in, what, a big

17 hall --

18 A. Yes.

19 Q. -- in front of all the children?

20 A. Yes.

21 Q. Are you connecting this to children that wet the bed?

22 Would this happen to them?

23 A. Yes.

24 Q. Would it happen to children --

25 A. You'd have the housemasters sitting on the stage and all

- 1 the kids -- and I was just sitting in the hall. And
2 they would start picking on somebody and ... It was
3 bad.
- 4 Q. When you say "they", who was the one that singled
5 a child out or a boy out?
- 6 A. That could have been anybody on the stage: one of the
7 housemasters, one of the housemistresses. If they had
8 a gripe against you, they'd pick you out.
- 9 Q. How often would this treatment happen in the hall or
10 wherever it was?
- 11 A. Once a week.
- 12 Q. And there would be housemasters present?
- 13 A. Yes. They would always pick on one person, but never
14 pick on the same person twice.
- 15 Q. When you were there, there was someone, an individual,
16 called a warden.
- 17 A. Yes.
- 18 Q. I think it was someone called Reverend Leslie. That may
19 not mean anything to you --
- 20 A. I don't know his name, but I know he was there.
- 21 Q. But we understand that was the person who was in charge,
22 the warden. Was that person in the hall when this was
23 going on?
- 24 A. No.
- 25 Q. No?

- 1 A. No. The only time you seen him was when it was your
2 birthday. You had to go and see him when it was your
3 birthday and he'd let you go into a room and pick out
4 something that you wanted.
- 5 Q. It's just that I think at one point in your statement at
6 page 16, Adam, I just want to make sure I was
7 understanding, because you're telling us about this
8 assembly hall and how people would be picked out at
9 paragraph 103 of your statement. You mention the
10 governor would pick on one person. When you use the
11 expression governor, who did you mean?
- 12 A. One of the housemasters.
- 13 Q. So it didn't have to be the warden?
- 14 A. No.
- 15 Q. The governor doesn't mean the warden?
- 16 A. No.
- 17 Q. Okay, I follow that.
- 18 When someone was picked out and ridiculed or
19 humiliated in this way, and you said you obviously
20 didn't think it was right at the time, you did something
21 about it, didn't you?
- 22 A. Yes, I got up a couple of times and was shouting and
23 screaming at them.
- 24 Q. Did that make any difference? Did it continue or did it
25 stop after that?

- 1 A. No, it didn't make any difference. They just got hold
2 of me and dragged me out.
- 3 Q. What happened to you for standing up?
- 4 A. It was just another day, like. They just would drag you
5 out and throw you out of the assembly hall. That would
6 be it, done and dusted.
- 7 Q. You weren't punished otherwise?
- 8 A. Yes.
- 9 Q. You were just taken out?
- 10 A. Yes. Just dragged out and done.
- 11 Q. So your protest didn't make any difference and this
12 treatment continued?
- 13 A. No.
- 14 Q. While we're on this subject, page 16, I don't need you
15 to go to the paragraph, but you tell us that when people
16 were made fun of, it would have an effect because other
17 boys would to some extent maybe pick on the child that
18 was selected?
- 19 A. Yes.
- 20 Q. What would they do then?
- 21 A. Just abuse them.
- 22 Q. Because of the way that they'd been singled out?
- 23 A. Yes. I disagree with it anyway, you know, always have
24 done.
- 25 Q. But your attempt to sort of change things didn't make

- 1 any difference?
- 2 A. No, I wasn't trying to change anything. I was just
- 3 saying, it's wrong, man, you know what I mean. I'm
- 4 11 years old; I know what's right and wrong.
- 5 Q. And you told them it was wrong?
- 6 A. Yes.
- 7 Q. Did they even try and talk to you about and say, "The
- 8 reason it's not wrong, Adam, is"?
- 9 A. No, that's the way it was and that was the way it always
- 10 stayed.
- 11 Q. You say they would pick on them, so it wasn't just one
- 12 housemaster or --
- 13 A. No, no.
- 14 Q. -- that would do this?
- 15 A. It could be any of them.
- 16 Q. And when children were in the assembly hall, was it just
- 17 your house that was there or other children from other
- 18 houses?
- 19 A. If it was people from my house, then they it would be
- 20 all guys, none of the girls. The girls would get the
- 21 assembly on their own. They weren't supposed to mix.
- 22 Q. So there wasn't any mixing in your day? There were
- 23 separate assemblies for boys and girls. The assemblies
- 24 for the boys, would there be boys from other houses when
- 25 this was happening?

1 A. Yes.

2 Q. So it wasn't just boys from your house who would know
3 who was being picked on?

4 A. No, everybody knew.

5 Q. I think I understood you to say that you could be picked
6 on, on this sort of weekly ritual in the assembly hall,
7 if you had done things or somehow they thought you'd
8 done something deserving of this treatment. Did you say
9 that included children who wet the bed, that would be
10 a reason to pick out --

11 A. Yes, to humiliate them to try and stop them from wetting
12 the bed.

13 Q. When they were picked out and things were being said on
14 these occasions, was it made plain that they were picked
15 out because they had that week wet the bed?

16 A. Yes. That's the first thing they would bring out.

17 Q. So everybody in the hall would know that the boy picked
18 out had wet the bed if that was the reason for being
19 picked out?

20 A. Yes. They'd just say -- give the guy's name and he
21 would have to stand up and they would start shouting and
22 screaming at him, "You wet the bed that time and that
23 time". It was wrong. I think it was wrong anyway.
24 I was 11 years old, so what do I know at 11 years old?
25 Nothing.

1 Q. Don't be so modest. We want to get your memory of these
2 things.

3 If I go back to your statement again and maybe pick
4 up some of the other things you've said. On page 10 of
5 your statement, Adam, you told us that you were put in
6 a house that wasn't easy because of the way you behaved
7 in the first week at the hospital.

8 A. Yes.

9 Q. In the next paragraph, paragraph 59, you say Aberlour
10 wasn't really truly an orphanage because most of the
11 children had one or two parents still living.

12 A. Yes. Aberlour was a place for unruly kids that the
13 government never knew what to do with.

14 Q. Because you had been in a number of care settings before
15 getting to Aberlour --

16 A. Yes.

17 Q. -- can you tell me whether there were other children
18 there that were in the same boat, as it were, who had
19 been in lots of other places before they got to
20 Aberlour?

21 A. Most of them.

22 Q. In the case of your house, you tell us a little bit
23 about how it was managed and you've said there was
24 a housemaster and a housemistress.

25 A. Yes.

- 1 Q. I don't think you were able to remember their names.
- 2 A. I don't remember their names.
- 3 Q. But what you tell us on page 10, paragraph 62, page 9694
- 4 in our numbering, is that they each had a room --
- 5 A. Yes.
- 6 Q. -- in the house that you were staying in.
- 7 A. One at one end of the hall and one at the other end of
- 8 the hall.
- 9 Q. You say that the housemaster was the same person for the
- 10 whole time you were there, that you had?
- 11 A. Yes.
- 12 Q. While you're not able to remember his name, you're able
- 13 to give us a description of him as being a [REDACTED]
- 14 [REDACTED]
- 15 [REDACTED]
- 16 A. He drove a [REDACTED] all the time.
- 17 Q. If I mentioned a name [REDACTED] BBR [REDACTED] would that mean
- 18 anything?
- 19 A. I don't remember the names.
- 20 Q. Do you remember a Mr Lee?
- 21 A. No.
- 22 Q. You tell us, Adam, that there were two dormitories in
- 23 your house.
- 24 A. Yes.
- 25 Q. Does that mean that it was an all boys' house but there

1 were two dormitories, is that right, or am I wrong about
2 that?

3 A. There were just two dormitories. One dormitory that
4 side and the other one ...

5 Q. But they were both for boys?

6 A. Yes.

7 Q. Of different ages though?

8 A. No, no. It depends. It all depended on how you behaved
9 yourself in the house. If you were all right, you got
10 up to that dormitory up there because there was less
11 guys in it. The one down here, man, well, about
12 6 inches between each bed --

13 Q. Was that not the --

14 A. -- both sides.

15 Q. That wasn't quite -- they had more boys in there than
16 the other one, is it?

17 A. Yes. That was a big dormitory and the you had a small
18 dormitory.

19 Q. Are you suggesting the big dormitory was for the more
20 difficult boys?

21 A. I think so, aye.

22 Q. That was they way it appeared to be?

23 A. Yes.

24 Q. But you say in paragraph 64, Adam, and I just want to be
25 clear about this, that you thought you were in a room

1 with maybe about 15 boys.

2 A. Yes.

3 Q. It was a big room?

4 A. Yes.

5 Q. And you think that they were maybe ages from 7 to 15.

6 So they weren't all the same age?

7 A. No, that's right. Not all of us were the same age.

8 Some of us were older than the others.

9 Q. So there were different ages?

10 A. Yes.

11 Q. Did that create a problem if there were younger boys and

12 older boys?

13 A. No.

14 Q. If they're all in the same dormitory?

15 A. We were all in the same boat.

16 Q. Did you all pull together most of the time?

17 A. No, we were fighting all the time or whatever, messing

18 about. I don't know if you've ever been in a dormitory

19 or lived in a dormitory. There's always something going

20 on, always somebody running about and jumping on beds.

21 Basically, messing about. Other people didn't like it,

22 then that's how fights would start.

23 Q. Would be there any attempt by the housemaster or

24 housemistress to come in if something broke out?

25 A. They'd just come in and tell you to be quiet.

- 1 Q. Would they do anything else other than tell you to be
2 quiet?
- 3 A. No.
- 4 Q. On page 15 of your statement, you may not remember
5 today, but you did say under a section on discipline and
6 punishment at paragraph 98 on page 15, that you weren't
7 allowed to listen to pirate radio.
- 8 A. No, you weren't allowed to listen to radio at all.
- 9 Q. But obviously, someone must have managed to get a radio?
- 10 A. Yes, we had a radio and we would put it on top of the
11 lockers.
- 12 Q. In your dormitory?
- 13 A. No, downstairs.
- 14 Q. So you might listen to the pirate radio downstairs?
- 15 A. Someone would keep an eye on the door.
- 16 Q. You say if you were found out doing this, in
17 paragraph 98, you were seriously beaten up by the
18 housemaster?
- 19 A. Yes. You weren't allowed to listen to Radio Caroline or
20 Seagull or anything like that.
- 21 Q. When you say seriously beaten, can you describe what
22 a serious beating was if you listened to Radio Caroline?
- 23 A. They might bring out the belt and skelp your bum. He
24 might use his hands.
- 25 Q. It could be a variety of punishments?

- 1 A. Yes. They'd batter you and that was it.
- 2 Q. Is that the best description of it, you were battered?
- 3 A. Yes.
- 4 Q. Was the housemaster in control or angry or in a temper?
- 5 A. No, he'd just do it.
- 6 Q. He just did it?
- 7 A. Yes.
- 8 Q. And if he used a belt, what sort of belt would he use?
- 9 A. A leather belt on your backside.
- 10 Q. Was it like a school belt or a waist belt?
- 11 A. A waist belt.
- 12 Q. Did it have a buckle?
- 13 A. No, he didn't use the buckle on you.
- 14 Q. Was it like a leather belt?
- 15 A. Yes, just the leather used on it.
- 16 Q. And he would use that on what part of your body?
- 17 A. Your backside. Your back.
- 18 Q. It could not just be the backside, it could be your
- 19 back, it could be your legs?
- 20 A. Yes.
- 21 Q. And were you clothed when this would be done?
- 22 A. Yes. You had your shorts on. Nobody wore jeans. It
- 23 was always shorts. It had to be shorts.
- 24 Q. When these beatings occurred, did they leave any kind of
- 25 marks or injuries?

1 A. For a wee while.

2 Q. What sort of marks were left?

3 A. Just welts.

4 Q. So they'd be there for a while?

5 A. They'd be there for a little while and then they'd go

6 away.

7 Q. How sore were these beatings?

8 A. When you're 11 years old, man, it's sore.

9 Q. So were you sore for quite a while?

10 A. Two or three days, then you forgot about it and got on

11 with what you were doing.

12 Q. And how often would you get beatings like that, whether

13 for listening to the radio or otherwise?

14 A. It depends how often you got caught.

15 Q. But it wasn't a one-off thing?

16 A. You never got caught very often.

17 Q. But when you did --

18 A. Then you knew you were getting a battering.

19 Q. You said you got a battering with a belt sometimes. Did

20 you indicate you got hit or slapped as well.

21 A. Yes.

22 Q. Can you describe what would happen on those occasions?

23 A. They'd just slap you about and that'd be it.

24 Q. You know what was happening, I just want to be clear

25 what a slapping -- if you were slapped about, what that

1 entailed? What did happen then? Describe for me
2 a typical slapping.

3 A. He never, ever punched you. He just would slap you
4 about.

5 Q. On what part of the body?

6 A. Head, body, you know, mainly on the head.

7 Q. Forcibly?

8 A. Oh yes.

9 Q. Sore?

10 A. Yes, it was sore.

11 Q. Did it leave --

12 A. You got used to it. You got used to understanding you
13 must not get caught.

14 Q. So you're telling us, it's a bit like the meals, you
15 tried to find ways to avoid getting a slapping --

16 A. Yes, of course.

17 Q. -- or a punishment?

18 A. Yes.

19 Q. And you tried to find ways to avoid that?

20 A. There was always ways. All us kids were together. We
21 looked out for each other, really.

22 Q. What you tell us on paragraph 99 on page 16, Adam, is
23 you tell us it was the housemaster would give this sort
24 of punishment.

25 A. Yes.

- 1 Q. What about the housemistress? Did she ever do anything
2 like that?
- 3 A. No, she couldn't.
- 4 Q. When you say she couldn't, why not?
- 5 A. Because we would have attacked her.
- 6 Q. So she wouldn't have been able to do it because there
7 would have been some sort of retaliation?
- 8 A. Yes.
- 9 Q. So it would only the housemaster who would do this?
- 10 A. If we did anything wrong and she caught us, she went and
11 told the housemaster because she couldn't do nothing.
12 Us kids, man, we were, what, 11, 12, 13. We would fight
13 back if it was a woman. There's no doubt about it, we'd
14 have fought back.
- 15 Q. But you didn't fight back against the [REDACTED]
16 [REDACTED]?
- 17 A. No, because he was to go big.
- 18 Q. Mr [REDACTED] BGL, the one you told us about, was he a big guy?
- 19 A. Oh yes.
- 20 Q. So you wouldn't attempt to fight back with them?
- 21 A. There was no point. You understood that. There was no
22 point in fighting somebody twice the size of it because
23 you're not going to win.
- 24 Q. Heavyweight against a flyweight?
- 25 A. Yes. When the women were there, the housemistresses,

1 they weren't big people, they were only little, 19,
2 20-year-old lasses.

3 Q. That was what I was going to ask you, and I don't think
4 I did ask you earlier. You said the arrangement in your
5 house was there was a housemaster and a housemistress
6 and they each had their own room in the particular house
7 you were staying in. [REDACTED],

8 [REDACTED]

9 A. [REDACTED]

10 Q. And what age was the housemistress?

11 A. Early 20s.

12 Q. So she was a lot younger?

13 A. Yes.

14 Q. And what was the relative authority? Did one have more
15 authority?

16 A. The housemaster had the authority. He was the gaffer.

17 Q. Was that obvious to you?

18 A. It was obvious to anyone who came into the house who was
19 the gaffer.

20 Q. And was it obvious to the housemistress who wore the
21 trousers, if you like?

22 A. Yes.

23 Q. The housemistress, if she had a problem or wanted some
24 sort of punishment, she would tell the housemaster?

25 A. He would sort it out.

1 Q. And sometimes it would take the form you described, the
2 beatings with the hand, the slap?

3 A. Yes.

4 Q. You seem to be describing a state of affairs which was
5 quite a regular occurrence, beatings, slapping --

6 A. Yes.

7 Q. -- belting.

8 A. Yes.

9 Q. -- by the housemaster?

10 A. Yes.

11 Q. Did he or the housemistress ever show much warmth or
12 affection for the children in the house?

13 A. Maybe the housemistress did, but the housemaster didn't.

14 Q. Never?

15 A. No.

16 Q. Well, not to you, certainly, is it?

17 A. No, I never, ever seen him being nice to anybody. But
18 the housemistress, yes. She would do things for you
19 that nobody else would. She would help you out in all
20 kinds of ways, depending what you were doing.

21 Q. Would she have seen what the housemaster would do
22 when --

23 A. She knew. That's why she went to the housemaster.

24 Q. How would she know? Was she ever present when these
25 beatings were dished out with a belt or a hand?

1 A. No.

2 Q. She wasn't there?

3 A. No.

4 Q. How do you think she knew?

5 A. She could hear.

6 Q. She would hear?

7 A. She would hear the person screaming.

8 Q. So there would be screams?

9 A. Yes.

10 Q. So she'd be in the house and she would hear these

11 things?

12 A. Yes, she'd hear --

13 Q. And she'd know --

14 A. -- that somebody's got it.

15 Q. Did she ever talk to you about that or try to say,

16 well --

17 A. No, she had no authority.

18 Q. Did she ever try to intervene or try and change things?

19 A. No, no, she wouldn't have been there long if she'd tried

20 that.

21 Q. If I go back to your statement again, so I get a picture

22 of life in the orphanage -- I'm not going to go through

23 all the routine because you tell us about the general

24 routine and there were activities, leisure time, and you

25 tell us a bit about food and mealtimes. Just one thing

1 about the food. You've told us what would happen if you
2 didn't --

3 A. If you never ate your food.

4 Q. You tell us the way the food was provided. This is
5 at the foot of page 12, Adam, paragraph 77. You say:

6 "The food was actually cooked in the kitchen of the
7 orphanage and then brought to the particular house."

8 Is that right?

9 A. Yes, in trolleys. The same as they have in hospitals.

10 Q. So it wasn't cooked in the house?

11 A. No, no.

12 Q. As you've told us on page 13, paragraph 78, if you
13 didn't finish food, you would get a slap until it was
14 eaten. You say, actually, you could be made to sit
15 overnight if you didn't eat it. Do you remember that
16 happening?

17 A. Yes, you'd sit there until it was finished, yes.

18 Q. I think what you told us earlier, you'd only do that so
19 many times and then you'd find other ways to deal with
20 the situation?

21 A. Yes.

22 Q. I'll just ask you a little bit on page -- you deal with
23 education and schooling on page 13. You say it was
24 a proper school and there were proper classes and you
25 got sports activities and so forth.

1 I think basically, you were a person who -- you
2 weren't interested in school or getting an education
3 at the time.

4 A. No.

5 Q. And did you like school?

6 A. No, I didn't like school.

7 Q. Did you apply yourself at school then in terms of
8 getting your head down and doing the lessons?

9 A. No, no, no, no.

10 Q. Did you actually attend school regularly or did you
11 truant?

12 A. You had to attend school.

13 Q. So you didn't skip school?

14 A. You couldn't.

15 Q. What would happen if you skipped school?

16 A. You couldn't. There was no way you could skip school.
17 No way. The school was in the orphanage. If you didn't
18 come to school or you were missing out of the class, the
19 teacher would come round to the house to find where you
20 were.

21 Q. Okay. If you're not keen on learning or being
22 interested in the classwork, what did they do, how did
23 the teachers respond to that?

24 A. They never, you just sat there. You sat there and that
25 was it.

- 1 Q. So they didn't encourage you or try to get you to be
2 a bit more interested?
- 3 A. No.
- 4 Q. Was that just the way they behaved towards you or was
5 that the way they behaved generally?
- 6 A. That was how the school was.
- 7 Q. So it was really down to you, if you were interested,
8 they would -- you would learn?
- 9 A. It didn't matter.
- 10 Q. They weren't going to try and encourage you?
- 11 A. No.
- 12 Q. And I think you tell us in your case, on paragraph 83,
13 page 9697, you didn't have any qualifications when you
14 left school.
- 15 A. I did the eleven-plus and that was it.
- 16 Q. I think you say you didn't do it there in your
17 statement, but you think you did do it?
- 18 A. I think I did, yes.
- 19 Q. I suppose, reflecting back now -- and we all do that at
20 times -- that you probably feel it was maybe a missed
21 opportunity, was it? You could have learned a bit more
22 maybe?
- 23 A. No, I don't think so.
- 24 Q. You don't think you would have done?
- 25 A. No. I didn't like school, I didn't like learning. And

1 reading -- I didn't start reading until I was 13.

2 Q. 13?

3 A. Yes. About 13 I was when I started reading.

4 Q. It's just I picked up a sentence in your statement:

5 "I should have learned and I can see that now."

6 I wonder whether looking back, you thought, I wish I
7 hadn't been so disinterested and --

8 A. No, I think I'd still be the same.

9 Q. It wouldn't have changed?

10 One thing you do tell us on page 14 of your
11 statement at paragraph 87, page 9698 of our numbering,
12 you say that things that were meant as personal property
13 for you were taken from you as soon as you had seen them
14 and you never saw them again.

