

Thursday, 16 November 2023

1

2 (10.00 am)

3 LADY SMITH: Good morning. We return to in-person evidence
4 this morning, I understand. We have a witness ready.
5 Ms Forbes, I think you're going to take the next
6 witness; is that right?

7 MS FORBES: That's right, my Lady.

8 The next witness is anonymous and has the pseudonym
9 'Edward', if we can call him.

10 LADY SMITH: Thank you.

11 'Edward' (sworn)

12 LADY SMITH: 'Edward', thank you for coming along to give
13 your oral evidence this morning, to add to the written
14 statement which you have already given to us. I'm very
15 grateful to have that and to have had it in advance.

16 On the table there you'll see there is a red folder,
17 that has your written statement in it. You'll be
18 referred to that in a moment. Feel free to use it while
19 giving your evidence if you want. We'll also bring the
20 statement up on the screen; that might also be helpful
21 to you. You don't have to look at them, but they're
22 there if you find them useful.

23 'Edward', would you please let me know if there's
24 anything I can do at any time to make your experience of
25 giving evidence more comfortable, whether that's having

1 a break or pausing, or explaining something in
2 a different way because we're not explaining it
3 properly.

4 We do know that we're used to doing this and you're
5 not. It's a strange and unusual experience for you. I
6 also know how difficult it is to ask people to think
7 back and talk in the hearing room about things that
8 happened to them when they were children, particularly
9 difficult things that happened at that time.

10 Don't hesitate to let me know if it's all getting
11 too much and what we can do to help.

12 Otherwise, I'll hand over to Ms Forbes and she'll
13 take it from there. If that would work for you; all
14 right?

15 A. Aye.

16 LADY SMITH: Thank you. Ms Forbes.

17 Questions from Ms Forbes

18 MS FORBES: Thank you, my Lady.

19 Good morning, 'Edward'.

20 In front of you is the red folder, which has your
21 witness statement and if you could just have a look at
22 that folder just for a minute. I'm going to ask you to
23 go to the last page of that statement, which is page 18,
24 the very last page.

25 At the end of that statement there is a paragraph,

1 and below that there is a date and a signature.

2 I'm just going to read out that paragraph to you. You
3 say there:

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

6 I believe the facts stated in this witness statement are
7 true."

8 Then you've signed that and it's dated
9 19 January 2023; is that right?

10 A. That's right, aye.

11 Q. Just for our purposes, this statement has a reference
12 number. Just for the transcript I'm going to read out
13 what that is. WIT-1-000001326.

14 Now that's out of the way, if we go back to the
15 front of your statement. What I'm going to do is,
16 I'm going to start by asking you some questions about
17 your childhood and I think you were born in

18 [REDACTED] 1961 in Haddington; is that right?

19 A. Yes.

20 Q. But you were actually brought up in Tranent?

21 A. Yes.

22 Q. I think, to start with, you lived with your mum and dad?

23 A. Yes.

24 LADY SMITH: It's a funny thing, some people don't get close
25 enough to the microphone and others find they're too

1 close to it; can you just leave a little bit of a gap
2 between you and the microphone or the sound begins to
3 fuzz?

4 These ladies here are working very hard at making
5 a transcript and it's important that they can hear
6 clearly through the system, as well as everybody else
7 who is listening to you. It's not a criticism. It's
8 not a criticism. I don't imagine that you speak into
9 microphones in your daily life, normally.

10 We'll let you know if we need you in a different
11 position.

12 MS FORBES: Technology is great when it works well.

13 We'll go back to talking about your childhood. So
14 you were living with your parents in Tranent, and you
15 have some brothers and sisters, I think. You have two
16 older brothers at that time and a younger sister?

17 A. Yeah, aye.

18 Q. I think you tell us that your dad was a singer in
19 a band, but that life at home wasn't that great for you,
20 when you were young?

21 A. No.

22 Q. You tell us your dad used to drink a lot; is that right?

23 A. Yes.

24 Q. He would take your mum's money and he was also violent
25 towards her?

1 A. Aye.

2 Q. I think you describe him in your statement as a "wicked
3 man"?

4 A. Aye.

5 Q. It wasn't just your mum that he was violent to. He was
6 also violent to you as well; is that right?

7 A. Yes, yes.

8 Q. You tell us about a particular incident with your dad at
9 paragraph 3 of your statement. I think you talk about
10 that happening when you were about five years old; are
11 you able to tell us a little bit about that?

12 A. Aye.

13 Q. This is where, I think, there was an incident whereby
14 you ended up going down the stairs?

15 A. Aha.

16 Q. Was that your dad throwing you down the stairs?

17 A. Aye, because I was standing with my ma and anyway I had
18 him by the throat and he just grabbed me and threw me
19 out the way. I don't know (indistinguishable) just his
20 reaction, but I went down the stairs.

21 Q. I think as a result of that you had an injury to your
22 bowels?

23 A. Yeah, I've had problems for a long time.

24 Q. That started off problems that you've had now for the
25 rest of your life with your bowels?

1 A. Aye, aye.

2 Q. I think you tell us later in your statement -- but we'll
3 talk about it now -- that your dad used to batter you
4 black and blue?

5 A. Yes.

6 Q. I think you say that he used to lock you in the cupboard
7 sometimes with the dog?

8 A. That was to get us out the way while he was arguing with
9 my mum. Because we used to cling on to my mum to try
10 and stop him, and we got chucked in the cupboard quite
11 a lot. But then, eventually, we used to run to the
12 cupboard.

13 Q. Would you be in the cupboard for long periods of time?

14 A. I didn't want to come out half the time when he was
15 there.

16 Q. You tell us that you would hide behind the dog sometimes
17 when you were there?

18 A. Aye, it was a greyhound pet that we used to have. The
19 greyhound turned on him one day, because he was trying
20 to get me out the cupboard, and then the greyhound
21 disappeared. It wasn't there anymore.

22 Q. The greyhound one day was being protective towards you
23 and turned on your dad?

24 A. And he got rid of it.

25 Q. That was it, gone?

1 A. Aye.

2 Q. You tell us as well that your dad would never let your
3 mum take you to the doctor because you would be black
4 and blue?

5 A. No, no way. We had bruises. She'd have got battered if
6 she'd taken us to the doctor. He was a
7 (indistinguishable). She wasn't that old.

8 Q. The bowel injury that you've told us about; did you ever
9 get any hospital treatment when you were little for
10 that?

11 A. I was back and forth to the doctors all the time getting
12 like fibre gels, suppositories, things to help you go to
13 the toilet.

14 In later years, I ended up in a hospital and they
15 wanted to give me an operation, but I wouldn't let them.

16 Q. When you were little, there was no -- you had some
17 treatment, but you didn't have an operation or anything
18 when you were younger, on your bowels?

19 A. I couldn't really, like, even go to the doctors. I used
20 to deal with it myself.

21 Q. It meant you used to, then, not be able to keep your
22 bowels correct and you would toilet yourself; is that
23 how you describe it?

24 A. Yes, it just happened. When you feel you want to go,
25 you go. I didn't feel I wanted to go, it just went out.

1 Q. I think that you also tell us some more about what your
2 dad was like in paragraph 3, that there was an incident
3 with your mum, I think, where he was using an electric
4 fire?

