

1 Friday, 26 October 2018

2 (10.00 am)

3 LADY SMITH: Good morning. We return to oral evidence again
4 today on the last day this week that we're going to hear
5 evidence.

6 Before I begin, I would like to remind everybody
7 again of the effect of the restriction order that I have
8 issued, and that is, put shortly, that although names of
9 people who are alleged to have abused children may well
10 be used in evidence, because it's more convenient simply
11 to let them come out in the hearing room, they cannot be
12 disclosed in any way whatsoever outside the hearing
13 room. Again, if anyone has any doubts about that, there
14 are members of the inquiry team around all day and you
15 can check with them. I'm sure those of you who have
16 already been here this week do understand that, but it
17 is important and that's why I keep mentioning it.

18 Mr Peoples.

19 MR PEOPLES: Good morning, my Lady. The next witness wishes
20 to remain anonymous and she has chosen the name
21 "Elizabeth".

22 "ELIZABETH" (affirmed)

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

24 Elizabeth, in a moment I will ask Mr Peoples to
25 start asking you questions. In the meantime, you'll see

1 that microphone is now on. If you get too close to it,
2 it fuzzes; if you're not close enough, we can't hear you
3 properly. Could you do your best to stay in a good
4 position? You'll be helped if necessary, and I'll let
5 you know if I need you to move around. What's most
6 important is that you're comfortable and we go at your
7 pace. You tell me if you want any breaks, all right?
8 There's no problem about that.

9 Mr Peoples.

10 Questions from MR PEOPLES

11 MR PEOPLES: Good morning, Elizabeth.

12 A. Morning.

13 Q. Today I'm going to ask you some questions based on
14 a written statement you've provided to the inquiry, and
15 a copy of that statement is beside you in the red folder
16 in hard copy. You will also see the statement brought
17 up on the screen in front of you, so if you want to work
18 off the screen then by all means, but if you want to
19 look at the folder please do so.

20 Before I actually start, can I give the reference
21 number of your statement for the transcript. The number
22 of your statement is WIT.001.001.9315.

23 Elizabeth, I may need you to have a look at the red
24 folder first of all, simply to go to the last page of
25 your statement, which is on our reference page 9355.

1 Can you just confirm for me that you've signed your
2 statement, that that's your written evidence to the
3 inquiry?

4 A. Yes, that's my signature.

5 Q. Thank you very much. Can you also just confirm, while
6 you have that page in front of you, that you say here
7 that you have no objection to your statement being
8 published as part of the evidence to the inquiry and
9 that you believe the facts that are stated in your
10 witness statement are true?

11 A. True.

12 Q. Thank you very much.

13 Can I begin simply by asking you to confirm your
14 year of birth. I don't want your precise birthday, but
15 can you confirm that you were born in the year 1955?

16 A. Yes.

17 Q. Thank you.

18 LADY SMITH: Elizabeth, can I just ask you to get into the
19 right position for that microphone? It was under your
20 chin, but I need your mouth nearer to it. It can be
21 shifted a little bit. You get comfortable in your
22 chair, however you're comfortable sitting, and we'll get
23 the microphone in the right place for you. You'll get
24 used to speaking into it and you should find it very
25 comfortable because you'll realise that your voice is

1 being heard more easily without you making any effort.

2 All right?

3 MR PEOPLES: Don't worry, I make the same mistake sometimes
4 and I wander away from the microphone. It's not always
5 easy, but it helps us to hear what you have to say
6 because that's the most important thing today.

7 Elizabeth, can I just begin, in order to assist the
8 inquiry, with some general information about which
9 cottages you were in when you were in Quarriers and the
10 house parents that you had who looked after you. I'll
11 maybe start, if I can, simply by saying this, that we've
12 read your statement carefully and we've also had some
13 information given to us, given to the inquiry, by
14 Quarriers. We understand that during your time at
15 Quarriers, you stayed in cottage 3.

16 A. Correct.

17 Q. You also had a spell in cottage 7?

18 A. Correct.

19 Q. And finally, you stayed for a period of time in Glasgow
20 at a place called Overbridge.

21 A. Overbridge.

22 Q. Again, just to help us to understand the evidence you're
23 about to give, if we stick with cottage 3 for the
24 moment, just to get some basic information. Your first
25 house parent that you have a memory of was

- 1 a Miss QDZ is that right?
- 2 A. Yes.
- 3 Q. I'll ask you about her in due course, but I just want to
4 get this general information at this stage, if I may.
5 After a time, and we don't need to worry exactly when
6 that was, Miss QDZ left the cottage and she was
7 replaced by a Mr and Mrs QEA/QEK
- 8 A. Yes.
- 9 Q. Perhaps they were known as Uncle QEK and
10 Auntie QEA does that ring a bell?
- 11 A. Yes.
- 12 Q. Just so that we have a general picture at this stage,
13 I think that you moved to cottage 7 for a period of
14 time, before going on to Overbridge, and when you went
15 to Overbridge, if I can just deal with that first, my
16 understanding from what I've seen is that the
17 house parents there were a Mr and Mrs QAX/QCN
- 18 A. QAX/QCN
- 19 Q. And I think they were known -- I don't know if they were
20 known as Uncle QCN or Auntie QAX or something of that
21 type. I don't know if you are able ...
- 22 A. I think we just called them Mr and Mrs QAX/QCN
- 23 Q. I just wondered about that as we weren't sure how you
24 referred to them. That's fine, we know who they are.
25 I don't want to go into this because it's in your

1 statement and it's not related to Quarriers, but from
2 Overbridge you went on -- and you have told us about
3 this in the statement that we've all read carefully --
4 that you went to a girls' hostel in Aberdeen in about
5 1970, I think that was.

6 A. Some time around then.

7 Q. If I could go back to cottage 7, that was the one after
8 cottage 3, can I tell you this, that the inquiry has
9 been informed that the house parent at cottage 7 when
10 you were there would have been someone who was called
11 Barbara Bisset; does that name ring a bell?

12 A. Yes, she was only there for such a short time, I didn't
13 have much connection with her. Bisset, yes.

14 Q. You do remember it?

15 A. Yes.

16 Q. In fact, I might just take from you on that that I think
17 in broad terms your memories of cottage 7 were
18 reasonably happy memories.

19 A. Yes.

20 Q. And you consider --

21 A. I remember 3. They were happier.

22 Q. They were much happier than number 3?

23 A. Much happier than number 3.

24 Q. And you felt it was a much more normal environment to
25 live in. I think you maybe said something along those

1 lines in your statement?

2 A. A lot more normal. A happier house.

3 Q. I will come back to cottage 3, I just want to get
4 a little more information that helps us understand so
5 you don't have to worry about dates, people and places.

6 From the records we were shown -- and I'm partly
7 doing this to give us some information for the record,
8 for the transcript. From the records that we've been
9 shown, Miss **QDZ** would have been the house parent in
10 cottage 3 until perhaps late 1964 or early 1965, so you
11 were perhaps about 9 or 10 when she left.

12 A. Yes.

13 Q. Would that accord with your memory?

14 A. That's right.

15 Q. And then Mr and Mrs **QEA/QEK** came to Quarriers again
16 around late 1964 or early 1965, and their recollection
17 is that they stayed at Quarrier's Village until maybe
18 around 1970. I know you had gone from the village to
19 Overbridge and then on to Aberdeen, but that's what
20 they're telling us, they were there for about five
21 years, and obviously you did have -- you were cared by
22 them for part of that time.

23 A. Mm-hm.

24 Q. It's clear from your statement and also from the records
25 and what we've just been discussing that you did move

1 from time to time from one cottage to another and then
2 to Overbridge. Again, to help us, the records are
3 indicating that you moved to cottage 7, that's the one
4 with Barbara Bisset, around September 1967 and that you
5 stayed there until November 1968, so just over a year,
6 and then you went on to Overbridge, where the
7 house parents were the **QAX/QCN**

8 A. Yes.

9 Q. You're nodding. I'm taking it from that that this
10 doesn't -- this seems pretty reasonable to you.

11 A. Yes.

12 Q. That's fine. The other matter I'll raise at this
13 point -- and I don't want you to go into any of this,
14 it's just to get a point of reference -- is that the
15 records indicate, and you deal with this matter in your
16 own statement, that you or perhaps a member of your
17 family reported a serious incident that happened to you
18 when you were at home one weekend.

19 A. Yes.

20 Q. I don't need the detail just now. In fact, the records
21 indicate that that matter occurred around early
22 October 1968. I know I'm throwing a lot of dates at
23 you, but we've seen the records and I think that it's
24 clear that --

25 A. 13 years old.

1 Q. You'd be about 13. So that accords with the sort of age
2 you recall being when this matter was reported. All
3 I'll say is this, and just before I say this, let me
4 make it absolutely clear that the inquiry does not need
5 to know the details of what happened on that occasion,
6 at that weekend. I'm not going to ask you about that.

7 What I'm going to say is that it appears, and
8 I think you'll probably be able to confirm for me, that
9 the matter that we're talking about here was the subject
10 of some form of police investigation at the time and
11 indeed you were medically examined --

12 A. Yes.

13 Q. -- at the Elise Hospital at Quarrier's Village?

14 A. Yes.

15 Q. The reason I'm raising that, and I'll tell you quite
16 clearly, is it simply helps us with dates to know where
17 you were when this matter occurred. I think what that
18 tells us is that when this matter was the subject of
19 investigation, you were still in cottage 7 but you were
20 about to move to Overbridge in Glasgow when you were
21 around 13.

22 A. That's right.

23 Q. Again, to help you and to help those listening today,
24 there are two matters in particular that I want to focus
25 on today and to get your evidence about. The first is

1 your experiences of life at Quarriers based on what you
2 remember. The second is the impact on you of those
3 experiences.

4 Can I also say this at the outset, that I understand
5 that you will wish to say something about your records
6 and I'll give you the opportunity to do so in the course
7 of giving evidence, but I'll maybe come to that at
8 a later stage if I may, if that's okay with you.

9 A. That's okay.

10 Q. The first thing I want to ask you today is what you
11 remember about the various house parents whose names
12 we've heard mentioned. Can I begin, if I may, by taking
13 them in the sort of order that we've heard about. Can
14 you tell us in your own words and from your own memory
15 what sort of memories you have of the treatment you
16 received from Miss QDZ during the time she was your
17 house parent in cottage 3? Can you give us your general
18 memories and thoughts about that? If necessary I can
19 direct you to part of your statement.

20 A. I arrived in their care was I was a 3-year-old and
21 I actually remember going up the path -- I actually
22 remember going up the pathway and arriving at this big
23 door and I was taken in and I was directed to the
24 playroom. My father was taken away into another room.
25 But it was a long time, I didn't hear anything, and

1 I was in this playroom with people I didn't know,
2 waiting.

3 I decided to go look. But the door that had been
4 shut where my father went was now open, so I did a run
5 around the dining area and in the kitchen and back out
6 again. And I used both my little hands to open a big
7 brass handle, you know, a round ... and I run like hell
8 screaming for dad.

9 Q. So you wanted to go after your father?

10 A. Aye. I run like hell screaming for dad. My brother
11 said he heard, but I can't remember my brother being
12 there, only dad. One of the other kids was sent out to
13 get me, bring me back. A lot of it is blank, but I do
14 remember a dinner table, not being allowed to talk.
15 There was silence within the dining area. Then total
16 blank again. Lots of blanks.

17 Q. Can I stop you there then?

18 A. Sure.

19 Q. Just so we understand the period you're talking about,
20 can I ask you perhaps just to have in front of you
21 page 9318, paragraph 13 of your statement, where I think
22 this is what you're referring to. I think this was
23 a time when you were in the care of Miss QDZ and you
24 tell us that:

25 "Mealtimes were very regimented, we weren't allowed

1 to talk."

2 A. Yes.

3 Q. And indeed you go on to say:

4 "We had to keep our elbows off the table and we had
5 to eat everything on our plates."

6 Is that the memory that you have? I know there will
7 be gaps and blanks but is that what you are thinking?

8 A. Yes.

9 Q. Today.

10 A. Yes.

11 Q. Okay. Just while we're on the subject of Miss **QDZ**
12 if I may, if you could turn to page 9326 of the
13 statement. I'll put it up on the screen for your
14 assistance. It's just sometimes a little slow, so bear
15 with us. We'll get that on the screen for you.

16 If we could scroll down. Paragraph 46 is the one
17 I'm interested in because I think you tell us about an
18 occasion when something happened with Miss **QDZ** and
19 maybe that could help us understand the context. Can
20 you just tell us what Miss **QDZ** liked her children to
21 call her?

22 A. Mummy.

23 Q. I think in paragraph 46 you're telling us about an
24 occasion you remember at bedtime when you were still in
25 the cottage with Miss **QDZ** Can you tell us in your

1 own words about that occasion?

2 A. I don't know why I'm smiling. At the time, you know, it
3 was a big deal to me. We stood in a queue and she would
4 sit at the fireplace, a roaring fire going, and we had
5 to stand in a queue and walk up, kiss her on the cheek
6 and say, "Goodnight mummy". But by the time I got to
7 her, I wasn't going to be calling her mummy, but I paid
8 the price. I had to stand and face the wall out in the
9 hallway in my bare feet ready for bed, jimmy-jams on,
10 with my hands behind my back, and I wasn't allowed to
11 move until I came in and said, "Goodnight mummy".

12 In a way she did win. I wanted my bed and my feet
13 were cold. But from a childlike point of view, I did
14 it, but I didn't mean it, and I ran up the stairs
15 thinking, "You're not my mummy". But I ended up having
16 to abide by the rules of the house.

17 Q. Were these the rules that you would you had to call her
18 mummy?

19 A. Rules of the house and it became a way of life: she was
20 to be called mummy.

21 Q. Can I ask you as well, because I think it may be
22 something that happened when you were in cottage 3,
23 something else you may touch on if I can just find the
24 passage. Did something happen with a cottage auntie
25 when you were 8 or 9 years old? I think you said

1 something about an incident.

2 A. In the washroom, all of us, there was a whole lot of
3 kids in the washroom at that time and she lost her cool.
4 She was agitated and shouting at all of us, trying to
5 get order and what have you. But she cracked me over
6 the back of the neck and the head -- and we had quite
7 high baths with the little wee legs coming up, and it
8 banged my head off the bath and blood -- well, blood
9 coming out over a white bath is kind of scary, but as
10 she took me to the little sink, lo and behold, in came
11 visitors that used to come in in a coach lot -- they
12 would come in, elderly people, church-y like people,
13 I would call them -- with all the oohs and ahs and she
14 just made a lie up there and covered herself. But do
15 you know what? She never hit me again and life was
16 a lot more sweeter. She got a bigger fright as I did.

17 Q. But that was an occasion -- we're talking about
18 Miss QDZ here?

19 A. Oh, I'm talking about the auntie.

20 Q. Not Miss QDZ

21 A. I thought you were taking me to --

22 LADY SMITH: I think we're asking about the incident with
23 the cottage auntie, Mr Peoples.

24 MR PEOPLES: I was, and I suppose you called her mummy, so
25 that couldn't have been Miss QDZ So that's my

1 mistake. Did it occur in cottage 3 when Miss QDZ was
2 the house mother?

3 A. Yes.

4 Q. And it was this auntie that did this to you but never
5 did it again?

6 A. Never did it again.

7 Q. I think that's mentioned in your statement. You made
8 that clear. And I think you indicate in the statement
9 you were maybe 8 or 9 years old at the time --

10 A. Mm-hm.

11 Q. -- which would put it about 1963 or 1964, if I've done
12 my arithmetic correct.

13 LADY SMITH: Elizabeth, were you actually in the bath at the
14 time or were you beside it?

15 A. No, we were all getting ready.

16 LADY SMITH: Okay, I've got the picture.

17 A. Everybody queueing up at the sinks and all the stuff
18 that goes on in the bathroom area. We had lines of
19 sinks and that's where everything happened. Bathing,
20 teeth, everything. Everything was done there.

21 LADY SMITH: So you have a memory of being hit, I think you
22 said, on your neck?

23 A. Yes. It was on the back and it was quite hard.

24 LADY SMITH: And you must have been near the bath and then
25 banged on the bath.

1 A. But it was old-fashioned baths we had.

2 LADY SMITH: With the big feet?

3 A. Yes.

4 MR PEOPLES: If I could move away from Miss QDZ to the
5 time that you were in cottage 3 with Mr and Mrs QEA/QEK
6 I'm going to now turn to how you were treated by Mr and
7 Mrs QEA/QEK when they were your house parents in
8 cottage 3.

9 Can I just begin by picking up something you say in
10 your written statement of evidence. It's at page 9322
11 if we could bring that up for you. What I want to ask
12 you about is that you tell us at paragraph 29 that the
13 QEA/QEK hated you and your brother. Was your brother
14 was in the same cottage at this time?

15 A. Yes.

16 Q. Can you tell us why you think that was the case? What
17 was it that you'd done or why you think they hated you?

18 A. Back in those days I wouldn't have been able to
19 verbalise it, but I sure felt it.

20 Q. That was the feeling --

21 A. We were always in trouble for doing next to nothing.

22 Q. I think we'll look at something, a document in a minute,
23 that you mention, and I think we can maybe see what
24 point you're making. So you think you got into trouble
25 for no particularly good reason?

- 1 A. Always in trouble. I seemed to get (inaudible) my
2 brother.
- 3 Q. And do you think in that respect you were treated
4 differently to some of the other children in the
5 cottage?
- 6 A. Some, yes.
- 7 Q. Some were treated better than yourself?
- 8 A. Yes, but even though Miss QDZ was nasty, down the
9 line my gran told me that they cracked open a bottle of
10 sherry in Glasgow, she got too drunk to go back to
11 Quarriers, and she had to stay the night. But her
12 behaviour changed towards me. Suddenly I was important
13 and special to her. So much so, in spite of all the
14 difficulties, life did change. Everybody cheered
15 downstairs when she was leaving, but I was upstairs
16 hugging her.
- 17 Q. Is this Miss QDZ
- 18 A. I hugged Miss QDZ in spite of everything because
19 towards the end she did like me and she did show a lot
20 of kindness towards me.
- 21 Q. So just so I'm clear, Miss QDZ was the one that
22 shared the drink in Glasgow?
- 23 A. Yes.
- 24 Q. And after that, maybe things improved and ultimately you
25 gave her a hug and indeed you were to some extent had

1 reconciled by the time she left? Is that broadly
2 speaking what --

3 A. I don't condone a lot of her ways. She had a cruel
4 streak in her, a cold streak. The rules of the house
5 were too regimented, far too strict, no room to breathe
6 the air. We need to develop at a rate to become who
7 we're going to become. But to be a prisoner within
8 yourself, the aloneness ... But her act of kindness
9 towards the end made a huge difference. When I told my
10 brother that I was up hugging her, he said, "We were
11 downstairs cheering". But I didn't hear all the
12 cheering, but I have been told by two other people.

13 Q. Elizabeth, can I turn again to the **QEA/QEK** if I may?
14 We were talking about them, you feeling that they didn't
15 like you or they hated you and your brother. Can I ask
16 you maybe to have in front of you something that you say
17 in your statement. I just want to ask a few questions
18 or get you to tell us about this. If we go to
19 page 9325, at paragraphs 42 and 43, in particular,
20 I think you tell us a bit about discipline in the
21 **QEA/QEK** cottage.

22 A. Yes.

23 Q. One of the matters that you talk about, and maybe you
24 can help me with this, is what happened happen when
25 potatoes were being peeled. Can you help us and tell us

1 in your own words what you remember about those
2 occasions?

3 A. Well, for a start off, they would check the bins to see
4 how thick the peelings were and if you peeled them too
5 thick, you'd know about it.

6 LADY SMITH: That's the potato peelings?

7 A. Yes. They had to be peeled so thin, you know,
8 paper-thin. Rules are rules, and rules are to be obeyed
9 their way.

10 MR PEOPLES: What would happen if the potatoes were not
11 peeled thinly enough? Can you remember what sort of
12 things happened?

13 A. Scolded, rowed, put downs, or maybe sometimes, you know,
14 a push. To make them, you know, in a more authoritative
15 state to get this control over your behaviour and to do
16 their will, to do their way. For Christ's sake, they
17 were only bloody potatoes and we were only kids, you
18 know.

19 Q. I think the point you're making there you develop in
20 paragraph 44 on page 9325. Not maybe so much in the
21 context of peeling potatoes, but it's in the context of
22 throwing a brush and messing about in the playroom
23 before going to church on one occasion and that you got
24 sent for a psychological report.

25 A. Yes.

1 Q. Was that why you were sent, because you threw a brush
2 and were messing about?

3 A. They had difficulty with my moody, sulky behaviour and
4 what have you. Rather than deal with the issue -- they
5 didn't realise they were part of the problem, you know.