15 A. Yes.

16 Q. What sort of things are we talking about here?

17 A. There used to be -- when we lived in Dundee, you used to
18 go to the Salvation Army and there was one lassie there
19 that was in the Salvation Army and she went to Canada.
20 How she knew I was in Aberlour Orphanage, I'll never
21 know, but she did. Every Christmas she would send me
22 a tie or a couple of Canadian dollars. I would get look
23 at them and that was it.

24 Q. So it was made known to you that she had sent something
25 but you never saw them again?

- 1 A. Never saw them again.
- 2 Q. Did they go to the special room that --
- 3 A. I have no idea where they went.
- 4 Q. You never saw them?
- 5 A. They used to call the room 99. You used to go there --
- 6 when it was your birthday, you got in there and got
- 7 something out, but you only took what you could sell.
- 8 Q. Right:
- 9 A. You know what I mean?
- 10 Q. Right. And in your case, you took something you thought
- 11 you could maybe sell and make a bit of money?
- 12 A. Yes.
- 13 Q. And who took you to that room? I think there was some
- 14 suggestion the warden's wife was the person, Mrs Leslie.
- 15 A. It was, yes.
- 16 Q. What sort of woman was she?
- 17 A. You never, ever seen her, man. She was in the
- 18 background all the time.
- 19 Q. You just saw her at birthdays?
- 20 A. She was like a secretary. That's what she was like.
- 21 Q. Have you got any lasting impressions of the
- 22 Reverend Leslie? You told us he didn't seem to be
- 23 around a lot, if I understand what you've been saying.
- 24 A. He didn't have to see you.
- 25 Q. Did you ever have to go to his room for any reason?

- 1 A. No. The housemaster dealt with all that.
- 2 Q. Did the housemaster ever send you to get punished by the
3 warden? Do you ever remember occasions when that might
4 have happened?
- 5 A. Yes, I remember one time when about eight of us all
6 legged it, got out of the place and went away, and he
7 come looking for us.
- 8 Q. The warden?
- 9 A. Yes. And he found us about a mile away from Aberlour.
10 There was a guy, [REDACTED], he was 14, and he could
11 fight, so we were all behind him when the warden caught
12 us. I think we were going to attack the warden, you
13 know, but we never. We never attacked him. But we did
14 think about it.
- 15 Q. Did he do anything on that occasion to punish you for
16 running away?
- 17 A. No.
- 18 Q. Did you ever get a punishment from him then that you can
19 remember?
- 20 A. I don't remember getting a punishment off him.
- 21 Q. So your memory tends to be that the person that was
22 doing the punishing, the beatings, would be the
23 housemaster?
- 24 A. That was the housemaster. It was his job. It was his
25 job to, how do you say, keep us in line.

1 Q. In terms of visitors, official visitors, you tell us on
2 page 14 that you don't have a memory of child officers
3 or, as we might call them these days, social workers
4 coming to see you or check how you were getting on?

5 A. No.

6 Q. So if you were the responsibility of the Corporation of
7 Dundee, are you saying you don't remember somebody from
8 Dundee Corporation coming to see how you were?

9 A. They never come, no.

10 Q. Well, if they did come, [REDACTED] never saw them.

11 A. I think my mother came once.

12 Q. You tell us that in your statement. Was it the sort of
13 place that -- was your mother still in Dundee then?

14 A. I have no idea where she was.

15 Q. Was it the sort of place that would have regular
16 visitors who were parents or family of the children?

17 A. No. You had regular visitors from people who wanted
18 kids.

19 Q. You tell me about that in paragraph 91, Adam, on
20 page 14. I just wondered a little bit that. Because
21 you seem to say you were overlooked when these people
22 came along for the reason that you felt that it was
23 because you were considered or perceived to be
24 a hooligan.

25 A. Yes.

- 1 Q. Who are these people that would come and look round the
2 place? What were they doing?
- 3 A. Just families, like a man and his wife would come and
4 see if they could get a bairn or adopt one of the kids.
- 5 Q. If you were a 12, 13 or 14-year-old hooligan, you're not
6 going to be --
- 7 A. No. We knew that, you know.
- 8 Q. Were there a lot of people that you would say would fit
9 that description in your time?
- 10 A. I would say a quarter of the people that were there.
- 11 Q. Would be the sort of --
- 12 A. They had no chance.
- 13 Q. -- teenage hooligans -- that is how they would be seen
14 and would not be seen as someone that you'd want to take
15 home for the weekend or for life?
- 16 A. No, no.
- 17 Q. Okay. Do you know if children, though, were picked out
18 and were taken from the orphanage?
- 19 A. Oh aye, yes. I don't know them personally like, but
20 yes, people would take them. They'd get the bairns, do
21 all the paperwork -- I take it there was paperwork done.
- 22 Q. You'd see children would leave from time to time after
23 these visits?
- 24 A. Yes.
- 25 Q. You told us a bit about discipline and punishment and

1 what would happen if you got into trouble, either for
2 listening to the radio and for other reasons and how you
3 might have to scrub the floors. You have told us about
4 that.

5 You offer an explanation -- because some might say,
6 "Why didn't you speak up?" On page 16 of your
7 statement, Adam, paragraph 101, page 9700, you say you
8 never thought about speaking to anybody about what was
9 happening or going on in the orphanage. Why was that?

10 A. Because nothing would have been done about it anyway.

11 If you opened your mouth up, that would have been it and
12 they would all have been at you. You can't do these
13 kind of things.

14 Q. Well, you couldn't in those days.

15 A. No.

16 Q. You said:

17 "I just believed that was the way it was and it was
18 their right to beat us."

19 Is that the how you felt?

20 A. Yes, that was how it was. The government had the right
21 to do it. The government had the right to send their
22 men in and do what they had to do to you.

23 Q. You felt that was the way it was, that they had the
24 right and you had no right to stop it or object?

25 A. Yes.

1 Q. That's how you felt at the time?

2 A. Uh-huh, yes. I think most of us did.

3 Q. So you weren't in any way out of step with --

4 A. No.

5 Q. -- others in that way?

6 A. No.

7 Q. They all thought that way?

8 A. Yes.

9 Q. I know you've talked about running away sometimes.

10 A. Yes, we did.

11 Q. Why did you ran away?

12 A. We didn't run away -- we maybe got half a mile or a mile

13 away.

14 Q. We get the impression that Aberlour was a difficult

15 place to escape from because of its location.

16 A. Yes. Its location -- it keeps you where you are.

17 Q. When you ran away, what were the reasons for doing it?

18 Was it just a bit of fun?

19 A. Just fun.

20 Q. Did some people run away for other reasons, because of

21 the way they were --

22 A. I suppose they did, yes.

23 Q. You mentioned what would happen, this humiliation of

24 certain children who were picked out in the assembly

25 hall and that could lead to them being bullied by other

1 kids. You tell us about that on pages 16 and 17 at
2 paragraph 105 in your statement, Adam.

3 You go on to say:

4 "You could tell the housemaster if anything was
5 wrong but they didn't do anything about the bullying:
6 they would just tell you to stick up for yourself."

7 Is that how they responded --

8 A. Yes.

9 Q. -- if they were told something like that?

10 A. Yes. You were never bullied -- well, they were, but to
11 the housemasters, no, nobody was bullied. Stand up for
12 yourself.

13 Q. Man up and take it?

14 A. Yes, stand up for yourself.

15 Q. Was that the message being given?

16 A. Yes.

17 Q. Did you ever say to the housemasters "I'm being picked
18 on"?

19 A. No, no, no.

20 Q. But other boys did sometimes?

21 A. Yes, I would think -- yes, but nothing was ever done
22 about it, you know what I mean. If somebody was having
23 a go at you, you had to stand up and fight yourself.

24 Q. Was there anyone in Aberlour that you felt would fight
25 for you in the sense of an adult that would look out for

1 you and protect you if you were in trouble?

2 A. No.

3 Q. Did they ever convey that message: look, if you're in
4 trouble, come and see me, and I'll sort it out?

5 A. No.

6 Q. You didn't get that kind of message coming across?

7 A. No, not from any of them, no. We still got our own back
8 on some of them.

9 Q. The staff?

10 A. Yes. When we were playing rugby, we'd get the -- the
11 housemaster -- not my housemaster, but one of the
12 housemasters would be the referee and if he got on the
13 ground, everybody jumped on him and kicked him and
14 punched him and everything. We really made a mess of
15 the guy.

16 Q. So that was an opportunity to get your own back?

17 A. Yes, playing rugby.

18 Q. Did your housemaster referee games and get that
19 treatment?

20 A. No, he was too big and fat.

21 Q. Did Mr **BGL** ever referee matches and did he get it?

22 A. Yes. They all used to get it like that if they played
23 rugby and wanted to be the referee. All the kids
24 knew -- there was 30 of us on the field, so as soon as
25 he goes down, man, we'd pounce on him.

- 1 Q. I get the picture.
- 2 On page 17, on page 9701 of our numbering, you tell
- 3 us about leaving Aberlour when you were maybe around
- 4 15 years of age. You tell us actually -- there seemed
- 5 to be somebody there you called the governor there, you
- 6 had to go and see the governor. Do you mean the warden?
- 7 A. Yes, the warden.
- 8 Q. And you say you had to take a pledge?
- 9 A. Yes.
- 10 Q. Do you remember having to take this pledge?
- 11 A. Yes. I promise to be hardworking, honest and agreeable.
- 12 That's the pledge you took.
- 13 Q. How much warning did you get that you were leaving?
- 14 A. Same day, a couple of days.
- 15 Q. Did you get any preparation for leaving?
- 16 A. No.
- 17 Q. Did anyone give you any kind of advice about where you
- 18 would go and what you would be doing and what support
- 19 you could get?
- 20 A. I think they gave us a place in Glasgow, but I never
- 21 went. I went to my mother's instead.
- 22 Q. I think you tell us, Adam, maybe if I refer to it, you
- 23 thought, when you gave the statement, that you got on
- 24 a bus to Elgin and then a train that took you to
- 25 Aberdeen, but you didn't stay very long. Do you

1 remember that?

2 A. Yes.

3 Q. And then you went to Glasgow?

4 A. Was it Commercial Road? Something like that.

5 Q. Yes, I think that's the street you think it was. So did

6 they at least arrange that there was a place for you to

7 go?

8 A. There was a bed there for us.

9 Q. Did you get any greater support than that?

10 A. No. I went there, the guy showed you where you were

11 sleeping, and that was it.

12 Q. In your case, I think you were quite resourceful in some

13 ways when you had to fend for yourself and in some ways

14 you say Aberlour maybe taught you those skills to be

15 able to look after yourself.

16 A. Oh yes.

17 Q. Did you struggle at all because you hadn't been given

18 the preparation for leaving?

19 A. No.

20 Q. You didn't?

21 A. No, I didn't struggle anywhere.

22 Q. Did you know any other boys that left that might have --

23 A. I suppose they did, yes. Some of them went home again,

24 you know. I could say his name now because he's dead,

25 ██████████. He was from Lossiemouth. He went back to

1 Lossiemouth when he was 15 and took a job on the fishing
2 boats. He was back with his family again.

3 Q. Am I right in thinking from what we said earlier, when
4 you left Aberlour, though, did you go for a short time
5 to Oakbank School?

6 A. Oakbank School, [REDACTED] went there before [REDACTED] went to --
7 before [REDACTED] got taken into care.

8 Q. Well, it's just that --

9 A. I'm sure.

10 Q. I just raise it with you because I think the records
11 indicated, when you left Aberlour, you were in a spot of
12 trouble because of things that had gone on before you
13 left, they said your behaviour had deteriorated and that
14 the best place perhaps for you was to go to an approved
15 school. I think that did happen, you appeared --

16 A. It did, aye.

17 Q. You appeared in a local court in Banff and they
18 committed you to Oakbank. The records suggest that's
19 the reason you went to Aberdeen first of all, because
20 Oakbank is in Aberdeen?

21 A. Yes.

22 Q. So could it be that you were in Oakbank for a while and
23 then you went to this Commercial Road property?

24 A. It might have been, yes.

25 Q. I'm just trying to put it together in the records. You

- 1 certainly had a spell in Oakbank School?
- 2 A. It was an approved school. Approved school, borstal,
3 jail. That's where we went. The borstal was, what ...
4 I don't know, I can't remember. Near Falkirk, I think.
5 Yes, it's near Falkirk.
- 6 Q. So you in a sense got the full house: you were in care
7 settings, you were in foster care --
- 8 A. Done the rounds.
- 9 Q. -- you went to the approved school and then you went to
10 borstal and then you ended up in jail?
- 11 A. Mm-hm.
- 12 Q. Okay. You also tell us, I think, that you did manage to
13 do a variety of jobs --
- 14 A. Yes.
- 15 Q. -- and survive in the big world; is that right?
- 16 A. Yes.
- 17 Q. And indeed, you did quite a lot of travelling.
- 18 A. I did, aye.
- 19 Q. While you might not have had any formal qualifications
20 or education, but you got by and did lots of things.
21 You might not have got a particular skill or trade, but
22 you did lots of different jobs?
- 23 A. Yes.
- 24 Q. At page 19, Adam, you're kind of looking back now, at
25 paragraph 120. You're now retired.

- 1 A. Yes.
- 2 Q. What you say there is that you've not got any regrets
3 about your life?
- 4 A. No.
- 5 Q. You say:
- 6 "I have lived a life and I don't regret my life.
7 I have done some bad things to people, but I have
8 enjoyed my life and I don't regret anything."
- 9 That would suggest that whatever was happening in
10 Aberlour, in your case at least, you have not come out
11 of it personally --
- 12 A. Not scarred.
- 13 Q. -- scarred by it?
- 14 A. No.
- 15 Q. But can you accept that others would went through the
16 same regime could easily have been scarred by it?
- 17 A. Yes.
- 18 Q. I don't know whether you ever kept in contact with any
19 of the individuals you were with in --
- 20 A. Just one.
- 21 Q. Did he come out scarred?
- 22 A. No -- well, he did in the end. I'm sure he did because
23 he committed suicide.
- 24 Q. Right.
- 25 A. He was, what, 39, 40, when he committed suicide.

1 Whether that's got to do with Aberlour or not is
2 anybody's guess, you know. But I think he committed
3 suicide because his mother died.

4 Q. You're accepting that although you managed and you don't
5 have any regrets, there might be people who had gone
6 through the exact same experience as you who might have
7 a lot of regrets and a lot of problems in adult life?

8 A. Yes.

9 Q. I suppose what you see as the benefit of Aberlour -- and
10 I know you had a lot of different settings that you had
11 to deal with -- you put it this way at paragraph 123:

12 "Places like Aberlour [taught] me how to look after
13 myself, especially when I was in jail."

14 And you say you have spent time in different places,
15 prison and so forth.

16 A. Yes.

17 Q. You feel in some way it gave you a benefit that you
18 could look after yourself, albeit maybe not the benefit
19 they were planning for you or thinking --

20 A. It taught you how to look after yourself.

21 Q. But others might not have found that lesson --

22 A. No, no.

23 Q. 

24

25 A.

1 Q. And as an adult, you didn't keep much contact with your
2 family?

3 A. Only in the last, what, 20 years.

4 Q.

5

6

7 A.

8 Q.

9 A.

10 Q.

11

12 A.

13 Q.

14 A.

15

16

17

18

19

20 Q. So there weren't groups of children that were related?

21 A. No, there weren't family groups, no.

22 Q. It wasn't that sort of place. It was just for the
23 unruly and people that other institutions couldn't cope
24 with?

25 A. That was what it was: it was for the unruly.

1 Q. Just finally, you have some sort of final thoughts and
2 reflections on the last page of your statement, Adam.
3 You say, first of all, at paragraph 133 on page 9705:

4 "Social workers should know that something is going
5 on with kids when they are misbehaving, stealing and
6 causing trouble. I did that to get attention when I was
7 in care and they should have known something was going
8 on."

9 Is that really what you were doing, you were trying
10 to get some attention --

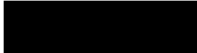
11 A. Yes.

12 Q. -- when you were showing this behaviour and aggression
13 and stealing?

14 A. We knew if we did that, we'd get moved, you know. But
15 nobody wanted to know why we were doing it.

16 Q. I'm not going to take you to the records I've seen, but
17 we can see entries in the records we've been given that
18 you're described initially as not being a problem
19 really, sometimes they were critical of you, but then
20 latterly, before you went to Oakbank, you were described
21 as -- there was a marked deterioration in your behaviour
22 before you left, and you say no one ever asked or
23 thought why is this happening.

24 A. Why is this happening? Why? Why is he like this?
25 There's always a reason.

- 1 Q. That wasn't explored with you?
- 2 A. In them days, it didn't happen. The government said
3 this and that was it.
- 4 Q. They just maybe moved you on?
- 5 A. Yes.
- 6 Q. If you had challenging behaviour, they found another
7 place?
- 8 A. They'd stick you in a stronger place, a secure place,
9 whatever.
- 10 Q. I think in fact -- and I'm not going to take you to it,
11 but I'll just give the reference to it if I may -- it's
12 a document. ABE.001.008.7371. It is a letter written
13 by the warden just before you moved to Oakbank. You
14 were about to appear in court and be committed to
15 Oakbank. I will just read it and I don't want to put it
16 up, it's not necessary. It says:
- 17 "Latterly there has been a marked deterioration in
18 [your] behaviour culminating in the offences for which
19 [you] had appeared in the court, [you were]
20 unco-operative and [you were] backed up by your friend,
21  "
- 22 And it was described as bullying, sometimes of
23 younger children, concerned in theft and so forth.
- 24 The warden finishes off this note by saying:
- 25 "It would appear that a period of ordered living and

1 a discipline firmer than a children's home can offer
2 would be advantageous to this boy and I respectfully
3 suggest to the court that consideration be given to such
4 a course."

5 So clearly, he was thinking it's time for you to
6 move on.

7 A. No, he was putting us in jail. He was telling them to
8 put me in jail.

9 Q. He was maybe thinking of an approved school and that was
10 what happened.

11 A. Yes. It's a young offenders' prison. It's an approved
12 school, it's a jail for young people, you know.

13 Q. The other point you make -- obviously you think that
14 there's some value in outside social workers turning up
15 unannounced to see how things really are. Is that
16 something you think might make a difference?

17 A. Yes. I think so. They're not supposed to tell anybody
18 they're coming, you know.

19 Q. And indeed, also, the point you make is that they should
20 also try and talk to children on their own.

21 A. Yes, talk to them. Like if a kid's committing crime or
22 he's misbehaving or something like that and nobody
23 understands why, there has to be a reason why. If
24 nobody asks them and tries to get into his head to find
25 out what's going on, then nobody will ever know.

1 Q. The other point you make is that really young people
2 leaving care, you feel, should get more information to
3 help them know what their options are and what they're
4 entitled to, what support they can get to survive.

5 A. It's what support they can get. It's all down to what
6 support they can get, and the social workers know what
7 they can get, and what they can't get, or what they can
8 ask for, you know, or where they can go, help them get
9 into the forces, university, get an apprenticeship or
10 something like that.

11 Q. You didn't get that, though, did you?

12 A. No, no, no.

13 MR PEOPLES: Okay. Adam, these are all the questions I have
14 for you today. I don't think there are any questions
15 that I'm being asked to --

16 LADY SMITH: Are there any outstanding applications for
17 questions?

18 MR PEOPLES: In that case, I would just like to thank you
19 very much for coming today and telling us about your
20 experiences at Aberlour and giving your thoughts.

21 A. I'm not saying Aberlour was a bad place. I'm not saying
22 that at all. Because Aberlour was a good place. It
23 was. In the whole of things, you know, it was a good
24 place. Everybody was our own ages, we could understand
25 each other.

1 Q. I accept what you're saying, but I suppose you would
2 also say that things did happen that shouldn't have
3 happened?

4 A. Oh yes, yes, but that's what these people were there
5 for. That's what the housemaster was there
6 for: punishment. I understand that everybody needs
7 discipline. That's what he was there for.

8 Q. But that was more than discipline, was it?

9 A. Whether the discipline was too much or not enough ...

10 Q. It sounds as if you're describing a situation where
11 discipline was a bit too much at times from the
12 housemaster.

13 A. Yes, sometimes it was, yes.

14 MR PEOPLES: Okay. Well, thank you very much. I do wish
15 you well and thank you for coming today. Thank you very
16 much.

17 A. Right.

18 LADY SMITH: Adam, let me add my thanks to that. It has
19 been very helpful for us for you to engage with the
20 inquiry, both by providing your statement and for coming
21 along today to talk about your experience. It's of
22 great help with the work I have to do here. I'm now
23 able to let you go with my thanks.

24 A. Cheers.

25 (The witness withdrew)

1 LADY SMITH: The witness mentioned one name in the context
2 of what I think was an allegation of some abuse,
3 a Mr BGL a sports teacher. He mentioned two names of
4 children who were in care at the same time as him,
5 a [REDACTED] and [REDACTED]. These names are all
6 covered by my general restriction order, which means
7 that they cannot be disclosed outside the hearing room.
8 Strictly, Mr BGL's name cannot be disclosed in
9 relation to any allegation of abuse outside the hearing
10 room.

