

Friday, 3 November 2023

1

2 (10.00 am)

3

(Proceedings delayed)

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LADY SMITH: Good morning and welcome back to our hearings
in Phase 8, looking into the provision of residential
care in a range of broadly secure circumstances.

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As we said last night when we finished, we're
turning today to hear the oral evidence, first of all,
of two witnesses, who are in the category of people we
call applicants, who are coming to give evidence about
their experiences in this particular form of care that
we're interested in hearing about.

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I'm told that our first witness is ready; is that
right, Ms Rattray?

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MS RATTRAY: Yes, my Lady. The first witness is anonymous
and has a pseudonym 'Cagney'. I should say although the
present chapter of this case study is on childcare
establishments under the broad umbrella of the Scottish
Prison Service, we shall also be hearing from 'Cagney'
about his experiences at Bellfield Remand Home,
Thornly Park School, Rossie Farm School, as well as
Polmont Borstal.

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We shall be hearing more about Bellfield,
Rossie Farm and Thornly Park in later chapters next
year.

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1 LADY SMITH: Yes. I should perhaps add for completeness
2 that we do have evidence in his signed statement
3 regarding Quarriers Village, which is of course one of
4 the places we heard all about quite a long time ago, and
5 that is being taken into account in our overall
6 considerations. I'll make that clear to 'Cagney' when
7 he comes in.

8 Thank you.

9 'Cagney' (affirmed)

10 LADY SMITH: 'Cagney', before I hand over to Ms Rattray,
11 a couple of things. The red folder beside you has your
12 signed statement in it, for which I thank you very much.
13 You have already provided really valuable written
14 evidence. You know better than anybody else that that
15 statement covers a whole range of places that you have
16 been in, including Scottish places and English places.

17 One of the places you were in in Scotland was
18 Quarriers. I see that. I'm really interested in what
19 you've said in your statement. We're not going to
20 explore that today. We have already covered Quarriers
21 in a case study, but it doesn't mean that your evidence
22 about Quarriers doesn't matter. It's been taken into
23 account in my overall considerations and I thank you for
24 that.

25 I think Ms Rattray may have explained this to you

1 already, don't be puzzled at the fact that we're
2 particularly interested in parts of your statement for
3 today's purposes. But the whole statement provides such
4 good picture. I'm grateful to you for that.

5 The plan is that in a minute or two I'll hand over
6 to Ms Rattray and she will ask you questions. If you
7 don't understand, please tell us. It's our fault, not
8 yours, if we're explaining things badly. If you want
9 a break at any time, that's absolutely fine by me, you
10 just say so.

11 I do have a break at 11.30 anyway, if you are still
12 giving evidence by then, but your evidence may be
13 finished by that point, I don't know.

14 Really, 'Cagney', whatever works for you to keep you
15 as comfortable as we can when you're giving your
16 evidence, that will work for me. You just let me know.
17 If you're ready, I'll hand over to Ms Rattray.

18 Ms Rattray.

19 Questions from Ms Rattray

20 MS RATTRAY: Good morning, 'Cagney'.

21 A. Good morning.

22 Q. 'Cagney', you have given your statement to the Inquiry
23 and, for our benefit, we give your statement
24 a reference, which I'll read out for the record. That's
25 WIT-1-000000674. Your statement should appear on the

1 screen before you.

2 A. Yes.

3 Q. First of all, I would like you to look at the paper copy
4 of your statement in the red folder. If you could turn
5 to the back page, 'Cagney', which is page 50 of your
6 statement.

7 A. Yes.

8 Q. Do you have that?

9 A. Yes.

10 Q. You'll see that -- simply to confirm that you have
11 signed your statement?

12 A. Yeah.

13 Q. And you'll see that above where you've signed your
14 statement, at paragraph 233, you say:

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

19 Is that right?

20 A. That's right.

21 Q. Thank you. You can put that aside now. Thank you.

22 'Cagney', in terms of my questions, I will simply
23 take you through parts of your statement. I suppose the
24 first part is on page 1, in relation to your life before
25 you went into care.

1 A. Yes.

2 Q. You tell us that you were born in 1939; is that right?

3 A. Yes.

4 Q. Initially, you lived in Greenock with your parents and
5 brothers and sisters?

6 A. Yes.

7 Q. You were one of seven children; is that right?

8 A. Yes.

9 Q. Do you have any memories of that time in your life?

10 A. Not really.

11 Q. No. No. You do tell us that you are aware that your
12 mum left the home; is that right?

13 A. Well, strictly, I didn't know she'd left. I can vaguely
14 remember being told that we were leaving and that's when
15 I was took to Quarriers. The circumstances aren't --
16 it's only what the elder sisters have told me. Myself,
17 I don't really recollect it.

18 LADY SMITH: Looking at the dates we have, it seems you were
19 barely five years old at that time?

20 A. Yes, that's right. I think I went to Quarriers in
21 [REDACTED] 1944. But I don't remember that; it's just what
22 I've been told.

23 LADY SMITH: Thank you.

24 MS RATTRAY: If that's the correct date, then, as Lady Smith
25 pointed out, you were only five years old.

1 A. Yes.

2 Q. Lady Smith explained, we're not looking in any detail at
3 your experiences in Quarriers today. I think it is
4 important to acknowledge that you do tell us that whilst
5 there you were both physically and emotionally abused by
6 your house parents; is that right?

7 A. Yes.

8 Q. When you were at Quarriers, at that stage in your life;
9 was there anyone that you were able to speak to or tell
10 about was happening?

11 A. No, not really, because you just didn't think it was
12 worth telling anyone. Nobody seemed to take any notice.

13 Q. But you then ran away from Quarriers: is that right?

14 A. Oh, yes.

15 Q. Why was it you ran away?

16 A. I think just for fun, just for the adventure.

17 Q. Where was it you ran to?

18 A. Greenock.

19 Q. Your home?

20 A. Well, I didn't have a home. I went to where my home
21 used to be and then I got picked up by the police, and
22 then the Social Services got involved and took me back
23 to Quarriers.

24 Q. Moving to page 16 of your statement, 'Cagney', and by
25 all means use the paper copy, but it will be on the

1 screen in front of you as well, if that helps. At
2 paragraph 81 there, you speak about leaving cottage 39;
3 you tell us you were given a choice?

4 A. Yeah. I can either go back to Quarriers or I can go to
5 Dumbarton, with my brother, [REDACTED], who was in a remand
6 home in Dumbarton called Bellfield, and I chose to go to
7 Dumbarton.

8 Q. Who was it who gave you that choice?

9 A. I think it was social people. I mean, it's 70-odd years
10 ago, I can't ... someone in authority.

11 Q. Yes. Moving on now to your experiences at Bellfield
12 Remand Home in Dumbarton; do you remember how old you
13 were when you moved there?

14 A. I think I would be about 12, maybe 13.

15 Q. In relation to Bellfield; can you remember how long you
16 stayed there for? Was it a long time or quite a short
17 time?

18 A. No, I think it was a couple of months.

19 Q. What memories do you have of Bellfield?

20 A. It was okay. There was nothing really bad about
21 Bellfield. It was -- the only thing bad about it was it
22 was a remand home for kids that had done wrong and
23 I felt I hadn't done any wrong, so I shouldn't be there.
24 So I absconded from there as well.

25 Q. You ran away again?

1 A. Yeah.

2 Q. What happened when you ran away?

3 A. Well, I ended up getting -- I was boarded out to

4 Greenock, to a couple who looked after me. Mr and Mrs

5 ██████████, they were brilliant and I stayed with them for

6 about 18 months/two years.

7 Q. Before we move on to that, still at Bellfield, at

8 paragraph 84 of your statement, on page 17, you tell us

9 you remember there was a boy there who --

10 A. Yes, ██████████.

11 Q. Right. He was given the tawse on his backside; is that

12 right?

13 A. Yes.

14 Q. Do you remember what he did to be punished in that way?

15 A. No, I don't remember. I mean, if you said something

16 wrong to the -- at the wrong time, you were meant to put

17 on the very thin shorts and bend over and get the tawse.

18 So we all got the tawse, but because we thought it was

19 normal behaviour, we didn't think it was abuse at the

20 time. I do now, but I didn't then.

21 Q. Were you given the tawse as well?

22 A. Oh, aye.

23 Q. How often did that happen?

24 A. I'd say maybe once or twice a week. I wasn't there

25 long.

1 Q. Okay. You've told us that you ran away and then,
2 following running away, you left Bellfield and you moved
3 to foster care?
4 A. Yes.
5 Q. You were with your brother again; is that right?
6 A. Yes, my brother [REDACTED]. Yes.
7 Q. Were you happy in that placement in foster care?
8 A. In Greenock? I loved it. Yes.
9 Q. But that placement came to an end; were you told why it
10 came to an end?
11 A. I don't really remember why. All I know was I get sent
12 to a little, tiny children's home on the outskirts of
13 Greenock called Ravenscraig and I eventually -- I was
14 taken to court, Greenock Sheriff Court, and I was sent
15 to approved school as a child in need of care and
16 protection.
17 LADY SMITH: That was to an Approved School?
18 A. An Approved School, yes.
19 MS RATTRAY: Once again, that wasn't because you had done
20 any wrong; it was because you were in need -- you needed
21 to be cared for and --
22 A. I think it was because I was a nuisance. I think it was
23 basically because I was a nuisance. I wouldn't do what
24 I was told and I would run away when I got a chance.
25 I was disobedient, a horrible kid.

1 Q. Moving now to your experiences of Thornly Park Approved
2 School; whereabouts was Thornly Park?
3 A. Paisley.
4 Q. In Paisley?
5 A. Yes.
6 Q. We have actually seen from your records, 'Cagney', that
7 you moved there in 1952, when you were aged 13?
8 A. Yes.
9 Q. Does that fit with your memories?
10 A. Yes, yes.
11 Q. For how long were you there, do you think?
12 A. I don't know because I absconded, as usual, and
13 eventually it was decided that I should go to a senior
14 Approved School, which was in Montrose and I was sent to
15 Montrose, Rossie Farm Approved School. But the actual
16 years and stuff, it's pretty vague, but I know I'd upset
17 the authorities some way or another.
18 Q. Okay. The other children in Thornly Park; was it just
19 boys or boys and girls?
20 A. I believe there was a couple of girls there, but it was
21 mainly boys.
22 Q. What kind of ages were the children there?
23 A. Well, I would say they were from -- I'm trying to
24 figure -- I'd say from about ten to about 15/16.
25 Q. On page 20 of your statement, paragraph 96, you tell us

1 about your first impressions of Thornly Park; what were
2 your first impressions?

3 A. It's like I said in my statement, it was just another
4 institution; you know what I mean? I'd got kind of used
5 to being in institutions.

6 So it was a big school building, you know, but it
7 was just another place.

8 Q. Okay. In terms of the building, you say it's a big
9 building; what was the layout? What was the
10 accommodation like?

11 A. Well, there was two floors, but the top floor was
12 dormitories, various dormitories, and depending on your
13 age and whether you wet the bed or not was what
14 dormitory you were in.

15 So, if you were lucky, you went from one dormitory
16 to -- and you got to the one where there is no wet bed
17 pretty quick, but in between time everybody knew who was
18 the wet bedders, which was a bit humiliating. Thank God
19 I wasn't a bed wetter.

20 Q. You mentioned that it would be humiliating for the boys
21 that were; how were boys or children who wet the bed
22 treated?

23 A. Well, the bed clothes were taken off them and, "He's wet
24 the bed again"; you know what I mean? "We have to
25 change his sheets", and they would be taken to the

1 laundry, but everybody knew which boys had done it. So
2 boys could be -- when you are a kid you can be pretty
3 cruel.

4 LADY SMITH: I'm just thinking how many places you had been
5 by the time you got to Rossie, and I think that would
6 have been your sixth by then, wouldn't it? Quarriers,
7 Bellfield --

8 A. Quarriers, Bellfield.

9 LADY SMITH: -- your foster home --

10 A. Foster home.

11 LADY SMITH: -- Ravenscraig, Thornly Park and Rossie Farm.

12 A. Yes.

13 LADY SMITH: And you were just 15 by then?

14 A. I don't know if I was 15 when I went to Rossie. I might
15 have been younger. I can't remember the date.

16 LADY SMITH: I think we have a date, 1954. If that is
17 right, you would have been 15.

18 A. That would be 15.

19 LADY SMITH: Still young.

20 A. Yes.

21 LADY SMITH: And that's your sixth home, if I can call it
22 that.

23 A. Yes.

24 LADY SMITH: Thank you.

25 MS RATTRAY: Did you find Thornly Park, the building or

1 accommodation for the children; was it quite
2 comfortable? Was it well furnished?

3 A. Well, it was a big -- huge dormitories with rows of beds
4 in, and that was your sleeping accommodation. There was
5 a games room and a snooker table. There was a playing
6 field. It was just ... I don't know how many kids was
7 in there, but probably 50 or 60. But you were just
8 running wild; you know what I mean? There was rules,
9 and if you broke them you got the tawse, and if you were
10 a good boy, you never.

11 Q. Were you a good boy or were you a boy who got the tawse?

12 A. I'm afraid to say, I've never been a good boy.

13 Q. What kind of things resulted in being given the tawse?

14 A. Being late for anything, that was fatal. And giving
15 cheek, answering back, not doing what you were told,
16 that was -- that usually resulted in a few whacks with
17 the tawse.

18 Q. What did this tawse look like?

19 A. It's a long, thin leather strap, but the ends are split,
20 so the end is split in two. So when people hit you with
21 the tawse, if the two ends snapped together, that's when
22 your skin gets broke and you've got a little bit of
23 blood, sometimes a lot of blood. But, basically, it
24 left you sort of bruised; you know what I mean? You did
25 sometimes get blood, but you didn't -- at that age you

1 didn't think anything of it. You just accepted it as
2 part of living. So, you know, you weren't concerned
3 about -- you didn't think you were being abused, but you
4 were.

5 Q. I'm guessing, if it leaves bruising and can draw blood,
6 it must have been very painful?

7 A. Oh, yeah, it's painful. They used to make you wear
8 a pair of very, very thin shorts to punish you with it,
9 to punish you with the tawse, because if you had thick
10 trousers on you wouldn't feel it so much. They covered
11 all the bases.

12 Q. Essentially, if you are getting a tawse, you had to
13 change out of your thick trousers to put on your thin
14 shorts?

15 A. Yes, yes.

16 Q. At one punishment; how many times would you be hit with
17 the tawse?

18 A. Well, it would never be more than about six. Usually
19 three. If they felt extremely angry, it would be six.

20 Q. When you got the tawse; were there other children about
21 or were you on your own?

22 A. Oh, no, you were on your own. You were took in the --
23 the headmaster, although -- he's the headmaster, or I
24 don't know what he was, took in his office and it was
25 done out of sight of the other boys, but they all knew

1 what you'd gone for.

2 Q. Yes. I see you tell us more about the tawse on page 25
3 of your statement, paragraph 122. When talking about
4 getting whacks on at the bottom, by the Head, you
5 describe him as he "wasn't a bad man". He's "not a bad
6 man"?

7 A. He wasn't a bad man, he was just -- he was a product of
8 his times.

9 Q. But nowadays --

10 A. Nowadays, he would be considered bad. But, in those
11 days, it was considered normal to whack your kids
12 anyway.

13 Q. What about -- going back again in your statement to
14 paragraph 99, you tell us about the arrangements for
15 washing and bathing?

16 A. Yes.

17 Q. And do I understand correctly from what you say that
18 there wasn't any privacy in the showers?

19 A. No. The showers were in a long row and there'd be --
20 I think there'd be three rows and I don't know how many
21 showers, and you were told which one to stand under and
22 you showered, and there would be 30/40 kids getting
23 showered at the same time.

24 Q. You tell us in your statement about something that you
25 call the Goldie Parade?

1 A. Yes.

2 Q. What happened there?

3 A. I hate doing this, but I will do it anyway. Kids used
4 to soil their pants, so on -- when it was the shower
5 day, you had to get the underpants you had, stand in the
6 line with them turned inside out and the matron would
7 come along and anybody who had what we called "skid
8 marks" would be, "Right you wash your own", you'd be
9 told. So, anybody who had done it, you can imagine how
10 humiliated you felt and the excuses were coming out,
11 "It's mud off the football field, ma'am"; you know what
12 I mean?

13 But that was a regular thing. But it sounds really
14 horrible now, but we didn't think it was. We just
15 thought that was normal life.

16 Q. I think you say in your statement, when you were lining
17 up holding your pants, the boys were in the shower and
18 they were all naked, they weren't even wearing clothes.
19 It wasn't after their shower.

20 A. Oh, yes. Oh no, you are all naked, yes.

21 Q. You then go on to tell us about you played a prank, you
22 and your friends played a prank?

23 A. Yeah, yeah. At that time sweets were still on ration,
24 you know, but we managed to club together and we got
25 ourselves a load of chocolate. What we done, we smeared

1 our pants in chocolate and turned them inside out, and
2 when the matron came along and pointed to them we licked
3 the chocolate. I never had to do it again. She was --
4 she nearly fainted and I always felt sorry because she
5 was a decent woman, but it was funny.

6 Q. You were boys playing a joke.

7 A. Yes, yes. That's why we called it the Goldie Parade.

8 Q. How did the masters -- you refer to the masters,
9 teachers; how did they respond to this?

10 A. I got a fair few with the tawse that day.

11 Q. You mention in your statement that:

12 "The masters were hitting us, calling us bastards."
13 Is that right?

14 A. Oh, yes, yes.

15 Q. When they hit you at the time; what did they hit you
16 with?

17 A. Usually a tawse. Sometimes they would punch you, but
18 there weren't a lot of punching that went on, I would
19 give them their due. It was mostly, "Bend over", and
20 you're hit with a tawse.

21 Q. You say that they didn't punch you that often?

22 A. No, no.

23 Q. How often or how infrequent was that?

24 A. I think, to be fair, in Thornly Park, I don't think
25 I was punched in the whole time I was there more than

1 three times.

2 Q. And when a master punched you; where on the body --

3 A. On the face.

4 Q. On the face?

5 A. Yes. They used to try to hit you in the body, so it
6 wouldn't show. But we had learned that, so we would
7 make sure when they hit us, they hit us in the face so
8 it showed.

9 Q. You say it showed, so you would be left with marks?

10 A. You would be bruised, yes, yes, yes.

11 Q. Once again, at Thornly Park; was there anyone that you
12 could turn to and confide in?

13 A. No. When you are in those places, you don't even
14 consider turning to anybody for -- to confide in,
15 because, basically, you know you're wasting your time.
16 So they're the enemy, so you don't consort with the
17 enemy.

18 Q. You regarded the staff there as your enemy, rather than
19 adults who were there to help you or care for you or
20 support you?

21 A. Well, to be fair, there was one or two adults who were
22 decent, but the majority should never have been allowed
23 near kids, anyway, but they were. As I say, it was how
24 the times were in them days.

25 Q. You say they shouldn't have been allowed near kids; why

1 is that? What was it about their personality or
2 behaviour?

3 A. They had no empathy for kids. There was one or two who
4 were okay. But, most of them, they'd be just drawing
5 a wage and they'd do whatever it took to make life easy
6 and you got used to it.

7 Q. In relation to a different subject, and that is food;
8 how was the food at Thornly Park?

9 A. The food was okay. Yeah, the food was okay. Basic
10 tatties and mince.

11 Q. Whereabouts did you eat?

12 A. The dining room.

13 Q. Did everyone eat in the dining room together, at the
14 same time?

15 A. Yes, you had tables with six or eight kids on a table
16 and that's where you ate. You ate at the same table
17 every time.

18 Q. The staff; did they eat with you?

19 A. No, no, the staff -- they used to serve it to you and
20 then they'd go in the kitchen and, when you had
21 finished, you put your dishes on a line and they were
22 took to be washed.

23 Q. In relation to clothing; did you wear a uniform?

24 A. There wasn't a uniform. You wore whatever clothes -- if
25 they fitted you, you wore them. They give you trousers,

1 jackets, sort of thing. I think they call it a blouson
2 or something. And shirts, depending on what stage you
3 were in. In the early stages, you had a different
4 coloured shirt; you know what I mean?

5 Shoes were solid shoes, with tacks on the bottom.
6 No, the clothing was adequate for -- we weren't going
7 anywhere.

8 Q. Right. Okay. What about school? Did you enjoy school?

9 A. Yeah, we were schooled there. They had a school on the
10 premises, in a separate building. But it was quite
11 funny actually, because the lady in charge of school,
12 Ms Murray, she used to sing with the Glasgow Orpheus
13 Choir and she tried to teach us country dancing. And we
14 would be there with the big tacked boots trying to learn
15 country dancing and it was hilarious. And she would
16 teach us these songs, and the one I remember is the
17 Fishermen of England, what it had to do with us, I don't
18 know. But we had to learn this song about the fishermen
19 of England, songs that we had never even come across,
20 but she meant well.

