

1 Tuesday, 22 October 2019

2 (10.00 am)

3 LADY SMITH: Good morning and welcome back to everybody to  
4 what will be the final week of evidence in the case  
5 study into the provision of residential care by the  
6 Marist Brothers in Scotland. As you can see, we have  
7 a video link ready to run to connect with a witness  
8 who's not present in the building today.

9 I think, Mr MacAulay, you're ready to start; is that  
10 right?

11 MR MacAULAY: Yes, good morning, my Lady. We are ready to  
12 start.

13 The next witness is to be anonymous and he wants to  
14 use the name "Peter" in giving evidence.

15 LADY SMITH: Peter, good morning --

16 MR MacAULAY: My Lady, can I just mention that Peter  
17 requires to be warned.

18 LADY SMITH: Yes, thank you very much.

19 Peter, I should introduce myself. I'm Lady Smith  
20 and I chair the child abuse inquiry here in Edinburgh.  
21 We will be taking your evidence today by video link, as  
22 you know. It looks and sounds to me as though the video  
23 link is working very well, but please let me know if  
24 you're experiencing any problems at your end at all and  
25 we'll try to deal with it, because it's important that

1           you feel completely connected with everything we're  
2           doing here.

3           Do you understand that?

4   THE WITNESS: Yes, thank you.

5   LADY SMITH: I would like to start by you taking an oath to  
6           tell the truth.

7           "PETER" (sworn) (via video link)

8   LADY SMITH: Before I invite Mr MacAulay to begin asking you  
9           questions about your evidence, there's something I want  
10          to say to you by way of a warning, and you may recall  
11          that you've already had it explained to you that  
12          although this is a public inquiry and not a trial, you  
13          still have the right not to incriminate yourself  
14          in relation to any new matters which are put to you.

15          It was explained to you that if you do say that you  
16          were involved in the abuse of children in any respect,  
17          then you could be asked further questions about it. You  
18          wouldn't be obliged to answer those questions but you  
19          need to understand that, as in a court, everything  
20          that is said in evidence here is being recorded and  
21          there will be a transcript of it, which would be  
22          available for any future proceedings.

23          You continue to have the right not to incriminate  
24          yourself. You continue to have the right not to say  
25          anything about the involvement in the abuse of children,

1           and you're not obliged to answer any questions about  
2           that. But you need to know that if you decide to do so,  
3           they will be included in the recording and the  
4           transcript here. Do you understand that?

5           A. Yes, I do.

6           LADY SMITH: If you have any questions or doubts about it,  
7           at any time, please do say and we can deal with them as  
8           and when they arise.

9           A. Yes. May I ask just one question?

10          LADY SMITH: Yes, certainly.

11          A. Do I have the right to refuse to answer a question?

12          LADY SMITH: The only right you have is not to incriminate  
13          yourself.

14          A. Right.

15          LADY SMITH: Do you understand that?

16          A. Okay. Yes.

17          LADY SMITH: I'm sure that Mr MacAulay will seek to make his  
18          questions very clear and concise so that you'll  
19          understand exactly what we're interested in looking into  
20          in evidence with you.

21          A. Okay.

22          LADY SMITH: But of course, if you don't understand  
23          a question, do tell us and we'll seek to deal with that  
24          as well.

25          A. Okay.

1 LADY SMITH: If you're ready, Peter, I'll hand over to  
2 Mr MacAulay; is that all right?

3 A. Thank you, yes.

4 Questions from MR MacAULAY

5 MR MacAULAY: Good morning, Peter.

6 A. Good morning.

7 Q. The first thing I want you to do is to look at the final  
8 page of your statement. I'll provide the reference of  
9 the statement for the purposes of the transcript and  
10 that is WIT.001.002.8991. The page I want you to look  
11 at is page 9168. Can you confirm that you have signed  
12 the statement?

13 A. I can confirm that, yes.

14 Q. Do you say in the final paragraph:

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

17 Is that correct?

18 A. That is also correct.

19 Q. And do you also go on to say:

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

22 A. Yes.

23 Q. I don't require to ask you for your date of birth, but  
24 can you confirm, so I can get a time frame, that you  
25 were born in 1957?

1 A. That's correct.

2 Q. You begin in your statement telling us about what life  
3 was like before you joined the Marist Brothers, and in  
4 particular, that you went to the junior seminary of the  
5 Marist Brothers in 1969 and that was in Dumfries,  
6 Hetland House; is that right?

7 A. That's correct. Strictly speaking, it was outside  
8 Dumfries, about 10 miles south.

9 Q. Then after you went to begin your training in Dublin,  
10 and that was in about July or August 1974?

11 A. Correct, yes.

12 Q. You tell us that you took your first vows in  
13 [REDACTED] 1975. Can I ask you, when did you take your  
14 final vows?

15 A. I never took final vows.

16 Q. After you had taken your first vows, I think you did  
17 spend a short period at St Columba's in about 1976;  
18 is that right?

19 A. In [REDACTED] of 1976, yes.

20 Q. And that was essentially -- was it a visit or were you  
21 there for a particular purpose?

22 A. Originally, I was sent there for six months before going  
23 to university in the following October.

24 Q. So did you spend six months then in 1976 at  
25 St Columba's?

- 1 A. No, I spent probably less than two weeks, and I got  
2 a letter transferring me to St Joseph's College in  
3 Dumfries.
- 4 Q. Was that in 1976 as well?
- 5 A. [REDACTED] 1976, yes.
- 6 Q. So did you then attend St Joseph's College as a boarder  
7 or as a day pupil?
- 8 A. As a boy I had attended as a day pupil for one year as  
9 part of the junior seminary.
- 10 Q. And when you went there in 1976 then, what was your  
11 role?
- 12 A. I was an assistant dormitory master and I was used to  
13 cover lessons.
- 14 Q. What age were you at that time?
- 15 A. I'd have been coming up to 19.
- 16 Q. When you say "cover lessons", did you actually engage in  
17 teaching?
- 18 A. I would have assisted in teaching.
- 19 Q. Just looking to your role as a dormitory master, can you  
20 help me with that? Were you assisting another brother?
- 21 A. Yes, Brother MFT [REDACTED]
- 22 Q. What was your role in that capacity?
- 23 A. Really, just as an extra person in the dormitory to  
24 assist during free time when the boys were perhaps over  
25 in the recreation hall, sometimes perhaps to referee

1 a game of football if the boys wanted a game of  
2 football, that sort of thing.

3 Q. What age range of boys were you particularly concerned  
4 with at that time?

5 A. As far as I remember, they were 13, 14-year-olds.

6 Q. I think you spent about six months or so at St Joseph's  
7 at that time; is that about right?

8 A. Yes, until the school closed [REDACTED].

9 Q. And that would be [REDACTED] 1977?

10 A. 1976.

11 Q. I just want to pick up something you say in your  
12 statement, it's at paragraph 25. Can I just ask you  
13 about this?

14 A. Sorry, what paragraph?

15 Q. Paragraph 25. It's on page 8996.

16 What you say there is that you have some  
17 recollection about graffiti, that it might have been in  
18 one of the school magazines.

19 A. Yes.

20 Q. And that someone had put an arrow pointing to a brother  
21 and had written, "Hand in pocket, wanking". So you have  
22 a recollection of seeing that somewhere?

23 A. Yes.

24 Q. Was it in magazine or somewhere else?

25 A. It was actually reported to me, I didn't actually see it

1           personally. Who reported it to me, I'm sorry, I can't  
2           remember.

3           Q. Do you know where it was?

4           A. As far as I remember, it was a magazine in the school  
5           library.

6           Q. Was it then after your stint at St Joseph's that you  
7           went to Glasgow University?

8           A. Yes.

9           Q. I think you took a science degree; is that correct?

10          A. Initially, I started on a science degree but I switched  
11          to an MA.

12          Q. Was that then the degree you graduated with in  
13          July 1980?

14          A. Yes.

15          Q. In the interim, during that period from about 1976  
16          through to the late 1970s, did you spend time at  
17          Nazareth House in Cardonald, Glasgow?

18          A. I did, yes.

19          Q. Can you just tell me about that? Did you in particular  
20          spend two periods there?

21          A. It's a bit hard to describe. Some of us wanted to do  
22          some volunteer work over the summer of 1977 during the  
23          university holidays and some of us ended up at  
24          Nazareth House. I then maintained a connection with  
25          Nazareth House for the rest of my time in Glasgow, until



1           1980. However, at one point I did break off from my  
2           degree and worked full-time at Nazareth House.

3           Q. I think you tell us in your statement, and I'm not sure  
4           how full this is, but that you were certainly at  
5           Nazareth House for the [REDACTED] of 1977 and also in  
6           [REDACTED] 1978.

7           A. Yes.

8           Q. The period you say you spent full-time, when was that?

9           A. That would have been roughly [REDACTED] of  
10          1978.

11          Q. And at that time were you referred to as

12          "Brother AKU [REDACTED]?"

13          A. I think they just called me AKU [REDACTED]

14          Q. Did you wear a robe, a soutane or cassock, anything of  
15          that sort?

16          A. No.

17          Q. You have in front of you also -- it's in the red folder,  
18          I think it's tab 2 -- a list of witnesses with  
19          pseudonyms. Do you have that in your folder?

20          A. Not in tab 2.

21          Q. Do you have it separately?

22          A. Yes.

23          Q. Can you just tell me, is it in a particular tab or is it  
24          just a separate document?

25          A. A separate document.

- 1 Q. Okay. I want to just explain this to you -- and we'll  
2 be coming back to this later on in your evidence.  
3 You'll see there's a witness name given in the first  
4 column and there are nine names mentioned. In the  
5 second column, you'll see each of these witnesses has  
6 been given a pseudonym. Do you see that?
- 7 A. I do, yes.
- 8 Q. If you cast your eye down the list, do you recognise all  
9 the names on the right-hand side?
- 10 A. On the right-hand side?
- 11 Q. I'm sorry, on the left-hand side.
- 12 A. I have heard of all of these people, yes.
- 13 Q. And the one I want to focus on at the moment is  
14 number 9, and you can see that this person has been  
15 given the pseudonym "James". Do you recognise the name?
- 16 A. I recognise a name that's been added in pen rather than  
17 the typewritten name.
- 18 Q. Indeed. But that's a name you recognise. Why do you  
19 recognise that name?
- 20 A. He was a child at Nazareth House when I was there.
- 21 Q. Evidence has been given by that person to the inquiry.  
22 He is a person who was born in 1968, and he was in care  
23 and in 1977, for example, he would be age 9 and age 10  
24 in 1978. Does that accord with your own recollection as  
25 to what age this person might have been?

1 A. Roughly, yes.

2 Q. He has made certain allegations against you and, in  
3 particular, that you took him -- and possibly others,  
4 but we'll just focus on him -- to Hetland House at least  
5 on a particular occasion and possibly more. Do you have  
6 any recollection of that?

7 A. Sorry, we lost your voice there.

8 Q. Okay. He has made certain allegations against you.  
9 You will, of course, bear in mind Lady Smith's warning  
10 when I'm asking you about this matter. Perhaps the best  
11 way of dealing with this is if I can take you to  
12 paragraph 137 of your statement.

13 When the statement was taken from you, Peter,  
14 I think a section of this person's statement was put to  
15 you, and in particular that the person he referred to as  
16 Brother ██████ took him away to a place called  
17 Hetland House. What I'm asking you now is do you  
18 remember taking this witness, James, to Hetland House at  
19 any time?

20 A. Absolutely not.

21 Q. But could it have happened and you have just forgotten?

22 A. I certainly wouldn't have taken him. That definitely  
23 did not happen.

24 Q. The name nevertheless is a name you remember. Did you  
25 interact during your time at Nazareth House with this

1 particular boy?

2 A. Insofar as he was a member of the group that I worked  
3 with when I went in as a volunteer. I also remember  
4 that I was his sponsor at confirmation. I don't know  
5 why but suddenly one day he gave me a little badge,  
6 recognising the fact that I was at university, and it  
7 said, "I'm reading Smurfology", and it had a picture of  
8 a Smurf on it.

9 Q. You have said, in any event, that you're absolutely  
10 adamant that you never took him to Hetland House on any  
11 occasion?

12 A. Absolutely. On any occasion.

13 Q. In paragraph 136, if we just look at that, what you say  
14 in the statement is:

15 "He refers to me taking him to Hetland House.  
16 I have no recall of going to Hetland House with the  
17 children. It is at least theoretically possible."

18 So you're leaving it a little bit open there. But  
19 is your position now a firmer one, namely that you did  
20 not?

21 A. I think there are two slightly different issues here.  
22 One, did I take him? I most certainly did not.  
23 I acknowledge, given human memory, that it is possible  
24 that there was a holiday there organised by someone else  
25 and I was part of it. But I have got absolutely no

1 memory of being ever in Hetland House with that boy.

2 Q. One of the things he says -- and this is captured in  
3 your statement at paragraph 140 -- is that you sexually  
4 abused him by masturbating him. I take it then, from  
5 what you've been telling me, Peter, that that simply did  
6 not happen?

7 A. It most certainly did not.

8 Q. What about the suggestion he makes -- and it's picked up  
9 in your statement at paragraph 145 -- that you would  
10 tell ghost stories?

11 A. I certainly remember being asked to tell the children  
12 a ghost story, but it was not the group that he was in.  
13 It was actually when I was working there with  
14 a downstairs group.

15 Q. He seems to have some insight into the fact that you  
16 would tell ghost stories. Are you saying that if he's  
17 saying that, he must have picked it up elsewhere and  
18 that did not happen with you?

19 A. Well, again, it's theoretically possible, since I was  
20 mixing between the groups, that he could have come  
21 downstairs when I told the story. Frankly, after  
22 40 years, I couldn't commit to giving a definite answer  
23 there.

24 Q. Why were you telling ghost stories to these children?

25 A. Somebody asked me to.

1 Q. Because we know, and I think we'll look later at the  
2 suggestion, that you showed horror films to children;  
3 did that happen?

4 A. Sorry, could you be clearer in your question?

5 Q. Yes. Later, we'll look at suggestions that have been  
6 made that you showed horror films to children when you  
7 were at St Columba's; did that happen?

8 A. I showed edited versions of horror films, yes.

9 Q. And what films are you talking about? Can you name  
10 some?

11 A. Again, I wouldn't recall any, apart from one which  
12 I refused to show them. It had been sent in by a parent  
13 and I refused to show it.

14 LADY SMITH: Peter, who was it that asked you to tell ghost  
15 stories to the children?

16 A. Again, I'm sorry, I can't remember. I have told ghost  
17 stories to children in a whole variety of situations and  
18 settings. It's never been a big issue.

19 LADY SMITH: Turning to the films, how did you edit them?

20 A. I actually viewed the film first myself, noted on the  
21 counter if there was anything that was inappropriate  
22 I felt for children -- and I used the guidelines from  
23 the British Board of Film Censors -- and I would stop --  
24 when the children were seeing it, I would stop it at the  
25 counter and fast-forward it to the safe bit.

1 MR MacAULAY: One of the films that's been mentioned in  
2 evidence was a film by the name of the Texas Chainsaw  
3 Massacre. Was that one of the films that you showed?

4 A. It may have been.

5 Q. Are you saying then that you had some mechanism whereby  
6 you would edit from that film --

7 A. Yes, it was called a stop button.

8 Q. Okay. What impact would that have on the narrative of  
9 the film, of the story of the film?

10 A. Again, without a very specific example, I couldn't  
11 answer it.

12 Q. We'll come and look at that in a moment or two.

13 I think then, insofar as St Columba's was concerned,  
14 once you'd finished your university course, your degree,  
15 did you go to St Columba's in Largs in 1980?

16 A. I went down initially with a view to spending a few  
17 weeks there before going off to teacher training in the  
18 following September.

19 Q. But in fact -- and I think you mention this in your  
20 statement -- according to the daybook, did you join the  
21 community of Marists at St Columba's in around [REDACTED] of  
22 1980?

23 A. That would depend on your definition of "join".

24 Q. Can you tell me then what happened then in [REDACTED] 1980?

25 A. I went down to spend a few weeks there, as I had done in

1 previous summer holidays with other communities, but it  
2 was purely a -- it was a visit, it was not a transfer to  
3 be a member of that community.

4 Q. But did you stay after you'd been there?

5 A. In the end, it actually happened that I did stay on.

6 Q. So running ahead, did you stay on until the summer of  
7 1982?

8 A. I think until [REDACTED] 1982.

9 Q. So you were there for a bit over two years in total;  
10 is that correct?

11 A. Yes.

12 Q. When you first went there, I think you tell us that the  
13 headmaster was Brother Arthur; is that your  
14 recollection?

15 A. That's correct.

16 Q. And so far as the rest of the staff is concerned,  
17 I think you also mention that there was  
18 a Brother Germanus.

19 A. Yes.

20 Q. What was his role when you went to St Columba's?

21 A. He was the director in charge of the community. As was  
22 normal for the director, he was also in charge of the  
23 dormitories. And I know he did some teaching, but  
24 I don't know what. I think maths.

25 Q. How do you set up the relationship then between



1 Brother Arthur and Brother Germanus in relation to who  
2 was in overall charge, if that's the proper way of  
3 looking at it?

4 A. With great confusion.

5 Q. What do you mean by that?

6 A. Well, I would have seen -- and this is personal -- that  
7 the headmaster was in charge of the school element and  
8 the brother director was in charge of the community  
9 element. I don't think Germanus drew a clear line and  
10 was inclined to interfere in what I would have seen,  
11 personally, as school matters.

12 Q. Insofar as your responsibilities were concerned when you  
13 went there initially, what were these responsibilities?

14 A. I think it was largely to assist with looking after the  
15 boarders. The daybook records that I spent nine days in  
16 the kitchen, which I've got absolutely no memory of.  
17 I'm quite sure I must have done some teaching.  
18 I certainly took the boys out on walks down to the  
19 beach, supervised playtimes.

20 Q. But during your time, and fairly shortly after your  
21 arrival, did you in fact take over as the boarding  
22 housemaster?

23 A. The following [REDACTED].

24 Q. [REDACTED] 1980?

25 A. Yes.

1 Q. Had Brother Germanus moved on?

2 A. Yes, he had been transferred to the community in  
3 Shettleston in Glasgow.

4 Q. Then before that happened, can I just understand what  
5 input you would have into the running of the dormitories  
6 before you actually took over from Brother Germanus?

7 A. None.

8 Q. Did you spend any time in the dormitory area?

9 A. I'm sure I must have done dormitory duty, but I can't  
10 specifically remember.

11 Q. Perhaps that brings me to the general layout at  
12 St Columba's then. We know there's the main building,  
13 Landour House; is that correct? We've heard that in  
14 evidence.

15 A. Yes.

16 Q. And that's the building in which the dormitories were  
17 located?

18 A. That's correct.

19 Q. There's also a building that was known as  
20 Northfield House; is that right?

21 A. That's correct.

22 Q. In your day, when you went there, was that where the  
23 classrooms were?

24 A. In Northfield, yes.

25 Q. There were also, I think, rooms in that building for

1           brothers as well; was that the position when you were  
2           there?

3           A. That's correct, yes.

4           Q. We've also heard reference to a building known as the  
5           annex; was that in use when you went there?

6           A. Not really as far as I was aware. But Brother Germanus  
7           did ask that I sleep in the annex.

8           Q. Is that what you did?

9           A. I did do that, yes.

10          Q. Do I take it that until Brother Germanus left and you  
11          took over that role, you were in the annex?

12          A. That is correct.

13          Q. And did you then move into a room or rooms in  
14          Landour House?

15          A. Initially, I moved into one room, which was the  
16          dormitory master's room.

17          Q. Can you just clarify this for me: when you were the  
18          dormitory master -- and I think sometimes the dormitory  
19          masters were referred to as the prefect -- is that --

20          A. Yes.

21          Q. When you were the dormitory master then, and you had  
22          your room in the dormitory area, were you the only  
23          brother in that area?

24          A. Yes.

25          Q. We've touched upon the daybook. Who kept the daybook,

1           who would write it up?