5 A. Aye.

6 Q. What was he doing there?

7 A. He was always taking the money and he always wanted the
8 money my ma had. And they were fighting and he burnt
9 her. He burnt her on the neck with a fire and pulled
10 a knife and everything and was scrambling, but I think
11 my ma had an injury with the knife. It just
12 (indistinguishable) as well, more detail, but all I
13 remember was the fight.

14 Q. Were you there when that happened?

15 A. It was later I run away and hid. I seen it happening,
16 but I run away and you hid after it. But the police
17 came and he was taken for that.

18 Q. The police got involved and he was taken away?

19 A. Aye, a neighbour phoned.

20 Q. I think that you tell us that your mum and dad separated
21 after that?

22 A. Aye, I never seen him again after that.

23 Q. You also tell us that there was a concern from your mum
24 that your dad would try and take you, so she separated
25 you and your brothers and sister?

1 A. Aye.

2 Q. You went to live with your gran at one point; is that
3 right?

4 A. Yeah, we all went there. But it was too much for her,
5 too many of us.

6 Q. Your gran couldn't cope with the amount of you?

7 A. No.

8 Q. I think you say you also went to stay with a family
9 friend?

10 A. Aye.

11 Q. This was a male friend of your uncle's?

12 A. My Uncle [REDACTED]'s friend.

13 Q. You say at that time, even though there had been things
14 happening your dad, there wasn't, as far as you know,
15 any social work involvement with the family?

16 A. No, no.

17 Q. You tell us as well that there was some care workers or
18 something that used to come into the house and look
19 after you?

20 A. They were just neighbours. They used to help my ma
21 with -- she used to give us food and things like that
22 and help my mum.

23 Q. We're not going to talk in any detail about this at all,
24 but you tell us that there was a bit of an issue with
25 this male friend of the family when you were younger and

1 there was some sexual abuse, but we're not going to talk
2 about that. You don't want to talk about that. You
3 didn't tell anyone about that at the time; is that
4 right?

5 A. You were just afraid to.

6 Q. Because of that you didn't want to go back to this man's
7 house I think; is that right?

8 A. No.

9 Q. Your mum wanted you to, because she didn't know and
10 I think you ran away at one point; is that right? Up
11 Calton Hill.

12 A. Aye, that's right, aye.

13 Q. After that, your mum realised there was an issue and
14 then she sent you to live with your gran in Roslin at
15 the weekends?

16 A. Aye.

17 Q. Your mum was working in a pub at that time?

18 A. Aye.

19 Q. Later in your statement, at paragraph 9, you say that
20 because of the problems with your bowels you had some
21 issues when you went to the school and you were bullied
22 because of that?

23 A. Aye.

24 Q. As a result, you thought it was easier to have some
25 older friends?

1 A. Uh-huh.

2 Q. You started hanging around with people who were three or
3 four years older?

4 A. Aye.

5 Q. You tell us, looking back now, you think that probably
6 they took advantage of you at the time?

7 A. Aye.

8 Q. The way you saw it is that you had friends?

9 A. Aye, because they would stick up against -- for me
10 against the bullies.

11 Q. I think you started getting into a little bit of trouble
12 with those friends; is that fair to say?

13 A. Aye.

14 Q. You describe yourself as being a "watchy" for the older
15 boys?

16 A. Aye, uh-huh.

17 Q. Is this you being a lookout while they're --

18 A. Aye.

19 Q. -- breaking into things?

20 A. Aye.

21 Q. You tell us that you looked up to them at the time?

22 A. Uh-huh.

23 Q. You mentioned that they used to stick up for you?

24 A. Aye.

25 Q. One of them in particular?

1 A. Yes, aye.

2 Q. That ended up getting you into trouble with the police
3 and they caught you jumping off the top of a building
4 site one time?

5 A. Uh-huh.

6 Q. That got you locked up in the police cells for the
7 weekend?

8 A. Aye.

9 Q. You tell us then, if we go to paragraph 10, that you
10 ended up being remanded in fact to Saughton, to
11 Edinburgh Prison?

12 A. Uh-huh.

13 Q. This was for two weeks at that time?

14 A. Aye, fortnight remand.

15 Q. You say you were about 15 or 16?

16 A. Just 16, turned.

17 Q. It was just after your birthday. Your birthday is in
18 [REDACTED]?

19 A. Aye.

20 Q. You say it was coming up [REDACTED]?

21 A. Uh-huh.

22 Q. I'm going to ask you some questions then about your time
23 at Saughton now. You start telling us about that from
24 paragraph 11 of your statement.

25 You were just there for the two weeks; is that

1 right? That first time.

2 A. Aye.

3 Q. You tell us that it was quite easy going at that point?

4 A. Aye.

5 Q. Because you compare it to your situation that you'll
6 tell us about later at Glenochil, but it wasn't like
7 Glenochil?

8 A. No, the remand you were locked up all day and you got
9 out for an hour exercise a day, or you got out for your
10 dinner to the canteen. It's the only time you got out.
11 But the door was always open and you could sit and read
12 books or something.

13 Q. When you're in Saughton, you're in a cell; is that
14 right?

15 A. Uh-huh.

16 Q. You tell us were sharing that with two other people?

17 A. Aye, there was three in a cell.

18 Q. They were the same age as you, similar age?

19 A. Aye, it was younger. It was like a remand and it was
20 all mixed, but there was younger folk like me in mines.

21 Q. Was this under 18s sort of age group that we're talking
22 about?

23 A. Uh-huh.

24 Q. You mentioned there that if you were on remand you had
25 to sit in your cell a lot of the time; is that because

1 you didn't get a job or couldn't get a job in the prison
2 unless you were --

3 A. Because you weren't sentenced. So you were on remand
4 waiting to go up, so you didn't get a job.

5 Q. I think you tell us that you just spent your time
6 reading books in your cell mostly?

7 A. Aye.

8 Q. You do mention something about the food, that you
9 thought it wasn't that -- you didn't get a choice of
10 food, but it wasn't that great?

11 A. It wasn't that good. It was all steamed.

12 Q. A bit tasteless?

13 A. Aye.

14 Q. You say that there wasn't much happened to you in
15 Saughton. There's nothing bad you want to tell us
16 about; is that right?

17 A. No. Being on remand you were -- kind of like everybody
18 was just waiting on cases, to go to their cases and try
19 and get out. It was only two weeks waiting on your case
20 to come up.

21 Q. You do say, at paragraph 12, you were glad when you got
22 out?

23 A. Aye.

24 Q. You went back to court and you got bail?

25 A. Uh-huh.

1 Q. It was only a month before you were lifted again and you
2 were back in Saughton?

3 A. Aye.

4 Q. This time you say, at paragraph 13, it was only about
5 three or four days?

6 A. Aye.

7 Q. You pled guilty to whatever the offence was then and
8 they requested psychiatric reports?

9 A. Uh-huh.

10 Q. When you got out; did you go to see a doctor for that
11 assessment?

12 A. No, it was just like what I used to call them "folk in
13 a suit" asking questions and they made a decision. It
14 was like a doctor, but I couldn't say what type of
15 doctor.

