

1 Tuesday, 15 October 2019

2 (10.00 am)

3 LADY SMITH: Good morning. I think there's been a slight  
4 change of plan as to how we're going to start this  
5 morning; is that right, Ms MacLeod, if you could  
6 explain?

7 MS MACLEOD: That's right. We had intended and expected to  
8 have an oral witness ready to go at 10 o'clock. That  
9 doesn't appear to be the case, but we are going to be  
10 updated on that. So I think it may be that we can fill  
11 in the space that we have with some read-ins.

12 LADY SMITH: That's good. Let's do that.

13 MS MACLEOD: There are a number that I can do and perhaps  
14 between those we can get an update as to whether there  
15 is any development with the witness.

16 LADY SMITH: Thank you.

17 Witness statement of "DEXTER" (read)

18 MS MACLEOD: This is the first of a number of read-ins, and  
19 these relate to statements of witnesses who have  
20 provided evidence to the inquiry but who are not able to  
21 come to hearings to give oral evidence.

22 The first of those is from an applicant who wishes  
23 to remain anonymous and to use the name "Dexter" when  
24 his statement is being read in.

25 Dexter previously provided evidence to the inquiry

1 on 29 November 2017 in relation to his time at Smyllum.

2 LADY SMITH: Indeed, I remember.

3 MS MACLEOD: This statement can be found at

4 WIT.001.001.2315:

5 "My name is Dexter. I was born in 1943 in  
6 Kilmarnock. My contact details are known to the  
7 inquiry."

8 My Lady, the majority of Dexter's statement does  
9 relate to his time in Smyllum. The relevant paragraphs  
10 for this case study are between 114 and 127, and I will  
11 turn to these now. That begins on WIT.001.001.2330:

12 "I remember in 1958, when I was about 15, two men  
13 came to Smyllum from the Children's Office.  
14 Sister EAD gave me a brown bag and told me to put all  
15 the clothes from my locker in it. The two men took me  
16 away in a car. I remember they asked about the postal  
17 orders that had been sent in my Christmas cards. It had  
18 been the Children's Office that had sent the cards.  
19 I found that out afterwards.

20 "I left Smyllum that day with all my world in  
21 a small brown bag. I had no farewells or goodbyes to  
22 any of my family or friends.

23 "The men took me to a café and I had an ice cream.  
24 I was enjoying myself, enjoying the freedom. We drove  
25 to Largs and to a large building. The entrance was

1 a bit like the approach to Smyllum.

2 "I sat in a room on my own for 4 or 5 hours. The  
3 tears were streaming down my face. I didn't know why  
4 I was there. I had no idea. Nobody told me anything.

5 "A brother eventually met me and I was taken for  
6 some food, then to bed. I was in a room on my own.  
7 I did not sleep at all that night.

8 "There were other boys there, but they were superior  
9 to me and were there through choice. I was imprisoned  
10 and was just there to work for them and do all the  
11 chores.

12 "It seemed to be a brothers' teaching order. It was  
13 run by the Marist Brothers, I think, and was where  
14 priests were trained. They wore brown habits and some  
15 other different ones as well. It was a cruel place for  
16 me.

17 "I was taken around the brothers and introduced and  
18 told what chores I was to do. I couldn't speak to them,  
19 I didn't know what to call them, I had no vocabulary,  
20 I just stood there like a zombie.

21 "I got up at 6.30 am and cleaned the rooms, brought  
22 coffees, cleaned windows, cut grass and did digging.  
23 I did everything.

24 "There was one morning, after about two months  
25 there, when I took coffee in for the SNR [REDACTED].

1 I tripped over the rug in his room and spilt his coffee.  
2 The SNR -- I think he was called Father IAS --  
3 went to his drawer and took out his belt. He lashed me  
4 12 times across my back, leaving such painful weal  
5 marks. I decided after that that I was leaving, I was  
6 running away from St Columba's.

7 "On Wednesdays they all went for a walk to Largs,  
8 which left me alone with an opportunity to run away  
9 I took my same brown bag and ran off. I got the train  
10 from Largs to Kilmarnock. I was hoping to find my  
11 uncle. Yet again I found myself with nowhere to go,  
12 I didn't know what to do, but I wasn't going back."

13 My Lady, this witness provided evidence to the  
14 inquiry previously about his life after those events,  
15 and indeed his full statement is available as evidence  
16 to the inquiry.

17 So I'll simply now confirm that the statement was  
18 signed by Dexter on 12 September 2017.

19 Witness statement of "FRANCIS" (read)

20 MS MACLEOD: I'll move on now to the next statement, which  
21 is that of an applicant who wishes to remain anonymous  
22 and to use the name "Francis" when giving his evidence.  
23 This statement is to be found at WIT.001.002.8427.

24 "My name is Francis. I was born in 1958. My  
25 contact details are known to the inquiry. I have one

1 older brother, two younger brothers, and one younger  
2 sister.

3 "I was born in Nairobi, Kenya. My father was in the  
4 British Colonial Service as a lawyer. [REDACTED]

5 [REDACTED]. My parents were living in Kenya at the time  
6 of my birth. We lived there for a couple of years after  
7 I was born and then we moved to Lusaka, Zambia. [REDACTED]

8 [REDACTED],

9 [REDACTED]

10 [REDACTED]

11 "Our life in Lusaka was very privileged. We had  
12 a big property, about 20 acres, with a clay tennis  
13 court. We also had servants, a nanny, a cook and a  
14 gardener.

15 "I started off in primary school in Lusaka. I think  
16 special consideration was given those such as my parents  
17 who were on colonial service so that their children  
18 could have their schooling in South Africa or back in  
19 the UK. A lot of those who were children of parents in  
20 colonial service in Africa flew back to go to school in  
21 the UK.

22 "I think the reason St Columba's was picked for me  
23 and my brother to attend was because my mother's brother  
24 had gone to college in Dumfries. St Columba's was the  
25 preparatory school for St Joseph's. I didn't have to

1 sit an entrance exam.

2 "I did not visit the school before I started. I do  
3 not remember what was done by way of preparation for my  
4 starting at the school. My brother is two years older  
5 than me. He was already there.

6 "I was always told that I went to St Columba's when  
7 I was 7. I think that means that I went there for the  
8 beginning of the term in [REDACTED] 1966. When I first  
9 went to St Columba's, I travelled with my parents from  
10 Lusaka to Cape Town or Durban and then sailed to the UK.  
11 We either flew or took a train up to Scotland from  
12 Southampton.

13 "St Columba's was run by the Marist Brothers and was  
14 a boys-only school. It was a very small school.  
15 I think there were probably between 20 to 30 pupils.

16 "I recall that the school building was a really big  
17 house with a stone driveway leading up to the entrance.  
18 There were rooms on either side as you went in the front  
19 door and then stairs leading up to the dormitories.

20 "My recollection is that there were four levels.  
21 The classrooms were on the ground floor and the  
22 dormitories were on the upper floors.

23 "My parents and my brother had travelled with me on  
24 my first day so they were there when I was introduced to  
25 the school. I remember I did not want to be there,

1 I cried a lot. I was pretty young and I just wanted out  
2 of there. Eventually they coaxed me into staying.

3 "I am almost certain that Brother MJD was [REDACTED]  
4 SNR [REDACTED] when I arrived at the school and I was  
5 introduced to him. My parents stayed with me for  
6 a little while and then they left. I recall going into  
7 the dormitory and going to sleep. I do not recall any  
8 sort of formal or informal ceremony taking place by way  
9 of introduction to the school.

10 "The other brothers that I remember apart from  
11 Brother MJD were Brother MLA [REDACTED], Brother Douglas,  
12 Brother Germanus, and Brother MZY [REDACTED]. [REDACTED]  
13 [REDACTED]. Brother  
14 Germanus was not there originally; he came a little bit  
15 later. I think he came as an additional member of  
16 staff. I think Brothers MLA [REDACTED] and Douglas were in  
17 their 30s and 40s. Brother Germanus was older and  
18 Brother MJD was pretty old, maybe in his 60s.

19 "I do not think Brother MZY [REDACTED] was there when  
20 I first arrived. I think he might have been a novice.  
21 He was younger than the others. I think he was probably  
22 in his 20s. He was quite short, had darkish hair, pale  
23 skin and my recollection is that he had very prominent  
24 red lips. This is about as much as I can remember.

25 "All of the brothers lived at the school. I think

1 their bedrooms were on the same level as the classrooms.  
2 I think a vague recollection of walking past them so  
3 I think they were on that first level."

4 Between paragraphs 18 and 21, the witness provides  
5 evidence in relation to lay staff. Between  
6 paragraphs 22 and 24, the witness provides evidence  
7 in relation to peers he recalls from the school.

8 From paragraph 25 onwards, the witness provides some  
9 evidence in relation to the routine at St Columba's  
10 in relation to mornings and bedtimes and I'll read from  
11 paragraph 30 onwards:

12 "I think we went to bed some time between 8 pm and  
13 9 pm; it might have been a bit earlier. I have  
14 a recollection of a routine of showers, getting into our  
15 pyjamas, dressing gowns and slippers and then reading in  
16 bed for a little while until lights out. I think we had  
17 some supper too, cocoa or something like that. We were  
18 not just left not just left to our own devices at night.  
19 I do not have a recollection of who it was, but there  
20 was certainly someone who got us into bed.

21 "I recall that on one occasion that I was sexually  
22 assaulted. It was only Brother MZY who was walking  
23 up and down the dormitory after the lights out. I do  
24 not have a recollection of any of the other brothers  
25 ever doing that, although perhaps Brother MLA or



1 Brother Douglas did it on their own from time to time  
2 when the matron left."

3 In paragraphs 33 and 34, the witness speaks of his  
4 recollections of washing and bathing. In paragraphs 35  
5 and 36, he describes his recollections in relation to  
6 clothing.

7 In paragraph 37, he describes the food and mealtimes  
8 and the routine for that. From paragraph 38 through to  
9 43, he describes his recollection of the schooling at  
10 St Columba's.

11 From paragraph 44 to 46, the witness provides  
12 evidence in relation to leisure time and in  
13 paragraphs 47 and 48 in relation to trips.

14 In paragraphs 49 and 50, he conveys his  
15 recollections in relation to religion. I will read from  
16 paragraph 51 onwards, where the witness describes his  
17 recollections in relation to contact with his family:

18 "We wrote letters regularly to our parents. It was  
19 compulsory. We went home to our parents at the end of  
20 every term. We would stay in Scotland with our uncles  
21 and our grandfather during half-terms.

22 "I did not have much contact with my brother during  
23 the time we were at school. I did have contact on the  
24 weekends when we went with our relatives on a Sunday  
25 afternoon. At school I saw him at mealtimes and

1 sometimes we played sport but there was not a lot of  
2 contact between us. We were allowed to have visitors on  
3 Sunday afternoons. We had relatives living in Scotland  
4 while we were in Largs.

5 "I do not recall any other visitors, officials or  
6 otherwise, coming to the school.

7 "There was not a school nurse. I think the matron  
8 was the one who looked after those issues when I first  
9 got there. I do not have a recollection of the specific  
10 regime for healthcare. I don't recall any routine  
11 health checks being carried out or seeing a dentist in  
12 my time there.

13 "The brothers had long, leather straps. I only  
14 recall getting the strap once. I do not remember any of  
15 the other boys being strapped, but I was always wary of  
16 it. Apart from one occasion with Brother Germanus, I do  
17 not recall any other occasions of brutality.

18 "The only episode of brutal discipline I recall was  
19 when I was having a shower one time. I do not know how  
20 this happened but I defaecated by accident in the  
21 shower. I did not know what to do. I was trying to  
22 wash it down into the shower. I only had a very limited  
23 time to have a shower, so my time was up before I could  
24 wash it away. The next boy that came in discovered it  
25 and he complained immediately to a brother. I do not

1 remember who that was. I was sent down to Germanus and  
2 he strapped me over the bare bottom with one of the long  
3 leather straps. I do not recall how many times he  
4 strapped me. I am almost certain it was more than once.  
5 I can recall being hurt but I did not sustain any  
6 injuries. I cannot remember seeing or hearing about any  
7 other boys being hit in a similar way.

8 "I was sexually assaulted one night by  
9 Brother MZY when I was in the bigger dormitory. The  
10 lights went out and then Brother MZY walked up and  
11 down the dormitory. There were beds on either side of  
12 the dormitory and mine was on the right-hand side as you  
13 went in. My bed was close to the door. I cannot  
14 remember whether it was right next to the door or  
15 whether it was one or two down.

16 "My friend was right next to me. Brother MZY  
17 came and stood by my bed. I was laying on my stomach  
18 and he lay on top of me on my back with his face close  
19 to my face. Then he put his hand down my pants, on to  
20 my penis, and fondled it. I cannot recall precisely how  
21 long it lasted but it was not for very long. He then  
22 said, 'I'll be back', and he left. Luckily for me, for  
23 whatever reason, that was the extent of it and he never  
24 came back.

25 "I think my main reaction was confusion. I didn't

1 know what was going on and I was just really confused.  
2 I think I felt slight fear too but I was not totally  
3 frightened. I did not scream or yell or anything like  
4 that.

5 "I recall I was in a class with Brother MZY the  
6 next morning. I think he did teach at the school but  
7 I don't recall him being my teacher. I just know that  
8 he was in my classroom the next day. I did not know  
9 what had happened or what was going on. I looked at him  
10 and I just remember his red lips. He never said  
11 anything to me about what he had done. I did not have  
12 any other contact with him at all. I do not know  
13 whether he moved on or whether he was still at the  
14 school when I left.

15 "I thought this assault happened pretty much towards  
16 the end of my time at the school because when I remember  
17 seeing Brother MZY in that classroom, it was not the  
18 original classroom that I had gone into when I first  
19 started. It was a bigger class, so I thought I was in  
20 grade 5 at the time. However, it also happened in the  
21 main dormitory, not the annex, so it might have been  
22 earlier than I originally thought.

23 "I also remember that there was a time when it got  
24 very cold and a number of the boys, including myself,  
25 started to get chilblains on our fingers.

1 Brother Germanus had been away from the school for  
2 a while, I believe because he had been sick. This was  
3 around the time he came back. His way of trying to keep  
4 our hands warm was to invite us to put our hands under  
5 his armpits. I only recall this happening on one  
6 occasion to me.

7 "Things changed in Zambia quite dramatically after  
8 independence and a lot of colonials were deciding  
9 whether to go back to the UK or to move on to Hong Kong,  
10 Canada or Australia. My parents' intention was to go  
11 back to Scotland, but some of their friends did some  
12 research on Perth in Western Australia and we ended up  
13 moving there. Moving to Australia meant that we didn't  
14 have to go to boarding school any more. We moved to  
15 Australia in 1968. I didn't keep in touch with anyone  
16 from St Columba's.

17 "I did not tell anyone at the time about  
18 Brother MZY. The only person I have now told is my  
19 wife. I cannot remember when I told her. I did not  
20 tell my brothers or my parents.

21 "One of the reasons I did not want to tell my mother  
22 was that I thought she would feel guilty about having  
23 sent me to St Columba's. She often did feel guilty  
24 about sending us over to Scotland and I did not want to  
25 give her an added burden to carry. One of the main

1 motives for my mother choosing a move from Africa to  
2 Western Australia was so that she would never have to  
3 send her children to boarding school again.