21 Q. You did dancing and singing; what about reading and
22 writing, history and geography, that kind of thing?
23 Were you -- (overspeaking) -- on that?

24 A. We had access to books, but most of them were these --
25 I don't know how you would describe them, they were

1 books about English public schools. You know, George
2 Mason Junior and mater and pater used to come and give
3 them ten shillings. We used to wonder: why don't the
4 mum and dad come? Because we didn't know. It was basic
5 education. Basic.

6 Q. I think you might indicate that you found the work easy
7 in school?

8 A. Yes, yes.

9 Q. So would it be fair to say you didn't feel you were
10 being pushed to your full potential in education?

11 A. No, but I'd already had problems with education before
12 I ever went to Thornly Park, because in Quarriers they
13 had their own school, which I absolutely loved going to,
14 but they decided, they never asked me. I went to school
15 one day and they said, "You won't be coming back, you're
16 going to school in Paisley. Some place called Camphill.
17 You'll be getting the bus there every day and coming
18 back".

19 I wasn't pleased, because I quite liked the school.
20 All me mates were there. But they sent me to Paisley,
21 to this Camphill School, and that was totally different
22 from anything I ever knew. They had prefects.
23 I'd never heard of a prefect, and I got in trouble
24 pretty quickly because I swore in the playground and
25 then this prefect fella came up and said, "You will

1 write 100 times: I must not swear in the playground".

2 I said, "Well, where can I swear?" He said, "Make that

3 200 times". I said, "I'll write 200 times in your

4 face", because I'd never heard of a prefect. This is

5 another kid. What's he telling me, to write lines?

6 I couldn't get me head round it. I'd never heard of it

7 and when they expelled me I must have owed them about

8 5,000 lines. I never wrote any.

9 Q. Did that experience of education put you off learning at
10 all?

11 A. No, no. I've always liked education and I've always
12 liked -- I liked studying and I liked learning.

13 Q. Okay. Do you think during your time in care, on the
14 whole, that you received a good education or were there
15 shortcomings with it?

16 A. Well, there were shortcomings. I mean, moving me from
17 the home in Quarriers to Paisley, that -- to me, that
18 was a shortcoming. I was quite happy in me school and
19 I was learning. To send me to Paisley, it was done with
20 good intentions. They thought it would be a better
21 school for me, but, of course, I stood out like a sore
22 thumb.

23 I think there was about five of us from Quarriers
24 went there and we didn't fit in.

25 Q. How about the quality of the education in Thornly Park?

1 A. Thornly Park, quality of education was pretty basic, but
2 I suppose it was considered adequate.

3 Q. In relation to the times you weren't in the classroom at
4 school; what kind of activities were there for children
5 to do?

6 A. At Thornly Park we were in a thing called the ATC, the
7 Air Training Corps. It's like Air Force cadets. We
8 joined that and, if you wanted to, you could join the
9 Army cadets and you got a little uniform and you would
10 learn to march up and down. It was okay. It was okay.

11 Q. What about sports? Were there any sports that you could
12 play?

13 A. Yes, you could play football, cricket, which we thought
14 was a weird game because it was English and basically it
15 was football -- rugby sometimes.

16 Q. I think you mention, at paragraph 105, that you were
17 taken away on a camping holiday; is that right?

18 A. Yeah. We went to a place called Ormsary in Argyllshire
19 and we stayed in rows of tents. We stayed in tents and
20 we would go down the sea shore and looked for mussels
21 and stuff, you know. It was a fortnight away from the
22 Approved School and we all enjoyed it.

23 Q. You also mentioned that you worked on a farm in the
24 summer; is that right?

25 A. Yes, yes. We worked on the farm. That was when I was

1 in Rossie Farm and it's a thing that's always bugged me,
2 because we were there for the whole potato picking
3 season and we were supposed to get paid, and I never
4 ever got paid.

5 The first time I ever got money from them was when
6 I was sent to Perth prison, when I was older. And I was
7 sent, I think through the post, I think it was
8 28 shillings or something. I had worked on potato
9 picking for weeks for that and it's always riled me.
10 They were making money off us and we weren't getting
11 any.

12 Q. In terms of Thornly Park; were there any chores or work
13 for the children to do there?

14 A. The only chores was making the beds at night and
15 cleaning the toilets at night before you went to bed.
16 They had a janitor there and you -- he would pick --
17 everybody had to do it every night because there were
18 too many kids, but you would stand there and he would
19 pick out four or five kids to do the cleaning before
20 they went to bed. If it was your night, you would get
21 picked. If he was in a good mood and he liked you, you
22 never got picked.

23 Q. I think you mentioned that there was garden work that
24 could be done in the summer?

25 A. Yes, yes. We used to do a lot of gardening work, yes.

1 They grew a lot of berries and stuff. We used to pick
2 berries and we'd weed. We'd do a lot of garden weeding.

3 Q. What about Christmas? Do you remember celebrating
4 Christmas at Thornly Park?

5 A. No, Christmas, you would get a couple of cakes, a bit of
6 jelly or something. And if you had parents, you could
7 be sent on leave to visit your parents over Christmas.
8 But my people were down in the south of England, so
9 I never got that particular chance.

10 So when the kids were all away, there was only about
11 four of us left, so we just sort of done nothing for
12 Christmas; you know what I mean? You enjoyed the extra
13 cakes and stuff and that was it.

14 Q. What about gifts or presents? Were the children given
15 anything?

16 A. Not from the home. I mean, some kids' parents sent them
17 presents, and they were opened and examined before they
18 give them to the kids. I don't think -- I don't
19 remember getting any presents at Christmas then.

20 Q. What about birthdays? Was your birthday celebrated?

21 A. You were the only one celebrating it. Nobody else did.

22 Q. In relation to personal possessions, you say the only
23 personal possessions you had were some marbles?

24 A. Yeah, that's it. You didn't have possessions. You
25 know, you had no need for possessions.

1 Q. Moving on to the subject of people who came to visit;
2 were your family allowed to visit you at the home?

3 A. Well, my father visited me in Thornly Park once. That
4 was during the time we were picking berries, I remember
5 that. That's the only time I seen me father while I was
6 in, because he was a way down in Weybridge, in Surrey.

7 Q. What about your sibilings, your brothers and sisters; did
8 you have any contact with them?

9 A. I never really had much contact with them. I would
10 write an odd letter, but I never knew if it got there;
11 you know what I mean?

12 Q. Do you remember whether there were any visits to you by
13 a social worker or someone similar to a social worker?

14 A. No. All we knew was suddenly everybody would be
15 scrubbed clean, told to behave yourself and you would
16 see these strange people walking round, and you knew
17 there was some sort of authority figure, you know what
18 I mean, had been sent by the people that run the place.
19 And so you just observed them and that was it. They
20 didn't really speak to you. They spoke to the masters.

21 Q. They didn't make a point of speaking to the children at
22 all?

23 A. No, no. They didn't really bother.

24 Q. Whilst you were there; was there anyone at any time who
25 came to you and asked how you were?

1 A. Not really. One of the girls used to -- the girl that
2 worked in the kitchen. She was a nice lass. I forget
3 her name. She was a nice lass. She used to ask how you
4 were. She was a proper Scots woman, but the other
5 people, nobody ever asked how we were.

6 Q. On page 25 of your statement, from paragraph 120, you
7 tell us that you ran away twice?

8 A. Yes, yes.

9 Q. Why was it you ran away?

10 A. I just liked running away, to be honest: I just liked
11 it. I liked the adventure.

12 Q. On those occasions, you were punished for running away?

13 A. Oh, aye, yes.

14 Q. That, again, was with the tawse?

15 A. Yes, yes.

16 Q. When you did run away; did anyone ever ask you why you
17 ran away?

18 A. No. You just used to get battered and that was it.
19 Don't do it again, you know? It was normal life.

20 Q. In relation to abuse at Thornly Park, you tell us about
21 that on page 27 of your statement, from paragraph 128.

22 A. 133?

23 Q. 128. It's on page 27 of your statement, 'Cagney'.

24 A. Yes. As I say, I didn't find it too bad in Thornly Park
25 for that. You know, open abuse, it never happened to

1 me.

2 Q. Do you know whether any other children -- you didn't
3 feel you were abused other than, on reflection, with the
4 tawse. But do you know whether there was abuse of other
5 children there?

6 A. Well, I had this belief, but I had nothing to base it
7 on, that some kids were getting abused sexually. But we
8 didn't -- you never seen anything, but you just knew
9 things were going on. But you couldn't -- it's no good
10 telling anyone. No one took any notice anyway. But
11 I believe it was some kids who were sort of very
12 vulnerable who were sort of abused that way.

13 Q. You believe that, and what happened or what did you hear
14 or see that made you think that?

15 A. Well, a kid would be in the crowd and be called out, and
16 he would disappear and then you would see him later on,
17 maybe that evening, and he'd be all crying and he'd tell
18 you, you know? And what you wanted to do was get
19 revenge, but you couldn't; you know what I mean? These
20 were men. You couldn't -- not much you could do. But
21 we used to know what kids it was happening to and we
22 felt helpless, because nobody would listen to you
23 anyway.

24 Q. Is that something that happened to you?

25 A. No. They would have been dead if they tried that.

1 Sorry.

2 Q. You say that these were vulnerable kids, so it was
3 perhaps the more vulnerable children that that kind of
4 thing happened to?

5 A. Yes. It was the kids that couldn't stand up for
6 themselves. Weak kids, who had never been -- probably
7 never been involved in a rough and tough, probably
8 brought up in a quieter existence. So this was all --
9 to them, this was all terrifying. So the ones that are
10 very weak, they were the ones that suffered.

11 Q. You also mention in your statement there was some
12 bullying of younger boys by older boys?

13 A. Yes. There always is when there's kids, even at school
14 you get that.

15 Q. Were the staff aware of that?

16 A. The staff were aware, but the staff attitude seemed to
17 be: count how many kids there is, make sure they're all
18 there, make sure they ate their tea, make sure they go
19 to bed in time, and basically they didn't -- there was
20 no feeling that anybody cared; you know what I mean? It
21 just -- you didn't feel that.

22 Q. The staff didn't act to stop or prevent bullying?

23 A. No, no, no, no. The staff basically were figures at the
24 end of the playground; you know what I mean? And they
25 were just -- you just didn't take any notice of them if

1 you could help it.

2 Q. You tell us that after the second time you ran away that
3 was the point where you are being sent to what you say
4 was a senior Approved School?

5 A. Yeah.

6 Q. And you have already mentioned that is Rossie Farm in
7 Montrose?

8 A. Yeah.

9 Q. Montrose is quite a distance away from where you had
10 lived and been brought up; how did you feel about moving
11 so far away?

12 A. In the beginning, I quite liked the change, to see what
13 was going on. But, after a while, it's like everywhere,
14 I decided I had had enough of this, so I just absconded;
15 you know what I mean?

16 I learnt quite a bit in Rossie Farm. I learnt how
17 to cobble shoes. A man was a cobbler and used to teach
18 us to do shoes. I learnt that. That was quite
19 interesting. But, basically, it's just another
20 institution.

21 Q. When you were moved from Thornly Park to Rossie Farm;
22 were you upset at that at all, leaving your friends and
23 going somewhere new?

24 A. No, no, I just wanted to see what next institution would
25 be like. I knew I was going to another institution, so

1 I'd got used to institutions.

2 Q. What kind of facilities did Rossie Farm have?

3 A. Well, there was three farms. There was Rossie Farm,
4 Westerton Farm, and a farm called Gightyburn and they
5 all belonged, I suppose, to the Home Office, I don't
6 know. We used to work on the farms, unpaid, I must add.
7 But we used to work on the farms, digging, weeding,
8 potato peeling. The worst one was what they call
9 topping and tailing neeps. Turnips, you had a knife
10 thing and you had to take the top and the bottom off the
11 turnips, and you used to cut your hands, it was winter,
12 because turnips only came up in the winter --

13 LADY SMITH: And it would be pretty cold in that part of the
14 world, I suppose.

15 A. Yes, very cold.

16 LADY SMITH: 'Cagney', I'm sorry to interrupt, and this is
17 nothing to do with you, I have a problem with my screen
18 here.

19 I'm seeing a transcript coming up of your evidence,
20 you see, and I make notes on it, and it just cut out
21 a moment ago. I now have a picture of a beautiful seal
22 on a beach coming up. I'll tell you what, I'm going to
23 go off the bench for five minutes and ask the people who
24 help me with this to sort it out, because something has
25 gone a little bit wrong. It shouldn't take long. Thank

1 you.

2 (10.57 am)

3 (A short break)

4 (11.01 am)

5 LADY SMITH: Thank you to all who have sorted this out for
6 me. We're ready to roll again, 'Cagney', if you're
7 ready.

8 A. Thank you.

9 MS RATTRAY: Thank you, my Lady. 'Cagney', when we left off
10 you were talking about your work on the farms, at
11 Rossie Farm, and cutting, topping and tailing the neeps,
12 the turnips, and that was in winter and your hands were
13 freezing, I would imagine?

14 A. Yes, a bit rough sometimes.

15 Q. Was that hard work?

16 A. Well, it was hard physical work, but you sort of got
17 into a rhythm and it didn't really -- didn't really seem
18 like hard work. But, at the end of the day, you were
19 tired.

20 Q. In relation to education at Rossie Farm; was there
21 a school there, too?

22 A. There was a couple of little school rooms. You didn't
23 go every day, but, when it suited them, you went to the
24 little school and it was pretty basic.

25 Q. Was the focus on education or was the focus on work?

1 A. I think the focus was on work on the farms. But there
2 was -- I think they were duty bound to do some
3 education, but education seemed to be a bit of
4 an afterthought.

5 LADY SMITH: By that time, you would have been about
6 15 years old?

7 A. Yes.

8 LADY SMITH: So you were older than the school leaving age
9 in Scotland by that time?

10 A. Yes.

11 LADY SMITH: It was still 14 at that point, I think.

12 A. Yes.

13 LADY SMITH: Ms Rattray.

14 MS RATTRAY: Thank you, my Lady.

15 When you weren't working; what kind of activities
16 were available for the boys?

17 A. There was games, football and basketball and stuff,
18 like. My main activity was reading. I used to love to
19 read, so I made sure I had books and I'd go away in
20 a corner somewhere and nobody'd disturb me, and read
21 books.

22 Q. Were there books there that you were able to use?

23 A. There were books you were able to use, yes. But they
24 were -- as I explained before, it was these books about
25 English public schoolboys and there's no relation to my

1 life --

2 LADY SMITH: If I suggested, 'Cagney', you might have been
3 reading a series of books called The Jennings Stories,
4 would that ring bells? They were about English public
5 schools, I think.

6 A. No, these weren't in a serial. You would pick up a book
7 and it would all be about these kids whose -- they were
8 in these public schools and the family had a chauffeur
9 who used to drive the family down, which was out of
10 my -- I had no conception -- no concept about that kind
11 of life at all. I used to think it was weird. They
12 had -- in these public school books, they had these
13 things called -- what would they call them again? The
14 kids that had to do the work for the big boys.

15 LADY SMITH: Fags.

16 A. Fags, that's it, yes. I often wondered if there was any
17 connection with that and where it goes to. But I'd read
18 all about that and I'd think: this is mad, these kids
19 are stupid. Why don't they rebel? So --

20 LADY SMITH: Did you think they should be running away?

21 A. I thought they should be, yes, yes. Or calling the
22 chauffeur.

23 LADY SMITH: Ms Rattray.

24 MS RATTRAY: When you weren't reading; were there any sports
25 available to do, for example?

1 A. Yes. You had football, a bit of rugby, cricket in the
2 summer, which is a game I never understood. Basketball.
3 We used to have running races, you know? 100 yards and
4 the 500 yards and that sort of thing. You were pretty
5 active.

6 Q. I think you mentioned a pipe band?

7 A. Yes, yes. The man who taught me cobbling, he was --
8 Mr Falconer, he was the manager of the pipe band and he
9 taught me to be a drummer. And we used to go to
10 different places when they had fetes and they'd played
11 the drums and play the pipes, and then we'd do some
12 physical exercises, vaulting over vaulting horses and
13 stuff, to amuse the people who were at the fetes.
14 I don't know if the school got paid for that, but we
15 never.

16 Q. What about the food at Rossie Farm? How was the food?

17 A. Aye, the food was okay. The only thing was you used to
18 find a lot of pellets in your meat because they used to
19 serve you a lot of venison and there would still be the
20 metal pellets in it sometimes.

21 LADY SMITH: There were bits of shot because it was game.

22 A. I didn't like venison. It was a bit strong for me.

23 MS RATTRAY: The arrangements for washing and bathing; was
24 there any privacy afforded?

25 A. No, they had a room as big as this, probably, and there

1 was -- I will try to explain it. There'd be sinks,
2 they'd be about six or eight feet round, and on these
3 sinks there would be four or five taps. And there would
4 be a row of these things and you would wash there. And
5 then if it is bath time or shower time, you went to
6 a separate place, where you had your shower or your
7 bath. It was mostly baths, actually. But baths were
8 about once a fortnight. But you washed in these sinks
9 when you came in from school and everything. There were
10 towels and stuff. But it was adequate. It was okay for
11 us. Little boys like being dirty.

12 Q. Were there any inspection, pants inspections, like you
13 had experienced at Thornly Park?

14 A. No, not at Rossie Farm. That was only at Thornly Park.

15 Q. What about clothing?

16 A. You were issued with -- it wasn't a uniform, but it was
17 sort of a uniform. Grey trousers, a grey Jersey, some
18 kind of coloured shirts, boots, you know, tack boots.

19 Q. So the various schools issued you with clothing. Did
20 you have a set of clothing that was yours alone that you
21 could take from school to school?

22 A. No, the clothes you wore were the clothes you had and
23 you had no other clothes, except for when they took them
24 away to be washed and then they would issue with clothes
25 for when the others were being washed. So, basically,

1 you had two sets of clothing, one set being washed and
2 one set worn.

3 Q. What about personal possessions? Did you have anything
4 here?

5 A. No, no. I had no interest in personal possessions, to
6 be honest. I don't think any of us did.

7 Q. In relation to chores, you have told us about the work
8 on the farms; were there any chores that you had to do?

9 A. No, no. They had staff that used to do the cooking and
10 washing and cleaning and stuff. So, basically, our work
11 was on the farm.

12 Q. You have mentioned earlier on that you did work on
13 a farm and you weren't paid for the work on the farm?

14 A. That's right, yes.

15 Q. When you were doing work that should have been paid,
16 tatty picking, you weren't given that either?

17 A. No.

18 Q. How did you have funds? Was there any pocket money
19 handed out?

20 A. No. Unfortunately -- you remember this is an Approved
21 School full of rogues and money would be found some way.
22 Don't ask me how, but money would be found. And you
23 were allowed into Montrose every Saturday afternoon and
24 you could spend three or four hours in Montrose. And
25 if, like me, you come from Greenock, I was allowed to go

1 to Greenock, but it depended how you behaved.

2 On a Saturday morning, the master would stand on the
3 steps, facing all the boys in the quadrangle, and you
4 lived by a number, by the way. And he would read the
5 numbers, and the numbers he read were the boys that were
6 allowed to go, what they call "home" for the day. You
7 had to be back by a certain time.

8 I would often go to Greenock then for the afternoon;
9 you know what I mean? Meet one of me uncles, roam
10 around Greenock and come back in time for -- make sure
11 you're in time.

12 Q. You mention numbers. Were children referred to by
13 number, rather than by their name?

14 A. Well, it was usually -- it was HDZ [REDACTED], or [REDACTED]
15 [REDACTED]. The preface would be your name, but they made sure
16 that they added your number and you get quite used to
17 that.

18 Q. You mentioned that quite a few of the boys smoked?

19 A. Yes, yes.

20 Q. How were they able to afford cigarettes, if there was no
21 money handed out?

22 A. Well, it sounds very weird, but there was a janitor
23 fella. He was a chain smoker, and he used to walk up
24 and down smoking, and these little kids used to follow
25 him and when he threw the dog end away they used to pick

1 it up.

2 We had a fella, I won't say his name because he
3 doesn't deserve to be named. But he would go into
4 Montrose and he'd come back with about 300 fags. Don't
5 ask me how he got them. I didn't ask him. And we'd all
6 be smoking. We all smoked; you know what I mean? There
7 were no non-smokers. And smoking was normal, so --
8 nobody ever told us it's a bad thing to do. We just
9 wanted to get fags. So that is how it went.

10 Q. The staff; the staff didn't ever ask the boys where they
11 managed to get these things from?

12 A. Well, I think they preferred not to ask, because if they
13 got told the truth they'd have to go into it; you know
14 what I mean? I think they preferred to turn a blind
15 eye. That's only my opinion.