2           A. As far as I'm aware, it was kept by the director of the  
3           community.

4           Q. And that would be Brother Germanus then in his day?

5           A. Brother Germanus and then Brother Arthur.

6           Q. Did Brother Arthur become the director after  
7           Brother Germanus left?

8           A. Yes.

9           Q. You've already confirmed for me, Peter, that when you  
10          became the dormitory master, you were the only brother  
11          who would be in the dormitory area, particularly when  
12          the children were in for the night, so to speak.

13          In paragraph 202, you tell us -- if we can turn to  
14          paragraph 202, that's at page 9035, you mention there --  
15          and I'll read this out to you, Peter:

16          "I did speak to Brother Arthur ironically about  
17          whether there was any chance of anyone else being over  
18          in the building with me. I didn't think it was  
19          a particularly good idea just having one person on their  
20          own."

21          And you go on to tell us in the next paragraph:

22          "I was the only brother who was resident with the  
23          boarders at that stage."

24          Can I just ask about that? This conversation you  
25          had with Brother Arthur, why did you have that

1 conversation?

2 A. Well, I had a certain background, obviously, in child  
3 care and arrangements, and it just didn't strike me as  
4 being good for the children only to be isolated there  
5 with a single adult, and I thought it was putting the  
6 adult in a vulnerable position.

7 Q. By this time had you studied the rules and constitutions  
8 of the Marist order?

9 A. Oh yes, we do that in our novitiate.

10 Q. Was there a provision in the rules which advised against  
11 having a single brother in a dormitory?

12 A. Not as far as I'm aware.

13 Q. I'll read this out to you. I'm reading from the Common  
14 Rules of the Congregation of the Marist Brothers of the  
15 Schools. I think these common rules emanate from 1960.  
16 Rule 443 is in these terms:

17 "Supervision should be more exact and careful in the  
18 dormitories and during the walks. For this purpose  
19 there will be two brothers for each of the boys'  
20 dormitories and at least as many with each school group  
21 out for walks."

22 That's a specific provision in the rules. Were you  
23 aware of that provision when you took up your position  
24 at St Columba's?

25 A. Well, that was the 1960 version. I would have studied

1 a later version. I certainly could not say either way  
2 at this stage whether I was aware of such a rule at that  
3 time.

4 Q. I think we've --

5 A. It just struck me as common sense.

6 Q. Okay. You tell us a little bit about the routine at  
7 St Columba's during your time there, Peter. I want to  
8 pick up one or two discrete points. If we turn to  
9 paragraph 270, that's at page 9051.

10 You're there mentioning school inspections.

11 Do you have a recollection of there being school  
12 inspections carried out during your time?

13 A. There was a visit by a school inspector. It was not  
14 a full school inspection.

15 Q. What about the boarding and pastoral side of  
16 St Columba's? So far as you can tell us, was there any  
17 inspection carried out in relation to that?

18 A. Well, I asked that inspector to have an inspection of  
19 the dormitories. She said it strictly wasn't part of  
20 her remit but in actual fact she did come up and had  
21 a look round and was quite complimentary.

22 Q. That was on an informal basis?

23 A. Very informal, yes.

24 Q. Apart from that, do you have any recollection of any  
25 other form of inspection being carried out by anyone to

1 inspect the boarding area and generally looking at  
2 pastoral care?

3 A. No, I have no recollection of any inspections.

4 Q. Can I just turn now to discipline and punishment. You  
5 mention that at paragraphs 295 onwards in your  
6 statement. That's at page 9059.

7 A. Yes.

8 Q. You begin by saying, in general, there wasn't much need  
9 for punishment although I think you tell us you yourself  
10 used the strap, you say, on one occasion; is that  
11 correct?

12 A. I used the strap once, yes.

13 Q. You tell us, so far as you were aware, that there was no  
14 punishment book or any record kept of any punishments  
15 that may have been given.

16 A. That's correct.

17 Q. Was that ever mentioned to you, that any punishment  
18 ought to be recorded in any way?

19 A. No, it wasn't.

20 Q. You also tell us about an incident -- this is at  
21 paragraph 302, and that's 9061 -- when you told a boy to  
22 stand upstairs outside your room. Do you remember that?

23 A. Yes.

24 Q. And if you look at your list of witnesses and  
25 pseudonyms, this is the boy who's number 3 in the list,

1           whose pseudonym is "Alan".

2           A. Yes.

3           Q. What happened on this occasion?

4           A. I told him to go and stand outside my room. I meant to  
5           go and speak to him but something happened and I forgot,  
6           and he was probably there for way over an hour, and  
7           I had to go upstairs for some other reason and I found  
8           him there. I was very apologetic to him, that I had  
9           kept him standing there, and I appreciated just how  
10          anxious that must have made him. I said, that's his  
11          punishment, I'm sorry it happened that way, but there  
12          will be no further action.

13          Q. I think in your statement you thought he might have been  
14          there for about two hours.

15          A. Yes. It's ... Possibly. I mean, I'm guessing. It is  
16          a long time ago.

17          Q. The other incident you make reference to -- and this is  
18          at paragraph 303 -- the boy you're dealing with now is  
19          the boy who's number 5 on the list and he has taken the  
20          pseudonym "John".

21          A. Right.

22          Q. There was a time, you tell us, that John thought he was  
23          being taken upstairs to be beaten.

24          A. Yes.

25          Q. Can you tell me about that? What happened there?



- 1 A. Again, it was -- I sent him upstairs and went up to  
2 speak to him and he burst into tears and started saying  
3 things like, "Don't beat me", and I had to say, look,  
4 there was no question of you being beaten, I don't beat  
5 you, you should know that.
- 6 Q. Why do you think, though, that he thought he was going  
7 to be beaten?
- 8 A. Well, I must confess that didn't really enter my head  
9 at the time. I was more concerned with calming him down  
10 that he wasn't going to be beaten.
- 11 Q. So you never --
- 12 A. I know that he did think I was a lot more angry than  
13 I was.
- 14 Q. And generally, then, just looking at punishment, did you  
15 witness any of the other staff who were there with you  
16 disciplining the boys?
- 17 A. No, I never witnessed any sort of discipline incidents.
- 18 Q. Did any boys report to you that they had been punished  
19 in a particular way?
- 20 A. Yes. In particular, a boy who's not here, came to me to  
21 say he'd had his knuckles rapped with a ruler, which  
22 I didn't approve of, and I reported that to  
23 Brother Arthur as the headmaster.
- 24 Q. Who was the brother who was being mentioned as having  
25 used the ruler?

1 A. Brother MFW

2 Q. Was he one of the teachers?

3 A. He was, yes.

4 Q. Do you know what happened after you'd reported it?

5 A. Well, no. Brother Arthur was not very good at giving  
6 feedback.

7 Q. Okay. There's a section in your statement, Peter, where  
8 you address allegations of abuse made against you at  
9 St Columba's in Largs. Can I just take you to that now.  
10 That begins at paragraph 338 and that's on page 9072.

11 You'll see the first name that's mentioned there,  
12 and if you go back to the list that we're looking at,  
13 you will see he is number 4 on the list and he has taken  
14 the name "James" as a pseudonym. Do you see that,  
15 Peter?

16 A. I'm just flicking back. Yes.

17 Q. You deal with what this person says over the next few  
18 pages in your statement and the various passages from  
19 his statement that are put to you, making allegations  
20 against you, by saying that you did not know this boy at  
21 all.

22 A. Absolutely. That is the situation. As far as I know,  
23 I never met the boy.

24 Q. I think your position is that your paths did not cross  
25 because he had left St Columba's before you went to take

1 up your position?

2 A. According to his own statement to the police initially,  
3 yes, he left in 1978.

4 Q. Then the next names I want you to consider now then  
5 are -- if you look at the list, the first name on the  
6 list is a name that's been given the pseudonym "Billy".  
7 Do you see that?

8 A. Just trying to find it. Okay.

9 Q. The next name we'll be looking at over the next little  
10 while is number 3, who's taken the name "Alan".  
11 Do you see that on the list?

12 A. Yes, okay.

13 Q. The next name -- and we've touched upon already -- is  
14 number 5, who's taken the pseudonym "John".

15 A. Right.

16 Q. We've then got number 6, who's taken the pseudonym  
17 "Michael"; do you see that?

18 A. Okay.

19 Q. And the last name for present purposes is number 7,  
20 who's taken the name "Edward". Do you see that?

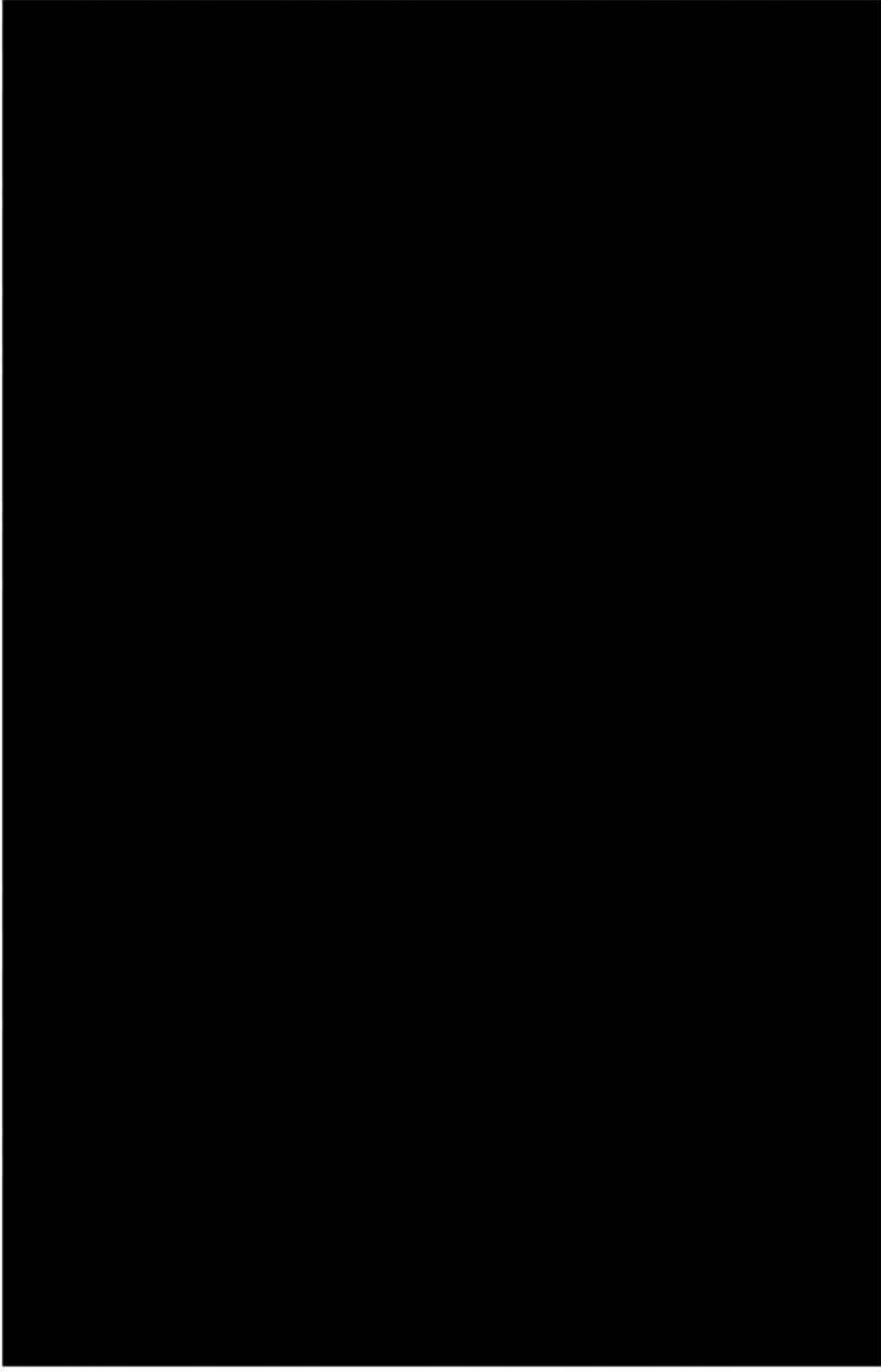
21 A. Yes, I do.

22 Q. Were these persons that I've mentioned persons who have  
23 made allegations against you in the past [REDACTED]

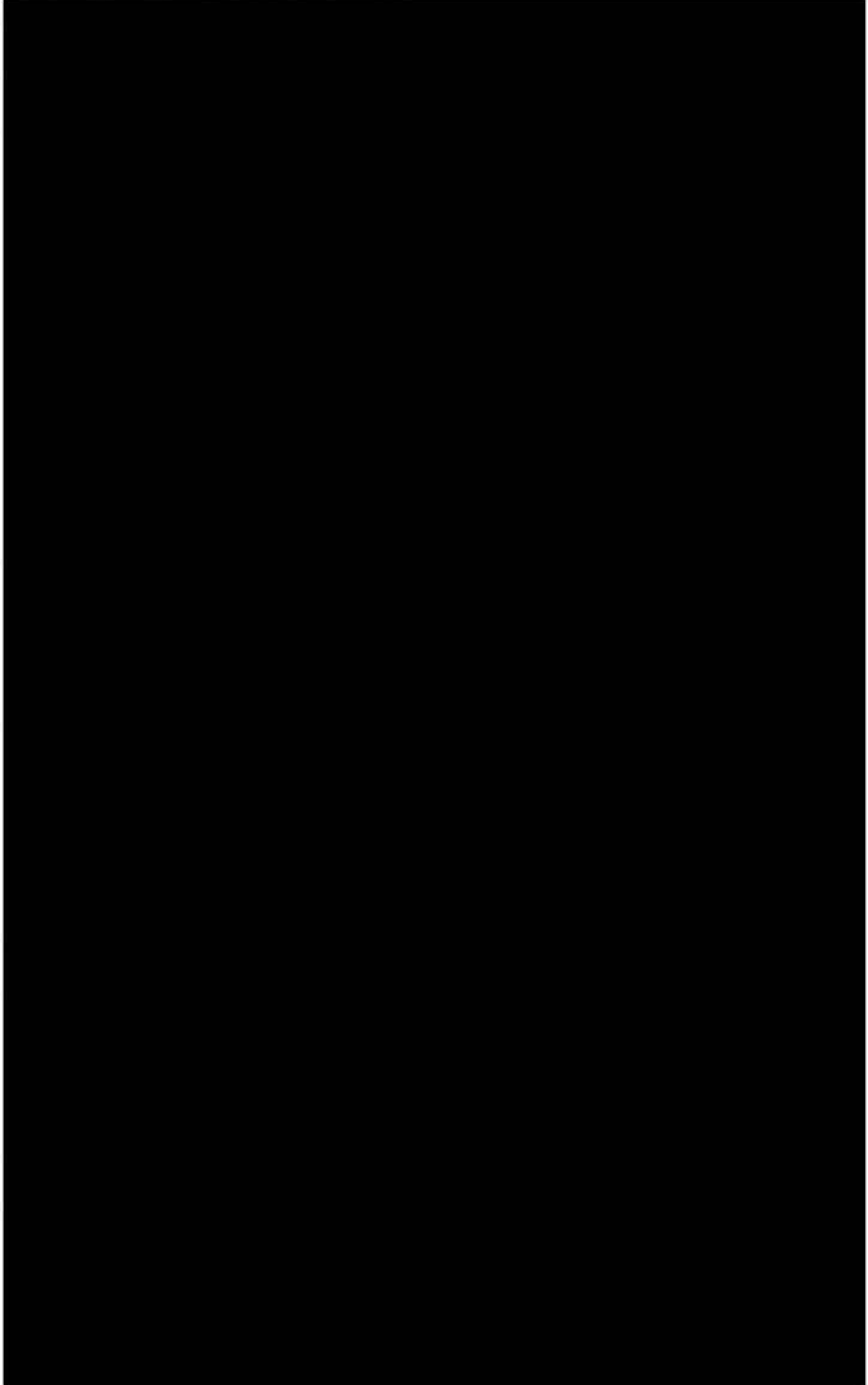
24 [REDACTED]

25 A. That's correct, yes.

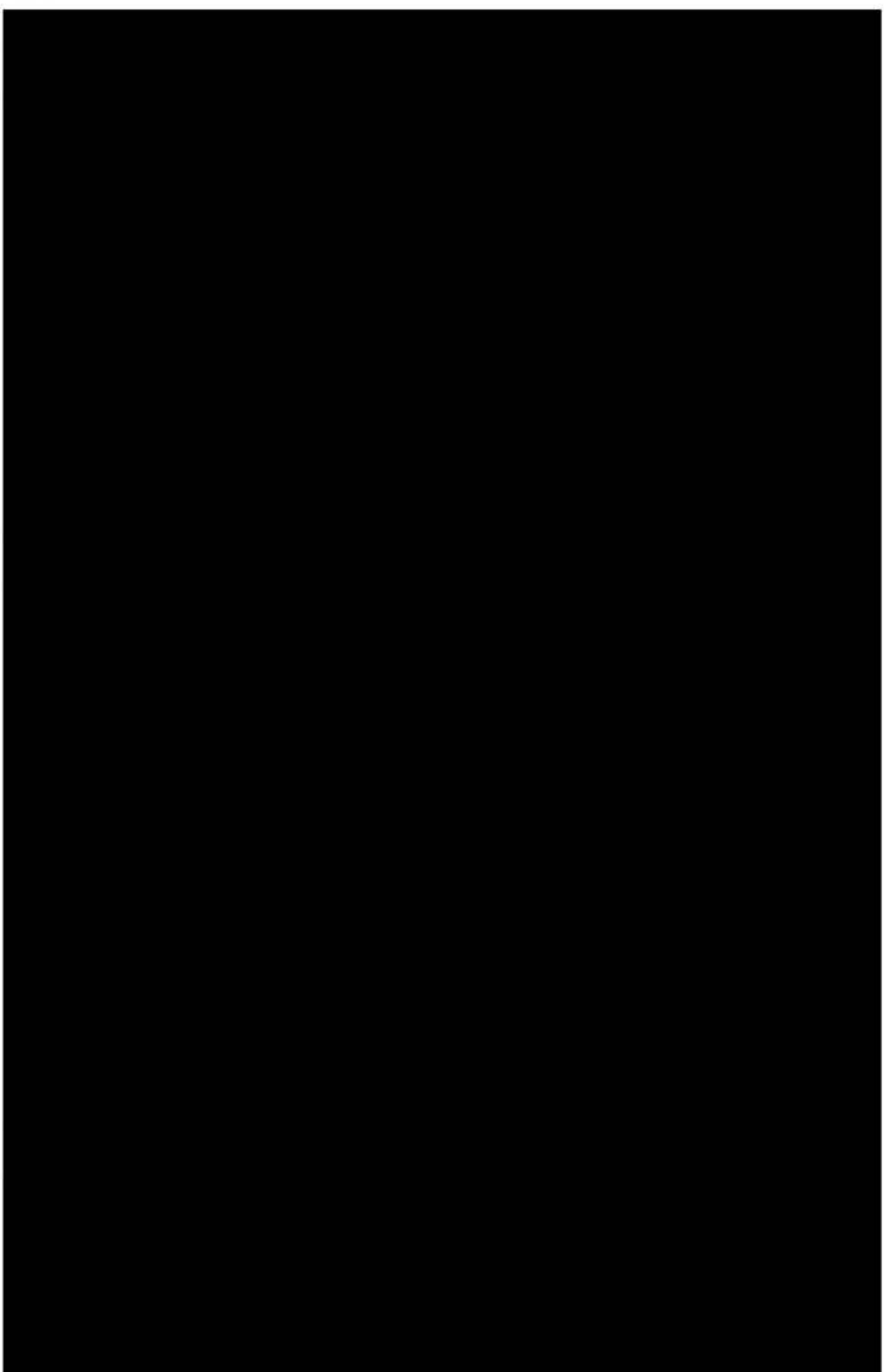
1 Q.  
2  
3 A.  
4 Q.  
5  
6 A.  
7 Q.  
8  
9  
10 A.  
11 Q.  
12  
13 A.  
14  
15 Q.  
16  
17  
18  
19 A.  
20 Q.  
21  
22  
23  
24  
25 A.



