

1 Thursday, 17 October 2019

2 (10.00 am)

3 LADY SMITH: Good morning, everyone.

4 Mr MacAulay, we have a witness ready, do we?

5 MR MacAULAY: Good morning, my Lady. Yes, the next witness
6 is an applicant who wants to remain anonymous and to use
7 the name "John" in giving evidence.

8 "JOHN" (sworn)

9 LADY SMITH: John, please sit down and make yourself
10 comfortable.

11 You will see the red light is showing on the
12 microphone; that tells us it's switched on. All I would
13 ask is you try to stay in a good position for it,
14 please, so we can hear you through the sound system.

15 Unless you have any other questions at the moment,
16 I'll hand over to Mr MacAulay and he'll explain to you
17 what happens next, including why you've got that red
18 file in front of you. Is that all right if I just hand
19 over to him now?

20 A. Yes, thanks.

21 Questions from MR MacAULAY

22 MR MacAULAY: Good morning, John.

23 A. Good morning.

24 Q. In the red folder you'll find your statement. I'll
25 provide the reference of it for the transcript:

1 WIT.001.002.4362.

2 Could I ask you to turn to the final page, the last
3 page. Can you confirm you have signed the statement?

4 A. Yes, I can.

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

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

8 Is that right?

9 A. That's correct.

10 Q. Do you also go on to say:

11 "I believe the facts stated in this witness
12 statement are true"?

13 A. Yes.

14 Q. John, in order to get a time frame I want you to confirm
15 that you were born in the year 1971; is that right?

16 A. That's correct.

17 Q. Your statement, as you can see, will appear on the
18 screen in front of you, so if I take you to a particular
19 part, you're at liberty either to use the hard copy or
20 view it on the screen.

21 You begin by telling us a little bit about your
22 family background and, in particular, that you were the
23 youngest of three brothers; is that right?

24 A. Yes, that's right.

25 Q. I think you also tell us your father was in the Army and

1 based in Germany.

2 A. Yes, for a lot of it, yes.

3 Q. Did there come a point in time when it was thought that
4 you should come to Scotland for your schooling?

5 A. Yes, that's correct.

6 Q. Did you have relatives, in particular grandparents, who
7 lived in Scotland at the time?

8 A. Yes, my grandmother lived in Irvine.

9 Q. And was that part of the reasoning why your parents
10 chose that you and your brothers went to St Columba's in
11 Largs?

12 A. Yes, it was due to the location more than anything.

13 Q. I think you tell us that you went to St Columba's when
14 you were aged 7; is that right?

15 A. Yes.

16 Q. And that would be in 1978?

17 A. Yes.

18 Q. Had your older brothers gone to St Columba's before you?

19 A. Yes, they had.

20 Q. And just looking at the gaps in age, the brother who was
21 next to you in age, how much older was he to you?

22 A. One year.

23 Q. And then moving to the other brother, how old --

24 A. Another year.

25 Q. So far as St Columba's is concerned, can I just ask you

1 to describe the layout for me? Perhaps it would help if
2 I put a photograph on the screen. The photograph is
3 CFS.001.012.0666.

4 Do you recognise that as one of the buildings that
5 made up St Columba's?

6 A. Yes, I do. It was slightly different when I was there.

7 Q. It's an old photograph.

8 A. Yes.

9 Q. Was there also another building to the left that was
10 also used at the time you were there?

11 A. Yes. There was a gap in a wall and then you walked
12 across and there was another building, which was the
13 school building.

14 Q. I think we've heard that the building you're looking at
15 was known as Landour House; is that correct?

16 A. One was Landour, one was Northfield, I can't really
17 remember which way round it was. It would have been one
18 of the two.

19 Q. I now want to put a sketch on the screen for you to see
20 if you can identify it. The number is CFS.001.012.0835.

21 Is this a drawing you did at some point in the past?

22 (Pause)

23 Perhaps it's not up to your artistic standards.

24 (Pause)


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A. Yes, but I think this may be mixed up.

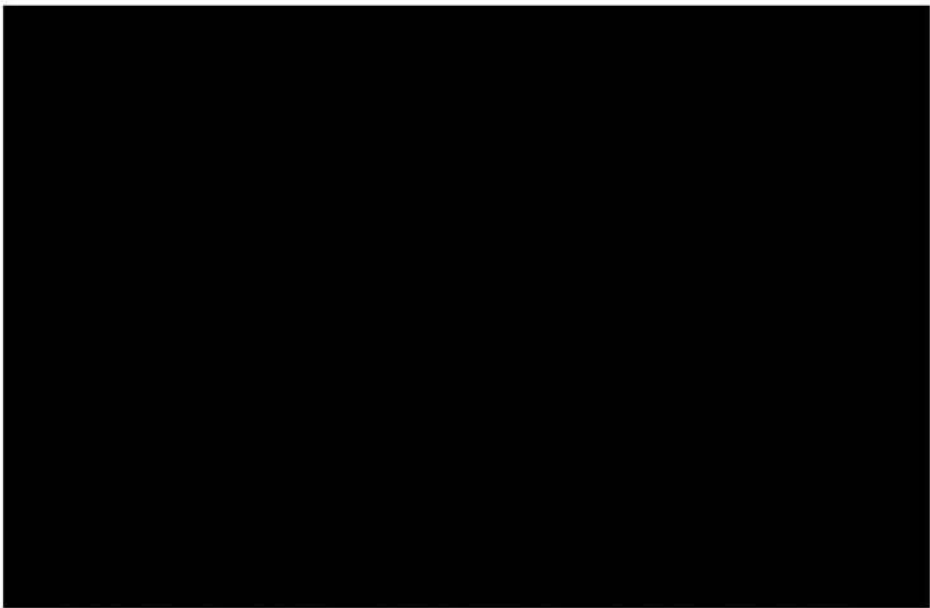
Q. Can I ask you to look at another sketch 
struggling with that one. That's CFS.001.012.0837.

(Pause)

What about that? Do you recognise that?

(Pause)

A. I recognise the layout. 



LADY SMITH: You say you recognise this layout. Maybe
we can take it from there that you say this is
a recognisable layout and Mr MacAulay will ask you

1 questions on that basis.

2 A. Yes, it's quite accurate, yes.

3 LADY SMITH: We're not trying to catch you out, don't worry.

4 MR MacAULAY: As you look at the sketch then, you can see
5 the entrance is marked up at the top of the sketch.

6 A. Yes.

7 Q. And as we come through the building we can see that
8 various parts of the building have been designated --
9 for example at the back, if we move to the bottom end of
10 the photograph, we have the kitchen on the right, and
11 there's a drawing room identified on the left. Is that
12 right?

13 A. The dining room, yes.

14 Q. A dining room. Was that the way it was when --

15 A. It was the way it was, yes.

16 Q. There's reference also in the sketch to a punishment
17 room; do you see that just below the TV room at the
18 front?

19 A. Yes.

20 Q. Do you recall what that was used for?

21 A. From my recollection -- I do remember when I first went
22 there, that's when I got dropped off by my parents, we
23 went in and chatted to one of the brothers and that was
24 like a little reception room for them to speak to
25 visitors.

1 But I do remember getting beaten by one of the
2 brothers in that room, so perhaps that's why it's been
3 put down as punishment room by someone else.

4 Q. And who was it that beat you on that occasion?

5 A. That was Brother AKU .

6 Q. We'll perhaps look at that shortly. Then if we look
7 at the next sketch, this is at CFS.001.012.0838.

8 I think here we're looking from the bottom upwards
9 then. Can we see that to get to the -- sorry, I think
10 I may have ... to get to the floor, I think -- is this
11 the first floor?

12 A. That's the first floor, yes.

13 Q. Although I think it says "To second floor", but it's to
14 the first floor. Can we see there are two sets of
15 stairs that you could -- is that right?

