

1 Wednesday, 24 July 2019

2 (10.00 am)

3 LADY SMITH: Good morning and welcome back to the oral
4 hearing in the Benedictine case study. Can I begin by
5 apologising for this room being warm this morning: there
6 was a power outage overnight but we have been adjusting
7 the air conditioning and I think it is now okay, but if
8 any part of the room it is a problem for anybody, please
9 do let us know.

10 Mr MacAulay.

11 MR MacAULAY: Good morning, my Lady. The next witness is
12 an applicant and he wants to remain anonymous and he
13 wants to use the pseudonym "Henrik" in giving his
14 evidence.

15 "HENRIK" (called)

16 LADY SMITH: Please sit down and make yourself comfortable,
17 Henrik. Just before I hand over to Mr MacAulay, you
18 will see that the red light is on the microphone so it
19 should now be picking up your voice. Could I ask you to
20 stay in a good position for the microphone. It is very
21 important that everyone in the room can hear you, and in
22 particular so that the stenographers can hear you
23 through the sound system, if they are using that.

24 If you are ready, I will hand over to Mr MacAulay
25 and he will explain what happens next. Is that all

1 right?

2 A. Thank you.

3 Questions from MR MacAULAY

4 MR MacAULAY: Good morning, Henrik.

5 A. Good morning, Colin.

6 Q. In the red folder in front of you, you will find your
7 actual statement and I will give the reference of it for
8 the stenographers: WIT.001.002.3659. If I could ask
9 you, Henrik, to turn to the very last page. Can I ask
10 you to confirm that you have signed the statement.

11 A. I have signed it, yes.

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

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

15 Is that correct?

16 A. That is correct.

17 Q. Subject to a point that I will come to shortly, do you
18 also go on to say:

19 "I believe the facts stated in this witness
20 statement are true"?

21 A. I do believe they are true.

22 Q. Thank you.

23 Henrik, in order to develop a timeframe for your
24 evidence, I want to put to you the year of your birth,
25 not the date. Can you confirm that you were born in

- 1 1959?
- 2 A. That is correct.
- 3 Q. We are going to look at your time at
- 4 Carlekemp Priory School, but before we do that, I think
- 5 what you tell us in your statement early on -- and you
- 6 will see the statement on the screen in front of you --
- 7 that you were born in Glasgow, and you have good
- 8 memories of the early years you spent there; is that
- 9 right?
- 10 A. That is correct. Yes, they were happy years.
- 11 Q. What you tell us is that apart from your mother
- 12 and father you had an older sister as well?
- 13 A. Correct, I did have an older sister.
- 14 Q. You go on to tell us a little bit about your early
- 15 education, and also about your father's business, and as
- 16 part of the background to you going to Carlekemp,
- 17 I think you also indicate that your mother became rather
- 18 unwell, and therefore that had an impact on the family;
- 19 is that right?
- 20 A. Yes, that was fairly significant at the time, yes.
- 21 Q. Then, against that background, an arrangement was made
- 22 you would go to Carlekemp School in North Berwick?
- 23 A. Yes, that was an arrangement that was made after some
- 24 discussion with the local priest at St Mark's and I was
- 25 sent over to Carlekemp, and [REDACTED], my sister, went over

- 1 to St Margaret's in Edinburgh.
- 2 Q. Was this because you had a Catholic background?
- 3 A. Well -- yes, we were both, at that stage, at Catholic
4 schools. We did have a Catholic background, although it
5 wasn't particularly strong. But my father had obviously
6 spoken to the local priest in terms of what was in the
7 best interests for me.
- 8 Q. As far as the records go to show, they indicate that you
9 were admitted to Carlekemp in [REDACTED] 1969; does that
10 accord with your own recollection?
- 11 A. That is correct, yes.
- 12 Q. So you were 9 at that time?
- 13 A. Yes.
- 14 Q. You weren't actually 10?
- 15 A. That is correct, 9.
- 16 Q. You left in [REDACTED] 1972 when you were 13?
- 17 A. That is correct, that is the time span.
- 18 Q. So that gives an indication of the time you spent at the
19 school?
- 20 A. That is correct, yes.
- 21 Q. You would get the normal school holidays, would you,
22 during that period?
- 23 A. Yes.
- 24 Q. And during these holidays you would go home to be with
25 your parents?

- 1 A. That is correct.
- 2 Q. Can you remember the names of the monks that you had
3 contact with when you were at Carlekemp?
- 4 A. Yes, I can remember a few of them. I will start with
5 [REDACTED] SNR [REDACTED] which was a monk called
6 Father [REDACTED] MFD [REDACTED], as I referred to him, Father [REDACTED] MFD [REDACTED] So
7 I had dealings with him on a fairly regular basis.
8 There was a Father Paul. There was a Father [REDACTED] MFA [REDACTED] who
9 was [REDACTED]. There was Father [REDACTED] MEY [REDACTED], who was
10 an Australian. And there was Father -- there was
11 Father -- I think it was Brine (sic) I think. Yes, he
12 came in a bit later. He came in probably in 1971 or
13 1970. I might have to come back to that name.
- 14 Q. You mentioned in your statement Father [REDACTED] MFC [REDACTED].
- 15 A. Yes, [REDACTED] MFC [REDACTED].
- 16 Q. I think you are mentioning there: Father [REDACTED] MFD [REDACTED], who was
17 [REDACTED] MFD [REDACTED]; Father [REDACTED] MFA [REDACTED], [REDACTED] MFA [REDACTED];
18 Father [REDACTED] MEY [REDACTED]; Father Paul, Father Paul McCarron; and
19 you have mentioned at Father [REDACTED] MFC [REDACTED], [REDACTED] MFC [REDACTED].
20 So these are names you do remember?
- 21 A. That is correct, yes.
- 22 Q. So far as the set-up is concerned, just dwelling for
23 a moment on the set-up, you were allocated to
24 a dormitory when you were there; is that right?
- 25 A. Yes. My recollection is that I was in two dormitories.

1 The first one, which was obviously fairly significant,
2 because it was the first one you spent, the first night
3 in the school, so that was fairly memorable. And then
4 I was moved one dormitory up during the time that I was
5 there, always on the same wing -- the school was in sort
6 of two wings, so I had two dormitories, one at the front
7 of the upstairs on the first floor and one at the far
8 end.

9 Q. And can you remember how many beds were in each of the
10 dormitories?

11 A. Yes, I think on the second one, I spent longer in there,
12 there was one, two ... maybe six beds in the second
13 dormitory. There was more in the first dormitory --
14 maybe that was because it was a dormitory that was, you
15 know, bringing, you know, the new intake so it was
16 a bigger dorm until they were distributed out, maybe.
17 I don't know.

18 Q. And if I can ask you a little bit about the age range
19 then of the children so far as you can remember. You
20 were 9 I think, when you went there.

21 A. That is correct.

22 Q. Were you one of the youngest children?

23 A. I was one of the younger set but I think there was
24 a group of younger boys who were probably about 8, yes,
25 7 going on 8/9. There was definitely a small number of

- 1 boys younger than me.
- 2 Q. You left when you were about 13. Was that the general
3 age range, from about 8 or so to about 13 or
4 thereabouts?
- 5 A. I think perhaps it might have went on to about 14, but
6 I was offered to take the exam to go to Fort Augustus,
7 and I wasn't keen to take that pathway, so I basically
8 tried everything in my power not to go to the Fort and
9 basically at the end of that they offered me a place,
10 I rejected it, or my father rejected it, and there were
11 still boys there when I left so I assumed then they
12 would have moved up to the Fort if that was their plans.
- 13 Q. If I can go back to your statement, looking to
14 paragraph 12 where you are talking about the staff, you
15 mention a [REDACTED] teacher and I think this is something
16 you want to correct. You will see that names have been
17 blacked out --
- 18 A. Yes.
- 19 Q. -- but the [REDACTED] teacher's name has not been blacked
20 out. So you can see there the reference to the [REDACTED]
21 teacher, but on reflection you don't consider that is
22 the correct name?
- 23 A. That is correct, yes.
- 24 Q. What was the name of the [REDACTED] teacher?
- 25 A. Through looking at some photographs and sort of school

1 records, it would be -- I was referring to
2 a [REDACTED] MXA

3 Q. Did you have much to do --

4 A. Very little, although I wasn't very impressed by
5 Mr [REDACTED] MXA when I did come across him. I was quite
6 intimidated by him.

7 Q. The other point I want to pick up with you at this point
8 is something you mention in paragraph 13. I will just
9 read this out because what you say in the second
10 sentence is that:

11 "It was quite clear from the beginning that the
12 staff didn't have the skills to look after children."

13 Do you see that remark?

14 A. Yes. Got you, okay.

15 Q. I wondered perhaps if you are able to explain what you
16 mean by that.

17 A. I felt that when the staff were seeing young children
18 who were in distress, children who were obviously quite
19 homesick, I would define it as, and I don't think they
20 were approaching them in the appropriate way and were
21 either ignoring them or leaving them to their own
22 devices. Certainly latterly some of these very
23 vulnerable children were taken under the wing of some of
24 the priests, and I felt that what they were doing was
25 taking advantage of these children at that stage.

- 1 Q. When you talk about staff, are you focusing on the
2 priests?
- 3 A. Well, yes, there was the lay staff and for an example of
4 the lay staff who I felt was remiss was the fact that
5 the school nurse, who basically was brought to the
6 attention of our injuries when we sustained injuries by
7 these beatings, that she would never ever accept that
8 they were done by the priests, and she would always sort
9 of make reference to sporting injuries or we had fallen
10 or whatever. So I didn't have any confidence in the
11 nurse, which I was quite disappointed in, because I felt
12 that if there was corrupt priests, I thought some of the
13 laypeople would have been able to -- could have been
14 able to confide in them but there was very much a sort
15 of a culture of silence, and nobody, none of the
16 adults -- there was a Mr MFB, the teacher,
17 an ex-military guy, nothing from him, and he was
18 obviously aware of the physical violence that was going
19 about the place, nothing.
- 20 In a sense Father MFA, who originally was
21 reasonably okay, was never able to express any sympathy
22 towards what was happening around the school. It wasn't
23 just me, there were many children that were being hit
24 and things like that.
- 25 Q. In paragraph 15 of the statement, when you are looking

1 at your first day at the school, you say there that:

2 "[You] saw there were a number of lonely boys at the
3 school."

4 Do you see that is what you have said?

5 A. Yes, I see that. I can see that at the bottom of
6 paragraph 15. Yes, obviously, as I made reference to
7 about the first dormitory that we were put into that,
8 that dormitory was all the sort of newcomers, so it
9 wasn't the most sort of pleasant experience. Not
10 because of anything to do with the boys, because
11 obviously they were lonely and had been brought to
12 a place that they were unfamiliar with, and they were
13 a bit overwhelmed by it, so there was a period where
14 they were adjusting to that environment. You could see
15 where the young ones or the ones that weren't able to
16 cope weren't coping so well because you slept in
17 the same room as them.

18 Q. You then in the statement, Henrik, go on to provide us
19 with some information about what one might refer to as
20 the routine, and for example one thing you tell us is
21 that sport was quite an important aspect of life; is
22 that correct?

23 A. Yes.

24 Q. Did you participate in sport yourself?

25 A. Yes I did, yes.

1 Q. What you tell us at paragraph 23 is that at weekends you
2 were very much left to your own devices; is that
3 correct?

4 A. There were periods where there was unstructured games
5 where you were allowed to do sort of your own thing,
6 within reason, which was good. We played football --
7 that wasn't on the curriculum, so we played football
8 together. We had access to this little nine-hole golf
9 course so we played little two- and threesomes between
10 us which was good. It was fun, it was nice. So, yes,
11 that was excellent.

12 Q. What you do also tell us, and you have already touched
13 upon this, is that you went home for the normal school
14 holidays.

15 A. That is correct.

16 Q. But you thought there were some boys who stayed on at
17 Carlekemp during holidays?

18 A. Well, yes, there was. There was boys that maybe in
19 the sort of the shorter break, they couldn't get, say,
20 to the Middle East where their families were engaged in
21 whatever business they were doing -- oil was one of the
22 occupations, some of the kids' families were involved in
23 if oil. So some of them were there. I think there were
24 some other children who were further afield, and they
25 stayed at the school. I was conscious at some point

1 that somebody in Glasgow, I think through the local
2 church, had offered these kids some sort of holiday
3 respite, but I don't know any of the details, but there
4 was certainly at times people there.

5 Q. Can I ask you a little bit now about your schooling --

6 A. Yes.

7 Q. -- at Carlekemp?

8 A. Yes.

9 Q. How did you progress in school?

10 A. Well, it would be very difficult to define it as
11 "schooling" as such. It was difficult really to
12 understand what the curriculum was, and it was very
13 difficult to understand who had the necessary
14 qualifications to teach anything. It was more like
15 somebody would turn up, open a book, and read some
16 passages from it on different particular subjects. So
17 you may have somebody doing some French or history or
18 whatever, but it was very unstructured as far as I can
19 remember. And I didn't get very much academically out
20 of the school at all.

21 Q. Did you discover later on that you were in fact
22 dyslexic?

23 A. Yes, I think that was one of the motivating factors from
24 St Mark's, which was the school that I was at before
25 Carlekemp, there were issues that I was having at that

1 school. So apart from the fact that my mum was unwell,
2 there were concerns about my learning at that stage. So
3 they felt that I needed a little bit of extra support.
4 Obviously they were misguided because that wasn't the
5 environment to offer that support in fact. They didn't
6 recognise that there was anything going on apart from
7 probably that I was being belligerent and difficult,
8 when in fact I was having some serious educational
9 problems.

10 Q. And was that related to your dyslexia?

11 A. At that stage in the 1970s, that was something that was
12 not -- wasn't spoken about. I think it had been
13 referred to -- at St Mark's to my mother by one of
14 the teachers who mentioned it to her -- and this was
15 years ago and it was after that incident that my mother
16 said when I actually got to the bottom of all this, that
17 she said, okay, yes, that is right I can remember that
18 so had mentioned that could have been the case, but back
19 in those days it was fairly, you know, fairly exotic.

20 Q. Did you get any support educationally at Carlekemp when
21 you were there?

22 A. Sorry, can you repeat that?

23 Q. Did you get any support to help you with, for example,
24 your reading and so on?

25 A. No, there was no support. I was offered Latin classes,

1 and bits of French; I could barely write my name.

2 Q. If we move on a number of years, I think what you talk
3 about in your statement is your profound dyslexia was
4 recognised and you did achieve educational
5 qualifications.

6 A. Yes, that is correct. I think there is also a situation
7 where I don't want to be too -- go off the agenda but
8 I think when you are under pressure and perhaps
9 intimidated or frightened I think there is a block to
10 learning. I think that didn't help. I was in
11 an environment that was not conducive to being sort of
12 the person that I was. So the stimulus that you are
13 given is that you feel -- it's a threat so you are
14 starting to block it out and so it's a sort of double
15 whammy where you have an underlying issue, but also you
16 are intimidated by the environment and you are putting
17 blocks up to stop it because you see the people actually
18 giving the information are the enemy, the people you are
19 you are not happy with, the people that are hurting you.
20 So this was all going on and it was a difficult dynamic.
21 When I was out of that environment and started to get
22 into other things I started to unpick that and
23 I basically started to get educated.

24 Q. I think you went on to develop a good career,
25 particularly in social work.

- 1 A. Completely, yes. I have done quite well.
- 2 Q. Did you have any awareness of there being any
3 inspections carried out at Carlekemp during your time
4 there?
- 5 A. Nothing.
- 6 Q. One thing you do tell us is that -- and this is in
7 paragraph 34 -- you did attempt to run away at one
8 point; is that right?
- 9 A. Yes, yes. Well, I think there was -- in an environment
10 where you are feeling threatened and you are basically
11 unhappy, you do fantasise quite a lot, so there was
12 quite a lot of times where I was trying to imagine what
13 it would be like to get out of the institution on the
14 back of the delivery vans that came with the bread, ways
15 of actually getting away from the place. I never put
16 that into any action, but there was one, maybe two,
17 occasions where there was a sort of a futile attempt to
18 run off.
- 19 But, yes, on one occasion, yes, it was quite
20 dangerous because basically it was in the middle of the
21 night and the weather was rough and the sea was quite
22 high, and so I turned back. There were, I think, two of
23 three other boys with me.
- 24 Q. Can I now look at some aspects of things that you say
25 happened to you when you were at Carlekemp.

1 A. Yes.

2 Q. You focus first of all on Father MFA Father
3 MFA ?

4 A. Yes.

5 Q. And something that happened in connection with him. Can
6 you just tell me about that?

7 A. Father MFA was -- he was reasonable to begin with. He
8 was very dishevelled. I think I have described it in
9 the statement, but I thought he had an alcohol problem.
10 He was very dirty and he was quite unkempt and he had
11 nicotine all over his hands but he was all right. He
12 did a lot of the catering and anybody who fed us in my
13 book was all right. He seemed to be okay.

14 But because he was Father MFD sort of right-hand
15 man, I was very disappointed that he never actually made
16 any sort of move to acknowledge what Father MFD was
17 up to was wrong. So although he was sort of bumbling
18 along, and he wasn't that threatening, he gave me the
19 impression that he was just a bit corrupt and he had
20 just lost his way.

21 Anyway, at some point we were in his little room,
22 which was on -- it was behind the -- it was in
23 the corridor, where the noticeboards were, and down the
24 stairs, there was the place we played table tennis and
25 he had a little office upstairs, and there was a sort of

1 a panel that ran from that office into one of
2 the classrooms. Anyway, we were in there, and there was
3 me, maybe one other boy, maybe two, and we were having
4 a chat about something -- I can't remember what we were
5 chatting about -- but then he proceeded to put his hands
6 down my trousers. We were wearing shorts, which
7 I thought was very odd at the time. It wasn't --
8 I didn't think -- I don't know, it just was peculiar.

9 He went on to do it with the other boys as well --
10 the other one boy, I think. But it was more the fact
11 that he was just so filthy that it sort of resonated in
12 my mind. I don't think it was even sexual, it wasn't --
13 I didn't feel it was a sexual move --

14 Q. Did he make contact with your genitals?

15 A. Yes, he did. He made some reference to balls not
16 dropping or something like that. It was just
17 quasi-medical rubbish. I didn't know what was
18 happening. I just looked at him and it was over and
19 done with within 30 seconds, or whatever, but it was
20 very unpleasant and then after that I sort of lost faith
21 in him as well.

22 Q. This particular thing, did that just happen on the one
23 occasion?

24 A. Yes, yes.

25 Q. You have mentioned Father MFD already; we know that

1 he was SNR .

2 A. He was.

3 Q. Can you just describe how you got on with him?

4 A. I think from day one Father MFD and myself never
5 really saw eye to eye. I don't think I was
6 Father MFD sort of type of pupil. Yes, I came from
7 a background obviously where we had had quite a lot of
8 freedom, where we went to local schools in Glasgow,
9 I had knocked around with a peer group, just regular
10 young boys and girls, and we had played in the streets,
11 had some fun, and we had a loving family, so we were
12 full of jokes and full of life and full of love. He
13 didn't really click with me, so I think he thought I was
14 a bit mouthy and a bit sort of flippant, I suppose. So
15 that was our initial encounter.

16 Q. Thereafter, as far as punishment is concerned, did you
17 come across Father MFD in that context?

18 A. I did, unfortunately. We had several -- many, many
19 encounters that started off with the traditional
20 Carlekemp double-six on the hands with straps. So that
21 was just basically par for the course and you are
22 picking them up a lot as you moved around for minor
23 infringements, which I can't really remember. They were
24 never really explained, but you were called and then
25 they were meted out and given this punishment.

1 Q. When you say "double-six" --

2 A. Six on each hand.

3 Q. When would he give you this?

4 A. It was always in my recollection -- I can't remember

5 anybody but Father **MFD** getting involved with that.

6 It was always in his room. It was always in his room.

7 It wasn't just random in the corridor or whatever.

8 I think that happened very rarely -- it may have

9 happened once or twice, not to me, but I think the --

10 they carried belts with them, but it was this whole sort

11 of bringing you outside his room and waiting for him.

12 Q. Can I just ask you about that. Of course, you do tell

13 us about that in your statement as to how you would be

14 waiting outside his room. Where would you have been

15 before you had gone to the corridor outside his room?