16 Q. Did allowing boys to smoke and access cigarettes -- did
17 that make life easier for the staff?

18 A. Think so, yes. Because everybody had a smoke and they
19 were quite happy, less trouble. It's the same in
20 prison. If there's drugs in prison, the staff make sure
21 by some means the way they do it, that there's enough
22 drugs in the system to keep the population quiet. They
23 know you're not allowed drugs at all, but they know they
24 get in, and sometimes the staff would bring them in.
25 But they wanted you to be calm. So if everybody was

1 smoking marijuana or whatever and feeling mellow, they
2 were no trouble. So they were quite content to make
3 sure that some drugs would circulate.

4 Q. Turning a blind eye to drugs in prison or cigarettes in
5 an Approved School was a means of controlling?

6 A. I think so, yes, yes. I think it was a means of making
7 life easier for the staff.

8 Q. When you were at Rossie Farm; did anyone come and visit
9 you?

10 A. No. I never had a visit in Rossie Farm. As I say, my
11 father lived in Weybridge, in Surrey, and where my
12 brothers and sisters are, sometimes I didn't even know.
13 I knew I had a brother in Bristol. But he was a chef.
14 I never seen him for years, years, years.

15 Q. Under this heading of "Visitors" in your statement,
16 'Cagney', at page 33, paragraph 161, you also mention
17 that you never saw social workers as a kid?

18 A. Social workers? I never saw any.

19 Q. You never saw a social worker. What you then go on to
20 say is, what you were told was:

21 "You're here until we tell you to go and you'll do
22 what you're bloody told."

23 A. That's it.

24 Q. But you say that Rossie Farm was all right; the people
25 who ran it were nice people?

1 A. Yes, Rossie Farm weren't too bad. You were in the open
2 air, which was a bonus. You weren't locked up in cells
3 or anything. And we quite enjoyed the countryside,
4 because Rossie Farm was in the countryside. The food
5 was adequate. We never expected steaks and stuff, we
6 expected tatties and mince.

7 We were not too bad in Rossie Farm. Mr Falconer,
8 the man who taught me cobbling, he wanted to adopt me,
9 but I told him he couldn't because I still had a mum and
10 dad.

11 Q. You say that there was no cruelty, that you never saw
12 any instances of cruelty from the staff?

13 A. Not on Rossie Farm, no, no. It was -- I think it was
14 basically -- I don't know how many kids there was there,
15 maybe 80 to 100. They just wanted to keep a lid on it,
16 keep the place ticking over, and if that meant turning
17 a blind eye to certain things, they would do.

18 Q. That included turning a blind eye to the instances that
19 you say of cruelty from one lad against another lad?

20 A. No, what used to happen was -- it happened in borstal as
21 well. If you had a dispute with another lad, they would
22 take you in the gym, where there is a boxing ring
23 erected, and they'd give you boxing gloves and you would
24 have a boxing match. And the rules were quite simple,
25 you boxed until somebody said he'd had enough. A master

1 supervised it and made sure you weren't biting or
2 doing -- you know, normal boxing.

3 That's how you sorted your problem out. But it was
4 considered very weak and feminine if you said to
5 a bloke, "I'll meet you in the boxing ring", because the
6 boxing ring was, like, fancy, with rules. If you had
7 a fight in the Approved School without anybody there,
8 there were no rules, and that was a different kind of
9 fighting. So they'd think, "Oh, he's scared to have
10 a proper fight, so he's going to go to the boxing game".

11 There were little nuances like that that went on.

12 Q. From what you're saying, it sounds -- and correct me if
13 I'm wrong -- that the message that was being given to
14 children, that if you have a problem, you sort it out
15 with violence, rather than sorting it out by speaking to
16 someone?

17 A. Oh, yes. The fact of counselling and stuff like that,
18 you are going back 70 years. Counselling, it's all you
19 ever hear nowadays, but it was unheard of. They didn't
20 say: you must talk to somebody about your problems; that
21 didn't happen. At least in the circles I lived in.

22 Q. Boys weren't encouraged to speak to each other to reach
23 agreement and sort out a problem, rather they were sent
24 to the boxing ring?

25 A. If the problem was enough to justify a fight, then you

1 go away somewhere and have a fight. And if somebody
2 said, "I'll fight you in the boxing ring", well
3 sometimes people would say, "Okay, I'll fight you in the
4 boxing ring", but that was considered sort of a pansy;
5 you know what I mean?

6 LADY SMITH: Sorry, 'Cagney', did you say these boxing
7 events were always supervised by somebody?

8 A. Yes, there was always a master there. Not the fights,
9 but the actual boxing matches, yes.

10 LADY SMITH: Thank you.

11 A. The fights were private.

12 MS RATTRAY: Although the fights were private; did the staff
13 know that fights took place?

14 A. Oh, they'd know, because they'd see the evidence; you
15 know what I mean? And the people with black eyes and
16 bloody noses and cut lips.

17 Q. If a boy misbehaved; how was that dealt with?

18 A. Well, they'd probably -- maybe make them do a bit of
19 scrubbing or something. You know, scrub some area of
20 the place, and he wouldn't be allowed out on Saturdays
21 to go to the town. That privilege would be taken away
22 from him. So he tried to make sure you were able to go
23 out on a Saturday.

24 Q. What about the tawse? Was there a tawse in use at
25 Rossie Farm?

1 A. Yes. It was the same sort of thing as it was in the
2 other places. It was just a leather strap split down
3 the middle, and you done -- your problem, you had to pay
4 for it.

5 Q. You say in your statement, at the outset, your first
6 impressions of Rossie Farm, you describe yourself as
7 being "immune"?

8 A. Pardon?

9 Q. My apologies. In your statement, when you first start
10 to speak about Rossie Farm and your first impressions,
11 you described yourself as being "immune" when you moved
12 there?

13 A. Yes.

14 Q. What about the use of the tawse? By that stage were you
15 immune to the tawse as well or did it have an impact
16 upon you at all?

17 A. Well, it just didn't bother me. I used to think: if
18 that's the best you've got, well, get on with it.

19 I just didn't see the point of the tawse because it
20 didn't make you any better. You just went out and done
21 something else. So what was the point? But I was
22 immune in the way that I didn't care if they hit me with
23 the tawse. I didn't care.

24 Q. At Rossie Farm, the same question I have here: if you
25 were upset, if you did care; was there anyone at all

1 that you could speak to or confide in?

2 A. Well, I never did myself, but I believe that
3 Mr Falconer, the man who taught the cobbling, I think
4 you could probably talk to him because, as I say, he
5 wanted to adopt me for some reason. He must have been
6 a masochist, I think.

7 But I had never spoke to any of the staff about
8 problems. If I had a problem, I just deal with it; you
9 know what I mean?

10 I suppose there were some kids that did speak to
11 them, but certainly I never. I wasn't inclined to
12 discuss personal problems with a member of staff.

13 Q. You ran away from Rossie Farm as well; is that right?

14 A. Yes.

15 Actually, that was when I was sent to prison because
16 I took about six other kids with me, and they caught us
17 all, one at a time. And I was taken to Forfar and
18 I went to Forfar Sheriff Court and they wanted to send
19 me to borstal, but they couldn't because I wasn't 16
20 yet. So I was sent to Perth Prison to wait until I was
21 16. It was only a few weeks before my 16th birthday
22 and, of all the places, Perth was -- how can I put it?
23 The staff were magic.

24 They made it certain that I couldn't get paedophiles
25 and stuff like that. I was 15 years old. These are all

1 grown men.

2 They made sure that I was never in the position
3 where I could get abused that way and they looked after
4 me. Apart from that, it was a prison; you know what
5 I mean? I was 15. I was in a prison.

6 Q. Your understanding, you were there because you couldn't
7 go to the borstal until you were 16?

8 A. That's right, yes.

9 LADY SMITH: 'Cagney', I think you tell us about this in
10 your written statement, at paragraphs 171 and 172, and
11 it all starts with you getting to Arbroath; how did you
12 get to Arbroath?

13 A. Yes. That was in the newspapers because we stole
14 a tractor from the farm, Rossie Farm. Went to Arbroath,
15 stole a lorry, stole the lorry, dropped the lorry, stole
16 a car, which we drove towards Perth. And we were picked
17 up on -- I think they call it the North Inch or the
18 South Inch in Perth, and that was when I went to Forfar
19 Sheriff Court and I was sentenced to borstal training,
20 but they couldn't send me because I was too young.

21 LADY SMITH: You hadn't yet had your 16th birthday.

22 A. No.

23 LADY SMITH: Just going back to this journey by tractor, by
24 lorry and by car; who drove them?

25 A. Well, you've heard his name earlier on, [REDACTED].

1 LADY SMITH: How had he learnt to drive?

2 A. I don't know how he learnt to drive, but he could drive
3 anything and he was my pal. And we decided we'd go on
4 an adventure together.

5 LADY SMITH: Your age?

6 A. About the same age as me. He came from Greenock as
7 well, which made it -- you know, he was bound to be me
8 pal anyway. As say, we stole a tractor, lorry, a car
9 and then, bang. Arrested. It was in all the papers at
10 the time.

11 LADY SMITH: Something of an achievement, but maybe not the
12 cleverest one in your life.

13 A. Not the best thing, no.

14 LADY SMITH: Thank you.

15 MS RATTRAY: My Lady, at this point, we're about to move on
16 to Polmont Borstal. Perhaps this might be a good time
17 to take the break.

18 LADY SMITH: If it would work for you, 'Cagney', what
19 I'll do just now is take a break for about 15 minutes.
20 You can get a breather. Then we'll finish your evidence
21 after that; is that okay?

22 A. Thank you very much.

23 (11.26 am).

24 (A short break)

25 (11.45 am)

1 LADY SMITH: Welcome back. 'Cagney', are you ready for us
2 to carry on?
3 A. Yes, please.
4 LADY SMITH: Ms Rattray. When you're ready.
5 MS RATTRAY: Thank you, my Lady.
6 Now, 'Cagney', we left off -- you were telling us
7 about Perth Prison and the circumstances before you were
8 transferred to Polmont Borstal; you were transferred
9 there when you turned 16?
10 A. Yes.
11 Q. At paragraph 178 of your statement, on page 37, you tell
12 us a little about your first impressions of Polmont and
13 the first thing you noticed; what was that?
14 A. Well, like it says, the first thing I noticed were the
15 bars on the windows. It wasn't going to be easy to
16 abscond.
17 Q. That was really as you entered, your thinking was:
18 how --
19 A. How can I get out?
20 Q. Okay. You tell us that Polmont was divided into four
21 wings?
22 A. Yes.
23 Q. When you first arrived, you went into reception?
24 A. Yes. I think reception wing was called -- it may have
25 been Bruce. Can only remember two of the names, Bruce

1 and Wallace, but I can't remember the other two names of
2 the wings.

3 Q. Was the reception wing any different from the other
4 wings at all?

5 A. No, I think it was just to get you acclimatised to what
6 borstal was like. The other wings were roughly the
7 same, but there was a bit more emphasis on teaching in
8 the first wing. But, after that, the emphasis was on
9 work.

10 Q. Okay. In terms of teaching; what kind of things were
11 taught?

12 A. It was so basic, it's unbelievable, you know. It was
13 things that you would expect ten-year-olds to know; you
14 know what I mean? Unfortunately, some of the lads were
15 basically illiterate, so they didn't really -- so they
16 needed some teaching.

17 Q. When you moved to the next wing, the focus there was on
18 work?

19 A. Yes. That's when I worked in a shoe shop again, making
20 shoes, yes.

21 Q. In terms of the accommodation, on this occasion you were
22 in cells, rather than dormitories?

23 A. Yes, yes. I was in a cell. There was three of us in
24 the cell.

25 Q. How was the cell furnished?

1 A. Just three beds and a couple of lockers, to put your
2 stuff in, and basically that was it.

3 Q. I think you mention elsewhere in your statement, in
4 terms of personal possessions, the only possessions you
5 had were pictures?

6 A. Yes.

7 Q. Were you allowed to put pictures up on the wall in your
8 cell?

9 A. You couldn't fix them to the wall with nails or
10 anything, but you could display them, if you could. But
11 you couldn't put nails into the walls or anything like
12 that. That was forbidden.

13 Q. What kind of chores were boys expected to do?

14 A. Well, you had to take care of your own cell. Make sure
15 it was -- you had to make your bed a certain way and it
16 had to be a certain way. If it wasn't, they would throw
17 it and make you do it again.

18 Apart from that, you were at work all day in the
19 shoe shop. So you never had any chores actually in the
20 borstal itself, apart from the work.

21 Q. In terms of making your bed a particular way; do I take
22 it from what you say then that there were inspections?
23 How your cell was checked?

24 A. Yes, you wouldn't know when there's going to be
25 an inspection, but if they came in and your bed

1 wasn't -- stuff wasn't folded the right way and that,
2 they would throw it all off and do it again. So it was
3 a nuisance more than anything.

4 Q. When you weren't working; were there any other leisure
5 activities available for the boys?

6 A. Yes, well, there was no television, because that was
7 definitely a no-no. You could listen to radio. Not
8 your own radio. They had loud speakers. You could
9 listen to radio programmes. You could read and you
10 could write. Basic.

11 Q. In relation to letters, I think you say that they did
12 provide writing materials for people to send letters?

13 A. Yes. You could write letters and I did receive the
14 letters that my family sent from England; you know what
15 I mean? So that was a help.

16 Q. I think you tell us in your statement, though, that
17 letters in and out the borstal were opened by staff?

18 A. Oh, yes, yes. But we had a way round that.

19 Q. Right. What was the way round that?

20 A. Well, we used to get somebody to write in stupid things
21 about: I'll meet you at the top of the road at midnight,
22 on such and such a date.

23 No intention of that happening, but we knew it would
24 be read and, at midnight, they'd be up there looking to
25 catch us, but we were in bed fast asleep. Little

1 victories.

2 Q. Right. What about sporting activities; were there any
3 sports that the boys could do?

4 A. There was a lot of sport in Polmont. Yes, at Polmont
5 they were very interested in sport.

6 Q. What kind of sports were you doing?

7 A. The normal ones in Scotland, obviously football, but
8 there was a lot of gym work. Used to spend a lot of
9 time in the gym, and you'd be lifting weights and stuff
10 like that. I quite enjoyed the physical side of it.

11 Q. What about the food? How was the food?

12 A. It was bland. It was uninteresting. But, at that age,
13 you eat it. You don't ask questions. You just eat it.

14 Q. Whereabouts did you eat? Was it in the cell or were
15 there dining rooms?

16 A. No, in the dining room, yes. In the dining room, we
17 ate.

18 Q. And what about clothing? Were you in a uniform?

19 A. Yes, you had a borstal uniform. Yes. Don't ask me
20 what. I can't remember what it actually consisted of,
21 but it was a borstal uniform.

22 Q. I think in your statement you indicate that the uniform,
23 the colour of the shirt or something, might be a little
24 different depending on --

25 A. When you are in the introductory place, you had a --

1 I think it was -- I might be getting these mixed up.
2 But at one stage it was a blue and white striped shirt,
3 and then when you reached a certain stage you'd get
4 a red and white striped shirt. I forget what -- I think
5 the red one came first. And then once you get promoted
6 to a blue shirt, you were allowed a bit more freedom
7 around the borstal.

8 Q. Okay. What did you have to do or not do to be promoted?

9 A. You just had to -- don't get noticed doing anything
10 wrong, really.

11 Q. In terms of more freedom; more freedom to do what?

12 A. Well, you could walk around and it was quite a big
13 grounds at Polmont. You could walk around unescorted
14 and you were on trust that you wouldn't abscond.
15 Basically, that was it. You could wander around without
16 having to have a warder with you. It made life better.

17 Q. Were there any other privileges that you were able to
18 earn?

19 A. No, I don't think -- I can't remember any privileges
20 I was able to earn, apart from getting the change of
21 shirt.

22 Basically, you went to work all day, you came in,
23 had your tea, and you might listen to the radio for
24 a while and you go to bed. So there was nothing to do
25 really, you know. There wasn't a lot of education in

1 Polmont because most of the lads -- well, they all had
2 to be 16 plus, so it was assumed that they had already
3 been educated.

4 Q. If you had any health needs; was there medical
5 assistance available?

6 A. Oh, yes, they had doctors and you put your name down to
7 see the doctor and they'd come and see you. And if
8 there was anything needed, you'd have to done, and
9 sometimes they would send you out to an outside hospital
10 to get treated. So it was okay that way.

11 Q. In terms of Christmas and birthdays; were they
12 recognised at all?

13 A. Well, it was recognised in the fact that they put
14 an extra good spread on and you didn't have to work for
15 a few days. But you could get parcels sent from home,
16 but the parcels were opened up, basically, in case they
17 were sending illicit stuff. You got your parcel and
18 stuff from home and you enjoyed it, and your mates who
19 never had any parcels, you shared them with them; you
20 know what I mean? So everybody got something.

21 Q. That was Christmas?

22 A. Yes.

23 Q. And birthdays; were they recognised?

24 A. Same with birthdays, yes. They were the same. You can
25 get a birthday parcel and say your mates haven't got so

1 and so and so and so, and share it amongst you; you know
2 what I mean?

3 Q. I think you tell us, at paragraph 191, that in relation
4 to a general celebration of birthday, that since the age
5 of five the only celebration of your birthday,
6 presumably by carers or staff, was when you were in
7 foster care?

8 A. Yes. They didn't -- birthday and Christmas was sort
9 of -- you knew it was your birthday and somebody gave
10 you a little present, but there wasn't a fuss made about
11 birthdays or Christmases, to be honest.

12 I do remember when I was fostered, [REDACTED] and [REDACTED]
13 [REDACTED] that looked after me. They were magic. They
14 made sure I had a good Christmas and good new year.
15 Yes, good people.

16 Q. In relation to visits; were you allowed visitors?

17 A. Yes, you are allowed one a month. You could have
18 somebody to visit you once a month. I never, because
19 they were all in England.

20 Q. I'm presuming that once again you weren't visited by
21 a social worker or someone who undertook that role?

22 A. No, never. I can't ever recollect being visited by any
23 social people or people who were interested in how
24 I felt.

25 Q. You tell us, at paragraph 193, that you had a friend,

1 a girl, who you were writing, exchanging letters with,
2 and she wanted to come and visit?

3 A. Yes.

4 Q. Was that allowed?

5 A. Well, I was called in and told that she wouldn't be
6 allowed to visit me and they wouldn't want her to be
7 consorting with my kind of person. I thought: well,
8 they don't know me. They don't know her. What's the
9 problem? It's a girl; you know what I mean?

10 But they were adamant that she couldn't come and
11 visit me and I was to stop writing. So that was another
12 love affair down the drain.

13 Q. Were you aware of there being any formal inspections of
14 the borstal?

15 A. How do you mean "inspections"?

16 Q. Inspections, like someone from authority coming from
17 outside to walk around and check whether everything was
18 in order?

19 A. You would get that quite frequently, but you didn't know
20 who they were. They would come around and -- and
21 I remember I was in the shoe shop, working, and they had
22 these bunch of people come in, five or six of them, and
23 they stood around looking at us working, you know. And
24 this woman came and stood beside me. I was nailing some
25 heels on a shoe, and she just stood there looking at me.

1 So I went (indicated) and she didn't look any more.

2 I thought: is this a zoo or what? Are they visiting the
3 zoo when they come to just stand and look at you?

4 I couldn't get me head round that.

5 Q. They came to stand and look, but they didn't speak to
6 you or ask you questions?

7 A. Now and again people would ask you silly questions; you
8 know what I mean? But the questions were totally
9 stupid.

10 Q. Can you remember? Can you give us an example at all?

11 A. Well, not really, because they'd ask you questions about
12 television, and we never saw television. They'd ask you
13 questions about football, and no disrespect to any
14 middle aged ladies, but a middle aged lady doesn't
15 usually talk about football unless her husband is
16 a football fanatic. And she would be trying to be down
17 to your level and she would be saying: what about
18 Morton? How are they doing? I used to think: you
19 wouldn't know Morton -- you wouldn't know Cappielow if
20 you were visiting there. You don't know anything about
21 football? Why are you asking me? I felt it was sort of
22 patronising; you know what I mean?

23 They had seen what they had to see, what we were
24 doing, which is what they were there for, and then they
25 could go and write in their report that these boys are

1 making up shoes. You know, it was strange, strange.

2 Q. Discipline; what kind of behaviour --

3 A. So discipline was: if you misbehaved, you got solitary.

4 You were put down in the punishment cells and -- for how

5 many days, it depends how serious it was. You were put

6 in the punishment cells and you weren't allowed out of

7 the -- what they call the chokey. You weren't allowed

8 out of that area. You exercised in the little yard down

9 there, walking up and down. And if you done ten days,

10 you done ten days, and when you came out you went back

11 to the wing.

12 Q. When you had meals; were the meals taken in the chokey

13 as well?

14 A. The meals in the chokey, you ate in your cell. They

15 would bring the meals to your cell and you would --

16 Q. Were the meals they brought you; would that be the same

17 food that you would have eaten anyway?

18 A. Yes. The only thing was, depending on what the problem

19 was that you were in there for, you know, in the chokey

20 for, you wouldn't be allowed a pudding. But if you were

21 allowed a pudding -- this is very strange -- they used

22 to bring your meal on a tray with compartments, soup

23 and -- you know what I mean? And on top of the meat

24 portion of the food they would drop a pudding, a lump of

25 what we called -- it's a round roll thing that we eat.