16 A. Yes.

17 Q. And that takes you up to a landing; is that right?

18 A. Yes. So the one on the left would be the one you came
19 up from the ground floor.

20 Q. And the one on the right?

21 A. The one on the right is where you then go up to the
22 second floor, which is actually where the arrow says "To
23 second floor". That is the first floor up on the
24 right-hand side; you can see it says first floor.

25 Q. The layout here is the first floor layout --

1 A. Yes.

2 Q. -- with different bedrooms designated, 1, 2 and 3?

3 A. Yes.

4 Q. Then the final sketch I want you to look at is
5 CFS.001.012.0839.

6 Here I think we've moved up to the second floor; is
7 that right?

8 A. Yes.

9 Q. Again, we see that there's, I think, bedroom 4 to the
10 left, bedroom 5 to the top left. There's a toilet
11 indicated, there's a wash area to the right, and towards
12 the rear, is that a brother's bedroom?

13 A. Yes, that is, yes.

14 Q. And at a point in time was that bedroom occupied by

15  AKU

16 A. Yes.

17 Q. Does this generally set out for us what the layout was?

18 A. Yes.

19 Q. So far as the sleeping arrangements for yourself were
20 concerned, John, when you went there first of all, where
21 did you go to sleep?

22 A. I believe I was on the middle floor when I first got
23 there.

24 Q. And did you then move at a point in time?

25 A. I think I was on the top floor, then the middle floor,

1 then back on the top floor. So bed 5, I think, was my
2 first -- what you see there was the very first one.

3 LADY SMITH: When you say "there", you're referring to that
4 sketch of the second floor?

5 A. On this sketch here, yes, where you see "Bed 5" at the
6 top left. I think that was my very first one.

7 MR MacAULAY: So that's on the top floor, the second floor?

8 A. Yes.

9 Q. At a point in time did you share a bedroom with your
10 brother?

11 A. Yes, but I think that was later on, and that was bed 4.

12 Q. If we focus on the brothers who were there when you
13 arrived there, are there any names of particular
14 brothers that stick in mind?

15 A. Yes. There was Brother David Germanus and there was
16 Brother Arthur.

17 Q. Was Brother Arthur there when you arrived in 1978?

18 A. I couldn't say 100%.

19 Q. Can I say, it's fully appreciated that I'm asking you
20 questions looking to the memories, at that time, of
21 a 7-year-old and indeed throughout the period, 7, 8, 9,
22 10, 11 years old. So if you can't remember something,
23 just say that you can't remember.

24 A. Yes.

25 Q. AKU, who we are going to talk about, was he

1 somebody who came after you had arrived at St Columba's?

2 A. Yes. A lot of my memories from being there had him in
3 it, but I am aware that he wasn't there when I first got
4 there.

5 Q. You talk about some aspects of the routine and I'll pick
6 up one or two points.

7 First of all, so far as mealtimes are concerned, you
8 talk about this at paragraph 15, generally speaking, how
9 did you find the food?

10 A. I didn't really give it much thought, to be honest.

11 Q. You tell us about an incident when I think you were
12 having breakfast and there was a daddy-long-legs in your
13 corn flakes. Do you remember that incident?

14 A. I do, yes.

15 Q. What happened?

16 A. I was eating the corn flakes and there used to be this
17 big box of corn flakes in the corner and it had
18 obviously been left open, and as I was eating it there
19 was some daddy-long-legs in my milk, and obviously
20 I didn't want to eat it because it made me feel sick.
21 And Brother David came round, checking the boys were
22 eating, and basically told me to eat it, and I said
23 there's a daddy-long-legs in it, so I think I got
24 a clout round the head.

25 Q. That's Brother Germanus you're talking --

1 A. Yes, that's Brother David Germanus.

2 Q. Was that early on in your time at St Columba's?

3 A. I couldn't tell you.

4 Q. So far as washing and bathing was concerned, I think you
5 tell us that there were showers in the middle floor.

6 A. Yes.

7 Q. Is that where you'd go to have a shower?

8 A. Yes.

9 Q. You mention that you remember being in the showers and
10 that Brother David Germanus was watching the boys having
11 showers.

12 A. That's correct, yes.

13 Q. Did you have some thoughts about that at the time as to
14 why he was there?

15 A. He told us he needed to be there to make sure we washed
16 properly and, being a young lad, you kind of accept that
17 the adults are telling the truth and that's what it was.

18 Q. You also tell us that in relation to leisure time, you'd
19 watch films.

20 A. Yes.

21 Q. Can you tell me what sort of films you were watching?

22 A. The ones I tend to remember the most, because it did
23 strike me as a bit odd, is Brother **AKU** would get
24 horror films for the boys to watch at the weekend. And
25 yeah, we'd be quite scared watching them. But at the

1 same time, we were quite excited by the fact that
2 we were allowed to watch horror films when we wouldn't
3 normally be allowed to do that.

4 Q. That then was when AKU [REDACTED] was on the scene, so to
5 speak?

6 A. Yes. He was the one that would go and get the videos,
7 it would be things like Texas Chainsaw Massacre, really
8 brutal type stuff that you wouldn't let young kids
9 watch.

10 Q. Would you be frightened?

11 A. Yes.

12 Q. And what would you do? How would you try and get some
13 comfort, if you like?

14 A. We were all in there on a sofa together, but he would be
15 there with us, and he'd have his arm round boys. If you
16 look back, it's very odd, but, yeah, we'd all be cuddled
17 up together, a group of young boys, because it was
18 a scary film and you wouldn't want to be out on the
19 edge.

20 Q. So far as trips and holidays were concerned, did you go
21 home during the school holidays?

22 A. Half-terms, yes, and on the main holidays, yes.

23 Q. At that time was home still Germany or did you take your
24 holidays in Scotland?

25 A. At half-terms we'd stay in Scotland, and then for the

1 main holidays we'd go back to Germany.

2 Q. You do tell us about a trip that the school took on
3 Spain -- this is in paragraph 35 of your statement --
4 and in particular, that you were on a train in the
5 course of that trip. Do you remember something about
6 that?

7 A. I do, yes.

8 Q. What do you remember about that?

9 A. What sticks in my mind most about that one is I was --
10 we were crowded in the little cabins, if you can sort of
11 try and picture the trains where you've got the corridor
12 and then you have the cabins on one side, and there was
13 a load of us cramped into one of those.

14 I remember Brother **AKU** getting me to lie in front
15 of him to go to sleep and I could feel the bulge from
16 his groin area pushing into me and me trying to squirm
17 away, but him telling me just to stay still and stay
18 there.

19 Q. And you have a clear recollection of that?

20 A. Yes.

21 Q. Can I just ask you a little bit about what physical
22 punishment may have occurred at St Columba's. Let's
23 look at Brother Germanus, first of all. Were you
24 physically punished by Brother Germanus?

25 A. I'd get a clout round the head or whatever. It's like

1 the cornflakes incident. He slapped me round the head
2 and told me to eat the corn flakes and make me eat them
3 with the daddy-long-legs in it.

4 Personally, yeah, there was one incident where I had
5 a fight with another boy and I was swearing and he got
6 hold of me and basically threw me around like a rag doll
7 and shook me.

8 Other than that, personally, I didn't really get
9 much physical beating off Brother David Germanus, but
10 I did see him take to another kid.

11 Q. What did you see happen?

12 A. I think he took his belt off, or had a belt, and there
13 was a guy, first name beginning with [REDACTED] and he was a big
14 kid, and if I remember rightly Brother David was quite
15 a small guy or quite short and he started hitting the
16 boy with his hands and then he had this belt and started
17 whipping him with it, and there was quite a few of us
18 watching, so we were a bit horrified by it.

19 Q. I think what you say in your statement is that
20 Brother David Germanus just lost it.

21 A. Yes.

22 Q. Did he look to you as though he was in a fit of temper
23 when that happened?

24 A. Yes, without a doubt.

25 Q. Was anything being said?

1 A. Um ... I'd have to have a look at the statement,
2 I can't remember.

3 Q. In relation to the boy that was being beaten, how was he
4 reacting to this?

5 A. He was trying to cover himself up, cowering away from
6 him. It was a grown man hitting him with a leather
7 belt.

8 Q. If we look to the time when Brother AKU was on the
9 scene, and that may be in about the mid-1980s, so you'd
10 been there perhaps for a couple of years, how would you
11 describe him in relation to the physical punishment of
12 children?