4 "I have not been affected by the abuse. I do not  
5 have any psychological injuries and I have never had to  
6 seek treatment or support because of my time at  
7 St Columba's. I think I was lucky.

8 "For a long time I just forgot about it. I did not  
9 think or worry about it and I didn't do anything about  
10 it. The only thing that I feel from time to time,  
11 particularly because of the publicity that has been  
12 given to cases here in Australia, is a sense of anger  
13 about the way abuse survivors had been treated by the  
14 Catholic Church and the various religious orders, such  
15 as the Marist Brothers and the Christian Brothers.

16 "I was brought up a Catholic and I am a sort of  
17 Catholic now, but one who has lost complete faith in the  
18 Catholic Church and those orders.

19 "I have three children. They all go to Catholic  
20 schools, but I would never have sent my son to a Marist  
21 school and I would have thought seriously about sending  
22 him to a school run by the Christian Brothers.

23 "What has been identified and disclosed in Australia  
24 is appalling, particularly the cover-ups and the moving  
25 of priests and brothers to other locations after they

1 had perpetrated abuse.

2 "I have never thought of reporting what happened to  
3 me to the Marist Brothers.

4 "I read the evidence given by the Provincial of the  
5 Marist Brothers to the inquiry in Scotland, saying that  
6 there were no or very few records relating to  
7 St Columba's. Part of my motivation to come forward was  
8 to show that there are people like me who were there.  
9 I remember the names of some of the boys and I know  
10 which brothers were there, so I thought it might help  
11 someone if I came forward.

12 "There are boxes of records that my mother kept.  
13 I have not had the chance to go through all the boxes,  
14 but I have been able to find two letters so far. One is  
15 a letter written in 1965 by Brother MJD to my father  
16 about my brother. It refers to how my brother travelled  
17 to Largs and how he was settling in. I think my brother  
18 flew over and was met by my father's two brothers and  
19 then they took him down from Glasgow to Largs.

20 "The second letter was written by my brother to my  
21 parents. It is undated but he refers to it being the  
22 last letter he sent from Largs, which would indicate  
23 that it was probably written in [REDACTED] 1967.

24 "We got school reports from St Columba's, which  
25 I think were probably posted directly to my parents.

1 I do not know where they are now, but will keep looking.

2 "I am almost certain that there would have been  
3 other correspondence from the school informing parents  
4 about their children's progress at school and how they  
5 were doing generally. The letter from Brother MJD to  
6 my father is an answer to a letter my father had written  
7 asking how things were going, so I am certain that my  
8 mother and father would have written from time to time  
9 and there would have been letters sent in response.

10 "In relation to hopes for the inquiry, it was  
11 a different time and a different era when I was at  
12 school, and I think the world has moved on significantly  
13 from then. I hope Scotland now has what we have in  
14 Australia, which are practices, procedures and protocols  
15 for the protection of vulnerable children. Child  
16 welfare checks are carried out and background checks are  
17 done on people who want to work or be involved with  
18 children. You cannot necessarily pigeonhole the  
19 behaviour of some of the people who abuse children  
20 because sometimes it is very opportunistic and very  
21 brazen too, as was the case in my situation. But  
22 carrying out these types of checks should help prevent  
23 giving perpetrators an opportunity to carry out abuse.

24 "In a lot of cases children do not understand what  
25 is going on when they are being abused, as was the case



1 with me. It is not unusual for people years later to  
2 all of a sudden disclose abuse. If children do not know  
3 what is happening, they cannot tell anybody, so there  
4 should be measures in place to allow abuse to be  
5 discovered or to be brought forward through education.

6 "I think organisations such as the Catholic Church  
7 and the Marist Brothers and Christian Brothers should be  
8 accountable and continually open to scrutiny and checked  
9 after the light that has been shone on them diminishes.  
10 This is particularly so where they operate institutions  
11 that house vulnerable children.

12 "I think we went through a period where the  
13 Catholic Church and those other organisations were above  
14 the law. The Catholic Church has its own canon law and  
15 they dealt with priests in their own way. This has to  
16 change. They have started to do that to an extent in  
17 Australia. One thing they have done is that they have  
18 changed the law so that the Catholic Church and other  
19 Catholic orders cannot hide behind what is the known as  
20 the Ellis defence anymore. They now need to be  
21 accountable for what they have done.

22 "There has also been a change in mindset. Rather  
23 than before, the mindset now is to believe children when  
24 they come forward. This change is particularly welcome  
25 in relation to the Catholic Church. People previously

1 had blind faith in priests and brothers and would not  
2 have been believed that these men were capable of doing  
3 these things. I think the world has changed because of  
4 what has been discovered about the crimes perpetrated on  
5 children by those who were supposed to be protecting  
6 them.

7 "I have no objection to my witness statement being  
8 published as part of the evidence to the inquiry on the  
9 condition that I remain anonymous, I be referred to by  
10 a pseudonym, and that appropriate redactions to my  
11 statement are made in accordance with the protocol on  
12 the redaction of documents before they are published.

13 "I believe the facts stated in this witness  
14 statement are true."

15 The statement was signed by Francis on  
16 9 September 2019.

17 LADY SMITH: Thank you very much.

18 MS MACLEOD: I do have another statement I could read.

19 LADY SMITH: Let's move on to that, thank you.

20 Witness statement of "JAMES" (read)

21 MS MACLEOD: The next statement is from an applicant who  
22 wishes to remain anonymous and to use the pseudonym  
23 "James" for his statement to be read in. The statement  
24 can be found at WIT.001.002.3728:

25 "My name is James. I was born in 1951. My contact

1 details are known to the inquiry.

2 "I was born in Blairgowrie. My mother had been  
3 married before and had a daughter from that marriage who  
4 was five years older than me. I also have a younger  
5 brother and sister.

6 "When I was 5 years old, my parents split up. My  
7 older sister went with my mother. The other three of us  
8 stayed with my father. My mother eventually moved away  
9 to England and I never saw her again until I was 18.

10 "In 1958 my father met my stepmother. They were  
11 married in a Catholic Church in 1959 despite my father  
12 being divorced. My stepmother tolerated us. I had  
13 a love-hate relationship with her. Ultimately I think  
14 she was responsible for my brother and sister and  
15 I going to boarding school.

16 "The fees would have been paid by my father. He was  
17 a turf accountant at that time and making good money.  
18 It was decided that myself and my brother would go to  
19 St Columba's College in Largs. It was the following  
20 year, 1960, when we eventually did go to St Columba's.

21 "St Columba's College was next to the main road for  
22 Largs. At the other side of the road was the beach.  
23 There was a strict rule at the college that you were not  
24 allowed to cross the road without a brother being there  
25 with you.

1           "The college was run by the Marist Brothers, which  
2 was a Catholic order. There was not that many brothers  
3 at the college. The brothers wore black robes with  
4 a cord round the middle. Brother MJD was SNR  
5 SNR

6           "The other brothers that I remember were  
7 Brother Germanus and Brother Douglas. I can't remember  
8 there being any civilian members of staff.

9           "There was a drive leading to a small copse of  
10 trees. The drive circled the small copse of trees. The  
11 circular drive was where the main building was. Within  
12 the grounds there was also a large Nissen hut. This was  
13 a building with a curved corrugated roof. The Nissen  
14 hut was used for leisure time. It had a large wooden  
15 floor. There was also a storage area within the hut.  
16 The Nissen hut was to the right of the main building as  
17 you approached it from the drive.

18           "I think the main building was on four floors. The  
19 main door led to the stairway which gave access to all  
20 four floors of the building. There were around 50 boys  
21 at the college. The boys were aged between 7 and 11.

22           "There were different age groups in each of the  
23 dormitories. The top floor was for the younger boys.  
24 This is where me and my brother were put when we first  
25 arrived. The dormitory was on one side and

1 Brother Germanus' room was on the other side.

2 "My dormitory had about 20 beds and they were on  
3 either side of the room with space in the middle, like  
4 a corridor. You had a small locker next to your bed.

5 "There was a washroom near to the dormitories.  
6 I can't remember if there were baths or showers in the  
7 washroom.

8 "The older boys had a dormitory on the floor below.

9 "Most of the time it was Brother Germanus who would  
10 wake you in the morning; I can't remember what time this  
11 was. I would dress, wash, brush my teeth and then go  
12 for breakfast.

13 "Before going to bed at night you would say your  
14 prayers. Lights out was around 8."

15 In paragraphs 20 and 21 of the statement the witness  
16 gives evidence about washing, bathing and clothing.

17 From paragraph 22 to 26, he provides evidence  
18 relating to leisure time.

19 In paragraph 27, the witness describes his  
20 recollections of trips and holidays.

21 In paragraphs 28 and 29 he speaks about the school  
22 and the educational side of that.

23 In paragraph 30 he describes his recollections of  
24 healthcare and in 31, he describes his recollections of  
25 religious instruction at the school.

1           In paragraph 32 the witness gives some evidence  
2 relating to birthdays and Christmases. I'll read from  
3 paragraph 33 onwards:

4           "My dad and stepmum would visit me and my brother.  
5 They would take us out for the day to Largs. There  
6 wasn't any restriction on me seeing my brother at the  
7 school.

8           "I tried to run away twice, once with my brother and  
9 once on my own. The first time I ran away I hadn't long  
10 started at the college. I would have been about 9 years  
11 old. I was playing on my own at the beach. There was  
12 a brother in the playing field. He would have blown  
13 a whistle when it was time to go back to college.  
14 I didn't hear the whistle. The next thing I knew I was  
15 on my own. I was homesick and wanted to go home.

16           "I ran along the beach towards Largs. It was less  
17 than half a mile. I just stopped and decided to go back  
18 to the college. I didn't know where I was going and  
19 realised I couldn't get anywhere on my own.

20           "The second time I ran away it was different  
21 circumstances. I was with my brother this time.  
22 I remember thinking that Glasgow was just over the hill  
23 and I could get home from there. I thought I could  
24 follow the stream and it would lead me to Glasgow. When  
25 we reached the stream, we tried to catch the flounders

1 in the water. After this we headed up towards the town.  
2 One of the brothers was out looking for us in a car. He  
3 saw us and we were taken back to the college. We had  
4 only been away 2 or 3 hours.

5 "I don't remember being punished the first time  
6 I ran away. The second time we were taken to  
7 Brother MJD office. Brother Germanus wanted to give  
8 us the belt. Brother MJD told him that we weren't to  
9 be given the belt. I wasn't aware of any punishment for  
10 running away.

11 "The main form of punishment for doing something  
12 wrong was the belt. The only brother I was aware of who  
13 gave the belt was Germanus. This was the only form of  
14 punishment. The number of strokes depended on what you  
15 had done. You were given the belt for things like  
16 running in the corridor or anything that annoyed  
17 Brother Germanus.

18 "Brother Germanus would come into the dormitory at  
19 night. He would check to see if you were fully asleep  
20 by shining a torch in your eyes. If you weren't  
21 sleeping, you would be told to sit outside the dormitory  
22 on the stairs. I was told to do this about half a dozen  
23 times. I also know some of the other boys had to do  
24 this. I couldn't say if anything else happened to these  
25 boys. Sometimes there might be two or three of you

1 sitting on the stairs together. I think the logic was  
2 you sat there until you were tired. After a while,  
3 Brother Germanus would come back and tell whoever had  
4 been there the longest to go back to bed.

5 "One night, when I was about 10 or 11 years old,  
6 Brother Germanus asked me to come to his room. I can't  
7 remember if I was sitting on the stairs or if I had gone  
8 to the toilet and he heard me; the toilet was opposite  
9 his bedroom. Sometimes you would be given a row if  
10 Brother Germanus heard you making a noise when you were  
11 peeing in the toilet.

12 "When I went into Brother Germanus' room, he asked  
13 me to do some exercises. This involved me arching my  
14 back like a crab with my hands and feet on the floor.  
15 He was very complimentary to me when I did this and it  
16 made me feel good. I had my pyjamas on when I was doing  
17 the exercises. I was probably from the room for at  
18 least 10 minutes.

19 "The second time I was asked to go to  
20 Brother Germanus' room it was the same thing, he asked  
21 me to do the crab exercises again. The difference this  
22 time was I started with my pyjamas on. I was then asked  
23 to take them off. Brother Germanus told me this would  
24 let me do the exercises better without being inhibited  
25 by having something on. Brother Germanus then said he



1 wanted to see how strong I was. He sat astride me and  
2 put his weight slightly on top of me. He still had his  
3 robes on. Brother Germanus was again very  
4 complimentary. I can't remember what time there was  
5 between the first occasion and the second time.

6 "After this happened, I was told to put my pyjamas  
7 back on and asked to lie on his bed until I was sleepy.  
8 I lay down on top of the covers. Brother Germanus then  
9 lay on the bed beside me. I don't remember anything  
10 else happening. It did make me feel very uncomfortable.

11 "I was in the room for a longer time than the first  
12 occasion. It must have been about 15 to 20 minutes.  
13 I remember saying that I felt tired and asked  
14 Brother Germanus if I could go to bed. He said that  
15 I could and I left the room.

16 "I never discussed what happened to me with any of  
17 the other boys. I wasn't aware of any of the other boys  
18 saying it happened to them.

19 "After being in the room the second time I was never  
20 asked to go there again. I can't even remember being  
21 told to sit on the stairs again during the night.

22 "When I was in my 40s, I found out that my brother  
23 had also been sexually assaulted at St Columba's.  
24 Myself, my partner, my friend, my brother and my  
25 brother's partner were chatting. The topic of

1 Brother Germanus came up. My brother's partner then  
2 said that my brother had been raped by him. My brother  
3 never denied this. He didn't refute it.

4 "I felt from when it happened that what  
5 Brother Germanus did to me was wrong. As I grew older,  
6 I realised it was wrong. However, I didn't feel what  
7 happened to me was the worst form of abuse.

8 "Brother Germanus liked to use the belt to  
9 discipline pupils. He had a bad temper and was  
10 belt-happy. The belt was a tawse with two straps. He  
11 kept it in his pocket on his robe.

12 "If you were to be given the belt and dropped your  
13 hands, you would be hit on the buttocks or bare thighs  
14 with the belt. It was always over your shorts if you  
15 were hit on the buttocks. This happened to me a number  
16 of times. I don't remember what it was that I did to  
17 warrant getting the belt. The amount of times you were  
18 given the belt depended on what you had done. I would  
19 maybe get the belt about once a week.

20 "If you were to be punished with the belt,  
21 Brother Germanus would take you to the Nissen hut. Most  
22 of the time you were on your own when you were given the  
23 belt. There were occasions when there were more of us  
24 there getting the belt. This might have been after we  
25 had been caught fighting or something similar. I can't

1 remember getting the belt in a classroom.

2 "I saw other boys, my brother included, being taken  
3 to the Nissen hut. I would hear those boys being given  
4 the belt when they were inside the hut.

5 "Brother Germanus spoiled my whole experience at  
6 St Columba's. I couldn't say if any of the other  
7 brothers gave the belt at the college. I only remember  
8 Brother Germanus giving the belt.

9 "I do not know if there was a punishment book where  
10 it would be recorded when you were punished. To the  
11 best of my knowledge, there wasn't anywhere punishments  
12 were recorded.