6 Q. Because you were moody and sulky because of the way they
7 were treating you?

8 A. Yes. You withdraw from yourself, you know, your voice,
9 your protests, nothing matters. Their way.

10 Q. Did you have a voice at that time? Were you allowed to
11 have a voice?

12 A. I withdrew. I would withdraw within myself, but further
13 down the line I got more mouthy.

14 Q. I'll maybe come to that then.

15 Just in terms of this report, I think -- I'll ask
16 you at this stage then maybe to look at a document which
17 I think might be the report that you have in mind. Can
18 we have on screen QAR.001.007.7495.

19 I will give you a little bit of assistance here.
20 First of all, this is a report that was prepared on
21 6 February 1965 --

22 A. Yes.

23 Q. -- when you were in cottage 3. I think we can work out
24 for ourselves that Mr **QEA** and Mrs **QEK** were by
25 this stage your cottage parents. This is a report by

1 either a Mrs or Dr Schaffer. Do you remember that
2 woman?

3 A. That's the name I remember her.

4 Q. You remember the name?

5 A. Mm-hm.

6 Q. She was a psychologist, I think, who was employed by
7 Quarriers. You were seen by Mrs Schaffer, who prepared
8 this report. Do you see, Elizabeth, on the first
9 paragraph that the reason that Mrs Schaffer saw you was
10 at the request of your house father, who was concerned
11 about certain behaviour? I just want to get the
12 background to you being referred.

13 Mrs Schaffer records that you weren't at ease during
14 this meeting she had with you and seemed to be quite
15 unresponsive. Is that the sort of withdrawal that you
16 were doing at that time?

17 A. Yes.

18 Q. I follow. I don't want to go into the specifics of this
19 report, but what I do want to bring out is that, if we
20 go to the third full paragraph on that short report,
21 Mrs Schaffer says:

22 "At present, I feel her misdemeanours are being
23 rather exaggerated by her house parents."

24 A. Yes.

25 Q. Indeed, she goes on to say in that paragraph:

1 "The behaviour which is being complained of seems to
2 be fairly normal of this age. For example she
3 frequently offers to do tasks in the house, such as turn
4 out cupboards and then makes the most appalling mess
5 which then has to be cleaned up. Most children do this
6 and there is no suggestion that the messes Elizabeth
7 makes are the result of anything other than
8 overenthusiasm about, and underestimation of, the task
9 in hand."

10 So that's Mrs Schaffer's professional opinion of the
11 situation.

12 A. Yes.

13 Q. Then she goes on finally to say:

14 "I wonder whether there is any possibility of moving
15 her to a cottage where there are not many younger
16 children and where the house mother might have more time
17 to direct Elizabeth's enthusiasm into acceptable
18 channels."

19 So she's addressing the issue.

20 A. Yes.

21 Q. And she seems to be saying that they're not really
22 getting this and that they're rather exaggerating the
23 problem as they see it. Have you seen this report
24 before, by the way?

25 A. Yes. But I could have added much more to it.

- 1 Q. Does that sort of --
- 2 A. Yes.
- 3 Q. -- capture --
- 4 A. It's a shame that they didn't see it and act on it --
- 5 Q. Yes, because I think --
- 6 A. -- and take responsibility for the situation that they
- 7 would bring about these problems. As for my talking to
- 8 the lady, it was very difficult to talk to anyone. She
- 9 was part of the system. I was in an office over a desk
- 10 and I struggled with her, so I just totally withdrew.
- 11 But maybe she probably back then could have been the
- 12 right person to really let everything out. I'll never
- 13 know.
- 14 Q. You'll never know, but at any rate that was her opinion
- 15 at the time -- and that was in the February of 1965 --
- 16 when you were in cottage 3, and I think, as we've spoken
- 17 about earlier, it took some time before you moved from
- 18 cottage 3 to cottage 7. I think you only moved in
- 19 September 1967. So whatever Mrs Schaffer was saying
- 20 about what might be good for you and help you and
- 21 perhaps address this situation, it was more than two
- 22 years before your move took place; is that right?
- 23 A. Yes.
- 24 Q. And in that time, do you think that the **QEA/QEK**
- 25 behaviour towards you changed in any way?

- 1 A. No.
- 2 Q. So they just continued to treat you as they had before
3 this report?
- 4 A. Just the same. And it was interesting that in the
5 dining room, my brother had had enough too, when he
6 kicked his chair back and took off. And I kicked my
7 chair back and followed him. And I found him in the
8 coal bunker hiding. We had a coal bunker built into the
9 wall. He wanted to be left alone to shut the door.
10 I understand those things now.
- 11 Q. I think what you're referring to there, Elizabeth, is
12 something that you've told us about in your witness
13 statement.
- 14 A. Yes.
- 15 Q. And maybe I can go down to paragraphs 52 and 53 and just
16 deal with that now if I could. This is an incident
17 which involved you, your brother and Mrs QEA
18 I think this particular incident. Just before I ask you
19 about it and just to check that I'm clear about what was
20 going on, what sort of age do you think you were when
21 this incident took place?
- 22 A. I was a lot older.
- 23 Q. A lot?
- 24 A. A lot older.
- 25 Q. Was this after you had seen Mrs Schaffer in

1 February 1965?

2 A. I think it was because -- I'm going a wee bit blank in
3 this setting. Being an organic person, I go with the
4 flow. I feel quite restricted with this set-up. If
5 I could just run off at the mouth at some points ...

6 Q. Yes, I mean, don't worry, I'll give you the chance --

7 LADY SMITH: That's all right. What you're feeling is
8 difficult, Elizabeth.

9 A. It's just I can't get into the flow, into the moment,
10 the setting, everything. I didn't come here just to sit
11 and not make the point and take this opportunity because
12 this will not come again.

13 LADY SMITH: I get that. Are you feeling at the moment
14 there's something you want to tell me that you're not
15 able to talk about?

16 A. I'm bursting inside emotionally.

17 LADY SMITH: I get that.

18 A. I feel that I'm behaving in a way that's being
19 respectful to the room, but in actual fact I'm actually
20 feeling angry.

21 LADY SMITH: All right. Be angry. If that's what works for
22 you, go ahead. All right?

23 MR PEOPLES: Elizabeth, do you want to just tell us now
24 then -- you obviously want to say something at this
25 point. Do you just want to say what you'd like to say?

1 A. I came to them as a 3-year-old, damn it. I became
2 a product of their system, their rules, and they had the
3 damn cheek to do reports and judge me when they were the
4 problem. I was a child, for Christ's sake. Elbows off
5 the table, don't talk. Rules. Queue. Jesus. Wooden
6 spoons on your arse with your knickers down. So many
7 things have come to me since all of this, things that
8 I always forgot back ...

9 And I'm sitting here today. We shouldn't be sitting
10 here doing this. There shouldn't be something big like
11 this to brag about Quarriers, to share with the world
12 the successes in the right way for a country to grow
13 strong, the people -- what have we got? We're full of
14 damn illness. We're charity cases now all over again.
15 Our lives have come full circle and the damned word
16 Quarriers -- we should be ...

17 People got lucky if they got a good house in there.
18 Today we call them the lucky bastards. They got lucky,
19 they got a good ride and they can be successful. But
20 there's only so much beating down you can do of a person
21 or make them eat food that they cannot stand. To pull
22 hair back, shove food in your mouth and hold you until
23 you eat that food, cold: face the wall and a table by
24 yourself. They battered(?) us. Cruel. And yet they
25 walked among us and did more and more damage, but today

1 is our day. This is our day. We should have been able
2 to address these issues when we were this, this, this,
3 (indicating). Someone reach out and listen to us. We
4 were not believed, our problems not been dealt with.
5 Hush hush. Push things away. Damn it, they caused us
6 problem. We're walking cripples with illnesses. We're
7 costing the government money through benefits, using
8 EMDR therapies. This is costing a lot of money. This
9 shouldn't be happening. They have the responsibility --
10 they need to take responsibility and stop this nonsense
11 of putting everything away and walking around
12 pigeon-chested of how wonderful they are.

13 They weren't all wonderful. They were dishonest,
14 they were cruel. They have had a profound effect on
15 people. We were kids. We weren't even streetwise. We
16 lived in their container of a world and the big world
17 outside scared the hell out of me. A place of violence,
18 filth. I never heard a swear word until I was in
19 Glasgow, I never knew another fear, I didn't belong in
20 Quarriers. But neither did I belong in Glasgow.
21 I didn't belong anywhere. Do you understand? To walk
22 about lost, lost within yourself, and nobody could look
23 after us. We would not walk by and not help somebody or
24 speak for them. To be left alone with that tremendous
25 weight within our souls and our hearts, it was too much.

1 No wonder we're damn well ill. If only we had an arrest
2 of their behaviour back then, what could all of us have
3 become?

4 The world was beautiful and we didn't know it
5 because of our container, our rules, our restrictions.
6 I went to Tom Shaw and afterwards I thought I've got
7 every right to breathe this air. And it was free and it
8 was like amazing, but little did I know the world wasn't
9 complete. The rest of the garbage had to be dealt with,
10 find my records.

11 It's ongoing. I don't want them in my life. They
12 didn't belong in my life back there and I'm not having
13 me today -- I'm taking this day to bring a close to me.
14 I'm having my say in the hope that that will make me
15 completely free, no letters, no public inquiries, no
16 nothing: that I am free from this.

17 I wasn't born into this world to be a prisoner of
18 a system that let me down. I want to breathe and live
19 my life to the full within the limits that I have and
20 the time that I have left. But challenges and
21 problems ... Enough's enough and I am glad I'm here --

22 LADY SMITH: Elizabeth, right, help me make this inquiry
23 work as well as it can for everybody. You've given me
24 so much information in what you've just said. I'm going
25 to be a nuisance and ask you just to go back over one or

1 two things.

2 Early on -- look at me -- you did this with your
3 hand (indicating). What were you trying to show me?

4 A. I'm very ...

5 LADY SMITH: Were you remembering somebody doing this
6 (indicating)?

7 A. Hitting, everything ...

8 LADY SMITH: Who?

9 A. Mrs **QEA** Even Miss **QDZ** It was just ongoing,
10 wherever we went. The only place you got an escape from
11 was number 7. That was my time out -- and actually,
12 that's when I became more rebellious, more defiant. My
13 behaviour went off the rails, but I was happier. But
14 I got into more trouble, you know. I made more trouble
15 to myself, I invited it to me, rather than it being
16 given to me. I was taking challenges, challenging them
17 and being rude and insolent all the time.

18 LADY SMITH: Help me with something else: you said a wooden
19 spoon --

20 A. Yes.

21 LADY SMITH: - was used on your bare bottom?

22 A. On your butt with your knickers --

23 LADY SMITH: Who did that.

24 A. Miss **QDZ**

25 LADY SMITH: Why would she do it?

1 A. Maybe I didn't eat dinner, it could have been for
2 anything. I don't remember; I just remember the
3 humiliation of it.

4 LADY SMITH: Do you see it happening to other children?

5 A. Everybody got that. You didn't have to go into the room
6 when Miss **QDZ** did that -- I don't know what it is
7 about all of us. Today I know we're a big family and
8 maybe that's the answer to what I've just said, but we
9 couldn't help each other. Do you understand?

10 LADY SMITH: I do.

11 A. None of us could reach out and say, "Don't do that". We
12 had nothing. We dropped our heads but we had a quiet
13 understanding of how the person was feeling, but that's
14 all we had to give. We didn't have solutions or the
15 verbal words, anything that could help.

16 LADY SMITH: There was something else you said about food,
17 that you had to eat the food.

18 A. You had to eat it.

19 LADY SMITH: I'm going to ask Mr Peoples to take over again
20 in a moment, but can you bear to tell me some of the
21 detail about the food and what happened with food?

22 A. Today, to this day, I cannot bear the look, the smell,
23 of liver. I can't bear the touch of it. That was the
24 worst one that I was forced to eat by Mr and
25 Mrs **QEA/QEK**

1 LADY SMITH: How did she force you to eat it?

2 A. I wouldn't eat it. My brother had left the home by then
3 and my brother used to take my dinner from under the
4 table -- we used to hide it. All the kids knew, nobody
5 told on each other. They knew and we all covered each
6 other's backs. But when my brother left the home, that
7 was it, fully exposed. I had no one to lose this food
8 with. So I just sat there and I could not eat this
9 liver. Everything about it -- even fish floating in
10 milk with the greasy bits on top. I struggled badly
11 when my big brother left.

12 She said that if I don't eat it, I am getting it for
13 teatime, and she gave me it cold and she took me from
14 the dining area to sit in the kitchen and she put
15 a chair by the table facing the wall and she kept coming
16 in to check whether I had started on the food and made
17 an effort. And I hadn't. And she was pointing and
18 doing all this (indicating) and I'm going like this with
19 her (indicating) and she said, "You will eat it", and
20 she'd be shouting at me. Then she totally lost it. She
21 pulled my hair back like that (indicating) and she's
22 moving (inaudible) up in my mouth. She pulled my mouth
23 open and shoved a big thick piece of liver in my gob and
24 it was vile, and she clamped my chin, and that made her
25 angrier. I would not eat this.

1 But she didn't handle anything right about all of
2 that. All she did was make me hate the food all the
3 more. To this day, if I walk by a butcher, I avert my
4 eyes about this bloody liver.

5 LADY SMITH: Can you cope with Mr Peoples asking you some
6 more questions and taking you through some of the
7 chronology of what's happened? It does help me if I can
8 get things into roughly a date order. Can you cope with
9 that?

10 A. Yes. You let me let the steam off because that's freed
11 me up now. I felt restricted. It was all in short,
12 sharp bits.

13 LADY SMITH: Right.

14 A. But this was good for me to let that steam off. Let's
15 go.

16 LADY SMITH: Let's go. Mr Peoples.

17 MR PEOPLES: Elizabeth, I think your own words, in the last
18 15 or 20 minutes, you've probably dealt with most of the
19 matters I was going to raise with you and indeed are
20 covered in your written statement.

21 There are one or two things I would like to pick up
22 on, if I may, but I have to say, all the things you said
23 there were all the things that I was wanting to hear
24 about that you make reference to in your statement.

25 I might just, for the benefit of Lady Smith and the

1 transcript, try and put these into some contexts of your
2 statement, so forgive me, I'm not wanting to spend too
3 much more time on some of these matters.

4 When we started this and when you told us so
5 powerfully about what was going on, we were talking
6 about Mr and Mrs QEA/QEK You have told us about how
7 discipline was carried out in the QEA/QEK cottage.

8 You have told us about this situation when you were
9 served liver. Can I just say for the transcript that
10 you deal with that matter specifically in your written
11 evidence at paragraph 51. I don't think we need to go
12 and see it. I think it's sufficient if I just give the
13 reference.

14 Indeed, you were also speaking about an incident
15 with a wooden spoon. I think there was at least one
16 occasion where that spoon was used on you?

17 A. Yes.

18 Q. By Mrs QEK

19 A. Yes.

20 Q. After a problem, with something about your brother
21 getting into trouble and then you stepping in --

22 A. Yes.

23 Q. -- and she used a wooden spoon. All I will say is for
24 the sake of the transcript, you cover that matter also
25 in your written evidence at paragraphs 52 and 53.

1 Can I ask you now to just move on to Overbridge and
2 Mr and Mrs QAX/QCN I don't think you maybe mentioned
3 these matters in what you told us a short time ago. Was
4 there an incident with a ouija board and Mrs QAX
5 Can you tell me about that?

6 A. I had to go to school in Ibrox, just for a short time.
7 I thought I'd finished school in Quarriers, but lo and
8 behold, I had to go to the south side school.

9 One of the girls in the class had a ouija board and
10 I'd never seen or heard of those things before and she
11 was telling me that you can talk to the dead. I begged
12 her, can I borrow, can I borrow, yes, she let me take
13 this home.

14 Miss QAX came in -- we called it the play area,
15 the back door area into where we were ... She just
16 bounded in through the door, looked down at the desk
17 that I was at, and said, "What is that doing in here?"
18 and she really let rip. Not, "What is it?" just totally
19 lost her cool. "Get that out of here now!" And she
20 really went for it.

21 I cheeked her back. I can't remember every word
22 I said, but I tried to defend myself, but, "I only
23 borrowed it", you know. She cracked me on the face.
24 And I immediately cracked her right back. I expected to
25 be in the biggest hell, biggest trouble ever.

1 I thought, I'm in it big, this is the big one, this.

2 I understand her reaction -- not the hit, about the
3 evil and the fear that that would stir. She knew about
4 things like that, I didn't, but I just wanted to talk to
5 my mum. I wanted to communicate like the girls said you
6 can do. I just wanted to talk to my mum. I didn't do
7 a big crime there. She shouldn't have hit me like that,
8 but I didn't even think, my hand raised up and I cracked
9 her right back.

10 Q. Elizabeth, can you describe for me, if you can, what did
11 Mrs QAX do when she cracked you on the face? What
12 part of -- how did she do it?

13 A. It just happened so fast. I was standing with the ouija
14 board and she was on this side and she just slapped me
15 on the face. If I look back on it, I can't say that
16 it would leave a mark but it was sufficient enough for
17 me to do that.

18 Q. She used her hand?

19 A. Yes. When I hit her back, she actually had the same
20 reaction that I had when she did it to me. It was
21 a moment enough that "I'm in big trouble". I was
22 terrified because it was a strict house.

23 Q. Was that the end of the matter in fact?

24 A. It was odd. I never heard a word, not one thing was
25 said to me on that matter that I'd hit her.

1 Q. And on this occasion, just to be clear, who was there?

2 Was it just you and Mrs --

3 A. Other kids.

4 Q. There were other kids?

5 A. There was a big table and the kids -- we had chairs,
6 a bit like the old people's home type thing where
7 everything's so ordered, you know. The chairs went
8 around the table and this big table was, whatever.

9 Q. And you had the board and she came in?

10 A. Yes.

11 Q. I've got the picture. I understand.

12 Can I ask you about another thing that you tell us
13 about in your statement about the time that you were
14 staying at Overbridge with Mr and Mrs QAX/QCN Could
15 I put it this way, the occasion that -- sorry, before
16 I go on, I don't know if I said. What you've just been
17 describing I think you also deal with in paragraph 73 of
18 your written statement of evidence at 9332.

19 But if I could move on to the next couple of
20 paragraphs, 74 and 75. What I would like you to tell me
21 about is an occasion which you recall in your statement
22 where you -- I think if I could put it this way -- you
23 made a remark, which I think you accept was derogatory,
24 about the QAX/QCN daughter, and what I'm interested to
25 learn is how Mr QCN reacted to hearing about that.

1 Can you tell us about that in your own words?

2 A. I don't believe she liked me and that's okay.

3 Q. This is the daughter?

4 A. Yes. She would speak to everybody. We had our dinners
5 cold because everybody else had had their dinners and we
6 had to come home from school. I would try and talk with
7 her on many occasions and it was like I didn't exist.
8 I had already felt that long enough and I already felt
9 that way about myself. But one day I took exception to
10 it. I got mouthy and this is where I got myself into
11 trouble on many occasions.

12 She would come out through the front door and
13 we would come out through the back door. While we were
14 standing outside, she came out through the gate and
15 totally ignored us and walked speedily ahead of us, so
16 she didn't have to walk with us. And then that's when
17 I lost it. "Who the hell" -- I didn't say hell because
18 back then I didn't. But who does she think she is, you
19 know. I was insulting her. Not loud, but loud enough
20 for her to hear. I felt her and I wanted to hurt her
21 too.

22 As she walked up the road, she had beautiful long
23 hair -- she was a pretty girl, long, shiny hair, but she
24 had bandy legs and I called her "bandy legs". I'm not
25 proud of that, but at that moment if felt quite

- 1 empowering to be the one fighting back.
- 2 Q. Did this get back to Mr [REDACTED] QCN what you'd said?
- 3 A. I was walking up the corridor going towards the TV
- 4 lounge and he must have just been told about it because
- 5 he was already coming out of his own private quarters
- 6 and walking at great speed, angry, with me being in the
- 7 hallway, him coming out, he took hold of the back of my
- 8 head and parts of my neck.
- 9 Q. So he grabbed your neck and hair?
- 10 A. And lifted me. My feet left the ground for just
- 11 a moment and he dragged me down into a little doorway.
- 12 All the time I lived there, do you know, I never really
- 13 knew what that door was, and it was a tiny, tiny little
- 14 office, just enough to move around. And that was it.
- 15 So tiny. He let me have it. He made me apologise to
- 16 her and I had to go and knock on her private quarters
- 17 and stick my head round and apologise.
- 18 Q. You've described how he took you to this small room.
- 19 A. Yes.
- 20 Q. When he got there, you said, "He let me have it"; what
- 21 do you mean by that?
- 22 A. He raised his voice, angry. Anger was just spilling out
- 23 of him. Part of me understands that today as
- 24 a grown-up, defending his daughter, it was his flesh and
- 25 blood and I had offended her and in turn offended him

1 deeply. But I know that there was other ways they could
2 have handled that.

3 Q. Was there any contact between him and you at that point?
4 Because you said he had grabbed your hair and your neck
5 to take you to this room.