16 A. The waiting outside of the room -- I think in

17 the statement it refers to the fact that periodically

18 during the night, in the dark after lights out, there

19 would be some kerfuffle along the corridor and then

20 there would be some names called out, and you would

21 then, if your name was picked, you would then be asked

22 to get out of bed, and proceed downstairs in the middle

23 of the night in darkness to the corridor outside of

24 Father **MFD** door.

25 Outside there was this -- basically this metal

1 heater, obviously it wasn't on, but you sat -- you knelt
2 there. You were told to say your rosary, and there was
3 a little sort of group of lads kneeling saying the
4 rosary in the middle of the night -- you could vaguely
5 hear the chanting of the monks upstairs where they were
6 doing whatever they did, their prayers -- and we would
7 wait for them. So that is what would happen and then
8 eventually they would break up their meeting or their
9 prayer meeting, whatever they were doing, and then they
10 would come down and they would go off to their different
11 rooms. Father MFD would come into his room, which is
12 obviously part of the -- not obviously, but part of the
13 sickbay, so there was this horrible stench of Dettol in
14 his area, in the rooms that he occupied, or one room
15 that he occupied, which was an office with a sort of bed
16 in it and quite a large desk.

17 Next door to it was the sickbay which I had spent
18 some time in and occasionally there would be children in
19 there when he was meting out this punish, and that
20 obviously I think must have been fairly horrific for
21 them, and then he would take in the boys and then he
22 would mete out his punishment.

23 Q. Would the boys go in separately?

24 A. Singly, yes, you would go in -- inevitably in my
25 recollection, I was always the last to go in, so you saw

1 them go in, they were terrified, and then they came out
2 and they were in bits, and they were terrified, and then
3 they would have to go bed.

4 Q. What age groups are we talking about?

5 A. About my age groups, I don't think there was any
6 particularly young ones there by that stage, probably 10
7 or 11. These were -- there wasn't any of the young
8 ones, but there could have been, but I didn't see any of
9 the younger ones.

10 Q. What happened then once you went into the room?

11 A. Well, you obviously knew what was coming, and you sort
12 of braced yourself. I always found it a fairly -- there
13 was something -- I just find it quite sinister because
14 he was sort of skirting around the reasons why you were
15 there, just something like you were heard talking or you
16 had got out of bed or something like that, it never
17 really made too much sense. I always just felt he was
18 trying to weigh up his options about whatever he was
19 going to actually do and he was building himself up to
20 it. So you are a ten-year-old in front of a man who is
21 basically much bigger than you, in a gown, standing over
22 you, and he is going to hit you. So the whole process
23 is quite frightening.

24 So he then proceeded to do the double-six business,
25 and then -- which I did find really upsetting, that he

1 would ask me to sort of thank him for doing this, and
2 I hated that. I just tried very often not to say
3 thank you, because he was trying to justify what he had
4 done was for my good, which was just absolute rubbish.
5 I hated having to say thank you, so I would mumble
6 something under my breath and try to get out of the room
7 as quickly as possible.

8 Q. This practice then of being outside the room and then
9 going into the room to get the double-six, how regularly
10 did that happen?

11 A. It is very hard to say. I think by about when I was
12 about 10 or 11 there was a period that it was happening
13 fairly regularly and then it sort of tailed off. So
14 maybe a couple of times a term, yes.

15 Q. When you say it tailed off, do you know why it tailed
16 off?

17 A. I have a speculation about that. Obviously -- it
18 escalated from this double-six on the hand and then it
19 got into you getting your pyjama bottoms taken down and
20 then there was a horrible incident before he inflicted
21 this -- this was the birch or whatever -- he then went
22 through this whole sort of fiasco about phoning my
23 family, which was very humiliating. So he phoned them
24 to ask them -- to tell them that he was going to hit me
25 and he expected them to say, well, if that is what he

1 thinks is required, that sort of thing, again to justify
2 it.

3 I was just absolutely appalled by this because by
4 that stage you have got doubts about why your parents
5 have put you in a place like this and so you are losing
6 your sort of faith and your relationship with them
7 a little bit, albeit that you know there was reasons for
8 it, ie my mum wasn't 100%, but at the same time that is
9 kicking in.

10 I think that was quite disturbing because you were
11 sort of questioning the trust, not only of these adults
12 that were supposed to care for you, but you were
13 obviously questioning the love of your parents.

14 Q. The phoning of your parents, did this happen once or
15 more than once?

16 A. Yes, I think this was basically the sort of the apex of
17 it. It happened and then after that -- I would say
18 I received that punishment or beating, and then after
19 that it happened occasionally, but never on the
20 backside, again on the hands. But I felt we had reached
21 a point where it had sort of got to -- it was quite
22 a violent level and I think the tactics sort of changed
23 on behalf of MFD .

24 Q. Just before we come to that, the taking of your pyjamas
25 down, as you have just mentioned, did that happen the

1 once --

2 A. Yes, that happened once.

3 Q. On that occasion was it a strap or something else that
4 was used to beat you?

5 A. I think it was a strap. I can't -- I'm not 100% sure
6 but it was just -- it was just so humiliating and just
7 dreadful, really, but I was being hit.

8 Q. Can you tell me how many strokes there were? Can you
9 remember?

10 A. Six, I think. It wasn't as many as twelve. You would
11 get twelve on the hand, maybe six.

12 Q. And looking to the -- whether it is twelve on the hands
13 or the six on your bottom on the occasion that happened,
14 did any of these strokes cause any injuries?

15 A. Yes, of course. There was -- I have referred to this
16 nurse. The injuries were visible and there were -- you
17 had marks on your body. Sometimes your hands were so
18 swollen you could hardly hold a pen. So the -- the
19 palms of your hands had welted up and you wanted
20 ointment because they stung and they were sore. So when
21 you went to ask for these ointments, it was just
22 rubbish.

23 Obviously I didn't inspect the damage on my
24 buttocks, but I could feel it when I sat down.

25 Q. You have said that the beatings became -- I think you

- 1 said this -- more violent and then they stopped.
- 2 A. I think there was definitely a period where there was
3 a bit of a battle of wills between me, a ten-year-old,
4 and Father MFD, and I don't know, I think perhaps --
5 I can't say but maybe he felt that whatever he was
6 trying to do wasn't actually coming to fruition, there
7 wasn't any sort of result coming from it, so -- or his
8 health started to deteriorate a little bit so he wasn't
9 meting out so much physical violence but it did seem to
10 go down definitely.
- 11 Q. One thing you do tell us in your statement, in
12 paragraph 42 -- I think that's the one that's on the
13 screen -- after you have discussed the various
14 punishments that you have already mentioned, is that
15 there was a real culture of fear at Carlekemp. Can you
16 just explain to me how that manifested itself?
- 17 A. I think to be a bit more accurate, I think the culture
18 of fear was -- it was a culture of fear around me.
19 I was fearful of it; it is very difficult to actually
20 say about sort of the whole institution. Obviously
21 different boys were having different experiences and so
22 I was very fearful of what I was seeing around me, and
23 that fear sort of manifested it in sort of me being --
24 it was a me against them sort of scenario.
- 25 Q. One thing you tell us in your statement is that as time

1 went on in your time at Carlekemp you became more
2 isolated from life at Carlekemp. I think that is what
3 you are telling us. Can you develop that for me?
4 A. I think that is perhaps what I am trying to refer to in
5 terms of the change of direction. Up until that stage
6 I think Father **MFD** was trying to sort of change me,
7 or mould me through a physical regime to do his bidding
8 or do -- or learn or whatever, and I think that was
9 obviously evidently not working. So that sort of
10 started to change and I became a bit more ostracised
11 from the body of the school. There was a couple of
12 incidents which I felt were a sort of a deliberate
13 attempt to isolate me and put me in, sort of, in
14 Coventry. So it was always done under a quasi sort of
15 medical thing, so I was the one that was infecting the
16 school with streptococcal sore throats, it was me
17 because I was the one that was always chatty and blah,
18 blah, blah, so they would put me in rooms for days and
19 days and days -- I refer to a piano room, whatever.

20 So, yes, I just felt there was a period where they
21 just wanted me out of the way really.

22 Q. When you say they put you in rooms for days and days and
23 days, can I just focus on that. Who would put you in
24 a room?

25 A. It would be sanctioned by Father **MFD** .

1 Q. And would you be in the room on your own?

2 A. Yes.

3 Q. When you say days and days, what sort of periods are you
4 talking about?

5 A. I think there was -- there was a period of I think two
6 or three days that I was in the piano room. I don't
7 remember if it was because there were so many people
8 with sore throats that the sickbay, as it was called,
9 was absolutely jam-packed and this was an annex to that.
10 But it was never explained. You were just told that was
11 it and you were in there and you were put in there and
12 let out three days later.

13 LADY SMITH: What was the piano room?

14 A. The piano room? It was just a little room on the first
15 floor. There was a little -- a box room that wasn't --
16 it wasn't a very big room.

17 LADY SMITH: Presumably it had a piano in it.

18 A. Yes.

19 LADY SMITH: An upright piano?

20 A. An upright piano.

21 LADY SMITH: And a bed?

22 A. Yes.

23 LADY SMITH: So you were put to bed in that a room, were
24 you?

25 A. I slept in that room and I was in that room for a good

1 while.

2 LADY SMITH: I see, thank you.

3 MR MacAULAY: What about your meals? How was that managed?

4 A. I would imagine they were brought up to me.

5 Q. Do you have a recollection of that?

6 A. Not really. I just -- I have this recollection of not
7 being able to get out of this room, really.

8 Q. Was the door locked?

9 A. Yes.

10 Q. You are talking there about a particular incident. Did
11 this happen just the once or more than once?

12 A. No, that only happened once. That particular incident
13 only happened once.

14 Q. Were you suffering from a sore throat at that time?

15 A. Yes, periodically we did have sore throats, there was no
16 doubt about it, and obviously in a confined environment
17 it would get around the school. But I just felt it
18 was -- there was a punishment attached to it that was
19 unnecessary, and I just felt it was excessive. There
20 might have been some knowledge that there was some
21 infection but it just seemed to not be proportionate at
22 all. But I don't know, I can't say.

23 But there were other incidents where there were
24 things happening within the school that I was sort of
25 told not to take part in. Again, I think that would fit

1 with the room issue. There was some, I think, dignitary
2 had arrived to do something, a feast day, and I was
3 placed in the refectory and not allowed to participate
4 in the activities.

5 Q. Who told you that?

6 A. Again, it would be one of the priests, I would assume.
7 It came from **MFD** but it could have been Father **MFA**,
8 but I wasn't allowed to get involved with that. By that
9 stage I felt it was quite evident that they didn't want
10 me to mix or be involved with the other boys.

11 Q. And I think you also gave an example at paragraph 45
12 about a group photograph. Was there an issue over
13 a group photograph?

14 A. Yes, I think that is what I am alluding to here: there
15 was something going on and at the end of -- or during it
16 there was going to be a group photograph and that was
17 something -- either it was because they didn't want me
18 to participate in the activity or the group photograph.
19 I didn't really know but I was excluded from that. And
20 I think there was other boy that was excluded from that
21 as well, but there was no explanation.

22 Q. How long had you been at the school by the time this --

23 A. These sort of incidences were running into sort of
24 before I was leaving, in the last ...

25 Q. Toward the latter part?

1 A. That is correct, yes.

2 Q. You also indicate in your statement that there was
3 a point in time where you really had very little
4 supervision in the sense that there was no real interest
5 as to when you came back into the building if you were
6 outside and so on. Can you just help me with that? How
7 did that happen?

8 A. It became -- certainly for me I felt that, as I have
9 explained how things had developed, there was
10 a gradual -- just isolating me from the school,
11 isolating me from the body of the school and not really
12 understanding what my needs were. I think rather than
13 sort of battering it out of me, which they tried, they
14 sort of maybe took a different approach. That was the
15 impression I got.

16 So I spent a lot of time wandering around the
17 grounds in the woods and I spent a lot of time on my
18 own.

19 Q. Did you make friends when you were at Carlekemp?

20 A. I did initially. There was -- we all sort of were in it
21 together, but very quickly I think it was -- I was
22 probably not somebody that people wanted to spend too
23 much time with because I was being, at the earlier part,
24 targeted and obviously by association other boys
25 wouldn't want to get involved with that. That is what

1 I felt.

2 Also, academically I was struggling and they were
3 moving on and so I was losing them through different
4 sets. They were getting into different classes or
5 whatever, so, yes, it wasn't a great place for me to
6 socialise. Albeit I must say the boys I did socialise
7 with were very nice. I didn't feel there was any overt
8 bullying going on with our little peer group, certainly.

9 Q. You mention in your statement also an incident that you
10 describe as a form of public flogging.

11 A. Yes.

12 Q. This is paragraph 46. Can you describe that for me?

13 A. Yes. I am just waiting for it to come up.

14 Yes, it was a sunny sort of day, I can remember, and
15 I think it was at the weekend. We were getting either
16 ready to go for a sports activity or play a team from
17 another school, or whatever, or we had just done that
18 and then we were called into the main hall -- and the
19 hall sat under the gallery above and on the right there
20 was -- upstairs was the bigger boys' dormitories and the
21 other side was the younger boys' dormitories.

22 Anyway, we were in the hall and that is where you
23 did homework studies, et cetera, and then off to that on
24 the right-hand side was the chapel which we attended
25 mostly every day in the mornings.

1 So on this occasion there was a flurry of activity
2 and we were all called into the hall and a couple of
3 boys were brought in to what, to my mind, looked like
4 a sort of a raised platform, or they had put something
5 up, so they were elevated above the boys, which wouldn't
6 have been unusual because at some point maybe a teacher
7 would have sat there to oversee the studying that
8 was -- the homework that was happening.

9 So anyway they brought these boys in, and then they
10 hit them. It was in front of the whole school, and
11 I just -- I just -- I was obviously very shocked by
12 that. I hadn't seen anything like that before and it
13 was a ritual. It was something that was sending us
14 a symbolic message out to everyone. We never actually
15 got told exactly what had happened, so there wasn't --
16 this is what was -- the problem as well with a lot of
17 the punishment was there was never any explanation of
18 why this was going to happen or any sort of
19 justification. It just happened and so you were left
20 feeling really confused and hurt because you couldn't
21 really piece it together.

22 So these boys got hit on stage basically and I felt
23 really sorry for them.

24 Q. It two boys, was it?

25 A. Yes, two boys, as far as I can remember.

1 Q. What age range are we talking?
2 A. About a year older than me at that stage.
3 Q. What age would that be?
4 A. They might have been 10 or 11, maybe.
5 Q. When you say they were hit, who was involved in that?
6 A. Father **MFC**, I think, was on stage that day.
7 Father **MFD** was, I think, around. Father **MFA** was
8 there.
9 Q. Who was actually inflicting the punishment?
10 A. I think **MFC** was there, I think **MFC** did the
11 punishment.
12 Q. How was it administered?
13 A. Yes, I think it -- I am struggling with this one.
14 I think it was -- they were caned. I think they were
15 caned.
16 Q. On the hands?
17 A. On the backside, I think they were caned on the
18 backside.
19 Q. On top of their trousers?
20 A. Yes.
21 Q. How did the boys react to this?
22 A. They were just completely humiliated and just -- they
23 were just distraught. It was -- that was them. They
24 must have -- I don't know what the consequences were but
25 you just expect they would be expelled. So they have

1 been punished and expelled and so the whole thing was
2 just going to be awful for them, but I don't know what
3 went on after that.

4 Q. Were they expelled?

5 A. I have no idea what happened to them.

6 Q. Can I move on and talk about another priest or brother
7 who was there and that is Father [REDACTED] MEY . Did you
8 yourself have very much to do with Father [REDACTED] MEY ?

9 A. From day one I didn't like Father [REDACTED] MEY and I think it
10 is very important to put that into context. I think
11 I was on a bit of a heightened awareness, and I was
12 very -- my antennae was out with them all and, as
13 I mentioned, Father [REDACTED] MFA seemed reasonably okay.
14 Father Paul -- I never really had too much problems with
15 him, but I just didn't like Father [REDACTED] MEY at all from
16 day one. There was something about him that gave me the
17 creeps and it was only until I got to see him operating
18 that I thought maybe my instinct was correct.

19 Q. What did you see him do?

20 A. He used to sit -- in the refectory they had tables and
21 the priests would sit and eat with us so there would be
22 different priests sitting with us at different times and
23 basically -- you obviously -- they are looking at you
24 and you are looking at them and you are trying to sort
25 of build up a picture whether or not you trust them, how

1 far are they going to go with you, are they going to hit
2 you, are they going to hurt you, so over a period you
3 are building up a profile of them all and he gave me the
4 impression he was looking at the younger boys on the
5 tables and he was looking at the boys in a way that was
6 different, that I had never really experienced. There
7 was something about the way he was looking at us that
8 was different. So ... that was one of the things.

9 He was also Australian. I haven't got anything
10 against Australians, but I had never heard an Australian
11 accent. I had never come across -- he had a different
12 type -- a skin pallor. He was different, so that was
13 fine.

14 Anyway, I then came across him on a couple of
15 occasions. He had a little room which was quite near
16 the refectory for little -- I think he was doing the
17 school magazine or something, maybe he was doing the
18 hymnals that they were churning out, but he had a mini
19 printing press. It was a very narrow room and he had
20 a stool at the end of it and occasionally I would have
21 to go in and give him either paper or give him
22 something.

23 Certainly on more than one occasion I would go in
24 and he would have very young boys on his knee, and he
25 was wearing a cassock -- not a cassock, he had his gown

1 on, and so ... They were robes which were
2 loose-fitting, and he would have these little young kids
3 sitting sort of on his -- in between his legs basically,
4 and he would have his hands down the front of their
5 trousers and he would be just playing with them.

6 You would have to go into the room and then you
7 would have to negotiate whatever you were doing in that
8 room, like giving him something or asking him for
9 something, and he would just be like continually doing
10 what he was doing. He was quite overt about it. He
11 didn't flinch and it was almost like he was saying: you
12 know this is what I do. You know, he was just
13 untouchable in terms of -- he could do whatever he
14 wanted.

15 I just thought it was appalling and the boys -- they
16 were just little. I felt they were absolutely lost
17 souls, just little boys that had nothing, no sort of
18 punch, no sort of fight or spirit. They were just
19 lonely, and very homesick.

20 Q. When you talk about boys -- when he was engaged in this
21 behaviour, would he have just one boy with him at the
22 time?

23 A. Yes.

24 Q. How often did you see this happening?

25 A. I saw it a couple of times in that little room because

1 I was in and out of there occasionally and then I saw it
2 in a classroom and again I walked in the classroom just
3 randomly, I just walked in one afternoon, maybe at the
4 weekend, and again he had a kid on his lap and again he
5 was fiddling with them.

6 Q. This was perfectly apparent to you, was it?

7 A. Yes.

8 Q. Would that have been obvious to anyone --

9 A. I didn't know. At that stage I didn't know what
10 masturbation was. I didn't know anything about sex.
11 I didn't know anything about anything, but I knew what
12 he was doing was completely unacceptable and it wasn't
13 right intrinsically. I don't know where that came from,
14 that morality, but it was definitely -- it was there.
15 I knew instantly that was wrong.

16 Q. But if another priest had come on the scene that other
17 priest would have seen what you saw?

18 A. I had just inferred by that stage that they knew all
19 about it and they were turning a blind eye to it like
20 they were turning a blind eye to the violence and the
21 conclusion that I was drawing by that stage was that
22 they were all at it and they were all in it together and
23 they were all covering their backs.

24 Q. Did you write letters home?

25 A. I did.

1 Q. Did you say anything in the letters that raised your
2 concerns about life at Carlekemp?

3 A. Yes. I wasn't very specific. You have to bear in mind
4 that -- I have mentioned that I did have a problem with
5 my reading and writing so what I was writing was --
6 I was quite basic, however, saying that I was unhappy
7 and saying I wasn't -- I might have been saying I was
8 getting hit. But I was also aware, because I was going
9 home in the holiday period, these letters which I had
10 saw when I went home had been redacted and there was
11 little lines scribbled at the bottom to say "in the
12 interests of clarity," or blah, blah, blah, "and MGU
13 appalling spelling we have decided to omit this just in
14 case you get misled sort of thing." So it was just
15 rubbish. There was nothing in the letters but I did
16 explain to my mother the context which has been
17 redacted, what that was about.

18 Q. When you were home for your holidays did you tell your
19 parents --

20 A. I told my mother, who I assumed told my father. I told
21 my mother, but I never really went into great detail.
22 Again you are conflicted. I am trying to do -- trying
23 to be a sort of -- a strong boy, and not sort of give
24 them the impression that this has not worked out because
25 they wanted it to work out. They invested in it. They

1 thought this was going to be a great thing, and it
2 turned out to be a complete disaster.