13 "I didn't feel that I could say anything to my  
14 father or stepmother about what had happened to me. My  
15 stepmother was a staunch Catholic and wouldn't have  
16 believed me. The other thing was that I didn't want to  
17 upset my father. At the time I'm not sure I would have  
18 known how to report anything that had happened to me  
19 when I was at the college. I think I may have been able  
20 to do this by going to speak with the priest through  
21 confession. However, I don't remember ever doing this.

22 "I did my eleven-plus exam in 1963 and then moved to  
23 St Joseph's College at Dumfries. There was no  
24 discussion with my parents about going to St Joseph's,  
25 it just happened. I don't even really know how I felt

1 about leaving St Columba's. I was disappointed my  
2 brother wasn't going with me at the same time.

3 "Going to St Joseph's was seen as a natural  
4 progression. It was also run by the Marist Brothers.

5 "St Joseph's was on the outskirts of Dumfries. The  
6 main building had a new science wing built on to the  
7 side of it and the main building itself had four floors.  
8 The dining room was on the ground floor, the classrooms  
9 on the first floor, and the dormitories were on the two  
10 top floors. There was a separate building in the  
11 grounds where the sixth year boys had their rooms.  
12 There were three or four boys to a room in the sixth  
13 year building."

14 Between paragraphs 63 and 68, the witness provides  
15 further information in relation to the grounds and  
16 general evidence in relation to the school, including  
17 staff.

18 From paragraph 69 onwards, the witness provides  
19 evidence in relation to the routine, including  
20 mealtimes, uniform, school, hygiene, leisure, religion,  
21 healthcare, visits, and I will read on from  
22 paragraph 84, which is on WIT.001.002.3741:

23 "Due to the distance from Blairgowrie, where my  
24 parents were staying, I only had one visit from them  
25 during school terms. This would be during the half-term

1 holiday. I would go home for the main school holidays.

2 "There was a nurse who would treat you for minor  
3 ailments. If it was anything more serious, you would go  
4 to the hospital. I think I did have to go to the  
5 hospital for something like a broken toe as a result of  
6 playing sports. I never had to go as an inpatient.

7 "Dental treatment was arranged by the school.  
8 I would go to an outside dental practice for this.

9 "If you did something wrong, then you would be given  
10 the belt. It wasn't illegal to discipline you with the  
11 belt then so it was just accepted. If you received the  
12 belt it was always on the hand. As you got older, it  
13 was easier to deal with being given the belt. The  
14 brothers and the teachers would give you the belt; it  
15 depended who was in charge of you at the time something  
16 happened. I don't remember any specific names of who  
17 I received the belt from.

18 "I was 18 when I left St Joseph's. St Joseph's was  
19 a more positive experience than St Columba's.  
20 I experienced no abuse other than receiving the belt as  
21 a punishment. I was a keen sportsman and there was  
22 a lot of sports to do at St Joseph's. There was more of  
23 a camaraderie than St Columba's.

24 "I hadn't gained enough qualifications to go to  
25 university. Someone came to the college to provide

1 career guidance to pupils. I was in the fortunate  
2 position that my father was a successful businessman and  
3 there was a job there for me if I wanted it.

4 "I think I resented having been put to a boarding  
5 school. When I left St Joseph's, I defaced a school  
6 photograph of myself. I don't know why I did this. It  
7 might show again the resentment that I had. I never  
8 went to church again after leaving St Joseph's.

9 "I have a friend who was also at St Columba's and  
10 St Joseph's with me. When I was older I told him what  
11 Brother Germanus did to me. My friend said that nothing  
12 had ever happened to him. He did say that when he was  
13 at St Joseph's he had heard from other boys about things  
14 happening to them at St Columba's.

15 "When I left school I worked with my father until  
16 I joined the Royal Navy in 1972. I left the navy in  
17 1977 and went back to work with my father. I later  
18 bought over my father's business.

19 "I am currently employed as a care worker with  
20 people who have serious mental health problems. I've  
21 never been back to visit St Columba's or St Joseph's.

22 "When I was sent to boarding school I felt a sense  
23 of not being part of my home town anymore. I missed out  
24 growing up with other people who I knew from home.

25 "Throughout my adult life I have had anger issues

1 and feelings of low self-esteem. I can't say if this  
2 was because of the abuse I suffered. I act unreasonably  
3 towards certain things, such as people smoking. I have  
4 never been violent towards anyone. I might kick out at  
5 something if I was angry.

6 "I have had relationship problems with women. This  
7 could be as a result of having been at an all-boys  
8 boarding school. It might also be because of my  
9 Catholic upbringing. We were always being told  
10 if we did things a certain way, we wouldn't go to  
11 heaven.

12 "I seem to have developed a self-destruct mechanism.  
13 I start things but don't finish them. My anger issues  
14 were a contributing factor to the break down of my  
15 second marriage. I had been married for six years.

16 "I think that my childhood had an effect on how  
17 I brought up my own children. I would never have  
18 considered sending them to boarding or Catholic schools.  
19 I try to speak to my younger daughter every day.  
20 I think I try to compensate for the lack of affection I  
21 experienced as a child by making sure that my daughter  
22 knows I love her. I tell her that every day.

23 "I have never tried to obtain my records. That is  
24 something that I might try and do in the future.

25 "In the mid 1990s I went to my doctor about my anger

1 issues. I was referred to a psychiatrist for treatment.  
2 I went to one appointment. It didn't really help me so  
3 I never went back. There didn't seem to be any real  
4 programme or follow-up.

5 "I think that there is more the Catholic Church  
6 could do to monitor what goes on in their care  
7 establishments. I feel that the Catholic Church could  
8 have done more to deal with reports of abuse.

9 "I don't think that boarding schools can offer the  
10 love and support that a family can provide. If you need  
11 comfort, you can't turn to your mum and dad. For this  
12 reason I am strongly against the principle of boarding  
13 schools.

14 "My reason for coming forward to the inquiry was to  
15 ensure that the organisations responsible for abuse are  
16 held accountable.

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

21 The statement was signed by James on  
22 30 January 2019.

23 LADY SMITH: Thank you very much.

24 It's now 10.45. I think we'll take a break now and  
25 find out what the progress with today's witnesses is.



1           If people can keep in touch, we'll be able to advise  
2           what's happening next and when.

3           Thank you.

4           (10.45 am)

5                                 (A short break)

6           (12.08 pm)

7           LADY SMITH: Mr MacAulay, I gather the next witness is  
8           ready; is that right?

9           MR MacAULAY: Yes, my Lady, he is ready.

10                         The next witness is an applicant, he wants to remain  
11           anonymous, and he wants to use the name "Alan" in giving  
12           evidence.

13                                 "ALAN" (affirmed)

14           LADY SMITH: Please sit down and make yourself comfortable,  
15           Alan.

16                         Alan, just before we start your evidence, you'll see  
17           that the light is on on the microphone. I just ask you  
18           to keep in a good position for the microphone. You  
19           don't need to be too close, but it's important that we  
20           hear you through the sound system.

21                         I see you're all ready with the red file. Well  
22           done. I think Mr MacAulay will be taking you to that in  
23           a moment, but if it is all right with you, I will hand  
24           over to him now and he will explain more. Is that all  
25           right?

1           Mr MacAulay.

2                           Questions from MR MacAULAY

3       MR MacAULAY: Good afternoon, Alan.

4       A. Good afternoon.

5       Q. You spotted the red folder that you have in front of  
6           you. Could I ask you to turn to the final page. While  
7           you're doing that, I'll give the reference for the  
8           transcript: WIT.001.002.6026.

9           If I could ask you to confirm that you have signed  
10          the statement.

11       A. Yes.

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

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

15          Is that correct?

16       A. It is.

17       Q. Do you go on to say:

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

20          Is that right?

21       A. Yes.

22       Q. Alan, because you want to retain your anonymity, I don't  
23          want your date of birth, but can you confirm the year of  
24          your birth and that you were born in 1971?

25       A. Yes.

1 Q. You've come to the inquiry because you spent time at  
2 St Columba's College in Largs when you were a boy;  
3 is that right?

4 A. Yes.

5 Q. Before you went to the college, I think you tell us  
6 a little bit about your family background. That's at  
7 paragraphs 3 and 4 of your statement. Was a decision  
8 taken when you were the age of 7 that you should go to  
9 St Columba's as a boarder?

10 A. Yes.

11 Q. What was the reasoning behind that?

12 A. My family were heavily involved in licensed premises,  
13 both front of house, back of house, and there was  
14 basically -- it was twofold: there was no one to look  
15 after me and, secondly, it was considered, I was told  
16 later, quite a prestigious move for me to be put there.

17 Q. If you were 7, that would take you into about 1978;  
18 is that when you went there?

19 A. Yes.

20 Q. And would you be going for the beginning of [REDACTED]  
21 [REDACTED]?

22 A. Which began in [REDACTED], as I recall, yes.

23 Q. In [REDACTED] 1978?

24 A. Mm-hm.

25 Q. I think you tell us in your statement that you were

1           there until about 1983; is that right?

2           A. Yes.

3           Q. So that's from the age of 7 to the age of 12?

4           A. Mm-hm.

5           Q. Before we move on, can I just ask you to look at  
6           a couple of photographs for me. You don't have any  
7           problem with that?

8           A. No.

9           Q. They'll come on the screen in front of you:

10          CFS.001.012.0666.

11                   We're looking at what appears to be a Victorian-type  
12          property. Do you recognise this as the college,  
13          St Columba's College?

14          A. Yes. Obviously, the greenhouse to the right had been  
15          replaced by a purpose-built gymnasium by the time I got  
16          there, but that is the building, yes.

17          Q. When you were there from 1978 through to 1983, apart  
18          from the building we're looking at, was there another  
19          building also used --

20          A. Yes. To the left of that building, there was another  
21          building that housed most of the Marist Brothers, and it  
22          was also the educational block.

23          Q. So the classrooms, by the time you were there, were  
24          in that separate building?

25          A. Yes.

1 Q. Then focusing on the building you're looking at then,  
2 I think we know, for example, the dormitories would be  
3 housed in this building; is that correct?

4 A. Yes.

5 Q. And in particular on the first and second floors of the  
6 building?

7 A. Yes.

8 Q. At the ground floor level then, what could we find  
9 there?

10 A. The ground floor level, looking at the building from the  
11 left, was the Marist Brothers' dining room. To the  
12 right was the boarders' lounge room. Behind the  
13 boarders' lounge room to the right there would be  
14 a parlour room, where prospective parents and families  
15 were brought in to be given a sort of initial outline of  
16 what would be in store for them. To the left and  
17 behind, there was a small altar for any services from  
18 the local priest. Further back was the kitchens,  
19 scullery, storerooms, dining room, and then the garden  
20 at the very rear.

21 Q. If we focus on the dormitories, the two floors that  
22 house the dormitories, when you first went there, at  
23 what level was your dormitory?

24 A. So I was on the top floor of the right of the building,  
25 facing out over the rear the garden.

1 Q. And as you made your way through the school, did you  
2 move from dormitory to dormitory?

3 A. Yes. After each sort of term or age group, you would  
4 move. So I then moved across the hall to the  
5 front-facing upper floor, and then down to the rear and  
6 the left, and then into the rear front, and then finally  
7 the front right.

8 Q. So you've identified five separate places where you  
9 spent your time?

10 A. Yes.

11 Q. Was that dependant on age? Were the younger boys at the  
12 top and you moved --

13 A. It was a balance between age and intake.

14 Q. When you went there in 1978, at the age of 7, how many  
15 boys were in the room that was accommodating you?

16 A. There was one other in my first room.

17 Q. And did that change as you moved through the  
18 dormitories? Did you have more boys --

19 A. I think one other joined us before I moved and then,  
20 when I moved, when my first move happened, there were  
21 three of us in the next room.

22 Q. Can I just focus on the brothers who were there when you  
23 first went there and as you moved through the school?  
24 Let's take it from the beginning. Can you remember who  
25 were there at that time?

1 A. The first brother who was also the house brother -- the  
2 house brother is the person who was like the governor of  
3 that house -- was Brother David Germanus.

4 Q. And anyone else that you can remember at that time?

5 A. A couple of the teachers. One was a Brother MID and  
6 a Brother MFY

7 Q. Insofar as dealings with brothers would be concerned,  
8 those that were teaching, would you really deal with  
9 them in the classrooms?

10 A. Sorry, repeat that again?

11 Q. In so far as your dealings with the brothers would be  
12 concerned, if you're looking at the teaching side of  
13 things, the teacher brothers, would you essentially deal  
14 with them in the classrooms?

15 A. Yes.

16 Q. What about Brother Germanus then? What was his role?

17 A. His role was to make sure we were awake in the morning,  
18 to be there for mealtimes, organise any sort of  
19 after-school social events, organise the swimming pool  
20 trip on the Wednesday afternoon, and take any pupils to  
21 morning Mass if they wanted to go.

22 Q. Did he then have accommodation in the main building that  
23 we've looked at?

24 A. Yes. So on that first floor, on the right of the  
25 building, there was a bedroom there. There's also

1 a second bedroom on a mezzanine floor between the first  
2 floor and the second floor on the left of the building  
3 on the rear.

4 Q. Which one did he use or did he use both at some points?

5 A. So far as I recall, he used the main one on the first  
6 floor.

7 Q. I think you have described him as a housemaster;  
8 is that --

9 A. Yes.

10 Q. Did that position change during your time at  
11 St Columba's?

12 A. Yes.

13 Q. Can you tell me what the change was?

14 A. The next change after that was the arrival of  
15 Brother **AKU**.

16 Q. And that's Brother **AKU**?

17 A. Yes.

18 Q. Did he take over the position that Brother Germanus had  
19 had?

20 A. Yes.

21 Q. What about Brother Germanus? Did he remain at the area  
22 or did he move on?

23 A. I think he stayed on for a very short time and then he  
24 moved on.

25 Q. Looking to your time at the school as a boarder, are you



1           able to give me some understanding as to how many  
2           boarders were there over the period? So if take your  
3           first year there, for example.

4           A. Anywhere between 12 and 16.

5           Q. Did it fluctuate a bit over the years?

6           A. Yes. Over the years it started to reduce and then  
7           in the final year, I think there couldn't be much more  
8           than eight or nine of us.

9           Q. Looking to what you've told us, I think we know the  
10          school closed in about 1983; were you one of                       
11          pupils at the school?

12          A. I believe so, yes.

13          Q. In your statement, Alan, you provide us with some  
14          information about the routine. In particular, I think  
15          you tell us that you were homesick for a bit, but then  
16          you started to enjoy yourself; is that right?

17          A. Yes. You were then making friends and getting to know  
18          people, pretty much from the outset. So it was just  
19          like being at school. So you were starting to form  
20          friendships, because basically, after school -- because  
21          school ended at 3.30, 4 o'clock and after that you had  
22          a couple of hours to go about and mess about as you do  
23          as kids. Then you had dinner, then you had another  
24          couple of hours, then you had about half an hour,  
25          45 minutes of television, and that was it, bed after

1           that.