16 Q. Your impression was that they were trying to not have
17 you sentenced to some kind of facility, but they were
18 trying to get you out?

19 A. I was kind of -- I was having a difficult time in there,
20 just for the bullies and everything. And a lot had
21 happened with the bullies which I've not told in my
22 statement, but I was quite emotional.

23 Q. Were these bullies in the local area?

24 A. Oh, aye, because with my bowels, like, I would be doing
25 the shitting and it would just go down my leg and go in

1 my trousers, so I got called Krakatoa and things like
2 that, and bullied and shouted, and I had no friends.

3 Q. That was something that was really getting you down at
4 the time?

5 A. And one of the older ones was quite a tough guy, resided
6 in the same street at me and started saying I
7 (indistinguishable) and I'll deal with you, and I kind
8 of clinged to him.

9 Q. Is that one of the people that you were ending up
10 getting in trouble with?

11 A. Uh-huh.

12 Q. Did you kind of feel like you owed it to these people to
13 be involved in stuff they were doing because they were
14 sticking up for you?

15 A. I just felt nobody could touch me with them. Because
16 [REDACTED] was a real wicked person and he wouldn't let anybody
17 touch me.

18 Q. Do you mean, 'Edward', that the bully was a wicked
19 person or the person that was sticking up for you was --

20 A. The person that was sticking up for me.

21 Q. So people were scared of him?

22 A. Oh, aye.

23 Q. If you were with him, then you would be left alone?

24 A. Aye.

25 Q. You say then that it was the [REDACTED] 1977, when you were

1 16 years old?

2 A. Yeah, it was about then.

3 Q. That you ended up being given a three-month sentence,
4 a detention sentence?

5 A. Aye.

6 Q. You tell us that when you were given that sentence you
7 panicked a bit because you would be going away from your
8 mum?

9 A. Aye.

10 Q. Were you living with your mum at that time?

11 A. Aye.

12 Q. Was it just you with her or was your sister there as
13 well?

14 A. No, my sister kind of just had left home I think. But
15 my other two brothers were away, ██████ was in the army
16 and ██████ was away staying with his partner.

17 Q. Did you feel like you had to be there with your mum?

18 A. I've always been a mummy's boy. I've always clung on to
19 my ma because I had no friends and my mum was the only
20 person who was there every day.

21 Q. I'm now going to ask you, 'Edward', about what happened
22 when you went to Glenochil Detention Centre. You start
23 telling us about that from paragraph 17.

24 I think you start off giving us a description of
25 what Glenochil was like. The make-up of the place.

1 I think you say there were two or three buildings that
2 were there. There was the one for the young offenders,
3 the one for what you call the short, sharp treatment --
4 A. Aye.
5 Q. -- where you were, at the detention centre, and then
6 there was another building, as well, which was, I think
7 you say, just an ordinary sort of jail?
8 A. The young offenders was actually separate from the
9 detention centre. It had its own fences and it was
10 a different facility, so was the young offenders, which
11 was a different.
12 Q. You describe that as the "short, sharp treatment"; when
13 did you first hear that term being used?
14 A. Years after.
15 Q. Not at the time?
16 A. No, I didn't ken that. I just knew it as
17 a detention centre, which you would feel like it's just
18 a place where you go and get locked up.
19 Q. I think you say as well that there were about three
20 floors in the building and then long corridors and rooms
21 all the way along. When you say "rooms"; is that like
22 a cell?
23 A. Pardon?
24 Q. When you say there were rooms; was that like a cell?
25 A. It was your own cell. You had it to yourself.

1 Q. You tell us about your first day at Glenochil from
2 paragraph 18. You describe this journey that you took
3 from court when you were sentenced. You went in the van
4 and one of your friends was with you in the van; is that
5 right?

6 A. Yes.

7 Q. This is one of the friends --

8 A. It was the one that looked after us, [REDACTED].

9 Q. You thought that you were going back to Saughton where
10 you had been before?

11 A. Aye.

12 Q. Actually, although there was a stop at Saughton, you
13 weren't allowed to get out?

14 A. No, it was only paperwork for one person and it was [REDACTED].

15 Q. So your friend got out, but you were told that you had
16 to stay in?

17 A. Aye.

18 Q. Was the reason for that because they said you were too
19 young?

20 A. Aye, and: you're going somewhere else.

21 Q. You tell us were quite confused about that at the time
22 because you'd been in Saughton before and you weren't
23 too young to be there before, but this time you were
24 being told you were too young?

25 A. Aye.

1 Q. Did anyone tell you where you were going?

2 A. No.

3 Q. Or what was happening to you?

4 A. We're just going somewhere else.

5 Q. You didn't know the name of the place you were going to?

6 A. No.

7 Q. Did you even know where in Scotland you were being

8 taken?

9 A. No, you were just told to sit and keep quiet. "We'll

10 soon be there", that's all they ever said.

11 Q. You're just 16 at this time?

12 A. Uh-huh.

13 Q. You say that when you got to where you were going you

14 then found out where it was, what the town was; is that

15 right?

16 A. Uh-huh.

17 Q. You found out it was Stirling?

18 A. I think they called it Tillicoultry, but it was

19 Stirling, because that's all I know, it's Stirling.

20 Q. How did you find that out? Did someone tell you or did

21 you just notice from looking around?

22 A. I thought it was still Stirling. It's just probably

23 being after I got in and time's went on that I started

24 to realise -- know coordinates like, when I became a --

25 driving a lorry and that, then you would go to Stirling,

1 and then you remember: oh, that's where I was.

2 So I always thought it was Stirling.

3 Q. Had you ever been to Stirling before?

4 A. Not before then. But, after this employment, after

5 that.

6 Q. You tell us you didn't know the name of the place you

7 were going was Glenochil?

8 A. No.

9 Q. When you arrive you tell us about that at paragraph 19,

10 and you say you were taken into a cubicle?

11 A. Aye, a processing part.

12 Q. Was that in the reception area?

13 A. Uh-huh.

14 Q. Were you there in this cubicle on your own?

15 A. Aye.

16 Q. Can you describe it at all? How big was that cubicle?

17 A. They just put you in and locked the door, and you just

18 sat and waited until somebody came.

19 Q. Did it have enough space for more than one person?

20 A. No, it was just for one person. It was about the size

21 of this table, a cubicle, had a chair in. You could

22 turn in it, like a dressing room in a store, when you go

23 to try on a pair --

24 Q. Like a dressing room in a store?

25 A. Size of that, a cubicle.

1 Q. Did it have walls or was there glass --
2 A. Glass. Wood half up and glass.
3 Q. You are in there and you can see out to what is going on
4 in the reception?
5 A. Aye.
6 Q. You tell us there was another prisoner there at that
7 time?
8 A. Aye, he was like this ... "Do this, do that", the
9 go-body for doing things.
10 Q. He was helping out?
11 A. Aye, it was his job.
12 Q. In this cubicle at that time it was just you?
13 A. Aye.
14 Q. How long were you in there for?
15 A. About ten/15 minutes while they were doing paperwork and
16 everything.
17 Q. You tell them that you needed the toilet; is that right?
18 A. Aye.
19 Q. Someone came and took you?
20 A. Aye.
21 Q. You go to the toilet; is that with a prison officer?
22 A. They just sort of take you out the cubicle and the
23 toilet was just over a bit, and they just say, "In
24 there", and wait on you coming out and put you back in
25 the cubicle.