6 A. Yes.

7 Q. What happened once you are in the room, was there any
8 form of contact?

9 A. It's hard to verbalise it. How do you get across that
10 when someone comes at you at great speed with an angry
11 energy, coming at you, grabbing you quite firmly -- you
12 know, I've got big hands and he was a big man too.
13 Grabbing me like a slap, pull, and lifted me. And the
14 odd thing is, when he did it, he wasn't pulling my hair
15 out the way, it was holding on to my hair and my neck,
16 all in one go. And shouting at me. He actually made me
17 feel ashamed that I behaved the way I did and said what
18 I did. So I did go through and make the apology, but
19 then I became more pissed off at him further down the
20 line, that in my moments I figured he was just as bad if
21 not worse.

22 I believe that they could have dealt with that much,
23 much better. There's many scenarios that I would go
24 through. They could have at least taken me in front of
25 her and for her to say, "You hurt me", and for her to

1 explain why her legs were bandy, or how it affected her,
2 or what lack of confidence or whatever was going on in
3 her life, to share. That would have had a bigger
4 impact, but for him to do that didn't resolve it. It
5 made me feel ashamed. But it was wrong to call her
6 bandy legs, but it wasn't right for him to pick me up
7 like that and pull me down the corridor as if he was
8 taking a mop to the cupboard.

9 Q. Elizabeth, can I ask you about something, another
10 person -- are you okay to carry on?

11 A. Yes. I'm back in the cupboard.

12 Q. Can I ask you about one other person that you mention in
13 your statement. I think I've asked the questions I need
14 to ask you about the **QEA/QEK** Miss **QDZ** and the

15 **QAX/QCN**

16 You mention another person in your written
17 statement. If I could just turn to page 9329 at
18 paragraph 58. I think you describe this individual as
19 "the dirty shoeman".

20 A. Oh yes.

21 Q. Could you tell me about him?

22 A. A lot of us didn't like going to him.

23 Q. You say he worked as a cobbler and he had a workshop in
24 the grounds of the village?

25 A. Yes. You got your school shoes or whatever down there,

1 you got kitted out, and a whole lot of us would call him
2 the dirty shoeman. One of my friends that was in the
3 house said, "I don't like going to him". He called me
4 in one time and he told me to sit on his knee and how
5 old I was, get a warm by the fire. The other -- I call
6 them all because they certainly did look old back then,
7 but as you are young, everybody looks old, but this was
8 proper old. Sitting across from the chair that he
9 pulled me to sit on his knee, and they were just
10 sitting, sewing, stitching. It was old-fashioned
11 cobblers back then, they did it all by hand.

12 While he's doing that, he's rubbing, rubbing up and
13 down (indicating) as if to keep us warm, or keep me
14 warm. And the skirt would go further and further up and
15 the bare legs showing, and he did it at such speed,
16 slipped his hand inside my knickers and rubbed his
17 finger against ...

18 Q. Your private parts?

19 A. Yes. But then it happened so quickly -- but yeah,
20 slowly, if that makes sense, any sense at all.

21 Q. It seemed an age to you, it seemed a long time to you
22 because of what was happening?

23 A. Yes. But he did it in front of those men.

24 Q. There were other people in the shop?

25 A. The men that were sitting and just sewing, they must

1 have saw it, because as I am doing this to you guys now,
2 I can see somebody there, dark clothing, you know.
3 You're picking up things around you in some form. They
4 must have saw that. I don't believe for one minute they
5 didn't know that that was happening.

6 But the other thing is, if you went to get new -- my
7 voice is going a bit.

8 Q. Take your time.

9 A. If you were going for new shoes, he would get you on the
10 table and lift your leg as high as he could and take
11 a little bit longer looking up at your knickers.
12 Another thing he would do is instead of having you on
13 the ground, like they would do at Clark's shoe shop,
14 measuring your feet on the ground and press, he would
15 get you to put your feet on his willy and wriggle, he
16 would tell you wriggle if you got enough room, wriggle
17 your toes about, and this is on his willy, and then he
18 would press on your big toe, right, checking that there
19 was enough ... what a heap of crock. And now I know
20 that he was getting hard. I remember that part. I'm
21 actually remembering it vividly as we speak now.

22 It was constant, always, always having to have
23 a sneaky touch or a feel, and we just hated going there.

24 Q. How often would this happen?

25 A. School shoes. Wear and tear. You're 3 years old and

1 upwards, you know.

2 Q. Can you describe, if you can, how you actually felt at
3 that stage? What were your feelings when this was going
4 on? Are you able to remember that?

5 (Pause)

6 A. First of all, I would like to say, being a young age,
7 what is the magic thing within us that knows that's
8 wrong? Nobody tells you but yet we know. You asked me
9 how I felt. (Pause). Ashamed. I had done nothing
10 wrong. Very exposed.

11 (Pause)

12 Q. Do you think this might be a time for a break?

13 LADY SMITH: Elizabeth, we usually have a break some time
14 around now, 11.30. Now would work very well for us;
15 what about you? Shall we have a break now?

16 MR PEOPLES: My Lady, perhaps I can reassure Elizabeth that
17 I have one or two questions, but not really in relation
18 to the matters we've been discussing. As I said to her
19 earlier, I think she has something to say on records and
20 I want to ask her a little bit about reporting matters,
21 but I think I can reassure her that we will not revisit
22 the matters that we have touched on and that she has
23 spoken about at length.

24 LADY SMITH: Elizabeth, can you hear me?

25 A. (Witness nods).

1 LADY SMITH: We're going to have a break now for about
2 15 minutes or so. There's not very much more that we
3 need to ask you in the hearing: just along the lines
4 that Mr Peoples indicated, nothing more about the
5 evidence that we've just been covering with you. So
6 we'll take a break.

7 (11.13 am)

8 (A short break)

9 (11.45 am)

10 LADY SMITH: I think that's the right position, Elizabeth.
11 Are you ready to carry on?

12 A. Yes.

13 LADY SMITH: Very well. Mr Peoples.

14 MR PEOPLES: Elizabeth, as I said just before the break, I'm
15 just going to ask you about two matters now. One very
16 briefly, I hope, and then I'll go on to the final matter
17 of records, which I think you want to say something
18 about.

19 Before I go to that and ask you to tell us about
20 records and your views on that, can I take you back to
21 your written statement at WIT.001.001.9322. I'm just
22 going to pick up one point you make in your statement so
23 that I'm clear of the position. It's at paragraph 30 on
24 page 9322. It should come on the screen shortly.

25 I'm only concerned about the statement where you

1 say:

2 "Before I left Quarriers, I was moved to cottage 7."

3 From cottage 3. You tell us that before you moved
4 to cottage 7, you told the superintendent, Mr Mortimer,
5 what was going on in cottage 3. I would just like to
6 ask you about that. What did you tell him at the time?
7 Have you a recollection of the sort of things you told
8 him before you made this move to cottage 7?

9 A. Well, [REDACTED] QEA had started hitting me again. It
10 was quite late at night, it was bedtime and I had enough
11 and I ran from number 3 down to Mr Mortimer's house,
12 knocked on his door -- and this was a big deal, this is
13 a big man, the superintendent, the man to be feared.

14 But I went for it, I might have been shaking but
15 I banged his door. When he came out, I told him
16 what was going on up at the house and he just very
17 gently -- he wasn't nasty to me at any point -- said
18 just to go back. I vomited in his garden and I walked
19 back so slowly to go back in there. She didn't say
20 anything.

21 Some of these things I'm saying about I slapped back
22 and I didn't get a written mandate, the auntie who
23 busted my nose as well -- looking back on that,
24 I realise today, had we have behaved in another manner,
25 spoke up or had the ability and the means to deal with

1 these issues, I think they would have certainly behaved
2 a lot different. Because to slap the matron and not be
3 reprimanded for that -- I mean, we're talking about big
4 stuff to turn around and do that to them. So ...

5 Q. So Mr Mortimer's -- you came to him, he went to his
6 door, you had a conversation, and he was made aware that
7 something had happened?

8 A. Yes.

9 Q. Did you tell him you'd been hit?

10 A. Yes, I did.

11 Q. And his response was simply to tell you to --

12 A. To go back home, go back to the house.

13 Q. So far as what happened after that, was there ever any
14 follow-up to that that you're aware of? Were you ever
15 asked to see him again?

16 A. No.

17 Q. Were you aware that he did anything else beyond asking
18 you to go home?

19 A. Which is a good point you've actually picked up.
20 Because everything seemed to be done behind closed doors
21 without the involvement of the person, myself or
22 whoever. Records being written about you with their
23 point of view or their reason of what happened and yet
24 not a fair hearing.

25 I would like to raise something that actually pissed

1 me off big time now and I would like to raise it loudly
2 for all to hear.

3 Q. Is this about the records?

4 A. Yes.

5 Q. Well, actually -- that's fine. Once you're ready to
6 tell me about this, just before we leave the matter of
7 reporting, am I right in thinking basically that was the
8 only time that you were still in Quarriers that you went
9 to Mr Mortimer's door or you reported something
10 officially, if you like?

11 A. That was the only time I went to his door and I would
12 never have gone to his office or anything. It was
13 a spur of the moment thing -- we talk about organic,
14 I went with my feelings, the injustice of it and angry
15 and hurt, and I went to the man who I thought could fix
16 it.

17 Q. And do you feel he did fix it?

18 A. No.

19 Q. Sorry, I stopped you before. You were about to go on --
20 and basically my last question for you is the
21 opportunity that I think you want to have and it's
22 really what would you like to say about your records.
23 I think you have told us in your statement about various
24 things that happened when you sought records. I just
25 want you to tell us in your own words what you wish to

1 say on that matter.

2 A. I first off wanted to see my records and birth
3 certificate; it was for a passport to go to Belgium.
4 And of course, I had to write to them. Then over time,
5 I heard that you could get your records. I went "Oh".
6 So I travelled up from England -- a friend was doing
7 some work up in Linwood, or somewhere quite near, and
8 that blew my brain. I thought, can I get a lift up with
9 you. So we left in the very, very early hours of the
10 morning. I'm with my friends, I'm married, and you
11 know, it was just a regular ride out, but the closer
12 I got, as soon as I saw the word "Quarriers", my whole
13 demeanour changed.

14 I went into this mode and I was changing in the back
15 of the car, making sure I didn't arrive too casual,
16 I wanted to be a little smarter. And I suddenly went
17 right back in time and that little girl arrived back
18 within me. Because back then, I hadn't dealt with
19 anything, I was living my life, but of course it was
20 neatly put away and showing its effects in other areas
21 of my life. Unbeknownst to me, this was, you know, the
22 character I'd become and ... I became that little girl
23 and fear kicked in, but I also went into the mode of,
24 "Hello". I met Mr Dunbar. I was to go to a little shop
25 where they sell trinkets and it has a little glass

1 counter and it shows you cards of Quarriers and
2 whatever. A trinket shop.

3 A long journey, arrived there, and I walked in,
4 "Hi", you know, but underneath I was terrified, I was
5 hating the experience. I didn't even being like being
6 back on the grounds. But somehow I went from A to B,
7 and it didn't get any better. In fact, it got worse.

8 We didn't go to an office, we didn't go to a quiet
9 room. He stood behind a glass counter with all the
10 trinkets and when it came time to give me my records, he
11 took them from under a counter, raised them up, and the
12 lot -- I have to indicate to Lady Smith that the records
13 were approximately that (indicating).

14 I held these records in my hand and he stood behind
15 the counter, indicating that all I have to do is read
16 down and whatever I want, they'll photocopy it and,
17 of course, to put in a small donation in the little
18 donation box.

19 I flipped it over, he didn't leave the room, he
20 didn't turn around, he didn't give me any space. He
21 stood in exactly the same place behind the counter and
22 I didn't have a seat. I opened these records and I see
23 Quarriers Homes admission papers and what have you. And
24 I wasn't in the zone. I had no privacy. It was handled
25 badly.

1 Two little ladies actually came in and it ended up
2 going extremely quiet, whether they were trying to nosey
3 what was going on, it really doesn't matter -- nor did
4 I see them leave. But I feel that he handled that
5 rather badly and I didn't get anything really out of the
6 trip. I didn't get to read the records because when
7 I folded them over, the fold was running down within,
8 and the words were going across into this part here
9 (indicating).

10 So I was having to press down on the paperwork to
11 read the words going around and I made up my mind there
12 and then, far too many records, and he's standing there
13 twiddling his pen, playing with a pen, and my life, my
14 records, all the stuff that's important to me, in front
15 of me -- and I didn't feel comfortable about any of it
16 at all. It was handled badly.

17 So I just said in a matter of fact way, "I'll just
18 record this, this and this", you know, and I was so
19 matter of fact. I didn't handle it right. Had I have
20 been how I am today, I would have went "Really?"
21 I would have handled that a whole lot better.

22 But I allowed him to be the person he was and
23 I became the obedient child again. All over and just in
24 a moment. He finally sent my records, he sent me
25 approximately this many (indicating) if anyone can see.

1 Q. It's a lot less than the pile of records you'd seen?

2 A. Yes. It was my signing-in papers, it was Cruelty to
3 Children, people had got involved with us, and stuff
4 like that. It wasn't enough. And I thought, I only put
5 £20 in. This is going to take a hell of a lot of time,
6 and if he's doing it in this way, why didn't he send
7 this much or that? It just didn't seem right and I felt
8 that even after I was away, he was still treating me
9 shoddily by only sending me this amount.

10 So the next time, again, I thought I'll get the next
11 lot.

12 Q. Can I maybe put a time frame on this? I think you saw
13 Mr Dunbar and then you had this visit and you've
14 described it, and then I think we can probably find
15 records that will tell us when that happened. You
16 returned again?

17 A. Yes.

18 Q. And you're about to tell us -- and I think this was
19 about 2010 and you saw someone else then, did you not,
20 Josie Bell?

21 A. Josie Bell. But I did ask for my records throughout the
22 intermittent and still I would get that and -- not
23 surprisingly, I still have them. He actually sent me
24 some of what he'd already sent me before, and I thought,
25 well, maybe he's forgotten or whatever.

1 Q. So he is sending you some records but not anything like
2 the records you were shown on the first visit?

3 A. I held them in my hand and I have sworn in this room to
4 tell the truth, the whole truth, and even with all my
5 misgivings, I am baring my soul in giving you me.

6 I held those records, I saw what I saw, I even
7 described the colours of the paper to Paul Muir, and
8 I fought like hell to get my records back.

9 A lady that I had dealings with, a Josie Bell, down
10 the line, said, "Your memory must be playing tricks on
11 you", I said, "Really?" and bring it on. I went to
12 a solicitor, I begun the fight. That fight brought me
13 here, to then Tom Shaw, a great many roads that I've
14 travelled.

15 Eventually, I was given a letter admitting it. But
16 I didn't need a letter, I knew.

17 Q. What was the admission that they made in the letter?

18 A. They admitted -- and I can't remember the word they
19 used --

20 Q. Don't worry about the exact words --

21 A. -- but the word indicating, yes, there are gaps,
22 a part-written report, other parts missing. Basically,
23 your records are missing.

24 Q. So you weren't getting full records --

25 A. Was I hell.

1 Q. -- and you weren't getting even the number that you were
2 shown on the first visit when you saw Mr Dunbar? You
3 never had that delivered to you?

4 A. No. The records I got, he ended up giving me a double
5 sample of ones he'd sent me in the beginning. But
6 I just brushed that aside, maybe he's forgotten, we're
7 talking this many (indicating). But you know what?
8 I had a missed opportunity and I says to Paul Muir, what
9 would have happened if I'd just picked up the records,
10 went off with them and got them photocopied? And he
11 gave me -- sometimes you could call it a pretend smile
12 or a smirk or whatever, like, "Well, technically they
13 are your records, but the police would have had to be
14 involved". I went, "Really?"

15 But the point is, I've had a missed opportunity
16 here. He went, facially in agreement, "Well, yes, if
17 you had done that you would have got all that you wanted
18 and, yes, they would have had to be returned back to
19 us".

20 I have a lot of things that I would like to know and
21 I'll never get to know. I raised it with Paul, hoping
22 that when he took over he would search through the
23 records. He promised me that he would look into it, but
24 they were gone, looking into it as long as he wants,
25 from that to that (indicating). And Josie Bell would

1 say they didn't keep as many records back then, they
2 didn't do it back then in those days, and all the
3 excuses flying at me. Really? I wasn't there. I held
4 them in my hands, I touched, felt, saw and physically
5 had to push the raised paperwork so that the letters --
6 that's how much volume.

7 We could go through a lie detector, we could do
8 everything. Bring it on, Quarriers: I'm ready. My
9 records have been taken and I publicly accuse Mr Dunbar
10 of having a hand in my missing records. Everyone else
11 can deal with their side; I'm dealing with me today.
12 I publicly accuse him of having a hand in the missing
13 records and possibly he has other people doing it too.

14 They're working in slimy ways that they did back
15 then. They want to cover their backs. But what they're
16 actually doing is causing us more damage. How dare
17 they? They didn't make a good job of us when we were in
18 their care. I certainly don't want them having our
19 records until 75 years to keep them. Really?

20 Back in those days, 75 years was, excuse me, you
21 should have been dead long ago. Why 75 years? I don't
22 know. Why Quarriers are keeping our records? It
23 doesn't make sense to me. Surely there must be another
24 body of people that would take this job over and execute
25 them out of the system because the ones that succeeded

1 in Quarriers, the ones that had a good experience, lucky
2 bastards, but I'm talking for the ones that are not
3 here, the ones that didn't make it in life. I'm talking
4 to the ones who are out there hurting right now because
5 they fear, they lack the courage, they're deep in pain,
6 and I know that pain; I've been there. They don't know
7 there are wonderful therapies out there. There's
8 wonderful people out there that will take them through
9 the journey of healing.

10 Although I cry today in front of you all, this isn't
11 me when I leave here. I have a life, I have other
12 interests, I have a peace in my heart. I have a -- I'm
13 becoming more and more the person I should have been.
14 I'm becoming the person that has peace in their heart
15 when I didn't have peace there. I have happiness just
16 watching birds outside. I have happiness with music,
17 the beauty of music, the green grass, people's humour.
18 I love life. But this holds me back. Other things out
19 of my control hold you back in life. Nobody should be
20 holding me back. This is my life.

21 I have multiple illnesses. I look healthy. And,
22 quite frankly, every single day counts to me. I also
23 have heart trouble, COPD, lupus, Raynaud's, it just goes
24 on. To be quite honest, to say that out loud, it would
25 be like nobody would believe it, you know, because how

1 can you have all these things and Ménière's disease,
2 because of medication. I ended up with a small benign
3 tumour in my pituitary gland through sickness tablets.

4 I took control of my tablets. I did a living well
5 and every single day I get up, I don't know what the day
6 will deal me. I don't even know if I'll have next month
7 and I don't really give a monkey's because I want to
8 live fully within the day.

9 I don't care if it rains. It's annoying if it
10 frizzes your hair up. Who cares? I put values in other
11 things in life. I want each day to be the best I can
12 get out of it. And when I'm ill, I can't control that.
13 I have to get on with it.

14 But I want to talk to the ones in their graves that
15 are not having what we are having today. And I want to
16 talk to the ones that hurt us. How dare they. How dare
17 they do it to us. We came to them already broken and
18 they broke us more. How dare they. And how dare any
19 organisation ever, ever do that to a child again.
20 Because there's many of us out there will not allow it.
21 We will fight, we will fight high up. We don't give
22 a damn how high up you are because we have a purpose to
23 make damn sure no other child goes through our
24 experiences.

25 I want Scotland to be the best in the country, that

1 other people are jealous, they want to know how we do
2 it, how we are protecting the children, how we're
3 healing the sickness of abuse and damage in the wee,
4 young beautiful people that are coming up. These
5 beautiful kids that are growing up may be looking after
6 you in an old people's home one day.

7 Be careful how you are with people because you get
8 it back tenfold. Walk around with kindness and a good
9 heart and you'll get more joy and much more out of life.
10 But the ones who deal out what they dealt, that belongs
11 to them because when I walk out here, I leave it here.
12 I'll not take it any more. This is the last run on
13 this.

14 But for every child that's out there hurting now,
15 please find the courage because the minute you go down
16 the route of therapy and healing -- and they will get
17 angry at me at this, but I have to declare the honest
18 truth and if I don't pass on all the honesty ... it's
19 not mine to keep, I have to pass on what works. There
20 has to be forgiveness towards Quarriers in the end
21 because, do you know what, they're going about their
22 business. It's us that are hurting. It's us that are
23 becoming ill, where we have to free our hearts and our
24 souls to become fully free from this. The only way, the
25 total end, is to finally start a process of forgiving,

1 because it may take weeks, months, many years, or it may
2 never happen. But you have to start the process of
3 letting them go and take back your life, take back your
4 life for your family, for the people that love you, and
5 take back your life because it's my life. Do you
6 understand?