2           Q. Did you get home at weekends?

3           A. Most weekends I went home. Occasionally, if they were  
4           doing events or there was -- I mean, with Largs you had  
5           that whole sort of Vikingar festival, so you had lots of  
6           fireworks and bonfires and stuff. Occasionally I would  
7           stay at weekends if there were events that I wanted to  
8           go to.

9           Q. And did you have the normal school holidays then at  
10          Christmas, Easter and summer?

11          A. Longer.

12          Q. Longer?

13          A. Yes.

14          Q. One thing you do touch upon in your statement relates to  
15          a boy called Aldo Moroni. Did you know Aldo Moroni when  
16          you were at the school?

17          A. Yes.

18          Q. In relation to age, where was he in relation to you?

19          A. One year younger, I think.

20          Q. Can you tell me, if you can, how long Aldo was at the  
21          school?

22          A. About a year, I think.

23          Q. I think you tell us that at a point in time you became  
24          aware that he had died; is that right?

25          A. Yes. He was taken from the school -- as I recall,

1 he was unwell -- and then within a few days, we were all  
2 gathered in the dining room where the news was broken to  
3 us that he'd passed away.

4 Q. Did you actually see him leaving the school or is that  
5 just something you've heard?

6 A. I can't remember.

7 Q. If we just look at the role played by Brother Germanus  
8 when he was the housemaster, how did you get on with  
9 him?

10 A. Fine.

11 Q. Did he require to discipline you in any way when he was  
12 in that position?

13 A. No.

14 Q. Did you see him disciplining any other children?

15 A. No.

16 Q. One of the things you tell us is that you would go  
17 swimming at the local pool in Largs; is that correct?

18 A. Why.

19 Q. Can you tell me how that was organised? By that I mean  
20 would one of the brothers take a group of boys to the  
21 pool?

22 A. Yes, more often than not we'd either walk down, or  
23 latterly when another brother started at the school, he  
24 had his own transit minibus, so sometimes we'd go down  
25 in that. Then you'd spend about two, maybe three hours

1           there, and then walk back.

2           Q.   Who were the brothers? Can you remember the names of  
3           the brother who were involved in that?

4           A.   Firstly, Brother Germanus, then latterly it would have  
5           been Brother **AKU**. I think on occasion, there was  
6           another brother that used to visit, I think his name was  
7           **MNZ**, I think. And then there was the Brother **MID**,  
8           who had the transit minibus, but he was only involved in  
9           taking us back and forwards.

10          Q.   Would the whole school be taken or would it just be  
11          a particular age group?

12          A.   It was all the boarders and I think some of the day  
13          students either had the opportunity to go or to go home  
14          for the rest of the afternoon.

15          Q.   Just coming back to the matter of discipline -- and you  
16          talk about that in your statement at paragraph 42 --  
17          what you say is:

18                 "[You] think that it was a school belt but [you]  
19          never saw the school belt being used."

20                 That's paragraph 42. It'll come on the screen if  
21          you prefer to look at the screen.

22          A.   Yes.

23          Q.   So do I take it you were never belted?

24          A.   No, I was quiet.

25          Q.   And well-behaved?

1 A. Too well-behaved, yes.

2 Q. I now want to turn, Alan, then to the whole issue of  
3 abuse. You tell us about that in your statement from  
4 paragraph 44 onwards. Were you abused at the school?

5 A. Yes.

6 Q. Who was your abuser?

7 A. Brother AKU .

8 Q. And do I take it then that there was no abuse prior to  
9 AKU coming to the school?

10 A. No, not for me, anyway.

11 Q. Can you just tell the inquiry how this matter of abuse  
12 developed insofar as AKU was concerned? How did  
13 it develop?

14 A. I was still in the first and the second rooms of the  
15 upstairs.

16 Q. Does that mean you were about 8 or possibly 9?

17 A. Yes. Then it'd be after sort of lights out, about 25,  
18 30 minutes, he then would come for you and take you into  
19 his room. Then on some occasions, when the rest of the  
20 boys had gone swimming, he would either keep back one or  
21 two of us and make us sit in a bath with each other.

22 Q. Let's take you to the times when he takes you to his  
23 room. The first time that happened to you, can you  
24 remember what happened?

25 A. I'd be encouraged to touch his private parts, both front

1 and back. Sometimes he would touch me as well also.

2 Q. Would you have your pyjamas on or off then?

3 A. I think the first couple of times it was just round by  
4 my knees, but later times they'd be off.

5 Q. And what about his state of dress?

6 A. He'd be naked most of the time.

7 Q. Was this something that developed over a period of time  
8 to get to a stage where you're both naked and indulging  
9 in this sexual activity?

10 A. Yes. It carried on from the two top rooms right down to  
11 when I was in the main bedroom, just before he left.

12 Q. When you say he left, he left the school before you;  
13 is that right?

14 A. Yes.

15 Q. In relation to the sexual things that he got you to do,  
16 are you able to provide us with any detail as to what he  
17 did or what he got you to do?

18 A. Yes. He would have me masturbate him, touch his bottom.  
19 He would try and do that to me. He would encourage me  
20 to touch other boys in the bath and them to me as well  
21 also. At the time when he was doing that, when we were  
22 in the bath, he'd be also masturbating as well.

23 Then there was one occasion where I was lying in  
24 a bed in front of him -- [REDACTED]  
25 [REDACTED], but I can't be sure whether it was

1 his penis or whether it was his finger he was trying to  
2 put into me, I don't know. I didn't turn round, I don't  
3 know.

4 There was one time that he encouraged me to take his  
5 penis in my mouth, but I said no because I -- just the  
6 taste of it just completely revulsed me at that point  
7 and I wouldn't do it after that.

8 Q. Insofar as this behaviour that you've been describing,  
9 once it had started in the way you have described, did  
10 that then continue for some time just involving yourself  
11 and him during your time at the school?

12 A. The first few times it was just myself and him.

13 I recall one other boy in the bedroom upstairs and then  
14 other boys when it came to sort of the bath times.

15 Q. If we look at the incident involving the other boy in  
16 the bedroom, was that once or more than once that  
17 happened?

18 A. As I recall, more than once.

19 Q. We don't want names, but are you able to give us the  
20 first name of that other boy?

21 A. MGR

22 Q. Can you tell me what happened on these occasions when  
23 the two of you were in the room with AKU?

24 A. That's when we were encouraged to touch him. I don't  
25 recall touching MGR at this point in that room.

1 Q. And what were you encouraged to do to him?

2 A. To Brother AKU ?

3 Q. Yes.

4 A. To masturbate him.

5 Q. Would you and MGR be naked when this was happening?

6 A. I think so, yes.

7 Q. What about Brother AKU ?

8 A. Yes.

9 Q. How often do you think that sort of incident happened  
10 during your time in the school?

11 A. In that particular bedroom?

12 Q. Yes.

13 A. Four, maybe five times, I think.

14 Q. Was it the same things that happened then? Did anything  
15 change from what you've just described to me?

16 A. No, it was in that sort of same vein.

17 Q. You've mentioned this business about the bath; can you  
18 just tell me about that, Alan?

19 A. Adjacent to his bedroom there was a communal bathroom  
20 with about 16 hand/face wash sinks, one bath, and then  
21 one toilet cubicle. So on certain Wednesday afternoons,  
22 to begin with, I'd be kept back on some Wednesdays and  
23 latterly kept back with another boy.

24 Q. And what happened?

25 A. We would then be encouraged to undress each other, get



1           into the bath and he would then give us instructions --  
2           actually, going back now, there's a couple of times when  
3           he spoke to me, sort of giving me instructions, before  
4           joining the other boy in the bath.

5       Q.   And what instructions was he giving?

6       A.   Just like ways and how -- different methods to touch him  
7           and what to do when I was touching him, which basically  
8           resulted in masturbation and like touching the back of  
9           the head, things like that.

10      Q.   When this was happening then with the other boy in the  
11         bath, was there water in the bath?

12      A.   Yes.

13      Q.   And what about AKU himself? What was he doing  
14         when you were --

15      A.   As I recall, there were some times you could see he was  
16         sort of touching himself through his pockets, but there  
17         would be other times where he was in a state of undress  
18         as well.

19      Q.   Again, these bath episodes, how often did that happen?

20      A.   At least five.

21      Q.   Again, was that throughout your period at the school?

22      A.   Yes.

23      Q.   Until AKU left?

24      A.   Yes.

25      Q.   Again, I don't want the name of the other boy, but was

1           this the same boy or a different boy to the previous boy  
2           you mentioned?

3           A. Different.

4           Q. What first name was this boy?

5           A. I think altogether there were three different boys over  
6           the -- besides the first one.

7           Q. The first one you told us about in the room.

8           A. Yes.

9           Q. With regard to the bath episodes, were there different  
10          boys?

11          A. Yes.

12          Q. And again, if you can perhaps -- first of all, can I ask  
13          you this: was it never more than two boys?

14          A. Yes, there were never more than two boys in the bath at  
15          any one time.

16          Q. Can you help me with the first names then of the other  
17          two boys?

18          A. [REDACTED] MNU and I think [REDACTED].

19          Q. So altogether, insofar as AKU [REDACTED] having boys engage  
20          in sexual activity, you're looking at four different  
21          boys?

22          A. Yes.

23          LADY SMITH: Alan, just going back a moment, you're  
24          describing now activities that took place during the  
25          afternoon when other boys were swimming.

1 A. Yes.

2 LADY SMITH: Do you know what explanation was given for you  
3 and the other boys not going swimming?

4 A. I do, actually. Since all this has started to come  
5 back -- more and more has come back to me. I do recall  
6 one time Brother AKU informing Brother Arthur that I'd  
7 been complaining of stomach pains and he was going to  
8 hold me back because -- like, don't go swimming on  
9 stomach pains.

10 LADY SMITH: Of course.

11 A. Towards the end of my time there, any boys that were  
12 still feeling unwell, they went to the swimming pool to  
13 become spectators, which again is something that  
14 I recalled in the last kind of couple of months.

15 LADY SMITH: Do you know if the same stomach pain  
16 explanation was given for the other boys that were being  
17 kept back?

18 A. I wouldn't know that for sure.

19 LADY SMITH: You don't have a memory of hearing that?

20 A. All I ever heard -- once again, that only came back to  
21 me an couple of months ago.

22 MR MacAULAY: Did AKU say anything to you about what  
23 you should say or not say about what was going on  
24 between yourself and him and these other boys?

25 A. When I was asked before -- I don't have strong

1           recollections of things, being told to sort of keep  
2           quiet or keep secret. Possibly he could have done, but  
3           I can't actually recall where and when or how, if  
4           anything was said or if it wasn't said.

5       Q. Did you say anything to anybody in a position of  
6           responsibility about what was happening to you at this  
7           time?

8       A. At this time, no.

9       Q. And even when you went home for the holidays, did you  
10           say anything to your parents?

11      A. No.

12      Q. And thinking back, are you able to say why that was?

13      A. Well, I mean, I was still below the age of 10, so not  
14           having anything really in -- in the mindset of a child,  
15           what would you compare it to? There was nothing at that  
16           point to suggest that anything was wrong because you're  
17           in a place governed by people in trust. Even looking up  
18           to teachers, why would you question their methods? It  
19           was only -- you'll get to it at some point -- latterly  
20           that alarm bells started ringing.

21      Q. I'll come to that.

22           Before that, coming back to the behaviour that  
23           AKU was engaged upon, did he ejaculate on these  
24           occasions so far as you could tell?

25      A. In the room downstairs, I recall that, yes.

1 Q. Coming to the bath times then, would the house otherwise  
2 be empty of people if boys had gone to the swimming  
3 pool? What about other brothers?

4 A. Not in that house. They would be, I'd imagine,  
5 following their own interests in the other house.

6 Q. And coming back to the times when he took you to his  
7 room, would that be at a time when you had gone to bed  
8 or were about to go to bed?

9 A. I would already be in bed and settled.

10 Q. So having been to his room, would you then go back to  
11 his bed after this behaviour had come to an end?

12 A. Yes. You'd then return back to your own bed, yes.

13 Q. The other boys you mentioned, were these boys who were  
14 a similar age as yourself at the time?

15 A. Yes.

16 Q. Did this behaviour then by him really continue on  
17 a regular basis until he left?

18 A. To my recollection, yes.

19 Q. Were you aware that he had gone when he had left?

20 A. I think we came back from a break or a holiday and he  
21 hadn't been there.

22 Q. Was this towards the latter part of your time at  
23 St Columba's?

24 A. Yes. I remember coming back -- I think brother Arthur  
25 had assumed housemaster and then in the last part of my

1 stay there, it was a Brother MNZ or Brother MNZ that  
2 then became the last housemaster.

3 Q. Was AKU somebody who was known to your parents?

4 A. Yes, there was one occasion where he travelled from  
5 Largs to Dunoon on the bank holiday weekend of August  
6 and visited my parents and myself at their public house  
7 in [REDACTED].

8 Q. That's the one occasion, was it?

9 A. Yes.

10 Q. Were you on holiday then at that time?

11 A. Yes. We'd still have been in summer holidays at that  
12 point.

13 Q. Did AKU show boys films when you were at the  
14 school?

15 A. There was a video recorder and television set up in the  
16 downstairs lounge, so on a Friday or Saturday night he'd  
17 go to the local video store and get a movie. I didn't  
18 stay that many weekends. I think one weekend I did  
19 stay -- I think it was just after when Texas Chainsaw  
20 Massacre came out and he watched it first and then he'd  
21 fast forward through the bits that weren't appropriate.

22 Q. So you watched part of that with him?

23 A. Part of that, yes. That's the only film that I ever  
24 recall.

25 Q. And as you say, you weren't there for most of the

1 weekends?

2 A. Yes, most of the weekends I wasn't there.

3 Q. Did he have a CB radio or something of that sort set up  
4 in his room?

5 A. Yes, he did.

6 Q. Did you engage in that at all? Did you get to use that?

7 A. I think that I had one around the same time in my home  
8 in Scotland, but I don't recall using it with him, no.

9 Q. Can I then move on, Alan, to the time when **AKU**  
10 has left and you say Brother Arthur took over the  
11 responsibility as housemaster. You've also mentioned  
12 a Brother **MNZ**. Did something happen involving  
13 Brother **MNZ**?

14 A. He was a lot more strict, a lot more of a disciplinarian  
15 than any other brother that was there. I think it was  
16 one morning, one afternoon or an evening, we had --  
17 I can't remember. We were having -- there was three  
18 shower cubicles, four shower cubicles in between the two  
19 downstairs -- they had middle floor rooms -- and I kept  
20 seeing this hand breaking through the curtains, trying  
21 to touch this boy. It was at that point then things  
22 were like, hang on, something isn't right. So it was  
23 either that day or the following day where I told  
24 another boy that after school I was leaving, I was  
25 going.