1 Q.  
2 A.  
3 Q.  
4  
5  
6  
7  
8  
9  
10  
11 A.  
12  
13  
14 Q.  
15  
16  
17  
18 A.  
19 Q.  
20  
21  
22 A.  
23 Q.  
24  
25



1 A.  
2 Q.  
3  
4  
5  
6  
7  
8  
9  
10 A.  
11 Q.  
12  
13  
14  
15  
16  
17  
18  
19  
20  
21 A.  
22 Q.  
23  
24  
25





1       A. I agree with that, but we also have discovered that  
2           there is a secret Facebook page involving St Columba's  
3           and former pupils and if you look at some of the things  
4           that -- sorry, I'm afraid I can't remember the boy's  
5           pseudonym, the one who I deny that I ever knew, he has  
6           also made similar allegations and refers to genuine  
7           incidents. There has to have been an exchange of  
8           information.

9       Q. So are you verging then towards the collusion type of  
10          line rather than something else?

11      A. I certainly feel there has to have been a high degree of  
12          collusion.

13      Q. When you were seen by the witness statement takers for  
14          the inquiry and the Witness Support team, were other  
15          allegations put to you that had not been previously  
16          covered when your statement was being taken?

17      A. Yes.

18      Q. And if you go back to the list of witnesses and  
19          pseudonyms, I want you to focus on the name that's  
20          number 8 on the list, and that person has been given the  
21          pseudonym "David". Do you recognise the name?

22      A. I do, yes.

23      Q. Were you told when you were seen that this witness has  
24          told the inquiry that he was taken to your room with  
25          another boy and given various options, which were being



1           smacked, being belted on the hand, or to play with each  
2           other's genitals. Was that the sort of narrative that  
3           was put to you when you were seen?

4           A. Something along those lines, yes.

5           Q. Were you also told that on other occasions that he would  
6           be alone with you in your room and that you told him to  
7           play with his genitals? Again, was that --

8           A. I can't specifically remember that, but it may have been  
9           said to me.

10          Q. What I want to put -- these, of course, are not  
11          allegations that [REDACTED] so  
12          clearly, you will bear in mind Lady Smith's caution when  
13          you're dealing with these allegations. What is your  
14          position? Did these happen?

15          A. We lost you when you were speaking.

16          Q. Ah, okay. Bearing in mind that these allegations I have  
17          just put to you, that have been sent to the inquiry by  
18          this witness who's taken the name "David", [REDACTED]  
19          [REDACTED] you will bear in mind  
20          Lady Smith's warning.

21          A. Yes.

22          Q. I now put the question to you: did this happen or did it  
23          not?

24          A. It did not happen.

25          Q. So again, would it be your position that this particular

1 individual either has made it up or is confused or is  
2 involved in some collusion with others?

3 A. Well, he's certainly involved in some level of  
4 collusion. He's admitted the existence of the --  
5 I think it was a Facebook page. He talks about the use  
6 of the video, but we didn't have a video as far as  
7 I remember in his time. I'm sad to say that my  
8 experience of this boy -- he's the one boy of whom  
9 I have absolutely no positive memories. I found him  
10 a bully and a liar.

11 Q. The other name I want to put to you is number 2 on the  
12 list if you have your list in front of you.

13 A. Yes.

14 Q. That's a boy whose pseudonym is "Thomas". Do you see  
15 that?

16 A. I do, yes.

17 Q. And do you recognise the boy's name?

18 A. I do.

19 Q. As we have heard in evidence, he was, I think, in fact  
20 a day pupil, although he stayed overnight on occasions.  
21 His evidence, in the first instance, was in relation to  
22 your behaviour in class, in that you would throw chalk  
23 and dusters and he'd be terrified. Is there any truth  
24 in that?

25 A. Absolutely not.

1 Q. So would you say in relation to him that he is inventing  
2 this or --

3 A. Again, one of the complaints that was made to me about  
4 Brother MFW was the fact that he threw a duster.

5 Q. So do you think this boy is confused then? He is  
6 confusing you with Brother MFW

7 A. Well, insofar as it most certainly wasn't me, he is  
8 either lying or he is confused.

9 Q. He did say in his evidence that:

10 "Going into his class was just sheer terror."

11 Do you recollect anything like that with this  
12 particular boy?

13 A. No. He was a very happy-go-lucky boy as far as  
14 I remember him.

15 Can I also correct something that you said, that  
16 he had stayed at the school overnight on a number of  
17 occasions?

18 Q. On occasion. Yes, carry on.

19 A. He stayed overnight once during the holidays.

20 Q. Okay. He did also in his evidence -- and I think this  
21 was put to you when your statement was being taken, this  
22 is at paragraph 496, page 9116. This is the allegation  
23 he made against you that after a rugby match, when you  
24 were attending to him, you, as he put it, grabbed his  
25 genitals for a couple of seconds. Did that happen?

1 A. Absolutely not. That whole paragraph makes absolutely  
2 no sense to me in terms of what happened at school.

3 Q. In what way?

4 A. Well, first of all, we never did rugby scrums. There  
5 weren't enough pupils of the same age. It was very much  
6 touch rugby. I don't remember any child getting a knee  
7 scraped at all. We never, ever had Ribena in the school  
8 unless any child maybe had his own, but I don't remember  
9 any. I certainly don't remember anyone (inaudible:  
10 distorted) being treated for any injuries in any of the  
11 sports.

12 LADY SMITH: Peter, hang on a minute. Can you adjust your  
13 position in relation to the microphone because we're not  
14 hearing you clearly at this end.

15 A. Sorry.

16 LADY SMITH: That's much better, thank you. If you just  
17 stay there.

18 A. It's probably because I'm turning to look at the folder.  
19 We didn't do rugby scrums. It was very much touch  
20 rugby because the age range of the pupils was such that  
21 full contact was not safe.

22 Never was a child injured playing rugby because we  
23 very rarely did it, it didn't work. Again, there was  
24 just too big an ability range and age range to get any  
25 sort of decent game going.

1           We never, ever had Ribena at the school. I don't  
2           know if any children maybe had their own supply but  
3           I never saw it.

4           I never had to treat any child for any injury at any  
5           sport.

6       MR MacAULAY: So what is your position? Are you saying this  
7           boy has, man now, has invented this particular  
8           recollection?

9       A. Whether it's a false memory, I have absolutely no idea,  
10          all I can assure you is it did not happen.

11       Q. And of course, this is somebody who, I think you may be  
12          aware, is no longer in this country. You're aware of  
13          that?

14       A. Yes. And that was -- the night before                       
15          was the one night he spent at school.

16       LADY SMITH: Peter, did children ever get scraped knees?

17       A. Not that I remember. I mean, looking back, I'm amazed  
18          how injury-free and how healthy the children were.

19       LADY SMITH: Well, I'm not suggesting it's unhealthy.  
20          Often, healthy children running about do trip up and  
21          fall.

22                 You're saying you --

23       A. I'm talking in terms of --

24       LADY SMITH: Hang on, don't speak at the same time as me or  
25          it's impossible for the stenographers.

1 A. Sorry.

2 LADY SMITH: Are you saying you have no recollection of any  
3 child being injured and needing cleaned up at all during  
4 the two and a bit years you were there?

5 A. Yes.

6 LADY SMITH: All right, thank you.

7 MR MacAULAY: You were moving on to say something about, you  
8 say, the only night this boy spent at the school. What  
9 were you moving on to tell us about that, Peter?

10 A. The [REDACTED] as far as I remember, in the  
11 summer of 1982 to [REDACTED] We had a farewell dinner for  
12 them, and at the end of the dinner ...

13 (Video link interrupted)

14 MR MacAULAY: I think we've lost you.

15 LADY SMITH: Whatever position you're in now for the  
16 microphone, Peter, that gives us a clear sound, but if  
17 you move away from that, we're losing you a bit.

18 Thank you.

19 MR MacAULAY: Can you start again with that explanation?

20 A. Yes. The family were going to [REDACTED] As  
21 far as I remember, this was during the summer holidays  
22 of 1982. We had a farewell dinner for them at the  
23 school, it was the brothers, Mr and Mrs [REDACTED]  
24 [REDACTED] MOV, and Mrs [REDACTED] brother --

25 LADY SMITH: Hang on a minute, Peter. I want to remind

1           everybody here that the name you have just mentioned is  
2           protected by my general restriction order.

3           A. Oh, sorry.

4           LADY SMITH: Could you please try not to use it again?

5           You've got a pseudonym. If you could stick to that,  
6           please. Thank you.

7           A. Okay. Thomas' adopted father spoke to me at the end of  
8           the meal and asked if it was possible for Thomas to get  
9           a mattress on my bedroom floor and spend the night at  
10          school. They had always promised him that he would be  
11          able to board when he was older, but now that they were  
12          going away, that would never materialise.

13          He told me he had spoken to Brother Arthur, who had  
14          agreed to it, so I agreed to it. That was the only  
15          occasion in which Thomas spent the night at school.

16          MR MacAULAY: Are you telling us he spent the night at  
17          school in your room?

18          A. Yes.

19          Q. You told us earlier how concerned you were about being  
20          the only brother in the dormitory area, but here  
21          you have a situation where you have a boy sleeping in  
22          the same room as you overnight. Is that the case?

23          A. That's correct, yes.

24          Q. And I put to you before the rule that appears to have  
25          been in place since the 1960s. Clearly, that would be

1 in contravention of the Marists' approach to such  
2 matters.

3 A. Well, it would appear to be from that particular rule,  
4 but I've got no recollection of that rule, and it had  
5 been in effect agreed before speaking to me between the  
6 headmaster and the parent.

7 Q. I now want to turn to some allegations that have been  
8 made against you in relation to physical matters. I've  
9 already mentioned [REDACTED]  
10 [REDACTED] throwing a duster and causing injury, and  
11 I think you say that never happened.

12 A. Well, it certainly wasn't me, but again the boy  
13 concerned, Billy, did tell me shortly after I arrived at  
14 St Columba's that Brother MFW had hit him on the head  
15 with a duster. He showed me a mark, which as far as  
16 I remember was above his left eye on his forehead,  
17 almost at his hairline.

18 Q. So far as [REDACTED] was concerned, though, he was  
19 blaming you for that injury.

20 A. Yes.

21 Q. Is that correct?

22 A. Yes.

23 Q. And you were [REDACTED]

24 A. Yes.

25 Q. If we go back to your statement, Peter, at



1 paragraph 369, it's page 9081. This is an allegation  
2 that Billy has made in connection with his brother,  
3 John, and in particular that when John stood on the  
4 grass, you shouted at him and you punched him in the  
5 face. Did that happen?

6 A. Sorry, we've lost you.

7 Q. Yes, sorry, I'll start again.

8 This allegation by Billy is that on this occasion  
9 when his brother stood on the grass, the brother was  
10 shouted at by you and you punched him on the face.  
11 That's the allegation. Did that happen?

12 A. Well, according to John himself, [REDACTED]

13 [REDACTED] it didn't happen and it didn't happen.

14 Q. So your position is it didn't happen?

15 A. My position and John's position himself is it didn't  
16 happen.

17 Q. Another incident I want to pick up with you -- and this  
18 is mentioned in paragraph 413 of your statement,  
19 if we just perhaps go to that at page 9093. I'll just  
20 read out what has been taken from John's statement.  
21 You'll see it's John that again is saying this:

22 "Brother AKU [REDACTED] got me once. I wouldn't say that  
23 he was generally a violent person towards the kids that  
24 I saw. He would always try to be playful and he pushed  
25 me or something once."

1           So far, would you agree with those comments from  
2           John?

3           A. I would agree that I'm not a violent person. I would  
4           agree that I was very playful with the children. The  
5           rest of it, I don't recognise at all.

6           Q. I will read the rest of it to you:

7                   "I kicked him in the leg and he grabbed hold of me  
8                   and started shouting at me and threw me into a room. He  
9                   used his hand and basically smacked my arse and my back  
10                  and the back of my thighs. I couldn't believe it and it  
11                  was hurting."

12                  And moving on to the next page:

13                   "He was slapping me so hard I couldn't breathe."

14                  That's his account of what happened. Did that  
15                  happen?

16           A. Absolutely not.

17           Q. I've already put to you certain allegations made by  
18           David, who's number 8 on the list, if you go back to  
19           your list.

20           A. Yes.

21           Q. He also, and this may have been put to you when you were  
22           seen by the witness takers, made an allegation against  
23           you that you indulged in threatening behaviour in the  
24           class, including throwing a duster at him. Did that  
25           happen?

1 A. Absolutely not.

2 Q. So this is another person who is saying that you threw  
3 a duster and you say that never happened?

4 A. It definitely never happened.

5 Q. He also said that there was an incident when you punched  
6 him in the side and you knocked him off his chair and  
7 he was aged 9 at the time. Do you have any recollection  
8 of that?

9 A. Not only do I have no recollection, it most certainly  
10 did not happen.

11 Q. The inquiry has heard evidence recently, Peter, that  
12 there were brothers at St Columba's during your period  
13 there who would be locked in their rooms. Was that the  
14 position?

15 A. Absolute nonsense.

16 Q. Indeed, there has been a suggestion that Brother Arthur  
17 locked you in a room in order to protect children. Did  
18 that happen?

19 A. Absolutely not.

20 Q. Well, can I just move on then, Peter, if I may, to life  
21 after St Columba's. You begin telling us about that at  
22 paragraph 542. That's on page 9131.

23 A. Yes.

24 Q. When you left, and you've told us that was in [REDACTED]  
25 of 1982, you went to Kinharvie as a member of the

1 community there?

2 A. Yes.

3 Q. At that time was Kinharvie in the Borders? Was it near  
4 Dumfries?

5 A. Yes. It was about 10 miles west of Dumfries.

6 Q. Was it shortly after that that you decided to leave the  
7 brothers?

8 A. It was shortly after that I left the brothers, yes.

9 Q. You go on to tell us about other places that you worked  
10 at, after you left the brothers, and you begin doing  
11 that in paragraphs 547 through to 607. In particular,  
12 you tell us about your experience at Eglinton House,  
13 which was an establishment in Glasgow; is that right?

14 A. Yes, that's correct.

15 Q. Was that for girls only, that particular establishment?

16 A. No, there were boys and girls there. By coincidence,  
17 there was a girls-only unit, but that was just due to  
18 external factors, not planning.

19 Q. And you provide us with information about the routine  
20 and your experiences when you were there.

21 I want to move on to paragraph 608 on page 9151.

22 A. Okay.

23 Q. You have now moved on in your life to take up a position  
24 as a teacher at [REDACTED]

25 [REDACTED].

1 A. Yes.

2 Q. From what you tell us, you were there from about  
3 [REDACTED] 1985 to [REDACTED] 1993; is that correct?

4 A. That's correct.

5 Q. At that time you were teaching science?

6 A. Initially, I was a year 5, a sort of primary school  
7 teacher, and then it evolved into full-time [REDACTED]  
8 teaching.

9 Q. You go on to tell us, moving on through your statement,  
10 at 615, after your position at [REDACTED]  
11 [REDACTED], you went to [REDACTED] from 1994  
12 to 1999; is that right?

13 A. That's correct, yes.

14 Q. You then go and spend time in [REDACTED], 1999 to 2000;  
15 is that right?

16 A. That's correct.

17 Q. And you then go to [REDACTED] and you're there from about  
18 September 2000 to August 2013.

19 A. Yes.

20 Q. And you tell us about that in paragraph 619.

21 You also go to a school in [REDACTED], in Peru,  
22 paragraph 622. That's from January 2014 to April 2014.  
23 Is that right?

24 A. That's correct.

25 Q. And finally, then, at paragraph 623 do you tell us that

1           you were at [REDACTED] in Oman from  
2           April 2015 to June 2015?

3           A. Yes.

4           Q. And was your time there really brought to an end  
5           because, when you returned from Oman on an occasion, you

6           [REDACTED]  
7           [REDACTED]  
8           [REDACTED]

9           A. Effectively, yes, but I had only gone out on a 10-week  
10          contract.

11          Q. Can I then just look at the position in relation to  
12          [REDACTED] Was that a boys' school?

13          A. Yes.

14          Q. Was it a prep school? By that I mean for younger boys  
15          being prepared for secondary school.

16          A. Yes. When I went, it was from 7 to 13.

17          Q. Just tell me, what position did you hold when you were  
18          at [REDACTED]?

19          A. Initially, I was -- I'll use modern terminology -- a  
20          year 5 form teacher. At various points I did do some  
21          teaching of the older children. I did do some maths and  
22          some scripture, and because I had been doing science,  
23          and the science department hit a bit of a crisis,  
24          I applied to take on the science teaching full-time and  
25          was ultimately successful in that.

1 Q. I've taken from you that it was a prep school. Was it  
2 mainly a boarding school or was it a mix?

3 A. The majority of pupils would have been day pupils.  
4 Again, it grew quite substantially over my time there,  
5 so there was a bigger shift towards day pupils.