3 Basically she, my mother, was unwell and she was
4 very unwell and basically I didn't want to compound
5 that.

6 Q. Did you tell either of your parents that, for example,
7 you had seen boys who were being possibly sexually
8 abused by a priest?

9 A. Yes. I wouldn't have said that they were sexually
10 abused because at that stage that wouldn't have
11 registered. I would say there was boys fiddled with or
12 hands were down their trousers or whatever. I may have
13 mentioned that. I would probably mention more that
14 I was getting beaten up.

15 Q. What was your parents' response to that?

16 A. It was -- you know, well -- I don't think they believed
17 me. It was -- the situation is that you didn't --
18 I think for them, for their purpose, they didn't want to
19 believe it because they thought the Catholic Church
20 didn't behave like that. In the 1970s, nobody even
21 thought that would be at all possible, it was just
22 a stupid little boy who was obviously having problems at
23 school and was making it all up, it was all rubbish.
24 Nobody thought that they were capable of what they were
25 doing until later in the 1907s when things started to

- 1 unravel a little bit.
- 2 Q. You have already mentioned the fact that the intention
- 3 was that you would go to Fort Augustus --
- 4 A. Yes.
- 5 Q. -- after Carlekemp --
- 6 A. Yes.
- 7 Q. -- as indeed I think many children did.
- 8 A. Yes.
- 9 Q. And were you required to sit an exam?
- 10 A. Yes.
- 11 Q. Did you do that?
- 12 A. Well, I sat in a room -- in fact, I think it was the
- 13 first dormitory that I had been put in when I arrived.
- 14 I think I took the so-called exam there, but I didn't do
- 15 any of -- I didn't answer any of the questions. I put
- 16 my name on paper and didn't do any of it.
- 17 Q. But were you offered a place at Fort Augustus?
- 18 A. I just felt -- by that stage I couldn't believe they had
- 19 offered me a place.
- 20 Q. Were you offered a place?
- 21 A. Yes, I was offered a place.
- 22 Q. But in any event you didn't go to Fort Augustus?
- 23 A. I wouldn't have went. I would never have went to
- 24 Fort Augustus.
- 25 Q. In paragraph 53 you set out some discussions that took

1 place between yourself and Father MFD before you left
2 Carlekemp --

3 A. Yes.

4 Q. -- and an accusation that he made against you. Can you
5 just help me with that? What is that about?

6 A. It would be interesting if somebody could actually help
7 me understand this. I don't know what this was about at
8 all. It came around the time when I deliberately never
9 did anything to get through the exam to Fort Augustus --
10 not that I could have anyway. Even if I had tried
11 really hard I wouldn't have passed any exam at that
12 stage.

13 But he then had a discussion with my father to say,
14 yes, well, the exam didn't go well, blah, blah, blah,
15 but we could still offer your son a place. So that was
16 then relayed to me by my father and I said there is no
17 way I am going there, and he then obviously went back to
18 Father MFD and said we are going to decline the offer
19 and my son will then just leave.

20 It was during the period of the exam, the offer
21 being made and then basically saying that we weren't
22 going to take that offer up that basically this thing
23 came out of nowhere, that I was going to be asked to
24 leave. Therefore it was like why, why is he being asked
25 to leave, he was going to leave anyway. It was like he

1 had been involved in -- this thing that had been going
2 around the school, where kids were punching each other
3 in the balls. It doesn't make any sense to me, it
4 wasn't anything I was ever involved with.

5 Q. Was that happening at the school at that time?

6 A. I don't know. Maybe. I don't know. But obviously it
7 might have been something that was going on. I wasn't
8 involved because -- actually, I didn't really have many
9 friends to hang around with or get involved with play
10 fights or fights. It was just not something that was
11 happening to me. I just didn't understand what it was
12 all about.

13 Q. In any event, as it transpired, Henrik, you left
14 Carlekemp and you completed your schooling in Glasgow,
15 is that correct, your secondary schooling?

16 A. That is correct, yes.

17 Q. And as we touched upon already, you did go into further
18 education.

19 A. Yes.

20 Q. And I think your profound dyslexia was recognised in due
21 course; is that correct?

22 A. Yes, in a sense that was correct -- it was addressed,
23 let's put it that way.

24 Q. I think I have already taken from you that you developed
25 a career in social work and indeed had a successful

1 career in social work?

2 A. Yes, yes.

3 Q. Do you consider that your time at Carlekemp left any
4 impact on you?

5 A. Yes, it has had an impact, yes. It has definitely had
6 an impact.

7 Q. Are you able to describe what you consider the impact to
8 have been?

9 A. It is difficult to quantify it. I don't think it is
10 certainly necessarily an overwhelming influence. I made
11 a determined effort for it not to be. I didn't want it
12 to sort of define too much of my life because I thought
13 that it was too destructive and it had been too
14 destructive and I didn't necessarily want to feel as if
15 I wanted to go through that throughout my life.

16 I understand it is difficult to shake that off but
17 I would say one thing about the experience that I went
18 in there and I was very hopeful, as all children are,
19 and full of awe and love, and basically I came out of
20 there feeling profound feelings of anger and hatred, and
21 a lot of the feelings that I had never actually come
22 across were first motivated there in that institution.
23 I think that that was shameful at that age to be able to
24 confront that without the support that children were up
25 against those types of feelings. It was just

1 diabolical.

2 It also I think gave me an insight into institutions
3 and also the capacity of adults to abuse children.

4 Q. In paragraph 65, if I can move on that, what you say is
5 that you have not reported anything that happened to you
6 to the police or anybody else, but you also said:

7 "For years I didn't necessarily think what happened
8 to me was abuse."

9 That is what you say there. Can you just elaborate
10 on that for me?

11 A. We lived in a culture in the west of Scotland where you
12 would sort of pride yourself on being tough and you
13 pride yourself on sort of not really moaning and I think
14 within these private set-ups, these boarding schools,
15 there is a culture where you are supposed to grin and
16 bear it and get on with it. So you need to sort of
17 temper what the experience with: was that normal
18 throughout that experience of boarding school in
19 the 1970s or did it tip over into something more
20 sinister?

21 On reflection I have tried to be as even-handed
22 about the experience as possible, but I think that there
23 were points where it did tip over, and those were points
24 where significant and should be addressed.

25 Q. The particular point you make in that paragraph -- and

1 this is a particular point:

2 "There was no justification for taking children out
3 of their bed at night and having them kneel for hours
4 outside a room in darkness, terrifying them with the
5 anticipation of what was going to happen, and then
6 beating them."

7 A. There is no justification in that obviously. The only
8 thing I would add to that is the cynicism that these
9 were people that were having Mass in the morning,
10 singing hymns and celebrating Christ, and the cynicism
11 of that particular outlook and value system and what
12 those men did, considering they held those views, and
13 then considering what they were doing to the children
14 around them, I just thought was abhorrent and I just
15 felt that that left me with a view of -- to be very
16 critical of value systems and ideologies of any sort.
17 They need to be looked at and understood. I just
18 thought that they were corrupt people.

19 Q. If we move on to the final part of your statement,
20 paragraphs 67 and 68 then, Henrik. You do provide us
21 with some assistance as to what lessons you consider can
22 be learned from your own experience. I think you
23 recognise, of course, that things have moved on since
24 the 1970s.

25 A. Yes.

1 Q. But the point you make is that any such institutions
2 need to have some form of safeguarding framework; is
3 that correct?

4 A. Yes. It is fundamental. I think any institution needs
5 an oversight and a framework, and one that is open and
6 sensitive and able to question the sort of -- the
7 orthodoxy and not buy into the orthodoxy or be
8 intimidated by that and I think if there had been any
9 oversight at Carlekemp I think the worst of the excesses
10 would have been picked up. I think some of these men
11 were ill, some of them had faced a crisis of faith, some
12 perhaps had alcohol and drug issue, I don't know, but
13 they needed to be -- they needed to have been addressed
14 and I think the overarching Benedictines didn't give
15 them any support, they didn't give the children any
16 support, and it was shocking. They need to address that
17 because historically the damage has been done and it is
18 still there.

19 Q. Very well, Henrik, these are all the questions I have
20 for you today.

21 A. Thank you.

22 MR MacAULAY: Thank you for engaging with the inquiry.

23 My Lady, no questions has been submitted to me to be
24 put to Henrik.

25 LADY SMITH: Are there any outstanding applications for

1 questions? No.

2 Henrik, that does complete your evidence and we have
3 no more questions for you. But thank you very much
4 indeed both for providing your detailed statement and
5 for coming today to add to that by talking about your
6 experience to us as openly and helpfully as you have
7 done. So thank you very much for that and I am now able
8 to let you go.

9 (The witness withdrew)

10 LADY SMITH: Mr MacAulay.

11 MR MacAULAY: Perhaps we can adjourn a bit earlier than
12 normal.

13 LADY SMITH: We will take a break now and when the next
14 witness is ready we will resume thank you.

15 (11.11 am)

16 (A short break)

17 (11.36 am)

18 LADY SMITH: Mr MacAulay.

19 MR MacAULAY: My Lady, the next witness is an applicant. He
20 also wants to remain anonymous and to use the name
21 "Peter" in giving evidence.

22 "PETER" (sworn)

23 LADY SMITH: Good morning, Peter. Please do sit down and
24 make yourself comfortable. Thank you.

25 I will hand over to Mr MacAulay in a moment, Peter,

1 but if I can just draw your attention to the red light
2 on the microphone: that means it is on and I would just
3 ask you to keep in a good position for the microphone so
4 we hear you, please.

5 Mr MacAulay.

6 Questions from MR MacAULAY

7 MR MacAULAY: Good morning, Peter.

8 A. Good morning.

9 Q. In the red folder in front of you, you will find your
10 statement. I will give the reference for the
11 stenographers: WIT.001.002.6755. If I can ask you to
12 turn to the final page.

13 Can you confirm that you have signed the statement?

14 A. Yes, that is correct.

15 Q. In the final paragraph, paragraph 104, do you say:

16 "I have no objection to my witness statement being
17 published as part of the evidence to the inquiry"; is
18 that right?

19 A. Yes, that is fine.

20 Q. Do you go on to say:

21 "I believe the facts stated in this witness
22 statement are true"?

23 A. Correct, yes.

24 Q. Because you want to remain anonymous, Peter, I do not
25 want your date of birth, but to get the necessary

1 timeframe, I just want you to confirm that the year of
2 your birth is 1961.

3 A. That is correct.

4 Q. In the initial paragraphs of your statement you provide
5 us with some insight into your life before, in
6 particular, you went to Fort Augustus because it is
7 Fort Augustus we are going to talk about. It is
8 apparent you spent your early years abroad.

9 A. That is correct, yes.

10 Q. Along with your parents?

11 A. Yes, with my family, yes.

12 Q. I think you have a younger brother who is about two
13 years younger than you?

14 A. Correct.

15 Q. And you also have an older sister?

16 A. Yes.

17 Q. Although your life was being spent abroad, your father
18 in particular had a Glasgow connection?

19 A. Yes, my father was Scottish and he was brought up in
20 Glasgow.

21 Q. In due course, at the age of about 9, were you sent to
22 a boarding school?

23 A. Yes, that is correct.

24 Q. You mention a particular boarding school in Ayrshire and
25 I think you were there for about a year --

- 1 A. Yes.
- 2 Q. -- or so but eventually were you sent to Fort Augustus
3 School?
- 4 A. That is correct. The aim was always to go to
5 Fort Augustus when I was old enough, yes.
- 6 Q. Do you have a Catholic background?
- 7 A. My parents were brought up as Catholics but they weren't
8 practising Catholics. We went to church at Christmas
9 and Easter and that was about it.
- 10 Q. I think you thought that you might have been -- although
11 I think you say in your statement 11, you might have
12 been 12 by the time you went to Fort Augustus.
- 13 A. Yes.
- 14 Q. And that would, I think, bring us into 1973?
- 15 A. That is correct, yes.
- 16 Q. Do you take it then that you started in Fort Augustus
17 for the academic year beginning [REDACTED] 1973?
- 18 A. Yes.
- 19 Q. There is no record for when you went in, but there is
20 a note to say that you left in 1975.
- 21 A. Correct.
- 22 Q. Is that correct?
- 23 A. Yes.
- 24 Q. So that would then be at the end of the academic year?
- 25 A. The end of the academic year.

1 Q. I think I am right in saying your brother also followed
2 you to Fort Augustus for a period of time.

3 A. No, he didn't actually. He was at Carlekemp, and at
4 that time my parents were getting a divorce, so my
5 mother came back to the UK and then they pulled all of
6 us out. So he was intending to go but he didn't get
7 there.

8 Q. So far as the set-up at Fort Augustus was concerned,
9 I think we know that there were different houses --

10 A. Correct, yes.

11 Q. -- designated within the school. How many houses were
12 there when you were there?

13 A. I have to recall, I think there were about three, two or
14 three.

15 Q. Were you allocated to a particular --

16 A. No, not yet.

17 Q. Was the arrangement that the younger children --

18 A. Yes.

19 Q. -- had to wait?

20 A. Yes, that is correct.

21 Q. What about the sleeping arrangements when you were
22 there? Can you help me with that? What was the set-up?

23 A. We had dormitories, which were long and narrow, with
24 bunk beds on either side and with a wooden partition
25 in between each -- each cubicle, if you like, but there

1 was -- it was always open. On the corridor side there
2 were no doors or anything, so it was all open.

3 Q. I think what you are describing is a form of cubicle.

4 A. Yes.

5 Q. How many bunk beds would be in --

6 A. Two, sorry, one bunk bed, two people.

7 Q. So four --

8 A. No, one, two beds.

9 Q. Did you stay in the same dormitory throughout your whole
10 period there?

11 A. Yes.

12 Q. Can I just focus on the staff. Focusing on the monks,
13 who was [REDACTED] SNR [REDACTED] when you were there?

14 A. When I first arrived -- I can't recall [REDACTED] SNR [REDACTED]
15 [REDACTED] but then Father [REDACTED] MMF [REDACTED] SNR [REDACTED].

16 Q. Father [REDACTED] MMF [REDACTED] ?

17 A. That is correct.

18 Q. Can you remember the names of the other monks?

19 A. I had Father [REDACTED] MEZ [REDACTED], obviously, my housemaster.

20 Q. Who was that?

21 A. [REDACTED]

22 [REDACTED]

23 Q. That's Father [REDACTED] MEV [REDACTED] ?

24 A. Yes, that's right.

25 Q. He was also known as [REDACTED] MEV [REDACTED] ?

1 A. Yes, we always called him -- I didn't really know he was
2 MEV until the inquiry started [REDACTED]
3 [REDACTED]; I always called him Father MEV.

4 There was also Father MRQ I think he later
5 became SNR as well, but at the time he was
6 a [REDACTED] teacher, and also a housemaster for another
7 house name.

8 Q. That is, I think, Father MRQ?

9 A. Yes.

10 Q. Were there other lay staff there in addition to the
11 monks?

12 A. Yes. There was a Mr -- I think it was -- my mind has
13 gone blank now, sorry -- not Hamilton, Mr MIH He
14 was -- lived [REDACTED] He taught some [REDACTED], and
15 he was also involved in the sports, and he was a real
16 character. He was an ex-fighter pilot in the Second
17 World War, so told lots of stories to us, yes. There
18 was an [REDACTED] teacher, I think his name was Mr MFH, and
19 he taught [REDACTED] lessons.

20 Q. If we just look at Father MEZ, who you have
21 mentioned already, I think you tell us in your statement
22 about a particular practice that he engaged in with the
23 boys. Can you develop that for me?

24 A. Yes. He was a very tall man, thin, and I always recall
25 he had enormous hands. And would always come into talk

1 to us as well, but we had -- the gym and the badminton
2 courts were just outside the church, down some steps,
3 they had wooden buildings where the sports halls were,
4 and he used to the enjoy rubbing our backs. We took it
5 as a joke, it was just something ... I didn't at the
6 time think it was malicious or anything but he just
7 enjoyed, "Hi, how are you," and rubbing his hands on
8 your back and would sometimes try and get underneath
9 your rugby shirt, but we just thought, "Oh, that's
10 Father [REDACTED] MEZ".

11 Q. Was this a regular occurrence?

12 A. Yes, yes. It was something we all joked about a little
13 bit, yes, as boys.

14 Q. You also mention early on in your statement Father
15 [REDACTED] MRQ and in particular he kept [REDACTED].

16 A. Yes.

17 Q. Did you help him out?

18 A. Now and again he used to let me help, especially at some
19 half terms -- I never went home. Then it was much more
20 relaxed and he used to have a few [REDACTED] and sometimes
21 he used to allow me to help, yes.

22 Q. Did you enjoy that?

23 A. Yes, it was a bit scary at first, but it was okay.

24 Q. You also tell us, as we know, of course, that the
25 school -- there was also an abbey there. Did you see

- 1 monks in the area who were attached to the abbey and
2 really had nothing to do with the school?
- 3 A. Yes, they walked around, not in the school itself but
4 obviously in the grounds. I was also involved in the
5 boys' choir, and that was in the cloisters, so that was
6 where the monks stayed and we regularly saw them
7 obviously in and out, going past the corridors, and
8 obviously on a Sunday, at church services, they would
9 all be there of course.
- 10 Q. In paragraphs 22, I think, through to about paragraph 30
11 or so you provide us with some information about the
12 routine and the set-up. For example, I think you tell
13 us that as far as the dormitories were concerned adults
14 did not sleep in the dormitory area.
- 15 A. No.
- 16 Q. Is that right? Do you know where your housemaster,
17 for example, who was responsible for you, would sleep?
- 18 A. I think he would have somewhere in the abbey I think.
19 Yes.
- 20 Q. Was there bedtime supervision when children were going
21 to bed?
- 22 A. There was supervision as in making sure we changed and
23 sometimes particularly they might tell a ghost story or
24 something, now and again, and we would sit and watch --
25 and then we would go to bed but then it's lights out and

- 1 they are gone, yes.
- 2 Q. You had to, I think, stay quiet when the lights went
3 out.
- 4 A. Yes. Yes, that wasn't always the case, but yes.
- 5 Q. In paragraph 30 you mention the showers. First of all,
6 can you just describe the shower area for me?
- 7 A. The showers was a big area in the basement, and all open
8 with -- the showers were along the wall and then there
9 were baths all -- again, all in the open, just placed in
10 rows.
- 11 Q. As far as the arrangements for showering would be
12 concerned, would you shower after games or --
- 13 A. Yes, we would shower after games, yes.
- 14 Q. And I think games was quite a popular aspect of life.
- 15 A. Yes.
- 16 Q. But one of the things you do mention in your statement,
17 Peter, is that because the showers were open and you
18 could see the other boys who were having showers?
- 19 A. Uh-huh. Oh, it was all open. There were no cubicles or
20 anything like that, nothing.
- 21 Q. But it became evident to you that there were boys there
22 who had marks on their bodies?
- 23 A. Yes.
- 24 Q. Can you help me with that?
- 25 A. You would see the bruise marks of cane stripes on --

1 mainly on their backsides, some missed on the leg or the
2 side but, yes, that was a common thing to see.

3 Q. Were the showers supervised?

4 A. I think sometimes but I would not say as a supervisory
5 role, it's just in the showers -- that was it really,
6 yes.

7 Q. What about schooling then? How did you find the
8 schooling at Fort Augustus, the teaching? What did you
9 think of the standard of teaching?

10 A. I was only 12. I thought -- I don't know. As far as
11 I was concerned it was school, so it was very strict.
12 There was a lot of homework time to do, prep, but as to
13 the standard, I couldn't judge.

14 Q. Did you get the normal school holidays?

15 A. Yes.

16 Q. Did you stay in Scotland for the holidays?

17 A. For holidays I usually flew out to where my parents
18 were, mainly in Africa. In the three full-time terms,
19 half terms, that wasn't possible, so I either stayed in
20 the school or I went to -- my granny lived in Glasgow,
21 and then I would go there for half term time.

22 Q. You tell us a little bit in your statement, Peter, about
23 your leisure time and we have already touched upon the
24 sporting activities. But I think you are also saying
25 there that you had a lot of freedom.