- 1 Q. Did this Brother MNZ do anything to you that you  
2 remember?
- 3 A. No.
- 4 Q. So it was just what you witnessed with other boys?
- 5 A. Yes.
- 6 Q. Why did you decide that you'd go?
- 7 A. I just -- something clicked at that point, that that's  
8 not something that should be happening, and I wasn't  
9 going to stay to see anything else.
- 10 Q. Did he make any attempt to touch you?
- 11 A. No.
- 12 Q. Did you run away with another boy?
- 13 A. Yes.
- 14 Q. There's an entry, I can tell you, in the daybook for the  
15 Marists for St Columba's, recording that you ran away  
16 with this other boy on 21 February 1983. Would that be  
17 about right? Did you only run away on the one occasion?
- 18 A. Yes. I was taken back the following day.
- 19 Q. It was in your final year at the school when you'd be  
20 coming up to 12 --
- 21 A. Mm-hm.
- 22 Q. -- is that right?
- 23 A. Yes.
- 24 Q. And what happened then? Where did you go?
- 25 A. So we walked from Largs to McInroy's Point in Gourrock,



1           which is just under 15 miles, avoiding the main roads,  
2           the pavements, because after we'd seen a couple of  
3           police cars going back and forwards, I thought it might  
4           be a good idea to stay out of sight. Then we boarded  
5           the ferry and then got a taxi to my grandmother's house

6           ██████████.

7           Q. And I take it thereafter your parents would have become  
8           aware of the fact that you had run away from the school?

9           A. Well, yes, because I went straight home, yes.

10          Q. What did you tell your parents as to why you'd left the  
11          school?

12          A. I told them what I'd seen about the shower incident.  
13             I can't remember if I told them anything else. It then  
14             erupted into a massive family fight and then I was taken  
15             back the following day, put into class. My parents were  
16             there for a good hour in conference with Brother Arthur.  
17             And then nothing.

18          Q. Do you know if your parents told Brother Arthur about  
19          what you told them?

20          A. It was never, ever brought up again.

21          Q. What caused the family fight?

22          A. Well, Mondays was my father's main day off, so he'd been  
23             out drinking with his friends, so they couldn't locate  
24             him. When they finally did get him, then it was him, my  
25             grandmother and my mother. I could see the shouting,

1           then I could see raised hands, and that's when I raced  
2           into the next room to put myself between my father and  
3           mother and grandmother.

4           Q. But what was causing the fight? You have just  
5           reported --

6           A. The fact that I was sent to that school in the first  
7           place.

8           Q. Who was on one side and who was on the other in that  
9           debate?

10          A. There were so many conflicting stories after the years  
11          had rolled in. I was latterly told by one of my  
12          father's brothers, if the business was doing that well,  
13          they didn't think it was a good idea that I should go to  
14          that school and that I should join their children in  
15          Greenock and go to the same schools as them, then they'd  
16          just allow the family to rock on with the business.

17          Q. In any event, you tell us that you were taken back to  
18          the school by your parents.

19          A. Yes.

20          Q. And they did have a discussion with Brother Arthur?

21          A. Yes.

22          Q. At that time was Brother Arthur the brother in charge of  
23          the whole place?

24          A. Yes.

25          Q. I think you told us that really, thereafter, nothing

1 changed.

2 A. No.

3 Q. Did Brother MNZ remain at the school?

4 A. I think so.

5 Q. Did you discuss with your parents at that time anything  
6 to do with AKU?

7 A. I think I might have said something, but I can't  
8 remember to what depth. I only ever spoke about it with  
9 my father a few years ago when it kind of came back up  
10 again and he assumed a lot of guilt for me being at the  
11 school.

12 So then he basically surmised he'd been put on to  
13 the school by a co-worker as somewhere he found  
14 previously when he worked in Greenock. It then  
15 became -- from my father's idea, then speaking to my  
16 mother and my grandmother, to put me there.

17 Q. I think as we've discussed, Alan, you left St Columba's  
18 in the of 1983; is that correct?

19 A. Yes.

20 Q. And I think you went to a local school?

21 A. Yes.

22 Q. And you completed your primary school education, then  
23 you went to a local secondary school?

24 A. Yes.

25 Q. You provide us in paragraphs 57 through to 62 with some

1 aspects of your life after you left school, and in  
2 particular that you travelled all over England and  
3 Ireland working as a chef in particular; is that right?

4 A. Yes.

5 Q. And I think you also worked abroad?

6 A. Yes.

7 Q. You also provide us with information about your family  
8 relationships in those paragraphs; is that correct?

9 A. Yes.

10 Q. We needn't look at the detail, we can read that for  
11 ourselves.

12 If I can move on to whether or not you consider if  
13 what happened to you at St Columba's, particularly  
14 at the hands of <sup>AKU</sup> [REDACTED], had an impact on you. Are  
15 you able to help me with that?

16 A. [REDACTED]

17 [REDACTED]

18 [REDACTED]

19 [REDACTED]

20 Q. [REDACTED]

21 [REDACTED]

22 A. I was already divorced [REDACTED] and [REDACTED] in  
23 a second relationship -- and then my career was still  
24 burgeoning quite well. Then [REDACTED]  
25 [REDACTED] my father passed away in

1 my house. I had gone -- my sister brought him back from  
2 Lanzarote because wasn't well, he wasn't listening to  
3 her. I then took him into my house with my partner  
4 at the time and her children and we kind of looked after  
5 him, but then he died [REDACTED]  
6 last year.

7 So with that, that had an impact. Then we went to  
8 the funeral in Scotland. My partner's behaviour was  
9 very unruly and very -- just basically disgusting in and  
10 around my family area, so that took more strain.

11 Then some questions were then being asked of me and  
12 things like that. [REDACTED]

13 [REDACTED]  
14 [REDACTED]  
15 [REDACTED]  
16 [REDACTED]  
17 [REDACTED]  
18 [REDACTED]  
19 So that was very unsettling.

20 Then the relationship started to kind of fall apart.  
21 I then made some out of character decisions at work,  
22 which then led to my dismissal. I was in that job for  
23 nearly 10 years with a completely blemish-free record.

24 Then the relationship fell apart shortly after  
25 I took a tenancy out on a new house. Then to find out

1 that she'd been cheating on me for six months with a  
2 view to get the tenancy of the house. Then I was one  
3 night away from sleeping in my car where I got a  
4 different job and then they put me up. Two weeks after  
5 that, my mother died, [REDACTED]

6 [REDACTED]

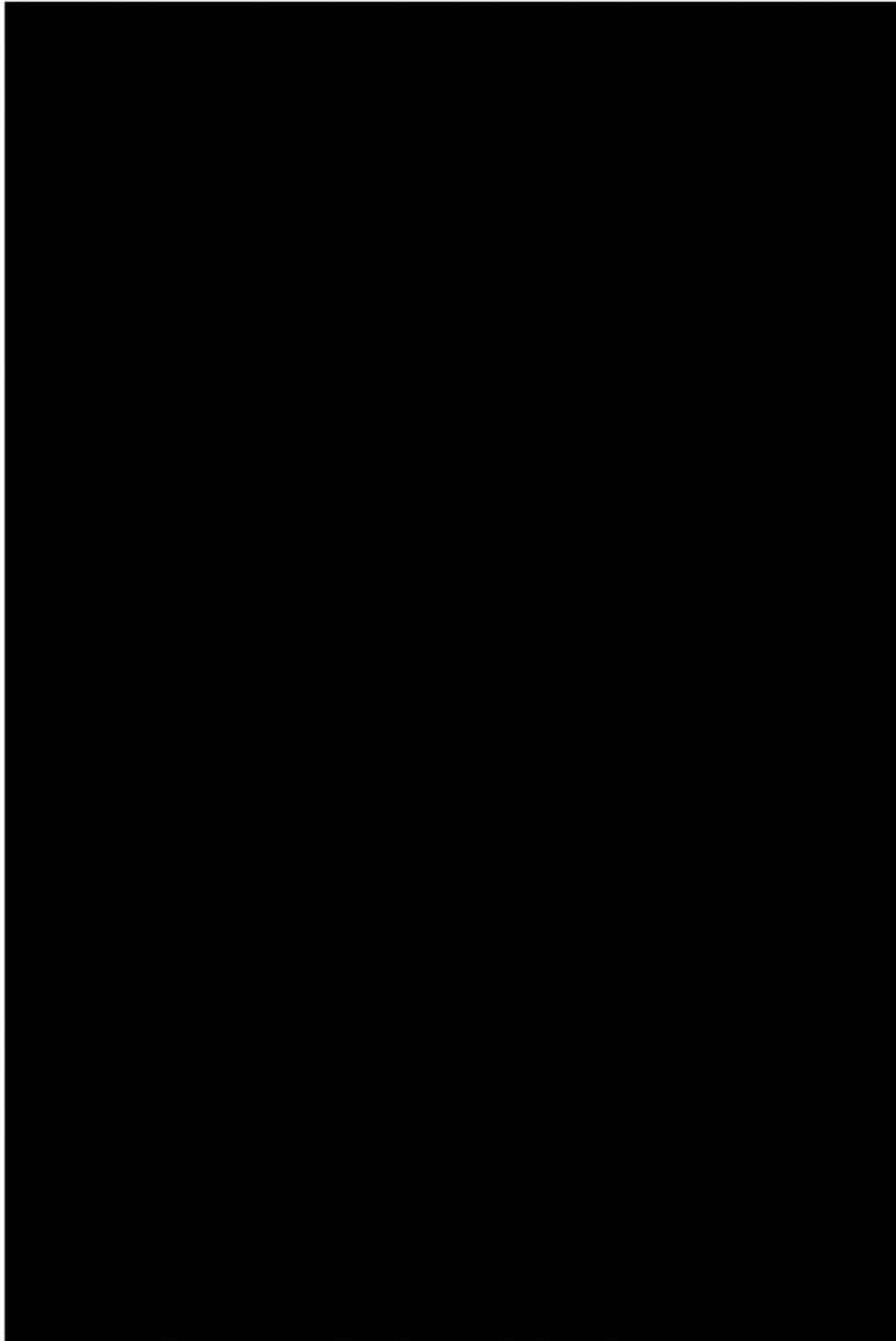
7 Q. [REDACTED]  
8 [REDACTED]  
9 [REDACTED]  
10 [REDACTED]  
11 [REDACTED]

12 A. [REDACTED]

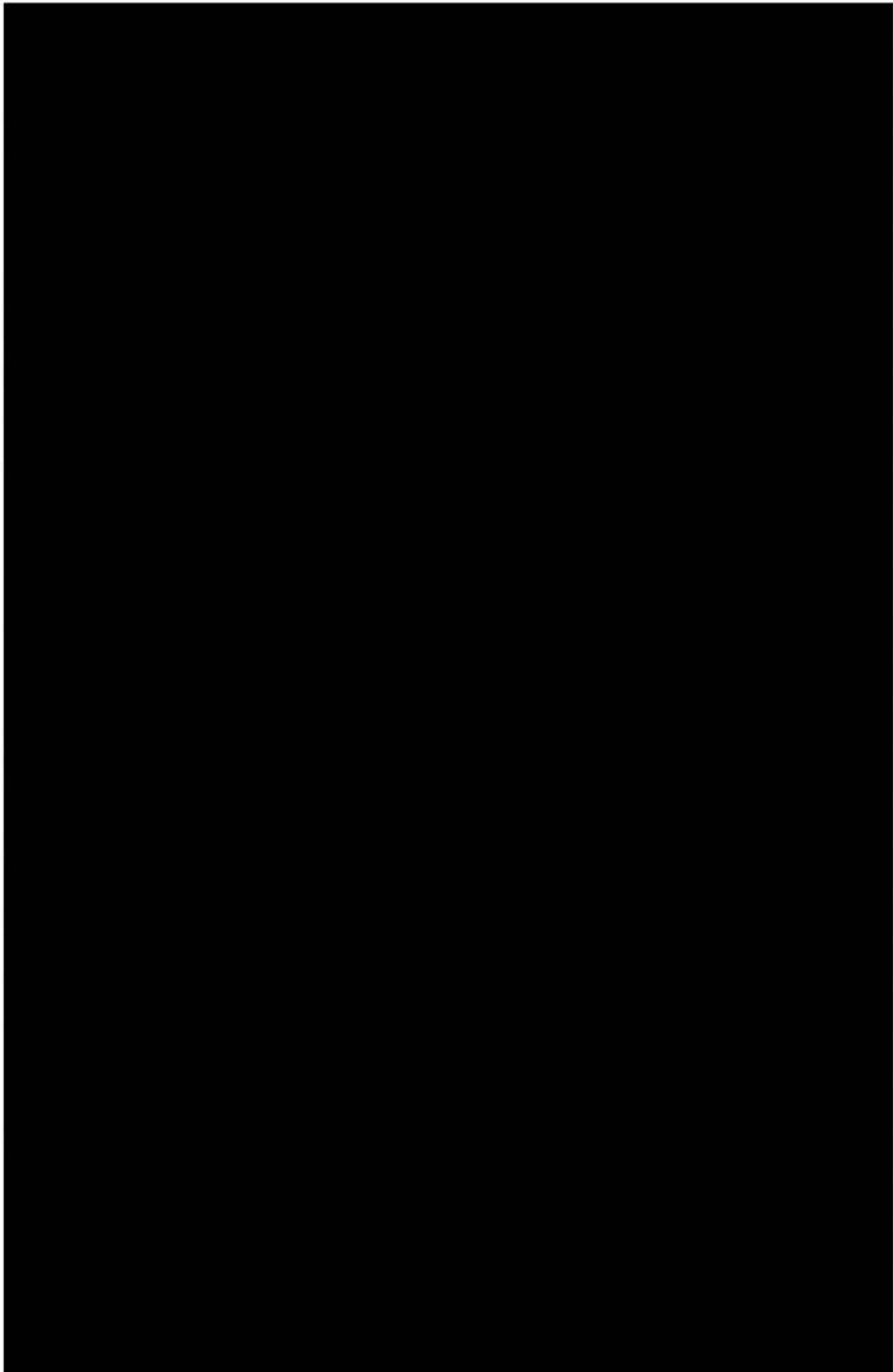
13 Q. [REDACTED]  
14 [REDACTED]

15 A. [REDACTED]  
16 [REDACTED]  
17 [REDACTED]  
18 [REDACTED]  
19 [REDACTED]  
20 [REDACTED]  
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1 Q. [REDACTED]

2 [REDACTED]

3 A. Mm.

4 Q. How did you find the [REDACTED] process?

5 A. Actually, there are two times that I've never been more  
6 aware -- three times now -- of my own voice. One was  
7 obviously talking at my father's funeral, the other time  
8 was in the church, and the third time now.

9 It was very -- it was quite calm. It was as relaxed  
10 as you could feel. Then the [REDACTED]  
11 effectively, if you [REDACTED] then you've got  
12 nothing to kind of worry about.

13 I just recall one point where I think they tried to  
14 suggest something -- what was it? -- how did this happen  
15 and how would it compare? I said, "It did happen, what  
16 else would I have to compare it to? I don't have  
17 a secondary lifestyle that I've ran alongside where  
18 I can just run back and forward and compare the two".  
19 After that my session was kind of quickly closed down  
20 after that [REDACTED]

21 Q. In the [REDACTED] I think the position that was  
22 being put to you on behalf of AKU [REDACTED] was that you  
23 were not telling the truth; was that the position?

24 A. Yes, very.

25 Q. But clearly, [REDACTED] in that they

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2 A.

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Q. It'll then come as no surprise to you that the inquiry  
10 has seen AKU, taken a statement from him, and he  
11 denies these events. You perhaps don't find that  
12 very surprising, do you?