13 A. Brother AKU ?

14 Q. Yes.

15 A. Again, I didn't really see that much in that respect.
16 I mentioned already the beating I got off him. But
17 yeah, generally I wouldn't have said he was physically
18 violent on a day-to-day basis that I saw.

19 Q. The beating then you've already mentioned, and you told
20 us that was in the so-called punishment room --

21 A. Yes.

22 Q. -- what was the background to that?

23 A. I think we were ... He would play-fight with the boys
24 and I think we were play-fighting and I kicked him
25 in the leg and that set him off and he just started

1 hitting me.

2 Q. Can you tell us what he did?

3 A. Yes, he was hitting me with his open hand. Then he
4 dragged me into that room and just basically put me over
5 his legs and just kept slapping my backside and my back.

6 Q. Was that over your clothes?

7 A. Yes.

8 Q. What was your reaction to this? How were you feeling
9 at the time?

10 A. Not too good.

11 Q. I think what you say is he was slapping you so hard that
12 you couldn't breathe.

13 A. Yes, I couldn't, yes.

14 Q. Is that your recollection?

15 A. Yes, it is.

16 Q. Generally speaking, I think you say that generally
17 he wasn't a violent person.

18 A. Not that I saw day to day.

19 Q. But did you see other children being hit, either by him
20 or by any other brother?

21 A. Well, obviously, I've mentioned a couple of incidents.
22 I think when you accept something as being normal, you
23 don't really pay every bit of attention to it because if
24 we're eating dinner and guys were saying no to soup
25 because he was dribbling in it -- this is

1 Brother David -- then if they got a clout round the head
2 you don't remember it and think they're always getting
3 slapped round the head or they're always getting beaten.
4 It was kind of accepted as the norm from what I saw.

5 Q. I'm going to come back to Brother AKU in a moment.

6 Can we just look at another matter and that's to do with
7 a boy by the name of Aldo Moroni. Do you remember
8 Aldo Moroni being there?

9 A. Yes.

10 Q. And in relation to you, was he younger than you?

11 A. I think he may have been a year younger than me.

12 Q. Did you play with Aldo at any point in time when he was
13 there?

14 A. Yes. It wasn't a very big school, so yes. He was quite
15 a quiet kid. Yes, we interacted.

16 Q. I think what you tell us in your statement is you do
17 remember him not being well. Can you help me with that?
18 What do you remember about that?

19 A. I think it was more to do with the fact that we were
20 told he wasn't well, but I think there was an incident
21 where he'd complained of pains in his stomach, but like
22 I said, he was quite quiet, but it may be that
23 I remember him being quiet because he wasn't very well.
24 But again, like I said, we were told he hadn't been
25 well, whether he'd said that or not.

1 Q. And do you know where his bedroom was then within the
2 building?

3 A. No.

4 Q. You tell us in your statement that one day there was
5 a bit of commotion involving Aldo. Can you just help
6 me? What did you yourself see?

7 A. I remember being at the bottom of the stairs, basically
8 where the entrance hall is, around near the door that
9 went down the corridor towards the back. There was
10 a few of us there, I think it must have been a break,
11 maybe lunchtime or something like that, and a boy was
12 screaming upstairs like he was in pain.

13 Q. Did you say a boy was screaming?

14 A. You could hear a boy, yes, screaming like he was in pain
15 and some of us started to go up the stairs. There was
16 a couple further up the stairs than I was -- I can't
17 remember who it was or I don't even know if I saw them,
18 but there was -- an adult started shouting at the boys
19 to get back down the stairs and get away, and so we were
20 obviously scared, so we all ran back down the stairs,
21 and then another adult came and ushered us away, but you
22 could still hear the boy shouting in pain.

23 And then next thing, he wasn't there, Aldo Moroni
24 had gone, and I think within a number of days we were
25 told he was dead.

1 Q. Did you actually see him leave the building?

2 A. I don't remember seeing him leave the building.

3 Q. And the adults that were shouting, was that a brother or
4 brothers?

5 A. Yeah, there were brothers there, yes.

6 Q. Did you ever see Aldo Moroni receiving visitors at
7 St Columba's?

8 A. I don't recall.

9 Q. Can I then move on to another aspect of what you say in
10 your statement and I think this is when you're sharing
11 a room with your brother and others and after

12 **AKU** has arrived. You tell us about a wet bed
13 incident. Can you just tell me what happened?

14 A. Yes. So I was in a room in the middle floor and I woke
15 up and there was like -- it felt like there was cold
16 water over my groin area. And as I looked up, I saw the
17 back of Brother **AKU** leaving the room and scooting off
18 into his room.

19 Q. Was his room close to your room?

20 A. Yes, the doors were pretty much next to each other.

21 Q. So what did you do?

22 A. Well, I wondered what was going on, and then a couple of
23 the other boys woke up and, what you doing? I said,
24 "Brother **AKU** thrown water on me", and they were
25 going, "No, you've wet the bed." Then he came in,

1 saying, "What's going on, what's the noise?" I said,
2 "You threw water on me", and he said he didn't and I
3 said he did and he said he didn't and I was to get out
4 of bed because I was wet and then he took me into his
5 room.

6 Q. And then on that occasion, what happened in his room?

7 A. (Pause). I remember having to take my clothes off and
8 I think on that occasion he made me stay in there and
9 basically I had to sleep on the edge of the bed in front
10 of him.

11 Q. But thereafter, did you go back to his room?

12 A. That room, yeah, on a number of times I went in there.
13 He'd get me to go in and he'd sit and talk to me.

14 Sometimes I'd see something in his room -- and
15 I remember there was a lighter that looked like a gun
16 and I was quite intrigued by it and he let me keep it.
17 I actually remember taking it home and my parents
18 saying, "What's that?" and saying, Brother **AKU** gave it
19 me, and, isn't he a nice guy, that sort of thing.

20 But yeah, I'd go in there time and again. That was
21 I suppose the first time that anything sort of --
22 anything sexually occurred, where I found a pornographic
23 magazine -- I say I found one, it was lying on the floor
24 right next to the bed, and he looked at it as well and
25 said, "Look, do you know what this is? These are naked

1 women", and I was like, "Right, okay."

2 And then he was just saying how they looked,
3 "Doesn't it look weird that they haven't got willies?"
4 So we flicked up the magazine and he showed me all the
5 pictures.

6 Q. Just to get a time frame, what age do you think you were
7 when you had reached this stage?

8 A. That's a tough one. Maybe mid or late 8.

9 Q. You think maybe 8 or 9?

10 A. 8 or 9, yeah.

11 Q. You mentioned that he talked to you about things. What
12 sort of things did he talk to you about at this time?

13 A. I don't remember. I mean, I remember him telling me at
14 one point that he felt really close to me and loved me
15 like a son, things like that. But the general
16 chit-chat, I couldn't say.

17 Q. Did you stay overnight with him on occasions at this
18 time?

19 A. On that occasion, I did, and maybe a couple of other
20 occasions I had in that room.

21 Q. I think you've already told us that at a point in time
22 you yourself moved to the top level; is that right?

23 A. Yes. That's right.

24 Q. So far as Brother **AKU** was concerned, did he also move
25 to a room at the top?

1 A. Yes, he did, yes.

2 Q. I think you also tell us in your statement that

3 Brother **AKU** had a CB radio in his room.

4 A. Yes.

5 Q. Can you just help me with that? Did you find that
6 something that was attractive to go and use?

7 A. Yes, because he basically -- he got me in there and he
8 said he was buying a CB radio. And I think it followed
9 on from watching the -- I can't remember, the trucker
10 film with rubber duck on it, I don't know if you know
11 what I'm talking about -- Convoy, it was called. We'd
12 watch this film and everyone thought it was cool, the CB
13 thing. He then got a CB radio and, I don't know about
14 the other boys, but I'd gone up there and had a name, a
15 CB name, and would use the CB radio and see if we could
16 speak to people.