1 They would drop it on top of the meat portion. That's
2 your pudding. And I thought: are they doing this for
3 badness or are they doing this because they're totally
4 stupid or what? I couldn't get it. I couldn't figure
5 it.

6 Q. You tell us, on page 41, paragraph 197, that there
7 wasn't any physical chastisement?

8 A. No, there is no way they would ever have got away with
9 being too physical because, as I say, there were
10 a couple of hundred people in there, and if they went
11 off, it would have been heavy.

12 Q. There was obviously then some tension between the boys
13 on the one hand and the staff on the other?

14 A. The reason they never gave us physical punishment was to
15 avoid tension. Because if they started giving physical
16 punishment, then I think the place would have erupted.
17 So they were very careful not to do any of that. There
18 was the odd slap, but very, very little of that.

19 Q. I think you go on to tell us that you didn't consider
20 there was any abuse, except what you called the usual
21 "slaps and stuff"?

22 A. Yes. You got the odd slap, but it was -- it's hard to
23 explain to someone who's not done it, but to us it was
24 normal. We didn't think anything of it. But if they'd
25 tried serious physical stuff, then we would have

1 reacted.

2 Q. Whereabouts on your body would staff slap you?

3 A. Depends how angry they were. It's usually a slap in the
4 head. But, luckily enough, I never got slapped that
5 many times. I mean, I got a few times, but nothing that
6 would worry me at all.

7 Q. The slaps to the head; were they hard slaps?

8 A. Well, yes, quite. They meant to hit you. They weren't
9 pussy footing. They would give you a severe slap on the
10 head.

11 Q. You tell us, as well, there was -- like you have
12 described at Rossie Farm, you mentioned it was at
13 Polmont as well, that there was the use of the boxing
14 ring supervised by staff for boys to sort out their
15 problems with each other?

16 A. In Polmont, there was a lot of that. They were very
17 keen on getting the boxing ring erected and: get in
18 there and sort your problems out.

19 You know what I mean? Which, to be fair, was quite
20 a good idea.

21 Q. You mentioned the showers.

22 A. Yes.

23 Q. That was also a place for fights?

24 A. Yes. If you wanted to get a fight without going in the
25 boxing ring, you get away from -- when the screws are

1 not there and have the fight in private. Quite a lot of
2 the boys preferred that. Some guys preferred to get in
3 the ring. It's how your outlook was.

4 Q. The staff might not have been around in the showers, but
5 were they nonetheless aware that's what happened?

6 A. Oh, they knew what happened, yes. Oh, they knew what
7 happened. They knew exactly what happened and when it
8 had finished and one guy would walk out and one guy'd
9 get dragged out and they'd say: have you had enough?
10 Have you learned your lesson?

11 That would be it. There was no retribution from the
12 staff for having a fight in private. You just done it.

13 Q. As I mentioned, the showers, it's my understanding from
14 your statement that in terms of your cells there weren't
15 toilets; you were slopping out?

16 A. Yes. You done a bit of slopping out in Polmont, which
17 is a disgusting thing, but that was how it was in
18 British institutions in them days. You slopped out.
19 Disgusting, disgusting habit.

20 Q. I'll ask you again about Polmont, and I think we know
21 the answer. But was there anyone there that you felt
22 that could you have spoken to?

23 A. No.

24 Q. About any problems; no?

25 A. No. You have to remember that in an institution like

1 that, it's a sort of a false macho thing. You feel, if
2 you go and talk to the authorities, you're sort of
3 crossing the line you shouldn't cross. Keep it among
4 yourself. Don't tell the screws. Which is why a lot of
5 people never ever asked for help, because they didn't
6 want to be seen as being a weakling. That's how it was.

7 Q. As with the other places you stayed in, at
8 paragraph 194, notwithstanding the bars and the gates
9 and the locks; you tried to run away?

10 A. Oh, yes. Yes.

11 Q. How was it you managed to do that?

12 A. I was in Bruce house, and below me was the reception
13 room where you went when you first came in and all your
14 clothes were took and your private stuff and they were
15 stored in lockers in this reception area. My cell was
16 directly above it. So we broke through the floor and
17 dropped into the reception to get some clothes to wear
18 that weren't prison clothes, so we could get away. But
19 they'd heard us anyway, and they were waiting on us when
20 we got down and, of course, that resulted in a bit of
21 a battering for that.

22 Q. You were battered?

23 A. Oh, we were battered for that, yes. Because we had
24 damaged our floor and the ceiling of the reception area.
25 There was a big hole where we dropped through. They

1 were quite miffed about that.

2 Q. On this occasion, being battered; was that more than
3 just a slap?

4 A. Oh, yes, that was severely battered that time. I was
5 took down the punishment cells and battered. Used to
6 have a thing called "run the gauntlet". Used to have
7 three or four screws would stand in line and you got to
8 run through them, and as you run through they punch and
9 kick you, but it was part of living.

10 Q. Although there wasn't any formal means of physical
11 chastisement, such as the tawse, there was clearly
12 an informal system of physical chastisement?

13 A. Yes. It happened, to be fair, very rarely.

14 Q. You tell us that after about a year you were transferred
15 to borstal in England because that was closer to your
16 family?

17 A. Yes.

18 Q. Whilst we're not looking at the detail of that today,
19 you were in at least four different English borstals?

20 A. No, no. I was in Durham Prison and then I was in
21 Feltham Borstal, which is in Middlesex, and then I was
22 in Portland Borstal, which is in Dorset and I was
23 discharged from Portland when I was, I don't know, 1959,
24 I think.

25 LADY SMITH: I think you were also in Reading briefly,

1 weren't you? You were also in the borstal at Reading,
2 were you?

3 A. Yes. If you escaped from another borstal, part of the
4 punishment was -- they'd take you to court, actually,
5 and sentence you to six months in Reading. Reading was
6 a punishment borstal. It was for people who had
7 offended against the rules and Reading was pretty
8 horrendous.

9 LADY SMITH: Thank you.

10 MS RATTRAY: You were released until 1959, when you turned
11 about 20; is that right?

12 A. Yes.

13 Q. Whilst you were in the various borstals in England, once
14 again: did anyone on behalf of, for example, the
15 Scottish care authorities come down and visit you?

16 A. No, because I was under the English system. So, no,
17 nobody from the Scottish system came down.

18 Q. At this point, you tell us about your life after care,
19 'Cagney', and you also tell us about impact, and that is
20 all set out in some detail in your statement and we have
21 that. There are just one or two points that I'm going
22 to ask you about.

23 The first one is in relation to impact, on page 46
24 of your statement, at paragraph 219. It's here you tell
25 us that your take on it is that:

1 "I never learnt the normal association between
2 people."

3 A. Yes.

4 Q. "I never learned to be an ordinary guy. I always felt
5 I had to fight my way."

6 A. Yes, yes.

7 Q. In your journey through the care system, with the
8 exception of foster care, which I appreciate stands out;
9 was there anyone there who sort of offered you any love
10 or affection?

11 A. No, no. You have to look at it from the point of view
12 of the people that run the place. If you've got 90 kids
13 and 85 of them are behaving, the five that misbehave are
14 not going to get anything off you. They concentrate on
15 the kids who are being sensible. So it would be
16 difficult for them to try and sort you out.

17 There never seemed to be any inclination for anyone
18 to try and sort you out.

19 Q. You also tell us here that you've had a chip on your
20 shoulder, because you felt that if they hadn't allowed
21 you to go to the remand home in Dumbarton things might
22 have been different?

23 A. Yes. I still feel that, yes. Because I was in a remand
24 home for no crime that I know of and I was sent to
25 an Approved School as a child that needed care and

1 protection. If that's care and protection, God help the
2 system.

3 So I've still got a chip on my shoulder about it,
4 but I'm not bitter anymore. The bitterness has gone.

5 Q. You say, moving on to page 48, paragraph 226, in terms
6 of lessons to be learned you say:

7 "The main lesson is that children need to be
8 listened to and taken seriously."

9 A. Yes. Well, obviously I'm biased. But it seems to me
10 that it's bad enough being in the care system, but to
11 get a child involved in the criminal justice system
12 should be the very, very, very last resort, because once
13 you're in the justice system, criminal justice system,
14 then the care part of the Government doesn't apply
15 anymore. You are now considered a criminal and that's
16 it.

17 I think that's wrong, because I know a lot of people
18 if they'd been -- avoided getting involved in the
19 criminal system early, they might never have got in it.

20 Q. We do know from your statement that as an adult you got
21 further involved in criminal matters?

22 A. Oh, yes.

23 Q. But you tell us it was your partner who taught you to
24 toe the line?

25 A. Yes, yes. She knew, because I told her all about

1 myself, obviously, and she said, "Well, you're bloody
2 stupid"; you know what I mean? I've learned to turn the
3 other cheek and I don't react like I used to anymore.
4 Because at one time I just -- I was unbearable. I just
5 hated everything and everybody, but now I don't.

6 Q. Taking you to page 49, paragraph 231, it's here that you
7 also make a comment about:

8 "There needs to be some care for the actual people
9 who are running the care places."

10 You say:

11 "A lot of them were just detritus and nobody seemed
12 to bother about them, but they're the most important
13 part. Because if they're not right, the system's not
14 right."

15 A. Yes. Because there seems to be an idea that to get the
16 right people to look after the care system you give them
17 a university education and -- well, I'm not qualified to
18 speak, but I'm qualified to say my opinion. That
19 sending someone to university to learn the principles of
20 social care is no good unless they've got some
21 experience of life, and a lot of the good people would
22 be in the care system, but they're not people who can
23 pass exams and stuff, so they don't get degrees.

24 I think we need to put people in charge who have
25 lived a bit in the normal society, not the rarefied

1 atmosphere of Oxford or Cambridge; you know what I mean?
2 And let them practice good social work, but I would
3 imagine -- I can't prove it -- but I'd imagine that the
4 people at the top of the care system are the ones who
5 got an education from a university and stuff. But the
6 ones who have got more experience of life, they don't
7 reach that level in the care system, which I think is
8 wrong.

9 Q. A final point, 'Cagney', I know you want to mention --
10 it's not in your statement, but I know you want to bring
11 it out. I've asked you throughout whether you were
12 visited by a social worker and you weren't, but I think
13 now, where social workers are more involved with
14 children and young people in care, I think you have
15 a view you want to express about that, about social
16 workers?

17 A. I think it's a terrible shame that somebody will mention
18 a social worker and they say, "Oh, bloody social
19 workers", and they're getting a bad press for what?
20 They haven't done anything wrong.

21 But what happens, you'll get a case that gets a lot
22 of publicity where some poor unfortunate child gets
23 murdered, for instance, and the papers say, "Oh, the
24 care system should have seen it coming"; you know what
25 I mean? And they vilify the care workers and yet nobody

1 thinks: well, the care workers that were in charge of
2 that kid must be devastated.

3 So why are we vilifying the people who are trying to
4 solve it when we should be supporting them?

5 As I said, I didn't come here to ... I didn't want
6 to bash Social Services. I think it's wrong. I came
7 here to tell the truth and that's what I've done.

8 Q. 'Cagney', thank you very much for answering all my
9 questions. I don't have any more questions for you.

10 A. Thank you.

11 LADY SMITH: 'Cagney', can I add my thanks. We have pressed
12 you for so much information in addition to what you have
13 already given us in your written statement. I can see
14 it will have taken a lot out of you to give us that, but
15 I'm really grateful to you because it's of such
16 assistance to the work we're doing here.

17 A. Thank you.

18 LADY SMITH: Thankfully it's Friday, and I hope you have
19 something restful planned for the rest of today, because
20 I suspect you'll be exhausted by the time you leave us.
21 I'm able to let you go now. But, as I say, do know that
22 you go with my grateful thanks.

23 A. Thank you very much.

24 (The witness withdrew)

25 LADY SMITH: Before I move on to the next stage of this

1 morning's hearing, 'Cagney' used the actual name of
2 a person who was a child in care at the same time as
3 him, [REDACTED]. The identity of that individual is
4 protected by my General Restriction Order and it can't
5 be disclosed outside this room.

6 I think we have another witness ready, but it would
7 probably help if I rise for five minutes and we can get
8 reorganised for that witness; would that be right?

9 MS RATTRAY: Yes.

10 LADY SMITH: Thank you.

11 (12.23 pm)

12 (A short break)

13 (12.27 pm)

14 LADY SMITH: Ms Forbes.

15 MS FORBES: My Lady, the next witness is an applicant who
16 has waived his anonymity and his name is Thomas Jordan.
17 He likes to be called Tam.

18 LADY SMITH: Thank you.

19 MS FORBES: Although this chapter that we're hearing
20 evidence from in these weeks are dealing with the
21 Scottish Prison Service establishments we will also hear
22 from Tam about his brief time in Gilmerton Remand Home
23 and also his experiences at Balrossie, which were more
24 considerable, as well as Polmont Borstal.

25 LADY SMITH: Thank you very much.

1 Thomas Jordan (affirmed).

2 LADY SMITH: Tam, just a couple of things before I hand over
3 to Ms Forbes to ask questions.

4 That red folder has your written statement in it, as
5 you can probably see, and you may be referred to that.
6 We can also bring parts of it up on screen; that might
7 help you, too.

8 If you have any questions, don't hesitate to speak
9 up, or if we're not making sense, please tell us. It's
10 our fault, not yours, if that happens.

11 We'll stop at 1 o'clock for the lunch break, but if
12 you want a break before then for any reason, just let me
13 know; will you do that?

14 If it works for you to help you give your evidence
15 more comfortably, whatever it is, it works for me.
16 That's the rule.

17 A. Thank you.

18 LADY SMITH: I'll hand over to Ms Forbes.

19 A. Thank you.

20 Questions from Ms Forbes

21 MS FORBES: My Lady.

22 Good morning, Tam?

23 A. Good morning.

24 Q. First of all, you gave a statement to the Inquiry; is
25 that right?

1 A. I did.

2 Q. And that's in front of you. For the purposes of the
3 transcript, I'm just going to give a number for that, so
4 they can bring it up on the screen. WIT-1-000001192.

5 You should be able to see that in front of you now,
6 and you also have the hard copy.

7 If we just go down slightly to paragraph 1. You
8 tell us you were born in 1953; is that right?

9 A. Yes.

10 Q. So you are 70 years old now?

11 A. Yes.

12 Q. If we can just go to the end of your statement, page 22.
13 We can see that this is a statement that you have
14 signed, although your signature's blocked out on the
15 screen.

16 The last paragraph there before the signature says
17 that you have no objection to your witness statement
18 being published as part of the evidence to the Inquiry?

19 A. No.

20 Q. And that you believe the facts stated in the witness
21 statement to be true?

22 A. Yes.

23 Q. If we just go back then to page 1 of your statement, and
24 if we can have on the screen paragraphs 1 and 2.

25 I think you tell us, first of all, you were born in

1 Edinburgh; is that right?

2 A. That's right.

3 Q. You lived with your mother and father?

4 A. Aye.

5 Q. [REDACTED]

6 A. Yes.

7 Q. If we move down to paragraph 3. You tell us that you

8 moved at some point, [REDACTED], to

9 Addiewell?

10 A. Yes.

11 Q. You were quite young at that time?

12 A. Aye.

13 Q. You tell us in that paragraph how you felt in the family

14 home, and you are saying there were some issues there in

15 how you felt about how you were treated?

16 A. Aye.

17 Q. You said you felt unloved and left out [REDACTED]

18 [REDACTED]

19 A. Yes.

20 Q. You tell us [REDACTED] was abusive towards you?

21 A. Aye.

22 Q. [REDACTED] was physically abusive?

23 A. Yes.

24 Q. And that your grandad, you tell us in paragraph 4, was

25 your best friend.

1 Just take a moment if you get upset at any point.

2 A. Yes.

3 Q. He was someone that you loved and he owned a garage and

4 you would spend a lot of time with him; is that right?

5 A. Yes.

6 Q. If we go over to page 2, you tell us that you went to

7 a primary school in Addiewell, at the village primary

8 school, and that there was a bit of an issue because you

9 had a different accent?

10 A. Aye.

11 Q. There was some bullying from other children?

12 A. Yes.

13 Q. You got in trouble with your mum for stealing money?

14 A. Aye.

15 Q. From her purse?

16 A. Aye.

17 Q. And that because there was only the one village shop,

18 she would know what you were up to, that you had money

19 from somewhere?

20 A. Yes.

21 Q. You tell us that you didn't feel there was some love at

22 home?

23 A. Yes.

24 Q. And that it was [REDACTED] who meted out the physical

25 punishments?

1 A. Yes.

2 Q. That was with use of a belt. I think you tell us, if we
3 go down to paragraph 6, that there was a time when
4 a teacher at the school had noticed that you had welts
5 on your back from the physical punishment that had been
6 meted out [REDACTED]; is that right?

7 A. Yes.

8 Q. He contacted what was known as the "cruelty officer"?

9 A. Yes.

10 Q. This was while you were still in primary school?

11 A. Yes.

12 Q. But the cruelty officer didn't do anything about that?

13 A. No. Can I just say why he didn't do anything about
14 that?

15 Q. Yes.

16 A. [REDACTED] was in the same orange lodge, Masonic lodge as
17 this guy, and it was all swept under the carpet, that's
18 why there was nothing done. And there was no Social
19 Services in Scotland back then. I don't think there was
20 anything there to help us, as children, you know.

21 LADY SMITH: This was back in the 1950s, by then?

22 A. Yes.

23 LADY SMITH: Thank you.

24 A. That's what happens, you know. I just wanted to
25 reiterate that. It wasn't just because this guy didn't

1 want to go anything, it was because he was in the same
2 Masonic lodge.

3 MS FORBES: There was an issue because [REDACTED] was
4 a Protestant, you said [REDACTED] was a Freemason?

5 A. Yes.

6 Q. And [REDACTED] wasn't happy about you going around with the
7 Catholic children in the village either?

8 A. No.

9 Q. You would do that just for attention?

10 A. Yes.

11 Q. But [REDACTED] found out about that, then there would
12 be a physical punishment?

13 A. Yes.

14 Q. I think you tell us, at paragraph 6, that sometimes that
15 would mean that you would wet the bed in fear of that
16 physical punishment?

17 A. I lived in constant fear [REDACTED]. I lived in that
18 fear for many years, just that fear I had when [REDACTED] came
19 in. That constant fear in my stomach all the time.
20 I think that's when I wet the bed and hid in cupboards
21 or hid under the bed and things like that.

22 LADY SMITH: Tam, you see there is a microphone in front of
23 you?


24 A. Aye.

25 LADY SMITH: This isn't your fault, we need to get it in

1 a better position. If you can get it a bit nearer to
2 you, on the right angle, it's easier for everybody.

3 A. Is that better?

4 LADY SMITH: That is sounding good, yes. It's not just me
5 and other people who are listening who have to hear it,
6 but it's very important that the stenographers can pick
7 up everything you say accurately.

8 MS FORBES: 

9
10

11 A. That I can remember, yes.

12 Q. I think you give an opinion of how you felt about
13 yourself, at the end of paragraph 6. You use
14 a particular word I think that we'll see again in your
15 statement. You call yourself the "dunce" of the family?

16 A. Yes.

17 Q. Is that how that made you feel?

18 A. Looking back on that stuff, when -- it was like, even
19 back then, I had no self-esteem or self-worth. I just
20 felt treated like I was a burden on the family. That's
21 how I felt.

22 Q. Then you go on to tell us that when you were still quite
23 young, eight or nine, you would often talk to an old
24 road night watchman on your way to school?

25 A. Yes.

1 Q. And that you would see him in the morning and on your
2 way back home and have a chat with him?

3 A. Aye.

4 Q. However that turned into something different, didn't it?

5 A. Yes.

6 Q. Are you able to tell us about what happened?

7 A. Back then -- not many people will remember it -- the old
8 night watchman, when they are building the roads, and
9 the old night watchman have a bothy, and he'd light the
10 lamps, you know the paraffin lamps back then? We had
11 the green and gold, the green and red lamps and this guy
12 would light them. And I think with the lack of love at
13 home I was drawn to this old guy. He used to take me in
14 and he'd make me cups of tea in tin cans and we would
15 have a cup of tea together and heat it over the bridge
16 and I would go and talk to him.

17 And eventually he started cuddling me and I thought
18 this was -- this was the love I wasn't getting at home.
19 So this guy would cuddle me and then he -- eventually,
20 he sexually abused me. And he gave me money, so I kept
21 going back.

22 He actually told me that if I told anybody he would
23 come and do things to my family, et cetera, and it was
24 what it was and I just kept -- the masturbation and the
25 sucking of the penis and all that stuff. It was

1 just ...

2 It was just a thing of potentially belonging to

3 somebody. A sense of ...

4 Again, I still taste that sometimes. I still taste

5 that.