13 A. Why wouldn't he deny it?

14 Q. Can we then look at the final part of your statement  
15 where you look at lessons to be learned. This is at  
16 paragraph 78. You begin by saying that:

17 "I would hope that this inquiry will ensure  
18 prevention and tighter controls."

19 I think there you're postulating that there should  
20 be more regular checks and assessments of people who are  
21 working with children; is that correct?

22 A. Yes.

23 Q. The other point you make at paragraph 79 -- perhaps we  
24 could look at this:


25 "How do the abusers of children not realise what

1           they are doing is wrong?"

2           A. I've kind of looked at that again. It must be some sort  
3           of complete sickness and illness in their minds and  
4           their heads. What rational -- I mean, what is rational?

5                     We had a very strong conversation with [REDACTED]  
6           (inaudible) and I've got an 11-year-old daughter and you  
7           do all you can to keep your own children safe. I just  
8           can't think on any sort of platform as to why or how it  
9           becomes the norm in behaviour to inflict any sort of  
10          abuse, sexual or otherwise. It's just ... I can't  
11          rationalise it.

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4 LADY SMITH: Thank you.

5 MR MacAULAY: Well, Alan, thank you very much indeed for  
6 engaging with the inquiry and answering my questions as  
7 clearly as you have done.

8 My Lady, no questions have been submitted to me to  
9 put to Alan.

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

12 Alan, that completes the questions that we have for  
13 you today. Thank you so much for engaging with the  
14 inquiry as you have done and being prepared to do so

15 AKU

16

17 AKU

18 It's enormously helpful to us that you've come to  
19 us, that we have a written statement from you, and that  
20 I now also have heard your evidence in person.

21 Thank you very much for that.

22 A. Thank you.

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

24 (The witness withdrew)

25 LADY SMITH: Mr MacAulay.

1 MR MacAULAY: My Lady, that's the oral evidence for today so  
2 far. We do have read-ins that we can use this afternoon  
3 for.

4 LADY SMITH: Well, we've got the time this afternoon, so  
5 it would make sense to try and make some more progress  
6 with those if we could at 2 o'clock.

7 Thank you.

8 (1.00 pm)

9 (The lunch adjournment)

10 (2.00 pm)

11 LADY SMITH: Good afternoon.

12 As we said before the lunch break, we're going to  
13 deal with some read-in evidence this afternoon.

14 I think, Ms MacLeod, you're ready; is that right?

15 Witness statement of "JOHN" (read)

16 MS MACLEOD: Good afternoon, my Lady.

17 Yes, that's right. The first statement I will read  
18 in is at WIT.001.002.4908 and it is the statement of an  
19 applicant who wishes to remain anonymous and who will  
20 use the pseudonym "John":

21 "My name is John. I was born in 1952. My contact  
22 details are known to the inquiry.

23 "I am from Blairgowrie and that is where I lived  
24 with my family before I went to boarding school. I have  
25 an older brother who is 10 months older than me.

1           "Life at home was okay and was quite normal and  
2 I was quite happy. I went to primary school in  
3 Blairgowrie from the age of 5 my brother was always  
4 a year above me.

5           "My parents split up when I was aged 4 and my mum  
6 left the household so then my dad took me to school. My  
7 father met someone else in 1957 and they married two  
8 years later. My stepmum was Catholic and we were  
9 a Protestant family. She persuaded my father that  
10 myself and my brother should be educated in a good  
11 Catholic boarding school. It was decided that we should  
12 be sent to St Columba's College in Largs from 1960, just  
13 a few weeks before I turned 8 years old. I left there  
14 when I was 12.

15          "My dad and stepmum took us to school in the car the  
16 first time and maybe one other time after that and the  
17 rest of the time we made our own way there. When we  
18 travelled to St Columba's by train and changed at  
19 Stirling and Glasgow before getting a train to Largs.  
20 It felt like an adventure at the time.

21          "The school was run by a religious order called the  
22 Marist Brothers. There were around 30 to 35 boys at the  
23 school. The boys were aged 8 to 12. It was quite  
24 a small school. It was a fee-paying school and my  
25 father paid the fees.

1            "I recall the school was at the end of a driveway  
2 that curved round a lawn so you would travel halfway  
3 along the drive before you saw the house.

4            "The school was an old house. The garden was looked  
5 after by a civilian gardener from outside and there was  
6 a vegetable garden around the back. The school was not  
7 all in one building. The house was two storeys high  
8 with an attic at the top.

9            "At the front of the building on the right-hand side  
10 of the building was a large greenhouse with a wooden  
11 frame. It was used as a changing room for the pupils  
12 and had sinks in it for washing sports clothes.

13           "In the main building there were classrooms on the  
14 ground floor towards the front. The biggest room was  
15 facing you as you entered the building. There were  
16 smaller classrooms on the left and the bigger ones on  
17 the right-hand side. Towards the back of the building  
18 there was a piano room and further on there was the  
19 kitchens and the dining room or the mess.

20           "On the first floor there were dormitories. There  
21 were also one or two rooms for the staff, the brothers'  
22 rooms. The headmaster's room was on that floor. There  
23 was also a big dorm and a small dorm and shower rooms.

24           "Upstairs in the attic there was a bathroom with one  
25 bath and some sinks. There was also a bedroom for one

1 of the brothers. Also there was a couple of steps up to  
2 two small dorms for the first and second year pupils and  
3 after that you would move downstairs to a dorm on the  
4 first floor.

5 "SNR [REDACTED] was Brother MJD [REDACTED]. From memory, he didn't  
6 do very much. He didn't teach as far as I was aware.  
7 Looking after the dorms was Brother Germanus. To me as  
8 a child he looked old. I think he had greyish hair and  
9 he was slim and not tall. I don't remember him having  
10 a distinctive Scottish accent. He was there pretty much  
11 all the time. He also took classes. I remember there  
12 was also a Brother Douglas and he supervised games  
13 lessons. I don't remember any other brothers. I don't  
14 know if these were their birth names or whether they  
15 adopted them later on.

16 "They got on okay with each other. It didn't seem  
17 that they were happy with their lives. People have  
18 suggested that the vow of chastity was behind it and  
19 this led to frustrations and this was taken out on the  
20 children in their care.

21 "I don't really remember my first day at the school  
22 and I don't specifically recall being shown round the  
23 building and meeting people.

24 "I was initially in the younger group of boys aged 7  
25 to 9. There were others who started at the same time



1 and I was one of the youngest.

2 "I started at the top of the house in the junior  
3 dorm. I think there were six beds in the junior dorm  
4 that I was in. I don't remember if my brother was there  
5 at the same time. Another dormitory downstairs had  
6 12 beds in the room, so ours was small in comparison.  
7 I think we had lockers for our clothes but I can't  
8 specifically recall them.

9 We were woken in the morning by the lights being  
10 turned on by Brother Germanus. He was overseeing the  
11 junior dorms when I was there and he did most of the  
12 supervision. We would then get up and go to get a wash  
13 at the basins. Then we would put our clothes on and  
14 then went along to the dining room for breakfast at  
15 8 am."

16 In paragraphs 13, 14, 15 and 16 the witness gives  
17 further information about the routine at the school,  
18 including in relation to mealtimes and food.

19 I'll read paragraph 17 in relation to washing and  
20 bathing:

21 "We just washed our faces in the morning. There was  
22 an occasional bath. I can't recall how that was  
23 organised. I got showers later on when I was aged 8 to  
24 10 in the attic. We came downstairs and got showers.  
25 They were in cubicles, two or three of them. The

1 cubicles had curtains on them. Brother Germanus was  
2 usually there organising things. We went in the showers  
3 one by one. The showers were already running and I just  
4 jumped into a shower and jumped straight out again as  
5 the water was so cold. Germanus gave me the belt there  
6 and then. That happened on one occasion as I jumped  
7 into the shower before the hot water had started to run.  
8 I had no clothes on. He gave me the belt on my hands.  
9 He liked to use any opportunity to use the belt. The  
10 belt was in his pocket all the time. After that I made  
11 sure I put my hand in the water to make sure it was warm  
12 enough."

13 In paragraph 18 the witness talks about clothing and  
14 school uniform. From paragraph 19 onwards, the witness  
15 speaks about schooling and education through to  
16 paragraph 24.

17 In paragraph 25 the witness provides evidence  
18 in relation to religion and in paragraphs 26 to 32, he  
19 provides information in relation to various aspects of  
20 school life, including work and chores, trips and  
21 holidays, leisure time and birthdays and Christmas.

22 I'll read on from paragraph 33:

23 "My parents came to visit once a term and took us  
24 out for a meal and for the afternoon out. There was  
25 a change in my demeanour after Germanus started to abuse

1 me and that was from being normal and outgoing to being  
2 introverted.

3 "I think I had been at the school for a couple of  
4 years by that point and the doctor had picked up on the  
5 skin condition on my leg. I wanted to be isolated from  
6 everyone. I couldn't isolate myself physically so I did  
7 it mentally and became quiet. I think someone from  
8 outside of school noticed this, but I remember my mother  
9 said it was a phase I was going through, but it lasted  
10 for about 10 years. I think the person who noticed  
11 I had become very quiet was from my mother's church.

12 "I don't remember anyone else visiting the school.  
13 I don't recall any internal inspections or religious  
14 visiting. I don't remember anyone else staying in the  
15 school, such as a visiting priest.

16 "I could see and speak to my brother whenever  
17 I wanted. There was no separation and we were all mixed  
18 in at break times.

19 "There was no nurse on the school site. If you were  
20 unwell, you had to speak to Brother Germanus and he  
21 decided if you needed to see the doctor in Largs and he  
22 would take you. I don't remember a doctor coming to see  
23 us. If you needed a dentist, you went to see one at  
24 home in the holidays.

25 "My brother and I sort of ran away once together.

1           It was in the evening. We had been playing across the  
2           road and we had been to the store. When it was time to  
3           go back, no one came to tell us. We were not allowed to  
4           cross the main road and we couldn't draw attention to  
5           anyone as there were big trees in the way. Instead we  
6           walked along the shore to the town. We talked about  
7           going to our own home and we thought it wasn't far away.  
8           We decided we weren't going to make it home that night  
9           and were looking for a barn to sleep in. The police  
10          found us wandering on the pavement. I don't know how  
11          old we were. The police took us back to the school. We  
12          had our blazers on so they knew where we were from, but  
13          I don't remember the journey back to the school.

14                 "We must have seen Brother MJD quite quickly and  
15          he said to Brother Germanus and Brother Douglas that  
16          there would be no punishment and he made a point of  
17          that. Brother Germanus would have belted us. I assume  
18          this because of how belt-happy Germanus was and he  
19          needed very little excuse to use the belt on me.

20                 "It wasn't a conscious decision to run away, it was  
21          just that we couldn't cross the main road and we would  
22          get badly punished for that normally. This was the only  
23          time I did anything like that.

24                 "I got the belt from Brother Douglas once because  
25          I told him to shut up. I must have been having a bad

1 day. I think I was older than 10 years old. It  
2 happened in the classroom and on my hands. I don't  
3 remember other people getting the belt in class from  
4 him. I don't recall him telling boys to meet him  
5 afterwards in the Nissen hut.

6 "I am the only person I recall getting the belt from  
7 Brother Douglas and only once. I don't remember ever  
8 getting the belt from Brother MJD.

9 "In terms of other discipline we may have been given  
10 lines to do and that came from both brothers but mainly  
11 Brother Germanus. I can't recall what behaviour would  
12 need to us getting lines to do.

13 "The abuse started from the age of 10. I had these  
14 marks or spots on my legs, only about six of them up and  
15 down one leg. The doctor in Largs had suggested that  
16 they were bathed with a mixture of Dettol, diluted with  
17 warm water, and just dabbed with a flannel. It wasn't  
18 measles. I'm not sure what the skin complaint was.

19 "Brother Germanus decided I should be bathed in  
20 Dettol and water instead, and that is when the abuse  
21 started. He decided I had to have these baths after  
22 everyone else had finished bathing and returned to the  
23 dorm. I can now see that he took advantage of me having  
24 to use the bath by myself.

25 "I was by this stage sleeping in a dorm on the first

1 floor and used the baths and sinks on the second floor.  
2 His room was on the second floor just before you go  
3 through into the bathroom. I don't recall specifically  
4 the first time he bathed me but it was pretty much the  
5 same thing every time. He would say to me that I had to  
6 go and get my bath now, so he chose when it would  
7 happen. I had to get into the bathwater and wait for  
8 him to come back into the room and sometimes the water  
9 had gone cold by the time he came in. The bathroom was  
10 not being used by anyone else at that time.

11 "He would then come back and I got out of bath and  
12 he'd half help me to dry myself. He was fully dressed  
13 as normal in his habit and I was naked coming out of the  
14 bath. There was a big mirror. I was wearing my towel  
15 and it would fall off me so I would be standing naked in  
16 front of the mirror. He would stand behind me and he  
17 would start tickling me. Then his hands would travel  
18 down to my crotch area and he would feel around there.  
19 He didn't grab me by my penis or my testicles, but he  
20 fiddled around that area. I can't recall him saying  
21 anything specific and nothing sexual.

22 "This went on for as long as I was having the baths  
23 and had the skin condition. I think I had the baths  
24 over a few months. It was pretty much every night.  
25 I knew it was wrong and I didn't like what he was doing.

1           "After he tickled me in the bathroom almost every  
2           time he would take me into his bedroom and told me he  
3           wanted to be sure my leg was properly dried. He put me  
4           into his bed and there was a metal frame over my legs to  
5           keep the bed covers off them. He put the covers over me  
6           in a way that the covers didn't touch me and I would get  
7           dry at the same time. I was naked under the covers and  
8           this metal frame.

9           "As far as I remember, he didn't get into the bed  
10          beside me, but he'd then lay on top of the bed and he  
11          would still be wearing his habit. After half an hour or  
12          so I would say I was dry and, as I had my pyjamas with  
13          me, I would put them on and go to my own bed.

14          "On one occasion, I was starting to make my way  
15          downstairs to the dorm at the top of the stairs. There  
16          was a couple of steps going up into the attic dorm.  
17          He was sat on these steps on the landing area and he  
18          started speaking to me. I can't remember what he was  
19          saying. He had hold of my arms and he was pulling me  
20          towards him. My hands were on his chest trying to  
21          resist but he was far stronger than me. I can't  
22          remember if I was wearing my pyjamas or if I had just my  
23          towel round me.

24          "I felt something wet on my bare leg and I knew  
25          straightaway what this was. I believe it was his penis

1 and I don't know if he ejaculated. There was just a wet  
2 touch on my leg. I said 'no' loudly and pushed him away  
3 with all my strength and he let me go and I ran  
4 downstairs to my bed in the dorm. The other boys were  
5 in their beds by this time.

6 "Just after I got into my bed -- and he did this on  
7 other occasions -- he came to sit on my bed. The door  
8 to my dorm was usually open and there was a light on  
9 in the hallway. I would always lie with my face to the  
10 wall so I was away from the light. I would pretend to  
11 be asleep. He would come and sit on the bed and say,  
12 'I know you're awake, don't pretend to be asleep'.

13 "On the same evening as he had grabbed me on the  
14 attic steps he also said something to me like, 'Don't  
15 say anything about what happened. There's no point in  
16 telling anyone because no one would believe you'.  
17 I can't recall exactly what he said.