7 I'm not a machine. I make mistakes. I make bad
8 judgements. I'm human. I wasn't human there; I was
9 just a product of their system, a badly run system. How
10 dare they? I don't even like them holding on to my
11 records. I would rather give them to you. I think you
12 would be more responsible, you know, to hold on to those
13 delicate things. But do you know what? You're only
14 going to get that much because they're gone. But
15 I challenge Mr Dunbar publicly to explain how he got the
16 records, what the process is, and also who was the
17 person behind the counter that received the records
18 coming back. Didn't he think, "Hey, hang on a minute,
19 this went out and this is coming back"? I publicly
20 challenge him and if it goes to court, let's go with it.

21 MR PEOPLES: Elizabeth, thank you very much indeed. That is
22 all I have, all the questions I have. You have dealt
23 with the matters you wanted to raise, and so all I can
24 do now is to thank you so much for coming today to tell
25 us about these matters. I wish you well.

1 A. Can I apologise to people in here, if I've upset any
2 survivors in bringing their pain to the front?
3 I apologise if I have assaulted anybody's ears by saying
4 the word "bastard".

5 LADY SMITH: Elizabeth, I don't think you've got anything to
6 apologise for, so please don't feel you have to.

7 Can I just check whether there are any outstanding
8 applications for questions? No.

9 Elizabeth, there are no more questions for you. It
10 just remains for me to thank you very much, both for
11 engaging with those who took your statement, your
12 written statement that's provided us with so much detail
13 about your experiences and your feelings about them, and
14 also to thank you for coming here today and being
15 prepared to tell us again about your memories and about
16 how you feel about those memories.

17 It's very important to you, obviously, but it's also
18 very important to me and the work that I'm doing here
19 that I hear that. So there's nothing to ask forgiveness
20 for. There's nothing to say sorry for. Just thank you
21 very much for coming and I'm able now to let you go.

22 A. Thank you.

23 (The witness withdrew)

24 LADY SMITH: A short break before the next witness to get
25 organised? Five minutes.

1 MR PEOPLES: Yes, please.

2 (12.10 pm)

3 (A short break)

4 (12.18 pm)

5 LADY SMITH: Mr Peoples.

6 MR PEOPLES: The next witness this morning again wishes to
7 remain anonymous and has chosen the pseudonym "Joyce".

8 "JOYCE" (sworn)

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

10 The microphone should really help you to be heard,
11 if you can keep yourself in the right position for it.

12 I'll let you know if you've drifted away; some witnesses
13 do, it's an easy mistake to make.

14 Mr Peoples.

15 Questions from MR PEOPLES

16 MR PEOPLES: Good afternoon, Joyce.

17 A. Good afternoon.

18 Q. The folder in front of you, as I think you perhaps have
19 just been told, contains a hard copy of the statement
20 that you've provided to the inquiry. Just before
21 I begin asking some questions of you, I'll just give the
22 reference that we use to identify your statement. It's
23 WIT.001.001.9356.

24 Your statement will also come up on the screen and
25 you may find it easier to use the screen. Before you

1 start looking at the screen, can I ask you to turn to
2 the final page of the folder at page 9371? Can you
3 confirm that you have signed your statement?

4 A. Yes, that's my signature.

5 Q. Can you also confirm that you have no objection to your
6 statement being published as part of the evidence to the
7 inquiry and that you believe the facts stated in your
8 witness statement are true?

9 A. Yes, I have no objection.

10 Q. If I can begin by asking you simply to confirm the year
11 of your birth. I don't need the whole date of birth,
12 but can you confirm that you were born in the year 1949?

13 A. Yes.

14 Q. I think you tell us in your statement that you were
15 admitted to Quarriers in 1957, when I think you'd be
16 around about 8 years of age.

17 A. Yes, that's correct.

18 Q. And that you were discharged from Quarriers in 1962 when
19 you were around the age of 13? Does that make sense?

20 A. Yes, that's correct.

21 Q. I'll just say at this stage, more for the benefit of the
22 transcript, that we have seen some records and to give
23 some precise dates to those, we understand from the
24 records that you were admitted on [REDACTED] 1957, which
25 I think accords with your recollection, and that the

1 date of discharge was [REDACTED] 1962.

2 A. Yes.

3 Q. Can I just be clear: you went into care along with two
4 younger siblings; is that correct?

5 A. Yes, that's correct.

6 Q. A younger brother and sister?

7 A. Yes. That's correct.

8 Q. You were all quite close in ages; is that right?

9 A. Yes, that's right.

10 Q. So far as your admission to Quarriers is concerned, if
11 I could ask you to turn at this stage to page 9358 of
12 your statement and paragraph 14. I think you tell us
13 there that the first cottage you spent time in was
14 cottage 20; is that right?

15 A. Yes, that's right.

16 Q. You mention in your statement the name of the
17 house mother of that cottage and your recollection
18 is that her name was Miss [REDACTED] QAQ If I was to suggest her
19 name was Miss [REDACTED] QAQ would that be correct?

20 A. Yes, that would be correct.

21 Q. I think Quarriers have informed the inquiry that
22 a Miss [REDACTED] QAQ was a house parent in cottage 20
23 from approximately [REDACTED] 1956 until [REDACTED] 1971.
24 You won't know about all of that, but I'm just telling
25 you for information. So can we take it in fact that

- 1 Miss **QAQ** is Miss **QAQ**
- 2 A. Yes. That's right.
- 3 Q. I think the point you make in your statement is you
4 didn't actually have a lot of time in cottage 20 with
5 Miss **QAQ**?
- 6 A. No, I didn't, no.
- 7 Q. And if I could ask you just to look at paragraph 16 on
8 page 9358. I think you're trying to give us your best
9 recollection of your memories of Miss **QAQ**. Can you
10 just tell me what your recollection of her as a person
11 and house mother was?
- 12 A. She was a very cold, distant person. She didn't have
13 a lot of interaction on a day-to-day basis with the
14 children. It was mostly the older girls in the cottage
15 that undertook tasks. Very little contact with her
16 except maybe in the evenings.
- 17 Q. You say in paragraph 17 -- and I don't need to take up
18 too much time -- you estimate you were maybe there for
19 something around 3 or 4 months in all. Is that a rough
20 estimate?
- 21 A. That's just an estimate. I don't really know.
- 22 Q. It wasn't a long period of time?
- 23 A. No, it wasn't long, no.
- 24 Q. At that stage you were in cottage 20 and, just to help
25 me, where were your younger sister and your younger

- 1 brother at that point?
- 2 A. My younger sister was in cottage 20 also and my younger
3 brother was in cottage 31, which was the cottage
4 adjacent to cottage 20.
- 5 Q. So although they had -- 20 and 31, they were quite near
6 each other physically?
- 7 A. Yes, uh-huh.
- 8 LADY SMITH: And your little sister was about two years
9 younger than you so she'd be about 6 --
- 10 A. She was a year younger.
- 11 LADY SMITH: A year younger?
- 12 A. Yes.
- 13 LADY SMITH: And your brother younger again?
- 14 A. Yes, he's just three years younger than me.
- 15 LADY SMITH: So about 5, about 7 and then you at about
16 8 years old?
- 17 A. Yes.
- 18 MR PEOPLES: If I can ask you now to move on to paragraph 18
19 on page 9358. You tell us that your younger brother was
20 in cottage 31.
- 21 A. Yes.
- 22 Q. And that that cottage was then run by a Miss QEH
- 23 A. Yes.
- 24 Q. You tell us, I think, a little bit about Miss QEH
25 background, that you understood she had trained to be

- 1 a nurse in Quarriers before she was a cottage mother.
- 2 A. Yes, in the children's home I believe, yes.
- 3 Q. You estimated, I think, or you tell us that she was
4 probably in her late 50s, early 60s by the time you
5 arrived in cottage 31.
- 6 A. She looked an elderly person, but she claimed to be 22,
7 so ... That's an estimate, obviously.
- 8 Q. So she was somewhere between 22 and 50 and 60. But she
9 looked like an older woman to you?
- 10 A. Yes, she looked like an older woman. She had white hair
11 and --
- 12 Q. So far as cottage 31 is concerned, and we're dealing
13 with the latter part of the 1950s, you say that at that
14 stage it was an all boys' cottage until you arrived with
15 your sister.
- 16 A. It was an all boys' cottage, yes.
- 17 Q. You believe that it was Miss **QEH** that actually asked
18 for you and your sister to be transferred to her cottage
19 and you think it was maybe because your brother was
20 already there?
- 21 A. Yes. My brother was very upset. He often passed us
22 when we were out playing in cottage 20 and I don't know
23 if anybody specifically ever told me that, but I believe
24 it was her that asked for the transfer to the cottage.
- 25 Q. You think that would explain perhaps what happened?

- 1 A. Yes.
- 2 Q. And so far as the cottage was concerned, if we go to
3 page 9359 at paragraph 19, I think you tell us about the
4 approximate number of children that were in the cottage
5 at that time. What's your estimate of that?
- 6 A. It fluctuated over the time we were there. I would have
7 estimated it at the lowest it was about 12 and at most
8 about 15.
- 9 Q. The age range I think you tell us a little bit about.
10 What did you think the approximate age range?
- 11 A. If they came from the baby home 3, 4, up to 15. At one
12 point I was the oldest at 11, so again it fluctuated.
13 It varied.
- 14 Q. Because children would come and go?
- 15 A. Yes.
- 16 Q. Do you think it was the case though that certainly there
17 would be pre-school children in the cottage at least
18 some of the time?
- 19 A. Yes, there was.
- 20 Q. And indeed you tell us, I think, that not long after you
21 and your sister were placed in cottage 31, there were
22 other girls who came to the cottage, so it became more
23 mixed?
- 24 A. Yes. There were other families who came with a mixture
25 of boys and girls.

1 Q. So far as you could tell at that stage was there any
2 attempt to keep siblings together? You and your brother
3 and your sister got to cottage 31 together. But were
4 you aware of other siblings in cottage 31 or --

5 A. No. The ones that did come in were families, families
6 of three and families of two. So I'm not aware of
7 anyone having siblings in other cottages at that point.

8 LADY SMITH: I think you're talking at cross-purposes. The
9 impression that your evidence gives us is that by this
10 stage, in the late 1950s, maybe some effort was being
11 made to keep families together in the same cottage.

12 A. Yes, that's correct.

13 LADY SMITH: Was that your experience?

14 A. Yes.

15 MR PEOPLES: Sorry, I put that rather badly.

16 So far as your written statement of evidence is
17 concerned, you tell us in paragraph 22 on page 9359
18 about some information about the layout of cottage 31 on
19 the upstairs level and that there were five bedrooms
20 including two single rooms and also a room that was used
21 by Miss **QEH** is that right?

22 A. Yes. That's right.

23 Q. Effectively, what you're describing, I think, is at
24 least that two of the bedrooms were really dormitories
25 for children --

- 1 A. Yes.
- 2 Q. -- who were in the cottage: one for boys, one for girls.
- 3 A. That's right.
- 4 Q. How many people would be in the dormitory at any one
5 time?
- 6 A. Again, that fluctuated. There were cots also in the
7 girls' bedroom.
- 8 LADY SMITH: Joyce, are you able to move a little further
9 forward towards the microphone? That's sounding better,
10 thank you.
- 11 A. I think seven or eight in the girls' bedroom and then
12 there would be seven or eight in the boys' bedroom and
13 that again would fluctuate depending on the gender
14 mixture.
- 15 MR PEOPLES: In the girls' bedroom, you have a recollection
16 there were cots?
- 17 A. There were, yes, again one or two, depending on the ages
18 the children were.
- 19 Q. What was the gender of the children in the cots?
- 20 A. Girls. When I was there they were girls.
- 21 Q. Were there cots in the boys' room?
- 22 A. No.
- 23 Q. So if there young girls or toddlers then there would be
24 cots for them and that would be in the girls' dormitory?
- 25 A. Yes.

- 1 Q. You don't remember seeing anything equivalent in the
2 boys' dormitory?
- 3 A. No, because I don't recall any pre-school boys being in
4 the cottage.
- 5 Q. Just going back to paragraph 22, if I may, you say when
6 you were about the age of 11, which I suppose would be
7 around 1960, you actually got a single room in
8 cottage 31 because you had become what you term the
9 kitchen girl?
- 10 A. Yes. I took it up a year earlier, so we were given
11 a room.
- 12 Q. How did it come about that you became the kitchen girl?
13 Was that something --
- 14 A. The boy, the 12-year-old boy emigrated as part of the
15 emigration process to Australia.
- 16 Q. So you took over?
- 17 A. I took over. It was the oldest person in the cottage
18 who took on that role.
- 19 Q. So it could be a boy or a girl?
- 20 A. Yes.
- 21 Q. And I think you tell us at paragraph 23 a bit about what
22 the responsibilities of the kitchen girl or boy would
23 be. Can you help us, just tell us in your own words
24 what you recall of the responsibilities?
- 25 A. As far as I can recollect, it was around 5.30 -- it was

1 around an hour before the rest of the cottage got up --
2 you went down to -- the fire was banked each evening and
3 you went to restart the fire, rekindle the fire. You
4 would start preparing breakfast, with things like
5 porridge, and I would start setting tables. On
6 a Friday -- on Thursday night the fire was put out so on
7 a fire you had the additional chore of cleaning the
8 grate and building up the fire again. Chores like that.

9 Q. Did you have any assistance to carry out these chores?

10 A. No, no.

11 LADY SMITH: Were these fires that heated the hot water for
12 the house?

13 A. Yes.

14 MR PEOPLES: So far as heating is concerned, obviously the
15 fires would provide the water or heating for the water.
16 What was the state of heating in the bedrooms, for
17 example? How were they heated?

18 A. We had radiators throughout the cottage.

19 Q. At that stage?

20 A. Yes.

21 Q. Did they provide heating?

22 A. Yes, they did.

23 Q. And were they always kept on?

24 A. As far as I can recall.

25 Q. It's really not --

- 1 A. I couldn't recall.
- 2 Q. It's maybe not something at your age you'd have been
3 paying much attention to.
- 4 A. It was always warm in the cottage.
- 5 Q. There was no problem about it being adequately heated?
- 6 A. No, none at all.
- 7 Q. So far as the food was concerned, I'll touch on that
8 briefly. You talk about porridge for breakfast. Was
9 that quite a staple breakfast?
- 10 A. It varied. There was variation. You'd have corn flakes
11 with fruit and so forth and porridge depending on winter
12 or summer.
- 13 Q. And generally in cottage 31 at least what did you think
14 of the food?
- 15 A. The food was very good.
- 16 Q. Okay. You tell us in paragraph 23 that one of your
17 tasks would be, apart from doing the fire and preparing
18 the breakfast, to help set up the tables and the other
19 children would be woken at 6.30 in the morning.
- 20 A. Yes. It was approximately around about that time, yes.
- 21 Q. I suppose that's quite an early start for some children,
22 is it not?
- 23 A. Well, there was a lot to do before you got to school
24 because there was a lot of chores you had to do before
25 you went. Cleaning chores.

1 Q. Can you maybe just describe to us what happened between
2 6.30 and going to school then in terms of what chores
3 the children had? You were the kitchen girl so --

4 A. I was the kitchen girl. I had the chores there. At
5 various times I had other chores. If you were in the
6 playground or playroom, you got the younger children up
7 for school. Beds would be stripped if there were any
8 wet beds, beds would be made up. You would go down to
9 breakfast, have breakfast. That could be quite
10 a lengthy process. You would have to clear after
11 breakfast. Dishes would have to be washed and then the
12 children would be ready for school at quarter to nine.

13 Q. Would Miss **QEH** participate in any of these tasks?

14 A. She would be up and around, but it was generally -- you
15 know, my recollection when I was older and my sister --
16 it would be us that would do most of these tasks. But
17 she did do -- she would help, she did a lot of the
18 cooking and so forth.

19 Q. But in terms of the clearing up and things like that,
20 the older girls --

21 A. It was children and that, yes.

22 Q. And did she have the assistance of a cottage assistant
23 or auntie?

24 A. There was a lot of coming and going with aunts and
25 things. She wasn't ... She had relationship problems

1 with many people that came in to support, so they didn't
2 last very long.

3 Q. So there was quite a high turnover?

4 A. Yes.

5 Q. But there were aunties, cottage assistants from time to
6 time?

7 A. From time to time.

8 Q. Do you have any idea what the problem with relationships
9 was, did you sense it?

10 A. Miss **QEH** critical attitude towards them.

11 Q. So she was critical towards the people she worked with?

12 A. Yes, very much so and in front of the children also.

13 Q. Just so I'm absolutely clear about this, was there at
14 any point when you were in cottage 31 a house father?

15 A. No.

16 Q. Moving on to paragraph 25 of your statement, you tell us
17 a little bit about the issue of children who wet the
18 bed. Just tell me what happened in their case.

19 A. Obviously, the bed had to be stripped and you had to
20 advise Miss **QEH** that the bed had been wet and they
21 would be smacked. It's quite difficult -- you know,
22 I remember older children, and when the bed was
23 stripped, they would have to lie at night -- it's not in
24 my witness statement, but they would have to lie at
25 night on the wet bed or without a cover or so forth. It

- 1 varied, her response to a wet bed, depending on the age.
- 2 Q. So they weren't necessarily provided with something like
- 3 a dry bed, if you like, with clean sheets?
- 4 A. She could do that on occasions.
- 5 Q. But sometimes that didn't happen?
- 6 A. No, sometimes it didn't happen.
- 7 Q. And you might not even have a sheet or you might have
- 8 a damp sheet?
- 9 A. Yes, sometimes it was like that.
- 10 Q. You say that in the case of chronic bed-wetters you have
- 11 a recollection that sometimes these children would be
- 12 woken by Miss QEH in the middle of the night?
- 13 A. Oh yes, yes, to go to the toilet and so forth.
- 14 Q. Just to get them to go to the toilet?
- 15 A. Yes, uh-huh.
- 16 Q. What was the general time for going to bed?
- 17 A. It varied. It could be 5 o'clock at night if she was in
- 18 a bad mood. I think maybe 7.30. If she was in a very
- 19 good mood, something on television, you would be allowed
- 20 to sit up a bit later, the older children. I think
- 21 it would be 7, 7.30, the general bedtime.
- 22 Q. Would that be the general bedtime for all children of
- 23 whatever age?
- 24 A. Maybe the oldest five would be a wee bit later, about
- 25 8 o'clock. And as I said, sometimes a bit later you

- 1 would be allowed to watch something, depending on her
2 mood.
- 3 Q. The majority of the children other than maybe the 5 or 6
4 older ones or whatever would go around 7 --
- 5 A. It was earlier --
- 6 Q. -- perhaps or roughly?
- 7 A. Yes.
- 8 Q. Then in their case or the case of anyone else who wet
9 the bed, there would be a point at which they might be
10 woken by Miss **QEH** to get them to the toilet?
- 11 A. Yes.
- 12 Q. Just going back to what you said earlier about how
13 children who wet the bed would get a smack from
14 Miss **QEH** let's be clear, that was as a punishment, was
15 it?
- 16 A. Yes.
- 17 Q. What type of smack did she administer?
- 18 A. She'd smack you anywhere. The face, the legs, whatever.
- 19 Q. Would it be with her hand?
- 20 A. Yes.
- 21 Q. There was no instrument or implement used?
- 22 A. No, not for bed-wetting with the very young children,
23 no.
- 24 Q. But she could smack really any part of the body?
- 25 A. Yes.

- 1 Q. Depending on --
- 2 A. Yes, indiscriminately she would slap you.
- 3 Q. You seem to relate some of these things to the mood she
- 4 was in. Was that something that dictated how she
- 5 behaved?
- 6 A. Very much so. The way the cottage was run was dependent
- 7 on her mood.
- 8 Q. If I could just pick up that point maybe in a later
- 9 paragraph where you deal with it again, which is
- 10 page 9360 and paragraph 28:
- 11 "[You] didn't get out to play, [you] think, as often
- 12 as some of the children from some of the other
- 13 cottages."
- 14 That was your recollection?
- 15 A. Yes, we didn't get out -- if she was in a bad mood, we
- 16 wouldn't be allowed out.
- 17 Q. And I suppose you sum it up a bit here:
- 18 "Her moods were fairly unpredictable."
- 19 A. Yes, they were.
- 20 Q. Can I take you to bedtime again. You have told us
- 21 a little bit about this already, but at paragraph 29 you
- 22 explain what the procedure was when you were going to
- 23 bed. Can you tell us about that?
- 24 A. The older children -- before we went to bed, we had to
- 25 line up and she was in the dining room where the

1 television was placed. The usual routine was we had to
2 go in and say, "Goodnight mum", which was often
3 difficult and often we decided to renege on that.

4 Q. What would happen when you renege?

5 A. We had one person, you know ... He said, "Goodnight
6 Miss **QEH**, and it got a really strong reaction, so the
7 rest of it just followed suit by "Goodnight mum", so it
8 never really lasted very long.