17 Q. Do you remember going there on a particular occasion
18 with another boy?

19 A. On the CB, possibly, possibly not, but I remember being
20 in that room on a number of occasions with another boy.

21 Q. Let's just look at the beginning of that particular
22 process. We don't need the name of the other boy, but
23 on the first occasion that you were in his room,
24 **AKU** room with another boy, did anything
25 happen?

1 A. On the very first occasion, the first occasion
2 I remember, yeah, I think we were in there for quite
3 some time, and then it ended up that he'd got myself and
4 this other boy to take our clothes off.

5 Q. And did he ask you to do something?

6 A. Yes. When this was exactly, I couldn't say, but the
7 beginning of it, once we'd taken our clothes off, he
8 then got us to touch each other's penises and see what
9 happens when we do that.

10 Q. And how did this develop?

11 A. Where did it go?

12 Q. Yes, just tell us in your own words.

13 A. Okay. It escalated, you know. At some point he got us
14 to put our penises in each other's mouths and told us to
15 suck each other's willies. It escalated -- I can't
16 remember exactly timescale-wise, but he was naked,
17 Brother **AKU** was naked. He got us to masturbate him
18 and told us to suck his penis and then he would suck
19 ours. That sort of thing.

20 Then that was something that happened with two of us
21 in the room, then going on from that it was a number of
22 occasions. I was told to come to his room and those
23 things would happen with just me and him.

24 Q. And in relation to when you were there with the other
25 boy, was he asking you to do anything else?

1 A. There was a point where he got us to mimic having anal
2 sex with each other and then he also carried out that
3 act on us and it wasn't penetrative, but it was between
4 my bum cheeks.

5 Q. On these occasions, did he ejaculate, so far as you
6 could tell?

7 A. He got us to masturbate him until he ejaculated, yes.

8 Q. Did he have a particular description for this mimicking
9 that you've mentioned? How did he describe it?

10 A. I can't remember.

11 Q. I think what you're telling us, John, is that there were
12 occasions when you were in his room with this other boy
13 and things happened as you described, and other
14 occasions when you were on your own.

15 A. Yes. I think initially, it was the two of us there.
16 Once he'd got me to go in there on my own, I don't
17 recall there ever being the other boy there again.
18 I just remember it going on and on with just me.

19 Q. So far as you're concerned, what you've been telling us
20 about, how long did that go on for during your time
21 at the school?

22 A. Oh, pretty much until I left.

23 Q. So how regularly do you think then, over that period
24 when Brother **AKU** was there -- and I think he was there
25 from 1980 until you left in 1982 -- how regularly do you

1 think these things happened?

2 A. All the time. It was constant. I'm not saying every
3 day, but definitely a number of times a week. As
4 I remember it, it just seemed to be something that was
5 just part of life at that school.

6 Q. So far as you are aware or were aware, do you know to
7 what extent others knew as to what was going on?

8 A. I didn't think anyone had any idea, and it was something
9 that I wasn't to speak to anyone about. I knew, the
10 other boy knew, obviously, but again, if I ever tried to
11 speak to him about it, he didn't want to speak about it.

12 Q. Did ^{AKU} say anything to you about whether or not
13 this should be a secret?

14 A. Oh yes.

15 Q. What did he say?

16 A. I can't remember word for word, but basically that
17 we weren't to say anything to anyone, we were getting to
18 use the CB radio, he let us drive a moped, every
19 Saturday they'd have this room where there was loads of
20 fizzy drinks and it was our weekend treat, but we'd get
21 that as well in the week. So we'd get none of that
22 if we ever said anything.

23 Q. What you say in your statement -- this is at
24 paragraph 65 -- is:

25 "Without a shadow of a doubt I was groomed by

1 Brother **AKU** and he normalised something that is
2 totally abnormal to a child."

3 Looking back, is that how you view what happened?

4 A. Yes. Not just from that, looking back from just after
5 it happened, even when it was happening. When it was
6 happening, I knew it shouldn't be happening, I knew it
7 was wrong. But how someone can manage to do that -- you
8 wonder why you don't go running off to tell your
9 parents. Did you think they're going to believe you?
10 Because again, it's an institution run by the church and
11 you're a little kid, and I don't know, you just seem to
12 think that you're not going to be believed.

13 As well as that, you don't want people to know
14 that -- you know it's wrong and it's disgusting, you
15 don't want people to know that.

16 Q. I think what you say in your statement is that you felt
17 ashamed by it.

18 A. Yes.

19 Q. Was that your feelings even at the time?

20 A. Yes, yes. Even now.

21 LADY SMITH: This happened from when you were about 8 years
22 old?

23 A. Sorry?

24 LADY SMITH: This happened from when you were about 8 years
25 old --

1 A. Yes.

2 LADY SMITH: -- until you were about 11 years old?

3 A. Yes.

4 LADY SMITH: You were a young child. This was an adult man
5 who, on your description, was controlling you.

6 A. Yes.

7 LADY SMITH: There is no reason for you to feel ashamed.

8 Mr MacAulay.

9 MR MacAULAY: I think what you tell us is that your family,
10 and particularly your grandmother, was a really devout
11 Catholic; is that right?

12 A. Yes.

13 Q. And your feelings are that she wouldn't have believed it
14 if you'd told her?

15 A. No, I don't think she would have done.

16 Q. When you left St Columba's, you left in [REDACTED] of
17 1982, how did you feel at that time when you came to
18 leave?

19 A. There was an element of sadness because there were some
20 boys that you got really good friends with. I remember
21 Brother Arthur, I thought he was brilliant, and it was
22 a shame to leave him because he was a really good figure
23 that we all looked up to. But one of the key things
24 is that I was glad I wouldn't have to go back to that
25 room.

1 Q. And that was your feeling at the time?

2 A. Just hang on a sec.

3 (Pause)

4 LADY SMITH: Let me know if it would help you to have
5 a break out of the hearing room. I can do that at any
6 time. Whatever works for you will work for us.

7 (Pause)

8 A. I'm fine, okay.

9 MR MacAULAY: Let's just look briefly at the periods after
10 you left St Columba's. I think after you left
11 St Columba's, you went to a school in Ipswich; is that
12 right?

13 A. Yes.

14 Q. I think what you tell us is that nothing major happened
15 at that particular school.

16 A. No.

17 Q. After you left school, John, you tell us that, after you
18 worked for about a year in Ipswich, you joined the
19 Royal Marines.

20 A. Yes.

21 Q. I think you tell us that was in 1991 and you in fact
22 served with them for over 10 years; is that right?

23 A. Yes, that's correct.

24 Q. I think you now have a successful career in the
25 construction industry; is that right?

1 A. I'm working on it.

2 Q. Can I ask you about what impact you think what happened
3 to you at St Columba's may have had on you? Are you
4 able to help me with that?

5 A. That's a tricky question because you can look back and
6 think where would your life have gone if you hadn't been
7 abused. Well, you just don't know because that's all
8 I've ever known. You can say, can I attribute this, can
9 I attribute that. Like I say, I don't know.

10 I got married, I got divorced, and I met someone
11 else and had a kid, split up. I've always found it
12 difficult to stay in a relationship and let people get
13 close to me, so that could -- I suppose that could be
14 a factor.

15 Like I said, that could happen to anyone in any walk
16 of life who's had any type of upbringing, so you can try
17 to say there's reasons for certain things, but you just
18 don't know.