- 1 A. Uh-huh.
- 2 Q. Is that right?
- 3 A. Yes.
- 4 Q. You give an example of using pellet guns, I think. Can
5 you describe that for me?
- 6 A. There was always something going on but I remember there
7 was a term where pellet guns were the in thing and it
8 was like -- you had to run otherwise you might get shot,
9 it was really ... and you would be chased up a tree and
10 then got a pellet in your bum or your leg or something,
11 but, yes, it was -- and it only happened for about
12 a term but it was ...
- 13 Q. Did anyone in authority trying try to stop this
14 practice?
- 15 A. I don't know but it continued. So it was ... you know,
16 I didn't see anyone punished for it.
- 17 Q. Can I then move on to look at discipline with you,
18 Peter. Can you describe that for me? How did you find
19 that aspect of life?
- 20 A. Discipline was hard.
- 21 Q. Let's look at -- we will come on to look at
22 Father **MEV** in a moment, but let's look at in the
23 classroom. How was discipline managed in the classroom?
- 24 A. It was very strict. Complete -- no talking, that sort
25 of thing, no fooling around. If you were, you could be

- 1 disciplined at the time, and that would be with the
2 strap, usually by the strap, by the teacher there,
3 whoever it was.
- 4 Q. Would the strap be on the hand or hands?
- 5 A. Yes, hands.
- 6 Q. And what was the normal punishment for talking in class,
7 for example?
- 8 A. Well, it would be a warning and the strap. It was quite
9 simple: it is this or that.
- 10 Q. One stroke or more than one stroke?
- 11 A. Yes, it would always be more than one, it would be ...
12 maybe three or four maybe.
- 13 Q. Could you be sent to the housemaster for punishment --
- 14 A. Yes.
- 15 Q. -- from the classroom?
- 16 A. Yes, but that was never direct. It would either be
17 after and the -- the caning I always got from the
18 housemaster. I don't recall a teacher giving anyone the
19 cane. The housemaster was responsible for that sort of
20 thing.
- 21 Q. We will come on to that in a moment. One thing you tell
22 us in your statement is that as a group you could also
23 be punished by Father MEV; is that right?
- 24 A. Yes.
- 25 Q. Can you give me the background to that? How would that

- 1 come about?
- 2 A. The occasions -- that would be if in a dormitory it
3 was -- if people were fooling around and after a couple
4 of warnings and it didn't happen, sometimes he would
5 just call us all down, and the whole lot, the whole side
6 ...
- 7 Q. How many would that be?
- 8 A. I don't know, maybe twelve or something. It depends if
9 it was the whole dormitory or not.
- 10 Q. Is that the same sort of age group?
- 11 A. Oh, the same, yes. Yes, we would just have to go
12 downstairs and line up outside. We would go down the
13 stairs, through a couple of rooms, and then we would
14 stand outside the hall where the housemaster's room was,
15 and we just lined up.
- 16 Q. When it came your turn to go in to see Father MEV,
17 what would happen then?
- 18 A. In those instances, it would be, "Just bend over," and
19 swiped.
- 20 Q. On top of your trousers?
- 21 A. On my pyjamas.
- 22 Q. How many strokes for these types of punishments?
- 23 A. I can't recall exactly how many but maybe three to four,
24 maybe.
- 25 Q. I take it this would be on a one-to-one with

- 1 Father **MEV** in that room?
- 2 A. Yes. I have never been in a room with other people.
- 3 Q. Do I understand the process then to be that once one
- 4 person had been punished --
- 5 A. You go out and the next one goes in straightaway.
- 6 Q. When this happened to you the first time, let's say,
- 7 were you upset?
- 8 A. Yes. It was sore, yes.
- 9 Q. Crying?
- 10 A. Yes. And it's -- a lot of people were innocent. A lot
- 11 of the kids -- it was nothing to do with them but you
- 12 couldn't argue the case because it was everyone and you
- 13 know if you argued it, you would just be picked on by
- 14 whoever was doing it.
- 15 Q. Could you be referred from the teacher in the classroom
- 16 to Father **MEV** for punishment?
- 17 A. Yes.
- 18 Q. In those instances can you tell me what the process
- 19 would involve? Let's say, for example, a teacher in
- 20 a morning class is referring you, what would happen?
- 21 A. In those circumstances ... excuse me. (Pause). In
- 22 those circumstances I was asked to take my clothes off.
- 23 Q. I will come -- let's look at that then. Let's look at
- 24 that.
- 25 A. I can wait. Okay.

1 Q. You are okay?

2 A. Yes, I can wait. But in those circumstances the similar
3 thing would happen, yes.

4 Q. I do want to come on to those instances which you talk
5 about in your statement where you are asked to take your
6 clothes off. If we just look at that sort of situation
7 and tell me what happened.

8 A. I was regularly called by him for no particular reason.

9 Q. Can you just give me some idea as to how that would come
10 about?

11 A. I would just hear, "Boy, come here." He had a very deep
12 voice, which I recognised instantly. And he used to
13 shout just, "Boy," and, "Come here," and you knew you
14 were in trouble.

15 Q. Could this be in a corridor --

16 A. Anywhere.

17 Q. -- or on a stair?

18 A. Yes, and you can't avoid him -- you can try but ...

19 Q. So he says "Come here", what then do you do? Would you
20 go?

21 A. I go to the housemaster's room and I would have to take
22 my clothes off.

23 Q. Completely?

24 A. Yes. And I would be asked to bend over, my hands on
25 a chair or sometimes the desk. (Pause). And he was --

- 1 at first he never said anything. At first he used to
2 just rub my backside and then I used to get the cane.
- 3 Q. Just break it down into stages. Did he tell you to take
4 your clothes off?
- 5 A. Yes.
- 6 Q. Did you know what was going to happen?
- 7 A. Yes.
- 8 Q. As far as the rubbing of your backside is concerned, can
9 you just help me with that? How long would that aspect
10 of the process go on for?
- 11 A. Maybe about a minute, maybe.
- 12 Q. Was he using one hand or two hands?
- 13 A. Just the one, I think. I can't remember specifically.
14 But, yes. And ... sometimes obviously your reaction is
15 to move and defend yourself, so you put your hands -- if
16 you do that (indicates) and then you get more, you are
17 hit more, so you really had to try and resist defending
18 yourself.
- 19 Q. So after the rubbing process -- is it after that that
20 the caning begins?
- 21 A. Yes.
- 22 Q. And was the target for the cane your backside?
- 23 A. Yes.
- 24 Q. As a generality, can you tell me how many strokes would
25 be inflicted?

- 1 A. I don't know, maybe four, more maybe. Sometimes more.
2 It depends, if you ... sometimes you do flinch then you
3 get more.
- 4 Q. Did this cause injury?
- 5 A. I had bruises.
- 6 Q. Were these bruises similar to the bruises that you saw
7 other boys with in the showers?
- 8 A. Yes.
- 9 Q. Did he ever tell you why he was engaging in this
10 process, this procedure?
- 11 A. No. Sometimes -- there are rules running in the
12 corridor or being noisy up the stairs or running up the
13 stairs or whatever, and he used to say, "I saw you
14 running up the stairs," or running on the thing and
15 there is nothing you could say.
- 16 Q. Would that be the case? Was it simply --
- 17 A. No. Obviously I am sure sometimes I was guilty but
18 a lot of the times it was nothing to do with that -- you
19 would just hear the voice, "Boy".
- 20 Q. And either before, during or after, did he say anything
21 to you?
- 22 A. "Out." "Out." And sometimes ... sometimes he used to
23 call me in the office and give me toast.
- 24 Q. I will come to the toast in a moment. But just focusing
25 on this issue that we are talking about, when you were

- 1 required to remove your clothes, he was present?
- 2 A. Yes.
- 3 Q. When you dressed, he was present?
- 4 A. As quick -- you got dressed as quickly as you could.
- 5 Q. To understand fully, when you stripped off, I understand
- 6 you are taking your clothing off, but what about your
- 7 shoes and socks? Did you keep them on --
- 8 A. No, the shoes came off, but that was it.
- 9 Q. The shoes came off?
- 10 A. Yes.
- 11 Q. So far as you are aware, were other boys dealt with in
- 12 a similar way to you by Father **MEV** ?
- 13 A. I don't know. It sounds very strange but I thought that
- 14 was normal.
- 15 Q. Sorry?
- 16 A. I thought that was normal so I didn't think to question
- 17 it. It was never discussed. People got caned. How
- 18 they got caned, I don't know, but this was normal for
- 19 me.
- 20 Q. During the two years you spent at Fort Augustus, how
- 21 regular an occurrence was this sort of ...?
- 22 A. Pretty regular. I don't know, maybe every couple of
- 23 weeks or so, something like that. It was a regular
- 24 occurrence. It was always on my mind.
- 25 Q. Did you try to avoid Father **MEV** ?

1 A. Yes. Obviously, when you -- you know he is around you
2 and you try and go a different way, but if he wants you,
3 he knows where you are.

4 Q. You mentioned toast; can you help me with that? What
5 was that all about?

6 A. I have some very nice memories about Father **MEV**
7 **MEV**, and one of the strongest memories is
8 him giving me toast and butter, and saying how nice it
9 is that we are together, and it meant such a lot.
10 I remember boasting to my mother on a few occasions that
11 I got toast and she never understood it. I talked about
12 this with my mother a few years ago, and she recalls
13 she remembers thinking how strange that was, but
14 she didn't think anything of it.

15 So I have a real -- really nice feeling with him
16 about toast and butter.

17 Q. Just give me the background to that. Would he approach
18 you in a similar sort of way --

19 A. Yes.

20 Q. -- as before?

21 A. Yes. It was a huge relief.

22 Q. Would you know if you were going to be caned or --

23 A. No.

24 Q. -- or for toast and butter?

25 A. No.

- 1 Q. So would you find out then once you were in his room?
- 2 A. Yes.
- 3 Q. And what would happen? As compared to the caning
4 position, what would happen when he was going to give
5 you toast and butter?
- 6 A. Oh, just ... "I just wanted to say nice to see you," or,
7 "Nice ... something," and, "Let's have some toast".
- 8 Q. So by then, once that was said, you would know it wasn't
9 going to be a caning?
- 10 A. Yes.
- 11 Q. I think you said that would be a relief?
- 12 A. Yes, but that was ... I can't explain it, but I still
13 have a lot of affection about that.
- 14 Q. The toast and butter episodes, were you alone with him
15 for those as well?
- 16 A. Yes.
- 17 Q. Do you know if he engaged in that sort of approach with
18 any other children?
- 19 A. I don't know.
- 20 Q. Did you --
- 21 A. I don't know.
- 22 Q. Did you discuss the toast and butter that you had with
23 Father MEV with any other children?
- 24 A. No, because I thought it was special. Even to this day
25 the smell of toast and butter is a nice feeling.

- 1 Q. Would you have a normal sort of conversation with him
2 then during this process?
- 3 A. Yes, yes.
- 4 Q. What sort of things would you talk about?
- 5 A. Just about what you did for the day or what you are
6 doing this afternoon, something like that. But it
7 was ... (Pause) ... relief and happiness, I think.
- 8 Q. Was there any rhyme or reason to whether or not you were
9 going to his room for toast and butter or for caning?
- 10 A. No.
- 11 Q. You have told us, Peter, that as a result of the caning
12 that you would have bruises. Did you ever go to the
13 matron, for example --
- 14 A. No.
- 15 Q. -- in connection with that?
- 16 A. No. Sorry, it was common to see people with bruises so
17 why ... it was normal, yes.
- 18 Q. The bruises, just so we can be clear from what you have
19 seen in the showers, are you talking about a sort of
20 stripe mark --
- 21 A. Yes.
- 22 Q. -- that a cane might leave on the body?
- 23 A. Yes.
- 24 Q. What about boys themselves? Was there fighting or
25 bullying amongst the boys?

1 A. Yes. It was a very ... it was very much being aware who
2 the bullies were. There was a lot of bullying always.
3 I learned right from the start that if you fight back,
4 they leave you alone, because you hurt them, even though
5 you would lose. But -- and then you had -- obviously
6 then you had people that liked to be with the bullies
7 because that is the in-crowd and they would also be the
8 bullying culture. People always got bullied.

9 Q. You have said you stood up to the bullies as best you
10 could. But the more vulnerable children ...?

11 A. They had a terrible time. I -- I recall so many times
12 you had crying all through the night because they hurt
13 or were crying for their mother or also when it was
14 lights out, sometimes it is payback time. I can recall
15 people being dragged from the beds and pulled up in
16 the middle of the corridor by a group of boys and you
17 daren't say anything.

18 Q. Would these be older boys with younger boys?

19 A. Bigger boys, yes, but also some our age. You have
20 bullies at all different ages and you have bullies,
21 whether they are 12 or not. They have ... yes.

22 Q. Do you know if the monks were aware of what you have
23 described as the bullying culture?

24 A. I am sure of it because they could hear noises in the
25 dormitory and they saw things, so it is easy to see

- 1 a group of boys in the corner, yes. If they did
2 something, I wasn't aware of it. Nothing improved.
- 3 Q. So was there bullying there then until you left?
- 4 A. Oh, for sure. It was a daily -- it was -- someone
5 always got bullied.
- 6 Q. Did you see if there were particular boys who were
7 bullied more than others?
- 8 A. Yes. There were some that are very weak -- "weak" is
9 not the word -- some who couldn't defend themselves are
10 picked on and asked to do things for the other people,
11 so, "Go and get me this", "Go and get me that", "Clean
12 my shoes", "Take this" -- yes.
- 13 Q. I think you do mention that in your statement, that
14 there were younger boys who were used -- you describe it
15 as "skivvies" -- by older boys?
- 16 A. Yes.
- 17 Q. So that is what you mean by doing things for them?
- 18 A. Yes.
- 19 Q. You have already, I think, touched upon the background
20 as to how you came to leave Fort Augustus, and there was
21 a family breakdown essentially, and you were taken out
22 in 1975 you left in 1975 and didn't go back?
- 23 A. No.
- 24 Q. I think you said your brother left Carlekemp.
- 25 A. Yes.

- 1 Q. One thing you do say in your statement at paragraph 73,
2 the last sentence there, is that you were upset about
3 leaving Fort Augustus?
- 4 A. Yes.
- 5 Q. Why was that?
- 6 A. I always felt I had a nice time at Fort Augustus, and
7 that sounds very strange, but there were a lot of good
8 things I liked about Fort Augustus: a lot of freedom --
9 I love the outdoors, walking the hills, fishing -- I had
10 some nice friends, independence. I always spoke highly
11 of Fort Augustus because I always thought what
12 I experienced was normal, that that happened in every
13 school and it happened everywhere.
- 14 Q. Having left then, Peter, in paragraph 74 onward, through
15 to about paragraph 82, you provide us with some insight
16 into what life was like after Fort Augustus and also
17 into your personal life. We can read that and we
18 needn't dwell on that with you. But one thing I do want
19 to ask you about -- before I come to that, I think
20 essentially you have come to a point in your life where
21 you are running your own business and you are based in
22 Europe; is that right?
- 23 A. I now live in the Netherlands, for the last probably
24 15 years.
- 25 Q. But in relation to impact -- and you touch upon this at

1 paragraph 83 -- you begin by saying you have a lot of
2 blanks in your memories --

3 A. Yes.

4 Q. -- of Fort Augustus and that you believe this is
5 a self-protection type of mechanism; is that correct?

6 A. Yes. I have been divorced two times. The cause --
7 I always thought I had happy marriages -- I don't --
8 I have ... I have no understanding how to deal with
9 emotions. I don't know how to respond, I don't respond.
10 Both my wives left because of that. I am now remarried
11 and we -- again, we are having similar problems.

12 Prior to that, I had gone to a retreat and one of
13 things was to write down any feelings of affection you
14 had as a child. There may have been about 16 people
15 there doing the same thing, and they were writing down
16 all these things, and I just stood at the -- I couldn't
17 remember one thing. I have never thought of that
18 before.

19 They even came and said are you sure -- do you want
20 us to ask the question again, do you know what you are
21 supposed to be doing, but I couldn't recall one instance
22 of affection in my childhood, and I had no idea why.

23 Then I knew something must be wrong. Then maybe
24 a couple of years later, I can't remember, my wife and
25 I were going through a divorce -- this is my third

1 marriage -- and we had some family therapy, and also
2 I had some personal therapy, and then it was linked to
3 trauma I had but I didn't know where it came from.

4 I had to write down -- I must write down, "I must
5 hug my kids today," or, "Tell my wife I love her or I
6 must try and hold her hand." I cannot do that off the
7 top of my head. If someone cries, I don't know how to
8 respond to that. I have not one second (inaudible) or
9 say something.

10 And then about 7 years ago, 6 years ago, there was
11 the programme, "Sins of the Father".

12 Q. I was going to ask you about that, and I think in the
13 course of that programme you realised that you saw
14 Father MEV

15 A. Yes.

16 Q. What was your reaction to that?

17 A. I didn't recognise him at all, but his voice never
18 changed. When I heard him talk, I was terrified and
19 I couldn't understand why. Then when -- the programme
20 was about this abuse or abuse-like ... then it dropped
21 that actually what I went through wasn't normal, that
22 actually I was abused and that it wasn't fair. And I --
23 this was a complete shock to me. I have never been
24 emotional at all and it was devastating.

25 I talked to my wife and luckily for me she

1 understood the reasons why I am like I am and that saved
2 our marriage. I did a few more sessions. I have a lot
3 of blanks in my childhood still. I have no idea if
4 Father [REDACTED] MEV did more than he did to me. I have no
5 recollection and there is therapy to go deeper, but
6 I don't want to go there.

7 Q. But you have, as you have told us today, the memories
8 you have shared with us --

9 A. Yes, absolutely.

10 Q. -- in relation to the beatings?

11 A. Yes.

12 Q. But in relation to Father [REDACTED] MEV, in paragraph 88 of
13 your statement what you say is:

14 "My brother and sister are normal and I was brought
15 up if in a loving family."

16 You do recognise that from a family perspective you
17 had a loving family background?

18 A. I assume so because I have no hatred between -- my
19 father died quite a few years ago. I had always had --
20 it has always been a happy family when we are together.

21 Q. You go on to talk about your feelings in relation to
22 Father [REDACTED] MEV then. What is your attitude now to
23 him?

24 A. It's hard to explain. I don't hate him. I still have
25 a lot of affection for him because of the time with the

1 toast. He ruined my relationships and my marriages and
2 the effects it has had. I accept that, I know that, but
3 my anger is towards that it could have been avoided if
4 the Benedictines and the people in charge did something
5 about it. Because they knew. My overriding anger is
6 the people that are responsible that allowed him to get
7 away with it and do it.

8 Q. When you say they knew, what convinces you of that?

9 A. Through research and what has come out in the inquiries,
10 in the English inquiry and stuff. Yes. I don't know
11 how much -- [REDACTED]

12 [REDACTED]
13 Q. We can leave that aside. I think I understand what you
14 are saying.

15 Can I ask about records because you do touch upon
16 records in paragraph 99 of your statement. What you say
17 is:

18 "I understand that the order destroyed a lot of
19 their records in wheelbarrows of documents that were
20 burned by the monks and I believe this included records
21 from Fort Augustus."

22 I just wanted to know what your basis is for saying
23 that?

24 A. They actually admitted that in the English inquiry, that
25 the records were then taken to the English Benedictines

1 down in England and you can -- I can't remember, is it
2 Father Yeo or someone? He admitted that he did decide
3 to clean up some space and there are records of
4 Fort Augustus of priests and things as well as others
5 and he thought he would just get rid of them and he took
6 them out in the wheelbarrows and burned them and that is
7 his admission in the English inquiry.

8 Q. If we look at lessons to be learned, Peter -- again, you
9 talk about this in paragraph 100 of your statement.

10 I think the first point you make there is that there
11 should be an independent body with the power to talk to
12 kids.

13 A. Yes.

14 Q. Would that have made a difference to you?

15 A. Sorry, could you repeat the question.

16 Q. Yes.

17 LADY SMITH: If you look at paragraph 100 of your statement;
18 that is where Mr MacAulay is at, Peter.

19 MR MacAULAY: You very helpfully provide us with some
20 insight as to what you think the lessons to be learned
21 should be from your experience. You begin by saying.

22 "There should be an independent body with the power
23 to talk to kids."

24 A. Yes.

25 Q. You say that is important.

1 A. Yes. You can't trust a group, whether it's the Catholic
2 Church ... to child-safe their own policy. It doesn't
3 work. In investigations, Father MEV --
4 Father MMF has also some allegations against him,
5 and --

6 Q. Father MMF?

7 A. Yes, and they made him the SNR in
8 the EBC, which is absolutely ridiculous but it is a way
9 of keeping all the dirty laundry at the top and keeping
10 it there. And you know, you yourselves know there are
11 hundreds and thousands of cases where appearance is more
12 important than the truth, and they do anything to hide
13 it, and you know through your investigations of the
14 Catholic Church and the EBC and the Benedictines they
15 move -- have moved priests that have done these things
16 to treatment centres abroad, specifically because of
17 that, but there are no criminal cases and no
18 safeguarding for the kids that it happened to. It is
19 all about self-preservation and I am very sceptical and
20 very firm in my belief that this is what happens and
21 still is being done today. It has to be.