6 Q. And who ran the school?

7 A. It was owned by the Jesuits.

8 Q.

9

10

11

12 A.

13 Q.

14

15 A.

16

17 Q.

18 A.

19 Q.

20

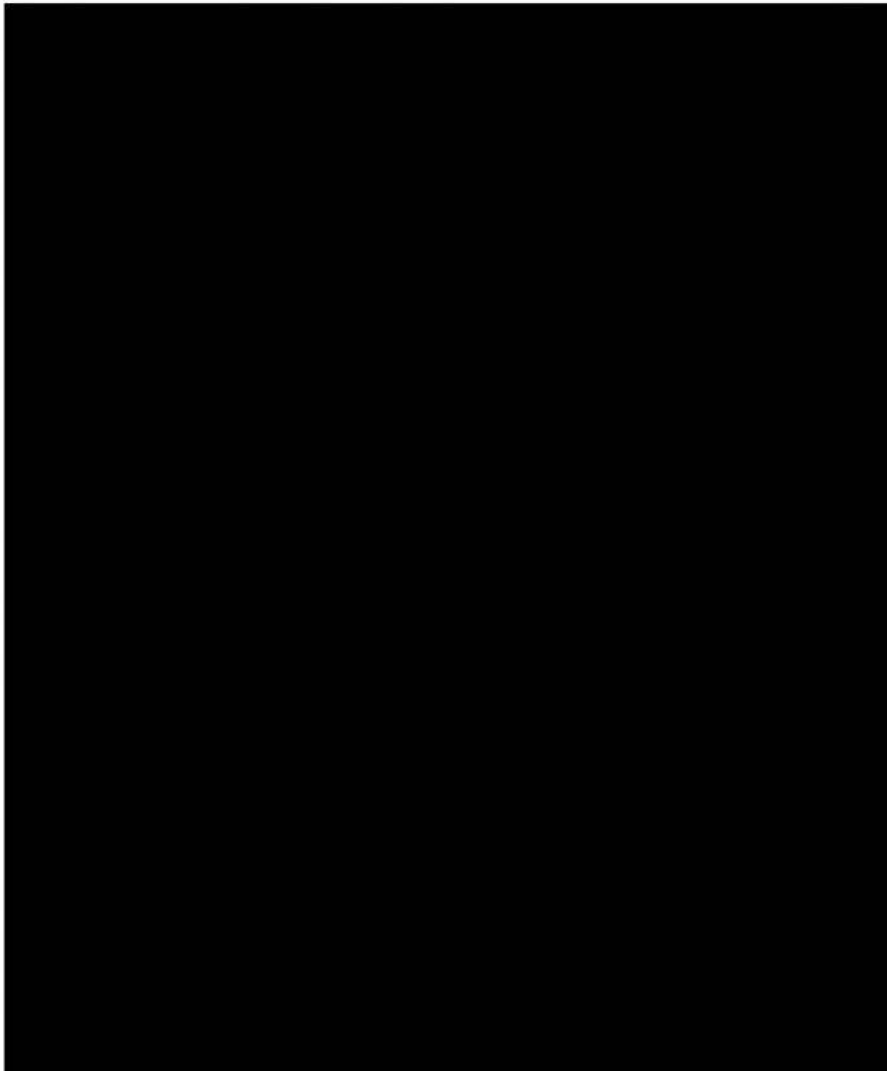
21

22 A.

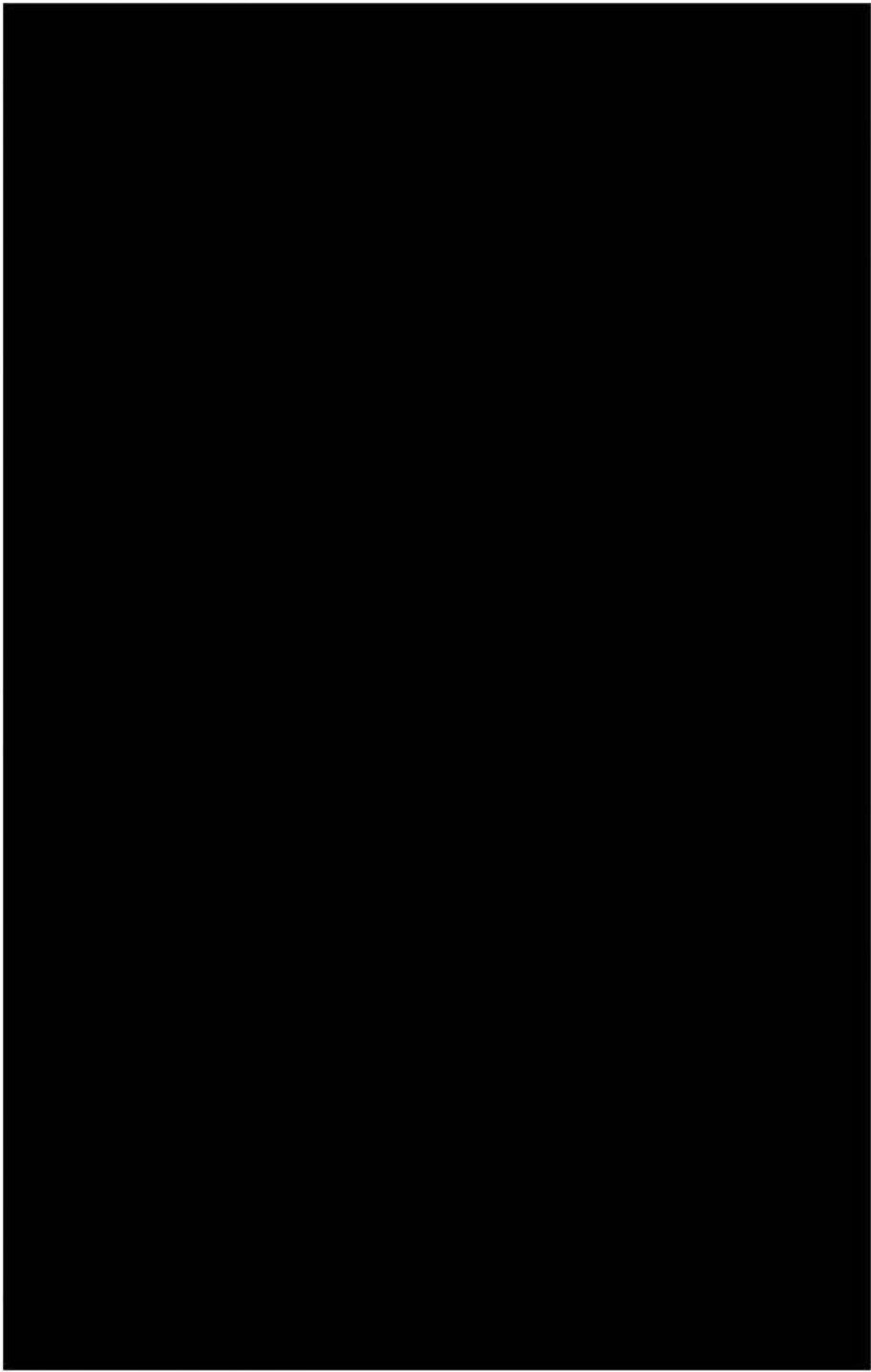
23 Q.

24

25

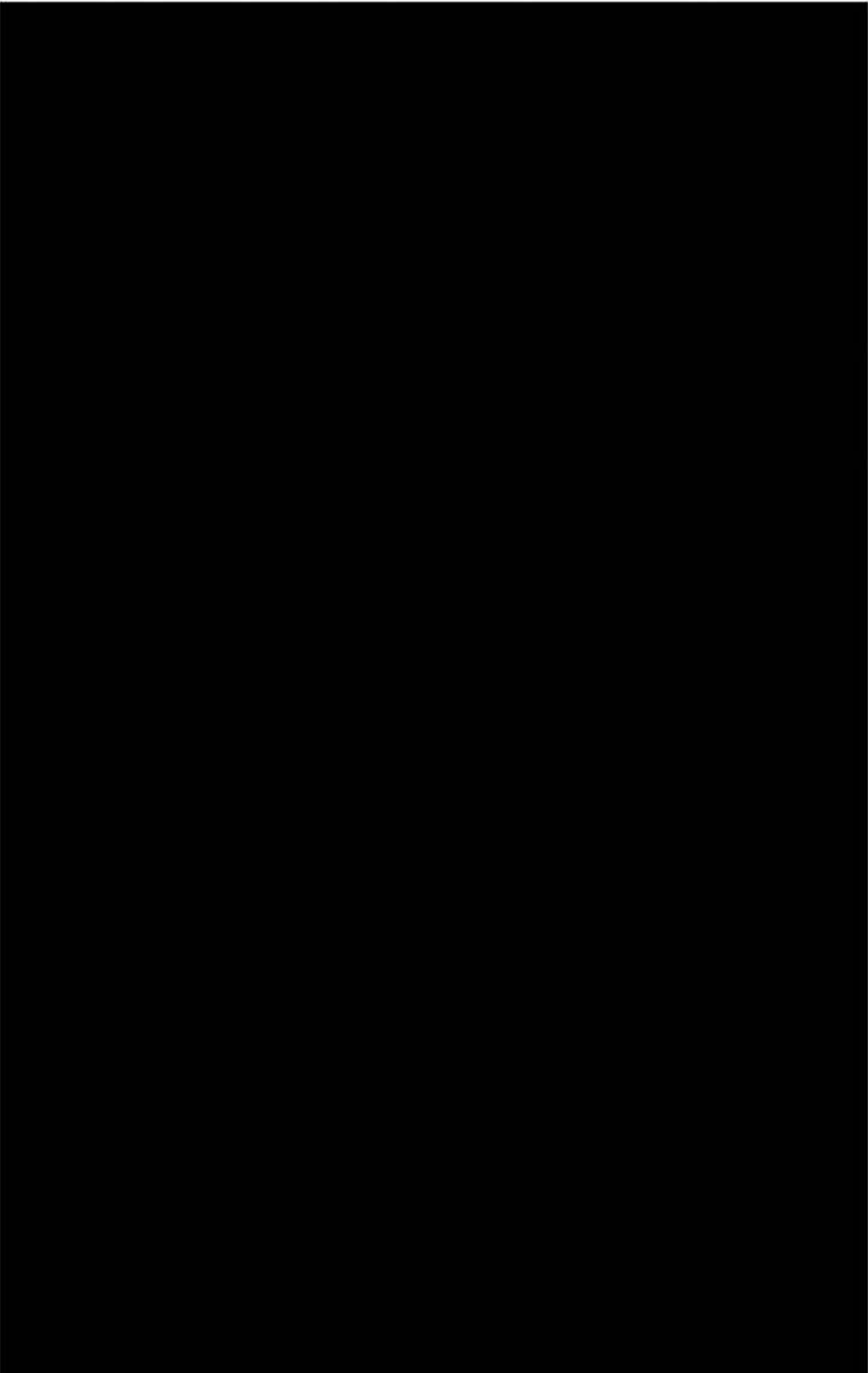


1  
2 A.  
3 Q.  
4  
5  
6  
7 A.  
8 Q.  
9  
10  
11  
12  
13 A.  
14 Q.  
15  
16  
17  
18  
19  
20  
21 A.  
22  
23  
24 Q.  
25





1 A.  
2  
3  
4 Q.  
5  
6  
7 A.  
8  
9  
10  
11 Q.  
12 A.  
13 Q.  
14 A.  
15 Q.  
16 A.  
17  
18  
19 Q.  
20  
21 A.  
22 Q.  
23  
24  
25 A.



1 Q.

2

3 A.

4

5 Q.

6

7 A.

8

9 Q.

10 A.

11 Q.

12

13 A.

14 Q.

15 A.

16

17 MR MacAULAY: My Lady, it's coming up for 11.30. This might  
18 be a good time to give Peter a bit of a break.

19 LADY SMITH: If that works in your scheduling of  
20 questioning, Mr MacAulay, we can do that.

21 Peter, we normally take a break around this time  
22 in the middle of the morning, so I'll do that now and  
23 resume your evidence in a quarter of an hour.

24 (11.30 am)

25

(A short break)

1 (11.50 am)

2 LADY SMITH: Welcome back again, Peter. Are you ready for  
3 us to resume your evidence?

4 A. Yes.

5 LADY SMITH: Thank you very much. I'll hand back to  
6 Mr MacAulay.

7 MR MacAULAY: Before the break, Peter, I'd been asking you  
8 about [REDACTED]

9 [REDACTED] In particular, I think I'd taken from you  
10 that one of the [REDACTED]

11 [REDACTED]

12 [REDACTED] That's the position, isn't it?

13 A. Yes.

14 Q. I think, as a matter of fact, [REDACTED]  
15 [REDACTED]

16 A. Yes.

17 Q. If I can take this as an example: according to the  
18 descriptions provided in the materials that the inquiry  
19 has recovered, [REDACTED]

20 [REDACTED]

21 [REDACTED]

22 [REDACTED]

23 [REDACTED]

24 [REDACTED]

25 [REDACTED]

- 1 A. I have no idea because I refused to read the details of  
2 [REDACTED] and I certainly never [REDACTED] them.
- 3 Q. The reason I put that to you, Peter, is that that  
4 behaviour does appear to reflect behaviour in connection  
5 with [REDACTED] from your time at  
6 St Columba's. If you look at that description I have  
7 just given to you, would that be a fair comment?
- 8 A. I suppose there has to be -- if you're going to sexually  
9 abuse anyone, there's a limited number of ways of doing  
10 it. So with so many potential [REDACTED] there's going to  
11 be some sort of overlap.
- 12 Q. There was also [REDACTED]  
13 [REDACTED] Again, if you haven't  
14 looked at the material, then you wouldn't be aware of  
15 that, if that's your position.
- 16 A. Yes.
- 17 Q. Would you agree with this: from your understanding of  
18 what was contained in that material, [REDACTED]  
19 demonstrated a particular sexual interest in young boys?
- 20 A. That's what was [REDACTED]  
21 [REDACTED]
- 22 Q. From your understanding of the contents of the material,  
23 would you agree with that?
- 24 A. Again, I don't know the [REDACTED]  
25 [REDACTED] because I never looked at it, and the [REDACTED]

1

2 LADY SMITH: Peter, at the moment Mr MacAulay is just asking  
3 you to comment on the description he gave you earlier,  
4 which was quite a detailed description. Could you just  
5 concentrate on that? That'd be helpful.

6 MR MacAULAY: Yes. What I'm putting to you, Peter, is, if  
7 my description is correct in relation to what these  
8 [REDACTED] would you accept the proposition that  
9 these are [REDACTED] that demonstrate a particular sexual  
10 interest in young boys?

11 A. Well, I think if anyone's got [REDACTED] it must  
12 demonstrate that.

13 Q. Can I just confirm, Peter, because I haven't taken this  
14 from you, that in relation to [REDACTED]

15

16

17 A. Yes.

18 Q. And at the moment, I think you're [REDACTED]

19

20

21 A. Yes.

22 Q. Earlier, we touched in connection with the horror films  
23 that you accept, I think, that you showed at  
24 St Columba's. Would these films be shown with a group  
25 of boys with you while they were being viewed?

1 A. Yes.

2 Q. And would a group of boys be with you on a settee or  
3 a sofa when these films were being shown?

4 A. Yes.

5 Q. I understand your position, that you would seek to edit  
6 bits of the films, but even with your editing, would it  
7 be fair to say that these films would be frightening to  
8 young children?

9 A. In the same way perhaps my generation were frightened by  
10 some of the Dr Who things, yes.

11 Q. In response to that, was one of the reactions by them  
12 to, as it has been put in the evidence, to cuddle in to  
13 you as the adult who was there at the time?

14 A. Not that I specifically remember, but they'd be inclined  
15 to do that anyway.

16 Q. So if that's been a suggestion, would you be prepared to  
17 accept that that's what happened?

18 A. I have no doubt that some children would have cuddled  
19 into me when watching any television.

20 Q. But I'm focusing at the moment on the horror films. Are  
21 you accepting that when these films were being shown  
22 with a group of children, with you on a sofa, they would  
23 cuddle in to you and make contact with you because of  
24 what they were viewing?

25 A. No, I don't accept it is because of what they are

1           viewing, I just think it's in the nature of children  
2           that if they sit beside you, they tend to cuddle in  
3           beside you.

4       Q. You've told us already that you left the Marist order in  
5           1973 after you had been at St Columba's; is that  
6           correct?

7       A. No, 1983.

8       Q. I'm sorry, 1983. But is it the position that you  
9           requested that you remain in the Marist order?

10      A. Yes.

11      Q. Was that request turned down?

12      A. Ultimately, yes.

13      Q. Why was that?

14      A. I had been in conflict with the area -- sorry, the  
15           brother in charge of the area; his title was provincial.

16      Q. Yes, and can you elaborate upon what the problem was?

17      A. Well, overall ...

18                                (Video link interrupted)

19           ... I thought he was going to send me to teacher  
20           training --

21      LADY SMITH: Peter, I'm so sorry, could you just go back?

22           I'm afraid we lost you when you raised your head. If  
23           you can start again. Thank you.

24      A. Right, sorry.

25           He actually approached me about moving from Largs

1 and I had written to him hinting that's what I wanted to  
2 do. And I expected to be going to teacher training.  
3 Instead, he announced he was thinking of sending me to  
4 Kinharvie. I then heard from other brothers that I had  
5 been appointed, but I had never been told that, and  
6 I challenged him on the propriety of that course of  
7 action.

8 Thereafter, we had a deteriorating relationship and  
9 essentially he refused to take my vows, which I said was  
10 beyond his capacity, he'd been instructed to take them,  
11 he had to. There was lots of toing and froing. My vows  
12 were taken by somebody else and then, when I reapplied,  
13 I was accepted by the local Council of Brothers, but he  
14 appealed to Rome and Rome backed him up.

15 MR MacAULAY: So essentially, in a nutshell, were you then  
16 required to leave the order?

17 A. Effectively, yes.

18 Q. Peter, would you accept, looking at this objectively,  
19 that in light of your [REDACTED] particularly in  
20 connection with St Columba's, because that was an  
21 establishment run by the Marist Brothers, that you have  
22 stained the reputation of the Marist Brothers in  
23 a significant way?

24 A. No, I don't, because I did not do what I have been  
25 [REDACTED]



1 Q. But standing --

2 A. [REDACTED] effectively, because of a number of  
3 accusations, which had been circulated online with no  
4 mention of me in many of them -- sorry, many were online  
5 and no mention of me. There was never any mention of  
6 me, as far as I'm aware, until the [REDACTED] approached  
7 these boys and put my name into their heads.

8 Q. Well, I can understand that's your position, and that's  
9 your [REDACTED] Peter, but what I'm putting to you is  
10 something quite different to that and that is, standing  
11 the fact that you have [REDACTED]  
12 [REDACTED] would you accept that, standing that  
13 fact, that really has stained the reputation of the  
14 Marist Brothers?

15 A. I think it's not a justifiable question. It's a bit  
16 like saying [REDACTED]  
17 [REDACTED] that reflects badly on others. I am innocent,  
18 [REDACTED]

19 Q. But would you accept, [REDACTED] that that  
20 does reflect badly on the Marist Brothers?

21 A. No, it reflects badly on our [REDACTED]

22 Q. Because one of the points you make in your statement at  
23 paragraph 636, Peter, is that you say you didn't get any  
24 support from the Marist community, from any of the  
25 brothers, [REDACTED] That's

1 at paragraph 636 at page 9161.

2 A. Yes.

3 Q. But by now, of course, you'd been away from the

4 Marist Brothers for many years and [REDACTED]

5 [REDACTED]

6 [REDACTED] who had

7 been in the care of the Marist Brothers. So what did

8 you expect from the Marist Brothers?

9 A. I would have expected some sort of support because I did

10 contact them to say that the allegations had been made,

11 so that they were aware and [REDACTED]

12 were aware. I did actually meet with [REDACTED] and

13 really got no ...

14 (Video link interrupted)

15 LADY SMITH: Peter, we lost you for a couple of moments

16 there again. I think it'd be easier for Mr MacAulay to

17 just ask you the question again.

18 MR MacAULAY: I think the question I was putting to you is:

19 standing the fact that you were facing these very

20 serious allegations of sexual abuse directed against

21 boys who had been in the care of the Marist Brothers,

22 and you had been away from the Marist Brothers for many

23 years, why did you expect some feedback or support from

24 the Marist Brothers?

25 A. Well, again, you've loaded the question by using the

1 expression "I was away from". I maintained a certain  
2 degree of contact. I actually, after I left the  
3 brothers, had a brother come and stay with me.

4 I organised retreats and events that involved the  
5 brothers. I was in contact with the brothers over the  
6 disappearance and ultimate death ...

7 (Video link interrupted)

8 ... superior was a personal friend -- we'd been at  
9 school and university together -- and indeed we still  
10 met up and went out on a regular basis until about 2015.

11 Q. You've explained your position in relation to the boys  
12 who say they were abused as boys when they were at  
13 St Columba's. In relation to the boys who say they were  
14 abused by you [REDACTED] is your position  
15 the same, that they are inventing these accounts?

16 A. There's one -- I would be more charitable than that. He  
17 has had mental health problems. He is on drugs, which  
18 his mother had warned him could cause hallucinations,  
19 and again there was never any question of any wrongdoing  
20 by me until he started, after a psychotic episode,  
21 taking these drugs.

22 The other boy who encouraged him to make accusations  
23 was a boy who had a particular chip against me.

24 Q. The [REDACTED] that were recovered on [REDACTED]  
25 which I think you accept was in your possession, do

1 I take it that you don't accept that these were [REDACTED]  
2 that you yourself had obtained?

3 A. Yes, absolutely. I had given out a number of [REDACTED]  
4 during the [REDACTED] and in fact there was  
5 a video, which I couldn't identify during my [REDACTED] --  
6 there was a video about Scottish independence.

7 After [REDACTED] I discovered the [REDACTED] was actually  
8 a [REDACTED] of a PowerPoint presentation that  
9 I had made answering questions that people were asking

10  
11  
12

(Video link interrupted)

13  
14 LADY SMITH: Peter, could you go back to the position you  
15 were in before in relation to the microphone, please?

16 A. Sorry.

17 LADY SMITH: That's better. Stay there.

18 MR MacAULAY: I think we caught most of that, but I think  
19 the essence of your position is that although that

20  
21

[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED] is that the essence of it?

22 A. Absolutely, absolutely.

23 Q. Can I just finally then, Peter, take you to the very  
24 last section of your statement. That's on paragraph 663  
25 at page 9167.

1           You begin by -- you wish the inquiry all the best  
2           with what you consider is a horrific job. Then you give  
3           your view looking ahead, and I'll quote this to you:

4           "To me, its supervision, supervision, supervision  
5           ..."

6           And moving on:

7           "... and constant checks, whether they are  
8           psychological, whether they are management, but you  
9           always come against the old Roman saying, 'Who guards  
10          the guards?'"

11          A. Yes.

12          Q. So that's the advice you're putting forward to the  
13          inquiry?

14          A. I don't think it's advice at all. I think it's just  
15          a statement of how I feel about it all. I did write  
16          a letter giving more detail.

17          MR MacAULAY: I was about to say, we have received your  
18          letter and your letter will be taken into account in  
19          dealing with your evidence. I'll just give the  
20          reference of that for the transcript: WIT.003.002.3720.

21          Very well, Peter, thank you for coming today to give  
22          your evidence, for answering my questions, and for  
23          engaging with the inquiry over the period that you have  
24          done in providing your statement.

25          My Lady, I can confirm that any questions that have

1           been submitted have been included in my questioning.