19 Q. Over the years, have you thought about what happened to
20 you when you were a child at St Columba's?

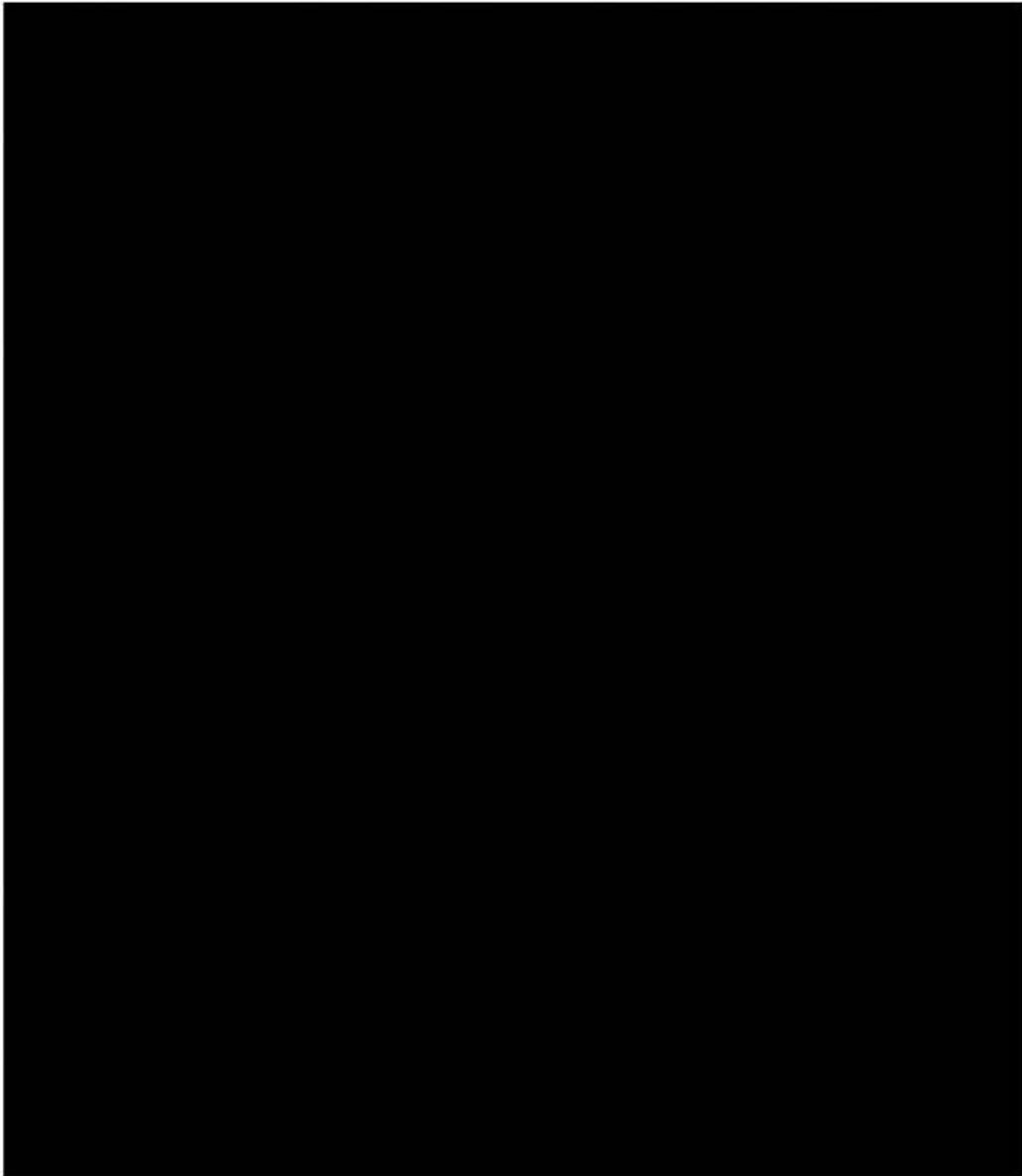
21 A. Oh yes. Regularly, but not in any great detail because
22 I tried to just -- I've always tried to keep it locked
23 away where I don't speak about it. I've never spoken to
24 anyone about it ever until the [REDACTED] contacted me.

25 Q. And I think what you tell us in your statement is that

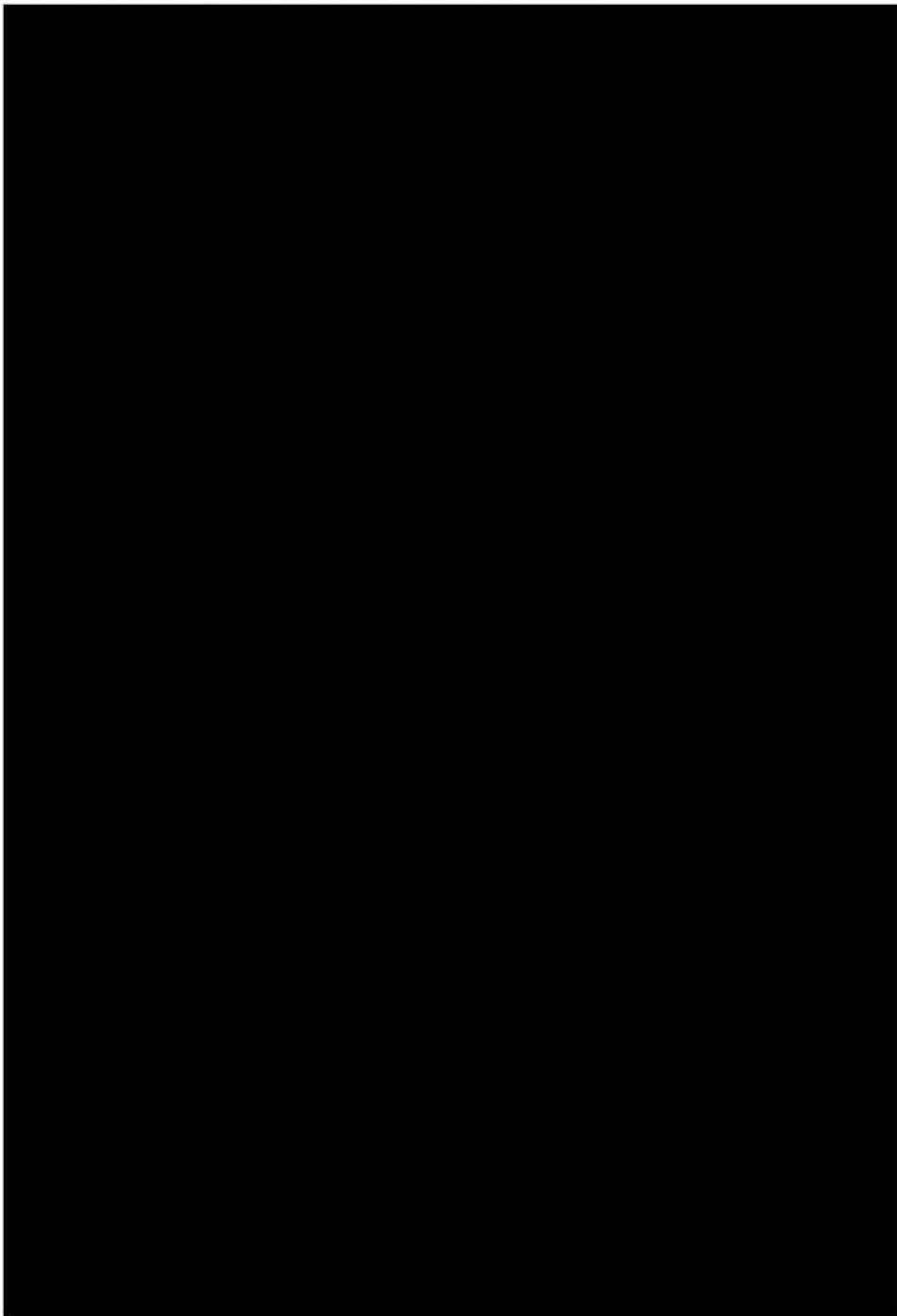
1 what you try to do is just get on with your life.