6 Q. Just take a minute, if you need a minute.

7 This is isn't something that you told anyone about

8 at the time, is it?

9 A. No, I never told anybody.

10 LADY SMITH: Tam, if I use the expression "grooming" to you;

11 do you know what I'm talking about?

12 A. Yes.

13 LADY SMITH: As you look back now; do you think that old man

14 was grooming you --

15 A. Definitely.

16 LADY SMITH: -- from the beginning?

17 A. Yes, definitely. Looking back on it and looking at the

18 work I've done since that, yes.

19 LADY SMITH: Thank you.

20 MS FORBES: I think you tell us that you started then, at

21 paragraph 8, to get into trouble in the village, which

22 was an embarrassment to your father.

23 A. My father was -- my dad was, as I say, in the lodge, he

24 was a Mason and member of the Free Kirk and he is

25 a pillar of the community in the village.

1 And I started running away from home on a regular
2 basis and I were brought back by the police and nobody
3 ever asked me why I was running away from home. Nobody
4 ever asked me why. I was just brought back and [REDACTED]
5 [REDACTED] would beat me. And I can remember one time my next
6 door neighbour having to come in and pull [REDACTED] off
7 me -- [REDACTED] off me, because [REDACTED] had me round the neck
8 and was trying to strangle me.

9 The stuff around that was that I just didn't belong
10 there. I just didn't belong there. I just didn't
11 belong in that house.

12 The only way was to get attention to try and get
13 some -- I think at that time, as a child, trying to get
14 somebody to say: we can look at this.

15 But nobody ever did. Nobody ever did. You know,
16 they just let it happen.

17 And I blame -- who can I blame? I blame [REDACTED], but
18 I blame other people. The policemen and, et cetera,
19 were involved in all that stuff.

20 The village Bobby used to take me back home and he
21 knew what was going to happen, and just walked way from
22 it. That made me feel -- I don't know what it made me
23 feel, actually. But, looking back on it, I was
24 a frightened child, a wee frightened boy.

25 Q. You say that ended up with you being put out of the

1 family home?

2 A. Yes.

3 Q. You say that you felt abandoned at that point?

4 A. Yes.

5 Q. Where did you go?

6 A. I ended up in Gilmerton Remand Home for about a couple
7 of weeks and then I ended up -- my parents took me to
8 the Sheriff's Court -- I think it was the Sheriff Court.
9 And they decided that -- I had been nicked, getting into
10 trouble, and they took me to the Sheriff Court and then
11 they said that they didn't want me any more so I ended
12 up in Gilmerton Remand Home on remand and it was -- how
13 do I feel then? I felt abandoned. I felt I was alone
14 in the world.

15 Next thing I was in Balrossie Approved School.

16 Q. I think at paragraph 9 you tell us there was a charge
17 for lorry left and possibly house breaking as well and
18 that put you in the Edinburgh Sheriff Court?

19 A. Yes.

20 Q. You say you were about 11 years old or so?

21 A. Yes.

22 Q. That led to you being put on remand, I think, first of
23 all in Gilmerton Remand Home?

24 A. Yes.

25 Q. If we go further down to page 3, you tell us some

1 information about Gilmerton Remand Home. Paragraphs 10
2 and 11. You say you have very little memory of that
3 remand home, is that right?

4 A. Yes.

5 Q. The front door was always locked?

6 A. Yes.

7 Q. You comment that at that time you were very scared and
8 frightened?

9 A. Yes.

10 Q. You didn't know what was going on. You also comment
11 that you lived in fear for the whole time you were there
12 in paragraph 10?

13 A. Yes. I think that fear came from -- followed on from
14 the stuff at home. I think that fear was in me. That
15 fear was actually instilled in me from that early age
16 and I think that that fear followed me quite a lot of
17 the time.

18 LADY SMITH: At this point you would be nine-years old?

19 A. Yes.

20 LADY SMITH: You are still a frightened little boy?

21 A. Yes, ma'am.

22 MS FORBES: I think you tell us a little bit about Gilmerton
23 Remand Home, but it's not something that you have a lot
24 of memory about, is that right?

25 A. No.

1 Q. You don't remember getting any visitors, for example,
2 when you were there?

3 A. No.

4 Q. If we go down to paragraph 12 of that page, you are
5 talking here about when you left Gilmerton and you say
6 that without any warning or explanation you were just
7 driven to Balrossie?

8 A. Yes.

9 Q. That was an Approved School?

10 A. Yes.

11 Q. By a social worker?

12 A. Aye.

13 Q. Had that social worker been working with you before
14 then?

15 A. No.

16 Q. It wasn't somebody known to you?

17 A. No, no.

18 Q. You also say that you didn't realise fully at the time
19 why you went to Balrossie and not somewhere closer to
20 home?

21 A. Yes.

22 Q. The Inquiry has seen a record which states that you were
23 admitted to Balrossie on 29 March 1966, so that meant
24 that you would have been 12 years old at the time. Does
25 that sound about right?

1 A. That's right.

2 Q. If we go to paragraph 13, you talk about arriving at
3 Balrossie and meeting SNR [REDACTED], Mr GKF [REDACTED] and SNR [REDACTED]
4 SNR [REDACTED], Mr zGKS [REDACTED] ?

5 A. Yes.

6 Q. I think you tell us about something that happened with
7 another pupil just after you met those two individuals?

8 A. Yes.

9 Q. Can you tell us what happened?

10 A. I remember that the hard man of the school came up and
11 he was a pupil and came up and punched me in the face
12 and that was to put me in my place in the school. He
13 was the school Don and the guy who ran the school
14 really.

15 Q. Did that happen in front of the --

16 A. No, that was after that. I walked up the corridor and
17 they took me up the corridor and this guy was supposed
18 to be looking after me.

19 LADY SMITH: Ms Forbes, just going back a moment. I think
20 you suggested that the date that Tam arrived -- first
21 arrived was in 1966, is that right, rather than 1963?
22 And leaving in 1966? It may be my note is wrong but
23 I thought it was 1963 he arrived at Balrossie and there
24 for the best part of three years. Sorry, Tam, this is
25 all about you. It's a long time ago for you to

1 remember.

2 A. No, I can't remember that. Sorry, yer Ladyship.

3 LADY SMITH: Might be 10 or 11.

4 A. Yes.

5 LADY SMITH: If we can check that out. It's important that
6 we have these dates correctly recorded for you, Tam.
7 Thank you.

8 MS FORBES: I think that you tell us a little bit about the
9 building itself as we go forward in your statement. If
10 we go down to paragraph 15. You give us some
11 information there about the number of people, other
12 boys, who were within Balrossie at the time.
13 You say there were about six to eight dormitories,
14 about 12 boys of mixed ages to a dorm and you think
15 there were about 100 boys who were aged between 10 and
16 15?

17 A. Yes.

18 Q. There was a teacher and matron assigned to your
19 dormitory?

20 A. Yes.

21 Q. If we go forward to the section on routine at Balrossie,
22 you give us information at paragraph 16 about the
23 routine that you had to abide by and there would be
24 a bell to get you up in the morning, is that right?

25 A. Yes.

1 Q. You had to make your bed first of all when you got up in
2 the morning?

3 A. Aye.

4 Q. If anyone had wet the bed they were made to stand at the
5 bottom and tell a member of staff?

6 A. Yes.

7 Q. Then you had to go and shower and go down for breakfast?

8 A. Yes.

9 Q. And had some chores to do. Do you remember what those
10 chores were?

11 A. You helped in the kitchen, cooking at the fire or done
12 stuff like that. You helped clean. You swept the
13 leaves off the drive or went and cleaned the
14 playgrounds. It's just stuff you did.

15 But going back a bit, that stuff about the shower,
16 if you had wet the bed you were actually made to show
17 your sheets and drag your sheets into the shower room so
18 you would sprayed down with cold water with your sheets
19 and you would maybe stand there in front of the boys and
20 they would be laughing at you and taking the Michael,
21 you know what I mean.

22 That was part of that. That was part of that stuff.
23 I don't think -- you know, it's -- it was just pure
24 abuse. That's all it was.

25 Q. Later you give us more detail about that, but did you

1 have to do that?

2 A. Aye.

3 Q. Was that a regular thing?

4 A. Yes.

5 Q. I think you tell us in that same paragraph that there

6 was some school that you would attend in the building?

7 A. Yes.

8 Q. Would that be every day?

9 A. Every day. It's the same as any school. You went to

10 school at 9 am and finished at 3 pm.

11 Q. It was a full day at school?

12 A. Yes.

13 Q. What do you remember about the schooling? What was it

14 like?

15 A. It was just basic stuff, you know what I mean? You

16 learnt basic stuff, the three Rs really and a bit of

17 maths thrown in and bits and pieces thrown in but

18 I can't remember that much learning there, you know.

19 I can't remember learning that much at all.

20 Q. You say there was then a time after school hours for you

21 to come back into the main house and be allowed some

22 play time?

23 A. Yes.

24 Q. What type of things did that involve?

25 A. There was board games and there was a snooker room there

1 to play snooker as long there is a teacher with you.
2 There was a playground outside you could play in. But
3 that was it, you know really.

4 Q. What about things like PE or sports?

5 A. There was PE. You end up -- if you call it PE. You
6 would be put in the gym and worked out and you went
7 on cross-country runs, but if you didn't keep up your
8 time there was a consequence at the end of that, you
9 know.

10 And the consequences were if you didn't keep up with
11 the time the rest of the people -- you had yellow bands
12 and you had house bands and if you didn't keep up with
13 the team your whole dormitory had to go back and do it
14 again. So that was the consequence. You would end up
15 getting a beating from the guys in the dormitory for not
16 being, you know ...

17 Q. Because there was a group consequence it meant there was
18 pressure from other boys?

19 A. Yes.

20 Q. In relation to the physical activities, was that
21 something that was a choice to be involved in?

22 A. No choice. You had to do it.

23 Q. If you refused, was there any consequence?

24 A. You couldn't refuse. No way you could refuse. You
25 wouldn't get away with refusing.

1 Q. What would happen if you refused?

2 A. Well you get -- you go in front of SNR and
3 get the tawse on your arse and you would get some
4 punishment, either scrubbing out -- there were all sorts
5 -- or put in the playground to scrub the playground with
6 a toothbrush, that sort of stuff with your shorts on in
7 the winter and stuff like that.

8 Q. You have mentioned the tawse. Can you describe that for
9 us?

10 A. The tawse was a belt, which was a leather strap which
11 was like -- it was split in two at the front of it and
12 SNR, you would go into -- if you done
13 anything wrong you go to SNR office and
14 there would be a teacher who -- you get pulled down so
15 your head was between this guy's legs and pull the
16 shorts tight and you get the tawse over the backside and
17 it would leave welts on your backside and -- look, just,
18 you know, it was horrible.

19 Because the strain was there. You couldn't move
20 anywhere. You couldn't wriggle out of it. You would
21 get six or 12 belts on the backside and it was ...

22 Q. Where would that take place?

23 A. SNR office. There was like -- I can remember
24 the table being in the middle there, a wee coffee table.
25 They would bend you over that table and the teacher --

1 normally SNR [REDACTED] or SNR [REDACTED] -- would
2 administer the punishment and one of the other teachers
3 would come in or the masters and pull you so your head
4 was between their legs and they would hold you and the
5 other guy would give you the strap on the tawse on your
6 bum. It was just pure restraint really.

7 Q. You are describing being bent over a coffee table on the
8 other side your head would be held between someone's
9 legs?

10 A. Aye.

11 Q. Someone else would be administering the tawse?

12 A. Yes.

13 Q. You mentioned wearing shorts. Was that something that
14 you were already wearing?

15 A. No, gym shorts. They make you put on a pair of gym
16 shorts because your other trousers would be too thick.
17 They would make you change into a pair of gym shorts and
18 they were the gym shorts so they get more of the impact
19 on your backside than ordinary trousers.

20 Q. Was the impact, can you remember?

21 A. Painful. Painful.

22 Q. Did it leave any marks?

23 A. It left welts on your back and bruises.

24 Q. Just going back to the paragraph where you are talking
25 about the routine at Balrossie. You say that you would

1 be in bed for 7 or 7.30 but get some cocoa and a bun or
2 biscuit beforehand?

3 A. Aye.

4 Q. And lights out would be between 8.30 and 9?

5 A. Yes.

6 Q. If we go to paragraph 17, this is where you talk about
7 food and you explain there was a communal dining room.

8 A. Mm hmm.

9 Q. Where there would be a table of six with a table
10 captain, is that right?

11 A. Yes.

12 Q. The captain was one of the prominent members of the
13 school?

14 A. Yes.

15 Q. Was that a member of staff?

16 A. No.

17 Q. Another pupil?

18 A. Yes.

19 Q. Somebody who had been chosen to take that position?

20 A. Yes.

21 Q. You tell us that there was an issue about how quickly
22 you would have to eat your meals?

23 A. Yes.

24 Q. What was that?

25 A. You had to eat them as fast as possible because if you

1 ate them as fast as possible you would get sweeties or
2 get some sort of prize for that and you would have to
3 rush your food and sit with your arms folded, like that,
4 and if you didn't do it the captain of the table would
5 give you a clout. The masters were in the room but they
6 wouldn't take any notice of it. They noticed the first
7 table finished. I still eat my food fast today.

8 I still --

9 LADY SMITH: I was about to ask you that.

10 A. I still eat today very fast. My wife says to me all the
11 time, "God, you finished that quick". I was out with
12 friends last night and had a meal and they said, "You've
13 eaten that quick". Breakfast I eat quick. Gary says
14 that to me in the morning, "You've ate that quick", but
15 that's because of that whole thing, you know, don't
16 waste any food.

17 MS FORBES: If you didn't eat quick enough was there
18 a consequence?

19 A. Aye.

20 Q. What was that?

21 A. No privileges. They would stop the privileges. You
22 wouldn't get sweeties or any kind of anything like that.
23 There would be a deduction of the table points with
24 result of the loss of the privileges so they were
25 working for points all the time. There was the whole

1 thing here trying to be the best or trying to -- them
2 trying to make you the best and sometimes it was
3 unachievable sometimes.

4 Q. I think you have said at paragraph 18 that sometimes if
5 you didn't eat that food then you might see it again?

6 A. Aye, you get it the next day, the next meal. And the
7 captain would physically punish you. He would shout and
8 bawl at you after the meal was completed and there were
9 no table points and the next day you might get the same
10 food you got the night before.

11 Q. If we go over to page 5, you are describing the
12 situation with regards to washing and bathing there and
13 you tell us that there were shower rooms?

14 A. Aye.

15 Q. With wash basins in the communal toilets, but you could
16 shower twice a week?

17 A. Yes.

18 Q. You were given a bar of soap and toiletries that had to
19 last you the week?

20 A. Aye.

21 Q. There was no privacy?

22 A. No privacy at all.

23 Q. Would staff be outside the door when you were showering?

24 A. Or walking in.

25 Q. Would there be a reason why they would be walking in?

1 A. I don't know. I don't know. Just acceptable that they
2 would walk in.

3 Q. Would that be into the cubicle that you were showering
4 in?

5 A. There were no cubicles. Open showers.

6 Q. Open-plan showers?

7 A. Soap on and soap off and get out. That was at the type
8 of thing it was, you know.

9 Q. You say there was an underwear change but it was only
10 once a week?

11 A. Yes.

12 Q. You were expected to keep the same underwear for the
13 whole week?

14 A. Aye. Maybe get two pairs of underpants and change them
15 but only two pairs a week. Couldn't get any more than
16 that. Even if you soiled them they wouldn't change
17 them.

18 Q. You were just expected to wear them or just wear no
19 underwear?

20 A. You would wear no underwear or wash them out in the hand
21 basin and let them dry, you know.

22 Q. In general, who washed the underwear?

23 A. I think the matron used to take it all away and they
24 sent it out somewhere to launder it. I can't remember
25 if there was a laundry in the place but they may have

1 sent it out to launder it and it came back.

2 Q. Paragraph 20, you tell us there was a uniform but you
3 would wear everyday clothes sometimes with a dark blue
4 Army-type material?

5 A. It was like old Army-type stuff. It was rough.
6 Shorts when you went to church on a Sunday if you were
7 a new boy you went in shorts. If you were an older boy
8 you went down in long trousers. You used to get marched
9 in the village.

10 Q. In the winter sometimes you would wear long trousers and
11 boots?

12 A. Yes.

13 Q. But they were all supplied by Balrossie?

14 A. Aye.

15 Q. Would that be a good point to break, Ms Forbes?

16 MS FORBES: Yes.

17 LADY SMITH: Tam, we normally stop at this point for the
18 lunch break and I'll sit again at 2 o'clock. Would that
19 be okay for you if we do that?

20 A. Yes. Not a problem.

21 LADY SMITH: Very well.

22 (1.00 pm)

23 (The luncheon adjournment)

24 (2.00 pm)

25 LADY SMITH: Good afternoon. Welcome back, Tam. Are you

1 ready for us to carry on?

2 A. Yes.

3 MS FORBES: Good afternoon, Tam.

4 Before we continue with your statement, her Ladyship
5 raised an issue about the record in relation to your
6 admission to Balrossie. So I appreciate you wouldn't
7 have seen that record, but I think in your statement, at
8 paragraph 9, you tell us that you were initially placed
9 for two to three weeks in Gilmerton Remand Home and you
10 were maybe 10 or 11. Then, subsequently, you went to
11 Balrossie. So you went from Gilmerton straight to
12 Balrossie.

13 Our record shows you were admitted to Balrossie on
14 29 March 1966 that would make you a little older, about
15 12; does that accord with your recollection?

16 A. Aye. It's just the dates.

17 LADY SMITH: It's a long time ago.

18 A. Too long ago.

19 LADY SMITH: I have a lot of sympathy. It gets harder the
20 older you get.

21 A. Tell me about it.

22 LADY SMITH: Thank you. We have that correct.

23 MS FORBES: We're on page 5 of your statement. If we go
24 down to paragraph 23, you tell us about what would
25 happen at PE in relation to a game that would have to be

1 played; can you tell us what the name of that was?

2 A. Murder ball.

3 Q. What did that involve?

4 A. It means one of the kids sat in the middle of the room

5 on a ball and two other teams ran at him and it got

6 a bit heavy.

7 Q. When you say "ran at him"?

8 A. They ran. They ran at a guy sitting on a ball and they

9 had a ruck. Like in rugby, it wasn't a ruck, really.

10 They were punching and kicking and all that stuff; you

11 know what I mean? It was just -- it was supposed to

12 make you manly. It was bullying.

13 Q. I think you say there that it was very much a gang

14 culture?

15 A. Yes.

16 Q. Are you referring to the murder ball itself or something

17 else at that point?

18 A. I think it was -- I think it was different. Because a

19 lot of people came from Glasgow to that, there were

20 a lot of gangs in Glasgow back then and part of the

21 culture was there would be people from Maryhill,

22 Maryhill Fleet and there'd be -- only as youngsters they

23 were brought up on that stuff, so I think they maybe

24 kept themselves as gangs, in the same place and ...

25 Q. I think you say that if you weren't part of that you

1 would be bullied?

2 A. Yes. And because I was -- I was brought up -- and
3 I've got the Glasgow accent, and I came to Edinburgh,
4 you know, because I was sent through to Edinburgh. I
5 think because I wasn't part of that Glasgow side of it,
6 that's why I was bullied more, I think, because I was
7 a different species.

8 LADY SMITH: You were an outsider?

9 A. Outsider, that's it.

10 LADY SMITH: An outsider from the west of Scotland.

11 A. Aye. I didn't say you didnae ken.

12 MS FORBES: You also say that the PE teacher there would
13 also make some kids hang off the wall bars for what
14 seemed to you like hours, but was probably only about 20
15 minutes.

16 A. Yes.

17 Q. If you left go, you had to do it again?

18 A. Yes.

19 Q. If we can move further down in your statement to
20 paragraph 30, and I think this is where you are telling
21 us about doctors and dentists coming in to see you. But
22 that the matron would normally be the person that cared
23 for the boys?

24 A. Yes.

25 Q. I think you tell us there that the matron saw the welts

1 on your backside; is this in relation to the tawse, the
2 results of the tawse? But she never questioned you
3 about it.

4 A. No, never. I think she knew what was going on, she just
5 buried it; you know what I mean?

6 Q. Was this part of some kind of routine sort of inspection
7 of your body by the matron or something else?

8 A. She would be there when you changed your clothes, if you
9 tried to strip off or change your clothes she would be
10 there because she would take all your dirty clothes
11 away. You put them in bags and she takes them away.
12 She would be there. She'd see the boys naked. I don't
13 think there was any -- for me, back then, I don't think
14 there was any sexual stuff there with her. I think she
15 was just there. You didn't take any notice of her, you
16 know.

17 Q. If we can go further on to page 7 of your statement, and
18 down to paragraph 35, this is where you talk about the
19 fact that you could go home at weekends when you
20 behaved?