1 Q. When you go to the toilet, you tell us that you noticed
2 something; is that right?

3 A. Aye.

4 Q. And what was that?

5 A. I was always scratching and scratching and I just
6 noticed something, which was a beast.

7 Q. I think you say that you noticed that --

8 A. It -- what they call a crab, aye.

9 Q. You tell us that you hadn't actually been sexually
10 active before then?

11 A. No, I've never had a girlfriend before then. I had
12 a girlfriend, but not in that way. I was just ... never
13 had that encouragement to understand.

14 Q. You say that because of that the only place you think
15 you could have got that from was when you were sleeping
16 in your mum's bed, before you went --

17 A. It was my mum's friend was on holiday and they were
18 drinkers and, like us, never had anything and they had
19 a wee dog and I stayed in their house and slept in their
20 bed when they were on holiday for a week.

21 Q. This was just before you ended up going to Glenochil?

22 A. Oh, aye, aye.

23 Q. So this wasn't something that you had been aware of
24 before going to the toilet; is that right?

25 A. I knew I was itchy, itchy, itchy. I was just looking

1 and then I seen something crawling, and that was the
2 first time. I wondered what it was. And then I started
3 to realise, but I'm looking and I haven't been with
4 anybody.

5 Q. That must have been quite confusing?

6 A. Aye.

7 Q. You tell us that you then tell the prison officer about
8 that when you come out?

9 A. Aye. I did, aye. I just tell them I've -- there is
10 something crawling on me.

11 Q. What did he do after you told him about that?

12 A. He had a look, and then just swore and slammed the door
13 and marched off and away and spoke to somebody.

14 Q. Did he come back again?

15 A. Aye, aye.

16 Q. What did he ask you to do?

17 A. It was an adult that came back. He threw us a bag and
18 told me to get all my clothes off in the bag. Started
19 shouting, "You've spoilt my fucking night". And I ...
20 you just do what you're told.

21 Q. So there was a man that you said had a jacket on and you
22 think was a doctor?

23 A. Oh, he had a white jacket on, a prison officer's suit
24 underneath.

25 Q. He throws a bag at you and tells you to put your clothes

1 in there?

2 A. Aye.

3 Q. You say he's also saying things to you about ruining his

4 night or something?

5 A. Say that again, please.

6 Q. Was he saying something to you about ruining his night?

7 A. "Spoiling my night".

8 Q. What time was it? Do you remember? Do you know what

9 time of day it was?

10 A. I never got there until about 6 o'clock at night, in the

11 van.

12 Q. It was later on?

13 A. It was night-time, aye.

14 Q. Did he then make you go from that holding cell to

15 another room in the prison?

16 A. He tried to give me something to put on myself and

17 couldn't find anything.

18 Q. He couldn't find anything --

19 A. He just said, "You'll just have to walk down the fucking

20 corridor, you dirty cunt", and I walked down the

21 corridor into another room.

22 Q. I want to make sure I got what you said there, 'Edward'.

23 It's my fault if I'm not hearing it right.

24 Did you say that he said something to you? "You'll

25 just have to walk down the corridor", and then he said

1 something to you; what was that?

2 A. "You dirty cunt, bringing bugs into my fucking jail".

3 Q. He said, "You dirty cunt, bringing bugs into my jail"?

4 A. Aye.

5 LADY SMITH: Did you say he had also used the F-word?

6 A. Yes. I'm sorry. I was just going to say: I'm sorry for

7 swearing.

8 LADY SMITH: It's all right. I need to know. I don't shock

9 easily.

10 A. I just said the words he said to me. I tried -- I even

11 said -- I was trying to keep swear words out, but I

12 can't because they did swear at you a lot.

13 MS FORBES: I know it's unnatural to be telling people the

14 swear words, but we want to know about them, 'Edward',

15 so don't worry if you have to say any swear words at any

16 point.

17 He's saying this to you and he's making you go to

18 another room and you are naked at that time; is that

19 right.

20 A. Aye. I was just covering myself with my hands.

21 Q. You are trying to cover your private parts?

22 A. Aye, just to get into that room.

23 Q. How far away was that room from where you were when you

24 had to take your clothes off?

25 A. About the length of this room.

1 Q. The width or the length of this room?

2 A. That would be the cubicle and I was going down the
3 corridor, and it would be about that wall before I went
4 into another room.

5 Q. Then when you get to this other room; is it just you and
6 him?

7 A. Aye.

8 Q. Does he tell you to sit on a table?

9 A. Aye.

10 Q. Were you still naked at that time?

11 A. Aye.

12 Q. What did he do when you were there on the table?

13 A. He started getting a dish with a razor brush and that,
14 and he said, "I'm going to have to shave you".

15 Q. What did he do with that razor?

16 What did he do to you with that razor?

17 A. Shaved us.

18 Q. Where was that? Was that in your private area?

19 A. All around my private parts, down there, under my arms,
20 cut my hair with scissors and shaved my head with
21 a razor. I was totally bald.

22 Q. Was there a reason that he cut your hair with the razor
23 as well, on your head?

24 A. He cut them with scissors first because my hair was too
25 long and then he just shaved my head because I had nits

1 as well.

2 Q. Was that the first time you knew about that; when you
3 were sitting on the table?

4 A. I was scratching my head quite a lot and I hoped I
5 didn't have nits. I didn't think of that, but I didn't
6 think I had them. It was just when you feel itchy
7 somewhere, you feel itchy everywhere. Then he says,
8 "You've got nits, too".

9 Q. So he took all the hair off your underarms, private
10 parts and head as well, and he was using the razor when
11 he was doing this?

12 A. Aye.

13 Q. Did he use any shaving foam or anything like that?

14 A. Aye, he did have a bowl with soap in it.

15 Q. You say he was using scissors as well; was that just on
16 your head or was that on your private areas and your
17 underarms?

18 A. He used the razor in private areas as well.

19 Q. You tell us that he wasn't gentle when he was doing this
20 to you?

21 A. No, and I kept moving.

22 Q. When that was happening; were you getting injured at
23 all?

24 A. Slight cuts because he slapped me two or three times,
25 "Stop moving, I'm cutting you", and I was just all

1 tensed up and shaking. I couldn't stop shaking. I
2 couldn't stop moving. But, with my scratching, I had
3 a lot of spots on my (indistinguishable) and it was just
4 taking the heads and everything off them. It wasn't
5 gentle. And if I moved, he hurt me, "Stay still.
6 I'm cutting you". He was getting on at me for moving.