2 A. Yes, I don't think there's any point in trying to dwell
3 on something that's in the past that can have a negative
4 impact on what you do in the future.

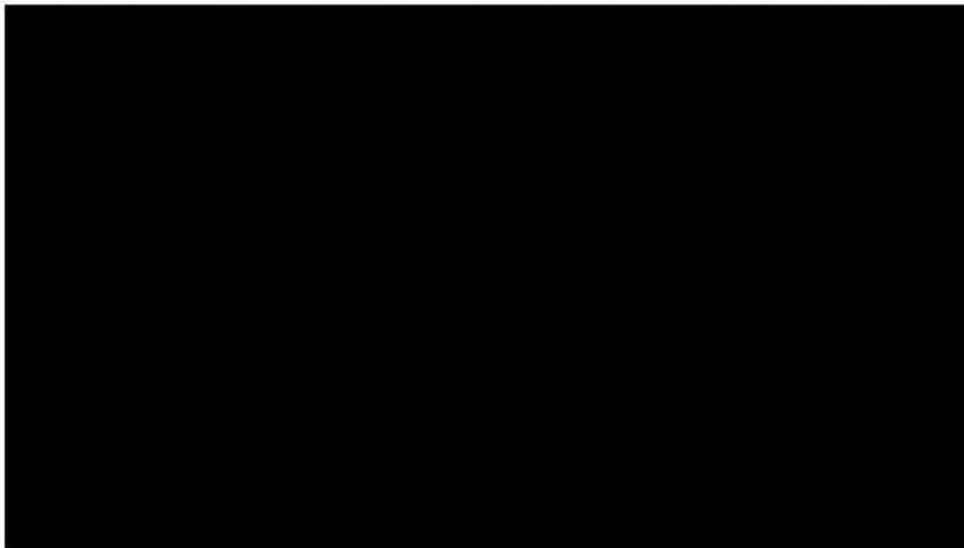
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11 Q. Can I turn to the part of the statement where you talk
12 about lessons to be learned. You've touched on this
13 in the past where I think you are taking a fairly
14 philosophical approach to the issue. What you say is:
15 "I don't know what the inquiry should be looking at
16 to be helpful for other people, but for me the damage is
17 done. I say the damage is done, it is in the past.
18 I am living with that in the back of my mind, but it
19 doesn't matter. I'm not letting it ruin things for me."
20 Is that your approach to life?

21 A. Yes, without a doubt.

22 Q. What I'm interested in is what you say in the
23 penultimate paragraph of your statement, paragraph 86.

24



25



What you say

1 is this:

2 "I would have said that when you listen to the voice
3 of a witness or you look at a statement of a witness you
4 are looking at a 40-plus year old man. That is not the
5 person who was abused. You need to be looking at an 8
6 or 9-year-old kid, otherwise you're not giving it the
7 right consideration. It wasn't me now that it happened
8 to, it was me at 9 years old."

9 And that's, of course, a very important point.

10 A. Yes, and I think that's something, really, that -- you
11 don't hear that said [REDACTED]

12 [REDACTED] But that's a key
13 thing. You can stand there [REDACTED]

14 [REDACTED] and everyone's looking at me, but that's not me, you
15 know. You need to think about this guy, what he was
16 actually doing, and who he was doing it to.

17 Q. Just to let you know, John, that the inquiry has spoken
18 to AKU [REDACTED], and you may not be
19 surprised to know that he denies the allegations that
20 have been made against him. [REDACTED]

21 [REDACTED]

22 A. [REDACTED]

23 Q. Can I ask you this final question: were you ever at
24 a place called Kinharvie House when you were at
25 St Columba's?

1 A. Not that I remember.

2 MR MacAULAY: Very well, John. Thank you very much indeed
3 for engaging with the inquiry and answering questions
4 that I know have been quite difficult for you to answer.
5 Thank you for that.

6 My Lady, I can confirm that I have received no
7 questions to put to John.

8 LADY SMITH: Are there any outstanding applications for
9 questions? No.

10 John, that completes all the questions we have for
11 you. Thank you so much for engaging with us, both by
12 providing your written statement and coming here today.

13
14
15
16

17 you've worked hard at compartmentalising that part of
18 your life and getting on with your adult life.

19 Can I just add one thing? I'm very grateful to you
20 for raising the need to look at what we're doing here
21 through the eyes of a child. That is what we try very
22 hard to do daily and our focus is very much on the
23 interests of children, children in care and always
24 trying to ask, "What was this like for the child?"

25 I imagine, for example, that what you've explained

1 to us in graphic and distressing detail today about what
2 you remember is something that you would never have been
3 able to explain at the age of 8; am I right about that?

4 A. Yes, I think so, my Lady, yes.

5 LADY SMITH: I do get that and can I assure you, as I say,
6 we're about children and about the interests of children
7 and we don't forget that, but thank you for that
8 reminder.

9 I'm now able to let you go with my thanks.

10 A. Thank you.

11 (The witness withdrew)

12 MR MacAULAY: My Lady, that completes the oral evidence for
13 this week. The plan is to have a read-in. Perhaps
14 we can have an early break and have the read-in after
15 the break.

16 LADY SMITH: Let's do that. Let's take the morning break
17 now and then we'll have a read-in.

18 (10.53 am)

19 (A short break)

20 (11.15 am)

21 LADY SMITH: Now we turn to read in a statement. Whenever
22 you're ready, Ms MacLeod.

23 Witness statement of "JACK" (read)

24 MS MACLEOD: My Lady, the statement is a statement of an
25 applicant who wishes to remain anonymous and to use the

1 name "Jack". It can be found at WIT.001.002.3474:

2 "My name is Jack. I was born in 1961. I am
3 57 years old. My contact details are known to the
4 inquiry.

5 "Between 1968 and 1972 I was resident in a boarding
6 school called St Columba's College at Landour House,
7 Largs. The college was run by the Marist Brothers.
8 I also spent time in a day school at
9 St Joseph's College, Dumfries, as a pupil between 1972
10 and 1977. St Joseph's College was run by the
11 Catholic Church. It is mainly my time at St Columba's
12 that I want to tell you about.

13 "I was an only child. My father was an electrician.
14 Both my parents came from Catholic family backgrounds.
15 My parents did not get on and my father was quite
16 violent towards my mother. I spent a lot of time at my
17 grandparents'.

18 "My family had a long association with the
19 Marist Brothers. My grandfather [REDACTED]
20 [REDACTED] was associated with the
21 Marist Brothers between 1940 and 1970. [REDACTED]
22 [REDACTED] As a very young boy
23 I was a regular feature at St Joseph's College and knew
24 a lot of the staff.

25 "My earliest schooling was spent at St Andrew's

1 Primary School in Dumfries. I think that I spent
2 primary years 1 and 2 at that school. It was decided,
3 because my parents were splitting up, that I be sent to
4 Catholic boarding school at St Columba's College, Largs.
5 This was a college run by the Marist Brothers. My
6 parents needed to get me out of the way.

7 "I was due to go to St Columba's College after the
8 summer holidays of 1968. I was 7 years old. I was very
9 comfortable around the Marist Brothers and the
10 Catholic Church [REDACTED]
11 [REDACTED]. My family were
12 particularly friendly with Brother MFQ, who taught at
13 St Joseph's College.

14 "That summer, Brother MFQ was going to
15 Middlesbrough to visit his mother. I had never been
16 away on holiday. It was agreed that if we used our
17 family car and take him to visit his mother in
18 Middlesbrough, we could stay with Brother MFQ and his
19 mother. I spent most of my time with Brother MFQ
20 while my parents went off on their own. It was then
21 that he betrayed my trust.

22 "I slept in the same room as my parents. One of the
23 mornings, Brother MFQ took me up to his room. He had
24 been drinking heavily the night before. He made me
25 carry out acts of a sexual nature on him. When he

1 ejaculated, I asked him what the sperm was. He told me
2 that it was whisky from the night before. I had
3 absolutely no sexual experience as I was only 7 years
4 old.