21 A. Mm hmm.

22 Q. And when you did that you used to spend most of your
23 time with your grandad?

24 A. Yes.

25 Q. Your parents did visit you at school a couple of times?

1 A. Aye.

2 Q. If we go over the page to paragraph 37, page 8, I think
3 you describe an occasion when your parents were due to
4 come to the school to pick you up, but didn't appear?

5 A. Aha.

6 Q. Then you had to stay with SNR [REDACTED] ?

7 A. Mm hmm.

8 Q. And that was at his house?

9 A. Yes.

10 Q. Your parents arrived to collect you a couple of days
11 later?

12 A. Aye.

13 Q. If we can go further in your statement, to where you
14 talk about abuse at Balrossie. You have already told us
15 about some of that earlier on this morning.

16 If we go to paragraph 47, this is where you talk
17 about what was going on in the dormitories, and these
18 are dormitories that are shared with older boys as well?

19 A. Yes.

20 Q. And can you tell us about what happened there?

21 A. The younger boys would get sexually abused by the older
22 boys. They'd make you masturbate them and make you suck
23 their penis and things like that. And this stuff would
24 happen most nights, you know.

25 Q. Did that happen to you?

1 A. Aye.

2 Q. I think you say that your view was that the staff knew
3 about it?

4 A. I think they did.

5 Q. You talk in that paragraph particularly about certain
6 individuals that abused you?

7 A. Yes.

8 Q. You say that you didn't feel like you could do anything
9 about it because there would be physical violence?

10 A. Yes, yes.

11 Q. If we can go to paragraph 49, this is you talking about
12 that occasion where you went to stay with SNR
13 SNR when your parents didn't come to pick you up. You
14 tell us that on that occasion you slept downstairs
15 whilst his wife and the two children were upstairs; can
16 you tell us what happened on that occasion?

17 A. He came down. I was downstairs and he came down and he
18 sexually abused me. He did try to rape me. He tried to
19 stick his penis in my bum, and this happened two or
20 three times when I was at Balrossie. He threatened to
21 kill me if I told anybody, and I knew if I told anybody
22 he would just -- as it says in my statement, he would
23 blame it all on me. It's my fault. It would always be
24 my fault.

25 Q. So this first occasion was at his house?

1 A. Yes.

2 Q. Then you say that there was another couple of times
3 after that; where did that take place?

4 A. In the school. He used to get me alone in the school.

5 Q. Where would that be?

6 A. In SNR [REDACTED] office.

7 Q. And you say that you were scared of him?

8 A. Yes.

9 Q. So you were at Balrossie for a significant period of
10 time, I think, and you left after about 18 months or so?

11 A. Something like that.

12 Q. You were about -- I think you say you are about 12 or
13 13, on page 10, paragraph 50?

14 A. Yes.

15 Q. When you left, you went back to your house, your home?

16 A. Yes.

17 Q. So back to the same environment that you had left?

18 A. Yes.

19 Q. What you encountered when you went home was [REDACTED]
20 who was, again, physically abusive towards you. There
21 were problems at school again --

22 A. Yes.

23 Q. -- with other people in the school --

24 A. Yes.

25 Q. -- and the teachers?

1 A. I was put in -- because I could hardly read or write
2 I was put in the G stream in the school, which was the
3 dunces' class and because I had been away in school
4 people would bully me -- or try to bully me for being
5 away. I beat the bully up one day. I just got rage. I
6 was angry anyway. I'd shut down my feelings and I swore
7 that nobody was ever going to make me cry again. After
8 I come out of Approved School, I swore nobody would ever
9 make me cry again. It's not going to happen.

10 Then he picked on me, and I beat him. And they took
11 me up to the headmaster's office and, again, I got the
12 tawse. And I just laughed because I didn't want to cry.
13 I didn't want to show any emotion to anybody. I had
14 shut down.

15 Q. I think, after that, you ended up getting into trouble
16 and your dad threw you out?

17 A. Yes.

18 Q. This was in paragraph 53. You were out living on the
19 streets?

20 A. Aha.

21 Q. And stealing to get by?

22 A. Yes.

23 Q. And you were arrested sometimes for that?

24 A. Yes.

25 Q. You tell us, in paragraph 54, that your parents died in

1 a car crash when you were 14-and-a-half?

2 A. Yes.

3 Q. And by that time your grandparents had passed away --

4 A. Yes.

5 Q. -- some years before. So there was nobody around,

6 really, for you, to look after you at that time?

7 A. No.

8 Q. Paragraph 55, we see that you are working in a paper

9 mill and trying to earn money to get by; is that right?

10 A. Aye.

11 Q. You ended up living with an older man, who you met

12 through that job?

13 A. He was [REDACTED].

14 Q. [REDACTED]. And he allowed you to stay with him?

15 A. Aye.

16 Q. But there was -- that was at a cost?

17 A. Aye.

18 Q. He wanted to sexually abuse you in return for you

19 staying there?

20 A. Aye, yes.

21 Q. I think, at paragraph 56, you tell us that you started

22 then breaking into places?

23 A. Aha.

24 Q. And you were trying to keep jobs, but you couldn't?

25 A. Yes. I was starting to become an addict by then. I was

1 starting to use drugs and alcohol by then.

2 Q. I think if we go over to page 11, you say that you were
3 about aged 15 by this point and you moved to Edinburgh.
4 Again, you are trying to hold down a job, but being
5 unsuccessful with that. I think you describe, at
6 paragraph 58, that you were taking a lot of drugs and
7 committing crimes?

8 A. Aye.

9 Q. At paragraph 59, you tell us that eventually you are
10 arrested for breaking into a dental surgery and you were
11 then convicted and sentenced at Edinburgh Sheriff Court,
12 and that was a sentence between nine-and-a-half months
13 to three years at borstal, in Polmont?

14 A. Aye.

15 Q. You tell us that your age at that point was about 16 or
16 17?

17 A. Aye.

18 Q. On this occasion, at paragraph 59, you tell us there
19 was -- you do remember a social worker, but that's not
20 somebody who had been involved before with you?

21 A. No.

22 Q. You first went to Saughton on remand, but then you ended
23 up in Polmont?

24 A. Yes.

25 Q. If we go over to the next page, I think you give us some

1 information about Polmont. We have that, and we have
2 heard some evidence about the set-up at Polmont. But,
3 if we can go to page 12, and your first day,
4 paragraph 63; you tell us there that on arrival you were
5 immediately made to strip off?

6 A. Aha.

7 Q. And given a uniform?

8 A. Yes.

9 Q. You are put into Douglas house?

10 A. Yes.

11 Q. You describe the atmosphere. I think you are talking
12 about shouting by the staff?

13 A. It was ruled on fear. Douglas house was ruled on fear.
14 Fear of the staff, fear of some of the boys, but most of
15 the staff were -- you were afraid of them. You were
16 shouted at, you were screamed at. I describe it as
17 being in the Marines without being in the Marines, just
18 being screamed at all the time and marched everywhere,
19 you know.

20 Q. Military regime?

21 A. And when you had to slop out in the morning, you had to
22 come out of your cells and stand and turn right to go to
23 the toilet and everybody slopped out at the time, and
24 all that stuff, you know? It was like a regime, being
25 in the army. I considered it, you know, watching the

1 films and that.

2 Q. You say, also, about this routine of having to make sure
3 your bed block was a particular way, and it had to be
4 perfect and measured by a stick?

5 A. Yes.

6 Q. If we go to paragraph 64, you tell us about the governor
7 coming to inspect your cell, but that staff would always
8 be standing nearby to listen in?

9 A. Yes.

10 Q. So you couldn't speak to the governor?

11 A. Yes.

12 Q. Go to paragraph 66. You tell us a little more about the
13 regime. You would go to the gym at 5.00 am?

14 A. Yes.

15 Q. You would have to slop out?

16 A. Yes.

17 Q. That's using the -- a bucket-type device at night --

18 A. Yes.

19 Q. -- to go to the toilet?

20 A. Yes.

21 Q. You tell us, though, that there was an issue about that
22 if you needed to go for a number two, that you would be
23 in trouble?

24 A. Aye.

25 Q. You would have to keep that until the morning?

1 A. Yes.

2 Q. Was there any reason given to you for that?

3 A. If you done it, you were ridiculed by staff and other
4 guys for doing that. You know what I mean, for doing
5 a number two in your pot or your bucket, you know. You
6 were ridiculed for it.

7 Q. You tell us a little bit more about the regime at
8 Polmont in the next few paragraphs and about the food
9 and the gym. And that you did actually, even at that
10 age -- if we go to paragraph 71 -- you still got some
11 schooling for half a day a week?

12 A. Aye.

13 Q. You describe it, though, as you "didn't pay much
14 attention to lessons as there was always staff
15 shouting"?

16 A. Aye.

17 Q. If we go over to page 14, you tell us, at paragraph 74,
18 that there was an admission to the hospital wing at some
19 point. Perhaps we can go to a later part of your
20 statement, where you tell us about what led to that.

21 If we can go down to page 16 and paragraph 88.

22 You say that you were in Douglas House when you
23 initially went to Polmont; is that right?

24 A. Sorry?

25 Q. You were in Douglas House when you initially went to

1 Polmont?

2 A. Yes.

3 Q. But then you are moved into dorms?

4 A. Mm hmm.

5 Q. Can you describe an incident, in paragraph 88, that
6 happened in the dorm? Are you able to tell us about
7 that?

8 A. The guy that was the hard man of the dorm picked on me
9 one night, and because of the anger I kept inside of me
10 I ended up beating the guy up. And I think it was the
11 next night, or a couple of nights later, I got dragged
12 out of my bed and was male raped and a broom handle
13 shoved up my anus. I think it was five or six guys, and
14 I was bleeding, next to the cracked ribs and I also
15 sustained a black eye and a cracked cheek bone.

16 I also seen them the next morning, and because of
17 the culture I was in I didn't grass anybody up. In that
18 culture you didn't do that. You just kept it to
19 yourself, you know. And they must have known what had
20 happened because they put me in the hospital wing and
21 inspected me and they got me through it.

22 I wouldn't tell them what had happened because
23 I just didn't want to do that. Then I was placed in the
24 hospital wing and then the treatment, and I was later
25 moved to a single cell in Stuart House, where I was put

1 in a single cell.

2 But I would still get shouted at. And the guys knew
3 what they had done and there was a lot of other stuff
4 going on. The guys were shouting at me and they knew
5 they had raped me and then they threatened me and stuff
6 like that, you know, to keep quiet.

7 Q. I think if we go back to -- you are talking about the
8 treatment. At paragraph 75, you tell us that you
9 wouldn't let anyone touch you until it started becoming
10 infectious?

11 A. Yes.

12 Q. And then they x-rayed you?

13 A. Yes.

14 Q. But you were of the view that the staff knew you had
15 been raped?

16 A. Yes.

17 Q. After that you say that you were in a single cell?

18 A. Yes.

19 Q. Kept away from the dormitory group?

20 A. Yes.

21 You could still see them. They were about the
22 borstal. You couldn't get away from them because they
23 were all in the borstal. In the borstal you couldn't
24 get hidden from them. Unless you actually went into
25 isolation, you couldn't get away from these guys, you

1 know.

2 Q. You went in, I think, at about 17; do you know roughly
3 the ages of these individuals?

4 A. About the same age, I suppose.

5 Maybe a bit older. I can't remember. It's that
6 long ago, I just -- you don't look at -- I just can't
7 remember what age they were, to be honest with you.

8 Q. Do you know how long you still had to go in Polmont when
9 that happened?

10 A. I done -- I'd done just under a year. I don't know how
11 long it was after that I got out.

12 What I did do, I spent a lot of the time working out
13 in the gym. And the rage in me, you know, I had a lot
14 of rage in me and fear, and I built on that stuff.
15 I was angry about it.

16 I didn't feel like a man anymore. I didn't feel
17 I was worth anything. To be honest with you, I didn't
18 want to live. I didn't want to live. I went through
19 that stuff and it was just ...

20 Q. It must have been a very terrifying experience.

21 A. I just ... I live it every day. I live that
22 experience -- for the last 50-odd years. I've lived
23 that, you know. I've tried to move on from it, but
24 I think about it. Not as much as I used to, but I think
25 about it sometimes and I just think I've changed.

1 That's what it was about, you know. Sometimes I still
2 think about it. I still, you know ...

3 Q. You say that you didn't want to live anymore. I think
4 if we go to paragraph 86, I think you talk about the
5 fact that you did try to harm yourself a couple of times
6 in Polmont.

7 A. Mm hmm.

8 Q. Was that after this incident?

9 A. Yes.

10 Q. Can you tell us anything about that? What you did?

11 A. I tried to hang myself.

12 Q. Okay. Was that in your single cell?

13 A. Aye. I didn't go through with it, because I'm still
14 here. I didn't go through with it, but I was going to
15 hang myself. I had it already to go, you know.

16 I just couldn't live with myself. I thought I was
17 dirty and a horrible man, a horrible boy, and I just
18 couldn't -- I found it hard to accept that had happened
19 to me, you know. And the misters, or the dossers is
20 what I really liked to call them. I had other names for
21 them at the time. But they knew it had happened and
22 nothing was ever done about it. I'm still angry about
23 that. I'm still angry about that stuff. You know,
24 these people knowing, that they didn't want to do
25 anything, you know.

1 It wasn't just me. There were other people that
2 happened to. I don't think there were any rapes, but I
3 know there were people assaulted in there, badly.

4 Q. I think you said that you didn't tell anyone at the
5 time. You didn't want to tell anyone what happened?

6 A. No.

7 Q. Or who had done it?

8 A. No.

9 Q. When was the first time you told anyone about that?

10 A. I started using drugs and alcohol quite heavily, and
11 I used a lot on my emotions, and I used a lot of the
12 stuff in my past. And my feelings, I used a lot to shut
13 the feelings down, and I think the first person I ever
14 told was a probation officer.

15 Q. Was that later in life?

16 A. Aye.

17 Q. When you were an adult?

18 A. Aye.

19 Q. As well as yourself feeling that way, I think you tell
20 us that there were some -- you knew of other boys who
21 tried to harm themselves and take their own lives when
22 they were in Polmont?

23 A. Yes.

24 Q. You say you were aware of a couple of deaths when you
25 were there?

1 A. Yes.

2 Q. These were things that you had heard about?

3 A. Yes.

4 Q. If we go to paragraph 89 of your statement, this is
5 where you tell us about going to the gym and building
6 yourself up after that incident and having the rage and
7 living in fear. But you say there that no one ever came
8 near you again after that?

9 A. No.

10 Q. I think you go on to say that you witnessed someone
11 being injured in one of the workshops, being hit over
12 the head with a metal bar?

13 A. Aye.

14 Q. That was a serious injury that led to this man ending up
15 in a wheelchair?

16 A. Yes.

17 Q. Someone was convicted for attempted murder?

18 A. Yes.

19 Q. That was something you saw happen?

20 A. Yes. It was in the metal workshop. We used to make
21 metal beds and the frames of the beds. That guy --
22 I think he was -- I think he was saving money for
23 tobacco -- or tobacco, he was getting (inaudible) and
24 whatever was happening. And he hit the guy over the
25 head two or three times with this metal bar and the guy

1 just collapsed and, next minute, he was getting carried
2 out and he never came back. I heard later that he ended
3 up in a wheelchair for the rest of his life.

4 Q. I think you comment there that you were brought up to
5 keep your mouth shut?

6 A. Aye.

7 Q. Was that the kind of culture when you were in Balrossie
8 and Polmont?

9 A. Yes.

10 Q. You didn't --

11 A. You didn't say anything.

12 Q. -- grass on anyone?

13 A. No.

14 Q. I think again, at paragraph 91, you tell us that there
15 was a Glasgow gang culture that dominated the place?

16 A. Aye.

17 Q. You had to constantly watch your back?

18 A. Aye.

19 Q. At paragraph 92, you say there was sexual abuse that
20 took place in the bathrooms between the boys?

21 A. Yes.

22 Q. Was that in the shared shower area?

23 A. Yes.

24 Q. What type of abuse?

25 A. Just normal sexual abuse. It's not normal, but the same

1 stuff that went on at Polmont, at Balrossie, the
2 masturbation and the sucking of the penises, you know.
3 LADY SMITH: I think you said, just like at Balrossie; was
4 that it?
5 A. Aye.
6 MS FORBES: You say as well that that is something that
7 happened to you.
8 A. Aye.
9 Q. And you say it was a couple of times that that happened?
10 A. Aye, yes.
11 Q. Did that involve any of the people that you've already
12 told us about --
13 A. No.
14 Q. -- or was it somebody different?
15 A. Different people.
16 Q. Was it the same person or different people each time?
17 A. Same people.
18 Q. Do you want to tell us anything more about that?
19 A. No.
20 Q. You don't have to.
21 A. No.
22 Q. If we go to paragraph 93, you say that there were a lot
23 of traumas in Polmont with kids being stabbed with
24 scissors and the like?
25 A. Mm hmm.

1 Q. That's --

2 A. And that happened in the textile shop quite often.

3 You'd find somebody'd had an argument and the next thing

4 the scissors come out and somebody gets stabbed.

5 Q. If we go to paragraph 95, over the page, you tell us

6 that you didn't suffer any assault by staff, but you did

7 see staff using what you describe as "choke holds" to

8 put the kids to the floor to restrain them?

9 A. Yes.

10 Q. When you say "kids" --

11 A. Young adults.

12 Q. People the same age as you or younger?

13 A. About the same age as me I suppose. A little bit older.

14 Q. That was to restrain them?

15 A. Yes.

16 Q. You say it was sometimes up to five members of staff to

17 restrain one individual?

18 A. Yes. If somebody pressed the alarm button -- there used

19 to be alarm buttons around the workshops or around the

20 walls, and if somebody hit that and something went off

21 in the workshop, the riot squad would come in and just

22 pile in on everybody and there would be bodies -- grown

23 men jumping on young guys, you know, and pinning them

24 down.

25 Q. I think you said that when that happened there would be

1 a lockdown then?

2 A. Yes.

3 Q. Everyone would be banging and shouting?

4 A. Yes.

5 Q. And shouting abuse from their cells; the dormitories or
6 individual cells?

7 A. The cells.

8 Q. Then the person involved would be put into what you have
9 described as a "padded cell"?

10 A. Yes, which I myself was in.

11 Q. There is a part of your statement that I think you talk
12 about that. Just before we go there, at paragraph 96,
13 you talk about liquid valium being administered?

14 A. We used to call it "liquid cosh" to keep people calm.
15 Some of the guys would get the liquid cosh because they
16 were kicking off all the time and they just -- they
17 liked valium as if it was going out of fashion; you know
18 what I mean? It just -- keep them calm.

19 Q. Did you see that happen?

20 A. Aye.

21 Q. Did it ever happen to you?

22 A. Aye.

23 Q. How often did things like that happen?

24 A. Every day.

25 Q. If we just go back slightly to paragraph 85, this is

1 where you talk about the separate cell that people would
2 be sent to. You say that if you got into trouble for
3 something like fighting you could be sent to the
4 "block", as you called it, and they were separate cells
5 that were downstairs?

6 A. Yes.

7 Q. You have described that. It was -- it wasn't a bed, it
8 was just a mattress on the floor.

9 A. A mattress on the floor.

10 Q. And a slop bucket for going to the toilet?

11 A. Yes.

12 Q. You would have an hour of exercise in the block; was
13 that a separate exercise area?

14 A. Yes.

15 Q. Separate from the main part of Polmont?

16 A. Yes.

17 Q. And that was all you really had to do because there were
18 no books or anything in the cell?

19 A. Aye.

20 LADY SMITH: How long would you be sent there for?

21 A. That depends, ma'am. It depends -- between seven and
22 14 days sometimes, until they -- they could only give
23 you that length of time because of the Visiting
24 Committee. There used to be a Visiting Committee came
25 in who were prominent members of the community -- would

1 come in, the Visiting Committee come in, and they could
2 send you to 28 days. But the governor could only send
3 you for 14 days, but the VP would come in -- send --
4 they could send you for longer.

5 LADY SMITH: Thank you.

6 MS FORBES: If we go back to paragraph 78, we can see
7 a little bit about what you tell us about the Visiting
8 Committee. You say these were people who came from
9 outside to listen to evidence and preside over
10 a discipline-type court.

11 A. Yes.

12 Q. At 79, you say you were given 28 days by them at one
13 point for something you'd done?

14 A. Yes.

15 Q. You explain that the governor could give you 14 days
16 maximum?

17 A. Aha.

18 Q. But the Visiting Committee could sentence to longer in
19 the block?

20 A. Yes.

21 Q. I think, at paragraph 79, you say you were never ever
22 found not guilty. Anyone who went before that, the
23 outcome was already known. It was going to be guilty.

24 A. Anybody went before the governor for any offence was
25 found guilty. There was no ifs or buts in that. You

1 just got found guilty, because the regime was that you
2 were guilty. You could never prove yourself innocent.
3 You knew before you went before the governor you would
4 get found guilty, whatever it was.