9 Q. What sort of reaction are we talking about?

10 A. Just an angry exclamation from her.

11 Q. She didn't take any other action?

12 A. No, she didn't.

13 Q. But she didn't like being called other than mum?

14 A. No, you had to call her mum.

15 Q. Would that be the same at any point in the day, not just
16 at night?

17 A. We always called her mum. There was no argument about
18 that.

19 Q. And I think you resented that?

20 A. I did resent it. Although I didn't have a particularly
21 good relationship with my mum and I hadn't seen my mum,
22 I had a mum. I think it wasn't so difficult for the
23 children that were in that had been there since birth or
24 since very early on and had no family contact, but
25 I certainly know myself and my siblings found it

1 difficult, and as well as other children in the same
2 position as us, that had families.

3 LADY SMITH: She wasn't your mum.

4 A. No. No, she wasn't my mum, and I did -- we all resented
5 it.

6 LADY SMITH: And she wasn't going to carry on with her
7 maternal responsibilities and bond after you'd left
8 cottage 31, was she?

9 A. No, she didn't. She had one contact with me after
10 I left, but no.

11 LADY SMITH: She wasn't going to perform the role of mother.

12 A. No, she wasn't.

13 MR PEOPLES: She would know, I take it, that some of the
14 children in her cottage, even from visits or otherwise,
15 would have mothers, not just -- sometimes maybe the
16 mother might not be alive, but a lot of them would be
17 alive and would be in some sort of contact. Would that
18 be the case?

19 A. Yes, she was aware of that.

20 Q. Was there ever any attempt by her to explain why she
21 still felt it necessary for her to be called mum?

22 A. No. No.

23 Q. You never got any explanation?

24 A. No, and you wouldn't have had. The type of person she
25 was, that wouldn't have been something you discussed.

1 Q. I'm not sure -- maybe we'll find this out, and maybe we
2 have the information, but had Miss **QEH** been in
3 Quarriers for quite a long time?

4 A. I think she had been there since she was a young woman.
5 That's my recollection of what she told me. I think it
6 had been her life.

7 Q. So she might have been there at a time when the use of
8 the word mum was more common?

9 A. It was the Orphan Homes of Scotland when we arrived.
10 We were the first -- my brother, sister and I were the
11 first three children she had that definitely had family
12 contact. So a lot of the other ones had been there
13 since birth and had no particular objections to calling
14 her mum.

15 Q. So far as other cottages, and I'm not sure how much
16 contact you'd with children in other cottages when there
17 you were -- did you have contact from time to time?

18 A. Yes. We did, yes.

19 Q. Did you get any idea where there was a house parent,
20 a female house parent, what that person was called in
21 another cottage? Were they all called mum at that time?

22 A. No, when I was in cottage 20, the cottage mother was
23 called Miss **QAQ**

24 Q. What about the use of the term "auntie someone" --

25 A. Yes, I do believe that may have been used --

1 Q. -- as well?

2 A. -- in cottages, yes.

3 Q. So there would be a variation?

4 A. Yes.

5 Q. So no one actually had any single way that children were
6 expected to address the house parent, the female
7 house parent?

8 A. No.

9 Q. There were variations across the village?

10 A. There were variations across the village, yes.

11 Q. [REDACTED]

12 [REDACTED] ?

13 A. Mr [REDACTED] QBK

14 Q. [REDACTED] QBK

15 A. [REDACTED] QBK [REDACTED]

16 [REDACTED]

17 Q. Did you in the time you were there, roughly five years,
18 between 1957 and 1962, have much contact with Mr [REDACTED] QBK
19 [REDACTED]

20 A. Not a lot of contact. My main contact was when I --
21 I had been taken up to be examined with an older boy and
22 I'm sure Mr [REDACTED] QBK was present at that. And also my
23 sister and I ran away and I was as old -- I was belted
24 by Mr [REDACTED] QBK I was taken up and given the belt by him.
25 So contact was limited to occasions like that, formally.

1 Q. Was he the sort of person that would spend much time in
2 cottage 31?

3 A. No. We would very seldom see [REDACTED] QBK .

4 Q. If I could move on a little in your statement to
5 page 9362. I'll just take the first point on that page
6 that I'm interested in. The question of visits by what
7 are described as official visitors during the time that
8 you were there.

9 You don't have a recollection of official visitors
10 visiting your cottage or your cottages in the time you
11 were there. We'll deal with the assessment issue that
12 you talk about in a moment, but just talking of official
13 visitors, say for example a child welfare officer, or
14 a children's officer, as I think they were termed in
15 those days.

16 A. No.

17 Q. You don't remember seeing someone like that --

18 A. No, no.

19 Q. -- in the cottage?

20 A. No, no.

21 Q. And if such a person did visit for any reason and you
22 weren't aware, I take it from your answer that they
23 certainly didn't talk to you --

24 A. No.

25 Q. -- or ask you how you were getting on?

- 1 A. No, they didn't, no.
- 2 Q. But you did have an occasion where you were assessed by
3 a female psychiatrist, I think you thought, and a report
4 was prepared on you. I'll take you to that report, but
5 before I take you to the report, can you give me the
6 background to that referral insofar as you're aware of
7 it?
- 8 A. I actually know it was a psychologist now.
- 9 Q. Don't worry about it.
- 10 A. I have a copy of the report. I had been stealing.
11 I don't really recall it -- the only recollection I have
12 is a Mars bar, but I had been stealing and I was
13 referred on. I don't remember the basis. I was
14 referred on and I was assessed and I think I was
15 assessed over --
- 16 Q. Don't worry, I'll take you to that in a moment. Who
17 made the referral, as far as you understood?
- 18 A. Well, I ... You know, I don't know. At the time
19 I wouldn't have known who made the referral. I would
20 have presumed it was Miss **QEH** made it to Mr **QBK** or
21 the matron possibly, and then it would be referred on.
22 Possibly the matron.
- 23 Q. I suppose ultimately, for there to be any referral,
24 whoever made the actual referral, something would have
25 had to be reported by Miss **QEH** to --

1 A. Yes, it was Miss **QEH** yes. I think the report
2 refers ...

3 Q. We'll come to it. Maybe it's as good a time as any to
4 have a look at it. I think we do have it available for
5 you to look at. If I could bring up: QAR .001.
6 003.95976.

7 I think you've seen, as you've just said, a copy of
8 that report, not as a child but I think you have seen it
9 in more recent times.

10 A. Yes.

11 Q. We can see there that, as you say, it was a report by
12 a psychologist on Quarriers Homes headed notepaper. It
13 relates to you, obviously, and at that stage you were in
14 cottage 31 and your house parent was Miss **QEH**

15 A. Yes.

16 Q. The problem is described as "petty pilfering".

17 A. Yes.

18 Q. And you're not clear now exactly what that -- the
19 background to that was. It resulted in this referral
20 and I don't want to go through the whole of this report,
21 but one of the things it picks up is that your
22 relationship with your own mother would appear to be
23 a poor one and I think maybe there's some justification
24 for that, is there not, based on what you have told us
25 in your statement?

- 1 A. Yes.
- 2 Q. You spent a bit more time with your father because of
3 problems with your mother --
- 4 A. Very much so.
- 5 Q. -- leaving and leaving your father to cope.
- 6 A. Yes, that's right.
- 7 Q. But then there's some attempt by the psychologist to
8 analyse this problem or what flows from this difficult
9 relationship or poor relationship to the extent that the
10 psychologist is saying:
- 11 "The child has interpreted the mother's behaviour as
12 being rejection of the family."
- 13 You wouldn't at that stage have had any thoughts
14 along those lines, I take it, but that's how they were
15 seeing the problem, was it, that that was part of the
16 difficulties so far as they were concerned?
- 17 A. I took from that it was more ... I don't remember much
18 of the conversation with the psychologist. Obviously
19 that's her interpretation. I wouldn't have seen --
20 I didn't interpret that report when I had a copy of it
21 as that being the basis of it. I think I interpreted
22 more of Miss **QEH** handling --
- 23 Q. I'm going to come to that. I was just starting off.
24 I think it makes the point that you had much more time
25 for your father than your mother in those days.

- 1 A. Oh, very much so. I spent much more time with my
2 father.
- 3 Q. And as you say, perhaps the part that is of most
4 interest is the final three paragraphs or at least two
5 of them. Can you just read out the third last paragraph
6 on that report for me if you can?
- 7 A. "House mother's handling of both day-to-day affairs and
8 the specific delinquencies reported has been very poor,
9 and the child has responded badly to the critical,
10 aggressive atmosphere of the cottage. She stated quite
11 categorically that she had stolen in order to be sent
12 away from the homes."
- 13 Q. Do you think that's a fair analysis of why you did what
14 you did?
- 15 A. I don't recall saying that but, yes, I think it was
16 a fair analysis.
- 17 Q. Of course, it's recorded at the time that you made a
18 categoric statement about why you had done what had
19 caused the referral.
- 20 A. I would say it was a fair analysis on her part.
21 I didn't want to be there.
- 22 Q. Just again, if we go to the final paragraph of this
23 report, if we can. Can you read that for me? And
24 I think you can use the name. It's Miss **QEH**
- 25 A. "Miss **QEH** states that behaviour has been wholly

1 satisfactory in recent weeks. The house mother has
2 accepted, at least on a verbal level, that the child's
3 behaviour was the result of emotional disturbance and
4 not, as she had apparently presumed, indicative of
5 a future criminal career."

6 Q. So she was already marking you out as a future criminal
7 when you were, what, aged 10 or 11?

8 A. Yes. It wasn't just with that incident, it was other
9 things.

10 LADY SMITH: Mr Peoples, can we tell from any of the
11 blacked-out parts, the redacted parts, to whom this
12 report was addressed or not?

13 MR PEOPLES: Well, I think we can see --

14 LADY SMITH: I don't need the name, I'm just wondering who
15 it was presented to.

16 MR PEOPLES: I think -- I can see there's a reference to the
17 initials HCM, which I take to be Hector Munro. So
18 I assume he received a copy of this report. I don't
19 think it's clear.

20 LADY SMITH: That would make sense in his role as
21 superintendent that he would get a copy of it.

22 MR PEOPLES: What's perhaps less clear is whether Miss QEH
23 herself would have been given a copy of the report.
24 It's clear from the report itself there seems to have
25 been some kind of engagement with the house mother

1 because it says:

2 "She's accepted, at least on a verbal level, that
3 the behaviour ..."

4 So I think we can infer from that that the matter
5 was pursued with her, whether by the psychologist or
6 someone else, it's difficult to tell. But this seems to
7 be the formal report of the whole matter. I think
8 we can take that much from the report.

9 I can leave that now. We can perhaps move on to the
10 sort of things that were happening in cottage 31.
11 I think at page 9362 of your witness statement and on
12 the pages that follow, you give us your memories of some
13 of the things that happened in cottage 31 and I would
14 like you just to maybe take us through some of these
15 things.

16 First of all, at paragraph 43, I think you're
17 attempting to capture there the atmosphere in cottage 31
18 so far as you can now recall and put it into words. You
19 use the expression:

20 "The cottage had a constant sense of fear about it."

21 Is that you now trying to tell us how it felt at the
22 time?

23 A. No, that is exactly how it felt at the time. That's
24 what's lasted with me throughout my life, a sense of
25 fear.

1 Q. You go on to say:

2 "It was well-known amongst the children in the wider
3 village that Miss **QEH** could be cruel and was not a nice
4 house mother. She could be very violent."

5 So she had a reputation?

6 A. Oh yes, she had a reputation, yes?

7 Q. How would that reputation have come about? How did she
8 get it? Would people talk? Would children in her
9 cottage talk or would other people talk about Miss **QEH**
10 and so forth?

11 A. I think even with maybe some of the house mothers, they
12 were aware of -- because I do refer to another
13 incident --

14 Q. Yes, and I will come to that.

15 A. There was, you know -- I don't recall specific
16 conversations, but the other children were aware they
17 wouldn't want to get into her cottage. She was known as
18 not a particularly nice house mother.

19 Q. Were there other cottages that had reputations, either
20 good, bad or whatever? I know it's a long time ago.

21 A. I don't remember the name, the number of the cottage,
22 but there was one that had boys only and I think it was
23 run by two females, two single females, and that I think
24 was seen even as worse than Miss **QEH** The children
25 would say they weren't called by names, they were called

- 1 by numbers and they weren't allowed to play and you
2 didn't see these boys very often. But I'm sorry,
3 I don't recollect much more than that.
- 4 Q. No, no, just what you can recall. That was in your time
5 that this cottage was operating, you think, with two
6 female --
- 7 A. It was two females.
- 8 Q. As joint house parents --
- 9 A. Yes, joint house parents.
- 10 Q. -- rather than a cottage auntie and a house matter?
- 11 A. Yes.
- 12 Q. But it had a reputation and that was an all boys place?
- 13 A. Yes.
- 14 Q. And it was seen as -- you were even more unlucky if you
15 ended up there than cottage 31?
- 16 A. Yes.
- 17 Q. I think I know the answer to this, but I'll just get you
18 to tell me. Did you have any say in which cottage you'd
19 end up in? You ended up in cottage 31, but it wasn't
20 through your choice as such?
- 21 A. No, no, you wouldn't have had any say in where you were
22 placed.
- 23 Q. So far as how Miss QEH behaved towards children in her
24 care in cottage 31, you say in paragraph 44:
- 25 "On a day-to-day basis there were ongoing acts of

1 physical aggression by Miss **QEH** which could range from
2 lashing out and hitting us at mealtimes as she patrolled
3 the dining room to whacking our heads with the brushes
4 as we brushed our hair. It was a random thing for her
5 to lash out and kick and punch us."

6 I just want to get from you, what would prompt that
7 type of behaviour? What kind of conduct on the part of
8 the children led to these things happening?

9 A. Nothing.

10 Q. Nothing?

11 A. You were sitting at the dining room table -- I think
12 there were four tables -- she would walk round the
13 tables. Whoever got chosen -- or you wouldn't know, you
14 weren't allowed to look round -- you knew because the
15 children's shoulders because they knew -- she would come
16 up behind and just -- your ears (indicating).

17 You could be standing with her and you would say --
18 I remember standing with her in the kitchen one day and
19 she made a catty remark at me. I responded and got
20 a punch, it was. I'm not sure why. She didn't like the
21 way I responded.

22 But it was -- brushing hair, you would line up, my
23 brother in particular can recall getting hit many times
24 on his head with the brush. It was every day there
25 would be something. It would be unusual to have a day

- 1 when someone wasn't hit, punched.
- 2 Q. Would you see these things?
- 3 A. Oh yes.
- 4 Q. It was done in the presence of other children?
- 5 A. Yes, aye, it was done as groups sometimes. You'd be
- 6 lining up for hairbrushing and so forth.
- 7 Q. Just to be clear, the hairbrush would be used as an
- 8 implement to strike a child?
- 9 A. Yes.
- 10 Q. "She would also lash out"; is that a word that you use
- 11 advisedly? That would describe the best way to describe
- 12 how it would happen? It would be lashing out?
- 13 A. Well, a lash out would be -- you know, to me that's
- 14 something that's almost unpredictable, someone lashing
- 15 out, and that's the way it would be. You couldn't
- 16 predict it.
- 17 Q. You say when she lashed out, was that you say with both
- 18 her hands and her feet?
- 19 A. Her feet -- she knocked me unconscious by kicking me one
- 20 of the times.
- 21 Q. We'll maybe come to that specific bit. It could take a
- 22 variety of forms and lashing out could be with hands,
- 23 striking with a hand?
- 24 A. Yes.
- 25 Q. Without an implement?

1 A. Without an implement.

2 Q. But also with one, like with a brush?

3 A. Yes.

4 Q. And it could also mean kicking?

5 A. Kicking, yes.

6 Q. As well, and this could happen on a regular basis --

7 A. Very regular basis.

8 Q. -- throughout the time you were in cottage 31?

9 A. Uh-huh, yes.

10 LADY SMITH: Mr Peoples, it's just after 1 o'clock. Would

11 that be a convenient point to break before you go into

12 further detail with Joyce?

13 We'll stop now for the lunch break and start your

14 evidence again at 2 o'clock, if you're ready then.

15 Thank you very much.

16 (1.00 pm)

17 (The lunch adjournment)

18 (2.00 pm)

19 LADY SMITH: Are you ready to carry on, Joyce?

20 A. Yes.

21 LADY SMITH: Very well.

22 Mr Peoples.

23 MR PEOPLES: Good afternoon, Joyce.

24 A. Good afternoon.

25 Q. Before the break for lunch, we were looking at your

1 statement and you were telling us a little bit about
2 Miss [REDACTED] and how she would lash out and the way she did
3 so. Can I ask you to go back to the statement at
4 WIT.001.001.9363. That's the bit I think that we were
5 looking at before lunch.

6 You tell us about times when you had to stand in the
7 same spot for quite lengthy periods of time. Just tell
8 us about that and what you remember of that.

9 A. It was in the playroom. There was a runner -- it was
10 called a runner. It was a piece of linoleum that ran
11 alongside connecting two doors. Miss [REDACTED] for any
12 misdemeanour, it could be any slight misdemeanour, she
13 would make you stand on the runner -- and this applied
14 to all of the children at different times. You had to
15 stand for -- and it could be hours with your hands
16 behind your head like that (indicating). Most children
17 experienced that.

18 Q. Was this at any time of day or night?

19 A. Predominantly, I would say, daytime.

20 Q. Was this something that happened to you?

21 A. Yes.

22 Q. And, as you say, to other children too?

23 A. Yes, I would say most of the children experienced it.

24 Q. Was any distinction drawn in the case of this
25 particular -- I take it this was a punishment?

- 1 A. Yes, it was a punishment, yes.
- 2 Q. Was any distinction drawn as regards this punishment
3 between younger children and older children or did
4 everybody get it from time to time?
- 5 A. Everyone got it from time to time.
- 6 Q. On page 9363 you mention one particular experience you
7 had with Miss **QEH** and I think your sister was there
8 at the time. Can you tell us about that experience and
9 what you remember of it?
- 10 A. She had -- it was bath time and she was angry and she
11 had put soap in my mouth and she held my head under
12 water. I clearly remember that incident because
13 I really did think she was going to kill me. My sister
14 threw a shoe at Miss **QEH** it missed her, and went
15 through a window and broke a window, and she later got
16 belted for that.
- 17 Q. What sort of soap was it?
- 18 A. I think it was mostly carbolic soap they used in
19 Quarriers. I would presume it would be that.
- 20 I got out of the -- when that happened, I got out of
21 the bath, I put on pants and I ran from the cottage to
22 a cottage near the church; I can't recall the number.
23 It was -- matron was temporary resident there. It was
24 a semi villa -- it was a semi-detached villa with two
25 bells and I tried to ring the bell to get the matron.

1 Unfortunately, the cottage, one of the cottages -- one
2 of the villas was empty and by that time I was caught up
3 by some of the children she sent out to take me back.

4 She sent two of the older boys out to get me.

5 Q. So you didn't just -- you weren't just talked out of it,
6 she sent some older boys to basically bring you back?

7 A. Well, I was running from the cottage and I ran to the
8 villa, trying to get the matron, and they were instantly
9 sent to chase me and caught me -- I was at the bell and
10 ringing it when I was caught and taken back.

11 LADY SMITH: What were you wearing?

12 A. Just pants.

13 LADY SMITH: Nothing on your feet?

14 A. No, nothing on my upper body either.

15 MR PEOPLES: Did you attempt at any stage after that to try
16 and speak to the matron about what had happened?

17 A. We never seen the matron --

18 Q. This incident, did you --

19 A. No. There wouldn't have been an opportunity like that.

20 Q. Did you have much dealing, personal dealing with the
21 matron? [REDACTED]

22 [REDACTED]

23 A. I don't really recall contact with the matron. I knew
24 who the matron was and she lived in various buildings,
25 but I don't remember any contact with the matron.

1 Q. This was a particular occasion you've got a vivid
2 recollection of. You say you're not clear in your own
3 mind now why she reacted in this way on that occasion to
4 do the things she did.

5 A. I don't know. I don't recall the incident that led to
6 it; I just recall the incident quite clearly.

7 Q. But you do say more generally in paragraph 47:

8 "When she was in a bad mood, she would fill up the
9 bath with cold water and children would have to line up
10 and stand in it naked."

11 Was that something she did?

12 A. It would happen from time to time. It wasn't a nightly
13 thing. If she was angry you'd line up and you'd line up
14 in ages and each go into the bath and be washed in cold
15 water.

16 Q. Just going back to the episode when she was holding your
17 head under water, you say -- at paragraph 50 you tell us
18 that:

19 "So far as [you] can remember, there were no
20 repercussions for [you] for running out and being
21 brought back on that occasion."