5 "Brother MFQ hadn't finished. I was naked from
6 the waist down. He then raped me. He told me in no
7 uncertain terms that I was never to tell anyone what had
8 happened. It was a time in the 1960s when you never
9 questioned what you were told. I was too frightened to
10 say anything to anyone.

11 "Brother MFQ also took me to the local swimming
12 baths where he continued to sexually assault me by
13 touching my private parts.

14 "The morning before I left to go home, his mother
15 made porridge for me. She put sugar on my porridge and
16 I was used to salt. It is just something that stuck in
17 my mind and I can't forget it. I associate it with the
18 sexual assault on me and being told to say nothing.

19 "Most days in life I drive past the graveyard at
20 St Joseph's College and I see the gravestone of
21 Father MFQ . The gravestone states that he was born in
22 [REDACTED] and died in [REDACTED]. I find this
23 particularly difficult as he never seems to be out of my
24 memories.

25 "My family and I had been so involved with

1 St Joseph's College that becoming enrolled at
2 St Columba's was a very easy step. The college itself
3 was a very large old family house. The college was
4 a fee-paying Catholic boarding school run by the Marist
5 order.

6 "I spent the first two years at St Columba's College
7 waiting to be sexually abused by one of the
8 Marist Brothers. I had been sexually abused by
9 Brother MFQ prior to my arrival at St Columba's and
10 I thought it would happen again. After two years,
11 I realised that I was safe and it was not going to
12 happen.

13 "I was taken to the school by both my parents. They
14 stopped the car at the front door and I got out with my
15 suitcase. I was met at the front door by Brother Nilus,
16 who was the headmaster. He was a very tall man. He was
17 wearing a robe that went all the way down to the ground.
18 It was very intimidating. I turned round to look for my
19 mother but she had gone. I was in a panic, I had to
20 sink or swim. I had to decide whether to make a run for
21 it or follow the instructions I was being given.

22 "I was told to go to my dormitory and find the bed
23 with my name on it. There were six other empty beds.
24 I was told to make up my bed.

25 "My mother had bought me double sheets and I had

1 difficulty making up my bed. The door had been closed
2 and my parents had left without saying goodbye. I think
3 this is what the Marist order did to make saying goodbye
4 easier. I was terrified that the brothers here might
5 want to abuse me like Brother MFO had, prior to me
6 coming to St Columba's College.

7 "We were split up into age groups and lived in
8 dormitories. One dormitory had ten boys in it, but
9 generally the numbers varied between six and two in each
10 dormitory. In total there were about 30 boys boarding
11 along with a few day pupils. The ground floor consisted
12 of four classrooms. There was a large hallway and
13 a staircase to the bedrooms on the first floor.

14 At the back of the property were the kitchens where
15 all the meals were cooked. The dining hall was beside
16 the kitchens. There were rooms for the Marist Brothers
17 who lived at the school. I think they were beside the
18 boys' dormitories. There were maybe five or six
19 brothers who resided at the school. Most of them taught
20 at the school.

21 "There was a second floor which I think had
22 a dormitory and also some rooms that were occupied by
23 the brothers. At the end of every academic year you
24 would change dormitories to remain with boys your own
25 age.

1 "The staff that I remember being at the school were
2 Brother Nilus, who was the headmaster when I arrived
3 there. In the second year I was there, Brother Germanus
4 took over as headmaster. I was taught by
5 Brother **MLA** who I trusted implicitly. I didn't
6 feel that he was a threat to me. I always remember
7 Brother **MFN**, who once give me six of the cane for
8 getting a wrong answer. He was a teacher at the
9 school."

10 Between paragraphs 21 and 26 the witness provides
11 evidence in relation to the morning and bedtime routine.
12 I'll read paragraph 27:

13 "When I was at the college, we, the pupils, were
14 expected to maintain the upkeep of the buildings and
15 grounds in good order. We would do some weeding in the
16 gardens and also pick up litter. I think we did some
17 cleaning in the college itself."

18 From paragraphs 28 to 34, the witness continues to
19 describe various aspects of the routine at the school,
20 including mealtimes, washing and bathing, clothing,
21 schooling, trips and holidays, religious instruction,
22 and birthdays and Christmases.

23 I will read from paragraph 35:

24 "I did get visits from my mother. A neighbour of my
25 mother lent her a car, which meant that she was able to

1 travel and visit me. If the weather wasn't good, she
2 wouldn't make it.

3 "Brother MLA would make sure that I was
4 spirited away if they thought that my father was coming
5 to visit. The brothers felt that it would be safer for
6 me if my father, who was very violent, was kept away
7 from me. My parents' divorce was very acrimonious and
8 they were concerned what he might do.

9 "It was a long spell at the college if you didn't
10 get a visit. There was one term when I was told that my
11 mother was in hospital and I didn't receive any visits.
12 I found that strange. I was either 8 or 9 at that time.
13 My grandparents didn't have the wherewithal to visit on
14 their own.

15 "I do not recall ever having to visit a doctor or
16 a dentist the entire time I was at St Columba's.

17 "You were expected to follow a set of rules. It was
18 a very strict regime. It was made clear to you what was
19 required. If you went outside these rules you would be
20 punished. The brothers would hit you with a cane or you
21 could have a blackboard duster flung at you. You could
22 get six of the cane for not getting an answer correct.
23 You learned to keep your head down and not to make eye
24 contact with the teachers. You always got the cane on
25 your hand. On some occasions it was given in front of

1 the other boys and on other occasions it was given to
2 you in Brother Nilus' office. On reflection, I think it
3 was excessive for a primary school pupil to be caned
4 in that manner.

5 "I never thought about running away as I had no
6 place to run away to.

7 "I don't recall incidents with anyone wetting the
8 bed and I had no issues with that.

9 "On one occasion Brother MFN gave me six of the
10 cane on my hand for getting a wrong answer in class.
11 I was in Primary Four and was probably about 8 years
12 old. I think that on this occasion it affected me more
13 than any other time. I maybe got caned on eight or ten
14 occasions. The cane was always administered on your
15 hand.

16 "The excessive punishment was the only form of abuse
17 that I suffered at St Columba's. The sexual abuse that
18 I experienced at the hands of the Marist Brothers was
19 when Brother MFQ abused me just before I went to
20 St Columba's. It had a very bad effect on me because
21 when I arrived at the college I was expecting to be
22 abused again and spent the first two years waiting for
23 it to happen. It never did and eventually I was able to
24 feel more relaxed.

25 "I did not receive any visits from my mother for

1 a whole term at St Columba's. What I didn't know at the
2 time, but learned later, was that my mother was in
3 hospital having complications with the birth of twins.

4 "My mother was in a relationship with
5 [REDACTED] who was [REDACTED] working
6 at St Joseph's school. They had three children between
7 them, including twin girls, who were born when I was at
8 St Columba's, and a boy born two years later.
9 [REDACTED] teaching at St Joseph's when I was
10 there.

11 "When I came home from St Columba's, [REDACTED]
12 had been asked to leave [REDACTED] and was living
13 with my mother at her house. He eventually died when
14 he was living with my mother. All three children were
15 adopted at birth by a Catholic organisation that was
16 based in Newcastle. This was arranged by the
17 Marist Brothers.

18 "I think that [REDACTED] had a very negative
19 effect on my mother and I resented his presence. I was
20 in the middle of what was happening and the Marist
21 organisation did not lift a finger to help.

22 "My grandparents did not speak to my mother until
23 after [REDACTED] died. Even then the relationship
24 between my mother and her parents was not good. I felt
25 that I suffered for this and it affected the way

1 I viewed family life.

2 "I left St Columba's College after four years in
3 1972. I knew that I was going to attend St Joseph's.
4 I learned before I went to St Joseph's that
5 Brother MFQ was no longer teaching there and had gone
6 to Wolverhampton. I was very relieved.