7 Q. Where was he hitting you when he was saying this?

8 A. He's slapping us on the arm and when he was doing that,
9 and he just slapped us on the leg and, "Stay still".

10 Q. This whole process -- it might be difficult to say, but
11 how long do you think it took?

12 A. I would say a good half hour.

13 Q. Afterwards, you are completely bald on your head; is
14 that right?

15 A. Aye.

16 Q. Did he then tell you to go and have a shower?

17 A. No, he left us on the table and said, "Don't move until
18 I come back".

19 Q. Then what happened?

20 A. I was there for a while before he came back.

21 Q. If you were able to give an estimate; how long do you
22 think you were waiting for him to come back?

23 A. I would say over an hour, easy.

24 Q. At that time; did you have any clothes or anything?

25 A. No, I was still not moving off the table. I had to go

1 and try and find my stuff.

2 Q. You are still sitting on this table?

3 A. Aye. There was another prisoner came in.

4 Q. Whilst you were there, someone else came in?

5 A. Aye, to take the bag of hair away and the rubbish.

6 Q. That was somebody doing a job as a prisoner?

7 A. Aye, he was a prisoner, aye, because he told me to keep

8 quiet, because I tried to speak to him.

9 Q. He's sort of giving you advice?

10 A. He said, "Just keep quiet".

11 Q. This room that you're in with the table; what kind of

12 room was it? Was it a medical sort of room or an

13 office-type of room?

14 A. It's hard to say if it was a medical room. It was just

15 a room with two or three tables in it and a couple of

16 desks.

17 Q. Just like an ordinary table?

18 A. Aye, just a white table, it was.

19 Q. You're there for about an hour; had you been dried off

20 at all after he'd done this cutting?

21 A. No, I went for a shower when he did come back. There

22 was an actual shower -- you opened the door and there

23 was a shower room in there.

24 Q. When he came back; is that when you went for a shower?

25 A. Aye.

1 Q. You tell us that this doctor -- you give us
2 a description of this doctor, and you say he was about
3 35 years old, with a beard?

4 A. Aye, that's right.

5 Q. You formed an impression that he might not have been the
6 doctor that was there all the time?

7 A. He was like a prison officer with a white jacket on,
8 like he was a process person, if you ken what I mean?
9 Maybe he was a doctor or something.

10 Q. You don't actually know if he was a doctor, but he -- to
11 you he sort of looked like one, with a white coat?

12 A. Aye.

13 Q. It's not somebody that you came across again?

14 A. No, I never seen him again.

15 Q. When you were at Glenochil later; did you see the sort
16 of doctor who would go around and see people?

17 A. Aye, he was a doctor.

18 Q. It wasn't him?

19 A. No.

20 Q. You tell us that when this was all going on,
21 paragraph 23, you just felt like an animal getting
22 shaved?

23 A. Aye.

24 Q. You found it was cruel?

25 A. Aye.

1 Q. You formed the impression that you had spoiled his night,
2 from how he was acting towards you and what he said?
3 A. Aye, that's what he told me. I'd spoiled his night.
4 Q. He told you that, "You've spoiled my night"?
5 A. Aye, because probably he had to do what he done.
6 Q. You go and get the shower then after you had been on
7 this table. After that; did someone else come give you
8 something to wear?
9 A. All they could get me was a pair of old jammies, because
10 they didn't want to give me my prison-issue clothes
11 because of what I had until they says, "You might have
12 eggs on you".
13 Q. You put these old jammies on?
14 A. I went for a shower first. Then they gave us, like,
15 lice stuff you used to get when you were at school and
16 it used to stink when you were scrubbing your head. I
17 had to scrub myself with that first, before I was
18 allowed to put the jammies on.
19 Q. Was that some sort of lotion?
20 A. Aye. Aye, like the bug killer the school used to put in
21 your hair. It stunk.
22 Q. You were saying that while you were being shaved, he was
23 cutting you; did that cause you any issues when you were
24 putting on this lotion?
25 A. Oh, aye, it stung. It made me scratch all the more

1 because it was stinging.

2 Q. In the shower; did you notice how many cuts you had from

3 what had happened to you?

4 A. Oh, I had quite a lot. I would say I had 30 anyway,

5 easy.

6 Q. Was that on your private parts, as well as your --

7 A. I had four or five on my private parts, which -- it hurt

8 for moving because, "I'm cutting you, stop moving", and

9 he blamed me for moving.

10 Q. What about your head?

11 A. I had cuts on my head, my ears. Just it was taking -- I

12 did have spots and they just clean off the spot.

13 Q. This was where the razor had taken the head off any

14 spots you had on your body?

15 A. Aye. That's why it stung so much when I put it on,

16 because of doing all that.

17 Q. You had some open wounds?

18 A. Aye.

19 Q. The person who came and gave you the jammies, the old

20 jammies; who was that?

21 A. It was a prisoner who brought the old jammies. Because

22 they got the prisoners to do everything, "Pick this up,

23 put that in a bag, go get that". They were like the

24 dogsbodies.

25 Q. After you get these jammies; what happened to you then?

1 A. I got taken over to the hall.

2 Q. Who took you there?

3 A. The prison officer.

4 Q. A prison officer?

5 A. Came over for us.

6 Q. In your statement, at paragraph 24, you describe
7 somebody as a sergeant major guy?

8 A. Aye.

9 Q. Was that who came and took you?

10 A. No.

11 Q. It wasn't him?

12 A. It wasn't him.

13 Q. A prison officer comes and takes you to somewhere else.
14 I think you tell us about that at paragraph 24. This
15 was not a cell that you ended up staying in later; it
16 was something else, somewhere else?

17 A. Aye.

18 Q. This was a room?

19 A. It was a room just off where the prison officers used to
20 sit at night, a hall room, whatever, and there was
21 a cell there.

22 Q. You say that when you first went there, there were some
23 bags or something in it that had to be taken out?

24 A. Aye, they said, "We need to put him in here and need to
25 empty it out". They got prisoners to take the black

1 bags out because it was like it was storage, but it was
2 a cell. It's where they put people that wasn't feeling
3 right or keeping an eye on them, just in case they did
4 anything.

5 Q. You think that this was an isolation cell?

6 A. Aye.

7 Q. It was sort of being used as a storage room when it had
8 some bags in it at the time you went to it?

9 A. Aye.

10 Q. What was in the room after the bags were taken out?

11 A. Nothing.

12 Q. There was no mattress?

13 A. There wasn't a bed in it. It was like a raised step
14 along the back of the room, which was called a bed.
15 Kind of like a -- about that much off the ground.

16 Q. Was this like a concrete sort of ledge?

17 A. Aye, you put a mattress on it and you got a cover.

18 Q. That is something that is built into the room that can't
19 be moved?

20 A. The bed can't be moved. It's part of the floor.

21 Q. There was no mattress on top of that?

22 A. No.

23 Q. Did you ask for a mattress?

24 A. I was told I couldn't get any because they never had
25 a plastic one.

1 Q. When you were in this room, on that first day; how did
2 you feel in this isolation cell?

3 A. Down.

4 Q. You were feeling okay?

5 A. No. I was struggling.

6 Q. You tell us you were upset and emotional?

7 A. Aye.

8 Q. You didn't sleep that night?

9 A. No, I couldn't. They wouldn't let me.

10 Q. Is that because they were coming to knock on the door?

11 A. Once an hour. And it wasn't -- you wake up, be moving,
12 "Sit up or I'll come in there", so I sat up like that,
13 every hour.