11 Are we going to take the morning break at this
12 stage, Mr Peoples?

13 MR PEOPLES: It's time. There will be a swap over and
14 we have another oral witness.

15 LADY SMITH: We will do that. Thank you.

16 (11.23 am)

17 (A short break)

18 (11.50 am)

19 LADY SMITH: Ms Rattray, I understand the next witness is
20 ready; is that right?

21 MS RATTRAY: Yes, that's right, my Lady. The next witness
22 is an applicant who has chosen to remain anonymous and
23 has chosen the pseudonym "Angela".

24 LADY SMITH: Thank you.

25

1 "ANGELA" (sworn)

2 LADY SMITH: Please sit down and make yourself comfortable.

3 If you can try and stay in a good position for the
4 microphone. We need you to do that. It's one of these
5 things: you get too close, it doesn't work properly, and
6 if you drift away, we can't hear you. I'll let you know
7 if there's a problem.

8 I'm going to hand over to Ms Rattray and she will
9 let you know what happens next.

10 Questions from MS RATTRAY

11 MS RATTRAY: Good morning, Angela.

12 A. Good morning.

13 Q. In the red folder in front of you you'll find a paper
14 copy of the statement that you have given to the
15 inquiry. We have given it a reference number and I'll
16 just read that out: it's WIT.001.001.9822. That's the
17 number you'll see at the top right-hand corner of the
18 page.

19 Your witness statement will also come on the screen
20 in front of you. The one in front of you on the screen
21 will be redacted, it will have bits blacked out.
22 You have a clear copy in the folder. When we're looking
23 at the statement, please feel free to use either the
24 screen or the folder, whichever is best for you.

25 To start with, if you could use the folder and go to

1 the very back page, which is 9840. Could you confirm
2 that you have signed your statement?

3 A. Yes, I have.

4 Q. Do we see just above your signature at paragraph 115
5 that you say that you have no objection to your witness
6 statement being published as part of the evidence to the
7 inquiry and that you believe the facts stated in your
8 witness statement are true?

9 A. Yes.

10 Q. Is that right?

11 A. Yes.

12 Q. Angela, could you confirm the year you were born?

13 I don't need the date or the month, simply the year.

14 A. 1958.

15 Q. Thank you.

16 I'm going to ask you some questions about your
17 statement in three parts. In the first part, I'm going
18 to ask you about your background and how you came to be
19 in the care of Aberlour. In the second part, I'll ask
20 you about your experiences in Aberlour Children's Home
21 in Keith. And in the third part, I'll ask you to
22 comment on the impact your experiences in care generally
23 and in Aberlour in particular have had on your adult
24 life moving forward.

25 Turning to the first part, which generally deals

1 with, to start with, your life before care. At your
2 statement, from page 9822, you do tell us that you were
3 born in Paisley and that you're from a large family.
4 You discovered you had nine siblings, although two of
5 these died very young. And I think you were the second
6 youngest --

7 A. Yes.

8 Q. -- child in your family and you had a sister who was
9 younger than you.

10 A. Yes.

11 Q. You tell us that your parents separated and you were
12 taken into care and placed in Blairvardach
13 Children's Home.

14 A. Yes.

15 Q. You said that you remember that you returned home from
16 there for a short period of time and you have memories
17 of the police breaking down the door of your home
18 because you and your wee sister had been left alone;
19 is that right?

20 A. Yes.

21 Q. And then you were placed in Leavecross Children's Home?

22 A. Yes.

23 Q. And you think you were aged 3 or 4?

24 A. Yes, around that age.

25 Q. You tell us some memories you have of standing at

- 1 railings at Leavecross and screaming for your mum.
- 2 A. Yes. I remember her leaving -- we'd obviously got taken
3 there and I remember her leaving and I remember crying
4 and trying to run after her.
- 5 Q. You tell us that that was the last time you saw your
6 mother?
- 7 A. Yes.
- 8 Q. Then after Leavecross, you tell us that you and your
9 little sister were placed in foster care in Inverness in
10 [REDACTED] 1964.
- 11 A. Yes.
- 12 Q. Your experiences in foster care, we're very conscious of
13 those, although we're not examining them in detail
14 today, that will be for another time, but the background
15 there is that you experienced physical and sexual abuse
16 at the hands of your foster parents?
- 17 A. Yes.
- 18 Q. You tell us that you think your social worker might have
19 had some suspicions that something was going on and
20 ultimately you and your sister were removed, but at no
21 time did anyone sit down and explain to you what was
22 happening or why; is that right?
- 23 A. That's correct, yes. We literally got taken
24 overnight -- or we woke up in the morning and we were
25 leaving and that was it. That was the first we knew of

- 1 it.
- 2 Q. You tell us that you know from records that you have
3 seen that you were moved to Aberlour Children's Home in
4 Keith in [REDACTED] 1972, so you'd be aged about 14 at
5 that time?
- 6 A. Yes, I had just had my 14th birthday before I left
7 Inverness [REDACTED].
- 8 Q. From the records the inquiry has seen, this records that
9 you were admitted to a children's home in Aberlour at
10 30 Quarryhill in Keith on [REDACTED] 1972.
- 11 A. Yes.
- 12 Q. And you were placed there with your little sister?
- 13 A. Yes.
- 14 Q. Angela, moving on to the second part, which is really to
15 ask you about your experience at Quarryhill
16 Children's Home. You tell us about that starting at
17 page 9833 of your statement. Can you remember your
18 first day there?
- 19 A. Yes, I can, yes.
- 20 Q. Can you tell us about your first impressions when you
21 arrived at Quarryhill?
- 22 A. I remember going in the front door and it was very
23 open-plan and a very big house, and I remember just
24 thinking of the parquet flooring -- although I didn't
25 know at the time what it was, but the parquet

1 flooring -- and an open staircase. Then we went
2 downstairs to where the sitting room and the
3 dining room, et cetera, was. We were taken in and
4 introduced to the house parents, who we later called
5 Auntie Ethel and Uncle Bob. I remember thinking it was
6 very, very big, but didn't quite know that we were
7 actually going to stay there or what was happening
8 because we hadn't been told anything, other than being
9 picked up in Inverness and being driven and turning up
10 at the home, but didn't realise it was a children's home
11 at the time.

12 Q. Were you taken there by your social worker?

13 A. Yes. Picked up in Inverness.

14 Q. And you don't remember any conversation, even on the
15 journey there, telling you what was happening?

16 A. No. I don't think -- my sister and I spoke between
17 ourselves or whispered in the car, but we didn't
18 actually know other than the fact, before we left, my
19 foster mother had said, "You're going, I've had enough,
20 you're bad, evil, wicked". So we got taken out of there
21 and then that was it, basically, until we arrived in
22 Keith.

23 Q. The house parents at Quarryhill, Auntie Ethel and
24 Uncle Bob, I think you tell us their names and Ethel and
25 Bob Smith; is that right?

- 1 A. Yes.
- 2 Q. Was there any other staff there that you remember?
- 3 A. Yes. There was another house parent, she was called --
- 4 we called her Auntie Anne. She was the assistant in
- 5 there.
- 6 Q. What were your first impressions on that day of
- 7 Auntie Ethel and Uncle Bob?
- 8 A. They just seemed very nice, they were very welcoming and
- 9 just very kind, but apart from the fact we just answered
- 10 if we were spoken to -- because we weren't used to
- 11 actually speaking, we were never allowed to talk in
- 12 previous years until we were asked specifically to talk.
- 13 So my sister and I didn't really speak unless we were
- 14 spoken to in that sense.
- 15 Q. I think you describe it in your statement as it was
- 16 a nice, warm welcome for you.
- 17 A. Yes, they were both very welcoming and they were nice.
- 18 Q. Do you remember how many children were at Quarryhill?
- 19 A. At that point, it held -- the home itself held 10
- 20 children. I'm just trying to think how many of ...
- 21 There was eight of us, I think, at that time, when we
- 22 first got there.
- 23 Q. What was the general age range of the children who were
- 24 there?
- 25 A. Mostly similar to myself and younger -- I think the

1 youngest at that point was probably about 7 -- and then
2 up to my age of 14.

3 Q. You make a comment that Auntie Ethel and Uncle Bob
4 called you by your name?

5 A. Yes.

6 Q. And that was somewhat a new experience for you. Why was
7 that?

8 A. Because in all the years in foster care, I was never
9 called by my own name. My sister was, but I never was.

10 Q. What kind of names were you called?

11 A. Usually I was bitch or big 'un(?) or just called evil.
12 Never called my own name.

13 Q. And you tell us at paragraph 76 that when you arrived at
14 Quarryhill, you had a lot of trust issues with
15 authority.

16 A. Yes. Yes, because I didn't know what was happening or
17 in the sense of why we were there and that this was
18 going to be our home -- and although the home life
19 I came from was horrible, I still wanted to go back
20 there. In the very early stages, certainly, I just
21 wanted to go back and I was going to run away to go back
22 there.

23 Q. You tell us in your statement that you didn't know if
24 you were going to be beaten, although after a while, you
25 realised that things were going to be okay --

- 1 A. Yes.
- 2 Q. -- and you started to relax?
- 3 A. Yes. Yes, it took a long time just to be used to the
4 fact that, I suppose looking back on it now, that we
5 could be children and talk and laugh and things like
6 that, which we'd never been allowed to do before without
7 getting beaten for making too much noise.
- 8 Q. You have described part of the layout of the home. It
9 was a big house. Was it an old house or was it a modern
10 house?
- 11 A. It was very modern. Very open-plan. Very bright. And
12 just always smelled nice. It was very nice and very
13 clean. I was used to cleaning because I was brought up
14 to clean and scrub, so it was very, very clean, in my
15 opinion, at that age.
- 16 Q. What about the sleeping arrangements? Was it
17 a dormitory or bedrooms?
- 18 A. There were a lot of bedrooms. My sister and I shared
19 a bedroom, which had twin beds. The largest bedroom was
20 a big room that had four single beds in it, which some
21 of the other girls shared, and then there were a couple
22 of double rooms, I think, as well, just with twin beds
23 in them.
- 24 Q. The home, was it just girls or girls and boys?
- 25 A. It was a mix of girls and boys.

- 1 Q. At page 9834 you describe the routine of life at
2 Quarryhill. At paragraph 78 you make the comment that
3 you think it was more family orientated.
- 4 A. Yes.
- 5 Q. Can you explain what you mean by that?
- 6 A. It was just like normal, you know, you'd either have
7 your alarm or you would get a call to wake up and it was
8 time to get ready for school. There was plenty of
9 bathrooms that we could all use, anyway, in the
10 mornings, do your normal routine, go down, breakfast
11 would be ready, get your school bags ready and get set
12 off for school. So to me, it was like a normal family
13 type of environment.
- 14 Q. You tell us as well that Auntie Ethel and Uncle Bob
15 encouraged you to do different things that you hadn't
16 been allowed to do before. What kind of things were you
17 encouraged to do?
- 18 A. Just normal type of things. Within the home itself you
19 could either -- with the big family room there was
20 a record player, there was TV, if we wanted to draw, or,
21 you know, all different things that we had never done
22 before, or just to play, play a game. There were loads
23 of games. We didn't get to do those things previously,
24 my sister and I. And everything had to be done quietly,
25 whereas in the home there was lots of noise, you know,

1 laughter, that type of thing, which now I know would be
2 normal. At the time I didn't know that, and going to
3 school, if there were any activities after school that
4 we might have been interested in, we were encouraged to
5 do them, take part and swim, just all those types of
6 normal family things that kids do.

7 Q. At paragraph 80 you tell us that:

8 "There were still ground rules [you] had to stick
9 to. Ethel and Bob would still want to know where you
10 were going."

11 What kind of ground rules were there?

12 A. Basically, after school, if we wanted to go out when we
13 made friends, to go to their house, they obviously
14 needed to know where their house was. And if we were
15 staying for tea or anything like that. So we would
16 obviously know what time we had to be home by. If
17 we were just out playing in the street and we went
18 slightly into the next street to play with other kids,
19 we had to be in by a certain time. Just normal
20 constraints that most children will have from their own
21 parents.

22 Q. Who told you about the ground rules?

23 A. Both Auntie Ethel and Uncle Bob. They would say, "We
24 need to know that you are safe, where you're going and
25 who you're going to be with and what time you need to be

1 home at".

2 Q. At page 9835 you tell us about mealtimes, that mealtimes
3 were great and the food was really good. Where you ate
4 it in the house, was it a large dining room? Did all
5 the children eat together at the one time?

6 A. Yes, we had a large family dining room. The kitchen was
7 just off there (indicating), so we would all help.
8 We would all set the table for tea or lunch or
9 breakfast, whichever it was. We usually set the
10 breakfast dishes the night before. We all had a rota
11 system where we would all take part and help and do
12 things like that.

13 So mealtimes were great and we all ate together and
14 discussed what had happened in our day and things like
15 that. So it was a good time.

16 Q. So it wasn't just a means of being fed, it was a social
17 event as well?

18 A. Yes, absolutely. Auntie Ethel, when I was a little bit
19 older, because I used to like food so much, as I still
20 do, she would help me and allow me to bake or she would
21 teach me to cook and show me how things were done. So
22 I used to take a great interest in that. So it stood me
23 in good stead.

24 Q. Auntie Ethel and Uncle Bob and Auntie Anne, did they eat
25 their meals with you or did they eat separately, do you

- 1 know?
- 2 A. No, they were always with us to eat. Sometimes it would
3 depend if Auntie Anne had a day off, which often times
4 they did, she wouldn't be there, but it was usually one
5 or two days a week they would have a system where they
6 would have time off, but they always did eat with us
7 anyway.
- 8 Q. So it'd be fair to say you were sitting round the table
9 in the manner of a family?
- 10 A. Yes, absolutely, yes.
- 11 Q. Tell me, what happened if a child didn't want to eat
12 their meal?
- 13 A. They were never forced in that sense. They were
14 encouraged to eat their meal. But if they really didn't
15 want to do it, then it was fine, it was left. They
16 weren't punished because they didn't eat their meal,
17 anything like that. In that sense, it was good.
- 18 Q. Were they ever offered alternatives if they didn't eat?
- 19 A. Normally, at supper time, they would have been because,
20 for whatever reason, whether they just weren't hungry at
21 teatime or they didn't happen to like it, but they were
22 never left to go hungry in that sense. If it was later
23 on, they would have a sandwich or something at supper
24 time if they hadn't eaten their whole tea.
- 25 Q. In relation to washing and bathing, you tell us that

1 there were no restrictions on baths or showers and you
2 could have one whenever you wanted.

3 A. Yes.

4 Q. Did you have privacy to do that?

5 A. Oh yes, always. If you were in the bathroom yourself,
6 that was fine, you just had your bath or your shower,
7 whichever it was. You were never interrupted -- and we
8 all knew that if somebody was in the bathroom, unless
9 they asked you in, if it was one the other girls and you
10 went in to chat. And the same with the boys. Everybody
11 respected each other's privacy.

12 Q. You mentioned setting the table for breakfast and
13 helping out. What other kind of chores on the rota did
14 the children do?

15 A. We used to help with, obviously, the tidying up and
16 clearing of the table after mealtimes and we would help
17 with the dishes and we would all do it on a rotational
18 system. We usually kept our rooms tidy, but we weren't
19 made to clean or do any sort of housework in that sense.
20 It was just little chores that we did that gave you
21 a little bit of responsibility to do.

22 Q. You tell us in fact that there was a paid cleaner who
23 came in --

24 A. Yes.

25 Q. -- to do the main cleaning.

1 A. Mrs Gordon. She lived across the road. She was
2 a lovely lady as well. Eventually, when I was a bit
3 older, when she had her summer holidays, I took over the
4 cleaning because I was very adept the at cleaning; that
5 was all I was taught as a child. So when Mrs Gordon
6 went on holiday, I did the cleaning of the home for the
7 two weeks. I was paid for it as well, but because
8 I knew her routine so well, I did that.

9 Q. When she was on holiday, you took on the job of
10 Mrs Gordon, but you were in fact paid to do that?

11 A. Yes, I was. It was me that offered to do it, because
12 normally they would just get somebody else in, but I had
13 asked Auntie Ethel if I could take on the job because
14 I'd be quite happy to do it. It gave me some extra
15 pocket money so I was quite happy to do that and I loved
16 cleaning.

17 Q. You tell us about school. You make the comment that you
18 got what you describe as the usual abuse at school.
19 Can you tell me what that involved?

20 A. Yes. Because we were the only children's home within
21 the town, we were all called homeys and we were picked
22 on because we were in care. That was quite difficult at
23 times. I was better at dealing with it, I was more
24 protective of my little sister because she did have it
25 harder, so I did get into quite a few fights in the

1 early days when we first went there because she was
2 getting so much abuse and also getting hit. So I would
3 take over and sort out any trouble.

4 Q. And the abuse and picking on and being hit, was that
5 from other children?

6 A. Yes. Only children. It wasn't from anybody else. It
7 was just the usual kind of thing that you would get in
8 playgrounds.

9 Q. Was that a problem that you would speak to Auntie Ethel
10 or Uncle Bob about?

11 A. I don't remember particularly bringing it up. I do
12 remember seeing now and again my sister did because she
13 would come home in tears and on a few occasions she came
14 home with quite a few injuries because of one particular
15 boy that was really, really horrible to her. And I did
16 take matters into my own hands at that point and gave
17 him what I called a taste of his own medicine. I did go
18 and I hit him, but I did tell Auntie Ethel when I came
19 home that I had lost my temper and given him a beating
20 because of what he'd done to my sister because she was
21 in such a bad way. And then I think they at that point
22 dealt with his parents after that, and eventually it did
23 stop. So eventually it was fine.

24 Q. So you think that when they were told about that, they
25 took steps to try and sort the problem?

1 A. When my sister came home, because she was in such
2 a mess -- he had put her down some stone steps and she
3 hit right in the corner on the bone of her eye, and it
4 was an awful, awful mess. It was quite a serious
5 injury. So after I had come home and reported that I'd
6 given the boy a beating because of what he'd done to my
7 sister, it was then they dealt with it after that. It
8 was resolved. I don't remember particularly in what --
9 what actually happened and how they spoke to them or
10 what happened. I think the school was informed as well
11 because she had to have time off school because it was
12 quite a bad injury.

13 Q. Did the abusive behaviour by other children stop or
14 change after that?

15 A. It did, I think, yes. Occasionally, you would still get
16 the odd one that would still call you names, but because
17 I put on a tough exterior, and because of the quips
18 I used to make, it did tend to stop because it was the
19 only way sometimes to stand up to bullies, was just to
20 be as mouthy back in that sense. So eventually it
21 stopped because they realised, I think, I wasn't going
22 to be intimidated by them in that sense.

23 Q. You tell us that your house parents encouraged your
24 sister with her swimming.

25 A. Yes. She was a marvellous -- she had a real talent for

1 swimming. She joined the swimming club at school and
2 was so good she then went on to swim competitively. She
3 would have early morning training sessions at the
4 swimming pool. Uncle Bob was also a janitor of the
5 grammar school that we were at, so he would take her
6 early morning for her training sessions at the pool and
7 then again after school, and then on to any competitions
8 that she then did with the school. If she needed
9 transport, then he would take her to these things as
10 well.

11 Q. In relation to homework at school, was there a suitable
12 place in the home to do your homework?

13 A. Yes. We all used to, after tea, if we had homework, sit
14 at the dining room table and all be able to do our
15 homework. Either Auntie Ethel or Uncle Bob or
16 Auntie Anne, whoever was there, if we needed any help,
17 they would come and help us, and obviously they knew
18 what homework we had to do and they would help us
19 if we did need help to do it. It was always done and
20 they made sure we did our homework.

21 Q. On the subject of religion, you tell us that you went to
22 chapel.

23 A. Yes, we did.

24 Q. Were you encouraged to attend chapel and continue with
25 your religion?

1 A. Yes. Because we were brought up as Catholics -- they
2 didn't know what we were initially when we went into
3 foster care, but my foster parents were Catholic, so my
4 sister and I were sent to Catholic school and brought up
5 in it. So when we went to Keith, because we were used
6 to going to chapel every Sunday, we did continue it,
7 although eventually I stopped.

8 Q. When you stopped, were you allowed to make your own
9 decision to stop?

10 A. Yes, because by this point I was married and things had
11 happened when my first marriage broke up. I was no
12 longer in agreeance with the nuns that I knew and the
13 priest in Keith, so I moved away from the
14 Catholic Church.

15 Q. You tell us about Christmas and birthdays and that these
16 were celebrated in the manner of a normal family.

17 A. Yes. They were lovely. We were all treated specially
18 on our birthdays and Christmas was always wonderful
19 at the home. It was really, really nice.