18 "This thing about him sitting beside me on my bed  
19 led to night terrors later on. He was wearing his black  
20 habit and I don't recall exactly but he must have pulled  
21 it up to over his knees. His knees were bare and  
22 he wasn't wearing trousers. I assume now in retrospect  
23 that he must have taken them off when I was in the bath  
24 waiting for him. I believe that the brothers would  
25 normally wear trousers under their habit as I would see



1 the brothers on the playing field and running and their  
2 habits would ride up and I would see their trousers  
3 underneath.

4 "There were no partitions between the beds. I think  
5 he sat on other boys' beds and I heard him coming in the  
6 room sometimes and I assume he sat on other beds but  
7 I never turned round to check. I didn't want to draw  
8 attention to myself. I don't remember him ever taking  
9 any boy out of the dormitory.

10 "Around the time I started having the baths, I was  
11 also getting the belt more during the day. It's  
12 difficult to recall as I thought I always got the belt  
13 every day, but really it was a normal amount of times  
14 before I started having the baths. He then just took  
15 the opportunity to get me by myself because of my leg  
16 and this seemed to trigger something in him, and maybe  
17 he was taking it out on me with the belt.

18 "I think that incident on the stairs when I pushed  
19 him away finished me having to have the baths and  
20 I think I had them over a period of two months.  
21 I didn't go back to the doctor to have it confirmed.  
22 I think I was expected to have the baths every night.  
23 I think I was around age 10 at the time.

24 "The belting continued, it was only on the hands  
25 that I can recall. I can't specifically recall being

1 belted on my backside. When I went to St Joseph's after  
2 St Columba's, I thought, thank God I'll get away from  
3 having the belt so often.

4 "I couldn't tell anyone what was happening. In the  
5 early 1960s, nobody talked about stuff like that. There  
6 was no one to tell and my parents didn't understand that  
7 when a child changed their character, there must have  
8 been a reason for it and something was wrong. They just  
9 assumed it was a phase I was going through.

10 "I don't recall any conversations with other boys  
11 about Brother Germanus. Much later on as an adult, me  
12 and my brother were friends with someone who had been  
13 a boy at our school. We were talking about  
14 St Columba's. He said nothing happened to him. It was  
15 only me and my brother who had problems with  
16 Brother Germanus out of the three of us.

17 "I'm sure other boys at the school must have had  
18 problems with him though. My brother was taken out of  
19 his dorm and made to sit on the steps as punishment and  
20 there were other boys sat there too. Brother Germanus  
21 told him that he wasn't tired enough and he had to sit  
22 there until he got tired. That didn't happen to me.

23 "I was nearly 12 when I left St Columba's in 1964  
24 and I passed my eleven-plus to get to St Joseph's.  
25 I don't know if I had to pass it in order to get to

1 St Joseph's, but I was a bright boy and I passed it. My  
2 brother went to St Joseph's one year before me when  
3 he was 12.

4 "I came home from St Columba's for [REDACTED]  
5 holiday and then started at St Joseph's in  
6 [REDACTED] 1964.

7 "The brothers used the belt at St Joseph's but  
8 nothing like it was at St Columba's.

9 "I don't remember the name of the headmaster in  
10 charge. I can't even picture him other than he was  
11 tall.

12 "The head that was there in 1964 changed after four  
13 or five years. He didn't have a reputation for giving  
14 out punishment. I don't remember the name of the  
15 brothers and none stood out.

16 "The teachers used the belt if you were involved in  
17 any wrongdoing. Everyone was treated the same and  
18 no one individual was picked out and picked on."

19 Between paragraphs 56 and 59, the witness gives some  
20 general descriptions in relation to St Joseph's. From  
21 paragraph 60 onwards, he speaks about aspects of the  
22 routine including mornings and bedtimes, mealtimes and  
23 food, washing and bathing, clothing and uniform,  
24 schooling, leisure time, healthcare, chores, Christmas  
25 and birthdays, and visits.

1 I'll read on from paragraph 75:

2 "We got given the belt and lines too. The belt was  
3 for messing about in class whether you were at fault or  
4 not, as long as you were involved, and lines were given  
5 for a similar thing. It would depend on the teacher.  
6 I don't recall getting both together.

7 "Some of the teachers were brothers and some were  
8 lay teachers. Most of the lay teachers didn't give out  
9 the belt but the brothers did and some were more handy  
10 with the belt than others. The belt was over and done  
11 with quickly. It was used on the hand once or twice.

12 "Mr Craig was the gym teacher and he occasionally  
13 gave the belt if you deserved it for mucking around in  
14 the gym. I can't recall why he did it. I didn't get it  
15 from him myself but others did.

16 "The geography teacher was Mr McEwan and I don't  
17 remember him punishing anyone with the belt.

18 "I thought many incidents of belting were unfair.  
19 One time I was standing speaking to the boy at the desk  
20 in front of me, another boy came running up behind me  
21 and kneed me in the back, and the teacher -- I can't  
22 recall his name -- pulled both of us out of the room and  
23 gave both of us the belt. This was done by one of the  
24 brothers and I think this was in my O level year, so my  
25 third year.

1           "Whenever I got the belt I was pulled out of the  
2           classroom and into the corridor to be punished. It  
3           happened once in the classroom itself as described  
4           below.

5           "On one occasion me and a couple of the other boys  
6           got 18 of the belt from SNR [REDACTED], and that was six  
7           on each hand and six on our bottom. We had to bend over  
8           a desk. I didn't do anything wrong. In chemistry  
9           class, something fell on the floor and a few of us dived  
10          on the floor to grab it. There was a scramble on the  
11          floor. We were having a laugh and rolling about on the  
12          floor. SNR [REDACTED] walked past and saw us through the  
13          glass door. He thought we were fighting. The chemistry  
14          teacher, whose name I cannot recall, was a civilian and  
15          tried to intervene and the head shut him down  
16          straightaway. The civilian teacher stayed back and was  
17          quiet. SNR [REDACTED] gave four of us 18 strokes.

18          "The lab was in an annex and there were partitions  
19          between rooms and SNR [REDACTED] took them away. We were  
20          belted in front of everybody in the classrooms. I think  
21          now that he had to get his frustrations out on us and he  
22          used it as an excuse to give us the belt. He carried  
23          this belt on him. I can't recall the name of SNR [REDACTED]  
24          but I'm sure he was the same one as was there at the  
25          start of my time at St Joseph's when I was 12.

1            "It was better for me than in St Columba's and we  
2 had more freedom. I was not abused by any brothers. We  
3 had more leeway and we were held responsible for our own  
4 actions. You would expect to get punished if you didn't  
5 do something you were told to do. It was a more  
6 effective way of dealing with things. It was more  
7 relaxed and freer.

8            "I don't recall any record of punishments being made  
9 in a book. I don't remember any brothers rushing off to  
10 record it. Punishment was spontaneous.

11           "I left after doing O levels and Highers. I got  
12 Highers in maths, English literature and language as  
13 well as geography. I also had seven different O levels.  
14 I left aged 17 and a half in [REDACTED] of 1970. I have  
15 good memories of my time at the school, especially  
16 involving sports. I wasn't good at running but I as  
17 good at field events such as javelin and discus.

18           "From age 14, I had done some waitering in local  
19 hotels in Blairgowrie and I went back to that for the  
20 first few months I was out of school. I was interested  
21 in aircraft and joined the Air Force in 1970 when I had  
22 just turned 18. I joined up for over three years and  
23 went into the mechanical side of things. I was posted  
24 to a station that didn't work well for me. There were  
25 too many officious people working there for me to be

1 comfortable. I tried to continue working with the  
2 aircraft but I didn't have enough qualifications to  
3 follow it up. I went part-time with my dad working in  
4 his firm in 1976 and started full-time working in his  
5 company until I retired two years ago.

6 "I never married or lived with anyone. I stayed by  
7 myself and that is a legacy of what happened to me in  
8 St Columba's when I would withdraw into myself. I have  
9 to have time by myself and find it difficult to form  
10 emotional relationships. I was in an on/off  
11 relationship for a long time, but we could never spend  
12 enough time together as we lived in different places.

13 "There is an impact from my time in St Columba's.  
14 At the time I didn't see it as such a big deal, but now  
15 I see it has had a big impact on how I relate to people.  
16 I find it takes me a long time to trust someone and let  
17 them into my life.

18 "Joining the Air Force was good for me and I came  
19 out of my shell. My reaction to people pulling me up  
20 at the Air Force was possibly linked to my school  
21 experience. I had some issues with authority and in  
22 particular didn't hold these non-qualified people in  
23 high regard.

24 "After I left St Columba's and went to St Joseph's,  
25 it took a long time for me to get to sleep. I thought

1           someone would come up behind me and I would have the  
2           sensation of someone standing behind me when I was in  
3           bed. It took me a long time to have the courage to turn  
4           round and see that nobody was standing beside my bed.  
5           It took a long time to get to sleep and then I didn't  
6           sleep for long, maybe two or three hours of sleep. That  
7           went on for many years.

8           "When I first retired I was sleeping eight hours  
9           a night but now it's just two hours or so and then I'm  
10          awake again. It takes a long time to get to sleep  
11          at the start of the night too. I've become used to  
12          having little sleep.

13          "I don't have night terrors now. When I was scared,  
14          I'd have to make myself turn around to see no one was  
15          standing beside my bed. Once I was confident no one was  
16          there, I felt better. Then the night terrors started to  
17          dissipate. I'd also have a heavy and tight feeling in  
18          my chest.

19          "I don't think about St Columba's very often.  
20          I don't worry about it and it doesn't crop up much in my  
21          mind. I think sometimes how I would be now if I hadn't  
22          gone to St Columba's and what my life would be like.

23          "After I left school altogether I visited my school  
24          friend with my brother and went to his wedding. The  
25          first time I talked about St Columba's was when I was



1           aged about 23 and I shared the information with them.  
2           My friend had no problems at school and my brother said  
3           something had happened to him, but I don't remember any  
4           details.

5           "I've never thought about having counselling but  
6           I have tried being hypnotised for another issue, but it  
7           didn't work out and my mind was closed to it. I can't  
8           let myself be under someone else's power. It is  
9           deep-rooted now and I don't think counselling would help  
10          me.

11          "I never told my dad about St Columba's as I didn't  
12          want him to feel guilty about sending us there. I went  
13          back to the school when I was passing through Largs  
14          in the mid-1980s. The house had been knocked down but  
15          the driveway and lawn and the gardens at the back are  
16          there still. New houses were being built and I felt  
17          pleased that the old house wasn't there anymore.

18          "I have never made any reports to the police about  
19          my experience at St Columba's.

20          "I have my report cards from St Columba's about  
21          academic achievement as we had one every term. I have  
22          school photographs but nothing more."

23          In terms of lessons to be learned:

24          "Our experience was in the 1960s. I wanted to give  
25          my account in support of anyone else who went to

1 St Columba's or had similar problems at the same time  
2 period, perhaps for someone who wants to bring a legal  
3 action against the Catholic schools run by the  
4 Marist Brothers.

5 "If I had children, I would not have them sent to  
6 a boarding school. Some of the guys from the school had  
7 no problems and they would send their children to a  
8 boarding school.

9 "The abuse that happened to me would have been  
10 difficult to prevent. People didn't talk about these  
11 things in those days. A monitoring situation would have  
12 helped, but there wasn't anything then. It wasn't  
13 available.

14 "Things have changed since then and I think parents  
15 are more aware of changes in their children now and  
16 don't just assume it is a phase.

17 "The likes of religious orders are perceived as  
18 being trustworthy, but the Catholic Church has a history  
19 and much has been covered up in the past.

20 "I don't know what can be done about it unless  
21 teachers at school are monitoring their colleagues and  
22 keeping others in line. In the old days they either  
23 didn't know or kept quiet. Now they are more aware.

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

1 I believe the facts stated in the witness statement are  
2 true."

3 John signed the statement on 26 March 2019.

4 LADY SMITH: Thank you very much.

5 Witness statement of "JOHN" (read)

6 MS MACLEOD: The next statement, my Lady, is from an  
7 applicant who wishes to remain anonymous and also wishes  
8 to use the pseudonym "John" for his statement to be read  
9 in. The statement can be found at WIT.001.001.7558:

10 "My name is John. I was born in 1951. My contact  
11 details are known to the inquiry.

12 "I was adopted when I was 2 years old. I was born  
13 in Glasgow and I have since found out that my natural  
14 mother gave me up when I was a baby. I spent my first  
15 two years in care but I do not know where and have no  
16 memory of that.

17 "I grew up in Wishaw with my adopted parents, my  
18 older brother and my younger sister. I was the last one  
19 in the house as both my brother and sister had been  
20 adopted as babies before me. Mum and dad were very  
21 religious and I was brought up a Catholic. Dad was  
22 a [REDACTED] in Wishaw and I would describe my  
23 life with them as terrible. Mum never liked me.  
24 I never realised it at the time but I got a lot of  
25 feedback from my brother and sister later on in life

1 about how bad they felt about me getting beaten for  
2 things they had done. I just thought it was the norm  
3 then.

4 "My first school was [REDACTED] and I went  
5 there until I was 8. My brother had been sent to  
6 St Columba's boarding school in Largs when he was about  
7 9 and I was sent a year later. I was glad to be going  
8 to boarding school. I don't remember much about a lot  
9 of St Columba's College. I struggle to remember faces  
10 and I can't put names to the faces I do remember.

11 "I got treatment for drug and alcohol addiction  
12 about 23 years ago and a guy that was there asked me if  
13 I recognised him. He had been at St Columba's at the  
14 same time as me, but I couldn't remember him at all.

15 St Columba's College was a small and expensive  
16 private boarding school for boys between 8 and 12. It  
17 was run by the Marist Brothers who also ran  
18 St Joseph's College in Dumfries and funded St Mungo's  
19 Academy in Glasgow.

20 "The college was a massive house on several levels.  
21 There were four dormitories, three on the first floor  
22 and one on the floor above. Next to the dorm on the top  
23 floor were toilets and showers. There were only 28 boys  
24 at St Columba's with eight or nine in each class. After  
25 boys left, they would go to St Joseph's College. It was

1 meant as a prelim to making boys into priests.

2 "There were four brothers looking after us in the  
3 school and teaching us. One was called Brother MJD  
4 and he was SNR. Another monk was a brother  
5 prefect who looked after the older boys out of school  
6 hours. He also did a bit of teaching as well. He was  
7 called Brother Germanus and had a room on the top floor  
8 next to the toilets. He must have been about 40 and his  
9 hair was getting a bit thin. There was also a cook  
10 called Frank and a matron who looked after the younger  
11 boys. They were the only laypeople at the school. The  
12 matron lived in a house on the grounds."

13 In paragraphs 12 and 13 the witness gives some  
14 evidence about the routine and I'll read paragraphs 14  
15 and 15:

16 "The matron looked after the younger boys in the  
17 first year and she would wash and bath us.   
18 she didn't do  
19 anything to me because I fought back. She was horrible.  
20 The only time she was nice to you when was she was  
21 bathing you. The matron used to think spitting was  
22 disgusting and would make us swallow our toothpaste.  
23 She would always be standing over us when we were  
24 getting washed and brushing our teeth."