2           LADY SMITH: Thank you.

3                    Are there any outstanding applications for questions  
4           of Peter? No.

5                    Peter, that does complete the questions we have for  
6           you today. Thank you very much for engaging with us as  
7           you have done and providing your evidence this morning.

8           I'm now able to let you go. Thank you.

9           A. Thank you.

10   (Video link terminated)

11           LADY SMITH: Mr MacAulay, what next?

12           MR MacAULAY: My Lady, I think there is another oral witness  
13           who may be here or about to be here, so perhaps a short  
14           adjournment until we see --

15           LADY SMITH: Yes. We can find out what's happening. Let's  
16           do that.

17                    Thank you.

18           (12.13 pm)

19   (A short break)

20           (12.30 pm)

21           LADY SMITH: I gather the good news is the witness is ready  
22           and we can go on to the next piece of evidence; is that  
23           right?

24           MS MACLEOD: That's right, my Lady. The next witness will  
25           use the pseudonym "Bernard" in giving his evidence.

1           This is also a witness who will require to be warned.

2   LADY SMITH: Thank you very much.

3                           "BERNARD" (sworn)

4   LADY SMITH: Bernard, please sit down and make yourself  
5           comfortable.

6           I think you've had experience of using a microphone  
7           before, Bernard, and that might be very helpful to us.  
8           As you have probably guessed, we do need you to try and  
9           keep in a good position for the microphone.

10          I'll hand over to Ms MacLeod in a moment, provided  
11          you're ready, but before I do that, I just want to  
12          remind you of something that I think you've already been  
13          told and that is that although this is a public inquiry  
14          and not a trial or a civil case in court, you still have  
15          a right not to incriminate yourself.

16          That means that if you say anything to the effect  
17          that you were involved in the abuse of children, you  
18          could be asked further questions about that, but you  
19          would not be obliged to answer them if that happens.  
20          It's important that you understand that exactly the same  
21          applies in these circumstances as it would in a court  
22          case, such as a criminal trial.

23          That means, as I've said, you have the right not to  
24          say anything that would incriminate you. It's important  
25          that you understand that if you did go on and answer

1           these questions, that everything is being recorded,  
2           a transcript is being made of all the evidence in the  
3           inquiry, and that would be available for future  
4           proceedings if anyone sought to access it.

5           Do you appreciate what I'm saying?

6           A. Yes.

7           LADY SMITH: If you have any doubts about that, as we go  
8           through your evidence, please don't hesitate to ask any  
9           questions and I can explain it again or Ms MacLeod can  
10          explain it again.

11          With that said, if you're ready I will hand over to  
12          Ms MacLeod and she will explain what happens next.

13                               Questions from MS MacLEOD

14          MS MACLEOD: Good afternoon, Bernard.

15          A. Good afternoon.

16          Q. You've provided a statement for the inquiry and there's  
17          a copy of that statement in the red file in front of you  
18          on the desk. I will just give the reference of the  
19          statement for the transcript: WIT.001.002.8480.

20          Bernard, could you please turn to the final page of  
21          the statement? Have you signed the statement?

22          A. Yes.

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

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



1           Is that right?

2       A.   Yes.

3       Q.   Do you go on to say:

4           "I believe the facts stated in this witness  
5           statement are true"?

6       A.   Yes.

7       Q.   Thank you.

8           I don't need your date of birth, but to give a time  
9           frame, can you confirm that you were born in 1938?

10      A.   Yes.

11      Q.   And are you now 81 years old?

12      A.   Yes.

13      Q.   You begin in your statement by giving us some background  
14           to your life before you joined the Marist Brothers.

15      A.   Yes.

16      Q.   I think you tell us that you were brought up in Glasgow.

17      A.   Yes.

18      Q.   Did you go to primary school in Glasgow?

19      A.   Yes.

20      Q.   I think you tell us that a Marist Brother came to the  
21           school in Glasgow and that it was as a result of that  
22           that you went on to join the Marist Brothers?

23      A.   That's right.

24      Q.   Can you just tell me a little bit about that?

25      A.   He just said to the class "I have been sent by Our Lady

1 to ask any of you if you would like to serve as  
2 a Marist Brother in honour of Our Lady". Two or three  
3 of us said yes, and he took our names and he went away,  
4 I think.

5 Q. Were you around 12 at that time?

6 A. Yes.

7 Q. And did you go on from there to Hetland House in  
8 Dumfries?

9 A. Yes.

10 Q. What was the function of Hetland House at that time?

11 A. It was a sort of college which prepared or gave  
12 youngsters an idea of what life would be like as  
13 a Marist Brother.

14 Q. And did you remain there for around three years?

15 A. Three years, yes.

16 Q. Did you then move on to Kinharvie?

17 A. Kinharvie, yes.

18 Q. Was that in Dumfriesshire?

19 A. Yes.

20 Q. What was the function of Kinharvie?

21 A. It was to prepare us for the GCE exams before moving on  
22 to what we called the novitiate.

23 Q. From there, did you return to Glasgow to study for your  
24 Highers?

25 A. No. From Kinharvie, we went to France.

1 Q. I see. So had you done your Highers before going to  
2 Kinharvie?

3 A. No, no. We'd just done the GCE Ordinary exams, not the  
4 Highers, and then we moved to France.

5 Q. I see.

6 When you moved to France, is that when you became  
7 a novice?

8 A. That's right.

9 Q. Did you spend around two years in France?

10 A. Yes.

11 Q. Was it when you were there that you qualified as  
12 a Marist Brother?

13 A. Well, yes, I completed the novitiate and I took my first  
14 vows in France.

15 Q. Was that when you were about 18 or so?

16 A. I think I was about 16 or 17, I think.

17 Q. Then did you continue to take annual vows until you took  
18 your final vows?

19 A. That's right.

20 Q. When did you take your final vows?

21 A. I'm trying to remember. I would be about 18 ... 21 or  
22 22 years of age when I took my final vows, yes.

23 Q. You go on to tell us in your statement, Bernard, that  
24 you spent time -- I think, three periods of time -- at  
25 St Joseph's College in Dumfries.

1 A. Yes. I started off -- when I finished my final exams,  
2 I went to a college in Largs, which was a sort of  
3 holding place for students who wished to go to  
4 St Joseph's College. So I spent a few months there --  
5 it was for very young students there.

6 Q. The first time you went to St Joseph's College, was that  
7 in the late 1950s?

8 A. I think it was in 1950, yes.

9 Q. I think you tell us in your statement that the first  
10 time you went there may have been in about 1958 or 1959.

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

12 Q. And you spent about four years there at that time?

13 A. Yes.

14 Q. Then did you go back on a second occasion, quite shortly  
15 after the first period, for about a year or so?

16 A. Yes. I started off at St Joseph's in the primary  
17 department. They had a control 1, control 2, and I had  
18 control 1.

19 LADY SMITH: Bernard, can I interrupt you a moment? I have  
20 heard this expression, control 1 and control 2, from  
21 a number of witnesses; can you help me with what the  
22 background to that name for classes was?

23 A. I'm not sure why it was called control 1 or control 2.  
24 I'm not really sure. That's all I was told: you'll be  
25 going to control 1 -- starting off in control 2. That

1 means people who were preparing for the eleven-plus  
2 exams. When they went into control 1, they sat the  
3 eleven-plus exam and moved on to secondary. I don't  
4 know why it was called "control" instead of "primary".

5 LADY SMITH: Because after that, the classes weren't called  
6 control this or control that, it was just those two  
7 years; is that right?

8 A. That's right, yes.

9 When I started off in control 2, we had a lot of  
10 students or young boys who were -- I think one of them  
11 was 5 years of age going up to about 10 or 11 in the one  
12 class. And in that year, I think I had -- I think I say  
13 I had 49 pupils in the one class.

14 LADY SMITH: With this very wide age range?

15 A. Yes.

16 LADY SMITH: Right, thank you.

17 MS MACLEOD: I think you do tell us in your statement that  
18 the age range of the 49 was from 5 up to about 9 or  
19 10 years old.

20 A. Yes.

21 Q. Did you move from control 2 to control 1?

22 A. Yes.

23 Q. During those first four years then when you were at  
24 St Joseph's, was that your primary role, to teach those  
25 classes?

1 A. I think for two years or three years I was in the  
2 primary department, then I moved into the secondary.

3 Q. Did you teach -- was it [REDACTED] you taught in the  
4 secondary?

5 A. Yes.

6 Q. Then you tell us you went back for a year in about 1964  
7 or so.

8 A. In 1964 -- I went to university in 1964. I went to  
9 St Andrew's in 1964. I was there for one year because  
10 I failed the exams at the end. So I then went --  
11 I finished there and I went to Dundee, I think, to  
12 teach. I think it was a primary school in Dundee  
13 I went. Then I applied to go to Manchester and it was  
14 there that I went to Manchester University to get my BEd  
15 degree. I think that's it.

16 Q. Did you then go back --

17 A. I graduated in 1969. [REDACTED]  
18 [REDACTED] degree, BEd. It was first  
19 introduced in 1969.

20 Q. Did you then go back to St Joseph's in 1969?

21 A. Yes.

22 Q. Was that your third time going back to St Joseph's?

23 A. I went -- the second time I went back to St Joseph's,  
24 I think, yes.

25 LADY SMITH: I think from what you've already said, that

1 would be the third time.

2 A. The third time?

3 LADY SMITH: One stint in around 1958, then another stint in  
4 around 1964 in relation to your St Andrew's University  
5 time, and then Dundee, Manchester, and back for a third  
6 stint. Does that make sense?

7 A. I think so. 1969, yes.

8 LADY SMITH: Don't worry about precise dates.

9 A. Okay.

10 LADY SMITH: I know it's tough thinking back all these  
11 years, trying to get them absolutely right. So long as  
12 we've got a broad idea of when you were there, that's  
13 helpful.

14 MS MACLEOD: For that time you went back, you were there for  
15 about six or seven years; does that sound about right?

16 A. Yes.

17 Q. The first time you went to St Joseph's, can you tell me  
18 how it came about that you went there?

19 A. For the third time?

20 Q. The first time you went there. Did you choose to go  
21 there?

22 A. No, no.

23 LADY SMITH: This is when you went to teach in control 2 and  
24 control 1, the very first time we're asking about.

25 A. Yes, I was sent there for that one.

1 MS MACLEOD: Was that by the provincial?

2 A. Yes. That's right, yes.

3 Q. Do you recall who the SNR [REDACTED] was at St Joseph's when  
4 you first arrived there?

5 A. I think it was ... the SNR [REDACTED] was Brother [REDACTED],  
6 I think.

7 Q. Did that change over time? Did you see a number of  
8 SNR [REDACTED]

9 A. Yes, usually they did about six years and then they  
10 changed, and then I think I had -- after Brother [REDACTED],  
11 I had Brother MZH [REDACTED] I think, and then  
12 Brother MYZ [REDACTED] and then Brother MMK [REDACTED] and then  
13 Brother MFY [REDACTED]. I think that was the last one  
14 I had.

15 Q. You've told us about the first period you spent at  
16 St Joseph's working in control 1 and control 2.

17 A. Yes.

18 Q. When you came back for the second time, you tell us in  
19 your statement that you were in charge of a dormitory.

20 A. Oh yes, yes.

21 Q. Can you remember if the dormitory had a name or if it  
22 was a particular --

23 A. Well, in those days we had four sections in the school.  
24 We had junior division, intermediate division, middle  
25 division, senior division. And the first dormitory that



1 I was given was middle division. Then after that, the  
2 following year, I went into intermediate division, and  
3 that was it.

4 Q. So when you were in the middle division to start off  
5 with, what age of boys were you dealing with there?

6 A. I think they were mainly 15.

7 Q. What was your role in the dormitory?

8 A. Well, to supervise all the students who were in there,  
9 to look after their safety, and to make sure that  
10 discipline was maintained during the time I was there,  
11 because a lot of importance was placed in those days on  
12 discipline.

13 So it involved telling students sometimes to do  
14 certain things and not accept things like "I don't want  
15 to do it" or "no". We insisted. And in those days,  
16 we were allowed to administer corporal punishment with a  
17 leather belt, which I got myself when I was a young boy.

18 Q. Did you have a room in the dormitory yourself?

19 A. Yes.

20 Q. Was there a second room for a brother in the dormitory  
21 or just the one?

22 A. Well, just one. There was another part of the dormitory  
23 in another section of the school and usually we had  
24 a brother in there as well, but sometimes the brother  
25 didn't turn up to do his duties, so I would have to go

1 in and supervise that as well. It sometimes happened,  
2 that.

3 Q. I think you tell us in your statement that your role was  
4 called "master of discipline" at the time.

5 A. Yes, that's right, master of discipline, yes.

6 Q. How did you find your role as master of discipline of  
7 the middle division? Was it a role that you took to?

8 A. Well, the main focus was on students doing what they  
9 were told to do and to stick to it and to make sure that  
10 they didn't place themselves in danger by silly  
11 behaviour.

12 Q. Did you have any experience in disciplining children  
13 before you took on that role?

14 A. No, it didn't form part of my training, discipline. It  
15 was just a general trend that most brothers seemed to  
16 follow, so I just did the same thing as well.

17 Q. Was the role explained to you by anybody at the college?

18 A. Not really, no. No.

19 Q. So as master of discipline, in your role in the  
20 dormitory, how did you ensure that the boys did as they  
21 were supposed to do?

22 A. Well, I would patrol the dormitory up and down.  
23 Usually, I insisted that they keep quiet whilst there,  
24 and then when I wanted silence, I would say the evening  
25 prayer, turn the lights off, say, "Goodnight, boys", and

1           then walk up and down, and then eventually go to my  
2           room -- but I would always leave the door open, just in  
3           case there was anything going on, so I still would  
4           listen very carefully to the kids in the dorm.

5       Q.   You've mentioned corporal punishment.

6       A.   Yes.

7       Q.   Is that something that you administered to the boys  
8           in the dormitory?

9       A.   Yes.  It happened on one occasion where one evening, or  
10           during the night, I heard that there was a commotion  
11           going on in the dormitory and I was able to locate where  
12           the noise was coming from and I proceeded to go to that  
13           part and I caught three boys, three students, smoking  
14           in the dorm.  I considered that to be very, very  
15           dangerous because they could easily have set the place  
16           alight, and I would probably have been blamed if fire  
17           had taken place there, because that was my  
18           responsibility to do something about that.

19      Q.   So on that occasion, did you punish the boys?

20      A.   Yes, I did, yes.

21      Q.   What punishment did you give them?

22      A.   I belted them on the backside.  I think I gave one to  
23           each one on the backside.

24      Q.   Would that be over their clothing or --

25      A.   No, I told them to take their pyjamas off and then used

1 the belt.

2 Q. And was that something that you did in the open  
3 dormitory or did you take the boys somewhere else?

4 A. No, it was in the dorm. I think the others could hear  
5 what was going on, so it was in the dormitory, but not  
6 somewhere else, no. It was the only time I ever did  
7 that. I regretted it as well.

8 Q. So are you saying that's the only time you administered  
9 corporal punishment or no?

10 A. No, no, it was the only time I ever did it like that,  
11 telling the students to take their pyjamas down and belt  
12 them. I never did it again.

13 Q. I see.

14 A. I felt it was a very dangerous thing that they were  
15 doing and I could have been held responsible if anything  
16 had seriously happened, so I took it upon myself to deal  
17 with it there and then.

18 Q. Day to day in the dormitory, did you find that you had  
19 to discipline boys quite regularly?

20 A. Not regularly, no. Now and again when I came up against  
21 things like them refusing to do something or things like  
22 smoking, for example, I had to deal with them there and  
23 then, but it wasn't a daily practice. Now and again  
24 I stepped in.

25 Q. If you were administering corporal punishment, how would

1           you do that normally?

2           A. On the hands with the belt.

3           Q. How many strokes would you administer?

4           A. One, maybe two if it was quite serious, but not more  
5           than that.

6           Q. Would this tend to be again in the open dormitory or  
7           somewhere else?

8           A. Well, not often in the dormitory, sometimes in class so  
9           that if a boy was misbehaving, I would belt him on the  
10          hand, but it didn't happen very often. They knew that  
11          I was quite strict as regards things like that.

12          Q. One thing you tell us about, Bernard -- in paragraph 33,  
13          you mention a struggle that you had with haircuts in the  
14          dormitory. Can you tell me about that?

15          A. Yes. It was at the time of the Beatles, who made their  
16          appearance on stage and television, and their hairstyles  
17          were copied by many young students. We had a practice  
18          in St Joseph's that once a month, I think, the barber  
19          would come and boys would be obliged to go to the barber  
20          and have their hair cut to a certain style or shortness.  
21          It led to a lot of resentment because these boys wanted  
22          to copy the Beatles and we had to insist, no, you have  
23          to have your hair cut.

24                 I think some of the parents really objected to us  
25          insisting that they have their hair cut to a certain

1 length. But others seemed to think, why? It's not  
2 terribly important, cutting hair to a certain style or  
3 length. It caused a little bit of resentment on the  
4 part of the students towards teachers or towards me,  
5 even.

6 Q. Did parents become involved?

7 A. A little bit, but we listened to them. The headmaster  
8 usually had to deal with that. I would keep out of that  
9 type of thing. Yes, that was a problem.

10 Q. You've mentioned smoking already and this is something  
11 that you also tell us about in your statement at  
12 paragraph 36. I think you tell us that you would patrol  
13 the area outside a shop.

14 A. Yes.

15 Q. Was that looking for boys who were smoking?

16 A. Well, it became a sort of custom that they would slip  
17 out the side door, make their way to the shop, buy the  
18 cigarettes, and they'd stand outside smoking them. So  
19 I would usually patrol the area and, more often than  
20 not, I did catch quite a few people standing outside  
21 smoking and that was out of bounds, so I'd get them back  
22 in and put them on detention or maybe have to give them  
23 a belt for that. But there was a little problem with  
24 smoking in the area.

25 Q. I think you tell us that you yourself would confiscate

1 the cigarettes.

2 A. Yes, sometimes -- well, I took the cigarettes off them  
3 and I'd give them to the headmaster and he would deal  
4 with them.

5 Q. You mention that, as a brother, you yourself had to seek  
6 permission from the provincial to smoke?

7 A. Yes, that's right. It was usually the system that when  
8 you -- if you weren't finally professed, if you didn't  
9 have the cross on you, you were not allowed to smoke,  
10 and sometimes I asked if I could have permission to  
11 smoke and he said no. But when I got the cross, then  
12 I was told, "Right, you can smoke now".

13 Q. You tell us about something else to do with driving  
14 lessons.

15 A. Yes.

16 Q. Were driving lessons something that you weren't allowed  
17 to have?

18 A. Yes. There was a parent in the school who had a driving  
19 school in Glasgow and he found out that I was coming to  
20 Glasgow with the boys for the Christmas holidays, so he  
21 said to me, "Why don't you come and get driving  
22 lessons?" so I said, "Well, that's quite good, that".

23 So I went with the boys to Glasgow for the Christmas  
24 holidays and he then arranged for me to have driving  
25 lessons, which I passed eventually. But unfortunately,

1 the provincial found out that I had the licence and he  
2 took it off me and put it in the cupboard. I only got  
3 it back after two or three years, so I wasn't allowed to  
4 drive, even although I had the licence.

5 Q. Were you given any explanation as to why?

6 A. He didn't exactly say why, it was just the done thing  
7 that you needed permission to have a driving licence and  
8 I didn't have permission to have one.

9 Q. You mention that you recall siblings at the school  
10 always being kept together. Is that right? This is at  
11 paragraph 44 of your statement.

12 A. I don't remember anything as special as that, siblings  
13 being kept together.

14 Q. Okay.

15 A. We didn't separate them if they were the same age  
16 grouping. I didn't bother very much about that,  
17 siblings, no.

18 Q. You've already mentioned that when you'd go to bed at  
19 night, you would leave the door open for the boys.

20 A. Yes.

21 Q. You mention in paragraph 49 that:

22 "Anybody who disturbed me was in trouble the next  
23 day."