22 LADY SMITH: Peter, still in paragraph 100, I see you state
23 that:

24 "The Pope told people not to talk about abuse in
25 the USA."

- 1 A. Yes. Not to talk -- no, he --
- 2 LADY SMITH: What are you referring to there, can you help
3 me?
- 4 A. He told a group of bishops because of the last scandal
5 that came out, we are going to do an inquiry about the
6 abuse, and he told them to stop the inquiry.
- 7 LADY SMITH: Was this part of the work of the pontifical
8 commission that was set up in 2015?
- 9 A. No, I think -- yes, but -- only recently. This is last
10 year.
- 11 LADY SMITH: That this incident occurred?
- 12 A. Yes, and also we have evidence of paper evidence of ...
13 being informed by the papal to ... do not discuss
14 Fort Augustus.
- 15 LADY SMITH: You have been informed? A group of which you
16 are part of have been informed? Is that what you are
17 saying.
- 18 A. Yes.
- 19 MR MacAULAY: The "we" there, can I understand who the "we"
20 is? You say "we have evidence"; who is the "we"?
- 21 A. We are talking about -- we are in a [REDACTED]
22 [REDACTED], so -- but, yes, it also came out in the
23 Australian child abuse thing as well.
- 24 Q. One thing you do say in your statement, Peter, when you
25 are looking to the hopes for the inquiry, is that:

1 "[You] hope the inquiry report will deal with the
2 fact that the English Benedictine Order knew of
3 Father [REDACTED] MEV and they did nothing about it."

4 A. Yes.

5 Q. That is one of your particular --

6 A. That is -- my overriding responsibility is to not allow
7 people of authority to get away or have got away with
8 knowing that people in their society are raping, abusing
9 kids and not informing -- doing nothing to the kids or
10 the families and just hiding them and moving them around
11 from country to country. You can do all the paperwork
12 and it is all true and it is all factual and nothing is
13 done. And they are accountable. Yes, Father [REDACTED] MEV
14 was responsible, but he was aided and abetted because
15 no one stopped it.

16 In what you do, you have to be brave enough to stop
17 this. You have to be brave enough to make people
18 accountable and without the excuses. It is like if
19 I have a neighbour that I know that people come with him
20 and -- young boys or girls and every day they go into
21 his house and I know they are raping them, abusing them,
22 and I do nothing and just continue to allow people to
23 send them there, I would be in trouble, and rightly so.

24 But nothing has happened and you have to have teeth.
25 Otherwise with all due respect -- of course it is

1 important to be on record and that is why I am here.
2 I am prepared to put myself through it emotionally and
3 it has been very, very tough but you have to, please,
4 have some bite.

5 MR MacAULAY: Peter, thank you for coming to us. You say it
6 has been tough and I can see it has been very emotional
7 for you today. Thank you for engaging with the inquiry.

8 These are my questions and, my Lady, no other
9 questions have been sent to me.

10 LADY SMITH: Are there any outstanding applications for
11 questions? No.

12 Peter, that completes the questions we have for you
13 this morning. All that remains is for me to thank you
14 very much indeed both for your written statement, which
15 has so much detail in it, which will help us as we take
16 this forward, but in coming here today yourself to talk
17 about your experiences and your thoughts. It has
18 plainly not been easy and I can see it has been
19 a stressful experience for you, but thank you for being
20 prepared to do that and seeing it through.

21 A. Thank you.

22 LADY SMITH: We are very grateful to you. I am able to let
23 you go now.

24 (The witness withdrew)

25 MR MacAULAY: My Lady, it is a little earlier than usual but

1 perhaps we could adjourn for the luncheon adjournment.

2 LADY SMITH: We will take the lunch break now. Thank you
3 very much.

4 (12.33 pm)

5 (The luncheon adjournment)

6 (2.00 pm)

7 LADY SMITH: Good afternoon. Ms MacLeod, I think the next
8 witness is ready; is that right?

9 MS MacLEOD: That is right, my Lady. The next witness will
10 give evidence using the pseudonym "Jean".

11 LADY SMITH: Before Jean comes in, Ms MacLeod, I think I am
12 right in anticipating this witness may be referring to
13 brothers who were at the schools we are hearing about.
14 Is she comfortable with using her brothers' first names
15 or are we going to use pseudonyms for her brothers?

16 MS MacLEOD: My Lady, I should have clarified that we are
17 going to use pseudonyms for the brothers: the brothers
18 will be referred to "Stuart" and "Ian".

19 LADY SMITH: That is very helpful. Thank you.

20 "JEAN" (sworn)

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

22 You have obviously spotted that you need to be in
23 a good position for the microphone, Jean, so if you
24 could do that, that is very helpful. If you are ready
25 I will hand over to Ms MacLeod and she will explain what

1 happens next; is that all right?

2 A. That is fine.

3 LADY SMITH: Ms MacLeod.

4 Questions from MS MacLEOD

5 MS MacLEOD: Good afternoon Jean. I don't need your date of
6 birth, but to have a timeframe for your evidence, could
7 you confirm that you were born in 1957?

8 A. I was born in 1957.

9 Q. Are you now 61 years old?

10 A. I am.

11 Q. You have provided a statement for the inquiry and there
12 is a copy of that in the red file on your desk. I will
13 give the reference for the transcript: WIT.001.002.5156.

14 Jean if I could ask you, please, to turn to the
15 final page of the statement in the folder. Have you
16 signed the statement?

17 A. I have.

18 Q. In the very last paragraph, do you say:

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

21 Do you see that?

22 A. Yes -- sorry, I see that, yes.

23 Q. Do you go on to say:

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

1 A. That is true.

2 Q. Thank you. I think you are here today, Jean, to tell us
3 in particular about the experiences of your brothers,
4 and we will use pseudonyms for your brothers throughout
5 the evidence; I think you are aware of that.

6 A. Yes.

7 Q. We will use the pseudonyms Stuart and Ian.

8 A. That's right.

9 Q. And there is a document in the front of your folder just
10 confirming that, if you want to refer to it at any time.

11 A. Okay.

12 LADY SMITH: Which of two was older, the older brother?

13 A. Stuart is the older one.

14 LADY SMITH: Thank you.

15 MS MacLEOD: You tell us a bit, Jean, at the beginning of
16 your statement about your family background. I think
17 there were two boys and three girls in the family.

18 A. That's right.

19 Q. Your brothers were both younger than you?

20 A. Yes, they were.

21 Q. And you have a sister who is a year younger than you?

22 A. Uh-huh.

23 Q. And another sister who is a year older than yourself?

24 A. I do.

25 Q. I think you tell us that you don't have many memories of

1 Stuart's early life; is that right?

2 A. No, I don't.

3 Q. Can you explain a little bit about why that is the case?

4 A. I was sent to a boarding school when I was six; Stuart

5 is four years younger than me and I have very little

6 memory of growing up with him.

7 Q. I see. You tell us that your parents were involved in

8 the Catholic Church.

9 A. Yes, my mother was heavily involved in the Catholic

10 Church in every country that she lived. She would very

11 quickly identify where there was a convent she could

12 support and spent a great deal of her time there.

13 Q. And we will begin by looking at the time when Stuart was

14 at Carlekemp Priory School. At that time I think you

15 and your sisters were at Kilgraston; is that right?

16 A. We were, we were, yes.

17 Q. Where were your family living at that time your parents?

18 A. Kuala Lumpur in Malaysia.

19 Q. How old was Stuart when he started at Carlekemp?

20 A. 7 and a half -- 7 and a half I think.

21 Q. That certainly accords with some records that we have

22 recovered which suggest that he was admitted on

23 ██████████ 1969, when he would have been 7. I think you

24 tell us that Ian, your younger brother, joined him at

25 Carlekemp when he was 7.

- 1 A. That's right.
- 2 Q. As far as you were aware, were the boys housed together?
- 3 A. As far as I was aware.
- 4 Q. What kind of level of contact did you have with Stuart
5 while he was at Carlekemp?
- 6 A. Occasionally I went to a convent boarding school, which
7 was run by the Sisters of the Sacred Heart.
8 Occasionally they would bring my sisters and I to visit
9 Stuart and Ian in Carlekemp, but it was not consistent
10 or regular. So for their time at Carlekemp, I didn't
11 visit that much, no.
- 12 Q. On the occasions you did visit, what are your memories?
- 13 A. That the visits were -- we weren't allowed to be left
14 alone. I have a memory of a nun always being present.
15 That's the first occasion that I have a memory of
16 Father [REDACTED] MFC [REDACTED].
- 17 Q. Is that Father [REDACTED] MFC [REDACTED] ?
- 18 A. That is indeed.
- 19 Q. What is your memory of him? What is your first memory
20 of him?
- 21 A. A smiling, young, affable courteous monk who seemed to
22 have Stuart and Ian's needs well catered for. He was
23 certainly someone that I remember thinking, "What a nice
24 man, he smiles a lot". But I was a child myself, so ...
- 25 Q. Did you have any concerns about Stuart and Ian while

- 1 they were at Carlekemp?
- 2 A. No.
- 3 Q. I think you mention in your statement that you have
- 4 a distant memory of Stuart being unhappy.
- 5 A. He was very quiet, he wouldn't speak. We went home to
- 6 my parents once a year in the summer, and I have a --
- 7 just a memory of Stuart just being very quiet, just very
- 8 quiet.
- 9 Q. Other than the few occasions you have mentioned that you
- 10 saw them in Carlekemp, you saw them at the summer
- 11 holidays --
- 12 A. Yes.
- 13 Q. -- at your parents'?
- 14 A. Yes, we went home, yes.
- 15 Q. What was your understanding of MFC's role
- 16 in relation to Stuart at Carlekemp?
- 17 A. My understanding was he was their housemaster. That is
- 18 all I understand that to be. We had -- in the Catholic
- 19 Church we have -- when we were at school we had a nun
- 20 that was our like housemistress who would oversee the
- 21 dormitories that we lived in, so I assumed it was the
- 22 same sort of role.
- 23 Q. MFC, is he somebody who became known to
- 24 your family?
- 25 A. Indeed he did.

- 1 Q. How did that come about?
- 2 A. My parents on occasion came back to Scotland to visit my
3 brothers and Father [REDACTED] MFC introduced himself to them,
4 as would be expected, as being the boys' housemaster and
5 my understanding from my mother was that he then started
6 to correspond with my mother.
- 7 Q. Was that correspondence about the boys?
- 8 A. Yes.
- 9 Q. Something you say in your statement is that:
- 10 [REDACTED] MFC took a personal interest in
11 Stuart."
- 12 A. It appeared to me to be that way. I have a memory, much
13 later on when I was older, of -- my parents had property
14 in Edinburgh, and I have a very clear memory of
15 [REDACTED] MFC visiting my parents quite frequently at
16 that house, and my mother encouraging that and my mother
17 saying to me how relieved she was that she could go
18 abroad again because the boys were safe because
19 [REDACTED] MFC was looking after them and he had
20 assured my mother that he would take good care of them
21 and she didn't need to worry. I just remember thinking
22 at the time that was odd, but it reassured my mother.
- 23 Q. Those visits to your parents' property by
24 [REDACTED] MFC, was that while your brothers were at
25 Carlekemp?

- 1 A. No, Fort Augustus.
- 2 Q. Fort Augustus. Okay. At the time what was your
3 knowledge of any correspondence there was between
4 MFC and your parents?
- 5 A. I saw some letters. My sister and I looked
6 everywhere -- my parents are deceased now and my sister
7 and I looked everywhere to see if we could find the
8 letters. I have a memory of the letters.
- 9 Q. Do you have a memory of the letters from the time they
10 were being sent?
- 11 A. Yes.
- 12 Q. What was your memory?
- 13 A. That they were handwritten, they were very friendly,
14 they were very reassuring, they were very religious.
15 That is probably all I can remember -- possibly I only
16 saw one.
- 17 Q. Do you know if anything else was sent with the letters
18 such as photographs?
- 19 A. I'm not aware of anything other than letters being sent.
- 20 Q. There came a time then, Jean, when Stuart moved from
21 Carlekemp to Fort Augustus.
- 22 A. Yes, he did.
- 23 Q. Was that when he was around 12 years old?
- 24 A. Yes.
- 25 Q. We can see from records that we have recovered that that

1 looks to have taken place on [REDACTED] 1973 when he
2 would have been 12. Who was in charge of Fort Augustus?

3 Who was [REDACTED] SNR [REDACTED] at the time?

4 A. My recollection was it was Father [REDACTED] MMF [REDACTED] That is my
5 memory.

6 Q. Is that Father [REDACTED] MMF [REDACTED] ?

7 A. That would be him, yes.

8 Q. Did there come a time when [REDACTED] MFC [REDACTED] was also
9 present at Fort Augustus?

10 A. As far as I am aware I think he moved from Carlekemp to
11 Fort Augustus quite quickly and resumed his connection
12 with Stuart and my parents.

13 Q. What was your understanding of his role at
14 Fort Augustus?

15 A. Again, I thought he was Stuart's housemaster.

16 Q. One thing you say in your statement Jean is that
17 although you are only four years older than Stuart, that
18 from a young age your mum made it clear to you that it
19 was your job to look after your brothers.

20 A. Oh, yes. My mother made it very clear to her daughters
21 that we had very distinct roles in our lives and my
22 particular job was to marry well and to take care of
23 Stuart. That was my job.

24 Q. And how do you think it was envisaged at that time that
25 you would be able to do that?

1 A. I remember thinking when she made this repeatedly clear,
2 that I made it clear to her, "I can't do that mum
3 because I am at Kilgraston and I can't do anything," but
4 she just said just, "Remember, it is your job to look
5 after him".

6 Q. Did there come a point where you had some concerns about
7 Stuart at Fort Augustus?

8 A. Yes, but they aren't concrete concerns. It isn't as
9 if -- we were not allowed to write letters to our
10 brothers and our brothers were not allowed to write
11 letters to us: we were only allowed to write letters
12 under the supervision of nuns to our parents. I can
13 remember Stuart and Ian also being made to write letters
14 under the supervision of a monk and if they didn't like
15 what you were writing, they crossed it out. So there
16 was nothing concrete, it was a feeling. Something was
17 wrong. I just couldn't shake the feeling something was
18 wrong.

19 Q. So what did you do about that at the time?

20 A. I ran away.

21 Q. From Kilgraston?

22 A. Yes.

23 Q. Where did you go?

24 A. Fort Augustus.

25 LADY SMITH: How did you get there?

1 A. I hitch-hiked mostly, walked. I didn't have any money,
2 so -- I didn't have access to money, so I hitch-hiked,
3 I remember.

4 LADY SMITH: It is quite a distance.

5 A. It is quite a long way, yes.

6 MS MacLEOD: Do you remember the first time you did that?

7 A. Yes.

8 Q. What happened when you arrived at Fort Augustus?

9 A. You obviously may not have been to Fort Augustus, but
10 there is a loch and a pub, and behind the loch was where
11 I managed to speak to one of the pupils. He was passing
12 and I asked him to go and get Stuart and then Stuart
13 came and he brought a tent and I stayed in the tent.

14 Q. How long did you stay there?

15 A. I only managed one day and one night.

16 Q. When you met Stuart at Fort Augustus, can you tell me
17 about that?

18 A. He was so pleased to see me. He was willing to,
19 I think, risk quite a lot to keep me hidden. He brought
20 me food. He didn't say anything but he just seemed
21 incredibly relieved that I was there.

22 Q. Did he ask you why you were there?

23 A. I said because I was worried about him.

24 Q. Did he say anything to you at that time --

25 A. He just said, "Don't worry about me, I can look after

- 1 myself".
- 2 Q. What happened after the day and the night you spent in
3 the tent?
- 4 A. One of the monks caught me, so they phoned the convent
5 and I was escorted back.
- 6 Q. Do you remember which monk was involved in that?
- 7 A. Father **MMF**.
- 8 Q. So what happened then? Did he come to the tent himself?
- 9 A. I can't honestly remember but I remember sitting in his
10 office, and he just told me to sit, and he phoned the
11 convent, and then one of the nuns came up and brought me
12 back.
- 13 Q. Did he ask you why you had come to Fort Augustus?
- 14 A. No.
- 15 Q. I think you say in your statement, Jean, that you found
16 Father **MMF** to be very frightening.
- 17 A. He was. He was very stern. He seemed quite stern and
18 scary.
- 19 Q. Did the nuns or staff at Kilgraston ask you why you had
20 gone to Fort Augustus?
- 21 A. No, they just saw me as being a nuisance and trouble,
22 and they then locked me up in the infirmary for two
23 weeks.
- 24 Q. Were your parents aware of you going to Fort Augustus on
25 this first occasion?

- 1 A. No.
- 2 Q. Did you go to Fort Augustus subsequently?
- 3 A. Yes. I repeated that quite a few times. Sometimes
- 4 I was successful and sometimes I wasn't. Sometimes
- 5 I would get caught quite quickly when I was running
- 6 away, sometimes I would get halfway and the police would
- 7 find me. But I did manage to make it at least another
- 8 one time.
- 9 Q. On that occasion can you remember what happened?
- 10 A. Very similar to the last time. I'm not a very
- 11 experienced teenager at that point, I'm not very
- 12 experienced at keeping myself hidden. I was quite
- 13 obvious -- I was in a school uniform as well.
- 14 Q. Do you remember seeing [REDACTED] MFC on either of
- 15 those visits to Fort Augustus?
- 16 A. The second one I remember seeing him.
- 17 Q. What do you remember about seeing him the second time?
- 18 A. Again I was put in Father [REDACTED] MMF office and he came in
- 19 to speak to Father [REDACTED] MMF (sic) and that is all
- 20 I remember.
- 21 Q. During any of your visits did you see any interaction
- 22 between Stuart and [REDACTED] MFC
- 23 A. No.
- 24 Q. You tell us in your statement that there came a time
- 25 when you had to leave Kilgraston.

- 1 A. I was asked to leave.
- 2 Q. Why was that?
- 3 A. Because it is a private school with a reputation that
4 apparently I was bringing into disrepute. My parents
5 were told I would not be welcome back for my final year.
- 6 Q. Did you understand that to be linked with your running
7 away from the school?
- 8 A. That is my understanding of it, yes.
- 9 Q. Did your parents, to your knowledge, ever find out that
10 you ran away to Fort Augustus to see Stuart?
- 11 A. Eventually when I was -- at the end, when they -- when
12 the nuns told them that I wouldn't be allowed back, that
13 is when they said I had repeatedly absconded and they
14 felt that I was not best placed there, so it was
15 retrospectively they were told.
- 16 Q. Did your parents ask you why you had tried to go to
17 Fort Augustus to see your brother?
- 18 A. No.
- 19 Q. You tell us in your statement, Jean, at paragraph 17
20 that there came a point, quite a bit later in life, when
21 you found out that Stuart had been abused at
22 Fort Augustus.
- 23 A. Yes.
- 24 Q. When did you find that out?
- 25 A. Ian died very suddenly and Stuart at that time was

1 living in New Zealand, and he came back for the funeral,
2 and it was just after the funeral that he told me what
3 had happened to him.

4 Q. Was that in your own house?

5 A. In my property, yes. Yes, he was staying with me.

6 Q. How did the conversation start?

7 A. He actually started it himself. I hadn't actually
8 realised how much Stuart was under the influence of
9 alcohol at the time. I became aware after the funeral
10 that he was surviving on significant amounts of alcohol
11 every single day, but still able to function and walk
12 about and talk, but he became highly distressed and
13 asked me if I had been sexually abused at any point in
14 my life and that is how the conversation started. So
15 I was able to say to him then, "Is there something that
16 you want to tell me, has anything ever happened you to?"

17 Q. And what did he say?

18 A. He said yes.

19 Q. What did he go on to say after that?

20 A. He said that he -- it was very mixed up. He was very
21 drunk. I need to make that very clear to you that he
22 was very drunk when he was telling me, but he started
23 off by almost doing it backwards, by saying, "You don't
24 need to worry about me, you don't need to worry about me
25 because when I realised what was happening I learned how

1 to keep myself safe, I learned how to always be in
2 a group." So it took quite a long time to get him to go
3 back and talk about what actually had happened.

4 He talked about how Father MFC would take him
5 after study time -- if you go to a Catholic boarding
6 school you always have to do prep between 7 and 9 -- and
7 Father MFC would quite often come and get Stuart and
8 make him do little jobs for him or extra tuition. Then
9 it seemed to escalate into inappropriate touching and
10 ended up with a sexual assault on Stuart.