20 Q. Did you have any holidays or trips away?

21 A. Yes, we did. We had quite a few. We went to Portobello
22 in Edinburgh, I think on two years running, and then we
23 actually went so St Andrew's, where I'm from now, one
24 year for two weeks' holiday. So we did have really good
25 memories in the sense of the trips that we had. They

- 1 were great fun.
- 2 Q. On a different subject, of bed-wetting. You tell us
3 about that at page 9836 of your statement, paragraph 89.
4 Were you aware how that was managed by staff if a child
5 wet the bed?
- 6 A. It was fine. It was never an issue. They weren't made
7 to feel bad if any of them had had an accident during
8 the night. We just got the bed stripped and they got
9 a bath and what have you. But it was never made like
10 you'd done something bad in that sense. It was dealt
11 with very nicely, I think.
- 12 Q. I think you mention that there were some very young
13 children who had clearly come from an abusive situation
14 and were wetting the bed.
- 15 A. Yes. Two little ones, they were adorable, and we all
16 used to mother them when they came. They did wet the
17 beds quite a lot, so we would just all muck in, strip
18 the beds -- we didn't have to, but we would -- and help
19 them get their bath and things like that. So it was
20 never an issue or made to seem like it was a bad thing.
- 21 Q. At page 9836 you tell us that when you first arrived at
22 Quarryhill, you ran away.
- 23 A. Yes, I did.
- 24 Q. Why did you run away?
- 25 A. It was because, I think, we didn't know we were going to

1 be staying there initially, and then when I realised
2 we were going to be staying there, and I didn't know
3 really what was happening, I still in some sense wanted
4 to go back to Inverness because, obviously, we were
5 quite emotional, my sister and I, we didn't know
6 what was happening, and one night I decided -- I had
7 a fit of temper and rage and I was determined that I was
8 actually going to leave. So I did not behave very well
9 at all.

10 I was screaming, shouting, locked myself in the
11 toilet, and determined that I was going, and waited
12 until Auntie Ethel was busy and made a run for it.

13 In the children's home there was a front staircase
14 up to the bedrooms, but there was also a back staircase.
15 I made a run for it down the back staircase,
16 determined -- I don't know how on earth I thought I was
17 going to get back to Inverness, but at that age you
18 don't think about these things in a rational manner.

19 Q. What happened when you ran away or tried to run away?

20 A. Auntie Ethel managed to stop me and brought me back in.

21 I was screaming, shouting, quite abusive to her. In the
22 end, she had to restrain me and I did get a smack, just
23 to bring me to my senses because I was hysterical. It
24 did stop me in my tracks. I was crying -- I was in my
25 bedroom and then eventually I did apologise for my

1 behaviour, because I realised, obviously, it was wrong
2 and I was mortified. Even to this day it still makes me
3 feel uncomfortable because it was, for me, looking back
4 on it now, it was an appalling way to behave, but at the
5 time I didn't obviously really know what was happening.

6 Q. I think in fact we see that Ethel Smith has made a note
7 of this occasion in your children's records. If we
8 could look at a document on the screen.

9 ABE.001.008.7334.

10 If I explain what this is. It appears to be
11 a handwritten note from E Smith to the principal from
12 30 Quarryhill. It seems to be dated 21 January 1972,
13 which we know can't be correct, because you didn't
14 arrive at Quarryhill until the beginning
15 of [REDACTED] 1972. So it may well be this is
16 21 [REDACTED] 1972 or perhaps 21 January 1973 if someone's
17 forgotten to put the new date in.

18 LADY SMITH: It's not uncommon for people to keep using the
19 old year for some period into the New Year, so January
20 would make sense.

21 MS RATTRAY: Certainly from what you're telling us the
22 occasions when you were trying to run away were
23 happening quite soon after you first arrived.

24 A. It was very soon after we had arrived, so I would tend
25 to say it was possibly the January, if that. Probably

1 sooner. I think it was probably the [REDACTED]. It
2 wasn't long.

3 Q. What this note says, I'll simply read it out:

4 "On Sunday afternoon [Angela] disobeyed me, so
5 I sent her upstairs to her bed. She went to bed and
6 then went into the toilet and locked the door. I asked
7 her repeatedly to open the door, but she always said no.
8 I left her and she sang and banged on the wall. She
9 came out at one point and opened the upstairs door and
10 sang loudly.

11 "At teatime I went up to ask her she wanted to come
12 downstairs for tea or stay in the toilet. She said she
13 would come down for tea. After she had finished her
14 tea, I said you can go back to bed, which she did do for
15 a while, and then locked herself in the toilet again,
16 but this time I ignored that she was in the toilet.
17 While I was in the bathroom bathing another child,
18 I glimpsed her passing the door with her clothes on and
19 had much effort to take off her clothes. She said she
20 wasn't going to stay in this house and wanted to be
21 fostered. I took away her clothes. She said she had
22 other clothes to put on and when she went to school
23 tomorrow, she would go away and not come back.

24 "When I came out of the bedroom she screamed and I
25 went in and I had to slap her. She cried for a while.

1 She then called me that she wanted to speak to me. She
2 asked if I could forgive her and that she was very, very
3 sorry."

4 And it is signed "E Smith".

5 A. Yes.

6 Q. Does that accord with your memories of what happened?

7 A. Yes, it does. That's exactly what happened.

8 Q. Just to be clear: the circumstances in which you were
9 slapped, your experience of it was that Auntie Ethel was
10 trying to control your behaviour?

11 A. Yes, because I was so hysterical. It's like when
12 somebody gives you a slap to shock you into stopping.
13 That's basically all it was. She never hit me in any
14 other time or any other situation. It was just to
15 knock -- just to give me a bit of a shock, I think, to
16 get me to just stop because I was hysterical at the
17 time.

18 Q. We can also take from the existence of this record,
19 being a memo from E Smith to the principal, that this
20 wasn't an incident that she was trying to hide in any
21 way. In fact she was making someone more senior aware
22 of what had happened.

23 A. Yes, absolutely, because she was absolutely a wonderful
24 lady. She taught me so many things and that was in no
25 way, shape or form being abusive or was she hiding

1 anything from me. It was just at that point, I think,
2 to get me to stop being so hysterical.

3 Q. So if you didn't do as you were told in general terms,
4 what would happen?

5 A. Normally, you would get -- I think it was you would be
6 asked about three times to do something. If you were
7 being stubborn and you weren't going to do it, then you
8 would just be asked to go to your room to think about it
9 and calm down. But there was never any other -- there
10 was no form of punishment in that sense. You were
11 usually just asked to go to your room and then, more
12 often than not, you would come down anyway and say, "I'm
13 sorry". You were just asked, I think, about what you
14 were doing.

15 Q. With the exception of the incident that we've just
16 spoken about, do you recall any other occasion when you
17 were smacked at Quarryhill?

18 A. No, never.

19 Q. Angela, at page 9837 you tell us that whilst you were at
20 Quarryhill, your previous foster parents --

21 LADY SMITH: This is back to your statement. There it is
22 now.

23 MS RATTRAY: Your previous foster parents had died within
24 a year of each other: the father died first and then you
25 were told that your previous foster mother was in

1 hospital and you decided that you wanted to pay her
2 a visit.

3 A. Yes. We didn't know that my foster father was ill,
4 other than the news when it was broken to us that he had
5 died. Then a few months later, we were told that my
6 mother -- because while we were in care with them, a few
7 years before, she had a stroke. So my sister and
8 I mainly did, along with my father, foster father, did
9 her care when she came out of hospital, and helped her
10 to learn to feed herself again and begin to be able to
11 live at home.

12 So after a few months after my father had died, we
13 were told -- but Uncle Bob came round to tell us that my
14 mother was now in hospital again and did we want to go
15 see her. So my sister and I took the decision that
16 we would go up.

17 I think I went up twice. I went up on my own and my
18 sister came with me at another time to go see her. It
19 was, I think, the last time I saw her because I went
20 with my sister first and then the second time I went
21 myself to see her.

22 I didn't think she would recognise us, but she did
23 recognise me, and at that point, looking back, I don't
24 know if she did it because she was such a firm believer
25 in her Catholicism and she wouldn't go to heaven if she

1 didn't apologise.

2 She did tell me that I wasn't the bad, wicked child
3 that I was brought up to believe I was and that she was
4 sorry and then, basically, after that, I went back home
5 to Keith again and then, within a few months, Uncle Bob
6 had come to tell us that she had passed away.

7 My sister and I both, for all the abuse we had had
8 during our childhoods, we still had a loyalty because
9 they were the only parents that we ever knew, even
10 though they were bad parents, and we had a horrible
11 life, we still had this sense of loyalty to them as
12 parents. So we were both still sad when they died.

13 Q. This act of your former foster mother in apologising to
14 you, how important was that to you?

15 A. I think it was quite important in the sense of --
16 I mean, it's taken me many, many years to come to terms
17 with what's happened. In a sense, it made me realise
18 that I wasn't perhaps the horrible child that I thought
19 I was, because I had no confidence in myself, nothing.
20 I didn't believe I was worth anything. She was, in my
21 opinion, punishing me for what her husband was doing as
22 a child, which was horrific.

23 My sister, on the other hand, never had -- she
24 wasn't there when I told her about the apology, but she
25 wasn't there and she still, even to this day, is very

1 angry. She has never got over it and she is an
2 alcoholic as a result of it -- a functioning alcoholic,
3 I may add, now. But she's still angry.

4 For me, perhaps it gave me the strength in some way
5 to be able to eventually come to terms with it and to be
6 able to become what I hope is a better person.

7 Q. You tell us that whilst you were at Quarryhill, you
8 received visits from your social worker. Were you able
9 to speak with your social worker on your own?

10 A. No. Never. We had a few different social workers, if
11 I remember, over the years. The one that's stuck in my
12 mind most was a social worker called Miss Richmond. She
13 had been on a few occasions and one particular occasion
14 she did ask to speak to my sister and I on our own, but
15 my foster mother absolutely refused. She said, no, if
16 you've got anything to say to these children, you say it
17 in front of me.

18 So in hindsight, or even at the time, I thought she
19 maybe wanted to ask us about our life. I didn't know --
20 I thought perhaps she had suspicions, but I may be
21 totally wrong. She maybe didn't, but my foster mother
22 was never going to allow me to talk.

23 Q. What about when you were at Quarryhill? Were you
24 allowed to speak to her on your own when you were at
25 Quarryhill?

1 A. If we wanted to. It was Miss Rogers who took us to
2 Quarryhill. She used to come and visit then, but my
3 sister and I never divulged anything that happened.
4 We were brought up never to speak of it, so we didn't.

5 It took, for me -- it was actually my second
6 marriage. My first marriage broke down and it was my
7 second marriage and a good few years into my second
8 marriage, just before my youngest daughter was born,
9 that I actually told my husband about it. It took
10 a long, long time because we never, ever told anybody.

11 Q. So although you obviously have a high regard for
12 Auntie Ethel and Uncle Bob --

13 A. Yes.

14 Q. -- you weren't able to open up to them about what had
15 happened to you?

16 A. No, I never discussed it. I believe my sister did in
17 years later, she told them, but I never spoke about it,
18 I just kept it buried for a long time.

19 Q. Moving on to leaving care, you tell us that you were
20 able to stay in the home until you were 18 years of
21 age --

22 A. Yes.

23 Q. -- if you were working and were able to pay towards your
24 costs --

25 A. Yes.

1 Q. -- and that's something you did?

2 A. Yes.

3 Q. And you tell us that in fact you got married before you
4 were 18.

5 A. Yes. Well, I was just -- two weeks after my 18th
6 birthday. I had been working, I left school at 15, and
7 worked in the local supermarket, and just paid my digs
8 from my wages that I got there. That's where I met my
9 first husband. We got engaged after a year and then,
10 just after my 18th birthday, we were both married. So
11 I got married from the children's home, from there, and
12 then moved into my first home with my husband.

13 Q. What preparations or advice or training or anything of
14 that nature did you receive to help you cope and manage
15 in adult life?

16 A. None -- apart from Auntie Ethel, she was marvellous.
17 They helped us with the wedding and what was coming up,
18 but as regards leaving the home or anything like that,
19 or training after, when you leave school, anything like
20 that, that was never an option. My sister, again, she
21 was the same. She worked when she left school and got
22 her own flat to rent. But there was no aftercare
23 in that sense, although we do still know Auntie Ethel
24 and Uncle Bob socially. From social workers, all that
25 kind of thing stopped, but we weren't given any guidance

1 in the sense of how to be an adult, I guess, in the real
2 world. You were just expected to make your own way in
3 the world and that's it.

4 That for me, in hindsight, is a lacking side of
5 being brought up in care like that. There was nothing
6 like that: you just made your own way in that sense.

7 Q. You say that, if I'm correct in my understanding from
8 your records, both the social work department and
9 Aberlour paid for the costs of your wedding.

10 A. They did. They helped towards that. Auntie Ethel also
11 got my wedding dress. They were marvellous. My
12 husband, my husband to be at the time, his family were
13 amazing. They took care of a lot of things, the showing
14 of the presents and things. The wedding was all done at
15 his parents' house. His mother was a wonderful lady.
16 And Auntie Ethel and Uncle Bob were totally supportive
17 and helpful when it came to our wedding and everything
18 like that. It was marvellous. I couldn't have asked
19 for anything better.

20 Q. At page 9838 of your statement, you tell us a little
21 about the impact your experiences of being a child in
22 care has had upon you in adult life. Can you tell us
23 about that?

24 A. To the extent that I don't think I ever ended up being
25 the person that perhaps I could have been because of the

1 lack of confidence and the belief for a long time that
2 I was never any good, never any good to be able to
3 achieve anything. The experience in the children's home
4 was different, obviously, but I think that is always
5 ingrained, and even sometimes to this day, I don't
6 have -- I'm sorry.

7 LADY SMITH: It's all right.

8 A. I wanted to be a nurse and I know I'm capable, or would
9 have been capable of so much more, but just never had it
10 there. And it's quite a sad fact. You know, mostly you
11 can get over it. My greatest thing in my life is what
12 I've done for my children: made sure that they've never,
13 ever experienced in their childhood, or now that they're
14 grown up, the way I ever felt, how I was made to feel.

15 It's the one thing that -- and it used to make me
16 angry because people used to say that children that were
17 abused would often go on to become abusers, and it makes
18 me truly angry to hear that because if someone is truly
19 abused, it's the last thing they would ever want any
20 other human being to go through. It's horrific.

21 In some senses I've managed to come out, I'm fine,
22 I have produced two wonderful children, a beautiful
23 grandchild, and I have had a happy life and they have
24 had a happy life. But it does make me sad that
25 sometimes that all of the children, especially when

1 we went to Keith, with the exception of the two youngest
2 twins that I spoke about, every other one of them bar my
3 sister and I committed suicide after they left. They
4 had had horrific, probably sometimes worse than maybe
5 what I experienced in their abusive lives, but they all
6 were either suffering from alcoholism or drugs and they
7 all committed suicide. That's quite a statistic, in my
8 opinion, because it's quite sad that that's happened.

9 My sister is still a living alcoholic because of it.
10 She does function, at times she didn't function, and
11 we've managed to come through everything together in the
12 best way we have, but never perhaps been the people that
13 we might have been. But you can't live on regrets, you
14 know. You have to make of life what it is and do the
15 best you can.

16 MS RATTRAY: Turning to the subject of records, you tell us
17 that you tried to recover some records. I think you say
18 that you were in contact with the local authority but
19 you were also, I think, in contact with Aberlour to
20 obtain your records from there; is that right?

21 A. Yes. Over a period of separate years, mainly when I'd
22 had my two children, when my youngest daughter was a few
23 years old, it was mainly to try and find information to
24 give them a family background because neither of them
25 had any other background, nor did my sister's children

1 have any background. I contacted Renfrew Council and
2 I actually spoke to the man, as it turned out, who had
3 been in charge of sending us to Inverness,
4 Eric McKenzie. He had sent a letter at one point with
5 my brother's and sister's names from what I could
6 remember.

7 I still remembered their names. So we got that
8 information, but other than that, there was nothing else
9 that they could give us, and my sister and I both --
10 I tried the Aberlour Trust twice to get hold of our
11 records to find out, basically, what had happened,
12 because we didn't know what had happened or the reasons
13 we'd ended up in care in the first place, other than our
14 own memories.

15 My sister also tried and there's quite a few years
16 between these three events. Both times, we were told
17 that our records had been destroyed in a fire, so we
18 could never get any access.

19 So we had to accept that, that that was --
20 we weren't ever going to find -- we didn't quite believe
21 it because we did think that somewhere along the line
22 there would still be some records of what had happened
23 to us and why we ended up in care. But we had no joy at
24 all and the only -- since coming along with this
25 process, I've managed to get my records after all these

1 years. Well, I'm now 60, but here I am now with
2 information on my family that I've been able to pass on
3 to my sister as well, that we never, ever -- we spent
4 years trying to get but gave up, thinking that we would
5 never get any information.

6 Q. Finally, Angela, on the last page of your statement,
7 9840, you speak about lessons to be learned. You say
8 that children need to have a voice and be listened to.
9 Can you explain to us the point you're making here?

10 A. Well, for me personally, I always think that in latter
11 years that child abuse, maybe naively, shouldn't be
12 happening. From my experience in foster care I know
13 child abuse does still happen, but it still shocks me
14 that children that are put into what's supposed to be
15 a safe place are still suffering, because whatever my
16 sister and I came from, we ended up in far worse.
17 Again, because we were so scared, we never opened our
18 mouths to speak about it.

19 Also, there was nothing after the care for us.
20 If we wanted to deal with things, we dealt with it
21 ourselves, and then in the future at one point,
22 I personally did go to seek psychiatric help but was
23 told by the counsellor or the psychiatrist that I had
24 dealt with it and really I didn't need care. But
25 because I was so unsure of myself at the time and had

1 gone through such a hard time, I had mostly dealt with
2 it myself. However, my sister didn't and I think so
3 many children after care, they don't know who to speak
4 to because once they've left care, especially in our
5 time, there is no aftercare for them, which is why it
6 makes it so hard for some children then, as young
7 adults, to be able to cope. The example being out of
8 all those friends that we had in the children's home,
9 the majority of them are dead, and all suicides.

10 Children need to be heard as young adults when they
11 leave care. I don't know what the situation now is,
12 it's probably different, but there was nowhere for us to
13 go, and they need to be heard. This is one of the main
14 reasons I'm doing this, because the lessons that I think
15 should be learned are that there are -- there is another
16 side and there's a whole area of children like me that
17 were children like me that have never had a voice to be
18 able to say, "This is what happened to me, it should
19 never have happened, and it should have been dealt it in
20 a much better way", and I would hope that if anything
21 from this inquiry comes, it's that this wouldn't happen
22 in our future generations in that sense.

23 MS RATTRAY: Angela, I have no further questions for you.

24 It just remains for me to thank you very much for
25 answering the questions I had.

1 I'm not aware whether there are any further
2 questions, my Lady.

3 LADY SMITH: Let me just check if there are any outstanding
4 applications for questions. No.

5 Angela, those are all the questions we have for you
6 today. I think it has already been indicated to you
7 that so far as your experiences in foster care are
8 concerned, that is of great value to us for when we get
9 to looking at foster care. Thank you very much for
10 engaging with the inquiry in the way you have, both by
11 providing your written statement and by coming today to
12 give oral evidence. It's of enormous assistance to me
13 and I'm now able to let you go with my thanks.

14 A. Thank you.

15 (The witness withdrew)

16 LADY SMITH: Ms Rattray?

17 MS RATTRAY: My Lady, we have read-ins arranged, but perhaps
18 it's a bit late --

19 LADY SMITH: You're not going to finish one in 10 minutes,
20 you're telling me?

21 MS RATTRAY: No, I'm not.

22 LADY SMITH: Let's start the lunch break now and we'll sit
23 again at 1.50. Thank you.

24 (12.50 pm)

25 (The lunch adjournment)

1 (1.50 pm)

2 LADY SMITH: Yes, Ms Rattray.

3 Witness statement of "MARIA" (read)

4 MS RATTRAY: My Lady, this is the first of two -- and
5 possibly three, depending on time -- read-ins. The
6 first is a statement of an applicant who wishes to
7 remain anonymous and has chosen the pseudonym Maria.
8 Her statement can be found at WIT.001.001.8769:

9 "My name is Maria. I was born in 1960. My contact
10 details are known to the inquiry."

11 From paragraphs 2 to 17, Maria speaks of her life
12 before care with her parents and six brothers and
13 sisters in Falkirk. Maria was abused in her family
14 setting before being taken into care at the age of 9 and
15 placed in Weedingshall Children's Home in Polmont.
16 Maria said that she was there for several months,
17 possibly a year, before being placed at Aberlour
18 Children's Home in Dunfermline.

19 The records the inquiry has seen state that Maria
20 was admitted to Bellyeoman Road Children's Home on
21 [REDACTED] 1971 with three of her siblings and was
22 discharged on [REDACTED] 1973.