24 A. Anybody who?

25 Q. Disturbed you was in trouble the next day.



1 A. Yes.

2 Q. I just wondered if you could elaborate upon on that.

3 Is that if somebody came to your door?

4 A. Not really, no. In the intermediate division there was  
5 no problem at night-time, I had great control over them,  
6 and I was happy to be with them. Whereas in the middle  
7 division, I didn't ask for that job, to be master of  
8 discipline. I wasn't happy in the job at all, and I let  
9 the provincial know and the headmaster. I told him, "Is  
10 there any chance of me getting out of this job because  
11 I'm not enjoying it", and they said, "No, you're doing  
12 a good job here, you've got to stick with it". So  
13 I stayed with it until the end of the year.

14 Q. Can I just ask you on that, Bernard, what about the job  
15 weren't you enjoying?

16 A. Sorry?

17 Q. What didn't you like about the job?

18 A. Having to discipline the boys fairly often in a sense.  
19 I sometimes felt they were trying to take advantage of  
20 me and I wanted to restore my authority over them. That  
21 part really annoyed me. I felt that they were trying to  
22 get the better of me and that's why I really didn't --  
23 I didn't feel at ease when I was with them.

24 I think I sometimes cried. I remember one night,  
25 a brother came in to see me and we were sitting talking

1 to one another and I just burst out crying. He says,  
2 "What's wrong?" and I said, "I'm not happy doing this".  
3 He said, "Well, it's quite near the end anyway, you've  
4 done very well up until now". I said, "Yes, but  
5 I wouldn't like to take another year doing this type of  
6 job, not with the middle division."

7 LADY SMITH: Bernard, am I right in thinking you were still  
8 relatively young yourself at that stage?

9 A. Yes.

10 LADY SMITH: You'd be in your 20s, no more than that?

11 A. Yes. It was then -- I got to the end of the year and  
12 survived it, as it were, and then the following year  
13 they asked me to take the intermediate division and  
14 these were students of 14, 13 or 14, and it was quite --  
15 I enjoyed it, it was a pleasant experience.

16 MS MACLEOD: Okay.

17 My Lady, I see that it's 1 o'clock.

18 LADY SMITH: Yes.

19 MS MACLEOD: That may be a convenient point to stop.

20 LADY SMITH: It's almost 1 o'clock now, Bernard, and we  
21 normally stop at this point for the lunch break. We'll  
22 stop now for the lunch break and start again at  
23 2 o'clock if you're ready at that point. Okay?

24 A. Thank you.

25 (1.00 pm)

1 (The lunch adjournment)

2 (2.00 pm)

3 LADY SMITH: Good afternoon.

4 Bernard, are you ready for us to carry on with your  
5 evidence?

6 A. Yes.

7 LADY SMITH: We'll do that now and I'll hand back to  
8 Ms MacLeod for that purpose.

9 MS MACLEOD: Good afternoon, Bernard.

10 A. Good afternoon.

11 Q. Before the break, you were telling us that there came  
12 a time when you were working in the middle division,  
13 that you weren't enjoying it, and you moved on to the  
14 inters after that. Did you spend around one year in the  
15 middle division and then around one year with the  
16 intermediate division?

17 A. Exactly.

18 Q. If I can just focus a little more on what you said about  
19 your time in the middle division. You tell us about  
20 this in your statement at paragraph 117. What you tell  
21 us is that:

22 "I did find with the middle group that belting badly  
23 behaved boys was needed."

24 And you say:

25 "I had to be quite tough with them."

1           Can you explain to me, is that because of their age  
2           or because of something they were doing or ...?

3       A. I don't think it actually had something to do with the  
4       age.

5       Q. Okay.

6       A. It was just a general policy that we had of having  
7       discipline in the place to show others, parents, some  
8       teachers, to show the advantages of being fairly strict,  
9       but showing that discipline was necessary and had to be  
10      dealt with at times.

11           I found it important, discipline, especially with  
12           the middle group because there was an ongoing problem  
13           that I had with them and I got the impression they  
14           didn't really like me all that much because I was fairly  
15           tough on them. I would admit that.

16      Q. You tell us in paragraph 121 that when you were in the  
17      middle group, you say:

18           "As master of discipline I would have administered  
19           some form of punishment nearly every day."

20      A. I don't think I'd stick to that, that it was every day.  
21      When it was necessary to do it, yes, I would do it then,  
22      but I don't think it happened every day. No, I wouldn't  
23      stick to that.

24      Q. When a boy or boys required to be punished, was there  
25      a range of punishments that you would choose from?

1 A. Yes. It could be -- belting, was one. I didn't  
2 particularly like that one. One was giving lines or  
3 asking them to memorise poetry, sometimes sort of  
4 excluding them from sport. So it wasn't always the  
5 belt; there were other things too that I could use.

6 Q. I think you say that with the middle group, it tended to  
7 be three of the belt that you would give unless  
8 something more serious took place.

9 A. No, I wouldn't stick to that, that it was three of the  
10 belt, no. On most occasions it was one. That was  
11 usually sufficient. If it was a serious problem, there  
12 was maybe a fight had developed, I'd say that the person  
13 responsible for it would merit perhaps an extra belt,  
14 something like that. But I wouldn't stick to three.

15 I honestly think that, on the whole, the most times  
16 I had to belt was one.

17 Q. Where did you keep your belt?

18 A. In my room or I had it in a pocket, I think.

19 Q. Other than the punishments you've mentioned, did you  
20 ever seek to humiliate or embarrass boys?

21 A. No. No, I didn't do that, no. I wouldn't have done  
22 that anyway because when I was a boy myself, I had  
23 a teacher who embarrassed me in front of others because  
24 I couldn't do maths. He was a brilliant maths teacher  
25 and he asked me one day to draw an angle of 90 degrees

1 and I hadn't a clue what 90 degrees meant, and I went up  
2 to him and I just wrote him a straight line and he said  
3 to me, "Are you stupid?" and at that, I felt so  
4 embarrassed that I said, "Be careful when you're doing  
5 things that you don't really embarrass kids". And it  
6 affected me in my maths exams. I always had difficulty  
7 passing an exam in maths because of that one thing, so  
8 I was usually a bit careful about that.

9 Q. One thing you tell us in paragraph 122 is -- you say:

10 "The dorm was one place I needed to be careful about  
11 dishing out punishment. That was more about being  
12 careful when near the boys, not to be touching them and  
13 just administering the punishment."

14 Could you elaborate upon that for me?

15 A. Yes. I was very careful as regards that because one of  
16 the senior sort of brothers who was in charge of the  
17 junior division often said to me, "Be very careful when  
18 you're dealing with boys as regards touching them or  
19 even punishing them because we don't want any problems  
20 with that." And I used to be very, very careful about  
21 touching boys.

22 The only reason why -- in general, dealing with  
23 boys, usually on the sports field, I had to sometimes  
24 touch a boy to tell him exactly what to do during a game  
25 or something like that. But I mean, apart from that,

1 never.

2 Q. Do you recall the name of the brother who said that to  
3 you?

4 A. Brother MFU

5 LADY SMITH: When he said to you they "didn't want any  
6 problems with that", what did you think he meant?

7 A. Problems with?

8 LADY SMITH: With touching the boys. What do you think he  
9 meant?

10 A. I think he meant it in a sexual context. So we were  
11 always very careful -- well, I mean, I was always very  
12 careful as regards that. I had to pay great attention  
13 to it.

14 LADY SMITH: Thank you.

15 MS MACLEOD: You've told me that you moved into the  
16 intermediate division --

17 A. Yes.

18 Q. -- as master of discipline there --

19 A. Yes.

20 Q. -- after a year or so. What was the biggest difference  
21 you found between the two divisions?

22 A. Well, I felt I had more influence on them. I felt happy  
23 to be with them. I think they appreciated my love of  
24 sport because every time we had sporting contests, they  
25 were always eager to take part in them. My great love

1 for the students and for me was either playing football  
2 or playing rugby.

3 Now, I myself have never played rugby. I was afraid  
4 of playing rugby because of the contact in that sport,  
5 but I managed to develop a love for the game in the boys  
6 in the intermediate division. [REDACTED]

7 [REDACTED]  
8 [REDACTED] I studied the rules,  
9 I watched it being played, et cetera.

10 And when I was appointed to that role, I had to take  
11 a team from the south-west of Scotland down to England  
12 to play a team in Lancashire, and we went down and we  
13 beat them. One of the teachers from the Lancashire  
14 school came over to me and said, "My word, that is some  
15 team you've got there. Where do they come from?"  
16 I said, "They come from Dumfries", and he said, "Yes,  
17 but what's your team made up of?" and I said, "We've got  
18 14 from St Joseph's College and one from Annan Academy."  
19 He said, "You've got 14 from the one school?" and I  
20 said, "Yes." He said, "Who's the one responsible for  
21 that team at St Joseph's?" and I said, "I am", and he  
22 said, [REDACTED]  
23 [REDACTED] and I said yes. He said,  
24 "That's a great team you've got", and the kids were  
25 great.



1 Q. So you think you got on better with the children in that  
2 division?

3 A. I don't think I once cried or -- I was very happy to be  
4 with them and they seemed to respond. I think they  
5 generally liked me.

6 Q. And I think you tell us in your statement that you  
7 didn't require, you tell us, to administer punishment as  
8 often in that group?

9 A. Not very much, no. There was no problem there for me.

10 Q. Did you see any other brothers administer corporal  
11 punishment to children?

12 A. Well, I think Brother MFU he was the one  
13 I noticed. When he had a bit of trouble with pupils, he  
14 shouted at them and he would punish them with the belt,  
15 but not very often. He was a good support for me.

16 Q. Was his division across the hall from where you were  
17 in the building?

18 A. Yes, that's right.

19 Q. Could you hear him shouting from your part?

20 A. Sometimes you could hear him. It wasn't all that often.  
21 I sometimes went in to see him at night-time when I had  
22 put the lights out and he had put the lights out. I'd  
23 go in and have a chat with him and come out and we'd  
24 both be in our respective dorms.

25 Q. Did you keep any record of punishments of children?

1 A. I didn't, no.

2 LADY SMITH: Bernard, did you ever receive any training on  
3 how to control children?

4 A. Not specifically, no, I didn't. I just picked it up, as  
5 it were, as I went along.

6 LADY SMITH: You learnt on the job?

7 A. Yes.

8 LADY SMITH: Thank you.

9 MS MACLEOD: If a boy at the school was having problems or  
10 wanted to tell somebody about a problem they had, do you  
11 think you were somebody that boys may have come to?

12 A. Well, I think they knew that I was available if they  
13 needed any help. I don't actually remember any specific  
14 occasions when someone came to me and said they had  
15 a problem with another student or with a teacher or with  
16 me, even. So not really, no.

17 Q. Did you see any behaviour between brothers and boys  
18 at the school that caused you concern?

19 A. I can't really think of any, no.

20 Q. I think you tell us in your statement that you weren't  
21 aware of any abuse going on while you were at the  
22 school.

23 A. No.

24 Q. And that no boys ever came to you to say they were being  
25 abused in any way?

1 A. No.

2 Q. In relation to your punishment of the boys who were  
3 smoking, I think you tell us at paragraph 128 that --  
4 the words you used were:

5 "I think I maybe overdid it with regards to the  
6 punishment there."

7 A. As regards smoking?

8 Q. Yes. Is that on reflection?

9 A. I don't think I overdid it. It was the ...

10 LADY SMITH: Bernard, if you just look on screen, you'll see  
11 what Ms MacLeod is referring to at paragraph 128.

12 A. Yes.

13 LADY SMITH: That's what she's asking you about. That's  
14 your statement, that's what you said in your statement.

15 A. Yes, well, in the sense that I think they knew that  
16 I was checking up on them as regards smoking and  
17 I wanted to make them realise that ... I'm trying to  
18 think of a word for it. There were cases when I had to  
19 be very careful with dealing with them because of others  
20 who saw what was going on. I had to be very careful  
21 about that.

22 MS MACLEOD: I think you say in your statement:

23 "I sometimes think that I could have slackened off  
24 a bit there."

25 A. Yes, I think so. Sometimes it happened when I felt

1 I was overdoing it, then I realised, yes, slack it off.  
2 It sometimes happens, that, when you realise, "Oh,  
3 I shouldn't have done that", and they've said they were  
4 sorry about that.

5 Q. You mention the matron in your statement. This is at  
6 paragraph 97 and that'll come on the screen for you.  
7 Could you tell me about the matron who was at the  
8 school? What was she like?

9 A. She was very good at her job and she didn't put up with  
10 any nonsense from either students or brothers. She  
11 checked on all of us and if she was displeased with any  
12 one of the students or with any of the brothers, she  
13 wasn't afraid to go up to them or to go up to us and  
14 tell us that we had to toe the line as regards what  
15 action she wanted us to take.

16 Q. So what kind of things would she be getting involved in  
17 in that regard? Could you give me an example?

18 A. Well, it might be that when she went into a dormitory,  
19 for example, and she saw food lying around the floor,  
20 something like that, or it was untidy, she wasn't afraid  
21 to go in and tell us, "Your dorm needs tidying up", or,  
22 "There is food being held in the lockers, which is  
23 dangerous."

24 For us, for brothers, sometimes she would say things  
25 like, "What's wrong with you? Why do you want to see

1 the doctor? Do you need any medicine or anything like  
2 that? I don't think you should be letting kids avoid  
3 going to class because you think they're ill", or  
4 something like that, "Don't give in to that type of  
5 thing." So she was strict, very strict.

6 Q. You tell the inquiry in paragraphs 99 and 100 about an  
7 incident that you recall when a student was injured on  
8 a field trip.

9 A. Oh yes.

10 Q. Were you on the field trip yourself?

11 A. No. It was only later that I heard about this. It was  
12 a young brother, as far as I remember, who was taking  
13 some students out for a walk and he was going past  
14 fields where there was a military exercise going on, but  
15 he maintained that there was no warning that there was  
16 an exercise going on with soldiers. Unfortunately, they  
17 were involved in a shooting and one of the bullets hit  
18 this student and he was seriously injured.

19 I think the brother ... I think they took police  
20 action against him, but I don't know what the result  
21 was. But there was a serious incident. I had nothing  
22 to do with it at all.

23 Q. Do you recall when it was, roughly?

24 A. I can't remember when it was.

25 Q. You were asked when you gave your statement about

1 a number of brothers who were at the school at the same  
2 time as you were --

3 A. Yes.

4 Q. -- to see if you could give some information to the  
5 inquiry. I just want to pick up on a couple of these  
6 brothers if that's all right.

7 We've already spoken about Brother MFU who you  
8 deal with in paragraph 136. Another brother I'd like to  
9 ask you about is a Brother MFI do you remember him?

10 A. Yes, I do.

11 Q. Was he a teacher?

12 A. He was. He was from Ireland, I think. Yes, that's  
13 right, he was Irish.

14 Q. Did you see him interacting with boys?

15 A. No. I was a friend of his but I didn't know about him  
16 interacting with -- he was in charge of the senior  
17 division, that's all I knew about him. But as regards  
18 interaction -- he was in charge of the senior division  
19 rugby. He was a very well-known rugby enthusiast and  
20 trainer. Very highly thought of.

21 Q. I think you tell us that you had no knowledge of him  
22 being involved in any abuse at all.

23 A. No.

24 Q. Another brother you mention is Brother MFQ Is he  
25 somebody who was there in your time?

1 A. He was there, yes. I didn't know very much about  
2 Brother MFQ He was a sort of comical character.

3 I think this is true: once we had the inspectors  
4 in the school, and they were inspecting him in the  
5 classroom -- this is what I've been told, he didn't tell  
6 me it. The inspector made some comment about his  
7 teaching, I think, and Brother MFQ from what I have  
8 been told, said, "Well, if that's the way you think  
9 about me, why don't you take the lesson?" and he walked  
10 out and left the inspector in charge. That's all I know  
11 about Brother MFQ

12 Q. And I think you tell us about that in paragraph 108 of  
13 your statement as well.

14 Brother AKV Is he somebody you remember?

15 A. Yes.

16 Q. Was he a master of discipline for a particular division?

17 A. He was a master of discipline in the senior division.

18 I knew him because when I went to [REDACTED], he came out  
19 as well. I was the first one to arrive in [REDACTED]  
20 I was by myself, and there was a war going on, so  
21 I found out that he was coming out the year after I had  
22 been there and he came out and he was very, very  
23 popular, very popular. I think he was in charge of  
24 Scouts when he was there. I think he had a Scout group  
25 and they used to go on weekly outings to the countryside

1 or to the fields. I never knew much about that type of  
2 thing. All I knew is he was in charge of the Scout  
3 group. What happened there, I don't know.

4 Q. Was [AKU] someone you knew at the school?

5 A. [AKU] I don't remember him. [AKU] ...  
6 I'm not sure about that.

7 Q. Or a Brother [AKU]

8 A. Brother [AKU] [AKU] doesn't ring a bell, no.

9 Q. Okay.

10 Bernard, when you gave your statement you were also  
11 asked about a number of allegations that were made  
12 against yourself by people who have spoken to the  
13 inquiry --

14 A. Yes.

15 Q. -- and I just want to touch on those. If you go to the  
16 very front page of your folder, there should be a sheet  
17 there, which gives the names of some people.

18 A. Yes.

19 Q. There are three names there. One of them,  
20 Stephen Behan, he didn't take a pseudonym, so we can use  
21 his real name. The other two did take pseudonyms and  
22 their names are there.

23 A. Yes.

24 Q. So if we look at Stephen Behan, first of all. Do you  
25 remember Stephen Behan from St Joseph's?



1 A. No, I don't remember him at all.

2 MGE --

3 LADY SMITH: Just a minute, Bernard: the name that you have  
4 just given is actually protected by my general  
5 restriction order. Could I ask you to use the  
6 pseudonyms unless you're told not to?

7 A. I'm sorry. Yes, my apologies.

8 LADY SMITH: That's all right.

9 MS MACLEOD: We'll look at Stephen Behan first of all. You  
10 don't remember him from school?

11 A. No, I don't.

12 Q. So when you gave your statement, you were told about  
13 allegations, I think, that Stephen Behan made against  
14 you. Stephen has given evidence to the inquiry and  
15 I just want to read out to you just a couple of things  
16 that he said, which are similar to what he said in his  
17 statement.

18 A. Right.

19 Q. I'll give the reference of the transcript. It's  
20 TRN.001.006.4737 and I'll read this out to you, Bernard.

21 A. Okay.

22 Q. What he said is:

23 "Bernard was the absolute master of sarcastic wit.  
24 He could cut kids down with his wit. He was very  
25 clever, very, very bright, and completely in the wrong

1 job. It was clear he did not like being a teacher. He  
2 did not like children."

3 The point about "sarcastic wit" and "cutting  
4 children down", I think, was put to you from his  
5 statement when the inquiry team saw you.

6 A. Uh-huh.

7 Q. What do you make of that description?

8 A. Well, I wouldn't agree with it. Sarcasm ... he was very  
9 clever, I think he said.

10 Q. He does say that. He says that you didn't like  
11 children, he says.

12 LADY SMITH: That's him saying you were very clever,  
13 Bernard.

14 A. I was very clever?

15 LADY SMITH: That's him paying a compliment to you.

16 A. I wouldn't agree with that. I wasn't very clever. But  
17 I loved the job and I ... I really enjoyed being with  
18 them. But I can't remember him at all.

19 MS MACLEOD: And he goes on to say:

20 "I always remember I got six of the belt off him one  
21 time because I questioned the concept of original sin.  
22 By God, that man could lay into you. I mean, he was  
23 pretty, pretty brutal."

24 Does that sound familiar to you?

25 A. No, not at all. I wouldn't punish anyone for original

1 sin or any ...

2 Q. Okay.

3 A. No. That doesn't ring a bell to me.

4 Q. I just want to ask you about another thing that  
5 Stephen Behan told the inquiry about in his evidence.  
6 It's not an allegation against you, but I just want to  
7 ask you if you remember it. He described what he called  
8 a riot that happened in the dining hall. He said that:

9 "Normally, on Wednesday afternoons you'd have  
10 something with chips -- every night it was something  
11 with chips. They had the same kind of chip fryer that  
12 you'd find in a fish and chip shop. That was in the  
13 school kitchen. This had broken down and they had  
14 replaced the chips with powdered mashed potatoes. The  
15 ladies that dropped the food on the tables put all these  
16 plates of potatoes on to the table and there were about  
17 15, maybe 20 tables, and each held six pupils. We were  
18 expecting a large bowl of chips that we were all going  
19 to dig into and this mash came up and within about less  
20 than 30 seconds, the mash was on the walls and the  
21 plates were being flung everywhere. The master who was  
22 at the head of the refectory, on the raised dais, had to  
23 run for cover. He nearly laid an egg."