11 Q. Did you understand that when Stuart said he was taken
12 away by MFC that that was to a private
13 area?

14 A. It was to his study apparently, yes.

15 Q. Did you get any indication of when this might have
16 started?

17 A. Stuart wasn't that clear but I think 13, quite soon
18 after he join the school. He was very familiar with
19 MFC, he knew who he was.

20 Q. You mentioned that he may have been asked to do extra
21 tasks; did he say anything else about that?

22 A. It was just extra little jobs that made him special and,
23 you know, it is like Stuart would get picked for the
24 special treats or the jobs that other perhaps pupils
25 wanted to do. He also got private tuition from

- 1 [REDACTED] MFC as well.
- 2 Q. I think you said it started with touching; what did he
3 say about that?
- 4 A. He said he would quite often -- my sister actually
5 reminded me fairly recently that she had a memory of
6 when she and I went to visit the boys at Carlekemp she
7 remembers a monk telling a boy to put his hands down his
8 cassock so he could warm them up for him. So that is
9 how it started.
- 10 Q. She remembers seeing --
- 11 A. She remembers seeing it. She said, "Remember that
12 time ..." I don't remember but she remembers it and
13 I didn't remember that when I was giving this statement.
14 So Stuart talked about, "You can put your hand under my
15 cassock." It is very cold, Fort Augustus is a very cold
16 school, very old and cold. And --
- 17 Q. On the occasion we are talking about in your house, what
18 did Stuart say about that?
- 19 A. He said it started off -- he used to say, "It is really
20 cold, put your hand under my cassock, just rest them on
21 my knees."
- 22 Q. Who used to say that?
- 23 A. Father [REDACTED] MFC .
- 24 Q. What would happen then?
- 25 A. I don't really know. Stuart was very distressed at that

1 point. What he was able to eventually tell me that was
2 after this had gone on for quite a significant period of
3 time that one night that he was told to go to

4 MFC

study and he was in his pyjamas and

5 MFC

raped him.

6 Q. Did Stuart say anything about whether he had to touch

7 MFC

in any way?

8 A. Only by putting his hands under the cassock, I think.

9 I think.

10 Q. Did the conversation continue or did it come to an end?

11 A. It pretty much came to an end and Stuart then appeared
12 to emotionally break down. I had two young sons in
13 the house at the time and he became -- I think the only
14 way to describe it is that he would go into the spare
15 bedroom and he would scream. My children became more
16 and more anxious about why their uncle was screaming.
17 So I decided to take Stuart to my parents' other
18 property, which is in the south-west of Scotland, so
19 I drove him the next day with my sister.

20 Q. I think you mentioned that how this happened was in
21 a sort of back-to-front way, that initially Stuart was
22 talking about that he was okay and learned to look after
23 himself. In paragraph 19 you mention that he told you

24 he tried never to be alone with Father

MFC

25 A. He did everything he could, to refuse to leave the hall,

1 refused to -- he always tried to make sure he was in
2 a group, that he joined every sports club, the army --
3 they ran a big army cadet scheme there, so he joined
4 everything so that he could be fully occupied,
5 I suspect.

6 Q. Did he say if this worked?

7 A. No, he didn't say either way.

8 Q. I think you mentioned that Stuart said that he felt
9 confusion, that he felt confusion growing up about how
10 affection was physically expressed.

11 A. I have reflected on this for a long period of time and
12 I think that [REDACTED] MFC [REDACTED] was very able to identify
13 children not only who lived abroad, so there was the
14 distance factor, but also children who perhaps did not
15 enjoy close relationships with their parents. My father
16 was not particularly keen on women and girls, which is
17 why he had three daughters very fast, expecting us all
18 to be boys, so when he finally got his son, that was --
19 the expectations on Stuart were enormous. But my own
20 father suffered from really significant mental health
21 and alcohol issues, and Stuart and he did not enjoy the
22 closest of relationships, certainly around physical
23 touch.

24 Q. I think what you say in your statement is that it is
25 clear from what your brother said that [REDACTED] MFC [REDACTED]

- 1 skillfully groomed him?
- 2 A. That would be my understanding of it and he was very
3 careful to include my parents in that so that my parents
4 could feel reassured that their son was being taken care
5 of.
- 6 Q. Did Stuart say anything to you about any kind of
7 physical aggression at Fort Augustus?
- 8 A. Not specifically, only that it was very cruel, and
9 I think if you -- if you haven't been brought up in the
10 Catholic system, physical punishment is quite normal, so
11 it would be quite normal for girls to be hit as much as
12 boys to be hit, so it wouldn't have been odd for me to
13 hear that Stuart had been hit. It was what happened.
- 14 Q. Were you able to get any indication from what Stuart
15 said as to whether other monks at Fort Augustus might
16 have known what was happening?
- 17 A. He never specified that at all, no. Nor did he report
18 it, and it was very important to him that it was
19 a secret.
- 20 Q. Did he say that to you?
- 21 A. Yes, and I had to keep the secret too.
- 22 Q. As far as you are aware, had he told anybody else?
- 23 A. No, he hadn't told anybody else, not even his wife.
- 24 Q. Was it your understanding that was the first time he had
25 told anybody?

1 A. Yes, he said I wasn't to worry about Ian because Ian was
2 a very bright, significantly skilled, able young man who
3 gained an entry into Oxford when he was 16, so the monks
4 would be very keen to promote this as being a centre of
5 excellence, so no one -- I fully believe this -- no one
6 went near Ian. They kept him -- his academic ability
7 kept him safe. When I asked Ian what he knew, my
8 younger brother suffered a very significant brain injury
9 when he was in his 20s and he has no long-term memory,
10 but all he could tell me -- he said, "Stuart was the
11 pretty one." That is all he ever said to me. I never
12 asked Ian directly.

13 Q. What did you understand that to mean?

14 A. He was pretty. He was pretty. I remember seeing
15 a photograph of Stuart, a group photograph of many, many
16 boys, when he was at Carlekemp, and Stuart is -- seems
17 to be the only one that has red lipstick and eyeshadow
18 on him. It was for some school play but he is the only
19 one dressed as a girl because he had quite feminine
20 features.

21 Q. I think you mention that in your statement. You say you
22 remember thinking the photograph was horrible.

23 A. It was, it was obscene.

24 Q. When did you see that photograph?

25 A. Quite recently, quite recently.

1 Q. Something you say in your statement, Jean, at
2 paragraph 27 is that it is your understanding there was
3 no protection for the boys.

4 A. Sorry, could you repeat that?

5 Q. In paragraph 27 you say it was your understanding that
6 there was no protection for the boys and that although
7 there was a matron at Carlekemp, you didn't think that
8 offered protection to the boys.

9 A. No, and clearly it didn't. There wasn't the same levels
10 of scrutiny that would be afforded to public
11 institutions. I think there was possibly at that time
12 a misguided notion that the Catholic Church was
13 a trustworthy, safe place to leave your children and
14 that you didn't have to have the same level of scrutiny
15 that potentially you might have in a public institution.

16 Q. After Stuart left Fort Augustus, did he move to
17 a property your parents had in Scotland?

18 A. No, he went to London.

19 Q. You mentioned that MFC visited a property
20 your parents had in Scotland.

21 A. Uh-huh.

22 Q. Was that while Stuart was at Fort Augustus?

23 A. Yes.

24 Q. Is that something you knew about at the time?

25 A. I have a memory of being in the room. I must have been

- 1 there. I have no reason -- to understand why I was
2 there but I have a memory of seeing him, yes, a very
3 familiar face to me.
- 4 Q. Do you have a memory of what he was doing? How he was
5 interacting?
- 6 A. He was having tea. My parents were very focused on
7 afternoon tea and he was having afternoon tea; it was
8 a social occasion.
- 9 Q. Did there come a time when Stuart asked your parents to
10 stop having [REDACTED] MFC [REDACTED] round to the house?
- 11 A. Yes.
- 12 Q. Can you tell me about that?
- 13 A. He told me that he had spoken to my parents to say to
14 them, will you stop writing to Father [REDACTED] MFC [REDACTED] and will
15 you stop asking him to come to the house, and their
16 response was, "Oh, no, no, no, no, he a good man, we
17 need him to look after you when we go back abroad, he is
18 a member of the Catholic Church," and my understanding
19 was Stuart didn't breach the subject again.
- 20 Q. Is this something Stuart told you at the same time as he
21 told you about the abuse?
- 22 A. Yes.
- 23 Q. Did this issue of Stuart asking your parents this, did
24 this cause an issue between him and your parents?
- 25 A. Yes, particularly with my father.

- 1 Q. Did they become estranged for a period?
- 2 A. I would say that was probably the start of the
3 disintegration of their relationship, yes.
- 4 Q. You have mentioned there that Stuart moved to London.
- 5 A. He did.
- 6 Q. Did he move abroad?
- 7 A. Yes, he studied at the London School of Economics, he
8 partied hard, he drank a lot, and he met his future
9 wife, who was a New Zealander, and he very quickly left
10 London for Auckland with a degree in economics.
- 11 Q. Did he go on there to have a successful career in
12 banking?
- 13 A. A very successful career, very highly paid. He lived
14 a very affluent lifestyle.
- 15 Q. What you say at paragraph 35 of your statement is:
16 "What MFC did to Stuart ate
17 destructively away at him for all his life."
- 18 A. Absolutely. He drank. I wasn't -- New Zealand is not
19 a close place, but it was my job to look after Stuart,
20 so we kept in touch by telephone. It took a long time
21 for his wife to let me know that his alcohol use was
22 becoming problematic, and their relationship was
23 becoming problematic. It ended up with him leaving his
24 job, being dismissed from his highly paid job, which
25 had -- my ex sister-in-law didn't work, they had a large

1 property, he lost his job, the knock-on effect was they
2 sell the house and so the lifestyle disintegrated.

3 Q. You tell us that Stuart had -- has three children.

4 A. He has three children, yes.

5 Q. Two daughters and a son?

6 A. He does.

7 Q. What did he say to you about his relationship with the
8 son?

9 A. He couldn't touch him. He couldn't hold him and he
10 couldn't hug him and that broke his heart. He couldn't
11 bear to touch him.

12 Q. After Stuart had been over for Ian's funeral and he made
13 the disclosure to you that you have told us about, to
14 what extent did you keep in contact with him when he
15 returned to New Zealand after that?

16 A. On a weekly basis. We had this arrangement that we
17 would, no matter what, that we would be in touch once
18 a week, that we would phone.

19 Q. And after that, after he had made the disclosure to you,
20 were you able to have a more open conversation with him?

21 A. Oh, no, no. Don't misunderstand me: he never wanted me
22 to refer to it again. That was the secret. That we --
23 I knew but I didn't know. He was more -- interested,
24 his distress was about his estrangement from his family,
25 his inability to see his children, his alcohol use, his

1 feelings of loathing, his feelings of distress, his
2 self-harming behaviours; this was what he talked about.

3 Q. I think you say that Stuart spoke to you about taking
4 his own life on a few occasions.

5 A. He did, yes, he did and every time I reminded him that
6 the impact on his children would be very significant.

7 Q. I think you say that you talked through things with him
8 at some length on a number of occasions.

9 A. Yes. If he didn't phone me, I would report him missing,
10 so he knew that I would do something if he didn't phone
11 me.

12 Q. I think was it [REDACTED] 2012 that Stuart passed away.

13 A. Some time between the [REDACTED] and the [REDACTED], so I just
14 picked a day of his death to put on the gravestone, but
15 some time between those dates, yes.

16 Q. You say at paragraph 46 that you hold [REDACTED] MFC
17 totally responsible for taking the innocence and joy of
18 Stuart's childhood and destroying his sense of self.

19 A. I am fairly certain when Stuart met [REDACTED] MFC he
20 would have seen him as a young, affable, friendly man.
21 I can remember being terrified the first time I went to
22 school at six, terrified. But there wasn't any familiar
23 faces, so I think Stuart would have seen

24 [REDACTED] MFC as a protector. He was a young man, he
25 was funny, he played sports, he -- that is how he would

1 have seen him, and essentially what this man did was
2 destroy that sense of trust and his sense of self in him
3 and I fully believe that my brother's alcohol use, which
4 was so significant, was his only method of keeping that
5 pain at bay. It was the only thing he had left to do.

6 Q. Did you report to the police what Stuart told you?

7 A. No.

8 Q. Did there come a time when you spoke to the police in
9 relation to Fort Augustus?

10 A. Yes. I remember it was when the story first became more
11 public and a police inspector from Inverness came to see
12 me in Edinburgh, and I spoke to them and then I never
13 heard anything.

14 Q. To what extent did you tell them about the disclosure
15 you have just told us about that Stuart made to you?

16 A. I didn't tell the police because it was a secret;
17 I promised him.

18 Q. Something you say Jean is that you don't feel vengeful
19 but that you feel angry.

20 A. I have lost a very important part of my life, and I now
21 have no contact with my nieces and nephews because my
22 sister-in-law does not accept what happened to her
23 husband. So I don't feel vengeful, I just feel that we
24 were -- all of us as children were placed in Catholic
25 institutions, who were in a position of trust, and we

1 were -- they were significantly abused. That trust was
2 significantly abused so, yes, I don't feel vengeful, but
3 I do feel that people need to continue to be accountable
4 and these institutions certainly need to have more
5 scrutiny on them than I believe they currently still
6 have.

7 Q. You mention in your statement that you managed to get in
8 touch with a boy who had been at Fort Augustus with
9 Stuart. We don't need the boy's name but I just wonder
10 if you could tell me a little bit about that.

11 A. He was lovely. He was very, very shocked to hear of
12 Stuart's death. He told me about experiences that he
13 had around physical assault, quite significant physical
14 assault, but said that he had no knowledge of sexual
15 assaults. He had memories of Stuart doing things with
16 Father **MFC** but Stuart never disclosed to that group
17 apparently and they said they spent a lot of time
18 together.

19 Q. In relation to the physical assaults that this boy told
20 you about, did they involve Father **MFA** ?

21 A. Yes, they did.

22 Q. I think you say that you were able to get some comfort
23 from speaking to this boy and finding out a little more
24 about Stuart's time at school.

25 A. I was so relieved to hear that at times he was safe and

1 that he smiled, yes.

2 Q. Towards the end of your statement, Jean, you set out
3 some hopes that you have for this inquiry. You say that
4 from your own work you say that you are aware that
5 children in care have access to children's rights
6 services and similar things now, but what you say is:

7 "But for some reason, if it is a religious
8 establishment, people think it will be better and kinder
9 and nobody questions it because it is about God."

10 A. I think that is a belief that is strongly held, that
11 Catholic institutions are nurturing, kind, warm
12 environments that protect children and are not subject
13 to the same scrutiny that we would be.

14 Q. I think you point out that there is a whole generation
15 of children who are probably still in boarding schools
16 run by religious orders.

17 A. Yes.

18 Q. You say you would like the inquiry to address what
19 happens in these schools.

20 A. I would. It is very interesting for me that a lot of
21 child protection cases that I manage or deal with -- in
22 my 33 years I have never, never, had one from any
23 religious establishment, and logic tells me that is not
24 possible. That is not possible. I know when I was
25 growing up in school I know how hard it was for anybody

1 to get through the door if you weren't a pupil there.
2 There was no inspectors, there was no -- nobody got
3 through the door, so nobody did anything, nobody spoke
4 to us. There was just priests. Priests got through the
5 door -- and nuns -- and I suspect it was the same at
6 Fort Augustus as well.

7 MS MacLEOD: Thank you very much Jean. I don't have
8 anything else I wish to ask you today.

9 My Lady, I'm not aware of any questions having come
10 in for Jean.

11 LADY SMITH: Thank you very much. Are there any outstanding
12 applications for questions? No.

13 Jean, those are all the questions we have for you.
14 Thank you very much indeed for engaging with the inquiry
15 in the way you have done. Without your commitment and
16 diligence we wouldn't have heard about your brothers'
17 experiences, which of course are assisted by hearing
18 about your understanding from your own perspective. So
19 thank you very much for that, both for your written
20 statement and for coming here today. It has been of
21 enormous help to me and I'm now able to let you go.

22 (The witness withdrew).

23 LADY SMITH: Ms MacLeod.

24 MS MacLEOD: My Lady, it might be convenient to take the
25 afternoon break a little earlier and then I will do

1 a read-in.

2 LADY SMITH: That would be very helpful. Thank you, we will
3 do that.

4 (2.52 pm)

5 (A short break)

6 (3.20 pm)

7 LADY SMITH: Ms MacLeod.

8 Witness statement of "MAXWELL" (read)

9 MS MacLEOD: My Lady, this is a statement of an applicant
10 who lives overseas and would prefer for his statement to
11 be read in to proceedings. He will use the name
12 "Maxwell".

13 LADY SMITH: Thank you.

14 MS MacLEOD: "My name is Maxwell. I was born in 1947. My
15 contact details are known to the inquiry.

16 "My mother came from a family of devout Catholics
17 and my father came from a family of Anglicans. Their
18 marriage was conditional on their children being
19 educated in the Catholic system.

20 "My family lived comfortably; you could say we were
21 middle class. We lived for a time in England and later
22 our home was in Scotland.

23 "I had three siblings. We all went to boarding
24 schools. The first boarding school I went to was in
25 Hampshire. I went when I was 7 and a half years old.

1 It was a preparatory school run by Benedictine monks.

2 The school wasn't a bad place.

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23 I should have said, my Lady, the statement can be

24 found at WIT.001.002.6257.

25 LADY SMITH: Thank you.

1 MS MacLEOD: "I took the 11-plus exam. You didn't have to
2 pass it to go to the Abbey School, you just had to show
3 you were compos mentis and you could read and write.
4 There was no interview.

5 "I went to the Abbey School in 1961 when I was
6 13 years old. I stayed there until 1964. It was
7 a different life."

8 My Lady, records recovered show this witness is
9 noted as going into Fort Augustus Abbey School slightly
10 earlier on [REDACTED] 1960 and being discharged in
11 [REDACTED] 1964:

12 "My older brother was at the Abbey School. I can't
13 remember being at school with my elder brother. In
14 those days brothers never talked to each other and your
15 elder brother didn't want anything to do with you.
16 I saw my brother in the holidays. He said to me about
17 the school, 'You had better watch out, you had better
18 not do this, you had better not do that or you will get
19 the birch'.

20 "He was building it up a bit for me. One day my
21 brother showed me cane marks on his buttocks and said
22 that is what I would be getting. We walked into the
23 school from underneath what we called the tower. It was
24 a clock tower, with a clock on it. Big doors opened up
25 and you would go up some stairs into a hall. To the

1 left was the refectory and a classroom. To the right
2 were more classrooms.

3 "You went up one set of stairs in the tower to get
4 to the dormitory. The new part of the building was on
5 your right. It was fairly modern, probably built in
6 the late 1950s. There were about 200 boys at the
7 school. The numbers were slowly going down.

8 "The youngest boys were around 12 years old, the
9 oldest were 17 or 18 years old. I left at 16 years old.

10 "To outsiders and parents, everything looked to be
11 in order at the school. When I started at school
12 I noticed that the boys were different and did not
13 behave freely. In comparison to my previous boarding
14 schools the boys often spoke in whispers because there
15 were so many places where complete silence was the law.
16 There was little freedom or fun unless you could get
17 away outside of school. I still see a class of pale,
18 anxious faces expecting the worst.

19 "The new boys quickly learned to avoid eye contact
20 with certain monks. It was a survival instinct. We
21 knew that any eye contact could be an order for the monk
22 to do something to you. A punishment for something,
23 recognition or a violent outburst. It was much better
24 and safer to find a sudden interest in the wall or floor
25 as you passed. We were never ordered to look away as

1 part of the school rules.

2 "I had two **SNR**. The first was

3 **MFF** and the second was **MKT**.

4 **MFF** was at the school for one or two years. The

5 **SNR** usually had a spell of four or five years.

6 There were monks, brothers and all sorts of other
7 hangers-on. Some taught and others you never really saw
8 except at odd times out on the loch fishing, or
9 gardening.

10 "The brothers did all the work like, washing-up or
11 cleaning, and the monks did all the teaching. I am
12 convinced a number of them weren't qualified to teach.

13 "I looked up an obituary of one of the monks and
14 there was no mention of him going to any school or
15 teaching. It seemed to be that once you became a monk
16 you were equipped for teaching.

17 "My house master throughout my time at school was
18 **MFG** He was a monk. **MFG** was
19 young, about 30 to 35 years old. He was a processor of
20 beating boys, one after the other. He was very moody.