5 Q. You say you would go before the Visiting Committee
6 before release and that was in a separate room at
7 Polmont?

8 A. Yes.

9 Q. If we go to 97, this is when you tell us when you went,
10 at the age of 17, before the Visiting Committee and you
11 were discharged from Polmont. So that was the process
12 before you left?

13 A. Aye.

14 Q. I think you go on then to tell us in the subsequent
15 paragraphs about your life after care. We have that and
16 we've read it, and I'm not going through it all in
17 detail, but I'm just going to go to certain parts.

18 I think just after you got out of Polmont you ended
19 up back in Saughton Prison on a short sentence of about
20 three months, that is paragraph 100.

21 A. Yes.

22 Q. Then, again, you were trying to find work and someone
23 said to you: go to London, that might be a good idea.

24 So that's where you ended up. But, it's fair to
25 say, alcohol and drugs really took hold of your life at

1 that point?

2 A. I ended up as a rent boy, selling myself to get alcohol
3 and drugs round Piccadilly and Soho in London.

4 Q. Ultimately, I think you tell us at paragraph 104, you
5 ended up -- things got so bad you ended up going to
6 Cornwall.

7 A. I was asked to leave London because I was going to get
8 shot. I had got myself into that much trouble in
9 London. I ripped off the wrong guy and I was told if
10 I didn't get out of London I was going to get shot, so
11 I moved to Cornwall.

12 Q. You ended up at various different places after that, and
13 in and out of prison a little bit as well?

14 A. Yes.

15 Q. You tell us that there was drug overdoses and you nearly
16 died on more than one occasion?

17 A. Yes.

18 Q. I think that led ultimately, you tell us at
19 paragraph 109 and later on, you ended up being sectioned
20 twice; is that right?

21 A. Yes.

22 Q. You were trying to get things together and went to
23 Narcotics Anonymous?

24 A. Yes.

25 Q. Trying to do the 12-step programme?

1 A. We can go back to that, because I actually -- I come out
2 of jail. I was on remand and I got what they call in
3 England -- I think it's High Court bail you get here,
4 but, in England, it's Crown Court. You go to Crown
5 Court for bail. And I never had bail in my life, but
6 this solicitor actually got me bail and I went to
7 a place called Meneghy House, which was the first time
8 a guy called John Cousins seen a bit of light in me. He
9 seen something in me I never seen in myself, and the guy
10 got me -- got me -- I went to the drug treatment centre.
11 The drugs team had just started at the time and I was
12 asked to go to the drugs team and I was getting -- what
13 was it? Dexamphetamine and all sorts, downers and
14 uppers from the drugs team. And I overdosed.

15 I came out and then I went to hospital for 28-day
16 section.

17 And then I end up in Cloud's House in Wiltshire, in
18 1991, and I came out and I relapsed again. And last
19 time I relapsed was 12 May 1992 and I died three times
20 on the way to hospital, once in my bedsit and twice on
21 the way to hospital. And that's the last time I ever
22 picked up.

23 And then I got involved in -- I moved from Cornwall
24 to Gloucestershire and I got involved in Narcotics
25 Anonymous and I've stayed clean ever since.

1 I'm 31 years clean this year.

2 Q. That is 1992? You have been clean?

3 A. Mm hmm.

4 Q. I think you ended up meeting someone and having

5 a daughter and ultimately ended up with custody of her

6 and moving back to Cornwall?

7 A. Yes.

8 Q. If we go to paragraph 112, you tell us that there was

9 a time when you were working with a multi-agency working

10 group down in England and you were forming that with the

11 local police and you went into schools and told your

12 story to senior children?

13 A. Mm hmm.

14 Q. And spoke to local agencies as well?

15 A. Yes.

16 Q. If we go to paragraph 115, you tell us that after you

17 moved back to Cornwall with your daughter you met your

18 wife and married in 2008?

19 A. Yes.

20 Q. You got a degree in drug and alcohol counselling?

21 A. Yes.

22 Q. You have worked in a number of front-line community

23 counselling-type roles since then?

24 A. Yes.

25 Q. That included the Probation Service?

1 A. Yes. And looking after sex offenders in the community,
2 funny enough.

3 Q. Having done your degree and been involved in that; how
4 did you feel being able to be part of someone's
5 recovery?

6 A. Because I work a 12-step programme, I have -- I sponsor
7 people in the fellowship, which means I'm a mentor,
8 I take people through the 12 steps. And it helps me and
9 it helps them.

10 But the 12-step programme is designed to help
11 others, you know. I go to meetings, still, three times
12 a week. When I've been up here -- I've been to two
13 meetings since I've been up here. Gary, my friend here,
14 he's helped me since I've come up and, you know, it's
15 helped me get through some of the stuff I've been
16 through. It's amazing.

17 Q. I think you say that you have stepped away now and
18 you're gardening?

19 A. I retired. Believe it or not, the Scottish Government
20 helped me retire. I retired about three months ago.

21 I'm 71 years of age, and I've a life today that is
22 away beyond the life I had. I've got a life today which
23 is beyond my wildest dreams, if you like. That stuff in
24 the past, I've accepted it. I can't get away from it.
25 I have forgiven the people that abused me, because

1 that's part of my programme. Because if I live with
2 that stuff in my head all the time, I will use again.

3 I have a loving wife, who is not an addict or
4 alcoholic. She is just who she is. I've got my dogs.
5 I go to the beach every day with my dogs. I go on
6 holidays. After this, today, I'm flying out to America
7 on Tuesday to go and see my sponsor.

8 So my life has changed, but it's not been easy.

9 Q. I think, at paragraph 118, you tell us that your trouble
10 with drugs and alcohol and that lifestyle, you attribute
11 that to your experiences in Balrossie and the other --
12 and Polmont?

13 A. And my parents. And the people that abused me. It all
14 stems from -- when I done my degree, part of my degree
15 was to look at [REDACTED]

16 [REDACTED]
17 I've had to find place for forgiveness for my parents,
18 and for everybody else who has abused me, because if
19 I didn't do that I couldn't forgive myself. Because I
20 have to take some part in that somewhere along the line.
21 Although I was a child, I have to take some -- maybe
22 being the bad boy [REDACTED] was part of that, but
23 I don't see myself as that today.

24 I see myself as a stand-up member of the community,
25 who tries to help people.

1 When I worked for the Probation Service -- I went
2 back and worked for the drugs team that put me in the
3 treatment and went back to work at the hostel. And
4 I was talking to Gary about it today, that I had a phone
5 call from the Home Office who wanted to ask me to look
6 after sex offenders in the community, and I did that.

7 And that was hard, but I did it because I needed
8 some healing. And if I could stop them re-offending, or
9 help them stop re-offending, that was part of my healing
10 process. It wasn't going to happen to somebody else if
11 I could help it, you know.

12 Q. With that in mind, you have told us about some lessons
13 that you think should be learned. If we can go to
14 paragraph 123, I think you tell us that you think there
15 should be more involvement with the process before
16 children are presented at court and that courts
17 shouldn't be sending little boys away?

18 A. Mm hmm.

19 Q. You feel the system let you down?

20 A. Yes.

21 Q. At 125, you say that staff need to be trained to stop
22 bullying and being abusive in a system that, back in the
23 day, protected them?

24 A. Yes. And I still think that goes on today. I still
25 think that goes on in young offenders institutions

1 today.

2 Q. If we go to 128, over to page 22, you say there that you
3 feel like once you had entered the Approved School,
4 borstal system, you felt you didn't have a chance?

5 A. No.

6 Q. You tell us that that's when you feel that your life
7 spiralled into chaos?

8 A. Yes.

9 MS FORBES: I don't have any more questions for you, Tam.

10 A. Thank you.

11 LADY SMITH: Thank you.

12 Tam, thank you so much for engaging with us, as you
13 have done. It can't have been easy. It's hard to find
14 words to explain the recognition that I have -- I know
15 the team have -- of what you have had to do and cope
16 with to go back to these terrible times in your life and
17 share them with us for our work. I'm really grateful to
18 you for doing that, because you have added to our
19 learning enormously.

20 Don't underestimate the impact just coming here
21 today will have had on you. I'm glad to see you have
22 a friend with you. I hope you are able to get some rest
23 and respite before you fly off next week and that that
24 trip goes really well?

25 A. Thank you.

1 LADY SMITH: I am able to let you go now.

2 A. Thank you.

3 (The witness withdrew).

4 LADY SMITH: Ms Forbes, what next?

5 MS FORBES: The plan is, my Lady, for several read-ins.

6 I'm not sure if this would be a good time to take the

7 break.

8 LADY SMITH: We'll take short break now and we could go on

9 to the read-ins. Let's do that. Thank you.

10 (2.48 pm)

11 (A short break)

12 (2.59 pm)

13 LADY SMITH: Ms Rattray.

14 MS RATTRAY: Yes, my Lady. This is the first of the

15 read-ins from applicants. On this occasion, while we

16 will make reference to the lead in and the context of

17 an applicant living in one of the Scottish Prison

18 Services' establishments, we won't actually be reading

19 out those parts of the statements, even where that might

20 form part of chapters later on in this case study, if

21 that makes sense?

22 LADY SMITH: Yes. It will probably make more sense once we

23 start reading. Thank you.

24 MS RATTRAY: Yes.

25 My Lady, the first statement is a statement of

1 an applicant who is anonymous and has the pseudonym
2 'Bertie'.

3 'Bertie's' statement at WIT.001.001.5008.

4 I understand that sadly since giving his evidence to
5 the Inquiry, 'Bertie' has passed away.

6 'Bertie' (read)

7 MS RATTRAY: "My name is 'Bertie'. I was born in 1950. My
8 contact details are known to the Inquiry."

9 From paragraph 2, 'Bertie' speaks of his life before
10 care. He was bought up in the tenements of Glasgow,
11 where he lived with his parents and seven siblings. One
12 of his younger sisters died at the age of 14 months.
13 There was a background of poverty. His father was
14 a labourer who worked and drank hard. 'Bertie' said
15 that both his parents liked a good drink, but there was
16 love in the house.

17 The children were brought up in the Catholic faith,
18 which 'Bertie' says he still follows. From the age of
19 12, 'Bertie' started to get into a bit of bother. The
20 family moved to Blackhill, where there was a gang
21 culture. He and others committed minor crimes and
22 carried weapons.

23 At the age of 10 or 12, 'Bertie' was admitted to
24 Langbank for about two weeks. This was a Catholic
25 residential school. Secondary Institutions - to be published later

1

2

3

4

When 'Bertie' returned home he went back to his gang. He carried weapons, like a knife. He said that he detests all that now.

7

In 1964, at the age of 14, he was arrested for stealing scrap metal. He was sent to Larchgrove Assessment Centre and then to an Approved School, which was St Mary's in Bishopbriggs.

10

11

From paragraphs 31 to 44, 'Bertie' speaks about his time at Larchgrove, where he was aware of boys being physically abused and suspected that others were sexually abused.

14

15

From paragraphs 45 to 96, 'Bertie' describes his experiences at St Mary's Bishopbriggs, where he suffered physical abuse. He also believed that other boys were sexually abused by staff. He left St Mary's when he was aged 15 or 16, but his experiences drove him to drink.

19

20

He said he was getting drunk, getting into bother with gangs, and he ended up in Polmont.

21

22

Moving now to paragraph 103, on page 13:

23

"I was in Polmont for only about two weeks for social reports after an attempted car theft. I was about 17. I was put on a constant watch because of

25

1 being an escape risk at St Mary's. That was changed by
2 the head at Polmont.

3 "I used to get visits there from my girlfriend at
4 the time and my family and my brother-in-law. They used
5 to come up and see me.

6 "It was very bad in Polmont and the wardens gave me
7 a hard time. I got a do-in from two or three of them
8 for giving them my full name, then saying my father's
9 name was the same as mine. They thought I was being the
10 fly man and really set about me.

11 "I was punched and kicked all over and I remember my
12 stomach, it was bad. They hit me with everything.
13 Three big men and just me. I don't know any of their
14 names.

15 "I remember one time a visitor at Polmont brought me
16 some cigarettes. I saved some cigarettes from the visit
17 and took them back to my cell and put them in my tin.
18 I must have been spotted. The wardens belted me and
19 punched me for that. I had dumped the fags, so they
20 didn't find a thing. They were just proving a point
21 about who the bosses were.

22 "I got the beatings from staff in there just for my
23 attitude. That happened all the time in there. I would
24 have been in adolescence, but I was punished like I was
25 an adult.

1 "I was never really evil, it was all just hijinks.
2 I was very lucky, as I was one of the few that got
3 a grip of myself. When I was in there, I decided
4 I didn't want that life.

5 "After Polmont, I got work and eventually joined the
6 Army and I was never in bother again.

7 "There was no reporting of the abuse at any places
8 I stayed. You were too scared to say a word. You
9 didn't know what might happen to you."

10 From paragraph 112 'Bertie' speaks of his life after
11 care and impact. He joined the Army and met his wife,
12 who he says is really his whole point in living.

13 'Bertie' describes the impact his life in care had on
14 his physical and especially his mental health. He was
15 an alcoholic, but, when he signed a statement in 2017,
16 said that he had not had a drink for 34 years.

17 In the context of impact, on page 18, at
18 paragraph 136, 'Bertie' mentions Polmont, and he says:

19 "I hate going into a room with a heavy door and it's
20 locked and I've got a pure, pure fear of ever going into
21 a cell again. That's a real fear for me. That's from
22 the cells at Polmont. That's what that place done to
23 me."

24 I now move to paragraph 158, on page 20, where at
25 "Lessons to be learned" 'Bertie' says:

1 "If I look at all the experiences I went through and
2 look at it sensibly, it was for my own good. The fact
3 is I was a very small-time crook, who didn't really want
4 to do all that stuff. I suffered that way, but then
5 I joined the Army and it changed me completely. It
6 changed my outlook on life completely."

7 Now to paragraph 162, on page 21:

8 "I've no objection to my witness statement being
9 published as part of the evidence to the Inquiry.
10 I believe the facts stated in this witness statement are
11 true."

12 And 'Bertie' signed his statement on
13 31 October 2017.

14 LADY SMITH: Thank you.

15 MS RATTRAY: My Lady, next read-in is also from an applicant
16 who is anonymous and has the pseudonym 'Peter' and
17 'Peter's' statement is at WIT.001.001.6317.

18 'Peter' (read)

19 MS RATTRAY: My name is 'Peter'. I was born in 1952. My
20 contact details are known to the Inquiry.

21 From paragraph 2 'Peter' speaks of his life before
22 care. He says the circumstances at home with his mother
23 and siblings was dreadful. His mother had a lot of
24 problems and kept getting evicted, because she was
25 an antisocial person. 'Peter' says that according to

1 his records recommendations were made for him to be put
2 into care.

3 He has memories of living in two children's homes.
4 He says he was age 7 or 8 when he was placed in
5 Craigielea Children's Home, Aberdeen. Secondary Institutions - to be publis

6 Secondary Institutions - to be published later

7
8 Secondary Peter' says he was in Linn Moor Children's Home,
9 Peterculter, when he was about nine years. Secondary Institutions - to b

10 Secondary Institutions - to be published later

11
12
13 When he was aged ten, he went back to his mother.
14 He says he doesn't know why things escalated in terms of
15 his bad behaviour. He was stealing. He broke into
16 a toy stop. He said that he and his brother were quite
17 feral. He ended up in a juvenile court and was placed
18 in a remand home until he was sentenced.

19 From paragraphs 33 to 39, 'Peter' tells of the time
20 he spent in Kaimhill Remand Home. Secondary Institutions - to be published late

21 Secondary Institutions - to be published later

22
23 'Peter' says he was recommended for foster care.
24 However, as he was considered a high risk of absconding
25 he was sentenced to Balrossie List D school, in

1 Kilmacolm.

2 From paragraphs 40 to 94, 'Peter' recounts his
3 experiences at Balrossie, where he tells of suffering
4 sexual and physical abuse. He lived in fear.

5 At the age of 14, he was released back to the care
6 of his mother in Aberdeen.

7 Moving now to paragraph 95, on page 18, where
8 'Peter' speaks of his life at home before being sent to
9 Polmont borstal:

10 "I think I had a wee bit of a stable time back at
11 home. I went to school. One of the stipulations of my
12 release was that I had to go to Frederick Street School,
13 which was a ten or 15-minute walk from my house in
14 Aberdeen. It was a secondary school, which I went to
15 for about a year or so. It was lovely. They had
16 an annex for people like me, who were either disruptive
17 or couldn't do the work. I know I wasn't disruptive,
18 but I fell into that category because I had no
19 education.

20 "There was a separate queue for children going into
21 the annex in the morning, so you were segregated in the
22 playground. This meant that you were stigmatised
23 straightaway.

24 "There was a place called Castle Gate, where traders
25 went on a Friday morning and I helped a man sell

1 curtains and materials there for a few months. I would
2 go back after I finished school and help him load his
3 van up. He'd give me two shillings for it, which was
4 a decent amount of money. When the circus would come to
5 town, I'd go down and get a job with them.

6 "I used to steal food from the bakers in the morning
7 because I wasn't getting fed at home. I was still
8 feral. I had no respect for myself or anybody else. It
9 was a downward spiral for me. Bringing someone up in
10 the care system in the way that I was, made it
11 inevitable that I wouldn't have any respect for
12 anything. Whenever someone was nice to me, I wondered
13 why and thought they had an ulterior motive.

14 "I ended up in Polmont Borstal when I was
15 17-and-a-half or 18 years old. Nobody wanted to go
16 there. When you first go into a borstal you are sent to
17 an allocation centre to be assessed as to what type of
18 person you are, which determines where you will be
19 placed. They decided to put me in a dormitory. I asked
20 them not to because I knew it would be trouble.

21 "When you first went into the borstal, you were
22 given a red striped shirt. When you were given a
23 liberation date, you got a blue striped shirt. That
24 could be taken off you if you stepped out of line and
25 you'd be back in the red top.

1 "All of your clothes would be taken off you at night
2 and left outside the dormitory and they'd lock the door
3 from the outside. I decided to escape one night and
4 managed to keep some clothes back. I got caught and was
5 physically thrown into a room in front of the man who
6 ran the allocation centre. I was physically thrown
7 about three or four times, which they thought was
8 acceptable because I was their property. I was given
9 14 days of solitary confinement in the north wing as
10 punishment. This was not a wing you wanted to go to.
11 The cells for solitary confinement were down the back
12 stairs and at the end of a hall.

13 "There was no communication in solitary confinement.
14 During the day, they had us around a table breaking up
15 telephones. We were not allowed to speak to anyone.
16 Meals were sent down and you had to eat those in
17 silence, and then wash your dishes in silence. You
18 would be told when to go back to your cell.

19 "When you got back to your cell, your clothes would
20 be taken off you for the night and you'd be given
21 a blanket. There was no bed. I think there was maybe
22 a thin mattress on the ground. I was told that I had to
23 stand to attention if anybody came to the door. For the
24 first five or to seven days, somebody would come to the
25 door early in the morning. As soon as I heard the key

1 in the door, I'd stand to attention and then two guards
2 would come in and beat me up while I was naked. They
3 used their hands and the blows were to my body. The
4 beatings were horrible, but they were worse because
5 I was naked. I don't recall their names, but one of
6 them looked Mexican with jet black hair and a long
7 moustache.

8 "On the last few days in solitary, someone came to
9 the door and put the key in the door, so I would stand
10 to attention. Then nobody would come in. I think they
11 were playing mind games with me.

12 "When I got out of solitary confinement, I was put
13 into a cell in the north wing. You had to make bed
14 locks every day. Things were very regimented and had to
15 be done in a particular way. Your room would be checked
16 and inspected every day. If you didn't meet their
17 standard, they reduced the value of money you could
18 spend in the canteen. You might even end up with no
19 money at all. It was a horror story in the north wing
20 with inmates fighting with each other.

21 "Meals were served on the wing. They came around to
22 us with food in heated containers. It was like being in
23 hospital. They would serve the food through a hatch
24 from a small kitchen. The food was lovely to me because
25 I don't think I ever got a hot meal from my mother.

1 Getting anything to eat was a bonus to me, so I never
2 thought about whether the food was good, bad or
3 indifferent.

4 "I was sent to work in the textiles department and
5 learned how to operate a sewing machine. I would make
6 clothing for other prisoners. It kept me busy during
7 the day. I tried to keep my head down and do as I was
8 told because I wanted my liberation date. It was hard
9 not knowing how long you would be kept in for.

10 "The staff would make you come into their staff room
11 and make you wriggle on the ground like a snake.
12 I think that was for their entertainment. They would
13 have a good laugh about it. Then they would give you
14 a cigarette or a biscuit because you never got anything
15 like that. If you were willing to perform for them, it
16 made life a bit easier for you. They were the ones who
17 drafted the report about whether you were ready to leave
18 the borstal and if you would get a liberation date. It
19 was easier to do what they asked you to if you wanted to
20 get out.