24 And he says that was you. He says you came out of  
25 there covered in mashed potatoes and there was probably

1 a hundredweight of broken crockery. Do you recall this  
2 riot?

3 A. Not at all. No, I don't remember that.

4 Q. The next name on your list, Bernard, is somebody who  
5 took the pseudonym "Nigel". Do you see that name?

6 A. No, it doesn't ring a bell at all.

7 Q. I think some things that Nigel told the inquiry were put  
8 to you when the team saw you.

9 A. Yes.

10 Q. That included an incident that he says happened on  
11 a trip to San Sebastian when he lost his passport.

12 A. Yes.

13 Q. Do you remember that incident?

14 A. Not particularly, but from what I recall, what was said  
15 about that is he lost his passport, so he said, and then  
16 I took him into town or something and then I took him  
17 into a bar and provided him with an alcoholic drink.  
18 I think he said that.

19 Q. He said on the way there that you took him for some  
20 tapas and drinks in a bar.

21 A. That's right, yes. When we got back from that thing, he  
22 found the passport. I don't remember that at all.  
23 I remember something about a passport, but not in  
24 connection with him. There was another boy who arrived  
25 in Dumfries without his passport, but he had a foreign

1 passport, and I said, "But you can't go on this trip  
2 because we won't be able to get a replacement passport  
3 for you, you'll just have to stay here." And I think  
4 his mother was with him and said, "Does that mean that  
5 he can't go on the trip?" and I said, "Yes, that's it."  
6 So that was one thing connected with a passport.

7 Another one was we took a group of Lebanese students  
8 from Beirut to Dumfries to St Joseph's and they spent  
9 a month there, the month of July, and when it came to  
10 the end of the trip, we were going back to a London  
11 airport, to Heathrow, and he suddenly realised that  
12 he had left his passport on the bus and the bus had left  
13 and gone back to Dumfries, and we said to him, "Well,  
14 there's a problem here because the authorities might not  
15 allow you to come with us back to Beirut." But  
16 fortunately, they overlooked the problem of the passport  
17 and he was able to get back to Beirut.

18 But those are the only two incidents where  
19 a passport was involved. That one with the boy saying  
20 that I took him into town ...

21 Q. You can't recall that?

22 A. No, I wouldn't do that with a kid, you know, in a bar.

23 Q. Another thing Nigel said to the inquiry, which I think  
24 was put to you, was that in relation to smoking, he  
25 says:

1           "Brothers used to come in and randomly pull a couple  
2 of people from the group in the toilets and take them  
3 away to the belted."

4           And I think you do say in your statement that you do  
5 remember going into the toilets and taking boys out and  
6 belting them.

7       A. Yes. Well, I'd usually be patrolling in that area and  
8 I knew that some of the boys were going into the toilet  
9 and there was smoking -- I could smell the smoke coming  
10 out of the toilet. And sometimes I'd actually walk in  
11 and say, "Out", and when they were outside, I'd give  
12 them -- I think it was one of the belt, if I did give it  
13 to them at all.

14           But it was a common area for them to go to have  
15 a cigarette and it was known by nearly everyone there  
16 that that's what they were doing, going into that toilet  
17 to smoke.

18       Q. Another thing that Nigel said to the inquiry -- he  
19 described an occasion when he said you took him to his  
20 room, ostensibly to punish him. He says:

21           "I can't remember what that was for, it would have  
22 been for smoking or laughing too loudly or something  
23 like that. He got his belt out and told me to lean over  
24 his bed. He then lifted up my dressing gown and pulled  
25 my pyjama bottoms down. He then put his belt away. It

1 was at that point that I worked out what was happening.  
2 I then resisted. Looking back, resisting could have  
3 been dangerous. I made it clear that it wasn't  
4 happening."

5 Do you remember anything like that?

6 A. No, I don't believe that at all. I don't believe  
7 I would have done that in my room because the door was  
8 open nearly all of the time. I wouldn't be able to pull  
9 someone in like that, tell them to lower his pyjamas and  
10 then belt him, et cetera. No, I can't remember that  
11 one.

12 Q. The other thing Nigel has told the inquiry was  
13 in relation to money going missing, he says. He says  
14 that his brother was taken into a cubicle in the  
15 dormitory where there were three boys there, who beat  
16 him up and that he was unconscious, and that you had  
17 arranged for the boys to be there and for him to come  
18 in. Does that ring any bells with you?

19 A. No.

20 Q. The third person on your list took the pseudonym  
21 "Kenny". Do you recall that name?

22 A. The name rings a bell. I'm trying to picture him.  
23 I just can't. I'm just wondering if he had a brother  
24 who was there as well. He's called [REDACTED] I don't know  
25 if he had a brother there as well. But the name rings

1 a bell for me. But I don't know in what circumstances  
2 it comes up.

3 Q. What Kenny has said is that you made a plan to  
4 micromanage him and stop him leaving the school, I think  
5 particularly on Sundays. He gave evidence along the  
6 lines of that you'd give him cards which he had to bring  
7 to you every 15 minutes and report to you every  
8 15 minutes so that he wouldn't leave the school. Does  
9 that --

10 A. No.

11 Q. Do you recall that at all?

12 A. No.

13 Q. Kenny went on to say in his statement that, amongst  
14 other things, he says, the psychological abuse from  
15 Brother MFU and yourself, it's hard to imagine that  
16 that hasn't affected him and that it's obviously had an  
17 effect on him. Do you have any response to that?

18 A. I can't answer that one. Psychological abuse. It  
19 doesn't make any sense to me, that.

20 Q. Turning to final parts of your statement, Bernard, you  
21 set out at the end some lessons you think could be  
22 learnt.

23 A. Yes.

24 Q. And that's from paragraph 172 onwards.

25 One thing you say is that:



1            "We were very careful when we were dealing with the  
2 boys ..."

3            You say:

4            "... and when we talked about the boys, but  
5 discipline was very important."

6            It'll come on the screen for you. Paragraph 172.

7            A. Yes, I think that's true, that, yes. We were very  
8 careful when we were dealing with the boys and when we  
9 talked about the boys, but discipline was very  
10 important.

11           Yes, as regards these allegations, for example,  
12 well, the only thing I can say about them is, in all my  
13 experience of years in teaching in general, I've never  
14 had any accusation made about me as regards abuse,  
15 especially sexual abuse, of boys. I've never had  
16 anything to do with that. That has been my guiding  
17 principle in teaching and has been to this very day.

18           Q. You go on to say in paragraph 175:

19           "I would like to say that I do not feel I abused any  
20 boys. I punished them."

21           A. Yes, I punished them, yes, but not sexual abuse, never.

22           Q. You go on to say:

23           "The punishment in those days was accepted as  
24 corporal punishment."

25           A. It was, yes. I got it myself when I was a boy. I was

1           punished too. I know in many schools -- well,  
2           especially in the Glasgow area -- punishment by the belt  
3           was quite common, even if you were late for school  
4           in the morning, you were lined up outside and belted.  
5           It was quite a common practice. Nowadays it's finished,  
6           I know that it's finished.

7           MS MACLEOD: Well, thank you, Bernard, for answering my  
8           questions today and for engaging with the inquiry.

9                     My Lady, I haven't been given any other questions to  
10           put to Bernard.

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

13                     Bernard, those are all the questions we have for you  
14           today. Is there something you wanted to add?

15           A. Yes, please.

16           LADY SMITH: Please do.

17           A. I would like to thank everyone here who's listened to  
18           what I have to say, but I owe a special debt of  
19           gratitude to someone who has helped me all the way  
20           through this experience and that is [REDACTED] She's been  
21           very, very good to me. She has helped me. She knows  
22           that I was nervous, but she gave up her time to look  
23           after me and encourage me to do the best I could for  
24           her.

25                     I would like to thank Ceit-Anna for asking me the

1 appropriate questions, for accepting what I have said,  
2 and I would thank everyone who is here today for  
3 listening to me.

4 I'm sure you've noticed how nervous I am. I have  
5 been a teacher for over 50 years. I have enjoyed the  
6 experience of it; I'm sad to have retired. But I know  
7 these things have to be answered and I wish this  
8 programme that you have now for dealing with abuse of  
9 children -- it's a very worthwhile one and I thank you  
10 for the efforts I know that you've put in to try and  
11 remedy the situation. So my thanks to you, Ceit-Anna  
12 and [REDACTED], thank you very much indeed.

13 LADY SMITH: Bernard, thank you very much for that and for  
14 engaging with us as willingly as you have done, both in  
15 providing your written statement and coming here today.  
16 Obviously, you're nervous, I'm not at all surprised at  
17 that. But I hope when you go back tonight and rest,  
18 you're able to breathe a huge sigh of relief and know  
19 that we're very grateful for everything you've done to  
20 assist us. It really has been helpful.

21 A. Thank you.

22 LADY SMITH: I'm now able to let you go.

23 (The witness withdrew)

24 LADY SMITH: Ms MacLeod, I think we're due to hear one more  
25 witness this afternoon, are we?

1 MS MACLEOD: That's right, my Lady. The witness is here,  
2 but it might be appropriate to take a short break to get  
3 things switched over.

4 LADY SMITH: We'll take a short break now and get things  
5 organised and then we'll start that witness.

6 Thank you.

7 (2.44 pm)

8 (A short break)

9 (2.56 pm)

10 LADY SMITH: Mr MacAulay.

11 MR MacAULAY: The next witness is here and I'd like to call  
12 Julian Harrison.

13 JULIAN HARRISON (sworn)

14 LADY SMITH: Please do sit down and make yourself  
15 comfortable. Can you tell me how you'd like me to  
16 address you: Julian, Mr Harrison?

17 A. Julian is good.

18 LADY SMITH: You've guessed what I'm next going to ask you  
19 to do: if you can try and stay in a good position for  
20 the microphone, please, that really helps us.

21 If you're ready, I'll hand over to Mr MacAulay and  
22 he'll explain what happens next.

23 Questions from MR MacAULAY

24 MR MacAULAY: Good afternoon, Julian.

25 A. Good afternoon.

1 Q. The first thing I want to do is take you to your  
2 statement, which is in the red folder in front of you  
3 there. I'm going to give the reference of it for the  
4 transcript: WIT.001.002.7817.

5 Could you turn to the final page? It's at 7851.  
6 Can you confirm that you have signed the statement?

7 A. I have signed the statement, yes.

8 Q. Do you tell us in the final paragraph:

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

11 Is that correct?

12 A. That's correct, yes.

13 Q. Do you go on to say:

14 "I believe the facts stated in this witness  
15 statement are true"?

16 A. Yes, they are.

17 Q. Can you confirm for me, Julian, that your date of birth  
18 is [REDACTED] 1939?

19 A. Yes, I can.

20 Q. And you're now 80, in fact?

21 A. I am.

22 Q. You were, or may still be, a member of the  
23 Marist Brothers order; is that correct?

24 A. I am still a member, yes.

25 Q. Was your name when you were in the order, working, your

1 religious name, Brother Francis John?

2 A. Yes.

3 Q. Were you known as Brother Francis?

4 A. I was, yes.

5 Q. Or Brother Frank?

6 A. Occasionally; it depends who I was with.

7 Q. So far as your background is concerned, I think you tell  
8 us that you were brought up in England and you had  
9 a happy-go-lucky time in the school that you first went  
10 to as a child.

11 A. Yes.

12 Q. But from 1950 to 1956, for secondary school, did you go  
13 to St Joseph's, Dumfries?

14 A. Yes, I did.

15 Q. I think you then tell us that after you finished at  
16 St Joseph's, you went to France to the Marist novitiate;  
17 is that right?

18 A. That is correct.

19 Q. Had you by then decided that you wanted to be  
20 a Marist Brother?

21 A. Yes, I had.

22 Q. Then, thereafter, after you made your first commitment  
23 to the Marist Brothers, did you go to Glasgow where you  
24 studied for four years?

25 A. Yes, I did.

- 1 Q. And did you go to Glasgow University?
- 2 A. Uh-huh.
- 3 Q. What degree did you get from Glasgow University?
- 4 A. BSc, ordinary, in sciences.
- 5 Q. In 1962 did you then go back to St Joseph's, but this
- 6 time as a staff member?
- 7 A. Yes, I did.
- 8 Q. What age would you be by then?
- 9 A. 23.
- 10 Q. Pardon?
- 11 A. 23.
- 12 Q. Had you taken your final vows?
- 13 A. No, I had not.
- 14 Q. When did you take your final vows?
- 15 A. 1963.
- 16 Q. So the year after you went back. I think you say in
- 17 fact that you spent the next 14 years or so, up to 1976,
- 18 at St Joseph's in various roles that I'll come to in
- 19 a moment.
- 20 A. That's correct, yes, I did.
- 21 Q. Then you spent some time in Wolverhampton and, in 1985,
- 22 you went to Cameroon; is that right?
- 23 A. Yes.
- 24 Q. What were you doing there?
- 25 A. I was living with the Cameroonian community there and

1 living the life and training them to be Marist Brothers,  
2 those who chose that they would -- it was training for  
3 them.

4 Q. I think you tell us you were there for about 10 years or  
5 so; is that right?

6 A. That's correct, yes.

7 Q. Then after that, you came back to Scotland, I think, and  
8 spent some time involved with Kinharvie House; was that  
9 in Glasgow?

10 A. That's in New Abbey near Dumfries.

11 Q. When did you retire as working as a Marist?

12 A. It's difficult to answer such a question. Have  
13 I retired? I'm not involved in any activity or ministry  
14 now, other than living graciously and getting older  
15 in the parish and in the community.

16 Q. It's the final sentence of paragraph 8 where you say:

17 "I am now retired and have no role in the  
18 Marist Brothers."

19 A. Okay.

20 Q. But you are nevertheless engaged in the community as  
21 you have just said?

22 A. Yes, I am.

23 Q. You're based in Glasgow; is that right?

24 A. I am, in Partick.

25 Q. Then if we look -- we have the benefit of your evidence



1 in the sense that you were at St Joseph's, both as a boy  
2 between 1950 and 1956, and also as a man between 1962 to  
3 1976, a total of 20 years?

4 A. Yes.

5 Q. Insofar as your time at St Joseph's as a boy, a pupil,  
6 is concerned, are you able to summarise your experience  
7 for us?

8 A. I was not a serious student, but I enjoyed the work,  
9 I enjoyed the company of other youngsters my age.  
10 I went through the same programme and life activities  
11 that any other boarding pupil would have. I was  
12 reasonably successful in secondary studies. Not very  
13 good at games. I was involved with them, with games.

14 Q. Would you describe your experience as a happy one?

15 A. Yes, I would.

16 Q. When you first went there, I think you'd be about  
17 11 years of age; is that right?

18 A. That's right.

19 Q. And at that age did you go into a particular division  
20 within the school?

21 A. I went into the junior division.

22 Q. Was there a particular brother who was the dormitory  
23 master or prefect, I think, as we've heard it being  
24 called?

25 A. Yes, that would have been Brother MFU

1 Q. How did you get on with him?

2 A. As with any other brother, I ...

3 (Pause)

4 I'm just thinking how to phrase it. I got on well  
5 with him. I was a small boy and he was -- I wouldn't  
6 say the boss, that's not the right expression at all.  
7 He was the guider, whatever it was, yes.

8 Q. When he was in charge of your dormitory, was he assisted  
9 by another brother or was he on his own?

10 A. Most of the time it would be on his own when we were  
11 busy. When we were getting up or going to bed, those  
12 are the times we'd be in the dormitory.

13 Q. Throughout your time at the school, then, did you move  
14 from dormitory to dormitory depending on what division  
15 you were in within the school?

16 A. Yes. I was -- the first year, I was with  
17 Brother MFU in the junior division and the next  
18 three years I was in the middle division. We had  
19 different rec masters at that time. In fifth and sixth  
20 year I was in the senior division and we also had  
21 Brother MFU again as master.

22 Q. I think you said that when you entered the senior  
23 division, you came across Brother MFU again as the  
24 dorm master?

25 A. Yes.

1 Q. That would be 1956 or thereabouts?

2 A. 1954.

3 Q. In your statement, you provide information about the  
4 routine. One thing you do say, and I should have taken  
5 this from you earlier, is you had [REDACTED] who'd  
6 also gone to the college.

7 A. Yes, I had.

8 Q. Was he [REDACTED] than you?

9 A. He was [REDACTED] than me.

10 Q. Did you have much to do with him when you were at the  
11 school?

12 A. Very occasionally because the seniors and the juniors  
13 would be kept separate, so each age group would be  
14 separate from the other age groups. So perhaps I didn't  
15 see a lot of him at the time.

16 Q. I think you also had [REDACTED] is that correct?

17 A. I did.

18 Q. Did he go to St Joseph's as well?

19 A. Yes, he did. He went there in 1960.

20 Q. Can I ask you about discipline, Julian, when you were  
21 there as a boy.

22 A. Right.

23 Q. You touch on this in paragraph 48 in your statement  
24 onwards. That'll come on the screen in front of you.

25 A. Okay.

1 Q. You had come from England at the age of 11 to go to  
2 St Joseph's --

3 A. Yes.

4 Q. -- and I think you say in your statement:

5 "In England, or at least the schools [you were] at,  
6 they did not use the belt."

7 Is that right?

8 A. Yes, that's correct, they did not.

9 Q. Was there any form of corporal punishment?

10 A. Yes, there was. I think when I was in the first  
11 primary, which was the Convent of Mercy, I think we were  
12 slapped with a ruler, the flat of a ruler. In the other  
13 two schools, the cane was administered at times.

14 Q. You say in your statement at paragraph 48 that -- the  
15 way you put it is:

16 "I was shocked when I was in form 1 because someone  
17 was given six of the belt."

18 Was that because you hadn't seen the belt being used  
19 before?

20 A. That's right.

21 Q. Was this belting before the other boys in a classroom,  
22 or what's your recollection of what happened?

23 A. It was in the classroom, yes. I think the boy was  
24 sitting at the back. I don't know if he came out to the  
25 front but, yes, the belting was administered before the

1 rest of us in the classroom.

2 Q. And did you yourself on occasion receive the belt?

3 A. Yes, I did.

4 Q. Insofar as bullying was concerned, were you conscious of  
5 any significant bullying at the school during this  
6 particular period when you were a pupil there?

7 A. Very little.

8 Q. If we look at physical bullying, do you have any  
9 recollection of any physical types of bullying going on?

10 A. No.

11 Q. When you came to leave St Joseph's, and we've already  
12 touched upon this, you wanted to be a Marist Brother,  
13 and we've gone through that particular process. You  
14 were posted to St Joseph's as a staff member in 1962;  
15 were you there as a teacher?

16 A. Yes, I was.

17 Q. During your early period at the school, did you stay  
18 at the school or did you live somewhere else?

19 A. The very first year, I lived somewhere else.

20 Q. Where did you stay?

21 A. I stayed in Kinharvie House in New Abbey.

22 Q. Notwithstanding that, did you start teaching at the  
23 school?

24 A. I did. We travelled every day.

25 Q. And how old would you be then in 1962 when you started

1 teaching?

2 A. 23.

3 Q. What about teacher training? You had still to do your  
4 teacher training; is that right?

5 A. We did that later, yes.

6 Q. And was that during your time at St Joseph's?

7 A. It was, yes.

8 Q. One thing you do tell us in your statement -- and  
9 I think you saw this as a change from when you had been  
10 there as a boy -- is that there was a change in the  
11 structure of the children who were at the school.  
12 Can you just help me with that? What was the change  
13 that had happened between your time there as a pupil and  
14 now back there as a teacher?

15 A. If I remember what it says in the statement, the  
16 structure would have been partly to do with the  
17 buildings, the buildings had been extended in the time  
18 between I was a pupil until later when I came back as  
19 a staff member.

20 The buildings were extended and as a result of that,  
21 or partly that, the numbers increased, the numbers of  
22 boarders increased, and the numbers of day boys  
23 increased greatly.