21 "There was another housemaster called **MFE**
22 **MFE** He was in his seventies or eighties. He had
23 a reputation for being a bully and always having bad
24 temper. He picked on the smaller boys often without
25 notice.

1 "Father [REDACTED] MEV [REDACTED] was one of the few priests who
2 was rumoured to be a homo; that is what we called them
3 in those days. It was a name that you don't hear today.
4 Father [REDACTED] MEV [REDACTED] never molested me.

5 "Another priest was Father [REDACTED] MEY [REDACTED]. I notice that
6 the press were after [REDACTED] MEY [REDACTED] in Australia and then
7 he dropped dead. I found out later that Father [REDACTED] MEY [REDACTED]
8 and Father Aidan Duggan [REDACTED].

9 "There were also lay teachers. The lay teachers
10 generally treated the boys well.

11 "On the first day we went to the school by train via
12 Fort William train station. There would be 200 boys on
13 the train. It was mayhem. The boys would be sticking
14 their heads out of the windows.

15 "We were living in Scotland by then. The train
16 never left until lunchtime or after, so you wouldn't get
17 into Fort William until it was dark and late at night.
18 The school bus would be waiting for you. The trunks
19 must have come separately because I don't remember
20 loading them on.

21 "Arriving at the school for the first time was
22 a terrifying experience. You would get to the school
23 and it was about 11.30 pm and it was dark. You were
24 ushered into this huge hall with dark panels everywhere
25 and hardly any light and you didn't know where you are

1 or what is going on. There was a smell like you
2 wouldn't believe, a real school gym shoe smell,
3 a horrible smell. The monks said which dormitory was
4 yours and told you to go that way. There was a bed in
5 the dormitory and that was it, into bed.

6 "We slept in dormitories. I don't think the
7 dormitories had any names. When I first went to the
8 Abbey School I went to a dormitory in the new wing.
9 There were no stalls between the beds and you could look
10 down and see the rows of beds. There were 20 beds in
11 the room. I spent a year in that dormitory. The other
12 boys were all the same age as me.

13 "The next year we were allocated to one of the older
14 dormitories above, where the fire later took place. We
15 rose at 5.30 am. There was a bell that went off. You
16 got up, went to the bathroom, washed yourself, and did
17 your teeth. You dressed and went straight to church.

18 "Every day you had Mass in the church and then went
19 for breakfast. After breakfast there was half an hour
20 when you made your bed and go your books and things.
21 Making your bed was typical boarding school stuff; there
22 was nothing untoward about that to me.

23 "Every morning at 9 am there was assembly. You all
24 had to assemble, say a prayer and then you went to
25 classes. The dormitory was out of bounds during the

1 day. Bedtime was at 9.30 pm. There were prayers before
2 bedtime in the church. There was silence. You weren't
3 allowed to talk in the dormitory. Last thing at night
4 MFG, the housemaster, would go walking
5 up and down the dormitory, sometimes with a strap in his
6 hands. The housemaster was making sure you were in your
7 bed, lights were out, and finally you would hear the
8 foot steps walking off.

9 "Meals for all the boys were in the refectory.
10 There were prayers, before, during and after the meals.
11 The monks sat at a different table from the boys. The
12 monks' table was up high, looking down. They were
13 observing the entire procedure, seeing if anyone got out
14 of line. The refectory was huge. The tables were long.
15 You had a class table. I think there were two class
16 tables for us because there were about 30 boys in our
17 class.

18 "At the end of each table was a prefect. The boys
19 all sat along the side and moved around one seat of the
20 table every day. You queued up for your meal. You
21 would all take turns serving up. Sometimes a boy would
22 pick up a tureen of porridge and put a ladleful in each
23 boys' bowl.

24 "The food was average. I never complained about bad
25 food. It was monotonous food, which you would expect.

1 I was never hungry. There was porridge every morning.
2 You would get soup, a meal and always dessert. Dessert
3 was always the same: semolina and junket, that sort of
4 old-style stuff. If you left food, no one seemed to
5 care.

6 "Every now and again there would be something really
7 odd. You would come in for lunch and there would be
8 a big salmon that someone had caught. The brothers made
9 their own bread. I had never seen loaves so long.

10 "I can remember one prefect at the end of our table,
11 I don't want to name him, he was an academic type. He
12 never said much. He was quiet and kept himself to
13 himself. We never saw him playing sports. The prefect
14 was always in his room studying.

15 "As far as I can recall you weren't allowed to talk
16 during meals. There was silence and the hum of prayers
17 being said. If you were talking the prefect would be
18 the one to dob you in. Other than that, I don't
19 remember any bad things about the prefect.

20 "There were showers and baths right down in
21 the sports area. The area had a row of showers along
22 one wall with big heads. On the other side was a row of
23 about twelve baths. All the pipes were on show. There
24 was no delicacy about it. You had a bath once a month.
25 No one complained because you had regular showers.

1 Every time you had sports you had a shower.

2 "We had showers in the morning too. You would go in
3 and there would be hot water and then cold. There was
4 a monk to put the water on and off, MFE and
5 he loved every minute of it.

6 "You always wore school uniform. When you went on
7 three-weeklies into the hills you wore your sports gear.
8 I never had a pair of jeans or anything like that at
9 school.

10 "Sunday was the day of hell. Religious instruction
11 was pretty heavy. You got up in the morning and went to
12 church. You had matins in the morning. After breakfast
13 back to High Mass. High Mass is a three-hour episode of
14 bells ringing, people singing, organs, Georgian
15 chanting, swinging thuribles and incense and spraying
16 the congregation with holy water. The monks loved it
17 all. It was a theatrical thing.

18 "After lunch we had a break from it. In the evening
19 we went back for more. By the time we went to bed you
20 thought you didn't want to have any more to do with this
21 religion.

22 "The main intention seemed to be to drum up some
23 recruits. We were all told individually several times
24 to keep going the way you were and you would be
25 a wonderful priest. We boys used to talk amongst

1 ourselves and joining the priesthood was a big joke.

2 "Once a year we had a three-day religious retreat
3 where you weren't allowed to talk for three days. The
4 boys dreaded that. We didn't look forward to it. The
5 monks brought in an outside lecturer, a monk who was
6 well-known and holy. A lecturer the monks brought in
7 ended up leaving the church and getting married just
8 a few months after our retreat. I can't remember his
9 name. He was quite famous. As far as the boys were
10 concerned we had listened to that guy for all that time
11 for nothing. To us he was a fake. In those days monks
12 getting married was unheard of.

13 You had to keep everything spick and span. It was
14 a bit like the army. You had a locker and everything in
15 it had to be tidy. In the locker was a vest,
16 underpants, socks and things like that. You were beaten
17 or given the strap if it wasn't right. The housemaster
18 would inspect the locker. If you fell out with another
19 boy or if boys didn't like you then they would mess up
20 your locker. You soon knew if you weren't liked. You
21 never found out who had messed up your locker, but all
22 of us used to get caught by that now and again. The
23 housemaster should have had enough sense to know that
24 some other boy was doing that, but they just caned you
25 for the sake of it.

1 "Saturday was sports day. We played games on
2 Wednesday afternoon too. The teams would go up on
3 a list. Sports day was okay if you were good at sports.
4 If you weren't or you weren't interested in sports, you
5 were left behind. Sports was compulsory. I was
6 surprised how good I was at sports. I played cricket,
7 hockey and rugby against other schools. We played
8 cricket against Gordonstoun and I was chosen to sit
9 opposite Prince Charles at the table afterwards. We
10 had a good chat about fly fishing.

11 "Every three weeks there was a three-weekly. You
12 would be told at assembly, 'Today is a three-weekly'.
13 Then you would run and get your old clothes on. You
14 would form a little group of three or four and go off up
15 into the hills to do what you wanted to do for the day.
16 The younger kids had to go with a monk. I recall
17 Father MEV taking a whole group of younger ones
18 into the hills somewhere.

19 "You had a bit of time on Sunday when you could do
20 club things like photography, library, music or choir
21 practice, acting rehearsals, sports or hobbies. In
22 the evenings you had choral society and acting. I put
23 my name down for every single club. Once you got into
24 acting, the school went around the towns putting shows
25 on. You got to go out to Inverness and Fort William.

1 If you played cricket you got to go out to play other
2 schools. With all of those thing I would be getting
3 away from that place. You had special time off school
4 for practice.

5 "There was no television in the four years I was at
6 the school and I did not see or use a telephone once.

7 "In the winter, when it snowed heavily, we could
8 sometimes be cut off for a week or two at a time. We
9 never noticed anything different. We sometimes
10 ice-skated on Loch Tarff, which was great fun. We could
11 bobsled down Glendoe Road. In the summer, the monks
12 would fill in the swimming pool with ice-cold water
13 pumped from Loch Ness.

14 "We would go home for holidays. There were no trips
15 at the Abbey School. It was the complete opposite of my
16 second prep school where we had lots of trips to places.
17 The only way you would get out of the Abbey School was
18 if you were a member of a team or into acting.

19 "My birthday was in the middle of term. Nothing
20 ever changed on your birthday.

21 "There were two types of teacher, the monks and the
22 lay teachers. The lay teachers would generally be
23 Catholics. They were an oddball mix. The teachers had
24 a room to stay in in the hospice. They came out every
25 day for teaching and then went back in. The standard of

1 teaching was not good. Not many people got to
2 university through the school. I don't think anyone
3 from my class went to university. I got my degree
4 later. The accent was on sport and winning.

5 "I was good at French. The monks were not good
6 teachers because they were not tolerant. They ruled
7 with a rod. The monks were more concerned about someone
8 speaking in class or passing wind rather than saying,
9 'Come and look at this, this is exciting, I'm going to
10 tell you how it works'.

11 "Classes were regimented to the point where you
12 didn't want to learn you and looked out the window. I'm
13 sure some of the teachers were good but they just
14 couldn't communicate and that is why they were monks.
15 They would rather rush away and lock themselves up and
16 pray.

17 "When it came to the boys, the monks had little
18 interaction with them. I finished with four or five
19 O-levels. That was all I got. I could not carry on in
20 that atmosphere and left school early.

21 "The monks came and went. In my view some were not
22 qualified teachers. The school would have had to pay
23 for qualified teacher. The qualified monk was called
24 Father **MRQ** He was the **MRQ** teacher.
25 He qualified at university. Father **MRQ**

1 made the lessons interesting. He was good.

2 "Father [REDACTED] MEV [REDACTED] taught us [REDACTED].

3 That was a complete disaster. One day he decided to

4 teach us about sex. The class was one of 15-year-old

5 boys, some who knew more than he did about the subject.

6 He drew a primitive drawing of an erect penis with sperm

7 coming out of it on the blackboard. The drawing invited

8 uproar in the class. [REDACTED] MEV [REDACTED] talked about how young

9 boys like us would get excited when we saw a woman's

10 bottom going up and down when they swam breaststroke at

11 the swimming pool. He went into detail about

12 the up-and-down motion. It was embarrassing for all of

13 us. I almost felt sorry for [REDACTED] MEV [REDACTED] because he was

14 so pathetic. Looking back as an adult, I suspects he

15 was throwing the net out to anyone who might have

16 questions about sex that he could answer in private.

17 "We had various special days and we looked forward

18 to them. You looked forward to them. We had parents'

19 day, old boys' day, and half term. At half term the

20 parents were allowed to come up. My mother and father

21 came once and stayed at the local hotel. They took me

22 out to dinner there. It was good fun and I really

23 enjoyed it. It was the only time I remember my parents

24 coming up to the school.

25 "I don't ever remember any outside inspections

1 taking place. There was not one person to approach in
2 the school who showed the slightest interest in our
3 plight.

4 "There was a matron. Matron ran her own show and
5 lived in the lodge at the end of the school buildings
6 away from everything. Matron's sick rooms were there.
7 There was a doctor in the village. Doctor Curtain was
8 about 95 years old. No one ever wanted to have anything
9 to do with him. His hands shook and he couldn't see
10 what he was doing. The best thing was to get to
11 Inverness as quickly as possible to the hospital.

12 "I went to the dentist many times. It was a way of
13 getting out of school; you would get away from the day.
14 You would get on bus and go to Inverness for the day,
15 you would see the dentist, and then go back on the bus.
16 The monks trusted you to do that. Some boys ran away
17 I thought about it but I didn't.

18 "There were two fires at school when I was there.
19 In the first fire, the area where the fire took place
20 was a tinderbox just waiting to go up with the wood
21 panelling. The fire took place directly below our
22 dormitory, below the clock tower. The child who lit the
23 fire had chosen the perfect spot where all the empty
24 school trunks were stored and piled up. This was the
25 third time and the third school that this kid had lit

1 a fire. I can't remember his name. The fire was
2 a nightmare. It was a big fire. It was dark and there
3 were no lights. I realised then how complicated the
4 building was. We went the wrong way into the monastery,
5 the monastery was corridors and corridors of old wood
6 and then panels with doors leading off. It was all full
7 of smoke and it was night too. I had never been in that
8 part of the building before. We were lucky to get out
9 of that one. There was a lot of change in the school
10 after that.

11 "Another boy who I don't want to name was so
12 traumatised by the monks he self-harmed for six months
13 before setting fire to the school library. As far as
14 I know he was never bullied by the other boys. He was
15 15 years old.

16 "For punishments about academic things you went to
17 the headmaster. For naughty stuff you went to your
18 housemaster. The monks went overboard with discipline.
19 Whenever I objected to something being unfair it would
20 bring problems for me, including beatings. It did not
21 pay to complain.

22 "During the term my anxiety would build up. Minor
23 infringements were dealt with by disproportionate and
24 inconsistent punishments, always of a physical nature.
25 Rarely were we ever given lines or detention. We were

1 ordered to see the housemaster at set times for
2 punishment. You were given a note by a monk or lay
3 teacher and sent to the housemaster. The monks who gave
4 the notes were known for not beating the boys.

5 "There would be a dull nagging pain at the bottom of
6 my stomach worsening as the time got closer. There was
7 often a cue outside the housemaster's room where lots of
8 boys would also be waiting for their punishment. This
9 waiting added extra cruelty. The housemaster, MFG
10 MFG, might not be there and several visits were
11 required. The waiting could go on for a week. This had
12 a strong negative psychological effect on the victim.

13 "Without exaggerating, averaging it out, I was sent
14 for punishment four times a week. You handed your note
15 in and you got punished. At the end of each caning or
16 beating you were required to say, 'Thank you, Father'.
17 If you forgot these words you were beaten again, being
18 struck on your hands with a leather strap, six times on
19 each hand was standard.

20 " MFG and MFE were the
21 monks who did that. One hand was outstretched with
22 the palm up and the strap was brought down. The same
23 process would happen on the other hand. No lay teachers
24 or brothers struck us with a strap.

25 "I have always known that I had been physically and

1 psychologically abused at the Abbey School. When I was
2 between 13 and 16 years old, I believe I was sexually
3 abused as well by [REDACTED] SNR [REDACTED] MFF [REDACTED]. On two
4 occasions he made me strip naked and caned me.

5 " My abusers were the Benedictine monks at the
6 school. They were in a position of trust, appointed to
7 safeguard my welfare and education. My parents
8 maintained absolutely confidence in their fidelity.
9 Regrettably, a number of monks betrayed this trust by
10 wilfully abusing the boys under their care.

11 " The boys were conditioned into a submissive state
12 by the use of terror. The monks controlled the boys and
13 their minds. We were instructed to repeat, 'Thank you,
14 Father,' at the end of each caning or beating. All the
15 boys were getting the same treatment, although I think
16 a few of us got it a bit harder in the later years
17 because we stood up to the monks as well.

18 " As being flogged we endured endless psychological
19 abuses. Some boys endured sexual abuse. We had heard
20 rumours about certain monks, but I did not know at the
21 time any boy who was being sexually abused.

22 " The type of mistreatment I received varied widely.
23 The abuse was mixed to a point where I could not be sure
24 whether it was sexual, physical, psychological,
25 emotional, verbal, social, cultural or even spiritual

1 abuse.

2 "There were many places where silence was the law
3 and if you were caught talking you would be caned. Boys
4 talked in whispers and looked over their shoulders to
5 see if monks were hiding somewhere. Boys avoided eye
6 contact with certain monks and kept out of their way.
7 When you passed a monk you faced a wall or looked at the
8 floor.

9 "Physical attacks could come without warning,
10 sometimes for trivial offences and sometimes for none.
11 By the end my first year I realised I was in a living
12 hell from which there was no escape except death or
13 the school holidays.

14 "At the end of our holidays when we knew we had to
15 return to school, a state of depression would take over.
16 I didn't want to go back. It was no wonder that
17 sometimes boys didn't return. There were times boys
18 were so stressed they behaved irrationally. There was
19 a Polish boy who, when upset by the monks, would drink
20 litres of water in a short space of time. He once drunk
21 so much that he passed out. Another boy dived into
22 Loch Ness and kept swimming until he was out of sight.
23 A boat had to be sent to find him. It was considered
24 a suicidal act to swim in the loch because of the cold
25 temperature of the water.

1 [REDACTED] MFF [REDACTED] SNR [REDACTED] was about 55 years
2 old. He and [REDACTED] MKT [REDACTED], another [REDACTED] SNR [REDACTED], took
3 it upon themselves to carrying out beatings. Their
4 beatings were a bit more serious. They used a cane.
5 They would make a big scene about it. Clothes would
6 come off and boys would be kneeling on chairs or naked
7 over the back of beds. [REDACTED] MFF [REDACTED] was known for his naked
8 canings.

9 "We had no remove every stitch of our clothing
10 including all socks in preparation for beatings. No
11 normal-minded child would agree to do these kind of
12 things without protesting. We never protested.

13 [REDACTED] MFF [REDACTED] and [REDACTED] MKT [REDACTED] used different canes. The canes
14 varied in colour and thickness. Traditional canes would
15 have a curl on the end. These canes were not like that.
16 The canes were long and dark. Some were really long,
17 almost a metre and a half long. [REDACTED] MFF [REDACTED] was so small
18 the cane was almost out of control.

19 " [REDACTED] MFF [REDACTED] was the most vicious man there every was.
20 Of the naked canings [REDACTED] MFF [REDACTED] did, there were two
21 that involved me. I was 13 to 14 years old. One was in
22 the office and the other was in a dormitory. Seven or
23 eight of us boys were marched by [REDACTED] MFF [REDACTED] to the
24 dormitory. It was not the dormitory we were supposed to
25 sleep in. For some reason [REDACTED] MFF [REDACTED] took us to a new

1 dormitory we had never been in before. We never knew
2 who slept in that dormitory. I am convinced now, having
3 gone over the events in my mind many times, that these
4 canings were preplanned. It wasn't just, 'We will go up
5 there and we will do it.' The reasons why I think that
6 are that the dormitory was lighter and you could see
7 more and there were no stalls between beds.

8 "We all had to strip naked and kneel over the back
9 of the bed, holding on to the bed. We all had to stand
10 and watch each being beaten one after the other. There
11 were so many things that happened on that occasion that
12 it was almost unbelievable.

13 "First of all, MFF demonstrated how we were to
14 do it. It was too precise. It was annoying. MFF
15 knelt down and said, 'This is how I want you.' The
16 first boy knelt down and MFF moved the boy's hands
17 and buttocks this way and that way into the right place.
18 He didn't do that with everyone. He might have moved
19 one boy with the cane, like prodding cattle.

20 "When MFF started caning, after the fourth or
21 fifth blow, a strange thing happened: every boys' legs
22 fell out from underneath them and the boy went to the
23 ground, hanging on to the bed. It was weird. MFF
24 kept going, hell for leather. On about the fourth or
25 fifth boy I noticed something fly off the end of cane.

1 Everyone went through the procedure of going to the bed,
2 kneeling down and being caned.

3 "You won't believe this, but MFF forgot me.
4 I had to make a split-second decision what to do: let
5 MFF walk away or say, 'Please, Father, you have
6 forgotten me.' Like an idiot I said, 'Please, Father,
7 you have forgotten me.' It was peer pressure. If I
8 hadn't done it, one of those boys could have dobbed me
9 in he and said I hadn't been done and I would have been
10 worrying about it for weeks, when am I getting done.
11 MFF gave me ten strokes. There was blood going
12 down my leg.

13 "After the beating MFF left and we were in
14 the dormitory for a few minutes talking, looking at each
15 other's wounds. Nudity didn't count. We were used to
16 that in the showers. One boy was so bad we thought we
17 couldn't possibly leave him like this and he would have
18 to go to matron. The blood was down at his ankles.