23 Now moving to paragraph 18 at page 8772:

24 "There was a man and woman that ran Aberlour who
25 were called [REDACTED] BGO/BGP [REDACTED]. It was horrendous in

1 Aberlour. [REDACTED] BGO [REDACTED] was really, really bad. That man
2 was absolutely horrific. [REDACTED] BGO/BGP [REDACTED] were in
3 their forties. I was abused mentally, physically and
4 emotionally.

5 "There were other helpers there to do the linen and
6 stuff. I don't remember any wrong from the other
7 helpers or them having a lot to do with the kids.

8 "I went into Aberlour aged 10 going on to my 11th
9 birthday. I was there for a two-year period. I went to
10 Queen Anne High School. I started fresh at 11 years old
11 and had a uniform. At school everyone took me under
12 their wing. They knew I was a children's home child.

13 "I remember the bigger ones looking after me. That
14 school scared me because when I started school there was
15 a stabbing. Two boys had been fighting and one had
16 stabbed the other and killed him. I thought it was
17 a bit rough.

18 "There was a bedtime routine. Some things were
19 normal, some things weren't. There were a lot of bad
20 things in Aberlour.

21 "I think Aberlour was the only place I was in that
22 did trips and holidays. That was one good thing about
23 Aberlour. We got taken out to Eyemouth, Spittal,
24 Berwick-upon-Tweed. A minibus took you. The [REDACTED] BGO/BGP [REDACTED]
25 drove the minibus. We would all be handed boxes of

1 chocolates and stuff. That was a rare treat in
2 a children's home. We would stay weekends and more.
3 Nothing bad happened on holiday.

4 "While we were on holiday, we would all be in a big
5 house. I remember one time we were all playing in the
6 water and it was sunny. At night the BGO/BGP lined us
7 up to get our blisters with needles because we were all
8 sunburnt.

9 "I don't remember birthdays but I remember at
10 Christmas getting a Sooty & Sweep sponge. I remember
11 being happy at Christmas so we must have got nice
12 presents. I went to church every week on my own choice.
13 I went to get away from the abuse at the home. I quite
14 enjoyed it. I would sit singing.

15 "I ran away from Aberlour four or five times. I was
16 running away from the abuse by BGO. I would
17 never be away for long, I was only a kid. I would get
18 as far as the motorway and then the police would get me.

19 "I started my periods when I was in Aberlour.
20 I remember BGP doing the pep talk, telling me what
21 they were. I went to the dentist at Aberlour. He
22 pulled some of my teeth out to make some spaces.

23 "When me and my brothers and sisters went into
24 Aberlour, all the other children were already
25 established. There was a big table. You'd sit there

1 and you'd be given these meals. If you didn't eat your
2 meal, it was then presented at every meal until you ate
3 it. I don't like cod roe. I still don't like cod roe
4 to this day. I would sit there and starve.

5 "I was the oldest sibling taken in there. My
6 sister, she was younger, she'd be a couple of seats up
7 from me. I remember [REDACTED] BGO/BGP saying, 'Eat
8 your peas and carrots'. My sister was crying. She
9 couldn't eat the peas and carrots. [REDACTED] BGO got the
10 peas and carrots and was putting them in my sister's
11 mouth, shovelling them in. There was tears and snot and
12 everything from my sister. I could see the peas and
13 carrots coming down my sister's nose. I stood up and
14 had a go at [REDACTED] BGO. I thought, I'm not having that,
15 they can do what they want with me, starve me and put my
16 dinner in front of me every day, but they are not going
17 to do that to my young kid sister.

18 "[REDACTED] BGO took me upstairs, put me over his knee
19 and pulled my pants down. [REDACTED] BGO pulled my bum
20 right up and was slapping my private bits with
21 a slipper. That was the first of the sexual abuse.
22 I remember thinking, why is he doing that, why is he
23 going there, haven't I had enough of that? I have come
24 away from that. I remember thinking, the pain, the
25 pain.

1 "I was abused by [REDACTED] BGP . I was abused sexually,
2 physically and emotionally. He found me an easy target.
3 The abuse at Aberlour happened when I was 11. I was
4 continually abused. I remember kicking out and trying
5 to fight back. I remember trying to scratch [REDACTED] BGP .

6 "Some things happened to my sister at Aberlour.
7 I think the same things. I think it happened to other
8 kids too. The girls spoke about it. [REDACTED] BGP
9 threatened me not to tell anyone or something would
10 happen to my brothers and sister or to me. They were
11 all different threats.

12 "Each child would go up on their own to their own
13 bath. [REDACTED] BGP would walk into the bathroom when you
14 were having your bath. He'd touch my breasts and say,
15 'Oh, you look like you'll be needing a bra soon, it
16 looks like you're going through puberty'. He was a
17 gross, dirty old man. The way he spoke just makes me
18 shiver.

19 "The weekends were bad. You either got abused or
20 you went out. I went to church every week. I joined
21 the Brownies and then the Guides to get away some
22 nights.

23 "One day we were all standing in a line waiting for
24 school and [REDACTED] BGP comes out like Hitler. He was
25 a total control freak. He would examine each child to

1 see if the child was okay to go to school. BGO
2 came up to see and said, 'You haven't brushed your
3 teeth'. I told him that I had, but he said, 'You
4 haven't brushed your teeth, get back up there and brush
5 your teeth'. All the kids went off to school. BGO

6 BGO came up to the bathroom I was brushing my teeth.
7 He said, 'You're not doing your teeth properly'.

8 BGO got the brush and he was nearly choking me.
9 He had my mouth open and was ramming this brush into my
10 mouth. BGO got a pleasure out of doing things
11 like that to you.

12 " BGP sat back and she knew everything that
13 was going on. She was downstairs listening. You could
14 hear the abuse happening. BGP had long, black hair.
15 She would make you brush her hair most nights until your
16 arm ached. You would go into watch telly and you would
17 have to brush this hair. It was only me that she made
18 do that. BGP was like Cruella in the film
19 101 Dalmatians. She was evil. BGP would bark orders
20 at BGO and he would jump.

21 "It was always BGO who battered you. BGP would
22 come up and do a couple of things to me. She would slap
23 me on the bed. BGP would be laying into me on the
24 bed. I would kick back, punch, retaliate. At that age,
25 I thought, I'm not having this, getting beaten and

1 battered for protecting my sisters and brothers.

2 "The children at Aberlour were told not to go the
3 park. One some time we went all to the park. We all
4 came back. [REDACTED] BGO/BGP lined us up and said, 'Have
5 you been in the park?' Everybody including my sister
6 nodded. I shook my head. I was taken upstairs and
7 battered again. I was put to bed for lying.

8 "Later my sister came up and said, 'We all had
9 Easter eggs'. [REDACTED] BGO/BGP had waited until I was put
10 to bed and then provided an Easter egg to all the other
11 children. Chocolate and sweets were a rarity back then,
12 a real treat. My sister said, 'It's all right,
13 I sneaked you some in my pyjamas'. She had saved half
14 her egg for me as she knew I would be heartbroken.

15 "The [REDACTED] BGO/BGP hated me. My sister told me we saved
16 stamps and one time we stole some from the shop. My
17 sister says, 'You got hammered, you got absolutely
18 hammered'. I don't remember it.

19 "[REDACTED] BGP wrote down each day what happened
20 with a child. It's written in my records from Aberlour,
21 'Maria was bad today and out of control so had a short,
22 sharp slap'. You can times that by 10 and put sexual
23 abuse in between it. That was what they failed to
24 write.

25 "I was petrified at Aberlour. I used to run out and

1 hide behind the trees and in the garden at the back.

2 "There was abuse from other children in Aberlour.
3 There was an older boy. As a young child I looked on
4 him as a great big man. He would be one of the older
5 children in the home, maybe 14 or 15 years old. I was
6 about 11 and I wasn't long in the home. He took me into
7 the toilet and pulled out his thing. He would get me
8 behind the tree out the front. He took me many times
9 behind that tree and tried kiss-chase. He would try and
10 put his tongue in my mouth. I experienced things with
11 him that were vulgar, absolutely vulgar.

12 "This older boy and his younger brother were the two
13 children in Aberlour that [BGP] had raised from when
14 they were young kids. They were [BGP] favourites.
15 There was obvious favouritism. The younger brother
16 didn't like cream. He didn't have to eat his cream at
17 mealtimes. I said, 'Why doesn't he have to eat his
18 cream when I've got to sit and eat this cod roe?' He
19 was like [BGP] son. He went with them when the
20 [BGO/BGP] left Aberlour.

21 "There was loads of incidents. When we all moved to
22 Aberlour, there was this girl in our dormitory of four.
23 My sister was screaming. When I went up, this girl was
24 hitting my sister with a coat hanger. When I look back
25 now, this girl was just making her mark. I opened

1 a coat hanger, put it round this girl's neck and
2 strangled her. I pulled her through the hall. It's not
3 that I was being naughty; I was protecting my sibling
4 its.

5 "According to my records I was sent to see
6 psychologists when I was younger and in Aberlour.
7 I have a two-page psychologist's letter in my records
8 that says: 'Maria is a bright, normal healthy child'.
9 It says I didn't know anything about sex, I was not at
10 all sexually interested in anything. The people who did
11 these things to me actually sent me to a therapist.

12 "I remember a time where every day I was waking up
13 in Aberlour and crying and crying. My ear would be
14 stuck to the pillow. I'd go down to [BGP] and say, 'My
15 ear, my ear'. [BGP] would say, 'Stop attention
16 seeking, off to school'. [BGP] must have seen the gunk
17 off the pillow. I was picking it off my face in the
18 morning. It went on for a long time. Eventually she
19 took me to the doctor's. The doctor said, 'This child
20 should have been brought in a long time ago'. Both my
21 eardrums were perforated. I was rushed straight into
22 hospital to get my adenoids and tonsils out. [REDACTED]

23 [REDACTED]
24 "After the first incident with the older boy,
25 I remember running to [BGP] and telling her what

1 happened. BGP wrote in my notes and I was
2 attention-seeking and I was sexually promiscuous. What
3 I said about him was ignored. You just learned in the
4 end to shut up Because and say nothing you weren't
5 believed: you were not believed by social workers, you
6 were not believed by the staff.

7 "I had a social worker, Mr William Crearer. He was
8 the most crap social worker. I don't remember
9 social work visits at Aberlour. I was trying to tell
10 Mr Crearer about the abuse. I was a little child, about
11 11 years old. I remember writing all these letters
12 which clearly state, 'I need to speak to you,
13 something's happening to me, come and see me, come and
14 see me'. I'm begging him to come and see me. I have
15 letters in my social work file so he received them,
16 they're stamped. There's loads and loads and letters.

17 "They put me down to being a difficult child and
18 because of that I was removed from Aberlour and split up
19 from my own family. It was at that point I told my
20 social worker, Mr Crearer, about the abuse in Aberlour.

21 BGO/BGP disappeared three weeks later.

22 "I remember Mr Crearer coming to take me out of the
23 home. I was about 11 or 12. The day I left, BGO
24 was shouting in my face, 'You're a sex maniac, you're
25 a nuisance, you keep running away, we can't watch over

1 you'. Mr Crearer was stood there. I couldn't say
2 anything. The person who was shouting all of this,
3 ██████████ BGO ██████████, was actually doing it to me. I sat there
4 sobbing. Looking back, ██████████ BGO ██████████ was shouting to cover
5 his own tracks.

6 " That was it. I never saw my brothers and sister
7 again until I was a adult. I kept in touch by letter
8 and phone. I was put back to Weedingshall just for
9 a few weeks until they found somewhere else. Then
10 Social Work sent me to a place in Glasgow; I think it
11 was called Cardross. That was when somehow my mam found
12 out I was nearby her. I ended up going to live with my
13 mam. She lived in Glasgow."

14 From paragraphs 47 to 101, Maria describes her
15 experiences at Cardross, being returned to her mother,
16 Weedingshall Children's Home, and St Euphrasia's School
17 in Bishopton. She describes leaving care when she was
18 nearly 16 and going to stay with her aunt.

19 Turning now to paragraph 102 on page 8791, where
20 Maria speaks about impact:

21 "I got my social work records two years ago. That's
22 what kicked everything off. I'm reading through the
23 files and it's brought back horrible memories.
24 Everything I've got in my social work records is about
25 me being naughty, me being this, me being that. I was

1 just defending my family.

2 "I have read in my records from Aberlour all these
3 things like: Maria is a misfit, Maria is the ugly duck
4 ling of the family, Maria is sexually active, Maria is
5 promiscuous, Maria is attention-seeking. The list goes
6 on and on and on. The things I have read are awful.
7 When you've been abused you certainly are not going to
8 be sexually active at 9 years of age. I was 17 before
9 I even thought about that.

10 " [REDACTED] BGO/BGP wrote these things. Most of
11 it was signed by [REDACTED] BGP . [REDACTED] BGP wrote that when I was
12 11 years old, I had started to masturbate. I can't
13 remember doing that, but even if I did, how the hell
14 does she know? It freaks me out to this day that [REDACTED] BGP
15 made me brush her hair. I don't know why she did that.

16 "When I read the psychologist's letter in my
17 records, I was so relieved. I thought, 'Someone
18 believes me'. It was just nice to have something in
19 writing to say I'm normally, healthy, not sexually
20 active, not the slightest bit interested in sex. I have
21 kept that report in a special place.

22 "Why didn't social workers read these reports? You
23 can clearly see a kid who's really in distress, a kid
24 that's been sexually abused. Why didn't social workers
25 listen to me? The [REDACTED] BGO/BGP wrote the most degrading

1 things. Why did nobody pick up on it? When I was
2 running away from Aberlour, why did nobody sit me down
3 and ask why. When I was running away, I was just trying
4 to get away from [REDACTED] BGO [REDACTED] in Aberlour.

5 "Social Services were supposed to care for me and
6 protect me and not put me into the hands of abusers.
7 I'm so angry. It is important to know to me that I was
8 not the only one who was abused at Aberlour. I was
9 a child abused before I went into care, [REDACTED]
10 [REDACTED] abused in Aberlour. The Social Work
11 Department put me down to being a difficult child, when
12 all along I wasn't difficult or naughty. What no one
13 said was: you came in here as an abused kid, you were
14 a difficult kid, you needed specialist treatment.

15 "Social Work should have looked at me as a case who
16 needed help, not a case that needed taken away from my
17 siblings. Social Work looked on me as an out of control
18 child from a dysfunctional family.

19 "I was very late in stopping bed-wetting. [REDACTED]
20 [REDACTED]

21 "My sister says I can't why see they never brought
22 you back to us because [REDACTED] BGO/BGP [REDACTED] chose to
23 leave. I wonder if questions were being asked by the
24 police or somebody and [REDACTED] BGO/BGP [REDACTED] did a moonlight flit.
25 When [REDACTED] BGO/BGP [REDACTED], new people came in and my sister

1 still talks to those people.

2 "When I lie down to go to sleep, the bedroom door is
3 always open and the hall light is always on. Before I
4 go to sleep I have to look into the hall three times to
5 make sure that no one is there. I have to look at the
6 door handle three times to make sure it doesn't turn.
7 It's a form of obsessive compulsive disorder, OCD."

8 Moving now to paragraph 114 on page 8793:

9 "You get insecure when you get shifted about from
10 place to place and you don't know where your family is.
11 It's your background that affects people who have been
12 in care. No one ever tells they love you or cuddles
13 you. You can't trust anyone and you don't let anyone
14 near. You're in your own bubble and there's a wall. If
15 anyone tries to get by the wall, woe betide them.

16 "I wanted to work hard and bring my kids up. That's
17 all I was interested in, not the men. Relationships are
18 disasters. The disaster of being in care is that you
19 meet someone who shows some interest and you marry them.
20 When I got married at 17, I don't know whether I was
21 looking for a father figure or looking for someone just
22 to care for me. Needless to say, it was a disaster.
23 When I started to grow up, I looked at him and thought,
24 'You've just jumped straight into another predator'.
25 I thought, 'Why did I do this?' I said to him the age

1 difference was too big and we got divorced.

2 "When you've been abused at a child, you never have
3 a proper life. Things like marriages failing you can
4 cope with. I wanted to be the best mum that anybody
5 could be. I brought up four beautiful kids. They are
6 all good kids, they all work, they are all respectful,
7 good adults. I have seven beautiful grandkids. My kids
8 are all educationally good. They are all headstrong,
9 they've all got opinions.

10 "You'll never be a normal person. You're scarred
11 and you're damaged for life. You can say your
12 experience turns you into a better person in other ways.
13 You are a more protective mother, you are stronger, you
14 work harder. It works two ways. What happened to me in
15 the past hasn't stopped me turning my life around and
16 proving the system wrong. I have created a good life
17 and a lovely family.

18 "Between the ages of 19 and 22, I nearly killed
19 myself with drink. I don't drink now."

20 Moving to page 8794, paragraph 121:

21 "I can't hear too well because of the lack of
22 medical care at Aberlour, [REDACTED]
23 [REDACTED]. That's affected me big time."

24 Now to paragraph 123:

25 "After I left Aberlour, I kept in touch with my

1 brothers and sisters by phone and writing letters.
2 I didn't see them. Being in care has affected my
3 relationship with them because we were separated."

4 Now to paragraph 128 at page 8796:

5 "I'm very close to my sister. We've got a strong
6 bond. I can't talk to her about what went on at
7 Aberlour because I have a police case going on just now.
8 She is in the process of coming forward to talk about
9 it. My sister wants to see how my case goes before she
10 decides what she is going to do. She can remember a lot
11 more than me and she is a year younger. She remembers
12 a lot being done to me so maybe I have blocked stuff
13 out."

14 Now to paragraph 131:

15 "When I read my records from Aberlour, I went into
16 my counselling session feeling really upset, thinking
17 I'm the ugly duckling, my brothers and sisters are
18 really pretty. How can they write that about kids? My
19 counsellor has told me that that's what the perpetrators
20 do, they're covering their tracks. They make out this
21 kid is bad, she's ugly, she's a misfit, she is a
22 problem, she has misbehaved. The perpetrators do this
23 so that if you ever report that they've abused you,
24 they'll say, there's Maria's record, what a horrible kid
25 she was, she exaggerates. I came out of the session

1 feeling much better.

2 "About two years ago, I walked into a police station
3 and reported the abuse at Aberlour. The police referred
4 it to the police in Dunfermline."

5 Now to paragraph 133 on page 8798:

6 "I gave the police the names of BGO/BGP
7 BGO/BGP who ran Aberlour. At first I gave them
8 the wrong name. The police came back to me and said
9 they had found out who the couple were who ran Aberlour.
10 The police the couple's name was BGO/BGP The police say
11 they can't find where BGO/BGP are now. I
12 can't understand why the police can't find them. Even
13 if they have changed their names, they should be
14 findable.

15 "I don't believe the Scottish police one bit.
16 There's a lot of answers needed from Aberlour which
17 no one will ever get because the police can't find them.
18 I want to see BGO/BGP in court."

19 Now to paragraph 137 on page 8799 where Maria talks
20 about records:

21 "About two and a half years ago I found out that
22 every child could ask for their records by law. I rang
23 up Falkirk District Council first. The woman I spoke to
24 thought my records were archived. The woman phoned me
25 back to say that the council had the records but it

1 would take a few weeks to copy them and post them out
2 recorded delivery. I now have those records. Some of
3 my records are from Glasgow, some are from Grangemouth
4 and some are from Stirling.

5 "There's always going to be paedophiles and
6 predators. There's always going to be ways they'll get
7 through the loopholes. Anybody who works in
8 a children's home should be vetted. Social workers need
9 vetting and checking. Social workers need updating and
10 training. There has to be much more regular contact
11 between the child in care and their social worker.

12 "There should be more interaction from school. Kids
13 might talk to their teachers. More attention has to be
14 paid to troubled children and young offenders who might
15 be behaving the way they are because they are being
16 abused.

17 "Children in care should get one social worker who
18 really is good. The social worker should take the child
19 from the beginning. The top priority has to be trust.
20 The social worker should get child's trust, visit
21 regularly, and ask the child what they need or want. If
22 I'd had someone like that, I would have told them
23 straightaway what was happening. You need a lot of time
24 for that kind of relationship. The social worker has to
25 listen to the child and believe the child.

1 "The failings back then were absolutely terrible.
2 I think back in those days, care was a paedophile
3 attraction. I think [REDACTED] BGO/BGP were covering up what
4 they were doing by taking the children out on trips and
5 holidays. They were making themselves look good.

6 "I want to see [REDACTED] BGO and [REDACTED] BGP in
7 court. I don't care how many times I have to stand in
8 court, I'm going to have the lot of them.

9 "I took part in the National Confidential Forum
10 about two years ago. I was asked to go up and take part
11 in a group and to go back and see the findings from what
12 everybody had contributed. They put on a video. My
13 quotes were on there. I knew they were my words. They
14 hadn't asked my permission for that. There was loud
15 music and the whole room exploded into tears. It was
16 too much.