21 "When you are sent to borstal, you are sent in for
22 borstal training and they decide how long you will stay
23 there. When I first went in there, people were being
24 released after eight or nine months. I spent 18 months
25 in there because I attempted to abscond once. I was

1 also kept in the building itself for the rest of my time
2 there as a punish. I wasn't let out while other people
3 were being sent to open borstals. This was on top of
4 the 14 days of solitary confinement that I got as
5 a punishment for absconding.

6 "There was a man in the gymnasium who would make us
7 all hang from the wall bars. He would then walk along
8 and punch whoever he wanted to punch while they hung
9 from the bars. I never experienced it, but I saw it
10 happening. He would punch people in the stomach area.
11 I was lucky that I didn't get punched.

12 "I was 19 years old, I think, when I left the
13 borstal."

14 From paragraph 111, 'Peter' speaks of his life after
15 care and the impact his whole care experience have had
16 upon him.

17 Moving now to paragraph 146, on page 28:

18 "I have no objection to my witness statement being
19 published as part the evidence to the Inquiry.

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

22 'Peter' signed his statement on 12 June 2017.

23 LADY SMITH: Thank you.

24 MS RATTRAY: My Lady, I will hand over to Ms Forbes.

25 LADY SMITH: Thank you. Ms Forbes, whenever you are ready.

1 MS FORBES: My Lady, this next statement is from
2 an applicant who is anonymous and his pseudonym is
3 'Stuart'. His reference -- statement reference is
4 WIT-1-000001138.

5 Again, I will provide a summary, my Lady, of his
6 life before care and some of the other establishments he
7 was in prior to the Scottish Prison Service, just to
8 provide some context, but that evidence will be given at
9 a later date.

10 LADY SMITH: Thank you.

11 'Stuart' (read)

12 MS FORBES: Stuart was born in 1953. He tells us about his
13 life before going into care between paragraphs 2 to 16
14 of his statement. He tells us, at paragraph 2, that he
15 was brought up in Maryhill, Glasgow and lived with his
16 mother and father. His father was in the RAF and then
17 worked shifts at a paper mill and his mum worked at
18 a big industrial laundry.

19 At paragraphs 3 to 4, he talks about suffering
20 physical abuse from his mother on a regular basis and
21 for insignificant things. This included beating him up
22 outside school in front of everyone, stripping him naked
23 at home and whipping him with a strap and scrubbing him
24 in the kitchen sink.

25 At paragraphs 10 and 11, he talks about getting

1 involved in stealing and getting in trouble with the
2 police from the age of about eight. One incident was
3 for ripping the tar off an abandoned roof and for
4 painting an outside wall with paint he and his friend
5 found.

6 It says that the police caught him and his friend
7 and physically assaulted them and his mum's attitude was
8 that they must have deserved it.

9 At paragraph 12, page 3, he states that when he
10 turned 13 they moved to another part of Glasgow and he
11 stayed out late at one time and when he got home he was
12 set about by his father.

13 At paragraphs 14 and 15, he tells us he was sent on
14 occasions to two different aunties to stay and each time
15 he would have to change secondary schools.

16 Over to page 4, paragraph 16. He tells us he was
17 caught stealing at about 13 and received 28 days at
18 Larchgrove Remand Home from Patrick Marine Magistrates'
19 Court. There was no social work involvement prior to
20 that. The police charged him and he was summoned to go
21 to court.

22 Between paragraphs 17 and 46, 'Stuart' tells us
23 about his time at Larchgrove. By way of a summary, he
24 experienced the following:

25 Corporal punishment in the form of the tawse on the

1 hands. That is at paragraph 40.

2 Physical assaults by the staff on a daily basis.
3 That is at paragraphs 42 and 43. And again in that
4 paragraph he describes living in constant fear and with
5 no compassion of any kind being shown.

6 At paragraph 46, he talks about after the first
7 28 days at Larchgrove he then want back to live with his
8 mother and father. At this time he was 14. He wanted
9 to get money by any means and was caught stealing again.
10 He went back to Larchgrove again and it was as if he'd
11 never left.

12 He was then sentenced to three years at Loaningdale
13 Approved School in Biggar, and between paragraphs 47 and
14 58, 'Stuart' tells us about his time at Loaningdale.

15 He had a very positive experience at Loaningdale.
16 He states there were no locked doors and there was big
17 grounds; that is paragraph 47.

18 He had the impression that the teachers all cared
19 and had compassion, at paragraph 48. Again in that
20 paragraph, he says he felt:

21 "The people there wanted to get you back into
22 society and on the right track."

23 He tells us that there was no discipline at
24 Loaningdale in the form of anything physical. That's
25 paragraph 53. There was no bullying.

1 After a few weeks at Loaningdale, he broke into the
2 local Co-op and caught by the police and taken to Lanark
3 Sheriff Court, at paragraph 54. He was admonished for
4 that, but he was recommitted to a different Approved
5 School, Thornly Park. He talks about his regret about
6 that, given his experience at Loaningdale.

7 'Stuart' then tells us about his time at
8 Thornly Park school between paragraphs 59 and 112 of his
9 statement. In summary, he tells us, at paragraph 61,
10 that the boys there were aged between 12 and 14 and it
11 was like an intermediate school. He witnessed verbal
12 abuse, sexual abuse and physical assaults. That is
13 paragraph 69.

14 Bullying by other boys, at paragraph 90. He was
15 disciplined for running away, held down and belted with
16 the tawse over the backside, at paragraph 102. He
17 experienced emotional abuse from staff. He talks about
18 that at paragraphs 105 and 106.

19 He witnessed sexual assault by staff on another boy,
20 at paragraph 107. He talks about an inappropriate group
21 punishment, at paragraph 108. He was at Thornly Park
22 for about 18 months and when he left he went back again
23 to live with his mum. That is paragraph 109.

24 When he left Thornly Park he was 16 and he got a job
25 in a supermarket as a store boy. That is paragraph 110.

1 If I could then pick up 'Stuart's' statement from
2 paragraph 112, when he now goes on to tell us about his
3 time at Longriggend, Glenochil and Barlinnie:

4 "I was supposed to go and see an aftercare officer,
5 but I didn't like him. I stayed in Ruchill and he
6 stayed in Possil. Going from Ruchill into Possil as
7 a 16-year-old boy was very much frowned upon. It was
8 the gang fighting days. I only went to see him once.
9 I don't remember his name. I did see him in
10 Thornly Park one night a week in the dining hall. He
11 must have had to report there. Nothing happened to me
12 because I didn't go back. He was just a chancer with
13 a job. I think he just asked how I was getting on.

14 "Not long after I left Thornly Park, I got done for
15 stealing scrap metal out of an old building. I went to
16 court and pleaded guilty and got two weeks in
17 Longriggend Remand Unit for reports.

18 "It was all boys in Longriggend from about
19 16-years-old to about 20-years-old. There were easily
20 200 of us. It was like a jail with all single cells.
21 I don't remember much about the staff there or who was
22 in charge. You weren't allowed to interact with them
23 anyway as your peers would set about you, thinking you
24 were a grass. I met one boy from Thornly Park in there
25 and I would talk to him on exercise, but no one else.

1 "I don't remember what I wore or anything like that.
2 I wasn't in the right frame of mind to remember much
3 there. It was them and us, and I was against all
4 authority now. It had all come from all my other
5 experiences. I was just anti-authority and totally off
6 the rails. It was as if you weren't allowed to think
7 for yourself. They did all the thinking for you and
8 there were no questions to be asked or you got battered.

9 "We were in our cells all the time at Longriggend.
10 We got an hour exercise a day where we could walk around
11 a big yard. We were then allowed out for three meals a
12 day and that was it.

13 "The rules were you weren't allowed to look out of
14 your window and you weren't allowed to sit or lie on
15 your bed. You just had to sit at your table. If they
16 found you lying on your bed they would come in and kick
17 you all about the cell. There was a guy called GUA
18 GUA who was an officer there and he was brutal.
19 Anyone who was in Longriggend remembers GUA. You
20 got battered regularly by the staff. They would punch
21 you all over your body and you would be bruised after.
22 You just took it as part of being in there. You never
23 questioned these things or spoke to anyone about it.
24 You never fought back. You were terrified. There were
25 always two or three of them and they were big guys. The

1 officers never came into your cell themselves.

2 "Your room was inspected on a Sunday and if it was
3 dirty you would get battered as well. They even had
4 a padded cell in there, but I was never in it. I just
5 saw it when I walked past. I never heard of anyone
6 being in it. I dare say other things did happen, but
7 with me it never did. I remember people talking about
8 being put in the digger, but I never was.

9 "I had a friend who had a similar name to someone
10 who had tied up an officer and escaped from Longriggend.
11 When we went in there he got a really hard time of it as
12 they thought he was the same guy."

13 He gives the details of the other guy's name:

14 "I had met my future wife by this point and she was
15 coming up to visit me every other day. I went back to
16 court after two weeks and was given three months at
17 Glenochil. I didn't ever see any reports. I think they
18 just said I was fit mentally and physically for
19 detention and then the nightmare started.

20 "I never had any social workers. It wasn't always
21 guaranteed you would get sent to a detention centre
22 after reports. Some judges gave people a chance and
23 they got two years' probation. I knew I was going to
24 a detention because of my previous convictions."

25 Moving on to Glenochil:

1 "Therere were three wings at Glenochil. I don't think
2 they had names. I can't remember. Glenochil was on two
3 levels and it was all single cells.

4 "I don't remember the governor's name. I just
5 remember he was a rat. I remember an officer called
6 KGA and another one called KFL. There was also
7 a Dr zHEF who was a pervert.

8 "CID officers took me to Glenochil from Glasgow
9 Sheriff Court. They kept saying I thought I was a big
10 man and I would get sorted out in Glenochil. I thought
11 it couldn't be any worse than the places I had already
12 been.

13 "I was taken into reception when I arrived and
14 someone signed for me and then the CID left. I was told
15 by the officer at reception that every time I past
16 an officer I had to say, 'Excuse me, sir'. He then gave
17 me some clothes and told me to go into this room and get
18 changed. As I walked in he punched me on the body and
19 I was doubled up. He then told me to get in the room
20 again about four or five times and each time I went to
21 go he punched me to the body. He then said, 'Did I not
22 tell you to say, 'excuse me, sir', every time you walked
23 past an officer?' He asked if he wasn't an officer and
24 I said, he was. I then knew I had to do that all the
25 time, every single time I past an officer.

1 "Every morning you were up at 6.00 am for physical
2 training. It was either a run or a circuit. You would
3 do the 100 yards or 200 yards every day. Then you would
4 go for breakfast and start your job.

5 "In the evenings we went to a recreational room
6 after dinner and then about 8.00 pm in the evening that
7 was us up to bed. There was no talking to your friend
8 through the window or anything like that. No talking
9 was allowed at all.

10 "When you went into the dining hall no one was
11 allowed to talk. You sat at a designated table and the
12 teacher would come along and touch your table to
13 indicate you could go up for food. You had to walk
14 around to the big hot plate where the meals were all
15 laid out and pick up a tray. There was no one there,
16 but you had to then shout to the wall, 'Thank you, sir'.
17 You were moved at speed all the time and if you spilt
18 any of your food the officers would hit you. Everything
19 was at the double. It was as if they set all of these
20 rules because they were dead easy to break and then they
21 could punish you.

22 "The food was absolutely amazing. It had to be good
23 because of the amount of physical exercise we were
24 doing. It was the best food I had ever been given in
25 any institution.

1 "On my first day I was stripped and told to get to
2 the shower. This officer we called KGA , because he
3 had big eyes, told me to pull back my foreskin and scrub
4 my penis with a nail brush. He stood there and told me
5 when to leave and get dried. When I went to leave the
6 shower he punched me because I did not say, 'Excuse me,
7 sir'. That was the regime. It was non-stop. That
8 KGA guy actually ended up working in Barlinnie in the
9 special unit after treating young boys like that.

10 "There were young boys in there who were fresh faced
11 and you could tell they hadn't shaved before. They were
12 made to shave regardless and you could see them coming
13 out of the washrooms with scrapes and bleeding. No one
14 took any notice. It was a real hell hole.

15 "You would have to get a shower every day as we were
16 doing a lot of physical training.

17 "They had a recreational room, but there was no
18 recreation it. You weren't allowed to talk to each
19 other. There was a television, but you had to watch
20 what the officers were watching.

21 "We had to do a thing that was called 'the circuit'.
22 It was an exercise regime. We had to do this every week
23 in the gymnasium. One of the things we had to do was
24 hold a bit of wood up above our heads with a rope and
25 a weight. Another one was we had to squat down in

1 a line and bounce along at the same time. The following
2 week you had to beat the time that you had done the
3 previous week. If you didn't beat it, you did not get
4 treated very well.

5 "You also had to run and beat your time every week.
6 You couldn't slack as they would watch for that and come
7 round and physically move you around. Even if you were
8 gagging and panting they would drag you along. It was
9 terrible. I think they actually thought what they were
10 doing was good. Sometimes they had you out at 6.00 am
11 in the snow doing exercise. It never done me any good.

12 "There was one guy from Falkirk who beat the time
13 for the fastest Glenochil 200 yards not knowing that
14 next week he had to beat it again. What a doing that
15 guy got.

16 "They would take us out to the playing fields and we
17 would be thinking we were going to play football. We
18 would be happy thinking we were getting to blow off some
19 steam. They would then say when we got down there that
20 we had to play cricket. If you didn't do it right an
21 English officer called KGC would take the bat off you
22 and belt you with it.

23 "I only remember having group meetings. I remember
24 one time we were all sitting in a group meeting and we
25 were asked if anyone thought after they got out they

1 would offend again. I put my hand up and what a doing
2 I got that night. I was just trying to be fly I think.
3 I don't know why I did it. They battered me all over
4 the cell that night.

5 "When you went to see Dr. zHEF he told you to strip
6 completely naked. He asked if there was anything you
7 needed to report to him. The first time I told him I
8 was previously diagnosed with bronchitis, when I said
9 that he then punched me in the groin area. I was
10 doubled up and he punched me in the side. He then said
11 'Stand up straight' and asked if he had to go into his
12 drawer and get his stethoscope out to examine me.
13 I said, no and was then sent on my way.

14 "I believe he was later jailed for what he did in
15 Glenochil. Whether that's true or not, I don't know.
16 He was well known for it. Nothing sexual happened to me
17 at all, but it quite possibly could have happened to
18 others.

19 "I think the religion was all mixed. We all went
20 out into the yard on a Sunday morning and stood to
21 attention. The governor came down and we all sang some
22 hymns. We then had to go back to our cells for the
23 governor's inspections. We had bibles in our rooms that
24 we would use to help with putting sharp creases in our
25 beds.

1 "After dinner, between 5.00 and 6.00 pm, we were in
2 our cells and had to polish our cell floors. It was
3 like polishing your boots for the Army. You could see
4 your face in all the floors. The officers would come in
5 to check it and would throw stuff over the floor so you
6 had to do it again.

7 "On a Sunday, the governor would come in to inspect
8 your cell and he would wear white gloves. He would rub
9 his fingers under your bed where the springs were, if
10 there was dust, more officers would come back later and
11 set about you. They would punch and kick you. It was
12 just horrendous. The governor knew what was going on.
13 He wasn't innocent. You had to do a bed block with your
14 sheets and make your bed a certain way with a sharp
15 crease along it. You got two bars of toffee every week.
16 Nothing else.

17 "My girlfriend and my mum came up to visit me. When
18 you were in the visiting room sitting at the table there
19 were officers sitting in the room as well. You had to
20 sit with your hands crossed and up the whole time. If
21 you tried to move or lean over the table, they said the
22 visit was over and you were taken away. You were
23 terrified of them.

24 "You would get different grades when you were in
25 there, like yellow or red. When you got a better grade

1 you would maybe get an extra wee bar of toffee or
2 something. I never got any grades in there. It was
3 supposed to be if you didn't get a grade you wouldn't
4 get out. I don't know why I never got a grade. I still
5 got out though.

6 "No one of authority ever visited me and I did not
7 see anyone of authority in there. Punishment was always
8 physical. It wasn't always in the cell. You could just
9 be walking around and get a slap or a dig in the ribs.

10 "There was one guy in from Kilmarnock who had a big
11 scar on his head and he worked in the cook house.
12 I think someone had attacked him with a bottle. Another
13 guy came in from Aberdeen who had the same name as the
14 guy who did it to him. He attacked him and got taken
15 away to these two cells. One cell was to sleep in and
16 the other cell was to polish the floor. That was the
17 discipline. You ate and slept in one cell and all the
18 rest of the day you were in this other cell polishing
19 the floor.

20 "KFL was evil. He was the one who used to make
21 all the young boys shave. He could take you into toilet
22 and you would just have sat on the pan and he would say
23 you were finished and lift you off quickly. You were
24 still needing the toilet and had to leave because he
25 said so.

1 "There was another officer who had a scar on his
2 face. He was a rat as well. The physical beatings were
3 horrendous. They never hit anyone where it would show.
4 It was always on the body or a slap on the head. If
5 anything you were doing wasn't to their standards you
6 would get a beating. They were all rats. Not one of
7 them was a good guy.

8 "I was in Glenochil for two months, eight days and
9 a breakfast. That's what they called it.

10 "I think the officers at Glenochil must have been
11 told they had a group of young men that had the
12 potential to go off the rails and they wanted to get
13 them back on track. I think they were told to frighten
14 us. I don't know anyone that did detention in there and
15 didn't offend again, so it didn't work. They called it
16 a short, sharp, shock and it was. It was really
17 horrendous. I can't explain how bad the place was.
18 What they did was so wrong.

19 "I didn't even get out when I was supposed to. The
20 officers were meant to take me to Stirling train station
21 on my release date, but they didn't let me out of the
22 van when they got there. They let some other guys out
23 and then they said to me that there was a warrant out
24 with the police for me. The police were meant to turn
25 up and arrest me, but they didn't. So the Glenochil

1 officers took me to Longriggend.

2 "Longriggend wouldn't accept me without paperwork,
3 so then they took me to Barlinnie. They just did this
4 off their own back. I was kept in Barlinnie for three
5 weeks before appearing at court and I got a nine month
6 sentence. They had no right to do that as my time in
7 Glenochil was finished. They didn't like me and it was
8 as simple as that. Officers and the police don't like
9 each other, so they weren't doing it for the police.
10 I was still under 18 and that warrant never turned up.

11 "HMP Barlinnie Glasgow.

12 "I was put into a dog box for hours when I got to
13 Barlinnie. I arrived at about 3.00 pm, so the big bus
14 from court wasn't back yet and I just had to wait in
15 reception. Eventually they gave me clothes and put me
16 into C hall. They still didn't have the warrant. The
17 rest of it was just what I expected it to be having been
18 in all the other places I had. I should have gone to
19 Longriggend because I was still 17. I was in with all
20 the men.

21 "Any violence in Barlinnie was more perpetrated with
22 the inmates against each other. I was in a lot of
23 fights with other prisoners in there. The screws could
24 be bad as well, but only certain ones. There were
25 certain ones in each hall you had to watch. To me, when

1 you went to Barlinnie I just felt like the screws would
2 let you get on with it as guys would be in and out all
3 the time and there was very little help of any kind.
4 There was no rehabilitation. It was out-in, out-in.
5 I was a bit like that myself. It was like: why bother?
6 We were all at the end of a line, so no point trying to
7 educate us.

8 "You weren't walking on eggshells in Barlinnie and
9 could talk to people. There was someone in your cell
10 with you and it was all right. The food wasn't great.

11 "I never experienced any violence from the screws in
12 there, but it did happen. It was normally for people
13 who were right out of order. I just wanted to get in
14 and out as quickly as possible, so I didn't want to give
15 them any reasons to keep me in. There was a digger
16 which was like an isolation cell as a punishment too.

17 "I did three weeks at Barlinnie before I was
18 eventually taken to court and I got nine months in
19 custody. I served that time back at Barlinnie and
20 turned 18 in there."

21 He then goes on to talk about his life after being
22 in secure care and the impact, but that relates to his
23 entire journey, my Lady.

24 If I can go to the last page of his statement,
25 paragraph 189, he states that he has no objection to his

1 witness statement being published as part the evidence
2 to the Inquiry and he states that he believes the facts
3 stated in the witness statement are true and he's signed
4 that and it's dated.

5 LADY SMITH: Thank you very much, Ms Forbes.

6 The plan now?

7 MS FORBES: My Lady, I think those are the read-ins for this
8 afternoon and that's us for this week.

9 LADY SMITH: We leave it until Tuesday morning, when we
10 return to oral evidence from applicants.

11 MS FORBES: Yes, my Lady.

12 LADY SMITH: Thank you very much. I'm going to rise now
13 until 10 o'clock on Tuesday morning. I hope you all
14 have a good weekend and those of you who have
15 an interest in next week's evidence I look forward to
16 seeing you or knowing you are there if you are watching
17 and connecting by Webex. Meanwhile, have a good
18 weekend.

19 (3.40 pm)

20 (The Inquiry adjourned until 10.00 am
21 on Tuesday, 7 November 2023)

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