7 "On occasion I know that Brother MFQ sometimes
8 came back to St Joseph's to stay when he was on retreat.

9 [REDACTED]
10 [REDACTED] he would call in to visit my mother.

11 It would make me feel very angry towards him and I think
12 that because I was older and more aware, I could easily
13 have done something physical to hurt him.

14 "The influence of the Marist order was much less at
15 St Joseph's as the order were no longer running the
16 school and it now formed part of the Local Education
17 Authority. I was attending St Joseph's as a day pupil,
18 so there was no pressure on me as I lived at home. In
19 spite of this, I always felt that there was an
20 undercurrent of sleaziness.

21 "I left school halfway through sixth year at the
22 same time that St Joseph's became co-educational.
23 I needed to get to work to help with my mother's
24 financial situation. I had achieved enough
25 qualifications to go to university, but I just couldn't

1 afford it. There were no technical colleges at the
2 time, so there were no paid apprenticeships.

3 "I went into the retail industry and joined the
4 Co-op. It was here that I met my wife and married her
5 in 1981. I continued to work in retail for most of my
6 working life.

7 "In 1993 or 1994, I became ill and had to take time
8 off work. I had a complete breakdown. I had two
9 children by then and another child was due. It was
10 a combination of things that caused the breakdown.

11 "My wife passed away in 2016 very suddenly. My
12 eldest daughter took the passing of her mother very
13 badly and suffered with mental health problems, which
14 she is succeeding in overcoming.

15 "I have kept very poor health for the last few
16 years.

17 "My wife was very influential in the family and was
18 the glue that held us all together. Her passing was
19 very hard on everyone as she had always been so healthy
20 and there was though indication of any illness.

21 "I started to have panic attacks when I was at
22 school. I still see a psychiatrist to this day. I am
23 very proud that even after what happened to me I managed
24 to get my life under control and brought up my own
25 family.

1 "I often describe myself as a 20-stone man with the
2 temper of a 7-year-old boy. I could have got into
3 serious trouble.

4 "Ever since I was 18 or 19 I have been a regular
5 visitor to the local psychology department. It all
6 started with the panic attacks and the fact that I was
7 self-harming. I think I was referred to them by the
8 local doctor. I have never been admitted as an
9 inpatient.

10 "The abuse I suffered at the hands of the Marist
11 order has had a huge effect on my life. I have gone
12 through a life of panic attacks. I have never been able
13 to go abroad because I couldn't use public transport.
14 I get so angry because of the things that I am unable to
15 do with my family, like holidays abroad.

16 "I found that the relationship my mother had with
17 [REDACTED] made for a very bad atmosphere
18 in the house where he lived with my mother and me.
19 I was attending St Joseph's school and he had been [REDACTED]
20 [REDACTED] there. I was never comfortable. My
21 mother lost her relationship with her own parents and
22 everything felt wrong.

23 "I worry all the time about my own children and
24 particularly found it hard when they were about the same
25 age as I was when I was abused by Brother [REDACTED] MFQ. I used

1 to ask myself if it was appropriate that I should take
2 my own children out of their bath to dry them off.
3 I feel that I can't shake off the feeling that
4 Brother MFQ is still having an effect on me.

5 "I am on a lot of tablets to help treat my mental
6 health problems.

7 "The first person I told about what had happened to
8 me was my wife. It coincided with the time that another
9 pupil had gone to the police [REDACTED] and reported
10 what had happened to him when he was in the care of the
11 Marist Brothers at St Joseph's in Dumfries. His courage
12 in coming forward prompted me to tell my wife and then
13 to report it to the police. I needed her support.

14 "In 1998, I reported to the police in Dumfries what
15 had happened to me on my trip to Middlesbrough when
16 Brother MFQ sexually assaulted me. I gave a statement
17 to the police in Dumfries. The local police passed on
18 the information to the police in Middlesbrough. Because
19 the offence occurred in Middlesbrough, it had to be
20 dealt with under the English legal system.

21 "I felt let down by the police in Middlesbrough.
22 All I wanted was for someone in authority to confront
23 Brother MFQ with my allegations and to elicit
24 a response where he would admit what he did to me.

25 "I made a complaint to Ronnie McEwan, who was the

1 provincial for the Marist order. I met with him on four
2 occasions and he listened to my complaints. I met him
3 at Kinharvie House in Dumfries in 1999 or 2000. The
4 last meeting I had with him was in 2015.

5 "I think that Brother MFQ was in Lourdes until
6 1998. He was brought back to England where it was
7 decided by the police in Middlesbrough that he was not
8 fit enough to be interviewed. The Scottish police, off
9 the record, told me that if they had been investigating
10 the issue, they would have charged him. All that
11 I really wanted was for someone to confront him with my
12 allegations and see what he had to say in response.

13 "Having met with and spoken to Ronnie McEwan on
14 about four occasions with regards to Brother MFQ,
15 I also met with the current provincial of the Marist
16 order, Brendan Geary, on one occasion. I used my email
17 to facilitate these meetings at Kinharvie House. The
18 last meeting I had with McEwan and Geary was at the
19 Cairndale Hotel in Dumfries in 2015.

20 "I learnt that Brother MFQ had at one time tried
21 to commit suicide and that my allegations against him
22 answered some questions that Ronnie McEwan had about the
23 state of Brother MFQ mind and his suicide attempt.
24 Although I asked them on a number of occasions about
25 other allegations concerning Brother MFQ, they refused

1 to comment. They told me they still had a duty of care
2 to Brother MFO . It annoyed me that there was such an
3 emphasis placed on his welfare and not mine.

4 "It is nearly 18 months since I have had any contact
5 with the Marist order. I informed them that my wife had
6 died and that I was suffering from cancer and I was
7 calling things quits.

8 "I am aware that Ronnie McEwan works at the
9 Kinharvie Institute in Glasgow. I also know that about
10 six miles out Dumfries is a place known as
11 Kinharvie House and that is where the Marist order used
12 to train all their staff.

13 "The police tried to get records relating to my time
14 at St Columba's but were told that none existed. I am
15 aware from the evidence that Brendan Geary has already
16 given to Scottish Child Abuse Inquiry that no records
17 are held by the Marist order.

18 "Everybody who has suffered abuse in care needs to
19 be given the opportunity to tell their story. The
20 abusers of children need to be brought to account and
21 face their accusers for what they have done. It does
22 not matter when it occurred. What is wrong is wrong and
23 it needs to be addressed.

24 "In later life, my mother told me that she had been
25 trying to track down the children she had with

1 [REDACTED] She told me that the Marist
2 order were particularly unhelpful, but despite that she
3 traced the twin girls. The twins came to Dumfries and
4 met my mother and me. A few home truths came out and
5 that was the way everyone wanted it left. I had no
6 contact with the boy who would have been my half-brother
7 as he didn't respond to any correspondence.

8 "I have always suspected that my mother may have had
9 a relationship with Brother MFQ and that he may be my
10 biological father. When I was 12, I felt that he was
11 visiting my mother for sex. Why else would he call? It
12 wasn't to visit me and he resented my presence there.
13 It still torments me and I can't stop reflecting on it.

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

18 The statement was signed by Jack on 18 January 2019.

19 LADY SMITH: Thank you very much, Ms MacLeod. Does that
20 complete our evidence for this week?

21 MS MACLEOD: It does, my Lady. We have three witnesses
22 lined up to give oral evidence on Tuesday, the first
23 witness being AKU [REDACTED], who is planned for 10 o'clock
24 and he'll be giving evidence by video link from [REDACTED].

25 LADY SMITH: Very well. Thank you very much.

1 With that, I'll now rise until Tuesday morning and
2 wish you all in the meantime a good weekend when it
3 comes.

4 Thank you.

5 (11.38 am)

6 (The inquiry adjourned until
7 Tuesday, 22 October 2019 at 10.00 am)

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I N D E X

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3 "JOHN" (sworn)1

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5 Questions from MR MacAULAY1

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7 Witness statement of "JACK" (read)35

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