17 "The police told me to get in touch with Thompson's,
18 the solicitors. They have been quite helpful. I am
19 hoping their investigator can find [REDACTED] BGO/BGP

20 [REDACTED] BGO/BGP

21 "For me, this all started with me getting my
22 records, the paperwork, and making them into a book. My
23 son asked me, 'Can I read your book when it's all over?'
24 I said, 'nope, when it's all over, the only person
25 getting the book is the fire'.

1 "I have no objection to my witness statement being
2 published as part of my evidence to the inquiry.
3 I believe the facts stated in this witness statement are
4 true."

5 Maria signed her statement on 16 May 2018.

6 LADY SMITH: Thank you very much.

7 Did I pick up two names there that are covered by my
8 general restriction order? The names of **BGO/BGP**
9 **BGO/BG** insofar as they're related to allegations of
10 abuse.

11 MS RATTRAY: Yes, my Lady.

12 LADY SMITH: Thank you.

13 Witness statement of "PHOENIX" (read)

14 MS RATTRAY: The next read-in is a statement of a witness
15 who wishes to remain anonymous and has chosen the
16 pseudonym "Phoenix". His statement can be found at
17 WIT.001.002.2394.

18 This is a particularly lengthy statement, my Lady,
19 and therefore only relatively small sections of it will
20 be read in. But the statement, once properly redacted,
21 will be available in due course on the website in full.

22 LADY SMITH: Thank you.

23 MS RATTRAY: "My name is Phoenix. I was born in 1953. My
24 contact details are known to the inquiry."

25 At paragraphs 2 to 8, Phoenix describes his family

1 background. He was born in Dunfermline and was the
2 child of a white mother and a black serviceman from the
3 United States. He says his mother was pressurised by
4 her family into giving him up because they considered
5 that a black baby was too much of an embarrassment.
6 Phoenix says that he was regarded as a sore to be got
7 rid of. He was admitted to the care of
8 Edinburgh Corporation at the age of three months. He
9 was based initially at St Catherine's Home, Edinburgh,
10 before being admitted to Aberlour Orphanage at the age
11 of 15 months.

12 At paragraph 8 on page 2395, Phoenix says:

13 "Not only was a I child who had been abandoned at
14 the age of three months, my particular status was I was
15 a black anomaly. Trying to find placements for black
16 babies in the 1950s was enormously difficult. Part of
17 the corporation's difficulty was finding a residential
18 establishment that would accept a black child.

19 "Aberlour Orphanage, to its credit, accepted me,
20 knowing that they were receiving a black child. In the
21 initial record of Aberlour Orphanage, there is a sheet
22 of A4 paper with a little outline of your past and your
23 parents. Significantly, right at the top, and after my
24 name, are the words "coloured boy". It was highlighted
25 because it was an issue. That was why it was so

1 difficult and I had to wait 15 months.

2 "I went to Aberlour in 1955 when I was about
3 18 months old. My records from Aberlour and the care
4 authority, Edinburgh Corporation, indicate that the
5 corporation was in control of major decisions
6 in relation to what was going to happen to me.

7 "They decided to place me in Aberlour. Aberlour was
8 seen as a long-term residential placement. Children
9 were not expected to leave until they reached the age of
10 majority, which was 15 at that time. The expectation
11 was that I was going to be there until I reached the age
12 of 15, get myself into some sort of employment, and that
13 would be it.

14 "There's no doubt that Edinburgh Corporation were in
15 charge of me and not Aberlour. Edinburgh Corporation
16 were seen by Aberlour Orphanage as having full control.
17 Not only did they pay the fees to Aberlour, they also
18 determined what would happen to me. They called the
19 shots in terms of placing me there and removing me from
20 there. According to my records they removed me against
21 the advice of Aberlour Orphanage at the age of 11.

22 "The orphanage wasn't a huge building, but it
23 consisted of a number of large houses interconnected by
24 virtual tunnels. You could walk from one house to the
25 other. These big houses were built around a sort of

1 village green. It was a complex of about 50 to 60 acres
2 including the farmland.

3 "The houses were divided depending on age and
4 gender. The girls had their own separate, large houses.
5 The boys had their own separate individual large houses.
6 In the centre was the school. Within this, boys and
7 girls graduated into various large houses depending on
8 age.

9 "The children in Spey House were all long-term
10 during my time there. If I'd stayed at Aberlour,
11 I probably would have moved to Gordon or Jupp House a
12 year or so later at the age of 12. There were houses
13 for older boys. I would have stayed there until the age
14 of 15. If you were seen to be academically gifted, you
15 could be entered into the grammar school. You would
16 then be allowed to stay in the orphanage until you were
17 17.

18 "Individual staff members at Aberlour Orphanage
19 weren't there for a short time, they were there for
20 life. Dean Wolfe was there for 30 years. People stayed
21 there for long periods of time. They got to know the
22 children. The children also stayed there for long
23 periods of time. Once you got there, you weren't
24 eligible for leaving. You never left until you reached
25 the age of majority unless the corporation chose to move

1 you. They chose not to in most instances.

2 "Dean Wolfe was the warden until 1958 when he was
3 succeeded by Reverend Leslie. The expectation had been
4 that [REDACTED] BCK [REDACTED] would succeed him.
5 A decision was made that Aberlour was going to close
6 before Dean Wolfe retired. He wouldn't go along with
7 such a proposal. The expectation amongst the staff was
8 that [REDACTED] BCK [REDACTED] would follow [REDACTED] but
9 [REDACTED] BCK [REDACTED] would not participate in the closure of the
10 orphanage. The governing board was not going to appoint
11 someone who would go against what they had already
12 privately decided. I know from talking to individuals
13 who were involved at the time that there was
14 considerable disappointment that [REDACTED] BCK [REDACTED] did not get
15 the job.

16 "[REDACTED] BCK [REDACTED] was the [REDACTED]. He was an
17 assistant [REDACTED]. When Dean Wolfe was touring
18 around raising funds, [REDACTED] BCK [REDACTED] sat in his office and
19 did the basic things the dean would do had he been
20 there. I would no dealings with [REDACTED] BCK [REDACTED]. He had
21 been a boy at Aberlour, mixing with the kids, playing
22 with them and going to school with them until he was
23 sent off elsewhere. He was well-known amongst his peers
24 in the orphanage as just being one of the boys. I was
25 too young to be one of his peers.

1 "I understand that Aberlour has given information to
2 the inquiry about their records. In those records,
3 there is a report from a female member of staff
4 complaining that [REDACTED] BCK [REDACTED] had used excessive force
5 when administering punishment. This complaint was
6 investigated and substantiated. The child had extensive
7 bruising. According to those records, [REDACTED] BCK [REDACTED]
8 received a severe reprimand. A decision was taken not
9 to dismiss him but to encourage him to pursue parochial
10 work and not childcare. The matter was not reported to
11 the police and [REDACTED] BCK [REDACTED] resigned in [REDACTED] 1959.
12 That information was not previously known to me and
13 I have been given a different take on his departure by
14 members of the board.

15 "Reverend Leslie was a completely different kettle
16 of fish to Dean Wolfe. Reverend Leslie was appointed
17 primarily to close the orphanage; there was no prospect
18 of any closure with Dean Wolfe. He was absolutely
19 wedded to the continuation of the orphanage and its
20 mission, which was the transformation of individual
21 lives for the better, as they saw it. That was based on
22 the mission statement compiled by the founder of
23 Aberlour Orphanage, Canon Charles Jupp, who lived
24 between 1875 and 1911. The mission statement was:
25 'Every child has the ability, and indeed the right, to

1 grow up and flourish in society, notwithstanding the
2 origins of their birth'.

3 "Dean Wolfe knew the children and was very involved
4 with them. There were hundreds of children and his
5 memory of them and contact with them was formidable.
6 This is on record. He was adored not only by the staff
7 but by the children. He knew all the children and the
8 children knew not only him but also his dogs. He always
9 had his dogs with him and sweets in his pocket. The
10 children used to run up to him like he was the Pied
11 Piper. He was a constant presence. He walked around
12 the houses.

13 "Reverend Leslie had no such interaction with the
14 children. He was completely devoid of social niceties.
15 He was a formidable, hard-backed reverend and he saw
16 himself in that light. Dean Wolfe was very
17 child-centred. His life revolved around the children of
18 Aberlour Orphanage and around continuing the orphanage.
19 Reverend Leslie's contact with the children was minimal.
20 His priorities were manifestly different to
21 Dean Wolfe's. Reverend Leslie's priority was that
22 he was there to do a job, the orphanage was too big,
23 there were too many children, it needed to close and
24 close it would. That was his mission and that was what
25 he did.

1 "The headteacher of the nursery was Miss Heap. She
2 is still alive. She was in total control along with the
3 nursery nurses. Miss Heap and her assistants were
4 totally dedicated. They saw the children as their own.
5 It was their lives' work. The nurses stayed there for
6 years. There wasn't a high turnover. It was an
7 enjoyable place with largely young staff. Miss Heap
8 wasn't much older than the nursery nurses themselves.
9 She had a team of individuals who enjoyed working with
10 each other and with the children.

11 "As an adult, Miss Heap told me how she was
12 recruited. She made the point that a lot of the nursery
13 nurses were very young and that some had basic training
14 and did go on training courses from time to time, but
15 learned mainly from example.

16 "There was no structured form of training that all
17 the nurses went through when they joined. Part of that
18 would be down to the funding of the orphanage. Staff
19 were being guided by those more senior in the way that
20 the senior member felt was appropriate for staff to
21 conduct themselves. Similarly, BCK could not
22 remember any written guidelines for staff working at the
23 orphanage. There were no systems for training or
24 written guidance or instructions for staff.

25 "I moved to one of the boys' houses, known as

1 Spey House, when I was 6 or 7. Auntie [REDACTED] AJF was in
2 charge there. That's what we called her. There was
3 a certain accepted way of addressing staff. It was not
4 a choice. If it was a male member of staff, he would be
5 uncle. That was it. There were no first names. The
6 staff would call us by our individual first names.
7 Auntie [REDACTED] AJF was a constant throughout my time at
8 Spey House.

9 "Auntie [REDACTED] AJF ruled Spey House and nobody could
10 tell her what to do in terms of what happened in her
11 house. There would be discussions with other staff and
12 Dean Wolfe would be a regular visitor, but other staff
13 members wouldn't come in and tell her how to run her
14 house. Essentially, the houses were autonomous. Any
15 consistency between the houses was through discussion
16 between the staff members.

17 "Auntie [REDACTED] AJF was our main carer. She was the
18 person we all related to. In the morning when we got up
19 to do our teeth, Auntie [REDACTED] AJF would be there. When we
20 went to bed at night, Auntie [REDACTED] AJF would be there. She
21 was an absolute constant in our lives. It seemed as if
22 she was never away. She had periodic assistance from
23 individuals, one of whom was a house father who was
24 there for a while. I don't remember his name because he
25 didn't register with me. He obviously wasn't a major

1 influence on my life; Auntie **AJF** was. She also had
2 other assistants who came in now and again to help out
3 with dinners or whatever. I can't remember any of their
4 names.

5 "The interviewing of staff could be quite short.
6 A lot of individuals who came in as house parents were
7 ex-servicemen. Aberlour took from that background some
8 feeling that it had an upright citizen coming in,
9 wanting to do his best for the children. Bear in mind
10 the leaving age at the orphanage pre-war was 14 and
11 post-Second World War was 15. Those children, once they
12 reached the age of majority, had to be reasonably alert,
13 compos mentis, and able to read and write. They had to
14 have certain skills in order to be employable.

15 "Part of the mission of Aberlour wasn't just to care
16 for the children during their time at the orphanage, it
17 was actually to set them up in work immediately after
18 they'd left. They set up halfway houses in between the
19 orphanage and independent living. Sometimes they were
20 a distance away in London or in Liverpool.

21 "In order to try and equip these individuals with
22 skills at the point of majority, you needed to import
23 into the staffing structure individuals who carried such
24 skills. **BBR** had great skill and knowledge in
25 car mechanics. The boys loved all of his stuff.

1 [REDACTED] BGX was one of the housemasters. He had
2 restarted the Scouts. One boy kept in continued contact
3 with him after he left Aberlour -- not only because of
4 the Scouts but because he was fun to be with, personable
5 and a wise character. He also travelled extensively.

6 "Childcare was not part of the interviewing of
7 staff. I would say that the overall need in terms of
8 the male staff would be the skill set that they had.
9 Childcare was not too much of a priority. The wardens
10 would rely on the female side to provide that. The male
11 would be for discipline, skills and keeping order.
12 I think it would be primarily down to the females to
13 provide the nurturing, caring side.

14 "I have a horrible feeling that [REDACTED] BBR was on
15 his own in his house. Not every house had a house
16 auntie or house mother. The cardinal was the head of
17 Gordon House and it may well be that he was the only
18 house parent at his time.

19 "Dean Wolfe decided that he wanted to have a nursery
20 building solely for nursery children. It was basically
21 unfair to have infants and babies in a building with
22 much older children. He managed to get the money from
23 donations to get it built. Initially, I was in
24 Princess Margaret's Nursery School. It still stands.
25 It is currently The Dowans Hotel. That was where

1 I lived as a nursery schoolchild.

2 "If you look at photographs of the children in the
3 nursery, they appear to be, as I was, happy and content.
4 They were definitely well cared for. Aberlour received
5 fees from individual children from placing authorities
6 but they were minimal. The fees were not enough to keep
7 the organisation flowing. It was totally dependent on
8 filling the gap between the fee element and what it cost
9 to run the establishment.

10 "A huge amount of time was spent on keeping
11 a positive public face because that in turn generated
12 the additional income needed to keep the organisation
13 going on a day-to-day basis.

14 "I can understand the view that an organisation
15 totally reliant on donations might produce lovely images
16 when there is grime and dust behind the scenes. My
17 experience is that the pictures of the nursery school
18 were how it was. I was very happy in the nursery
19 school.

20 "The resources Miss Heap and her nursery nurses
21 managed to find through Dean Wolfe were used to create
22 the surroundings for children, which made it quite
23 a joyous place to live. For example, Miss Heap talks
24 about the furniture, which was specially made for the
25 children, and the wall paintings which were painted by

1 hand and were scenes from adventure stories.

2 "Huge amounts of effort and dedication went into the
3 nursery, so much so that when The Dowans Hotel was
4 renovated recently, they discovered some of the original
5 paintwork on the undersurface of the walls. I was given
6 a couple of copies of the paintwork. It is
7 indescribably beautiful in terms of the care and the
8 dedication that was taken. This is an indication to me,
9 in addition to my own personal experience, of the level
10 of care provided to us.

11 "We came from all walks of life. Usually we were in
12 a very distressed state when we arrived at the nursery
13 in terms of our previous life experience. Miss Heap
14 cared for us individually. She was very interactive.
15 One boy was in a very poor physical state. He had been
16 badly injured, deliberately, by his parents as a baby.
17 Miss Heap and her team reared him and cared for him in a
18 way which could get him physically better. He was there
19 at the same time as me.

20 "The upper age of the nursery children varied. Some
21 children were not physically or mentally able to go into
22 the school system until later. I was there until
23 between 6 and 7 and then I moved on to Spey House.
24 There were others there of a similar age.

25 "At Spey House our day started very early. We'd be

1 up getting washed, getting breakfast and doing chores.
2 We didn't see much of what was being done to anybody
3 still in the bedroom in terms of people getting cleaned
4 up by staff after wetting the bed. I can't recall
5 anything specific being done to children who wet the
6 bed.

7 "Dr Caldwell, who I spoke to as an adult, spoke of
8 staff not handling the issue of bed-wetting well. At
9 that time bed-wetting was dealt with by putting a child
10 who wet the bed in a cold bath but I never witnessed
11 that. I never heard of any child being humiliated with
12 wet sheets for wetting the bed.

13 "The meals were cooked in a central kitchen. The
14 meals came on trolleys through the tunnels which
15 connected the houses. We took the food out, along with
16 the carers, and set the tables. Part of the nurturing
17 was table manners. Auntie AJF ate with us. She had
18 the same food that we did. We had a time limit for
19 eating because the trolley had to go back with the empty
20 plates.

21 "I enjoyed the food and I ate what was put in front
22 of me. If boys didn't like the food in Spey House, it
23 was very simple. We were given a meal and it was
24 expected that we would we eat it. If we didn't want to
25 eat it, it was left but there was no alternative dish to

1 replace it. If Auntie [REDACTED] AJF [REDACTED] was there, she would be
2 concerned and try and encourage us if we didn't eat.
3 She says we never went to bed without being fed.
4 I suspect she tried to create something from what
5 ingredients were on the trolley. I don't think there
6 was a kitchen in Spey House.

7 "Not only would Auntie [REDACTED] AJF [REDACTED] encourage us to eat,
8 she would also try and find out what may be the problem,
9 bad teeth or whatever. Because of the diet we had,
10 having dodgy teeth was not unusual. Auntie [REDACTED] AJF [REDACTED] would
11 get medical attention if she was concerned. She was
12 acute enough to know the difference between not eating
13 because we didn't want to eat and not eating because
14 we weren't well. She would get us checked out.

15 "There was no expectation that the dish would be
16 left for a child to eat at the next meal. I have seen
17 no evidence for that. It would be out of the ordinary
18 for that to happen. It would jar as something not quite
19 right. I have not heard any stories of that happening
20 in other houses. Some children did talk about feeling
21 hungry. I never felt that because I have always had
22 a small appetite.

23 "There was no restriction on bathing in Aberlour,
24 although we were told when to go. We didn't bath
25 individually. There was a big bath and two or three

1 people would be in the bath at the one time.

2 "The school was the Aberlour Orphanage school, but
3 essentially it was accountable to the education
4 authority. Aberlour Orphanage was overseen by
5 Dean Wolfe who was a regular visitor to the school. The
6 headmaster of the school was Tommy Robinson. He was
7 also the farmer.

8 "Most children were schooled within Aberlour, but
9 there were exceptions. We were taught to read and write
10 and were given a viable education but that was
11 essentially the expectation. The gifted ones were not
12 catered for. That was recognised by the orphanage and
13 they had to go elsewhere. The gifted children went to
14 the grammar school in the community. The education
15 system was simple at Aberlour. If you stood out
16 academically, you were basically streamed and given
17 extra attention by the teachers.

18 "I have always enjoyed school and have always
19 enjoyed learning. I was just so pleased to be at
20 school. I had a good relationship with the teachers.

21 "I never saw a visiting children's officer.
22 I cannot recollect any visiting officer apart from when
23 I left and Miss Talbot came to collect me. She was the
24 Edinburgh Corporation's children's officer with
25 responsibility for children placed by Edinburgh in

1 Aberlour. She occupied that position throughout my
2 time. No other name of a children's officer is listed
3 on my records. Every visit, not just a statutory visit,
4 is recorded in records at Aberlour. In my case that's
5 blank. There's nothing in my social work records about
6 Aberlour, apart from entrance and exit, because they
7 were never there.

8 "It was a regular occurrence that we would get
9 visitors, sometimes multiple visitors, who were being
10 shown around Aberlour Orphanage. It was all connected
11 to the public profile and the donor circle being
12 increased. The visitors left money so it was also to do
13 with collecting money on the spot because the visitors
14 left money.

15 "The visits were part of Dean Wolfe's style. He was
16 a great talker and a great communicator. He was very
17 personable and the tour parties enjoyed his tour. He
18 was very funny and they liked that. In addition to the
19 tour parties, there were other organised visits. Part
20 of the donor circle and the communication with external
21 organisations was trying to get organisations that could
22 somehow be seen as being particularly supportive of
23 Aberlour Orphanage. For example, the Timex factory of
24 Dundee forged a link and sent some of their workers up
25 to the orphanage to do things with the children.

1 "Aberlour Orphanage was a beautifully structured and
2 manicured physical structure. The gardens were always
3 immaculate. The village green was therefore a lovely
4 place to visit. The tour parties either started there
5 or ended there, if they weren't taking us out somewhere,
6 like the pictures or whatever. The children from
7 various houses would most definitely be involved in
8 those visits in some way or another.

9 "Most of us had pen pals that we used to cite to and
10 they'd respond. Sometimes they'd give us presents for
11 Christmas. I can't remember what I used to write.

12 "The only period when there was an attempt at
13 contact with my family was in the late 1950s when I went
14 to live with my mother. I think I was about 7, possibly
15 between the nursery and Spey House. I was in the early
16 stages of primary school. I don't know how it came
17 about because it isn't stated in either my records from
18 Edinburgh Corporation or Aberlour. It was very sudden.
19 I can't remember very much about the period when I was
20 with my mother. I do know that it was not a happy time.

21 "It appears from records that I was readmitted to
22 Aberlour Orphanage in [REDACTED] 1961 at the age of 8,
23 having been placed with my mother around a year earlier.
24 According to my records, I was returned to
25 Aberlour Orphanage because of neglect by the birth

1 mother. I had been denied the privilege of attending
2 school due to household chores and sundry other
3 activities deemed more important by my birth mother.
4 There were concerns relating to my health, protection
5 and safety in the home of my birth mother.