19 "I looked in the corner for the thing that flew off
20 the end of cane. I found it. It was a little lump of
21 lead. It looked like a bullet. In my opinion it had
22 been poured into the end of the cane and left to set.
23 I kept it as a memento and showed it to my parents. My
24 parents didn't it believe me and said I was making it
25 up.

1 "This is how bad it was: the next thing the door
2 burst open and in came the housemaster with the strap.
3 I am certainly convinced it was [REDACTED] MFG [REDACTED].
4 The housemaster said -- and I remember the words,
5 'Talking in the dormitory'. All of us got six on each
6 hand, right there and then; we were still naked. There
7 was no doubt the housemaster was waiting outside the
8 dormitory for the caning to finish and he was going to
9 come in and get us. I was so upset. We were so
10 stunned: for talking in the dormitory we got that
11 punishment. When we left the dormitory, we got lost.
12 We didn't know where we were because we had never been
13 to that dormitory. It was scary.

14 "In my first year at school three of us were caught
15 for sitting in the school church and throwing balls of
16 paper at the other boys' heads. We didn't know [REDACTED] MFF [REDACTED]
17 was at the back of the church watching us. [REDACTED] MFF [REDACTED]
18 told us to see him after lunch. We thought we were in
19 for a strapping but when we got to his office [REDACTED] MFF [REDACTED]
20 told us to take our trousers and underpants off. In
21 the office, the chair had been set up in the right
22 position for the first boy. The first boy knelt on the
23 chair. His backside was where we could see it.
24 [REDACTED] MFF [REDACTED] went to do the first caning and the boy's shirt
25 fell down on his bum. [REDACTED] MFF [REDACTED] told us to take our

1 shirts off, so there we were again, all of us naked.

2 MFF appeared to like other boys watching whilst he
3 caned a boy. Each time a boy got to the chair, MFF
4 didn't cane them straightaway; he took a while. He was
5 looking at the boy. Why would you take such a long time
6 looking? There was a sexual thing, the same with one in
7 the dormitory.

8 "I never thought about it at the time, we were so
9 terrified. The place had been prepared. This guy was
10 looking for his jollies. Other boys spoke of the same
11 thing: how MFF took his time to look at them before
12 he caned them.

13 "MKT was about 50 years old. He was
14 very odd. MKT was tall, bald and overbearing. He
15 taught badly. MKT looked down on us. You could
16 never have a conversation with him. We called him
17 'MKT'.

18 "MKT didn't like me from day one. I don't know
19 why. MKT caned me four or five times. He would cane
20 you between six and ten strokes. When I was 16 years
21 old he caned me and I really didn't know what I was
22 punished for. On the spur of the moment it had gone
23 through my mind to throttle MKT to stop him assaulting
24 me. MKT was bigger me and I thought of the
25 ramifications. I shut up and took it.

1 "The monks had you totally and mentally under their
2 control. I was caught b [MKT] talking in assembly.
3 [MKT] instructed me to report to him at his office when
4 classes had finished that day. I got to his office at
5 2.30 pm. [MKT] told me to go outside and stand in front
6 of his office window. His office was on the ground
7 floor. He could look at me standing there. It was
8 winter and the temperature was low. There was a cold
9 breeze and snow on the ground. I was not dressed to be
10 outside. I was wearing my school jacket and long
11 trousers. At first I was not concerned. After about
12 an hour, I started to get really cold. My feet were
13 freezing and I had no gloves. The school rules decreed
14 that we were not allowed to put our hands in our
15 pockets. I knocked on [MKT] 's window and asked to be
16 let in. I thought he had forgotten about me. [MKT] was
17 sitting at his desk with his back to me. He told me to
18 stand there for longer. [MKT] appeared to be laughing.

19 "Mrs Ward, one of the school cleaners, walked past
20 me on her way home. Mrs Ward stopped, turned around,
21 and asked me what I was doing out in cold. I told her
22 I had been sent out to stand there by the [SNR].
23 Mrs Ward said the [SNR] had done this before and it
24 wasn't right. She told me when I got too cold to go
25 inside and ignore [MKT] 's orders. By 4 pm it was

1 beginning to get dark. Mr Humpkin(?), a lay English
2 teacher, walked by and looked at me in a strange way.
3 Another hour went by. It was dark and I was really cold
4 and shivery. I was seriously considering disobeying
5 MKT 's order. I had been outside for three hours,
6 maybe more when Mr Humpkin passed by again. I remember
7 every word he said to me. He said, 'This is no good, no
8 good at all, you had better come inside and warm up
9 before you freeze to death'. I felt like vomiting and
10 I was shivering badly. My hands and feet were numb.

11 "Mr Humpkin took me into his room. I had never been
12 into that part of the school before. Humpkin's room was
13 a single room in the hospice. It was small and warm
14 with an electric fire in the corner. I sat by the fire
15 for an hour or more before I got back to feeling normal.
16 Humpkin never said much. I could tell by his demeanour
17 and head shaking he was not impressed by what [REDACTED]
18 SNR had done to me. I might have died from
19 exposure.

20 "I had missed supper and I was sent to bed cold,
21 depressed and hungry. The following day MKT
22 ignored me as he walked past. I suppose my punishment
23 was over. I avoided him as best I could.

24 "I went to my parents and asked to leave the school.
25 They did not force me to stay. I found out later that

1 I was not the only one that MKT had picked on. Those
2 boys chose to leave the school as well. I don't wish to
3 name those boys.

4 "My housemaster, MFG, was the main
5 monk to use the strap on me. Most of the vicious monks
6 had worked out how to bring the strap down so that the
7 strap came down 60mm over the far side of the hand and
8 the base of the thumb. This made the strap curl around
9 under the thumb and hit the soft spot on the back of the
10 hand. The strap would damage the veins on the back of
11 the hand. Sometimes the veins would ooze blood under
12 the skin, leaving blood clots and bruising which took
13 ages to go away.

14 "I went in for further punishments when my hand was
15 still damaged, sometimes a week later. The pain was
16 excruciating and the earlier wounds would open up and be
17 made worse. I played cricket and at times found
18 catching and bowling difficult due to the pain.

19 "What the monks were doing to me really upset me.
20 I still have scars from being hit with the strap. The
21 teacher, Father MEW, was a dreadful man.
22 Every week he put a list of six to ten boys on the board
23 in red ink who were to go to SNR and get
24 punished because they had failed their weekly tests.
25 The test was 50 words you had to learn every week.

1 I was good at [REDACTED] so it didn't worry me. The same
2 boys would appear in the queue to [REDACTED] SNR
3 office every week because they weren't good at [REDACTED].
4 They weren't lazy or bad. I was horrified that the
5 school would punish someone because of their lack of
6 mental acumen.

7 "One day my name was on the list. I challenged
8 Father [REDACTED] MEW and asked what I had done wrong. He
9 said I had miss a [REDACTED] out in one of the letters.
10 I said, 'I would like to see to that please.'
11 Father [REDACTED] MEW banged me on the head really hard with
12 his knuckles. It was sore and two weeks later I still
13 had bruises on my head. I had to go to [REDACTED] SNR
14 for punishment. I can't remember whether it was
15 [REDACTED] MFF or [REDACTED] MKT who punished me on that occasion.

16 "The worst incident happened to a boy, [REDACTED].
17 There were three [REDACTED] brothers. One had left school
18 when I get to there. [REDACTED] was called out in the
19 middle of [REDACTED] class. Ten minutes later he came back
20 in tears. He said at the top of his voice his brother
21 had just been killed in a head-on car collision. His
22 brother was only 21 years old. [REDACTED] MEW told this boy
23 to stop disrupting the class with his tears or he would
24 be sent to the headmaster. We were flabbergasted about
25 this cold-heartedness. The class started to shout and

1 carry on. MEW was losing control of the class. We
2 were so angry at the way he treated this boy. A boy's
3 brother was killed and the monks sent him back to class.
4 What sort of school is that? There was no one to
5 console him or put an arm around him.

6 "The housemaster was a brutal beast and he was
7 particularly brutal to the younger boys. Once in my
8 first two years at school I was walking past MFE's
9 room when he saw me with one hand in my pocket. This
10 was forbidden. He lashed out with his leather strap
11 across my head. MFE grabbed my hair and said I was
12 lucky I didn't have two hands in my pockets. MFE
13 had cut me on the tongue and lips. I could not eat or
14 talk properly for more than a week. The other boys had
15 warned me MFE stood at his door looking for
16 targets, usually new boys from another house.

17 "Some time later I found a younger boy bleeding from
18 his ear and crying in a corridor. MFE had hit the
19 boy on his ear with his strap as the boy was walking
20 past his room. The boy had to idea what he had done
21 wrong. I took the boy to matron.

22 " MFE supervised our naked showers. There was
23 hot water first and then the water would be really cold.
24 We were forced to stand in the shower and not leave
25 until MFE said we could. The time would vary

1 depending on his mood. Any boy who ran out before
2 MFE gave permission was rounded up by MFE
3 sometimes using a strap, and forced to stand under the
4 shower for longer. We were all naked and MFE made
5 it a sort of game which he enjoyed. It never worried
6 me. I found the cold water to be a challenge. I tried
7 to be one of the last to leave to show MFE he
8 wasn't intimidating me.

9 MFE paced up and down the rows of showers
10 checking the boys out. I did not think he was
11 perverted, just that he got a kick out of being cruel to
12 kids.

13 "At the end of the runs the weakest and least
14 athletic boys would be singled out by MFE and
15 forced to run around the cricket oval ten or more times,
16 whilst the fastest boys were enjoying showers. Some
17 boys would be lying on the ground. One boy lay at
18 MFE's feet and prayed to God to save him. MFE
19 was laughing at the boy.

20 "Another punishment would be to roll the cricket
21 pitch with a large heavy roller. Four children would
22 pull it. One boy in our class who I don't want to name
23 was regularly picked out for this by MFE. The
24 humiliation was public and other boys would be laughing.
25 MFE picked on boys who were fat and not in his

1 house. Sometimes the house master from a different
2 house would retaliate on one of [REDACTED] MFE s boys. A war
3 would break out, with the boys being used as instruments
4 of combat.

5 "Brother [REDACTED] MNS was in his 50s. He was slightly
6 simple. He was born with [REDACTED] and was only about
7 [REDACTED]. Brother [REDACTED] MNS told me that he had
8 never aspired to become a monk and had been forced into
9 the Catholic monasteries at a young age. He had been at
10 the Abbey for at least twenty years before I got there
11 in 1961. Brother [REDACTED] MNS told me that he was one of the
12 [REDACTED]. He said the [REDACTED] gave him
13 a good Catholic education and as soon as he was about 17
14 he was put in a monetary. I felt sorry for
15 Brother [REDACTED] MNS. He was given the most demeaning work at
16 the abbey. He worked in the kitchen and the lavatories.
17 He cleaned up after the monks. He was often covered in
18 smelly cooking grease. In the monastery class system
19 Brother [REDACTED] MNS was at the bottom.

20 "Brother [REDACTED] MNS would often be seen hanging around at
21 the doors of the school's outside lavatories. He liked
22 to play games with the younger boys. The older boys
23 avoided him, due to his being simple and their earlier
24 experiences of him. Brother [REDACTED] MNS 's favourite game was
25 to ask a boy to guess his weight by lifting him up.

1 This was done face-to-face by the boy wrapping his arms
2 around Brother MNS and lifting Brother MNS off the
3 ground a number of times in quick succession. I was
4 caught out by this game in my early days at the school.
5 Brother MNS was not pleasant to be close to and
6 smelled a bit, but I thought nothing sinister of him at
7 first. Once there was a hard object pushing into me
8 from Brother MNS's groin area. I asked him what it
9 was. Brother MNS told me it was his penknife.
10 I talked to other boys and I was informed what his
11 penknife really was; it was his erect penis. Whenever
12 he approached me in the lavatories after this I made
13 sure not to play any more of his games. One time
14 Brother MNS was outside the lavatories and he said to
15 me that he had been ordered not to come down there
16 anymore. We never saw much of Brother MNS after that.
17 When I saw him around the school I would always say
18 hello to him. The monks did not think it was necessary
19 to warn us about Brother MNS, although they apparently
20 knew what he got up to around the school lavatories.

21 "When I was about 14 years old and in my first few
22 weeks at Fort Augustus we were in class when a teacher,
23 a monk, lost his temper. I can't remember the monk's
24 name. He was angry because the blackboard duster had
25 gone missing. We searched for the duster but it could

1 not be found. A boy near to the front of the class said
2 'It's not here, Father'. The monk dragged the boy out
3 from his desk to the front of the class by the lapels of
4 his jacket. The desk was knocked over. The monk was
5 a big man. He spun the boy around, lifted him up by his
6 jacket and wiped the blackboard with the boy as if the
7 boy were a duster. The monk turned the boy upside down
8 and around so his face was pressed into the blackboard.
9 He wiped the boy across the board from left to right and
10 right to left. A line of spittle was smeared across the
11 blackboard each time. The boy's arms flailed around.
12 The monk dropped the boy on the ground. The boy
13 remained there for a while in a heap crying. Every one
14 of us in the class was paralysed with fear. The boy,
15 still in tears, went back to his desk, turned it upright
16 and sat down. The boy's face, head and clothes were
17 covered in white chalk. The teacher carried on for the
18 rest of the class as if nothing had happened. We only
19 had one more lesson from this mad man. In that lesson
20 the monk yelled at the top of his voice, threw chalk and
21 a duster, which hit a boy's forehead and cut him. We
22 never saw the monk again after that.

23 "We complained to our parents about our cruel
24 treatment at the Abbey School. That was to no avail.
25 My father had other things on his mind. My mother was

1 a devout Catholic who would not believe that men of God
2 could do such things. I do think my mother believed
3 some of what we told her, although she used to dismiss
4 it outright. My mother would say I was making it up or
5 I was a liar. Often there was proof, marks or bruises.
6 When I was around 15 years old we all had a private
7 conference with the monk who later married, who was
8 brought in to lecture us during a religious retreat.
9 The monk told me that nothing would be said of our
10 conversation. It was private. This was the first time
11 anyone at school had taken an interest. I told the monk
12 that I was being unfairly beaten by the monks at school
13 and I had had enough. He told me to pray for the monks
14 who were beating me so that the beatings would become
15 less painful.

16 "I left school in 1964 when I was 16
17 and a half years old. I asked my mother if I could
18 leave. I said I had had enough and wanted out. There
19 was no argument. My mother said that was fine. After
20 school I did various jobs in the UK, then I moved
21 abroad. My first years abroad were depressing and
22 I worked in a number of dead end jobs. I started work
23 as a gardener at a factory. Then I got a job as
24 an assistant in a factory laboratory. It wasn't long
25 before I became a manager of the laboratory. I wanted

1 to become a civil engineer. I studied for four years
2 and obtained a graduate diploma. I became a regional
3 manager for a large multinational company. Later
4 I worked freelance. At that time there were only four
5 people qualified in my field of expertise in my region,
6 of which I was one. I am now semi-retired and have
7 spent time working on experimental ideas in my field of
8 expertise. At school I would often wake up with an
9 anxious knot in my stomach. At times I felt sick from
10 fear. I think I had an ulcer when I left school. I had
11 a nagging pain in my stomach. I never felt safe at
12 school. I was never in fear of another boy, or bullied,
13 it was always the monks who struck fear into me. We
14 knew we were going to be beaten for the slightest
15 infringement of the rules. My parents would never have
16 carried out the beatings that those brutes did. Those
17 brutes were in loco parentis to us. We lived from day
18 to day rather than looking ahead. The future was
19 gloomy. Those who had vision and were capable of
20 looking ahead suffered the most. I hardly knew my
21 brothers when I was at school. We only met in
22 the holidays. When I left school I turned my back on
23 the Catholic Church. Even today I feel uneasy and want
24 to get away when I see a priest or monk in their robes.
25 Being near to them makes me uncomfortable.

1 "For at least ten years after leaving school I felt
2 my self-confidence had been reduced. I didn't attribute
3 that to any particular event. I became withdrawn,
4 a recluse. I did not have self-worth and I felt I was
5 a failure. I had no aspirations. I felt ashamed for
6 leaving school early. At that time I became a heavy
7 drinker. I had not even tried to get into university.
8 I don't remember anyone in my class at school going to
9 university. When I lived with my parents after school
10 the pressure to better myself could not have been worse.
11 My father had reached a high level in his work. I felt
12 so out of place and small. I felt I had let my mother
13 and father down by not performing well at school. There
14 was a wage freeze in the UK. I decided to leave home to
15 go abroad where my prospects might be better.

16 "My relationship with my mother and father was
17 definitely affected by my experiences at Fort Augustus
18 Abbey School. The disbelief that anything had happened
19 to us was very hurtful. When your parents don't believe
20 you it knocks you around. That is a big thing in any
21 relationship. After a while you don't want to say too
22 much to your parents because you know what they will
23 say. I felt I had to get away from my friends and the
24 country. Later in life I felt I could have climbed
25 greater heights if I had not been sent to that wretched

1 school. I feel I lost 15 years of my life, not at the
2 school but after leaving. I had to regroup. I had to
3 go and get a degree with four O Levels. Luckily in the
4 country I moved to they didn't know about Scottish
5 education. They thought O Levels were great. School
6 didn't teach us how to learn; it was all a matter of
7 keeping us in order. Now I look at the monks as social
8 misfits and gutless bullies. They could hardly survive
9 by themselves in the outside world. They were protected
10 by the church. The monks got pleasure from bullying
11 children who were at their mercy. It was easy for the
12 monks to carry out their brutal activities because we
13 were virtually cut off from the outside world. The
14 monks did not like people who challenged them. They
15 wanted everybody to be under their command.
16 I challenged the monks and that was my biggest problem.
17 That caused my difficulties. If I had shut up
18 I probably would have got half the canings.

19 "When I had my own children I didn't want to let
20 them out of my sight. I didn't allow them to go to
21 boarding school. Following an accident which left me in
22 constant back pain on and off since 1998 I have been
23 treated for anxiety and depression. I have never asked
24 for my records from school and I never want to. The
25 records would not be exciting. They would say I was

1 an arrogant boy who challenged the monks all the time.

2 "I hope there will be some good research into the
3 abuse of children in care and out of it will come some
4 changes in the law. I think the boarding school system
5 is slowly imploding. Probably in twenty years' time
6 there won't be such a thing. Hopefully there will be
7 a law passed that no monetary should be allowed to run
8 a school. The school was undergoing a change while
9 I was there, although I didn't realise at the time. The
10 old guard of monks and teachers had mostly died off.
11 Students pre-1958 wrote glowingly of the school. By
12 1959 a different style of monk was settling in,
13 overlooked by [REDACTED] SNR [REDACTED] MFF [REDACTED]. The
14 school had financial difficulties and was not
15 as selective as it had been. The boys were a challenge
16 to control. The school was badly run. The brutality of
17 the monks increased. The blame lies with [REDACTED] MFF [REDACTED]
18 and [REDACTED] MKT [REDACTED]. [REDACTED] MFF [REDACTED] was known to be a sadist
19 and turned a blind eye to the brutality of the monks.
20 From 1962 monks and priests with questionable
21 backgrounds came to the Abbey. There was a new terror
22 for the boys: paedophilia.

23 "As far as I am aware, every monk who abused me is
24 now dead and so can never be brought to account for what
25 they did to me and the other children. One might ask

1 "What is the purpose of coming forward to this inquiry?"

2 There is a purpose. I believe the truth about what
3 happened must be exposed. It is important to send
4 a signal out to others about this unacceptable conduct.
5 This will be a deterrent and provide some sort of
6 redress for the victims. Exposure like this can also
7 help to change our world towards a better place.

8 "By my slight contribution I wish to help towards
9 providing an opportunity for future generations to learn
10 about the nasty practices of the past and to show that
11 such acts of evil are capable of being committed by
12 apparently pious men in positions of trust, right under
13 our noses.

14 "I thank the Scottish Child Abuse Inquiry for giving
15 me this opportunity to present my statement. I have no
16 objection to my witness statement being published as
17 part of the evidence to the inquiry. I believe the
18 facts stated in this witness statement are true."

19 The statement was signed by Maxwell on 25 May 2019.

20 LADY SMITH: Thank you very much. Does that complete the
21 evidence for today, Ms MacLeod?

22 MS MacLEOD: That does, my Lady. We have three witnesses
23 lined up for tomorrow.

24 LADY SMITH: Thank you. I will rise now until tomorrow
25 morning at 10 o'clock.

1 (4.10 pm)

2 (The inquiry adjourned until 10.00 am on Thursday,

3 25 July 2019)

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