24 Q. I understand that answer because I used the word  
25 "structure" in my question, which was a bad word to use.



1 Q. "Local authorities funded the day boys."

2 Was that a change from your previous time?

3 A. I don't really think there was a change, no.

4 Q. If we look at paragraph 72, you're giving us information  
5 as to how the school was divided up into divisions, and  
6 for each division there was a brother who was the  
7 prefect; is that right?

8 A. That's correct, yes.

9 Q. You say in that paragraph that there would be a second  
10 brother who would also be attached to the dormitory.

11 A. Yes.

12 Q. Was that the position throughout your time on the staff  
13 at the school?

14 A. Yes, it was.

15 Q. Were you yourself a prefect at some point?

16 A. I was a prefect, yes.

17 Q. And before you became a prefect in your own name, did  
18 you assist in connection with the work of another  
19 prefect in one of the dormitories?

20 A. Yes, I did, each year.

21 Q. You say, for example, in paragraph 76 that

22 **AKV** was on the staff of the school for three  
23 or four years and he was a prefect for the intermediate  
24 division. Did you have any dealings with **AKV**  
25 when you were at the school?



1 A. Outwith the school programme, I would have been with him  
2 on occasions. I can't remember which. I do not recall  
3 if I was in the dormitory with him, in the other  
4 cubicle, or not. I may have been, yes, but I can't  
5 recall.

6 Q. Let me take you to paragraph 81 of your statement.  
7 It'll come on the screen. You say there:

8 "I was not the prefect. That was for the  
9 intermediate dormitory."

10 You go on to say:

11 "The prefect in the intermediate dormitory may have  
12 been AKV "

13 So you're not clear, but he could have been the  
14 prefect during the time that you were associated with  
15 the intermediate dormitory as well?

16 A. Yes, I'm saying that, yes.

17 Q. Was he younger or older than you?

18 A. He would have been about five years younger than I was.

19 Q. So he'd be very -- if he was prefect, he would be in his  
20 20s certainly at that time?

21 A. Yes.

22 Q. You also say in paragraph 83 that after 1963, you would  
23 move about the dormitories. So do I take it from that  
24 you'd go from, let's say, the intermediate dormitory to  
25 the middle dormitory and so on? Is that what you're

1 saying?

2 A. Yes.

3 Q. Was that the practice? Was it the practice for the  
4 prefect or dorm master to move from dormitory to  
5 dormitory or just stay where he was?

6 A. No, it was not the practice for the prefect to move from  
7 dormitory to dormitory, but it was a factor, if you  
8 want, a practice for the other brother to move from  
9 dormitory to dormitory.

10 Q. Do you know, for example, if <sup>AKV</sup> [REDACTED] moved?

11 A. I don't think so, no. I don't know when he was --  
12 before he was prefect, he would not have been in the  
13 dormitory. But when he was prefect, he was in the  
14 intermediate dormitory.

15 Q. In paragraph 85, what you say is that:

16 "There would be myself and one other brother in the  
17 middle dormitory."

18 A. Yes.

19 Q. And previously I think you'd said you were appointed  
20 prefect to the middle division on two occasions,  
21 1972/1973, and 1974/1975.

22 A. Yes.

23 Q. What you say there is you're not sure whether or not  
24 there'd be another brother with you. That's what you  
25 say in paragraph 85. What is your recollection? Were

1           you on occasion prefect for dormitories where you were  
2           there on your own and not with --

3       A. No, I don't think so. I think there was always somebody  
4           else in the other cubicle.

5       Q. Can I ask you about what you say in paragraph 90 of your  
6           statement, Julian, where you talk about pupil prefects.

7       A. Mm-hm.

8       Q. Can you just explain to me what they were?

9       A. Pupil prefects would be leaders among the age group they  
10           were at. There would be, I think in the middle division  
11           and the junior division, intermediate division, there  
12           would have been one leader per house. There would have  
13           been four leaders for each group. In the seniors there  
14           was the house captain and two prefects, I think that was  
15           the name used. So there would have been 12 of those.

16           Their role would have been to be a good example to  
17           others and it would have been also a role in terms of  
18           expecting the others to be well-behaved and also  
19           involved in a sporting activity in terms of choosing  
20           teams when it came to house games.

21       Q. You provide us, from paragraph 93 onwards, with some  
22           information about the routine at St Joseph's. If  
23           I could just pick up one or two points.

24           In paragraph 108, if I could move on to that at  
25           page 7838, you do say that there were regular school

1 inspections by the Scottish Education Department. So  
2 you do have a recollection of that?

3 A. Yes, I do.

4 Q. Was that essentially inspecting the school side of  
5 St Joseph's?

6 A. I think it was academic inspections, yes.

7 Q. What about other forms of inspection? Do you have any  
8 recollection, for example, of any inspection into the  
9 dormitory arrangements or any form of pastoral care that  
10 might have been being provided?

11 A. No, I don't recall those if they existed.

12 Q. What you do tell us in paragraph 110 is there was  
13 a visitors' book which you say started in 1932; is that  
14 right?

15 A. Yes. That's what I read in the book.

16 Q. I think you saw the book very recently because you say  
17 you signed it --

18 A. I did.

19 Q. -- shortly before you provided the statement. Where did  
20 you do that?

21 A. I think the book was in an area where refreshments were  
22 being held after the activities that we came to see.  
23 I was one of a number of visitors who came down to the  
24 school for a plaque being laid in the Marist Brothers  
25 cemetery and then, after that, there were games with

1 other schools, and at some stage in that there were  
2 refreshments provided within the school building.

3 Q. So you're telling me it was at St Joseph's School itself  
4 you went and signed the book?

5 A. Yes, it was.

6 Q. And indeed you found your parents' signature, dated  
7 April 1945?

8 A. Yes, I did. I didn't see it here in the --

9 Q. I think you say it in your statement at paragraph 110.

10 A. Oh yes. Yes.

11 Q. Can I ask you about discipline? You talk about this in  
12 paragraph 129. You begin by saying:

13 "Discipline was on a different planet to what it is  
14 today. People generally did what they were told."

15 Did you find that with the boys when you were there  
16 on the staff? Did you find that children were generally  
17 fairly obedient and did what they were told to do?

18 A. Yes, I did.

19 Q. In relation to discipline, though, how would discipline  
20 be managed? If a child required to be disciplined, how  
21 would you set about it?

22 A. Well, if we're speaking in terms of discipline being  
23 administered, there was obviously -- there were some  
24 misdemeanours of all kinds, serious ones or small ones.  
25 Misdemeanours would have been dealt with perhaps by

1 lines or with the belt.

2 Q. So far as the belt would be concerned, did you yourself  
3 use the belt?

4 A. Yes, I did.

5 Q. What was the practice? Would it be on the hands that  
6 you would belt a child?

7 A. Yes, it was.

8 Q. Would the number of strokes depend on what the offence  
9 had been?

10 A. That's correct, yes.

11 Q. What sort of range are we talking about?

12 A. One, two; the maximum would have been six of the belt.

13 Q. I've asked you about bullying when you were there  
14 yourself as a pupil. What was your perception when you  
15 were there on the staff? In relation to bullying, did  
16 you consider if there was bullying going on at the  
17 school?

18 A. I didn't have the impression there was a lot of bullying  
19 because there was great attempts to be -- lots of  
20 supervision and the boys not left completely on their  
21 own. So my impression was not a lot of bullying.

22 Q. You were asked when you gave your statement, Julian, as  
23 to whether you witnessed behaviour at the school that  
24 you would consider to be abuse; what's your answer to  
25 that?

1 A. My answer was, because of the nature of the inquiry, as  
2 to -- the word "abuse" can refer to physical abuse or  
3 sexual abuse and I wasn't clear as to which the  
4 questions were always aimed at.

5 Q. So let's focus on physical abuse, first of all. Did you  
6 witness any behaviour that you would classify as  
7 physical abuse during your time as a member of the  
8 staff?

9 A. No, I did not.

10 Q. In relation then to sexual abuse, first of all, did you  
11 witness any sexual abuse?

12 A. Not at all, nothing.

13 Q. Were you made aware at any time of any form of sexual  
14 abuse?

15 A. By hearsay, much later than any event.

16 Q. When you say "much later", is that after you'd left the  
17 school or was it during your time at the school?

18 A. I think it was after I'd left the school, yes.

19 Q. Who was the SNR [REDACTED] or who were the SNR [REDACTED] if  
20 there was more than one, during your time on the staff?

21 A. On the staff, Brother MZH [REDACTED] was SNR [REDACTED] for the  
22 first five years, then Brother MYZ [REDACTED] was SNR [REDACTED] for  
23 the next six, and Brother MMK [REDACTED] was SNR [REDACTED] for the  
24 next three.

25 Q. Were you aware at any point in time of any reports being

1           made to SNR [REDACTED] about allegations being made  
2           against another teacher?

3           A. No.

4           Q. One thing you do tell us in your statement at  
5           paragraph 141 is that you went into, I think, a dark  
6           room and you saw a number of photographs of a penis.

7           A. Yes.

8           Q. Can you tell me about that? What was the background to  
9           that?

10          A. It was a senior recreation area and there had been  
11          a change of senior prefect. I was helping in some ways  
12          with the new prefect and under that I had more access to  
13          this recreation area of the seniors. There was a dark  
14          room in that, which had been run as a photographic club  
15          by the boys, by a small group of boys.

16                 So prior to this change of role of prefect, I hadn't  
17          been in the place and then I was -- perhaps during the  
18          school holidays, but anyway. I was interested in  
19          photography myself and I had a look in the place and  
20          discovered these positives or whatever, prints.

21          Q. You weren't able to run to ground as to what the  
22          source --

23          A. No.

24          Q. In your statement, Julian, you provide information about  
25          different brothers. We've touched on Brother AKV [REDACTED]



1           AKV           You tell us that you saw him being  
2           friendly and at ease with children; is that right?

3           A.   Yes.

4           Q.   You've already mentioned Brother MFU           You describe  
5           him as ... "fatherly", I think, is one of the words you  
6           use to describe him. Is that a reasonable description?

7           A.   That's the expression I used, yes. That's the way  
8           I thought of him.

9           Q.   You mention also Brother MFI           who was at St Joseph's,  
10          I think, at a time when you were a pupil; is that right?

11          A.   That is correct, yes.

12          Q.   How did you find him at that time?

13          A.   He didn't teach me, so I would just know of him from  
14          seeing him about within the school.

15          Q.   Was he there as a teacher or a housemaster when you were  
16          back at the school from 1962 to 1976?

17          A.   He was there as a teacher, yes.

18          Q.   How did you find him at that time?

19          A.   Well, I described him, I think, as a good companion. As  
20          far as I am aware, his teaching was good quality.

21          Later, he was prefect of the senior division. I can't  
22          remember the years he was there as prefect of the senior  
23          division. I know that he allowed the prefects to take  
24          more responsibility than they may have had before in  
25          terms of discipline.

- 1 Q. Did you ever witness Brother MFI disciplining  
2 children?
- 3 A. I don't think I did, no.
- 4 Q. The other brother you mention is Brother Damien.  
5 I think you do say that he was also a teacher at the  
6 time that you were at St Joseph's on the staff.
- 7 A. On the staff, yes, towards the end, yes.
- 8 Q. Did you hear any rumours about any behaviour that  
9 Brother Damien might have been involved in?
- 10 A. I did not, no.
- 11 Q. If we move on then to paragraphs 161 onwards of your  
12 statement, you there talk about allegations you have  
13 heard about. But of course, as I think you've told us  
14 already, these are allegations you've heard since you've  
15 left St Joseph's; is that correct?
- 16 A. That's correct, yes.
- 17 Q. You mention, for example, AKU Did you know  
18 AKU at all when you were at St Joseph's?
- 19 A. Yes, I would have known him as a younger brother who  
20 would have been in Glasgow, probably studying, when  
21 I first knew him. Then I don't know how his studies --  
22 how he qualified. He then probably went to work  
23 somewhere in the school, but I'm not aware of where  
24 he was. During school holidays, we probably would  
25 have -- we would have been together as young brothers.

1 I was older than him by six years or so, seven perhaps.

2 So in a kind of social way, among young men, with  
3 the Marist Brothers, on holiday. Otherwise, I didn't  
4 have any contact with him at all.

5 Q. You mention in paragraph 164 a Brother ALH who  
6 was replaced because of allegations of sexual abuse  
7 being made about him in the 1960s, I think you say.  
8 What's the source of that information? This is  
9 paragraph 164.

10 A. I think it would have been conversations among the  
11 brothers at coffee time, downtime, during holidays,  
12 perhaps, and it was in a background to Brother MFU  
13 being in the junior division first and then when I was  
14 at school, and then later being in the senior division,  
15 and the reasons why MFU went back to the junior  
16 division. There had been a brother, another brother,  
17 which -- I think his name was ALH

18 Q. These conversations, did they take place at the time  
19 when you were at the school, on the staff of the school?

20 A. Yes.

21 Q. At paragraph 165 you mention an event in about 1956  
22 in relation to sexual abuse. I think the location  
23 that is mentioned there, according to what you say in  
24 your statement, is Hetland House; is that right?

25 A. That's correct, yes.

1 Q. Can I ask you to look at this document for me? It's  
2 MAR.001.001.2860.

3 LADY SMITH: Julian, just whilst you're waiting for that  
4 document to come up, do you know or were you told where  
5 Brother ALH had gone when he was replaced by  
6 Brother MFU

7 A. No.

8 LADY SMITH: But he'd left St Joseph's?

9 A. I assume so, yes.

10 LADY SMITH: Thank you.

11 MR MacAULAY: What you have on the screen is a letter dated  
12 22 March 2019. It's a letter from Brother Brendan Geary  
13 to Leo Martin, who is a solicitor. I just want to ask  
14 you about this because I think the Julian that's  
15 mentioned in the letter is you.

16 This relates to documents that were found, I think  
17 by a student, relating to events in 1956. I think  
18 you were being asked whether or not you had any  
19 information that could cast any light on these  
20 documents. Do you remember being asked about this?

21 A. (Pause). Yes, I remember being asked about a document,  
22 yes.

23 Q. If we look at the second note, unfortunately there's  
24 quite a bit of redaction, but at number 2 there is a  
25 note that says:

1           "[Name of a boy] handling ALH [this is  
2 Brother ALH ], who was Irish. Julian said  
3 there were comments about him and his behaviour with  
4 boys. He must have left the brothers at some point."

5           So the "Julian" there would be you?

6       A. It was me, it is me.

7       Q. So you've been asked to provide information in relation  
8 to certain documents and you've provided the information  
9 that you mentioned to us previously in your evidence;  
10 is that right?

11      A. If this document is referring to Dumfries, St Joseph's,  
12 yes.

13      Q. It is, yes.

14      A. Okay, yes.

15      Q. We can ask Brother Brendan about it, but so far as you  
16 were concerned, you were able to provide some insight  
17 into what the documents that were being looked at at  
18 this point may have been about?

19      A. Yes.

20      Q. If we go back to your statement, Julian, at  
21 paragraph 166, you mention there that in June or  
22 July 1967, Brother MZF was known as  
23 Brother MZF as there was another Brother [redacted] in  
24 the school, and he was accused of inappropriate  
25 behaviour, but this was with girls, in Dumfries.

1 A. Yes.

2 Q. Did you know about that?

3 A. I was told about it after it happened. I was told about  
4 it when Brother MZF [REDACTED] MZF [REDACTED]  
5 was due to be [REDACTED]

6 Q. Was MZF [REDACTED] or MZF [REDACTED] a brother with you  
7 at St Joseph's when you were there?

8 A. Yes, he was, for I think one year.

9 Q. You think one year?

10 A. One year.

11 Q. I think you said he was [REDACTED]  
12 [REDACTED] but do you know what happened?

13 A. I know he had left the brothers when he was [REDACTED]  
14 At the time he was [REDACTED] he'd already left the  
15 brothers, but as far as I'm aware, when these incidents  
16 happened, he was still a brother.

17 Q. The incidents weren't incidents within the school  
18 itself?

19 A. They were not.

20 Q. They were outwith the school?

21 A. They were outwith the school, yes.

22 Q. You also mention something you heard in about 2005 --  
23 that's at paragraph 169 you mention this -- that you  
24 heard that a particular person had been exposing himself  
25 to children in St Columba's College in Largs in about

1 1959. Can I just understand, what was the source of  
2 that information?

3 A. Brother MNZ [REDACTED]

4 Q. What were you told?

5 A. I was told that this brother, MID [REDACTED] had been  
6 exposing himself to the boys and MNZ [REDACTED] had heard of it  
7 or seen of it and MNZ [REDACTED] reported it to the director.

8 Q. Do you know what happened?

9 A. I don't know what happened, no. I don't think MNZ [REDACTED]  
10 elaborated on what happened.

11 Q. Was this information you learned in 2005?

12 A. Yes.

13 Q. What was the background to this conversation? Why was  
14 this a topic of conversation at that time?

15 A. I don't recall. It may have been because there were  
16 allegations of sexual abuse in the press or currently  
17 being made and we had -- this conversation came up.

18 Q. The brother that was mentioned, Brother MID [REDACTED] was he  
19 somebody that you had come across in the past?

20 A. Yes, I knew of him as a young brother, yes. He was one  
21 or two years older than me.

22 Q. Did he leave the Marist Brothers?

23 A. Yes, he did.

24 Q. Do you know what he did after that?

25 A. Yes, he went into the Civil Service and at some stage or

1 part of that or -- he was a customs officer. Since  
2 retired. Married.

3 Q. You have a section in your report, Julian, where you  
4 talk about reporting of allegations. What you say there  
5 at paragraph 171 is that you don't think there were  
6 structures in place for reporting of allegations at that  
7 time. Can I ask you this: how approachable do you think  
8 the Marist Brothers were to children if a child wanted  
9 to make some complaint or make an allegation?

10 A. I imagine that there were no structures so far as  
11 I know. But I think a child would have complained to  
12 somebody he could trust, but I don't know of any such  
13 confidences between a child and anybody else.

14 Q. And you never received any confidences from a child?

15 A. I did not, no.

16 Q. If we look at the penultimate paragraph of your  
17 statement then, Julian, the very last sentence,  
18 actually, is a very short one, where you say:

19 "Looking back [which is, I think, what you're  
20 doing], there were failings."

21 I just wondered what you had in mind when you made  
22 that comment.

23 A. Are we on 174?

24 Q. Yes.

25 (Pause)



1 A. Ah, "There were failings", at the end, yes.

2 I think there's much more awareness of sexual abuse  
3 as a serious problem than there was in those days. I'm  
4 also aware that people are aware that sexual abuse is  
5 very frequently something very covert. Abusers are --  
6 I don't know if they talk about it because I haven't  
7 heard it, but it's something that's not obvious to the  
8 rest of the people round about. So at the time the  
9 culture would not have been looking for this kind of  
10 thing to be happening and therefore looking for signs of  
11 it happening.

12 Q. We've touched upon <sup>AKV</sup> [REDACTED] who was at  
13 St Joseph's for part of the time that you were there,  
14 and I think you're aware that [REDACTED]

15 [REDACTED]

16 [REDACTED]

17 A. [REDACTED]

18 [REDACTED]

19 Q. Clearly, at the time you were totally unaware of that,  
20 if you were there at that time?

21 A. Yes, I was.

22 Q. And no child came to you in confidence to say anything  
23 about anything that may have been happening?

24 A. No child.

25 MR MacAULAY: Okay. Very well, Julian, Brother Francis,



1 MR MacAULAY: That's my understanding.

2 LADY SMITH: Good.

3 Very well. I'll rise now until 10 o'clock tomorrow  
4 morning.

5 (3.45 pm)

6 (The inquiry adjourned until 10.00 am  
7 on Wednesday, 23 October 2019)

8

9

10

11

12

13

14

15

16

17

18

19

20

21

22

23

24

25

I N D E X

1  
2  
3 "PETER" (sworn) (via video link) .....2  
4  
5 Questions from MR MacAULAY .....4  
6  
7 "BERNARD" (sworn) .....63  
8  
9 Questions from MS MacLEOD .....64  
10  
11 JULIAN HARRISON (sworn) .....108  
12  
13 Questions from MR MacAULAY .....108  
14  
15  
16  
17  
18  
19  
20  
21  
22  
23  
24  
25