6 "Other than that, I had no contact with my mother,
7 either in Aberlour or in foster care. I had no contact
8 with my father whatsoever. A deliberate decision was
9 taken by my extended family not to have any contact with
10 me. They had a very clear view about blackness within
11 the family. I had already been removed from the family
12 for being a sore and an embarrassment. The very idea of
13 continuing some kind of contact with that soreness was
14 not going to be sanctioned.

15 "There was no disincentive orchestrated by the
16 orphanage to dissuade my mother or any of my extended
17 family from visiting me. Had they expressed a desire to
18 visit me, it may not have been welcome, but it would
19 have been accommodated. I know that because of the way
20 Aberlour operated when I was there.

21 "The view at Aberlour, influenced by Canon Jupp and
22 flowing through various wardens including Dean Wolfe and
23 Reverend Leslie, was that the children came from
24 impoverished areas. They were contaminated by slum life
25 and by the miasma of those particular areas. They saw

1 their job at Aberlour as transforming these individuals
2 into more righteous individuals, clean of those adverse
3 influences that they came from.

4 "Although such a perception existed, my extended
5 family did not wish to know me regardless of any
6 philosophy that Aberlour Orphanage adhered to. The
7 orphanage did not encourage family contact, but if my
8 family had made efforts to contact me, neither the
9 corporation nor Aberlour would have blocked it.

10 "There was never any conversation about where I had
11 come from or my older siblings. I assumed I didn't have
12 siblings. It would have been disclosed on my
13 application, but I didn't ask because I had no reason
14 to. What I knew was that I was surrounded by family.
15 My family were the other children. That was what
16 I knew. My life revolved around what I knew, which was
17 Auntie AJF and Spey House. That was our life and
18 that was what we all concentrated on. We were in
19 a special place, cut off from the world outside. We had
20 nothing else to compare it to. My life began at
21 Aberlour.

22 "In my records, in between what I cost and what had
23 been bought for me, there were one or two snippets of
24 information added to my records. There were entries
25 made by the administrator. No information was given to

1 the day-to-day carers about the background of the
2 children. The circumstances that led to a child
3 entering the orphanage would not be given to the primary
4 carer. There was no information to discuss with
5 children, so the staff were not able to tailor their
6 approach to a particular child based on their
7 background.

8 "Essentially, the view of the dean and the board was
9 that each child was a blank slate when he or she arrived
10 and it was Aberlour Orphanage's job to imprint on this
11 clean sheet, this new person, that they were going to
12 moulding, shaping, influencing over the next 10 to
13 15 years. Most of the children were there for that
14 period of time. It was a conscious decision that the
15 less said to the care staff about the child's background
16 the better. It was seen as best practice at the time.
17 Aberlour Orphanage was seen as a sort of light for
18 others to follow.

19 "If we weren't well, Auntie **AJF** would make
20 a reference through the dean's office about a boy
21 needing medical attention, and a call would be made to
22 the doctor in Aberlour to have the child examined.
23 There was a small infirmary on site as well as a nurse.
24 Doctors were called in from outside. Dr Caldwell was
25 a GP in Aberlour.

1 "When I was around 11 years old, I was attacked by
2 another boy in Aberlour house and cut my hand. I don't
3 think the infirmary was operational when that happened.
4 I remember the cut was quite deep and there was blood
5 everywhere. Whether I was taken to the doctor or the
6 doctor was called in, I don't know. There's nothing in
7 my records about that.

8 "I don't know whether there were separate medical
9 records which Dr Caldwell retained. There is some
10 medical information in my records such as immunisations.

11 "I would say that running away happened
12 infrequently. When it did happen, it certainly rang
13 bells right round the orphanage amongst the boys. It
14 was talked about like other things which the boys
15 thought were significant.

16 "Some children did run away and never came back.
17 They were never found. If that had happened to someone
18 in Spey House, I would have known all about it, but it
19 was general knowledge that this happened.

20 "Towards the end of Aberlour, the age ranges of the
21 children tended to alter. During my time when I first
22 came to Aberlour, the bulk of the children who arrived
23 were very young. The expectation was that they would be
24 there for the bulk of their childhoods and then exit.
25 Around the late 1950s, when Reverend Leslie took over

1 and an older age was entering Aberlour, they all had
2 a life before Aberlour. The children I heard about who
3 ran away all had a previous life before Aberlour.

4 "I was never aware of the reasons why children ran
5 away. From what I've been told, Dean Wolfe used to have
6 a fairly good idea where children might end up. We were
7 dressed in a particular way. Our hair was cut in
8 a particular way. We stood out like a sore thumb.
9 Therefore the locals would know you were an
10 Aberlour Orphanage kid. If you were out at certain
11 times, they would know that something wasn't right.
12 They would either get hold of you themselves or contact
13 the police. It is more likely that they would contact
14 the warden and he would go out in his car. Often the
15 warden would do that and bring the child back himself.
16 Based on my knowledge of Dean Wolfe, I think the
17 response would have been to ask the child why he or she
18 ran away.

19 "I didn't run away at any point. Aberlour was my
20 life. I knew nothing else. The individuals I was
21 living with were my family. That applied to most of the
22 children in the orphanage at the time. Why would I run
23 away from my home and my life? Where would I go? It
24 was our life and we made the most of it.

25 "There was no smacking at the nursery school. I can

1 honestly say that I never, ever saw any corporal
2 punishment being given by Auntie [REDACTED] AJF [REDACTED] She told me
3 she never believed in smacking children and I cannot
4 recall an incident of being smacked by her or any other
5 carer in the house. She may have sent us to bed early
6 but never without a meal. There may have been some loss
7 of privileges.

8 "There was a consistent position in Spey House but
9 I can't speak for the use of corporal punishment in
10 other houses. I can't remember ever visiting another
11 house, apart from the main area where we saw film or if
12 there was a Christmas party.

13 "When I was an adult, Auntie [REDACTED] AJF [REDACTED] told me that
14 there was no real guidance from the management in the
15 orphanage in terms of care of the children. If there
16 was a problem, she could approach someone and ask them
17 about it, but she was more or less left to get on with
18 it and that was it. She told me how staff managed to
19 deal with diverse issues without specialist help or
20 training. She was under the impression she wasn't
21 allowed to use corporal punishment, but she wouldn't
22 have done so anyway. There wasn't specific guidance or
23 training on that.

24 "In relation to discipline and conduct, Dr Caldwell
25 told me that the orphanage staff were not very well paid

1 and this was his impression. There were one or two he
2 felt were sort of ne'er-do-wells, which he wouldn't
3 name. He said he had no evidence whatsoever of any
4 suspicious events and he was very close to the police
5 and would have been aware. That obviously relied upon
6 the police being involved. He was a local GP, so
7 he wasn't always around to hear what was being said by
8 children or staff.

9 "I didn't receive any corporal punishment at school,
10 nor did I see it applied to others. If there was bad
11 behaviour in the school, it would be dealt with by
12 a referral straight to the headmaster or the headmaster
13 would be called to come in. I was never called to the
14 headmaster's office so I can't say what happened there.

15 "The headmaster was not somebody to be messed with.
16 He was big. He was the gentleman who took us to see the
17 animals. He was fun. He was somebody we wanted to get
18 along with and learn things from. I was too young to
19 help with the haystacks or pick the potatoes. One boy
20 spoke about hunting for rats and beating them to death.
21 I was too frightened of rats to do that. Because
22 Mr Robinson was that kind of character and a nice guy,
23 we didn't want to get into a position where he had to
24 show a different side.

25 "Another boy told me about an occasion when he

1 decided to try out a cigarette. He was in one of the
2 little houses, not knowing there was an exit vent.
3 Tommy Robinson was passing by and saw what appeared to
4 be smoke coming out of the vent. He decided to go into
5 the area and discovered him. He asked him what he was
6 doing and he said, 'Nothing, sir'. He was trying to
7 hide the cigarette and hold in the smoke. He was
8 smacked, not for smoking but for lying about it. When
9 he told me about it, he was laughing about it.

10 "The last chance saloon was basically you were taken
11 to the warden. That was used as a threat. BCK
12 talked about how he and one of his friends in the
13 orphanage were misbehaving. He was sent to the dean
14 [REDACTED]. He spoke about how
15 [REDACTED] normally operated in such circumstances. In
16 advance of going to [REDACTED]'s office, he and his
17 friend knew what was going to happen, so they padded the
18 insides of their trousers and their backsides with
19 paper. They knew they were going to get strapped. He's
20 about 10 to 15 years older than me.

21 "One day, we were all visiting one of our favourite
22 play areas, Linn Falls. None of us could swim. At that
23 time there was no swimming pool in Aberlour or it may
24 just have been built. The expectation would have been
25 that we didn't go anywhere near the rock face. There

1 were 30 young boys there with one adult in charge. It
2 was a beautiful day. I can see it now. Several boys
3 deviated from the pathway and got on to the cliff. One
4 of the children was climbing up the cliff side
5 overlooking the waterfall. It wasn't very high to an
6 adult, but it was very high to a child. Unfortunately,
7 he slipped and bumped his head against the rocks on the
8 way down before hitting the lower waterfall. He became
9 trapped under the water. Upon hearing the screams of
10 the children, Auntie **AJF** tried to go into the water
11 to get to where she thought the boy was. She couldn't
12 swim either. She would have drowned had she not been
13 hauled out by one the larger boys there.

14 "It was tragic. All the boys at Spey House were
15 there, so we were all party to it. I didn't see him
16 fall, but I saw his clothes floating up to the surface.
17 I saw Auntie **AJF** try to rescue him and being pulled
18 out of the water by the older boys. Divers had to go in
19 and take the boy who died out. He was well under the
20 water.

21 "The boy who died was a loved boy. There was
22 something about him. All children are innocent and fun
23 to be with. He had a certain excitement and innocence.
24 He drew you to him. He had siblings at Aberlour,
25 although I think they may have been older because

1 I don't think they were in Spey House. He was much
2 loved by everybody at Spey House. His death had a major
3 impact amongst the boys of Spey House which has never
4 left us. There was nobody who was at Spey House during
5 my time who would talk of their time at Aberlour without
6 mentioning this boy.

7 "Dr Caldwell has since told me as an adult that
8 accidents were a big problem and that every other year a
9 child would drown in the Spey or at Linn Falls.

10 I wasn't present when any other deaths occurred, but
11 I was aware of them. That was why I stayed clear of the
12 water. Even before the boy in my house died I didn't
13 have the courage and I wasn't that strong.

14 "In Spey House we created a family so the children
15 stuck together. The exception to the cohesive family
16 unit was someone who was particularly vulnerable. A
17 beeline would be made to them. Given that, the children
18 also made up their own ground rules for conduct amongst
19 peers. One of the rules, which certainly applied in
20 Spey House, and applied in my friend's house well, was
21 that bullying was unacceptable.

22 "I can't recall any bullying in Spey House. The
23 only incident I had at Spey House was when I was
24 attacked by another boy with a knife. I think it
25 happened shortly before I left Aberlour. I still have

1 the mark to this day. It was deliberately inflicted by
2 a boy who was much bigger than me. He may have been a
3 year older as well. It was very deep so I required
4 stitches. I can't remember how Auntie **AJF** dealt with
5 it.

6 "There was abuse at Aberlour and there was abuse at
7 Spey House. I know there was a house father at
8 Spey House because I can remember one day when he wasn't
9 there. I think his name was Mr Lee. I did notice these
10 changes, just like I noticed children disappearing
11 around me because the place was closing. I noticed
12 things when they were different. When the house father
13 wasn't there, that set up discussions. The children had
14 created their own family. We lived together, ate
15 together, bathed together, played together, went to
16 school together and went to church together. We were
17 constantly in each other's company. Therefore we were
18 going to talk to each other and there was talk amongst
19 the children about the house father leaving.

20 "It came to light at bath time. We were chatting to
21 each other. The boys in the bath were talking from
22 personal experience of certain things that had happened
23 between the house father and one or two of the children.
24 I was present during those conversations. Auntie **AJF**
25 overheard boys talking in the bath about the house

1 father. She asked them what it was about. She went
2 straight to the Reverend Leslie. Ultimately, the matter
3 was reported to the police.

4 " [REDACTED] BBR [REDACTED] wasn't at Spey House. He may have
5 been in the company of Spey House boys on occasions.
6 When you had certain outings, various houses would come
7 together, for example to go to the pictures or special
8 celebrations elsewhere. His name was certainly known
9 amongst the boys because we'd created family together
10 and we talked to each other.

11 " [REDACTED] BBR [REDACTED] was very well-known. He was quite
12 tall and very distinguished looking. [REDACTED]
13 [REDACTED]. You couldn't miss
14 him. Leaving aside anything to do with sex, he was very
15 well-known. He was a very likeable man [REDACTED]
16 [REDACTED]. Kids like a bit of fun and
17 excitement. They wanted to know about his [REDACTED]
18 and maybe touch them or whatever.

19 "That was what attracted my friend to [REDACTED] BBR [REDACTED].
20 He was into cars and always had be. In fact, he spends
21 his professional life selling them. [REDACTED] BBR [REDACTED] was
22 already held in high esteem by the boys and he was also
23 high up in the credibility stakes by the boys in his
24 because he changed the tenor of the place. He made it
25 more exciting. There seemed to be an element of

1 protection of some of the weaker boys in the house from
2 some of the stronger boys who were picking on them.

3 "It was generally known at the time about
4 [REDACTED] BBR [REDACTED], not that I knew the details. Boys talk
5 to one another, but if one of the boys from another
6 house mentioned [REDACTED] BBR [REDACTED] to me, I wouldn't have
7 known who he was. [REDACTED] BBR [REDACTED] took a photograph of me
8 by the Linn Falls. When I obtained the photograph,
9 I asked who had taken it and I was gobsmacked to learn
10 it was [REDACTED] BBR [REDACTED]. [REDACTED] BBR [REDACTED] was an avid
11 photographer and filmographer at that time. He didn't
12 really go anywhere without his camera or video machine
13 he used. Now I think there must have been a reason for
14 that.

15 "A boy who had been sick in the nursery with me was
16 still very weak and a bit fragile in the house that
17 [REDACTED] BBR [REDACTED] came into as house father. He was being
18 picked on and somehow [REDACTED] BBR [REDACTED] managed to change
19 the regime in such a way that he wasn't bullied.
20 I don't know the mechanics of it because I wasn't
21 in that house. He felt a great deal of gratitude to
22 [REDACTED] BBR [REDACTED] as a result.

23 "There is a photo of [REDACTED] BBR [REDACTED] with his arm
24 around this boy. He entered into a sexual relationship
25 with [REDACTED] BBR [REDACTED] not long after he left Aberlour. It

1 came to my knowledge that they had been having a sexual
2 relationship at Aberlour. I didn't learn that from the
3 boy. However, later he made it clear that he was in
4 a sexual relationship with [REDACTED] BBR, although he
5 didn't use those words. He was living with him and he
6 looked after him when he was dying of cancer.

7 [REDACTED] BBR was than twice his age. This boy was 15
8 when he left Aberlour and [REDACTED] BBR would have been
9 in his forties.

10 "I spoke to this boy several times as an adult.
11 I had already heard about the possibility of there being
12 a relationship between him and [REDACTED] BBR. He told
13 me that he had lots of memories and then he disappeared
14 for a while. He came back and he had reels of film. He
15 said, 'Here are some of the memories'. The reels had
16 been taken by [REDACTED] BBR. All these memories came
17 back to me from those reels. This boy has a virtual
18 shrine to [REDACTED] BBR in his room. He never used the
19 words sexual relationship, he just said he looked after
20 him."

21 LADY SMITH: Ms Rattray, that's just about 3 o'clock.

22 I think it might be a good idea to have a break at this
23 point for about five minutes or so and then we'll
24 resume.

25 (3.03 pm)

1 (A short break)

2 (3.10 pm)

3 LADY SMITH: Ms Rattray.

4 MS RATTRAY: My Lady, starting again at page

5 WIT.001.002.2416, paragraph 97:

6 "This boy went to Aberlour as a baby. He knew no
7 other way. Aberlour was normal life to him. He had
8 nothing to measure the attentions he got from
9 [REDACTED] BBR against. He didn't see it as a basis to
10 raise a complaint. He told me as an adult that what
11 kept him going after he left the orphanage at the age of
12 15, in addition to a sense of humour, perseverance,
13 vision, dreams, was keeping in touch with people who
14 meant a great deal to him. One such person was his
15 house father, [REDACTED] BBR, who looked after him from
16 the age of 10 to 15.

17 "He said, 'if he couldn't trust a person, then who
18 could he trust?' [REDACTED] BBR was an anchorman. For
19 that time in his life when things could have gone wrong
20 quite easily, [REDACTED] BBR was a stabilising influence.
21 He thought that [REDACTED] BBR brought law and order to
22 the house. He felt safer as a result. He said there
23 was also more fun with parties at Christmas and one
24 during the summer. He felt the boys were well looked
25 after.

1 "After this boy left the orphanage, they kept in
2 contact. He went to live with [REDACTED] BBR [REDACTED] probably in
3 his late teens or early 20s. That's where he stayed
4 until [REDACTED] BBR [REDACTED] died.

5 After all the people I have spoken to, I do feel
6 that some of the staff had a suspicion that something
7 was not quite right in [REDACTED] BBR [REDACTED]'s house. I don't
8 know why they kept their mouths shut because I didn't
9 know them. The only staff member I knew was
10 Auntie [REDACTED] AJF [REDACTED] who did exactly what I would expect when
11 she became aware of the house father. I have never
12 spoken to her about [REDACTED] BBR [REDACTED] but I'd be very
13 surprised if she hadn't heard that something wasn't
14 quite right in the house he ran. Maybe she didn't do
15 anything about it because it wasn't her house and she
16 didn't know its details, but why nothing was done,
17 I don't know.

18 "I do believe that Auntie [REDACTED] AJF [REDACTED] had a strong
19 element of protection over the boys in my house. During
20 my time in Aberlour, I never heard of any boy being
21 placed in a sexually compromised position, apart from
22 the incident with the house father. I think that was
23 largely because the individuals knew that Auntie [REDACTED] AJF [REDACTED]
24 wouldn't put up with anything like that. I think she
25 was a major protector. If something was happening to

1 one of her boys, she wouldn't hesitate to do something
2 about it.

3 "I am profoundly appreciative of those members of
4 staff who put themselves out. This boy was a weakly
5 child and he had been bullied. [REDACTED] BBR [REDACTED] was seen
6 as a bit of a saviour. I used the phrase 'grooming'
7 when I spoke to a university professor about this. She
8 agreed.

9 "Although a lot of our activities centred around
10 Spey House, we went to school and church with other
11 houses and we met other boys. Periodically we would be
12 at various socials with other boys from other houses and
13 so we talked to each other about things. The only
14 contact with girls would be in class when you might be
15 sitting together and in church.

16 "We weren't allowed to speak in church. There would
17 be staff making sure there was minimal contact between
18 boys and girls. It was rigidly segregated. I don't
19 think any of the boys would know what on earth was
20 happening in one of the girls' wings and likewise the
21 girls wouldn't know what was happening to the boys.

22 "There was nothing out of bounds in the course of
23 boys' conversations. We talked to each other as peers.
24 Certain boys seemed to have a close relationship with
25 certain members of staff. During my time at Aberlour

1 there was no doubt that amongst the boys living in
2 Aberlour, it would have been general knowledge who was
3 having a sexual relationship with whom.

4 "In my interviews with some individuals who were
5 resident at Aberlour, I keep on asking myself why
6 nothing was done about it when it was so self-evident.
7 It wasn't hidden, it was quite obvious.

8 " **BBR** always had a parade of boys going to
9 his room in the evening. Staff lived in the same house
10 as the boys. Boys would wake up and see what was going
11 on. They were young and they wouldn't say anything in
12 case they got into trouble. They would try and keep
13 their eyes shut and pretend they didn't see anything.
14 It wasn't hidden and it was well known amongst the boys
15 that there was a relationship between this boy and
16 **BBR** .

17 "They knew they couldn't say anything.

18 **BBR** was the head of the house. He was usually
19 the only adult there. He was a big man. The boys
20 wouldn't want to risk getting themselves into trouble
21 and having a harder time in the house than they were
22 already. If this boy wasn't complaining, why would they
23 stir things up? That was how we thought in the
24 orphanage at that time.

25 "If Auntie **AJF** hadn't overheard the boys

1 discussing the house father in the bath, my view is that
2 the boys would not have told anybody about what was
3 happening. I don't think we knew what was normal and
4 what was not. I think the fact that the boys were
5 chatting about it may suggest that was it even out of
6 the ordinary for where we were living. It was unusual
7 and it didn't sound right. We were talking amongst
8 ourselves to get a sense of whether it felt right,
9 checking it out with each other.

10 "If the boys decided that something didn't seem
11 right, I think it's an even bigger leap to go to
12 somebody who really cares and loves you about what has
13 happened. You've then realised that it's not right.
14 You would then have all these questions about what you
15 had done to cause it. I think there would be an element
16 of trying to protect Auntie **AJF** because something not
17 right has happened.