25 In paragraphs 16 onwards the witness continues to

1 provide information in relation to the general routine,  
2 including food, school, holidays, sporting and leisure,  
3 Christmas and birthdays, visits and inspections, and  
4 contact with siblings.

5 I'll read from paragraph 23:

6 "I had a problem with bed-wetting throughout my time  
7 at St Columba's. In the first year if I wet the bed,  
8 the matron would have a go at me in front of everybody.  
9 Everybody knew about it. She would be shouting at me.  
10 I was used to getting shouted at by my mother but it was  
11 embarrassing.

12 "When I was in the older boys' dorm, my mattress  
13 would get taken out into the landing outside all the  
14 rooms and would get turned up to air off. Everybody  
15 would see it, although I don't remember any of them  
16 making much of it.

17 "There was corporal punishment at St Columba's  
18 college but it was organised. By that I mean that if  
19 you did something wrong, the brothers told you, and then  
20 would tell you what your punishment was going to be. It  
21 could be six of the belt or whatever. You would get it  
22 and that would be that. I didn't see it as overly  
23 severe because at home I was randomly beaten. It didn't  
24 matter at home if I had done anything wrong or not.

25 "When I was in the dorms in the middle floor, from

1           when I was about 10 years old, Brother Germanus started  
2           taking me into his room at night when I wet the bed.  
3           That's how the abuse all came about.

4           "I had wet the bed one time and woke up in the  
5           middle of the night. I don't know if Brother Germanus  
6           had come down to check on us, or if I went and told him.  
7           My pyjamas were obviously wet so he told me to go into  
8           his room to dry off in front of the fire. His room was  
9           on the top floor beside the toilets.

10          "He gave me a sweet and I sat on the floor in front  
11          of the fire. It was unusual for me having an adult  
12          being nice to me.

13          "He came and sat next to me. He was wearing  
14          a dressing gown. When he sat down with his legs open,  
15          I could see he had nothing on under it. He tried to  
16          make everything normal and told me he had varicose  
17          veins, so he couldn't wear pyjamas. He didn't rape me,  
18          but he coerced me and he abused me. He told me to go  
19          into bed and got in beside me. He said he had a rash  
20          and asked me to put cream on his privates. He was  
21          basically getting me to masturbate him. He told me  
22          there was nothing wrong but not to tell anyone about it  
23          because people wouldn't understand.

24          "This happened on a few occasions when he would wake  
25          me up through the night to go to the toilet and tell me

1 to go through to his room. I would go up there for the  
2 attention. He touched me too, but I was too young to  
3 know what he was doing.

4 "This went on until my last year at St Columba's  
5 when I got moved out of the dorm. I think  
6 Brother Germanus must have got somebody else by then.

7 "My brother was moved to the higher school,  
8 St Joseph's College in Dumfries, when he was about 11.  
9 I did an extra year at St Columba's and got moved down  
10 to a little room on my own. I was made [REDACTED] because  
11 by that time I had been at St Columba's the longest.  
12 That made me feel quite good. I got a bit of acclaim  
13 for that and it was a position I could fulfil. My  
14 bed-wetting stopped then. I was getting attention  
15 because I was [REDACTED].

16 "The room that I got moved to on my own was on the  
17 bottom floor under the stairs. Frank, the chef, told me  
18 to be careful and not let anyone in the room. He wasn't  
19 saying much but I now think that other boys who had been  
20 staying in that room had been getting abused by  
21 Brother [REDACTED] MJD, and Frank maybe knew.

22 "My brother told me later on that I hadn't done well  
23 in the qualifying exam for St Joseph's. I had one of  
24 the highest IQs in the school and they made me resit the  
25 IQ test because they thought I had cheated. He had been



1 told this by my mum and dad. They never told me  
2 anything about that.

3 "My brother had been getting in a bit of trouble at  
4 St Joseph's and they thought that he might calm down a  
5 bit if i moved there. I was only there for about six  
6 months though before we both got chucked out because  
7 he hadn't changed.

8 "I have never talked to anyone about being abused in  
9 St Columba's and have never reported it. I have always  
10 felt that I was blamed for what happened to me there.

11 "My brother later told me that he had found out that  
12 I had been up in Brother Germanus' room. He said he  
13 told my parents and when I came home from school one  
14 day, they had a go at me. They were standing over me,  
15 pointing and accusing me. When I admitted that I had  
16 been up in his room, they just left me there. They were  
17 angry, I thought at me, and I felt dirty and horrible.

18 "My brother tried to encourage me to report what had  
19 happened to me about 15 years ago. I wasn't aware of  
20 it, but he said there had been some sort of exposé about  
21 the school. He said they had been trying to encourage  
22 anyone who had been abused to get in touch and that  
23 there was some sort of financial comeback at the time.  
24 I wasn't ready to do it, though.

25 "I have never told him any detail of what happened;

1 he just knew I had been going up to Brother Germanus'  
2 room.

3 "Our local church was called [REDACTED] and I know  
4 my parents must have told the priest there, [REDACTED].  
5 They were so religious they told him everything. When  
6 the Pope came over about six years ago, I found  
7 [REDACTED] and asked him over the phone if he knew  
8 I had been abused at the college. He didn't seem  
9 surprised and didn't show any concern and just told me  
10 to stay strong. When I thought about it, that was not  
11 what he was meaning: he was telling me to keep quiet.

12 "I tried to get in touch after that with  
13 St Joseph's College to speak to them about it, but  
14 I couldn't get through. St Columba's was closed by this  
15 stage. I knew they would just palm me off anyway.

16 "St Joseph's was another boarding school run by the  
17 Marist Brothers, but was much bigger. There were  
18 200 boys there and it was like a high school."

19 In paragraphs 41 to 44, the witness describes the  
20 routine at St Joseph's College. I'll read from  
21 paragraph 45 onwards:

22 "The monks at St Joseph's were quite strict, like  
23 St Columba's, as they were in those days. I remember my  
24 brother telling me later that he once got six of the  
25 best on his underpanted bottom after getting into

1 trouble one time.

2 "Sometimes you would get the belt with your trousers  
3 on, sometimes with them off. To me that was part of the  
4 regime and that was okay. If you did something wrong,  
5 you got punished and that was that. There was never an  
6 occasion when I was disciplined that I hadn't done  
7 something wrong.

8 "Both my brother and I got taken out of St Joseph's  
9 because of his behaviour. Family life when I got home  
10 was even worse. Mum would wind my dad up to beat me.

11 "I started in the local school in Wishaw,  
12 [REDACTED] and was there from 13 until just before my  
13 15th birthday. I was lucky and settled in pretty well  
14 at [REDACTED]. I see that time as being when the spring  
15 started to recoil and my behaviour changed and I started  
16 to be naughty.

17 "My parents sent me to a children's guidance clinic  
18 in Glasgow that was run by nuns. They told the school  
19 that I would be going there every Tuesday. I only went  
20 there for a couple of weeks and they decided there was  
21 nothing wrong with me, I was just a bit hyperactive.  
22 They asked to see my mother but she wouldn't go. Nobody  
23 told the school, so for about a year and a half after  
24 that I just kept taking the Tuesday off.

25 "The school and my parents eventually found out and

1 I got my head split open for it. My father was waiting  
2 round the corner in the kitchen when I came home and my  
3 mother asked me how I'd got on in school. When I said  
4 'Fine', he appeared from around the door with a big  
5 stick and split my head open.

6 "My behaviour had been getting worse at school.  
7 I put a teacher up against a wall and told him I would  
8 see him outside the school at 4 o'clock. After that  
9 they wouldn't take me back, but they didn't want to  
10 expel me because my dad was the [REDACTED]

11 "My dad then got signed up for the army. I was  
12 supposed to be in the army for 12 years but I was only  
13 in it for just under a year."

14 In paragraphs 51 through to 59, my Lady, the witness  
15 speaks about his personal and family life, including  
16 some difficulties that he has had with drugs and  
17 alcohol.

18 I will read from paragraph 60 onwards:

19 "I almost blame myself for what happened to me. The  
20 way I see it is that if I hadn't wanted the attention,  
21 it wouldn't have happened. I find it hard to think of  
22 myself as the child that I was at the time and not put  
23 myself as an adult in that situation. If I wasn't  
24 ashamed of it, I'm sure I would find it easier to speak  
25 about. I know I need to get rid of the embarrassment

1 I feel and realise that I was just a child, but it's not  
2 easy.

3 "Brother Germanus was very clever and manipulative  
4 in his coercing of me. He tried to naturalise the  
5 situation. At the same time he told me I couldn't tell  
6 anybody. He made me feel wanted, which was a big thing  
7 for me. That's why I feel guilty now. I wanted to be  
8 wanted by an adult. I felt separate from the other  
9 boys. I had this special relationship with the brother  
10 prefect.

11 "I believe the abuse I suffered, along with my  
12 upbringing, went a long way toward my alcohol and drug  
13 abuse. My whole life has been full of insecurity. I've  
14 always felt I was different and find it hard to have  
15 proper conversations with anyone. The alcohol gave me  
16 the courage to do so and took that fear away.

17 "I have a lot of anger and violence inside me and I  
18 have felt that way since I was 13 or 14. I have always  
19 blanked things out and would get aggressive with anyone  
20 that came near me. That was my defence.

21 "I've never made any attempt to get my records from  
22 my time in care and have never seen any. I got in touch  
23 with Barnardo's in Edinburgh about 20 years ago and a  
24 woman there made some enquiries for me. She got my  
25 birth certificate and my mum was on it.

1           "About six months later, she heard from my real aunt  
2           that my natural mother was still alive. My mother got  
3           in touch with the agency after that saying she was  
4           pleased I had got in touch. She told the lady that her  
5           parents had made her give me up and I had been put in  
6           a home as soon as I was born. She also told the lady  
7           that my father was still alive, although she didn't give  
8           his name, and said she hadn't married him.

9           "As far as I know from what the lady has found out,  
10          my mother went on to marry someone else and they had two  
11          daughters and a son. That was all within 18 months of  
12          me coming along. She said she would love to see me but  
13          that she was going into hospital for a minor operation.  
14          I never heard anything back and got back in touch with  
15          the lady. It came back that she didn't want to see me  
16          after all.

17          "The guy I met at the drug and alcohol counselling  
18          session had been talking about being abused at  
19          St Columba's as well. At first I thought he was meaning  
20          by Brother Germanus, but then he told me it was  
21          Brother MJD. He had obviously been at it as well.  
22          He was confused about his sexuality, possibly because of  
23          the abuse he had suffered, and he eventually committed  
24          suicide.

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"When I was 16 or 17, I returned to Largs for a day trip. I decided to go up to St Columba's and when I did Brother MJD answered the door. He looked at me and said, 'Oh, it's Brother Germanus you want to see', and went to get him. It was like he must have thought I was there to confront him. I was shown into an empty room and Brother Germanus came in. I hadn't expected him to still be there. I thought he would have been disciplined and would be away.

"I hope the inquiry can help to make sure this doesn't happen to anybody else to any degree. There should be things put in place to prevent these people from manipulating vulnerable children. Brother Germanus could obviously pick out that I was vulnerable and I didn't have a happy life at home. I believe if I had had a confident relationship with my parents, it would never have happened and he would have picked somebody else. Predators such as him seem to be able to see that.

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

1 I believe the facts stated in this witness statement are  
2 true."

3 The statement was signed by John on 20 March 2018.

4 LADY SMITH: Thank you very much, Ms MacLeod.

5 We've got one more to fit in; is that right?

6 MS MACLEOD: That's right, my Lady.

7 LADY SMITH: Let's do that.

8 Witness statement of "JAMES" (read)

9 MS MACLEOD: The next statement is a statement from an  
10 applicant who wishes to remain anonymous and to use the  
11 pseudonym "James". His witness statement is to be found  
12 at WIT.001.001.8153.

13 James previously gave oral evidence to the inquiry  
14 on 10 May 2018 in connection with the case study  
15 focusing on the Sisters of Nazareth, and that related to  
16 his experiences at Nazareth House Cardonald.

17 In relation to this case study, the relevant  
18 paragraphs of his statement are paragraphs 85 to 93 and  
19 I will now read those:

20 "Before **LVN** came to Nazareth House, there was  
21 a Marist Brother called Brother **AKU LTT** I was in the  
22 first unit at the time. He sexually abused me. The  
23 nuns invited him in. I don't know if it was to put a  
24 male figure in our lives. He took me away to a place  
25 called Hetland House in Dumfries. It was a big stately



1 home out in the middle of nowhere in Dumfries. I think  
2 it was a Marist Brother retreat.

3 "I think the first time I went, it was Easter  
4 weekend. I refuse to even think about it because I know  
5 weird things happened there. They used to take us there  
6 during holidays.

7 "I remember being in a room in one of the wings of  
8 the house. There were four other boys in my room.  
9 I think [REDACTED] was there too and another couple of boys  
10 from Nazareth House. I don't know if they were all in  
11 my unit.

12 "As an adult, I used to think that they drugged us.  
13 I can never remember anything about Hetland House, about  
14 what we did daily. I can't remember anything we did  
15 there.

16 "After we had eaten supper we were taken straight to  
17 our room. We were told under strict instruction not to  
18 leave our room under any circumstances. We were never  
19 to leave the room. They would tell us not to wander at  
20 night because there were older Marist Brothers about.

21 "I remember one night the other boys were all  
22 sleeping. Brother AKULT was sitting on my bed. He had  
23 my pyjamas down and he was masturbating me.

24 "I remember another night he brought a boy into the  
25 room and I woke up. I saw him putting the boy into the

1 bed. He was pulling the blankets over him. It was as  
2 though he had had the boy out of the room. He told me  
3 to get back to sleep.

4 "Another time I remember being in a room and there  
5 were three men in it. I remember my pyjama trousers  
6 being down. I just remember night-time and being scared  
7 shitless and not leaving the room.

8 "Brother AKU LTT would always tell us a ghost story.

9 "I went to Hetland House quite a few times.

10 "I don't even like thinking about the house. Weird  
11 shit went on there. Brother AKU LTT was in Nazareth House  
12 for about a year. He did my confirmation. I just  
13 remember he disappeared and I never saw him again."

14 My Lady, I should have indicated at the outset that  
15 James was born in 1968 and was in Nazareth House between  
16 1977 and 1981.

17 LADY SMITH: Thank you.

18 MS MACLEOD: My Lady, I can confirm that the statement was  
19 signed by James on 25 April 2018.

20 LADY SMITH: Thank you very much.

21 Does that complete the series of read-ins that were  
22 ready for today?

23 MS MACLEOD: It does, my Lady. We have three witnesses  
24 lined up to come and give oral evidence tomorrow.

25 LADY SMITH: Very well.

1 I will rise now and we'll sit again at 10 o'clock  
2 tomorrow morning. Thank you very much to everyone.

3 (2.50 pm)

4 (The inquiry adjourned until 10.00 am  
5 on Wednesday, 16 October 2019)

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Witness statement of "DEXTER" (read) .....1

Witness statement of "FRANCIS" .....4

(read)

Witness statement of "JAMES" (read) .....18

"ALAN" (affirmed) .....33

Questions from MR MacAULAY .....34

Witness statement of "JOHN" (read) .....69

Witness statement of "JOHN" (read) .....91

Witness statement of "JAMES" (read) .....104

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