22 A. I don't remember any repercussions for that. I can't
23 remember it beyond the incident.

24 Q. When you say that you think she got a fright, is that
25 more what you think now or was that what you thought

- 1 at the time?
- 2 A. I don't have a specific recollection of what happened
3 after. She was generally -- when any incident like that
4 happened, she would be kinder to you for a short period.
- 5 Q. But it didn't last?
- 6 A. No, no, it didn't last, no.
- 7 Q. Moving on to page 9364 if we can go there, to
8 paragraph 52, there you tell us about one morning when
9 you were in line waiting for permission to go to school
10 and something happened. Just before you tell us what
11 happened on that occasion, was that the routine? You
12 had to line up --
- 13 A. Yes.
- 14 Q. -- and wait until you were permitted to leave for
15 school?
- 16 A. Yes, you lined up in ages.
- 17 Q. What was the point of that?
- 18 A. I ... It would be very anxiety provoking. She would
19 keep us waiting. There were two bells rang. She would
20 keep us waiting until the first bell was over. I don't
21 know the point of it. I don't know if it was power or
22 what, but that's ...
- 23 LADY SMITH: Why were you anxious about being late for
24 school?
- 25 A. I was quite an anxious child in Quarriers. I didn't

1 like walking into a classroom with everyone looking at
2 me. I found that difficult.

3 MR PEOPLES: Just on this routine of waiting, standing in
4 line waiting for permission: was this all the children
5 in the cottage were lined up and had to wait for the
6 signal to go?

7 A. Yes.

8 Q. Then did they effectively go in a march to school
9 together?

10 A. No, not a march.

11 Q. I'm trying to get --

12 A. There was a small wood that was between us and the
13 school and she would say "go" and generally the more
14 fitter -- the older and the fitter, they'd go over the
15 fence and through the woods to try and get there.

16 Q. She didn't go with you children?

17 A. No, no, she didn't go with the children.

18 Q. After she said go, it was really up to the children --

19 A. Yes, all the children --

20 Q. -- to get the school?

21 A. -- would fly out and try to get there?

22 Q. I follow. On this particular morning, you tell us
23 something happened. Can you just describe in your own
24 words what happened?

25 A. She kept us particularly and I was crying, I was really

1 upset and anxious about going to school. She pulled me
2 out the line. She wore heavy laced-up shoes -- I was
3 quite a slight child, small, and she kicked me in my
4 abdomen, and I was lifted off the ground and there was
5 a stone sink at the back which I hit my head off and
6 I was -- I probably was unconscious for seconds.
7 I don't know how long. My brother thought I was dead,
8 he was extremely upset. I came to and I was hysterical.
9 She sent other children -- I couldn't stop screaming.
10 She took me and she put me to bed and she was very nice
11 to me for the rest of the day, she tried to calm me
12 down.

13 Q. What you tell us is:

14 "[You] have no recollection, however, of being taken
15 to receive any sort of medical check-up after this
16 incident."

17 A. No, I didn't get a medical check-up, no.

18 Q. You tell us about something else that was happening on
19 a regular basis in the **QEH** household in paragraph 55,
20 when Miss **QEH** would return from her day off. Just tell
21 us a little bit about that.

22 A. I would say that occurred every time she came from her
23 day off. There was a great fear built up and the
24 reliever or aunt who had been in charge that day,
25 Miss **QEH** would come in and get an update and we would

1 be lying awake waiting and she would call us down in
2 order of, I think it was normally the first five or six
3 of us, she would call us down. It would either be she
4 would go straight into belting you, which was a leather
5 belt, the same as was used in school, or she would empty
6 the lockers -- we each had a personal locker, throw it
7 on the floor, all our personal items on the floor, tell
8 you to pick it up and then she would run with the belt,
9 hitting out at random. You could be hit anywhere.

10 Q. With a belt, a tawse as you've described?

11 A. That's what it would be called then.

12 Q. Was that a letter belt?

13 A. Yes, a big leather belt with the two splits.

14 Q. Prongs at the end?

15 A. Mm-hm.

16 Q. So you're telling us of a scene that happened on
17 a regular basis where she'd come back, there'd be quite
18 a bit of shouting, she'd be pulling stuff out of
19 lockers, she'd be lashing out with a tawse and striking
20 children on various parts of their body with the tawse?

21 A. Yes.

22 Q. You say you have memories of screaming. Was that part
23 of what would happen on these occasions --

24 A. The children would run about screaming, shouting, "No,
25 no, no". I don't know if it made her more likely to

1 come at you if you did scream. But yes, I have lots of
2 memories of that, children screaming and fear.

3 Q. But also, so far as the lashing out is concerned, you
4 tell us what legacy the belt left in terms of marks.

5 A. Yes, it would leave welts.

6 Q. And that was in various parts of the body, the face, the
7 back, the neck and so forth?

8 A. Yes. I don't think she particularly aimed for the face,
9 but obviously it was quite indiscriminate and you would
10 -- I had one that had come here (indicating), I had
11 a mark on my eye where the belt had hit me.

12 Q. Are you describing a situation where there'd be children
13 of different ages that she was lashing out at?

14 A. It did happen with all of us at times but it was
15 predominantly the five or six older ones. It would be
16 an accusation we had played with things, we hadn't put
17 things away, and that would be true, and if we had any
18 aunt or reliever in, we would take the opportunity to
19 play --

20 Q. I suppose your memory is it was more directed towards
21 older children, five or six people --

22 A. Yes, getting called out down from bed.

23 Q. And this was happening. But there would be presumably
24 different heights and things like that so if you're
25 lashing out you could hit various parts of the body?

- 1 A. Yes, that's right.
- 2 Q. And they'd be trying to run or escape or move around?
- 3 A. That's right, uh-huh.
- 4 Q. So it was very possible they would be hit in different
5 ways?
- 6 A. Oh yes, yes.
- 7 Q. And in different places?
- 8 A. Yes. Uh-huh.
- 9 Q. In paragraph 57 on page 9364, you mention one of the
10 uses she made of a wooden spoon. Can you tell us about
11 that?
- 12 A. That was a daily -- somebody, at least daily, would have
13 that punishment. It was a large wooden spoon. She held
14 it by the rounded base and she would grip your hand and
15 she would hit into your hand. It was a very painful --
16 and often to the point you would have bleeding or
17 definitely swelling on your hands and it was one
18 certainly I know all the children dreaded. That, again,
19 would be right across the age group.
- 20 Q. So she was using the handle end to strike the
21 knuckles --
- 22 A. Yes.
- 23 Q. -- and, what, the back or front of the hand?
- 24 A. The palm -- sorry, the back of the hand, sorry.
- 25 Q. And as you say, this would cause swelling, bruising?

- 1 A. Mm-hm.
- 2 Q. Painful?
- 3 A. Very painful. Your hand would take a couple of days to
4 recover.
- 5 Q. Can I turn to page 9365. You have a memory of an
6 occasion when you were about 11 when you and a boy -- it
7 was the oldest boy in the cottage at that stage -- were
8 sent to, is it the main office?
- 9 A. Yes. Holmlea we were sent to.
- 10 Q. Tell us the background to that visit to Holmlea.
- 11 A. The oldest boy next to me -- I was the oldest girl at
12 that time, where Miss **QEH** had -- we were bathed and
13 told we were going up to Holmlea to be examined.
14 I don't know if she told -- another house mother made a
15 complaint, but I do know it was a complaint regarding an
16 allegation that she had hit us with sticks.
17 **██████████** and I were taken up, were examined --
18 I thought it was a doctor, but I suppose I can't say
19 that for definite, but we were definitely examined for
20 bruising. We were questioned and we both denied that we
21 had been -- I presume now as an adult that the stick
22 referred to was maybe the wooden spoon, but we both
23 denied that we were being --
- 24 Q. On that occasion, you say you think that the complaint
25 was made by another house mother; that's your

1 understanding?

2 A. That's been my understanding since the incident, you
3 know, and I think possibly Miss **QEH** said that to me,
4 that a complaint had been made, because that's the only
5 place I could have got that from.

6 Q. You went to the main office, you have a recollection of
7 being examined and indeed clothing taken -- removing
8 clothing to be examined?

9 A. Yes.

10 Q. It was a long time ago. Would there have been bruises
11 to see?

12 A. I couldn't be able to say that. I wouldn't have
13 been ...

14 Q. I suppose in light of what you've just told us, even if
15 there had been bruising, you would not have said it was
16 Miss **QEH** who had caused these by hitting you with
17 a stick? You told us you denied she hit you with
18 a stick.

19 A. We denied that she hit us at any time. We had to go
20 back to the cottage. It was more important that I had
21 favour with her than, you know, anyone else at that
22 time.

23 Q. You have a memory that at least one of the people who
24 was there on this occasion was a **[REDACTED]**
25 **QBK** at least for some of the time?

- 1 A. Yes, I think he was there when we arrived at the
2 cottage -- sorry, at Holmlea. I'm sure he was there.
- 3 Q. Just to be clear, when you went to Holmlea and when this
4 examination took place and when you were asked some
5 questions about the matter of whether Miss **QEH** had hit
6 you with a stick, where was Miss **QEH** at this point?
- 7 A. She was still in the cottage. She didn't come with us;
8 we were taken up.
- 9 Q. Before you went to Holmlea, I think paragraph 61
10 suggests you may have had some discussions with
11 Miss **QEH** before but went and things were said. Can you
12 tell us what --
- 13 A. I can't remember the specific conversation.
- 14 Q. But the gist of what was said.
- 15 A. Yes. You know, what I recall is we weren't to say
16 anything, you know. But I can't recall the specific
17 conversation.
- 18 Q. No, but your memory is that you were warned --
- 19 A. Yes.
- 20 Q. -- you shouldn't say anything?
- 21 A. Uh-huh.
- 22 Q. So she was saying that to you? That's what you recall?
- 23 A. Yes.
- 24 Q. Indeed, you recall a certain sense of pleasure in going
25 back and telling her that you hadn't said anything bad?

- 1 A. Yes.
- 2 Q. And that she was pleased with you?
- 3 A. Yes, she was, yes.
- 4 Q. Finally on that paragraph, I think you can't recall
5 anyone else, when you were in Quarriers, ever asking
6 about any bruising that may have been on your face or
7 legs; is that right?
- 8 A. Not for myself. My brother was -- his class teacher --
9 he had went in with welts on his legs and he was taken
10 to -- I believe it was reported to the headmistress or
11 master at the time, I can't remember who it was in
12 charge of the school at that time. But I don't know
13 what came of that.
- 14 Q. But at least someone in the school, a teacher, had
15 noticed these welts on your brother's legs?
- 16 A. Yes.
- 17 Q. And the matter had been drawn to the attention of the
18 headmaster?
- 19 A. Yes.
- 20 Q. We don't know what the upshot of that --
- 21 A. I don't know what happened after that, no.
- 22 Q. Just on the subject of bruising, and you've told us how
23 a child might end up with bruising if they lived in
24 Miss **QEH** household, would it be the case that
25 frequently there would be children with bruising?

1 A. Bruising, welts, maybe on legs, yes, definitely on the
2 back of your hand. Yes, there would have been.

3 Q. Would these be in areas that would be noticeable?

4 A. Yes, I'd certainly think they would be, particularly
5 your legs or your hand.

6 Q. For example, if it was a boy going to school, would he
7 be wearing shorts or would a lot of boys be wearing
8 shorts?

9 A. It varied from long trousers, shorts. Yes, it would
10 have been noticeable. I can't see that it wouldn't be
11 because it was a regular occurrence.

12 Q. And would there be -- if the bruising happened to be on
13 their arms, for example, would there be times when
14 a child's arm would be exposed so as to see if there
15 were any marks on them? If they were at school --

16 A. I would imagine so, yes. Uh-huh.

17 Q. In the summer?

18 A. Yes, summer, yes.

19 Q. And I suppose if there was any marks on or around the
20 face or the neck, then that is something again that
21 would be capable of being noticed?

22 A. Yes.

23 Q. Moving on, you tell us about another memory you have
24 in relation to a young girl, and I think she and her
25 sister were in cottage 31 against a fairly tragic

1 background. I don't think we need to go into the
2 background.

3 The girl that you have in mind who you describe as
4 highly strung --

5 A. Yes.

6 Q. -- what age was she relative to you?

7 A. She was about 4, I might have been about 10.

8 Q. Okay. What is it you remember about this 4-year-old
9 girl?

10 A. She was made to lie on the floor and we were lined up
11 and each of us had to step on her, and then step off
12 her. And she was screaming. I think it's a memory the
13 three of us share. It's probably one of the worst
14 memories because it was the guilt that you'd done -- you
15 know, you would do that. But that's, I think, something
16 the three of us spoke about and shared and we all agree
17 it was one of the worst memories because we all felt
18 guilty about it.

19 Q. You have another memory, and this time it's a memory
20 relating to your brother, who was also in cottage 31, at
21 a time that he was suffering from tonsillitis and had
22 some difficulty in swallowing. Can you tell me about
23 that occasion?

24 A. My brother, shortly after he went in, had
25 a tonsillectomy. He was sick a lot. He was eating at

1 the table and he had brought it up on to his plate and
2 he was made to eat -- still eat the meal. But that was
3 not just my brother, that happened with a number of
4 children. My sister also.

5 Q. Did you see that happen?

6 A. Yes, I seen it happening, yes.

7 Q. Not just to your brother but to other children?

8 A. Yes, uh-huh.

9 Q. Who made him eat --

10 A. Miss **QEH** made you eat. You had to eat everything that
11 was on your plate. If you didn't, it came back to you
12 the next day.

13 Q. If you were sick for any reason, even through illness,
14 you still had to simply still eat and -- including
15 eating the vomit you brought up?

16 A. Yes.

17 Q. You have also got a recollection on page 9365 about an
18 occasion when your younger sister was caught eating
19 paper --

20 A. Uh-huh.

21 Q. -- and how Miss **QEH** reacted to seeing this. What was
22 Miss **QEH** reaction and what happened?

23 A. She put it down to her meal -- a plate and give it as
24 a meal. That happened to other children as well.

25 Q. How did your sister react when she was required to eat

- 1 cut-up pieces of paper?
- 2 A. She would have tried to eat the paper. You were forced
3 to, you know. She would push things into your mouth
4 that you didn't eat.
- 5 Q. You tell us about something else that happened to your
6 younger sister in relation to scrubbing a floor, a stone
7 floor, of the shed at the house; is that right?
- 8 A. Yes.
- 9 Q. What can you tell us about that?
- 10 A. She was made to scrub the stone floor, and then the
11 water was thrown at her afterwards and she was made to
12 stand in the shed, which was a common punishment for
13 other children. It was a stone building, very cold,
14 infested with beetles and different things, and she
15 would lock children in that -- my sister experienced
16 that, I didn't experience that but my brother also
17 experienced it as well as other children -- and be left
18 for many hours.
- 19 Q. On this occasion that you tell us about in your
20 statement, you recall, I think, that it was in winter
21 and quite late in the evening; is that right?
- 22 A. Yes. It's hard to say. If it was dark for a child, it
23 was late in the evening, so I wouldn't be able to be
24 specific. My brother's recollection -- he was in for
25 many hours and it was very, very late at night when

1 he was finally allowed out and he was very young when
2 that happened to him.

3 Q. Whatever time of year, are you saying the shed at least
4 was a cold place?

5 A. Not just cold, it had ice inside. It was an old stone
6 building.

7 Q. So whatever heating there might have been in the house
8 itself, the shed was a cold place?

9 A. Yes, it was an attachment on to the house.

10 Q. Did you say that on these occasions, the shed would be
11 locked?

12 A. Yes, well, yes, you'd be locked in the shed. It was
13 a very scary place and you were left in the dark. There
14 was no light.

15 Q. So it would have had a light but the light was switched
16 off?

17 A. Yes, the light was switched off.

18 Q. If I could move on to another matter you deal with at
19 9366 at paragraph 70. You tell us there that:

20 "Miss **QEH** drew a distinction between orphans and
21 children who came from broken homes."

22 Was that a noticeable distinction?

23 A. Oh, very, yes, you know. It was probably something that
24 lived with people from broken homes.

25 Q. And you were one of them, weren't you?

1 A. Yes. Yes, I was. I think when we were in the cottage,
2 we were the first children that had come from a broken
3 home. There was no one else with family contact; most
4 of them had been brought up in the home from quite young
5 or from birth. It was frequently -- there was frequent
6 reference to you coming from a broken home or your
7 mother not wanting you. It left you with a sense of
8 shame, I have got to say. My sister and I, we went away
9 with our church group, we had went on holiday for a week
10 to Leadhills, and in naïveté I wouldn't have known they
11 would have known our background. I coerced my sister
12 into saying my mother was dead because it would have
13 been an easier thing, so you wouldn't have to deal with
14 the shame of it. I think that's something that's lasted
15 with all of us.

16 Q. So there was no attempt to say to a child whose parents
17 had broken up, to try and explain it wasn't their fault
18 or that these things happen and that, really, they
19 shouldn't have any feelings or guilt or shame? There
20 was nothing like that said to you?

21 A. No, it was always derogatory comments.

22 Q. You just touch upon the fact that, I think, you and
23 perhaps, no doubt, others would from time to time run
24 away from Quarriers and that on each occasion you did
25 so, you would get the belt on your return; is that

- 1 right?
- 2 A. Yes. My sister and I ran away. No, my sister and I ran
3 away, we made it to White City stadium in Glasgow.
4 We were picked up by the police and returned to
5 Quarriers. I was given the belt on that occasion
6 because I was the oldest. The second time we ran away,
7 it was my brother and my sister and I, and we were
8 caught a few miles outside Quarriers, and I think we all
9 got the belt on that occasion.
- 10 Q. Who gave you the belt?
- 11 A. You went up to Holmlea for the belt, Mr **QBK**
- 12 Q. For that type of punishment when you ran away?
- 13 A. Yes, you were went up to Holmlea. It was Mr **QBK** who
14 administered the punishment.
- 15 Q. Did he use the same sort of belt that was used in the
16 cottage, the tawse?
- 17 A. Yes.
- 18 Q. And how many strokes of the belt did you get?
- 19 A. I can't remember.
- 20 Q. I suppose the point you're making is that people who ran
21 away were punished?
- 22 A. Yes, yes, you were punished.
- 23 Q. By **[REDACTED]**?
- 24 A. By **[REDACTED]**.
- 25 Q. Who administered the belt?

1 A. Yes.

2 Q. Did anyone ever think to ask why you might have run
3 away?

4 A. No. No. There was no discussion. We were sent up.
5 I don't even know if my father knew we had ran away. He
6 never mentioned it to us. I don't think it was ever
7 reported to him. My sister and I were away for many
8 hours.

9 LADY SMITH: If you got to White City that must have taken
10 quite a long time.

11 A. Yes, it did.

12 LADY SMITH: Was that all on foot?

13 A. Well, we had no food. The police had to --

14 LADY SMITH: No: was that all on foot?

15 A. Yes, it was on foot, following the red buses.

16 LADY SMITH: Right. That's how you knew your way?

17 A. Yes, that's how we knew where to go.

18 MR PEOPLES: Why were you running away?

19 A. We were very unhappy. We wanted to go back to our
20 father --

21 Q. But not just because you wanted to go back to your own
22 father, it was because of --

23 A. Sometimes it was intolerable so that would precipitate
24 the need -- and there was always plotting and planning
25 to run away, even with the children who had been there

- 1 many years.
- 2 Q. Sounds like a scene out of Colditz.
- 3 A. It was fun sometimes.
- 4 Q. You tell us -- and I'm almost finished on this chapter
5 of your written evidence -- of one occasion when your
6 younger brother turned up at your father's house with an
7 injury, a cut on his head. Can you tell us about that?
- 8 A. It was after my discharge maybe, a few months or a year,
9 I can't remember. I've not got a timeline for it. He
10 arrived at the door, it was myself that opened the door.
11 He had a small cut on his head. He had reported being
12 hit on the head by Miss QEH by what was called
13 a butcher's tray, where you had to get a -- it was
14 a metal tray for when you went up to collect butcher
15 meat. And he had walked the whole way from Bridge of
16 Weir to the east end of Glasgow.
- 17 Q. And you estimate that to have been 15 miles?
- 18 A. It might be more, I'm not sure. It may be more,
19 depending on what route he went. Again, I think he
20 followed the red bus route.
- 21 Q. What sort of age would he have been, do you think? You
22 said you had left, so you were at home, so that would
23 have been some time after 1962 when you were
24 discharged --
- 25 A. I think about 10 or 11 he would be at that age.