18 "Things like that weren't talked about. This was
19 a world within a world. It was completely secluded from
20 the world outside Aberlour Orphanage. What was right
21 was created in the atmosphere within Aberlour Orphanage.
22 Therefore if you're not told something is right or
23 something is wrong, you don't know. You don't create
24 the rightness or wrongness yourself. You're relying
25 upon some indicators from those individuals who are

1 caring for you.

2 "I cannot recall at any time being told about sex
3 education or if anybody touched you or whatever, whether
4 together or individually.

5 "If boys were to report concerns, they didn't know
6 what the implications might be. If they made an
7 allegation against a member of staff, there was a risk
8 of being moved from a house they liked. That was an
9 element and also a feeling of, 'Why should I rock the
10 boat?'.

11 There was a systemic nature to it. A huge amount of
12 responsibility was placed on individuals finding
13 themselves in that position. Do I say something, do
14 I not? Do I just go with the flow or do I not? Do
15 I just shut my eyes when this string of boys is going
16 into BBR's bedroom? What happens if I say
17 something and nothing's done about it? What happens to
18 me?

19 "We are chronologically of a certain age.
20 Experientially we are ancient: we are much older than
21 our chronological years. Because of that agedness,
22 based on profound levels of life experience within
23 a very contracted age period, we know what to risk and
24 what not to risk. Are we going to risk being reasonably
25 safe? Are we going to risk being reasonably content?

1 Are we going to risk friction with our friends? The
2 default position was to put up with whatever came our
3 way. The long game was to survive. I did love the
4 place, but it was survival too. I had to make headway
5 and I couldn't make headway if I was falling apart every
6 five minutes.

7 "Although I wasn't present, I subsequently learned
8 that Auntie [REDACTED] AJF had come in to check on one of the
9 kids in the bath. She overheard part of what was being
10 said by one of the boys about the house father at
11 Spey House. She asked what it was about. The boy,
12 because of the relationship we had with Auntie [REDACTED] AJF ,
13 told her. My understanding is that Auntie [REDACTED] AJF went
14 straight to Reverend Leslie and told him what the boy
15 had said about the house father. She didn't get the
16 response from Reverend Leslie that she anticipated, so
17 she said either something had to be done about it or she
18 would leave. The matter was then reported to the
19 police. I learned subsequently that the house father
20 ended up in prison. The court proceedings were around
21 1962.

22 "Although I wasn't present when Auntie [REDACTED] AJF heard
23 the boys talking about the house father, I can see how
24 she would have immediately reacted because she was so
25 completely devoted to these children. How she reacted

1 would have been no different from how she reacted when
2 the boy fell into the water at Linn Falls.

3 "If it wasn't for the stance taken by Auntie **AJF**
4 I don't think it would have come to light. I don't know
5 why there was an apparent reluctance to pursue the
6 matter in the way Auntie **AJF** wanted. My own view was
7 that she wanted particular action, such as immediate
8 removal and somehow this was not being listened to or
9 acted upon until the ultimatum was given.

10 "The core staffing at Aberlour, including the head
11 office, was very small. There was one main carer, an
12 aunt or uncle, maybe with one junior assistant helping
13 out at mealtimes or going on an outing or whatever.
14 Therefore it would be unusual if the core staff did not
15 know each other or about each other quite well. They
16 may not have liked each other or interacted with each
17 other, but they certainly knew of each other. Staff
18 members would most definitely know about other staff
19 members through the rumour mill or what they heard from
20 the boys. It would be very easy for staff to hear what
21 was happening in someone else's house. Whether they
22 paid much attention to it not is another matter.

23 "It's important to differentiate between the time of
24 Dean Wolfe and the time of Reverend Leslie. There was
25 a marked difference in how the orphanage was run. Under

1 Reverend Leslie the orphanage was being prepared for
2 abolition, its destruction, selling and moving the kids
3 on to small homes. That was the priority. The idea of
4 public profile was still significant but was not
5 important as far as continued funding. There was less
6 of an imperative to watch the public profile.

7 "Each warden left their individual mark on the
8 orphanage. This is quite important in terms of the
9 history of Aberlour. It wasn't really addressed by
10 Miss Abrams in her wonderful book, The Orphan Country.
11 It is something that really needs to be noted.

12 "If you go through the life and works of each of the
13 wardens, you'll see this come to light. The two wardens
14 in my time were Dean Wolfe and the Reverend Leslie, the
15 last warden of Aberlour Orphanage. I was suggesting
16 that each left a very different mark on the orphanage.
17 That mark may have influenced decisions such as whether
18 individuals were referred to the police on account of
19 alleged misdemeanours with children at the orphanage.

20 "When Reverend Leslie was confronted with the news
21 about possible allegations of sexual abuse in
22 Spey House, his response was not what Auntie AJF
23 expected to hear. I was asked whether there might be
24 a reason for that reluctance, such as the reputation of
25 the orphanage or looking for alternative ways of easing

1 the situation without public damage.

2 "I would suggest that the two wardens I have spoken
3 about would have handled it in a different way. I think
4 Reverend Leslie's reason for disagreeing with whatever
5 Auntie **AJF** was saying was not due to the public
6 profile of the orphanage, although that may have been
7 a factor. The orphanage was already scheduled to be
8 closed, therefore the continuing support of donors was
9 not a priority.

10 "In Dean Wolfe's time, apart from the basic nurture
11 and care of children at the orphanage and getting
12 individuals to come to the orphanage from referral
13 agencies, his primary concern was public profile and the
14 donations which depended on that profile. I would
15 suggest that if Dean Wolfe had been confronted with
16 allegations of sexual or physical assault on children,
17 the primary response would have been to have the alleged
18 offender quietly removed from the orphanage.

19 "There was no prospect of Aberlour Orphanage closing
20 during Dean Wolfe's time. It was his life's work. He
21 felt the orphanage was doing a very positive job. Right
22 up until his retirement, a major issue for Dean Wolfe in
23 light of possible negative comment would be the impact
24 that might have on potential donors and reputation.
25 I think that is a view that would be supported by

1 a significant number of former child residents who have
2 kept in touch with Aberlour Orphanage since leaving.

3 "When it was reasonably clear that something was not
4 quite right with a member of staff, what would have
5 happened -- and did happen -- is that there would have
6 been a quiet exodus of the individual. The primary idea
7 would obviously be to stop the damage immediately and to
8 quietly remove the instigator of the damage. The public
9 profile and donor contributions were central to the
10 successful operation of the orphanage. It was a factor
11 continuously in Dean Wolfe's mind.

12 "Dean Wolfe got involved in a lot of fights with
13 individuals who would decry the orphanage. But in terms
14 of children coming first, in my view he would most
15 definitely have bowed to Auntie [REDACTED] AJF . He would have
16 got rid of the problem quietly. Auntie [REDACTED] AJF wanted
17 the house father out of the house. She didn't
18 necessarily want the police to be brought in.

19 "I don't think Auntie [REDACTED] AJF would disagree with my
20 view of how Dean Wolfe would have handled it. I would
21 be surprised if there were a significant number of cases
22 of child abuse at Aberlour in which the police were
23 involved during Dean Wolfe's time. Custom and practice
24 would have been the quiet exodus of staff.

25 "My records indicate that moving me at the age of 11

1 was against the wishes of Aberlour Orphanage. There was
2 no information given in advance as to when a child was
3 going to leave and it was very abrupt. For example,
4 Auntie [REDACTED] AJF would be given a phone call or note saying
5 that the child needed to have take things ready as they
6 were leaving the next day. She was given literally an
7 hour's notice. She was very upset about that.

8 "My records noted exchanges between Aberlour and the
9 local authority. One of the exchanges in my records
10 relates to the abrupt and unacceptably short notice
11 given to Aberlour by the referral agency about my
12 departure to my foster family. It's quite strongly
13 worded. My records don't shed any light on why the
14 decision was taken by the placing authority to remove me
15 from Aberlour. Auntie [REDACTED] AJF was just told that I was
16 leaving.

17 "Auntie [REDACTED] AJF was not involved in my exit apart
18 from preparing my clothes the day before I left. She
19 would have gone to room 19 to get me a suitcase. It had
20 some clothes in it. I didn't spend any of my pocket
21 money in Aberlour. I used to change my pocket money
22 into pennies and put them in my piggy bank. The only
23 thing I had in addition to my clothes was my piggy bank
24 and maybe a face flannel.

25 "The warden dealt with the exiting, along with the

1 treasurer and his assistant. It took place in his
2 office. I was then taken by the warden to the front of
3 the house. When a child left there was an expectation
4 that there would be some continuing contact in terms of
5 making contact with friends and staff. It was
6 facilitated by Dean Wolfe in his child-centred way.
7 He was saying and it was custom and practice during this
8 time that Aberlour was the child's home. He or she had
9 made a family there and that would continue as far as
10 Aberlour could support it. I was too young and too
11 shocked to understand that when I left.

12 "Auntie **AJF** was very critical of the lack of
13 preparation and advance notice for leaving Aberlour.
14 She saw it as a flaw. She said there was no further
15 formal contact with a child after he or she left and it
16 was like they disappeared off the face of the earth.
17 I had no contact with Auntie **AJF** immediately after
18 I left. I still have the address of Aberlour Orphanage
19 when I was in the foster home. I wrote to her outwith
20 the knowledge of the social worker or the foster parents
21 saying that I missed the orphanage. She kept my
22 letters.

23 "Somehow, some of the children who left did manage
24 to make contact with one or two of their friends who
25 were left in the orphanage or one or two of the

1 house parents against the system that prevailed at the
2 time. Sometimes when they wrote those letters they were
3 responded to. I recall that Auntie **AJF** did reply to
4 my letters.

5 "Dean Wolfe made sure that this happened. He
6 wouldn't have had a problem with receiving letters and
7 allowing the house parent to reply. As well as
8 facilitating additional contact between former residents
9 and friends or house parents, he also encouraged visits.
10 In fact, there was a special cottage which he had
11 identified on the grounds of Aberlour where the former
12 residents could stay.

13 "Reverend Leslie said all contact ended, and it did,
14 immediately. You could write to Reverend Leslie and he
15 would keep the mail. It wouldn't go to your friend or
16 house parents. He would formally respond and that was
17 it. The letter was not passed on to the person the
18 letter was addressed to. One boy told me that after he
19 left, he tried to contact a friend at the orphanage.
20 The letter was answered by the warden and the letter was
21 not given to his friend. It stuck in his craw. That
22 was his family. I don't think he ever got back in touch
23 with the person he tried to write to. I think it was
24 the same individual who had saved his life by rescuing
25 him from the falls when he fell in. Differing tenures

1 tended to result in different ways of relating not only
2 to donors but also to the child who had been in your
3 care."

4 From paragraphs 129 to 256, Phoenix describes his
5 experiences in foster care, which were negative, and his
6 life and career after care, and also the steps he took
7 to trace his birth family.

8 Turning now to page 2455, here Phoenix speaks about
9 impact and I'll read out some parts of the remainder of
10 his statement, starting at paragraph 257:

11 "Aberlour was linked to the episcopalian church.
12 I'm not episcopalian, but I still have a strong
13 Christian faith. I'm a regular church goer and I was
14 a church elder right up until I left the UK. My faith
15 started in Aberlour.

16 "When I left Aberlour, there was a gradual
17 realisation that it's basically down to you. You have
18 people who come in and out and who are very important.
19 There are circumstances and structures that are also
20 important. You can see how my life had to be driven by
21 myself. There's no such thing as a sole author of your
22 life story. People, circumstances, luck, time, come in
23 and out of your life. At the end of it, you have to
24 make sense of it. You have to drive it on and that's
25 what I did.

1 "The surroundings of Aberlour Orphanage were
2 beautiful and always gave me that wonderful feeling of
3 nature, which I've carried throughout my life. I love
4 beautiful buildings, particularly old buildings. Until
5 the age of 11 I had people in my life who I saw as
6 authoritative rather than authoritarian. That moulded
7 the way I look at people now.

8 "When I was at Aberlour, I behaved in a way that
9 didn't aggravate the staff. They liked being around me,
10 which you can see in some of the photographs. I liked
11 being around the staff because I was being loved and
12 cared for, and if somebody was reaching out to me,
13 I would automatically reach out to them. If somebody
14 smiles at me, it is automatic I'll smile back. If you
15 greet me, I'm going to return your greeting. I'm never
16 rude. No matter how dreadful you are towards me, I
17 would never be offensive towards you. These are traits
18 from Aberlour.

19 "All of my life, I have been involved with the
20 Aberlour Orphanage and the Aberlour Family Childcare
21 Trust, post the orphanage being bulldozed in the 1970s.
22 I thought Aberlour Family Childcare Trust would have
23 established some sort of vehicle where former residents
24 could make contact and find out something about
25 themselves. That was never done. I don't know why.

1 Former residents of Aberlour have always been at the
2 forefront of this and done it themselves. That follows
3 on from our experiences at Aberlour where we created
4 a family out of nothing. Most of us were abandoned,
5 dumped, somehow discarded. The creation of that family
6 were essentially those children we were living with.
7 Some of that connection has remained for decades and
8 will continue until we die.

9 "The attempt to silence the past was a major flaw in
10 terms of the function of Aberlour Orphanage. It is
11 still my home. I still love it. I owe my life to what
12 they taught me in terms of hard work and in terms of
13 having a mission for myself. I am not taking any of
14 that away, but the major flaw is that it destroyed my
15 past. As a result, it took 45 years plus to try and
16 make these connections. Some of the connections
17 I couldn't make. So much water has passed under the
18 bridge. My birth family didn't want to know, in
19 contrast to the birth family on my father's side.

20 "The damage to me as a child revolved around the
21 sudden removal from my family and my home at Aberlour.
22 It was also the cessation of childhood. My childhood
23 stopped at the age of 11 when I went into foster care.
24 The assumption of adult responsibilities didn't take
25 place in Aberlour. Things naturally flowed there and

1 I did things 'as a child'. There was nothing I needed
2 to think about and manage the consequences. At the
3 foster home, I had to be adult very early on in terms of
4 being managerial and thinking about the consequences.
5 I was into the business of calculating what was in my
6 best interests. I began to see that at the end of the
7 day, young as I was chronologically, it was down to me
8 to make the best of the mess.

9 "It's down to you to make the most of the various
10 steps that are outlined along the way. You might attain
11 the eventual outcome or you might not. It's down to you
12 to do what you can. That's very much my strong belief.
13 I also believe you have to be as decent as you can be to
14 other people and live as decent a life as you can.
15 There's a strong element of societal contribution,
16 trying to do your best and be as decent a person as you
17 can be. I credit Aberlour with instilling those beliefs
18 in me."

19 Turning now to page 2459, paragraph 273, where
20 Phoenix speaks about records:

21 "I didn't have any difficulty getting records from
22 Aberlour Orphanage. There was an individual there
23 called Miss Black, who I used to call the archivist.
24 She was the go-to person for former residents of
25 Aberlour. She still has an association with Aberlour

1 Children's Trust, but she's not seen as the archivist.
2 I have not had any dealings with that archivist
3 whatsoever. Anne Black was hugely helpful and provided
4 my records in a timely fashion."

5 Now to paragraph 276 on page 2460:

6 "My records from Aberlour were handwritten records.
7 Typewriters weren't a common thing, even in the 60s.
8 They were legible and beautifully written. There were
9 individuals at Aberlour Orphanage who had specific
10 responsibilities for the record-keeping. Auntie **AJF**
11 would have been consulted about my records because you
12 can see all the information is coming from her. She
13 would be talking to somebody and that person would write
14 it down. She may well have written something and passed
15 it to the person and that person wrote it up in the
16 records. I have not seen Auntie **AJF**'s handwriting.
17 There may well be bits in the records where it is in her
18 handwriting, but I don't recognise it.

19 "You can see a trail of similar handwriting
20 throughout my records. In my case the warden Dean Wolfe
21 was there throughout my time and would have been doing
22 all the writing. He was hugely influential and he did
23 quite a lot of the record-keeping at the time.

24 "Dean Wolfe was popular and mixed with the children
25 and was very social and played with the children. He

1 wrote about the children from his own experience, not
2 just from what he'd heard from a staff member. He was
3 succeeded by Reverend Leslie. The quality of my contact
4 with Reverend Leslie was different to my contact with
5 Dean Wolfe. This had major implications for writing.

6 "Reverend Leslie wasn't there to interact with the
7 children and be nice to them. That was not his job.
8 Reverend Leslie was not noted for writing about
9 individual children. He didn't know them. Dean Wolfe
10 knew them and the children went to see him directly.
11 He wasn't relying upon anybody else. Post Dean Wolfe,
12 the writing for any child would be minimal in terms of
13 content about progress and development.

14 "A variety of individuals took photographs of the
15 children at Aberlour. The first time I saw a photograph
16 of myself in Aberlour was when I was in my 50s. None of
17 the photographs were known to us as children. We didn't
18 really know that photographs were being taken. Some of
19 the pictures were taken by the staff trying to get
20 a picture of Dean Wolfe with the children. Some were
21 staged. [REDACTED]

22 [REDACTED] The reason I say it is
23 more staged is that it is a staff photograph for
24 a purpose. This was contributing to a message that
25 everybody was accepted at Aberlour, [REDACTED]

1 [REDACTED] Aberlour produced a brochure periodically for
2 promotional purposes. It was mainly text, but there
3 were some photographs.

4 "Some photographs were individually kept by staff
5 and passed on to the children. I probably have the
6 largest archive of photographs outside Aberlour
7 Childcare Family Trust. There was no place we could go
8 in order to obtain photographs. There is no archive of
9 photographs. Others did the same as me as adults.
10 We would contact each other if we still had contact
11 details and ask each other if we had anything that would
12 give a clearer picture of our stay in the orphanage
13 between certain dates."

14 Now moving to paragraph 285:

15 "I have seen the records of other former residents.
16 Their records are similar to my own in terms of the sort
17 of areas that are covered. Some are more voluminous
18 than mine. My records are really quite scant because
19 I didn't cause any trouble.

20 "I don't think punishments were recorded. What
21 a child was doing wrong was recorded rather than how he
22 or she was dealt with. The nearest you'd get to
23 a record of discipline would be a reference to a child
24 being sent to the warden. Some children had quite
25 severe medical conditions, so there would be more

1 entries in their records.

2 "At certain points in my records from Aberlour,
3 there are some glimpses of who I am as a child and how
4 I was as a child. For example, they talk about me being
5 affectionate and that I was a bit of a pet. You can see
6 a limited picture of me emerging in the Aberlour
7 records, but you would want more. There was nothing
8 recorded from the child's perspective about the child's
9 view of Aberlour, other than the odd comment about me
10 appearing to be happy and content."

11 Moving now to paragraph 311 on page 2469, where
12 Phoenix reflects on lessons to be learned:

13 "I do hold certain people responsible for my
14 personal experience and what went wrong. In terms of my
15 experience of Aberlour Orphanage, I believe that period
16 was the only period where I felt loved, accepted and
17 acknowledged for who I was.

18 "The mission statement of Aberlour was to take
19 children from their background and essentially recreate
20 them. Their backgrounds were seen as stigmatic and not
21 healthy. That related in you basically losing the past
22 and you had to think and focus on the future. I think
23 that was a major flaw because the children who arrived
24 did have a past, even me at 3 months. We did have
25 connections. There was no attempt made to try and keep

1 some of those connections alive or at least to let us
2 know what the connections were so that we could perhaps
3 draw on them later on when we left Aberlour. I think
4 that over time this flaw was realised after the closure
5 and destruction of Aberlour Orphanage."

6 Now to paragraph 323 on page 2472:

7 "Aberlour Orphanage had a huge advantage. The staff
8 actually were a constant in your life. They were there
9 today, tomorrow and next year. This constancy is
10 critical because then you get the opportunity of
11 actually establishing relationships with each individual
12 and for the individual to get to know you."

13 Finally to paragraph 328 on page 2474:

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

18 The statement was signed by Phoenix on
19 18 November 2018.

20 My Lady, there is a third read-in, but I suspect
21 we will not have time to complete that between now and
22 4 o'clock.

23 LADY SMITH: Let's leave that over for another day then.

24 I picked up mention of BBR whose identity is
25 covered by my GRO, general restriction order, insofar as

1 it may be associated with any allegation of abuse. But
2 I don't think any other name.

3 MS RATTRAY: The only other name was Mr Lee, who was
4 convicted and therefore he is not covered by the GRO.

5 LADY SMITH: That's right, yes.

6 Thank you very much. I'll rise now for today and
7 sit again at 10 o'clock tomorrow morning.

8 (3.43 pm)

9 (The inquiry adjourned until 10.00 am
10 on Friday 14 December 2018)

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24

ADAM McCALLUM (sworn)1

 Questions from MR PEOPLES1

"ANGELA" (sworn)68

 Questions from MS RATTRAY68

Witness statement of "MARIA" (read)105

Witness statement of "PHOENIX"124

 (read)

1

2