14 Q. They were coming every hour and telling you to sit up?

15 A. Aye.

16 Q. So you weren't even allowed to lie down?

17 A. Oh, aye, "You can lie back down now". They just wanted
18 to see you move, so they ken you were all right.

19 Q. It would make it quite difficult to get any rest if
20 you're being told every hour that you have to sit up?

21 A. I couldn't sleep the way I was feeling.

22 Q. Did you think that they were worried about you at that
23 time?

24 A. I think so. I just couldn't stop greeting. I was
25 begging to get out, "I want to go home".

1 Q. When you were there you were crying?

2 A. I couldn't handle it.

3 Q. You were begging to go home?

4 A. Aye.

5 Q. When that was happening; did they say anything to you?

6 A. Aye, "You are getting punished for what you've done",

7 things like that; ken? They had no compassion or

8 anything. They just had attitude. That's all you got,

9 shouted at.

10 Q. You tell us that the next day -- so this is the day

11 after you arrive at Glenochil -- the governor came to

12 see you in that room you were in?

13 A. Uh-huh.

14 Q. He spoke to you; is that right?

15 A. Uh-huh.

16 Q. What was he saying to you?

17 A. Asked how I was feeling and that they would get a --

18 something for me to lie and that on. And I just thought

19 because they never had nothing available and they

20 couldn't have put us into the thing with -- "And

21 especially the way you're acting, we need to keep an eye

22 on you".

23 Q. You are telling them that you want a mattress and he's

24 telling you that he couldn't put you in the main part

25 because --

1 A. What I had.

2 Q. But also because of how you were?

3 A. Aye.

4 Q. Being so upset?

5 A. Aye.

6 Q. You tell us in that paragraph, when you are talking
7 about this, you were really worried about the bugs
8 because you didn't know at that time what you had?

9 A. No.

10 Q. That relation to your private parts; you didn't know
11 what that was?

12 A. No.

13 Q. Because you hadn't been sexually active?

14 A. No.

15 Q. Did you get a plastic mattress that next night?

16 A. Aye, they did get me one that day.

17 Q. How long were you in this room for?

18 A. Near enough two weeks.

19 Q. Were you told why that was?

20 A. I think they just maybe thought I was suicidal or
21 something, to tell you the truth. They just kept an eye
22 on me.

23 Q. You think because you were so upset they were keeping
24 you there?

25 A. Aye.

1 Q. What did you do during those two weeks, the week or two
2 you were in there?

3 A. You just sat. There was nothing. They would leave the
4 door open sometimes, but only if they were there.

5 Q. What about if you needed to go to the toilet?

6 A. You could go to the toilet, because the toilet was just
7 there as well, near their office. Because the cell was
8 right on the end of the corridor and the landing went
9 that way and the offices and toilets were there, so you
10 could -- they could just keep an eye on you, even with
11 your door open.

12 Q. Was the door open most of the time?

13 A. Only if they were there. If they had to go, they locked
14 it.

15 Q. If there was somebody in the office, the door would be
16 open; but if somebody had to go somewhere, then they
17 would lock it?

18 A. It depended who it was as well.

19 Q. What did that mean for you? Did that mean most of the
20 time the door was open or closed?

21 A. On a day it would be like 50/50, because you are getting
22 out in time for your dinner and I still got exercise,
23 but I was on my own. There was another couple of
24 prisoners from the other bits, but you weren't allowed
25 it talk to them. But I still got taken out for a sort

1 of daily walk or they give us a scrubbing brush and
2 a pail to scrub the floor.

3 Q. You got out for some exercise during the day with one of
4 the officers?

5 A. Aye.

6 Q. But this was on your own and you didn't mix with the
7 other --

8 A. I was on my own from my landing, but there were ones
9 from other places, but you were told to walk round the
10 circles and don't talk to each other.

11 Q. Is this some sort of yard that was outside?

12 A. Exercise, aye.

13 Or they called it the parade ground.

14 Q. The parade ground?

15 A. Aye.

16 Q. You weren't allowed to talk to anyone while you were
17 doing that?

18 A. No.

19 Q. What about your food; how did you get that when you were
20 in that room?

21 A. It was brought to me by a couple of the cooks.

22 Q. In the room, you've told us there was just this concrete
23 sort of ledge and then you got the plastic mattress.
24 But what about anything else, something to read or
25 something to do?

1 A. They would give me books and that to read if I wanted,
2 but I was so far just staring at walls and ...
3 (indistinguishable).
4 Q. You weren't in the right frame of mind at that point to
5 be reading?
6 A. No.
7 Q. After this one or two weeks; were you able to be moved
8 to another part of the detention centre?
9 A. They thought it was okay to move me to a bedroom.
10 Q. Is that what they called it, "a bedroom"?
11 A. Yeah, it was just a room, that was it. We used to call
12 them peters for some reason. I don't know why, but that
13 was the nickname, your peter.
14 Q. That was the nickname?
15 A. A nickname for the cell.
16 Q. When you got in there you found out the lingo for the
17 different things; that was the peter?
18 A. Aye.
19 Q. When you went then to your cell; how did you get there?
20 Or your room, sorry, your peter.
21 A. You couldn't just walk there. You were sort of either
22 marched there or you all went there together, kind of
23 with everybody else.
24 Q. Do you remember who took you from the room that you had
25 been in for those one or two weeks to your room?

1 A. Just, like, the landing officer who was downstairs that
2 looked after it all. That's when I went on that -- it
3 was a different prison officer for each --

4 Q. Each landing?

5 A. Aye.

6 Q. There was somebody in charge of each landing?

7 A. Aye.

8 Q. You tell us, in paragraph 28 -- you describe it as being
9 in quarantine, but you've told us today that perhaps
10 there were some other reasons for you being in that
11 room, because of how you were feeling. But, after that,
12 you were put on to a wing, which was on three levels?

13 A. Aye.

14 Q. You were on the top level?

15 A. Uh-huh.

16 Q. This was a long corridor with single rooms along it?

17 A. Uh-huh.

18 Q. You had a single bed in a room and there were 12 of you
19 on that level?

20 A. Uh-huh.

21 Q. This was somewhere that had people of a similar age to
22 you?

23 A. Aye.

24 Q. They were under 18?

25 A. Aye. It was all young folk.

1 Q. You go on to tell us about the routine at Glenochil.
2 You say you were woken up quite early in the
3 morning?
4 A. Uh-huh.
5 Q. How would that happen?
6 A. It was just -- started walking in the corridor shouting
7 to get up. And get your -- kind of like your belongings
8 ready to slop out.
9 Q. This was the pots that you got; was it like a chamber
10 pot?
11 A. Just like a kiddy's potty, with a lid.
12 Q. There was one of those for each person?
13 A. Aye, you had your own.
14 Q. Is that during the night you had to use that then, if
15 you need to go to the toilet?
16 A. Aye, if you needed the toilet, that was all you had to
17 use for doing what you needed.
18 Q. What about during the day? Did you have to use that
19 during the day or were you able to go to the toilet?
20 A. You were able to go to the toilet during the day.
21 Q. This would happen in the morning then, they wanted you
22 to empty this potty?
23 A. Aye, slop out they call it.
24 Q. Slopping out.
25 After that, you tell us you would go and get washed

1 and you would brush your teeth and then you'd be in the
2 dining hall for breakfast?