- 1 Q. Okay. So he reported to the family, or particularly
2 your father, that Miss **QEH** had struck him with this
3 butcher's tray, metal tray?
- 4 A. Yes.
- 5 Q. And I think if we go to page 9367, we hear what
6 happened, that your father kept him overnight.
- 7 A. Yes.
- 8 Q. And indeed took the day off work and then went back to
9 Quarriers with your brother; is that right?
- 10 A. That's right.
- 11 Q. You tell us, I think, that you didn't obviously go back
12 with them.
- 13 A. No.
- 14 Q. And so you don't know precisely what was said on that
15 occasion, but I think you're able to tell us how your
16 dad felt at the time. He was very angry?
- 17 A. Yes.
- 18 Q. Extremely angry. You tell us that whatever was said,
19 something did happen in relation to your brother.
20 What was that?
- 21 A. My brother was moved -- that's the wrong cottage that
22 I gave. It was cottage 35 he was moved to.
- 23 Q. Okay. He was moved from cottage 31?
- 24 A. Yes.
- 25 Q. And indeed, you tell us it wasn't just him that was

- 1 moved?
- 2 A. Sorry, my sister had been moved previous to that.
- 3 Q. Was that a separate --
- 4 A. Yes. She was moved. I'm not sure of the background to
- 5 that. My sister said that Miss **QEH** had taken her out
- 6 the Girl's Guildry and it was off the back of that --
- 7 I don't know if there was another complaint. I don't
- 8 know the background. She was moved to cottage 12 and
- 9 she said that she was greeted by the house mother there,
- 10 Mrs **QCZ**, with the words, "You're safe now, lass".
- 11 Q. Mrs **QCZ** was another --
- 12 A. The cottage mother in cottage 12. So I don't know if
- 13 she had asked for my sister or what, but she had greeted
- 14 my sister with the words, "You're safe now, lass". So
- 15 I'm sure there was some background to it.
- 16 Q. Indeed, though, after this incident where your brother
- 17 walked some 15 miles to Glasgow and reported how he had
- 18 come to be injured, he was moved to, you think,
- 19 cottage 35?
- 20 A. It was 35.
- 21 Q. I see.
- 22 A. Yes.
- 23 Q. Just while we're on page 9367, you deal with the matter
- 24 of reporting abuse. At paragraph 78 you tell us you
- 25 didn't report the abuse to anybody at the time:

1 "I don't suppose anybody would have listened."

2 Well, you made one attempt, did you, when you made
3 the escape from cottage 31, but you never got the chance
4 to make the report?

5 A. No, there was no opportunity. I was just sent up to be
6 disciplined. There was no discussion. There was no
7 opportunity to speak to anyone. I don't think anyone
8 would have listened.

9 Q. You tell us that you did in later years have
10 a conversation at Miss **QEH** funeral with Bill Dunbar.

11 A. Bill Dunbar was a social worker. I didn't know him as
12 a social worker in Quarriers. Bill advised me at that
13 time that I had been his first case, which I think is
14 not quite accurate, although he did go to my father's
15 house to appraise it before my sister and brother came
16 out.

17 Bill became the historian for Quarriers, so I got to
18 know him through that -- I think I maybe applied for my
19 records at that time and I had met him and I also worked
20 for Sense in Quarriers(?) in -- on a project in Glasgow.

21 When Miss **QEH** died, her ashes were interred at
22 Quarriers, and Bill had contacted as many people as
23 possible to see if they would come along. I think about
24 11 of us came. She had hundreds of children who would
25 have been through her care, but I think 11 of us came.

1 I had a conversation with Bill actually in the cemetery
2 and he spoke about Miss **QEH** and her reputation.

3 He would have come in at the tail end of just before
4 she retired. So, you know, there's no doubt that
5 Miss **QEH** reputation was well-known within Quarriers.

6 Q. So are you saying that he wasn't just saying this was
7 something he had learned as an archivist, he knew about
8 the reputation when --

9 A. No, from other children, former boys and girls and so
10 forth, and I'm sure other sources.

11 Q. Just on the subject of -- you've talked about records
12 just there and Bill Dunbar. I think he had some
13 dealings with records of children who had been in
14 Quarriers. I don't know if you had dealings with him on
15 that matter.

16 A. Yes, he became the historian, yes. That's how I met
17 Bill, through that.

18 Q. If we go to page 9369 of your statement, I think you
19 tell us at paragraph 88 that some time ago in the 1980s
20 or 1990s, you got some records about your time in care;
21 is that right?

22 A. Yes.

23 Q. And that you went back to Quarriers not that long ago
24 and you say you got more records?

25 A. No, there was some additional records, letters and so

1 forth. I don't think I got copies of the letters. They
2 stopped my mum's letters to us in Quarriers.
3 I understand why: I think it was in discussion with my
4 father because they upset us. She would write us
5 letters saying she was coming to take us home and so
6 forth and it wouldn't materialise. So I got copies of
7 them at that time and they gave me copies of the
8 letters.

9 Q. Just before we leave the subject of Miss QEH you have
10 some closing observations about your view of her fitness
11 and suitability to be a primary carer of children.
12 What was your assessment of that? It's paragraph 90
13 where I think you deal with this matter.

14 A. She wasn't fit to look after children in many ways. She
15 was very abusive and I don't know, I think she ... How
16 can I say it? I don't know if she enjoyed the power of
17 it, but I certainly think she got something from the
18 abuse. And she could have small acts of kindness, she
19 could have, but she certainly wasn't fit to look after
20 children.

21 Q. And I think you make the additional point:

22 "[You] believe that Quarriers knew what she was like
23 or her reputation."

24 A. Oh yes, I mean the children, other children in Quarriers
25 knew -- and I had been taken up for an assessment and

1 that's really what kind of prompted me to take part in
2 the inquiry when I heard some records went missing in
3 Quarriers on the news.

4 Q. So is it inconceivable that people in positions like
5 Mr Dunbar or the superintendent would be unaware of what
6 was being said about cottage 31?

7 A. No, they were very aware.

8 Q. There's just a couple of other matters I would like to
9 deal with before I finish. The first one is at
10 paragraph 89. I think you want to make a point about
11 Quarriers as well. What's the point you're making at
12 paragraph 89?

13 A. There was a lot of good care in Quarriers. Now all you
14 hear of Quarriers is the bad things that happened. My
15 sister moved to cottage 12 and my brother moved to 35.
16 They had a really good experiences and I'm sure there's
17 other children that came out of Quarriers and would
18 describe something totally different. It was down to
19 individual house parents. Quarriers gave you a good set
20 of values and there was lots of good, positive
21 experiences, even within Miss QEH cottage.

22 They made efforts at Christmas and Hallowe'en and
23 you had children who went to the seaside for the first
24 time. There was a lot of good care, but it was
25 individual, and I feel sad for that because it could

1 have been a really nice place to live -- and it was for
2 some children, I think.

3 Q. And the final matter I just want to ask you about is at
4 page 9370, where you make a point, which perhaps only
5 a child who suffers abuse might be able to tell us
6 about, the difficulty of being able to report someone
7 who is abusing you. Can you tell us what point you're
8 making about the difficulties?

9 A. I think, as I said previously, it was more important for
10 me to -- for her to approve of me. Also, I knew that
11 I was returning to that cottage, you know. They
12 wouldn't have taken me anywhere else. There would have
13 been consequences. As I went on to do social work, that
14 very much informed my practice, working with children,
15 how difficult it is to report it and how you can form
16 some sort of bond with someone that is abusing you.

17 MR PEOPLES: Well, Joyce, I think that these are all the
18 questions that I have for you today. I would just close
19 by thanking you very much indeed for coming to give your
20 evidence to the inquiry.

21 A. Thank you.

22 LADY SMITH: Are there any outstanding applications for
23 questions? No.

24 Joyce, those are all the questions we have for you.
25 Thank you so much for engaging with the inquiry. Your

1 written statement is such a help with all the detail
2 that you've given us and then helped us again today by
3 hearing from you in person because that has made such
4 a difference. Thank you for all you've done. I'm now
5 able to let you go.

6 A. Thank you.

7 (The witness withdrew)

8 LADY SMITH: Shall we take the afternoon break just now,
9 Mr Peoples?

10 MR PEOPLES: Yes, it would be very convenient.

11 (2.43 pm)

12 (A short break)

13 (2.53 pm)

14 LADY SMITH: Yes, Mr Peoples.

15 MR PEOPLES: My Lady, the final witness for today wishes to
16 remain anonymous and she has chosen the pseudonym
17 "Esmerelda".

18 LADY SMITH: Thank you.

19 "ESMERELDA" (sworn)

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

21 Do you want to take your bag off? You might be a bit
22 warm with your coat on; I'm afraid the fan has decided
23 to take its weekend break a little early and this room
24 is very warm today.

25 A. I'm never warm enough.

1 LADY SMITH: If you do get too warm, feel free to take it
2 off.

3 That microphone has now been switched on for you,
4 where the little red light is. That's quite a good
5 position. Keep yourself in that position in relation to
6 the microphone and then we can hear you. I think you
7 may just have -- is that your statement that you've just
8 brought out?

9 A. Yes, it is.

10 LADY SMITH: You don't need your copy. It's in the red
11 folder.

12 A. I just made notes on my copy.

13 LADY SMITH: That's fine if you want to keep it out. I'll
14 ask Mr Peoples to start his questioning of you.

15 Questions from MR PEOPLES

16 MR PEOPLES: Good afternoon, Esmerelda.

17 A. Good afternoon.

18 Q. You have in front of you a copy of the statement that
19 you have provided to the inquiry. I'm going to shortly
20 ask you some questions about some of the matters that
21 you've told us about. Before I do so, for the benefit
22 of the transcript, I shall give the reference number
23 that we give to the statement, which is
24 WIT.001.001.0843. You don't need to worry about that.
25 It's just for our benefit so that we can identify the

1 statement.

2 Could I ask you to look at the statement you have in
3 front of you, the hard copy, and turn to the final page.
4 That's page 0852.

5 A. Yes.

6 Q. Could you just confirm for me that you've signed the
7 statement?

8 A. Yes, I have.

9 Q. Can you also confirm that, as you state in the final
10 paragraph, you have no objection to your statement being
11 published as part of the evidence to the inquiry and
12 that you believe the facts stated in your witness
13 statement are true?

14 A. Yes.

15 Q. Thank you.

16 If it's easier, you've got your copy statement in
17 front of you, but there's also a screen, which will show
18 the statement as well, so please feel free to use
19 whichever is the most convenient to you.

20 Can I begin by asking you to confirm the year of
21 your birth. I don't want the date. Can you confirm
22 that you were born in the year 1953?

23 A. Yes, that's right.

24 Q. You tell us by way of background information at
25 paragraph 3 on page 0843 that you were born in what's

- 1 now known, I think, as Malaysia.
- 2 A. Yes.
- 3 Q. Although I think when you were born it was probably
- 4 known as Malaya; is that right?
- 5 A. Yes.
- 6 Q. I think your father, you tell us, was Malaysian and your
- 7 mother came from the United Kingdom; is that right?
- 8 A. Yes, my mother was Scottish.
- 9 Q. What you also tell us in paragraph 3 on page 0843
- 10 is that you have a younger brother.
- 11 A. Yes.
- 12 Q. Without wanting to go into the detail of how you came to
- 13 be placed in Quarriers Homes at a relatively young age,
- 14 I think that what you tell us is that when you were
- 15 quite young, around six months old, you moved with your
- 16 mother to the United Kingdom.
- 17 A. Yes.
- 18 Q. And your father remained in Malaya?
- 19 A. Yes. He was in the army, he had to serve.
- 20 Q. Just by way of further background, I think your father's
- 21 faith was Islam?
- 22 A. Yes.
- 23 Q. And I think that's also your faith?
- 24 A. Yes.
- 25 Q. I think your mother had a Christian faith; is that

1 right?

2 A. Well, she never knew what she was. She's Lutheran at
3 the moment. She was a Protestant and converted to
4 Catholicism and married a Muslim.

5 Q. So far as your time in the care of Quarriers is
6 concerned, we have had the benefit of seeing some
7 information about the dates when you were in care and
8 you think you were in care from around the age of
9 2 years and 11 months --

10 A. Mm-hm.

11 Q. -- until you were around, I think, 7 or 8 years of age;
12 is that right?

13 A. Yes.

14 Q. Can I tell you that the information we have indicates
15 that the precise date you were admitted to Quarriers was
16 [REDACTED] 1955.

17 A. Mm-hm.

18 Q. And you wouldn't quite be 3 years old at that stage.

19 A. Yes.

20 Q. And that you stayed in Quarriers until [REDACTED] 1961,
21 when you were aged 7.

22 A. Yes.

23 Q. Then you went to stay with your mother for a period of
24 four months in 1961. The records show that you were
25 readmitted to Quarriers on [REDACTED] 1961 and you were

- 1 finally discharged on [REDACTED] 1962.
- 2 A. Yes.
- 3 Q. So that would roughly accord with your memory?
- 4 A. That's roughly what I remember. I didn't know the exact
5 dates and I've been trying to get my records from
6 Quarriers.
- 7 Q. I think I've given you such dates as appear to be in the
8 records. The only other matter I would mention at this
9 stage is that when you are admitted to Quarriers in 1955
10 at a young age, you were placed in cottage 7.
- 11 A. That's right, yes.
- 12 Q. You have a younger brother, we've established. I think
13 that he was born in 1955.
- 14 A. Yes.
- 15 Q. I think he also came to Quarriers --
- 16 A. Yes.
- 17 Q. -- not long after he was born?
- 18 A. That's right, yes.
- 19 Q. I don't think we need the precise dates.
- 20 As we've discussed, you lived in cottage number 7
21 for the whole of the time you were in Quarriers.
- 22 A. Yes, that's what I remember.
- 23 Q. Do you remember the name of the house parent who was in
24 charge of cottage 7?
- 25 A. Yes, do you want me to say it?

- 1 Q. Yes. You can say it.
- 2 A. Miss QBI
- 3 Q. And I think that your little brother, as you tell us in
4 your statement, also lived in cottage 7.
- 5 A. Yes.
- 6 Q. If we move to page 0845 of your statement -- it'll come
7 on the screen or in the folder, whichever is easiest --
8 you try to describe the type of woman Miss QBI was
9 and I think you describe her as quite strict.
- 10 A. Yes.
- 11 Q. Does that best sum up what she was like?
- 12 A. Yes. I don't think she was malicious. I think she was
13 just quite strict. I don't think she actually liked
14 children very much.
- 15 Q. Yes, because I think one of the things you say and tell
16 us about in paragraph 11 on page 0845 is that:
17 "She showed [you] no affection and indeed didn't
18 show affection to other children."
- 19 A. Mm-hm.
- 20 Q. Is that the way it was?
- 21 A. Yes, that's right. That's the way it was. They were
22 just there to wash, bathe and feed you and you got no
23 book reading, no cuddles, no attention, nothing.
- 24 Q. In fact, you have a memory, a single memory, of
25 receiving a cuddle once, and I don't think it was from

- 1 Miss [REDACTED] QBI
- 2 A. No. It was from one of the helpers. I was crying in
3 bed at night because I wanted my mum and she took me
4 into her bed in a little room that she slept in off the
5 side and gave me a cuddle and made me better and put me
6 back into bed eventually.
- 7 Q. You tell us, so far as your memory serves you, that was
8 the first and only time you ever received that type of
9 affection.
- 10 A. Yes.
- 11 Q. You have a memory, I think, of persons you describe as
12 helpers to Miss [REDACTED] QBI in cottage 7; is that right?
- 13 A. Yes, that's right.
- 14 Q. You're not able to remember the names of those persons
15 at this stage?
- 16 A. No. I remember the name of the niece, and that was
17 [REDACTED]
- 18 Q. Right.
- 19 A. I used to like her red hair and that's why I remember.
- 20 Q. So far as these helpers are concerned, can you give us
21 a general indication of what age they would have been?
- 22 A. I would think about between 25 and 30.
- 23 Q. So relatively young?
- 24 A. Yes.
- 25 Q. What sort of age was Miss [REDACTED] QBI

- 1 A. Oh, she seemed to me quite ancient, but in fact I think
2 she was probably only about 40.
- 3 Q. If we look at your statement at 0845, at paragraph 13,
4 Miss [REDACTED] QBI you recall, would call you things.
- 5 A. Yes. I got called "the heathen's child" and although my
6 name is [REDACTED] QCI for years I didn't know
7 that my dad's name was [REDACTED] and they just used to
8 call me by my mother's name, [REDACTED] They were
9 particularly keen to get me to go to church.
- 10 Q. I think if I may say, there is something I think in your
11 records that suggests that your mother, who was
12 Scottish, was quite keen that you were brought up in the
13 Christian faith; did you know that?
- 14 A. No.
- 15 Q. Well, I think we've seen some record to that effect, so
16 I'll just tell you that at the moment. You have said,
17 I think, that you were called "the heathen's child".
- 18 A. Mm-hm.
- 19 Q. The significance of that at the time wasn't apparent to
20 you, was it?
- 21 A. No, it wasn't. I just remembered being called that and
22 wondering. I did, when I was older, look up what
23 heathen meant in the dictionary.
- 24 Q. When Miss [REDACTED] QBI called you "the heathen's child", were
25 there other people around to hear this?

1 A. I don't know, I can't remember. I just remember being
2 called "the heathen's child". I think it was in the
3 playroom.

4 Q. Did she call you "the heathen's child" more than once?

5 A. Yes. I was referred to as "the heathen's child".

6 Q. And you also say in paragraph 13 that you were called
7 another name.

8 A. Yes. I was a "dirty darkie" and I used to get called
9 that by some of the helpers and also by other children.

10 Q. What about Miss [REDACTED] QBI

11 A. Not Miss [REDACTED] QBI no. I don't remember her calling me
12 that.

13 Q. You tell us in paragraph 13 that you used to scrub
14 yourself with carbolic soap?

15 A. Yes. I actually like carbolic soap. I've got -- I used
16 to think I was dirty all the time and because I was
17 called dirty darkie and I used to try to clean myself to
18 keep myself clean. I used to get a scrubbing brush.

19 Q. Would Miss [REDACTED] QBI have been aware that you were being
20 called dirty darkie by helpers and children?

21 A. I think she must have been, yes.

22 Q. Did she ever make any attempt to stop the children or
23 helpers calling you by that name?

24 A. No, not as far as I know. That was just normal
25 behaviour for people then.

1 Q. Can I move on in your statement to paragraph 16 on
2 page 0845 to an occasion that you tell us about
3 involving your brother and something you did. Can you
4 tell us about that in your own words?

5 A. Yes. That really upset me at the time. I was upstairs
6 getting dressed and I heard my brother screaming my name
7 and yelling, and I went down the stairs -- I rushed as
8 fast as I could down the stairs, I got down the stairs
9 and I was only very little -- I think I probably went
10 down the stairs on my bottom, that's how I used to get
11 up and down the stairs.

12 My brother was standing in a corner with his face to
13 the wall and one of the helpers was leathering him with
14 a strap that had the prongs on it. It was a leather
15 strap, and my brother was screaming. I tried to stop
16 them from hurting him. They were actually beating him
17 at the back of the legs and I got beaten at the back of
18 the legs and I know it's very painful there.

19 I went in front of them and put my arms out to try
20 and stop them from beating him, but they just started
21 hitting me. So I managed to get hold of one of the
22 helpers' legs, because I was quite small, and I bit her
23 on the leg to try and stop her from beating my brother,
24 and apparently this was because my brother had wet the
25 bed.

1 Q. You tell us, I think, you estimate what age you were and
2 what age your brother was at the time of this incident.

3 A. Yes.

4 Q. You say, I think, you think you were about 4.

5 A. I think I was about 4, yes. I only came up to just
6 above the knee of the person who was beating my brother.

7 Q. And your brother was perhaps about 3 years of age?

8 A. He's just about a year and a bit younger than me, so
9 I estimate that was how old he was. They used to punish
10 children for wetting their beds. It's outrageous.

11 Q. Yes, apart from this occasion and the reason you think
12 he was treated this way, you say they treated other
13 children in this way, they punished them?

14 A. Yes.

15 Q. Not necessarily precisely as you've described, but they
16 punished them for wetting the bed?

17 A. Yes, they told me. They said it was because he'd wet
18 the bed.

19 Q. Oh, you heard them say that on this occasion?

20 A. Yes, I heard them say it was because he'd wet the bed.
21 What had happened was he had got up and apparently the
22 bed had been dry but they didn't take him to the toilet
23 straightaway and he sat on the bed and wet it.

24 Q. And he was punished, as you've described, for doing
25 that.

- 1 A. Yes.
- 2 Q. Did you ever see other children being punished who had
3 wet the bed? Did you see that for yourself?
- 4 A. I saw them being put into the rooms, yes, but I didn't
5 actually see the children getting punished. But I did
6 see children getting the strap, but I don't know what
7 they got the strap for.
- 8 Q. Yes, because you tell us on page 0846 that children were
9 strapped a lot, both in school and in the cottage that
10 you were in, cottage 7.
- 11 A. Yes.
- 12 Q. Who was doing the strapping in the cottage, cottage 7?
- 13 A. Just the helpers, yes, I don't know their names. It
14 seems quite ritualistic for them to strap the kids that
15 were seen to be disobedient or got into trouble.
- 16 Q. The occasion involving your brother when he wet the bed
17 involved using a leather strap -- and I think you said
18 around the back of his legs and I think in your
19 statement you say on the buttocks --
- 20 A. On the buttocks, yes.
- 21 Q. And the person or persons doing this were beating him
22 really hard?
- 23 A. Yes.
- 24 Q. So far as these other occasions when the strap was being
25 used, where were the children being strapped? What part

1 of the body?