3 A. Uh-huh.

4 Q. There was a time when you would then go back to your
5 room after breakfast and maybe clean your room or polish
6 your boots?

7 A. Uh-huh.

8 Q. You talk about the fact that you sometimes had to mop
9 the floors, or clean the toilets while you were there?

10 A. There was a scrubbing brush and a bucket. They wouldn't
11 give you a mop. That was too easy.

12 Q. Given a scrubbing brush and a bucket with some water in
13 it?

14 A. Aye.

15 Q. What floors would you have to clean?

16 A. Every floor.

17 Q. Would that be on your landing or --

18 A. Aye, even the corridors and about the prison. They just
19 take you and, "Right, scrub this whole place", with
20 a scrubbing brush, a cloth and bucket of water.

21 Q. Is that something most people had to do?

22 A. That was your job if you never had a job.

23 Q. There were maybe different jobs that you could get. But
24 if you didn't have one, that was what you were doing?

25 A. Aye.

1 Q. I think that you say that in the mornings, after you
2 would do the slopping out, you would have to shave?
3 A. Aye.
4 Q. They would watch you shaving?
5 A. Aye, with a (indistinguishable) razor.
6 Q. You were 16 at that time, had you been shaving before
7 you went into prison?
8 A. Only if you needed a shave. You would go -- you would
9 have a towel over your shoulder and your cup, and you
10 had your toothbrush in your cup, but you never had
11 a razor. You had to go to the office and the officer
12 looked at you, "You don't need a shave this morning", he
13 would decide.
14 And sometimes if you had a wee jot of hair, he would
15 give you a razor. But they watched you shaving, so it
16 was hard. I did try and steal one, but ...
17 Q. This was a razor that they would give you?
18 A. Aye.
19 Q. You had to give it back afterwards?
20 A. Aye.
21 Q. You are saying now -- and we might talk about this in
22 a little while -- you were thinking about stealing the
23 razor at one point?
24 A. Aye, I tried to steal it.
25 LADY SMITH: Do you think that was why they were watching

1 the young men with the razor blades?

2 A. They watched because they were strict with the razors.

3 They gave you the razor and you went and had a shave
4 and, after you had a shave, they would say, "Let's see
5 your razor", and you had to hold it up like that, so he
6 could see the blade, and you'd put it in. But what I
7 tried to do [REDACTED]

8 [REDACTED]
9 [REDACTED]. I was
10 just trying and another prisoner just shook his head,
11 and I did it again and I put it back in. Just gave it
12 him back.

13 LADY SMITH: You were trying to [REDACTED] keep the
14 blade, were you?

15 A. Aye, [REDACTED]
16 [REDACTED] -- because you actually hold it up and he
17 sees the blade and you're putting it on the tray and
18 then he looks at the next one. [REDACTED]

19 [REDACTED]
20 [REDACTED].

21 MS FORBES: And were these -- sorry, 'Edward'.

22 LADY SMITH: Go on, 'Edward'. Was there something else you
23 wanted to say?

24 (Pause)

25 You don't have to. We can come back to this if it

1 would be easier.

2 A. I'm fine.

3 LADY SMITH: Are you okay?

4 A. Aye, I'm fine. I'm fine.

5 MS FORBES: Are you okay for me to carry on?

6 A. Aye.

7 Q. We'll maybe talk about why you got to that point in

8 a little while; okay?

9 A. Aye.

10 Q. You tell us there was quite a strict regime when you

11 were in Glenochil, about keeping your bed clean, making

12 these bed blocks and things like that?

13 A. Aye.

14 Q. If you went anywhere; did you have to march there?

15 A. Oh, aye, aye.

16 Q. You mentioned earlier that when you first went they gave

17 you these old jammies because they didn't want to give

18 you a uniform. But, afterwards, did you get a uniform?

19 A. Aye.

20 Q. This was -- you describe what that was like, a grey

21 jacket with trousers and a blue shirt with stripes?

22 A. Aye.

23 Q. If you were on remand, you had different coloured

24 stripes, red stripes?

25 A. Aye. That was in a different prison, because Glenochil

1 never had a remand.

2 Q. They never had a remand there.

3 A. Aye.

4 Q. During the day, in Glenochil, you say that you were
5 allowed to read a book or something, but there wasn't
6 any sort of schooling, but you were 16 at that point?

7 A. Aye.

8 Q. You tell us that you stayed in your room quite a lot and
9 read during that time?

10 A. Uh-huh.

11 Q. You did mention about jobs, and if you didn't have a job
12 you would be doing this scrubbing of the floors. You
13 say that the first four weeks there at Glenochil you
14 didn't have a job?

15 A. No.

16 Q. It was scrubbing and marching?

17 A. Aye.

18 Q. There was a time that you did get a job and I think
19 we'll come to how that came to be.

20 You tell us about this sergeant major-type prison
21 officer, as you called him?

22 A. Aye.

23 Q. This was someone that would be checking that you had
24 folded things right and if you were buffing up your
25 boots, whether you were doing that properly?

1 A. Aye.

2 Q. I think at paragraph 49 -- and we can come back to other
3 parts of your statement later -- you tell us that this
4 was somebody who would carry a stick all the time with
5 him?

6 A. Aye, he was always sergeant major, kind of a big guy.

7 Q. He was a big guy?

8 A. With a swagger stick, I think they call it.

9 Q. He would carry this stick about under his arm?

10 A. Aye.

11 Q. How would he be to you and the other inmates?

12 A. He didn't like me at all.

13 Q. What would he do?

14 A. He would just call me a beast carrier.

15 Q. Beast carrier?

16 A. Call me names.

17 Q. This stick; what did he do with it?

18 A. He just always carried it under his arm. But not to me,
19 he would poke you and say, "Fucking stand to attention",
20 like prodding.

21 Q. You just said you didn't think he liked you?

22 A. No, he was always shouting in my face.

23 Q. Roaring? He was shouting at you?

24 A. Aye, like a sergeant major does. Gets in your face.
25 You can feel all the spit hitting you in the face. All

1 that shouting, so angry at you.

2 Q. When he's shouting at you; what kind of things would he

3 be saying?

4 A. Just like, "You useless piece ..."

5 Q. You can say the word.

6 A. Shite.

7 Q. He's using swear words?

8 A. Aye and he would make you scrub your floor, things like

9 that.

10 LADY SMITH: Were you scared of him, 'Edward'?

11 A. I was terrified -- I was terrified of him. Every time I

12 seen him I just fell to pieces. Just couldn't -- just

13 wanted to fade away in the corner, sort of thing.

14 I don't know why he never liked me. He just didn't, but

15 he did used to comment, "Go get your beasts cleaned up

16 in your room".

17 LADY SMITH: This is weeks after you had been cleaned up, as

18 he put it?

19 A. Aye.

20 MS FORBES: He's still bringing up what had happened when

21 you first arrived?