2 A. Usually you had to put your hand out and you got
3 strapped on the hand. It went up the wrist. You were
4 strapped on the hand and the arm and you had to keep
5 your hand straight, you weren't allowed to drop it as
6 the strap came down, which is -- if you did that, you
7 didn't feel it so much if you dropped your hand. You
8 were made to keep the hand straight and if you dropped
9 your hand, you had to put it out again to get strapped
10 again.

11 Q. You're telling me that on these occasions when the strap
12 was used on the hand, the strap would also strike the
13 arm from time to time?

14 A. Yes.

15 Q. Did you get the strap on the hand from time to time?

16 A. Yes, yes, I've got -- when I didn't eat my peas, I hated
17 peas then. I got strapped then. Then I got bunged into
18 the cupboard.

19 But I also used to get strapped at school.
20 Strapping at school was quite normal. There was one
21 teacher in particular -- we called him hippopotamus,
22 because he was lame and he walked like a hippopotamus.
23 The children were quite cruel to him because we used to
24 lie in wait for him in the winter and pile snowballs at
25 him as he was coming out of school. He used to strap

1 children a lot and he had a reputation for it. I don't
2 know his real name.

3 Q. Going back to the occasions when you or others were
4 strapped in the cottage, cottage 7, and the times that
5 the strap struck both the hand and the arm, on these
6 occasions were any marks left on the arm?

7 A. Oh yes. Yes, you were left with marks. It would sting.

8 Q. It would sting?

9 A. Yes.

10 Q. How painful was it?

11 A. Well, you felt it at the time, yes.

12 Q. These marks, for how long would they remain?

13 A. Oh, for a day or so.

14 Q. Was it a regular occurrence to end up with marks on the
15 arm, at least for a day or so, when the strap was used?

16 A. Every time you got strapped, yes, you had to keep out of
17 the way, which is what I did, to make sure nobody got to
18 you.

19 Q. You told us of an occasion when you were strapped
20 because you didn't eat your peas and you were placed in
21 a cupboard.

22 A. Mm-hm.

23 Q. And you say you were locked in this cupboard?

24 A. Yes, it was called the glory hole.

25 Q. Right.

- 1 A. And it was in the kitchen and I was shoved in there.
2 I wasn't allowed to eat the rest of my tea and they put
3 me in the cupboard and I think they forgot about me
4 because I was there all night and I was hungry.
5 [REDACTED] who was one of the girls there, gave me -- she
6 sneaked me in a honey and brown bread sandwich, which
7 was very nice of her.
- 8 Q. You tell us the door was locked on this occasion.
- 9 A. Yes, it was locked from the outside so I couldn't get
10 out.
- 11 Q. I take it you tried to get out.
- 12 A. Well, I checked the door to see if I could get out and
13 I couldn't.
- 14 Q. Apart from this occasion that you remember after
15 eating -- after being locked in the cupboard for not
16 eating your peas, were there other occasions when
17 you were locked in the cupboard?
- 18 A. No, that was the only time I remember.
- 19 Q. Do you know if other children in cottage 7 were locked
20 in the cupboard?
- 21 A. Yes, that was actually a regular punishment for
22 children.
- 23 Q. Who decided that a child should be taken to the glory
24 hole and locked in the cupboard?
- 25 A. I don't know. It would have been the helpers' decision.

1 I don't know which one of them decided or who.

2 Q. Was Miss **QBI** around most days?

3 A. As far as I was aware, she was. She actually stayed in
4 a room at the top of the stairs. In between the
5 bedrooms and the other bedrooms on the left and right
6 at the centre, there was a room where she had quarters;
7 she was there most of the time.

8 Q. Would she have known that children were being locked
9 in the cupboard as a punishment?

10 A. She must have, yes; she was the matron.

11 Q. You tell us in your statement at page 0846 of another
12 incident that happened around Easter when you were
13 slapped, you say, badly around the head. Just tell me
14 how that came about.

15 A. That was the Easter egg. There was a massive Easter
16 egg -- it was bigger than me and it was at the front
17 door of the cottage. It was huge. A piece of paper had
18 come off and of course I was hungry -- I was always
19 hungry -- and I could see the chocolate, so I just
20 started licking it. I was quite happy licking this
21 chocolate and then the next thing I knew, my head was
22 bashed to the side because somebody came up behind me
23 and smacked me round the head so hard.

24 It was actually quite sore because I literally got
25 a boxing round the ears, but it was quite hard for

1 a little girl because it made my head swing to the side
2 and I nearly fell over.

3 Q. Also, if we go to page 0847 of your statement, at
4 paragraph 25 you tell us a bit about the sort of work
5 that you as a child and others had to do in cottage 7.
6 Can you just tell us? I think it concerns polishing
7 floors. What was the situation?

8 A. Yes, they had big lino floors in the playroom and they
9 had a machine called a Ronick, which I've described
10 in the statement. It was quite heavy and it had -- it
11 was a square piece, which was metal, and a big wooden
12 pole that went back and forwards in the middle.

13 They had to put the polish on it and polish the
14 floor and we'd have to get on our hands and knees to
15 spread the polish and also we'd get dusters on our feet
16 to skate up and down and polish the floor more. That
17 used to be every Saturday.

18 It was usually the big girls had to do that, but
19 I remember as a little girl being commandeered and
20 I would do it every Saturday. In fact, I actually used
21 to quite like skating up and down the floor with the
22 rags on my feet, but I didn't like having to use the
23 Ronick because it was too heavy for me.

24 Q. Did the cottage have anyone whose job it was to clean
25 the floors, other than the children?

- 1 A. I don't know.
- 2 Q. You know that the children certainly were cleaning the
3 floors regularly on a Saturday?
- 4 A. Yes, it was a job that the children had to do. And on
5 a Sunday, you couldn't do any work. We would sit
6 in that room with the floor polished and we just had to
7 read the Bible. There was no knitting, no nothing, and
8 we would go to church and go out for a walk. It was
9 very boring.
- 10 Q. If I ask you to look at paragraph 31 on page 0848. We
11 know, I think, that your younger brother was in the same
12 cottage; yes?
- 13 A. Yes.
- 14 Q. But you say in your statement that:
15 "They didn't put us together to play, although [you]
16 did sometimes play with him."
17 Why were you not put together to play?
- 18 A. I don't know. I think -- I actually think that [REDACTED]
19 was moved -- sorry, my brother was moved to another
20 cottage.
- 21 Q. Right.
- 22 A. Because he seemed just to fade away. But I used to play
23 with him in the playground. I remember getting him to
24 open the lid of the piggy bin and I'd put the lid on and
25 there were blackbirds in it, and I'm afraid he wet

1 himself when he took the lid off because he got a fright
2 when all the birds flew out. That to me was hilarious,
3 but that was very cruel of me.

4 Q. Was it a source of regret at the time that you weren't
5 allowed to play with your brother?

6 A. Yes. Yes. It might have been because he was too young
7 or whatever. I don't know.

8 Q. But you knew he was your brother?

9 A. Yes. And I used to look out for him when I was there if
10 he was around.

11 Q. You tell us a little bit in your statement about the
12 food in cottage 7. I'll maybe ask you a few questions
13 about that. On page 0848 -- for the transcript, this is
14 paragraphs 32 and 33 -- you tell us a little bit about
15 the type of food or some of the food that you were
16 served. You didn't favour Spam?

17 A. It was horrible.

18 Q. Right.

19 A. We were made to eat your food. You had to eat all your
20 food up, whether you liked it or not and you got
21 punished if you never ate it.

22 Q. What sort of punishment would you get if you didn't eat
23 your food?

24 A. Well, I got -- for not eating my peas, I got locked in
25 the cupboard. I can't remember how they punished me for

1 not eating the spam. I think I was probably sent to bed
2 or somewhere.

3 Q. Right.

4 A. But I hated spam. I can't eat spam to this day.

5 Q. How often would you be served this spam?

6 A. Usually about once a week.

7 Q. I think you had even more of a hatred for tripe?

8 A. Yes, tripe is disgusting.

9 Q. How often were you served tripe?

10 A. Well, I can only remember once or twice being served
11 tripe and I refused to eat it, but the first time I got
12 it was at that Christmas party and I was made to eat the
13 bowlful and I was actually puking and being sick because
14 I couldn't eat it. It was horrible.

15 Q. Can you maybe help us? What sort of age would you have
16 been when the episode with the tripe -- the first
17 episode with the tripe took place? How young were you?

18 A. Probably about ... I think I might have been about 5
19 because I remember at that Christmas party I got
20 a silver thrupenny in the cracker and one of the
21 Americans who was sitting next to me swapped it with me
22 for a button. I didn't want the button, I wanted to
23 keep the thrupenny, but he took my thrupenny off me and
24 gave me a button, and that was the same day as the tripe
25 episode.

1 Q. You tell us, I think, just to explain the tripe episode,
2 that you actually thought when the tripe was served up
3 that it was jelly or blancmange.

4 A. Yes, and I was being a bit greedy, I wanted more when
5 I hadn't even eaten what was on my plate, and I think
6 they were punishing me by trying to make me eat it all
7 up. It was horrible, it was disgusting.

8 Q. On page 0849, on the theme of food, at paragraph 34, you
9 say you were hungry all the time; why was that?

10 A. I don't know. I was just hungry all the time. I was
11 just hungry. They used to give us food -- I remember we
12 actually got filmed and there's a film that should be
13 in the archives where we're all round a table eating our
14 dinner or tea.

15 No, I was just hungry. We never got any snacks or
16 anything like that, it was always just meals at
17 breakfast and lunch -- I don't remember actually having
18 lunch, but I remember having tea.

19 Q. So were there no treats?

20 A. No, no, you never got any treats.

21 Q. Maybe I could ask you about another matter then, talking
22 of treats. On page 0849 at paragraph 38 I think you
23 tell us that birthdays were never celebrated in
24 cottage 7; is that your memory?

25 A. Yes. I never remember having my birthday celebrated.

- 1 I didn't know what birthdays were.
- 2 Q. Was that the same for all the children or was that just
3 what happened with you?
- 4 A. As far as I'm aware, all the children -- nobody
5 celebrated any birthdays.
- 6 Q. Just on the question of how children were treated: were
7 you treated any differently to the other children in the
8 cottage? If so, why?
- 9 A. Well, I don't know because I was left on my own a lot.
10 I used to wander. I wandered everywhere, I climbed up
11 trees, I wandered in the woods and I used to play in the
12 river and play down by the pond all day. I would escape
13 from the playground and just wander off and nobody
14 seemed to miss me at all.
- 15 Q. Just reverting back to something you told us earlier
16 this afternoon, you told us that on more than one
17 occasion, and indeed perhaps on a regular enough basis,
18 you were called "the heathen's child" by Miss QBI and
19 the helpers; do you remember telling me that?
- 20 A. Yes.
- 21 Q. And you also said that children and helpers would call
22 you a dirty darkie.
- 23 A. Yes. I think one thing I wanted to put in here was the
24 treatment of black children, which I think was probably
25 generic throughout children's homes. I remember one

1 girl who I knew from growing up with in other
2 children's homes who was a black girl, who had epilepsy,
3 and she was put in the Colony and drugged up. But she
4 was epileptic and they treated children with
5 disabilities like that dreadfully.

6 Throughout her life -- and I'm quite distressed and
7 I never forget her because I know that what happened
8 throughout her life. She continued to have treatment,
9 she has mental health problems and basically her life
10 was lost, being drugged up by hospitals, and nobody
11 actually looked at what the underlying issues were there
12 for her. I lost contact with her in my teens and
13 I don't know what happened to her, but it was very sad,
14 the impact that being in those children's homes had on
15 her.

16 LADY SMITH: Tell me about the Colony.

17 A. The Colony was a place where they had children. It was
18 part of a hospital.

19 LADY SMITH: That's within Quarriers?

20 A. Within Quarriers, and we called it the Colony. We knew
21 that there was children in the Colony who had things
22 like epilepsy or for some other reason they were in
23 there -- they might have Down's syndrome or whatever,
24 I don't know.

25 MR PEOPLES: Just on this theme of what you were called by

1 the children, the helpers and Miss [REDACTED] QBI was anyone
2 else called names, not necessarily "the heathen's child"
3 or dirty darkie, but names that were derogatory,
4 ridiculing and demeaning? Do you remember other
5 children being called in a similar way?

6 A. No, I can't remember, no.

7 Q. What would Miss [REDACTED] QBI for example, have called another
8 girl of the same age as you who was white?

9 A. She wouldn't have called her nothing, I suppose.

10 Q. Well, put it this way --

11 A. I didn't -- I think I was too young to make comparisons
12 then.

13 Q. But you remember what she called you and you remember
14 what others called you, clearly?

15 A. Yes.

16 Q. Do you remember what your brother was called?

17 A. I just remember him being beaten, yes. I'll never
18 forget that.

19 Q. Yes. You've told us about that, but do you actually
20 remember how he was addressed in terms of what he was
21 called?

22 A. No, I don't know.

23 Q. Okay. How many black children were in cottage 7 when
24 you were there?

25 A. There was one other and that was the girl who gave me

1 the sandwich when I was locked up in the cupboard. But
2 there were other black children in other cottages.

3 Q. What about your brother?

4 A. And there was my brother, yes.

5 Q. So there were three black children in cottage 7, but you
6 were aware there were other black children in

7 Quarriers --

8 A. Yes.

9 Q. -- at the time?

10 A. Uh-huh.

11 Q. One of whom was a girl in the Colony?

12 A. Yes.

13 Q. You were aware of her existence?

14 A. And she had epilepsy.

15 Q. Okay.

16 A. And I was told she had epilepsy and that's why she was
17 in the Colony and I remembered that.

18 Q. If I could move to page 0850 in your statement at
19 paragraph 40. You tell us there that:

20 "[You] told [your] mum that Quarriers home was
21 a terrible place. She said she didn't realise and felt
22 that Miss [REDACTED] was nice."

23 A. Yes.

24 Q. When did you tell her that?

25 A. Oh, I told her that about 10, 15 years ago.

- 1 Q. So not when you were in Quarriers?
- 2 A. Not when I was in Quarriers, no, because I hardly saw my
3 mum when I was in Quarriers.
- 4 Q. Okay. You say in paragraph 41:
5 "I don't think I could have told anybody about what
6 happened in Quarriers at the time as nobody would
7 believe me. You just didn't say anything."
8 Is that the way it was?
- 9 A. That's the way it was, you just accepted what it was.
10 I was too young to think of having to tell anybody of
11 anything. I mean, because they all knew. When I was
12 locked in the cupboard and when I was strapped everybody
13 knew what was happening.
- 14 Q. So you didn't have to tell people necessarily what was
15 happening because they knew already?
- 16 A. Yes, they knew already and you just had to accept it.
- 17 Q. Just on the point of the feeling that at the time if you
18 raised some matter about the way you were treated that
19 nobody would believe you, why did you feel that way
20 at the time, that you wouldn't be believed if you raised
21 a matter of concern?
- 22 A. Because they were grown-ups and you were the children
23 and they didn't listen to children. Nobody listened to
24 you.
- 25 Q. Were you allowed to have conversations with Miss QBI

- 1 about matters that were of concern to you? Did such
2 conversations happen?
- 3 A. No. The only time I remember talking to her was when
4 I was sick and I had a cough. She gave me some medicine
5 off a spoon, which years and years later I discovered
6 was Cinzano. Another time I got a bead stuck up my nose
7 and she helped me get it out and that's the only time
8 I remember having any interaction with her. She usually
9 didn't interact with the children.
- 10 Q. Are you telling me that she spent a lot of time in her
11 room?
- 12 A. Yes.
- 13 Q. On her own?
- 14 A. With her niece, [REDACTED]
- 15 Q. I see. Then just finally on this page, page 0850, you
16 tell us about the effect that being locked in a cupboard
17 has had for you. You tell us:
- 18 "I can't go into dark cupboards any more; I have to
19 put the light on."
- 20 A. No, I don't like little small spaces, I get -- even
21 lifts, I don't quite like lifts. I get a bit nervous
22 in a lift as well.
- 23 Q. And you relate that nervousness to what happened when
24 you were in Quarriers and cottage 7?
- 25 A. Yes, I just don't like being locked and confined in

1 small spaces.

2 Q. In your statement towards the end of the statement on
3 page 0851, there's a section headed "Impact". Maybe we
4 could put that up for you.

5 I'm looking particularly at paragraph 48 and I think
6 there you're trying to say in your own words how being
7 brought up in care affected you and perhaps others.

8 Can you just tell me about that?

9 A. Well, I think there's one thing that I've not mentioned.

10 I was in three different children's homes in Scotland
11 and in England. The impact is it's -- quite often you
12 find it hard to show your feelings, and I had to have
13 lots of therapy and training for that. It affects your
14 trust in human beings, yes. I think it's particularly
15 difficult if you're black or of mixed race because no
16 recognition in those days was made of the needs that you
17 had, whether they were cultural or even physical, like
18 with -- black children need oil for their hair and cream
19 for their skin. That just wasn't even considered then.

20 The other impact that it has is the stereotyping and
21 the discrimination that you get because you've been in
22 care. This happens at every level, whether it's the
23 police, whether it's Social Services, whether it's any
24 organisation. I was very lucky that I never ended up in
25 jail because for a lot of my peers, they ended up in the

1 system and at the negative end of the system.

2 Q. Just towards the close of your written statement, you
3 touch on another matter under the heading "Impact" on
4 page 0852 at paragraph 51. Is the point there you're
5 making -- it's in relation to your brother and the fact
6 that you and your brother have drifted apart during
7 adulthood. Do you in any way relate that to the
8 situation in Quarriers or not?

9 A. I don't think it was just in Quarriers, I think it was
10 the whole experience.

11 Q. I see.

12 A. Because he was in other institutions as well. He was at
13 the Christian Brothers place in Falkland in Fife, and at
14 Nazareth House, and the impact on him has been dreadful,
15 psychologically, emotionally. Basically, when I tried
16 to discuss with him, we just drifted apart because he
17 couldn't confront it and it's left him very emotionally
18 crippled and it's had a terrible impact. It pains me
19 and gives me a lot of sorrow because I loved my brother
20 and I can't do anything for him.

21 MR PEOPLES: Well, Esmerelda, I think that these are all the
22 questions that I have for you today. I'd simply finish
23 by thanking you very much indeed for coming this
24 afternoon to give your evidence to the inquiry.

25 LADY SMITH: Can I check whether there are any outstanding

1 applications for questions? No.

2 Esmerelda, it only remains for me to add my thanks
3 to you, both for engaging with the inquiry so as to
4 provide your written statement, which is so helpful, and
5 for coming along today to talk to us in the way you have
6 done. It's been of enormous assistance to me to hear
7 from you yourself about your memories. I'm now able to
8 let you go. Thank you.

9 (The witness withdrew)

10 Housekeeping

11 LADY SMITH: A brief repetition of the reminder I gave this
12 morning. As expected, the witnesses today have
13 mentioned a number of names, all of whom have the
14 protection of my restriction order: people they name as
15 being alleged abusers, people they name as being
16 children in care, and indeed with Esmerelda, she did at
17 one point mention parts of her own name, but that
18 doesn't mean she has waived anonymity. She hasn't. She
19 still has the protection of my restriction order, so
20 please don't forget that.

21 I think that's the last witness for today, is it?

22 MR PEOPLES: It is the last witness for today. The plan is
23 to resume with more oral evidence on Tuesday morning at
24 10 o'clock about more people who were in care at
25 Quarriers.

1 LADY SMITH: Thank you very much.

2 Before I leave for this afternoon, there's another
3 announcement I would like to make. The inquiry will not
4 be sitting to hear evidence in this case study in the
5 week beginning 19 November. So that's the week
6 beginning Monday, 19 November. There will be no
7 evidence in relation to this case study.

8 However, on the Wednesday of that week, that's
9 Wednesday, 21 November, I do intend to sit to hear the
10 evidence of a witness who has evidence to give
11 in relation to our child migrant case study. The child
12 migrant case study is not planned to be heard until the
13 latter part of next year, but for various reasons,
14 I propose to hear the evidence of this witness in
15 advance of the case study itself.

16 So anyone who wishes to participate in the
17 evidential hearing on Wednesday, 21 November should
18 apply for leave to appear by 4 o'clock on Wednesday,
19 7 November. So the deadline for leave to appear in the
20 evidence from the child migrant case study will be
21 Wednesday, 7 November; that's two weeks before the
22 evidential day itself.

23 There will be a small bundle of documents and that
24 will be made available to those who are granted leave to
25 appear. All that information will go on the website, if

1 not today, it'll be up by Monday morning, but I thought
2 that people who might be interested in it, if they're
3 here, would want to know about it sooner rather than
4 later.

5 We'll rise now for today until Tuesday morning.

6 (3.45 pm)

7 (The hearing adjourned until 10.00 am
8 on Tuesday, 30 October 2018)

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