22 A. Aye, even telling another lad, "Stay away from him,

23 you'll get beasts".

24 Q. Did that cause you problems? Did anyone else say

25 anything to you because of that?

1 A. I was just always hurt and just always terrified and
2 greeting, and I think that's why I got picked on a lot.

3 LADY SMITH: What you're describing, 'Edward', is this man
4 was engaging in the sort of cruel playground taunting
5 that you might expect of a five-year-old, but not of
6 a grown man in a position of responsibility?

7 A. Aye. He was doing it to other folk as well. Just
8 marching up and down the corridor and shouting in folks'
9 faces. He was just -- he just picked on everybody, but
10 he seemed to always -- he had a chair at the end of the
11 corridor and my room was next to his chair and somebody
12 was on the other side and he used to sit there. And
13 I think he didn't like me, but I was always up that bit
14 where he was and he just picked on us up there when he
15 was sitting. "Clean my boots", and you would have to go
16 and clean his boots.

17 MS FORBES: When you are talking about having to clean your
18 boots; was there an incident that happened between you
19 and the sergeant major one time when you were cleaning
20 your boots?

21 A. Aye.

22 Q. Are you able to tell us about that?

23 A. You had to spit polish your boots, like in the Army,
24 bull them. I couldn't do it.

25 They said, "Spit on your boots", but I didn't need

1 to spit on my boots because my tears kept falling on my
2 boots. I couldn't do them right.

3 Q. You are saying that you didn't even need to spit on your
4 boots because you would be crying and you were using
5 your tears to shine your boots?

6 A. The drips. My tears used to drip on them and I used to
7 polish them in.

8 Q. This bulling; this was the phrase for shining them up
9 into a sort of mirror?

10 A. Aye, it had to be like a mirror, see you face in them.

11 Q. You struggled with that?

12 A. I couldn't do it. I tried, because I wanted them to
13 stop going on at me.

14 Q. Was there one particular occasion when he didn't think
15 you had done that right and he told you to stand up?

16 A. Aye.

17 Q. What happened when you stood up?

18 A. It was typical (indistinguishable). I was standing in
19 the corridor, and he got everybody to stand in the
20 corridor, all the prisoners, and he just looked at me
21 and took his hand and was running it across my face.
22 (indistinguishable) and slapped me in the mouth. He
23 slapped me; right?

24 Q. He slapped you across your face or on your head?

25 A. Right across my face.

1 Q. Was this with an open hand?

2 A. Aye. My face swelled up.

3 Q. You tell us, when he did that to you, you lost your
4 balance and you were off your feet?

5 A. Uh-huh. I hit the ground.

6 Q. So he must have been --

7 A. I was supposed to stand up. Everybody else was, "Woah",
8 like that, and made a noise when he hit me and he looked
9 at them and said, "Shut up, eyes front".

10 Q. There were other --

11 A. There were all the other prisoners, yes.

12 Q. Other prisoners were there when that happened?

13 A. Aye. He slapped me that hard, they went, "Woah", and
14 they were told to shut up, eyes front.

15 Q. Were there any other prison officers when that happened?

16 A. No, it was just him. It was his landing.

17 Q. It must have been some force that you were hit with to
18 have been knocked off your feet?

19 A. Oh, aye, I was just wee and skinny because I was young
20 and he was over six foot and he was a big man, like.

21 Q. He's a full-grown man and you're only 16?

22 A. Aye.

23 Q. After he did that; what did he do? Did he say anything
24 to you?

25 A. He told me to stand up and face the wall.

1 Q. Did he make you do anything in relation to polishing his
2 boots at that time?

3 A. Aye, he sat back down on his chair and told everyone to
4 start polish their boots then. He says, "I'll show you
5 how to polish boots. Start polishing mine, but don't
6 fucking spit on them. I don't want your ..."

7 Q. Your spit on his boots?

8 A. "On my boots".

9 Q. He's just slapped you, you've lost your balance and
10 fallen, and you have to then polish his boots?

11 A. Aye. He was strict with the boots.

12 Q. After that happened; did you have any injuries to your
13 face?

14 A. Aye, my face was swollen. The next morning when I was
15 in the toilets and I was getting washed, my eye was all
16 bloodshot, red and my face was a way out, like
17 an abscess, swollen.

18 Q. You were indicating there to the left side of your face;
19 is that where he hit you?

20 A. Aye, his right hand went across.

21 Q. Did you --

22 A. It's funny because see when I talk about that or think
23 about that, it's just the imagination, but you get the
24 feeling on your face and that's years after. That's how
25 hard he hit me.

1 Q. When you think about it now, you can still feel the
2 impact of it in your mind?

3 A. In my mind I can still -- it feels like you can feel it
4 on your face still, that.

5 Q. Did you go and get any medical treatment or anything
6 after that?

7 A. No.

8 Q. Not long after that you were maybe in the gym and
9 playing basketball; is that right?

10 A. I was just sitting. I didn't want to play.

11 Q. You were sitting on the bench?

12 A. Aye, because I didn't want to put shorts and that on. I
13 didn't like anybody touching or looking at me, so I
14 liked to keep my clothes on. So I didn't want to play,
15 so I was just sitting on the bench while all the rest of
16 them were getting ready.

17 Q. This thing about not wanting to wear shorts or have
18 people looking at you; is that an issue that you'd had
19 before?

20 A. Even long before I was in prison, with school and things
21 that happened when I was younger.

22 Q. When you are on this bench, I think the gym teacher was
23 there and was asking you about why you didn't want to
24 play basketball?

25 A. Uh-huh.

1 Q. Did you tell him what had happened to you?

2 A. At first I told him I didn't want to be there, and he
3 says, "You have done half your time, you haven't got
4 long", and I said, "I don't want to be here".

5 Q. When you are saying you didn't "want to be here"; were
6 you meaning Glenochil or were you meaning something
7 else?

8 A. He was saying I only had four weeks to go when I told
9 him I didn't want to be here. I think it clicked.

10 Q. Because you weren't just meaning you didn't want to be
11 in Glenochil, were you?

12 A. No, I just wanted to kill myself.

13 Q. How long had you been there at that point, when this was
14 happening, you were speaking to this gym teacher? How
15 long had you been in Glenochil?

16 A. About four weeks. But I've always said my state of mind
17 before I went in, and things that have happened in the
18 past, I triggered it, that was all. So I can't blame
19 them for what -- my life. I felt like that before it.
20 With being in there, it triggered it.

21 Q. It was a mixture of things that had happened when you
22 were younger, before you got there, but also what had
23 been going on when you were in Glenochil?

24 A. I was just fed up with life, to tell you the truth.
25 Everything.

1 Q. When you spoke to this gym teacher and told him how you
2 were feeling; did you tell him about what had happened
3 with the sergeant major?

4 A. He asked what happened to my face, so I told him. You
5 weren't allowed to talk about things, but I told him
6 that the prison officer had slapped me in the face,
7 because I never did my bed sheet right. And he just
8 told me to stay back. "I'll collect the balls and then
9 tell the prison officer I'll take the rest of them
10 back". He'd take me back and then I ended up back in
11 the cell downstairs again, off of that man's landing.

12 Q. You mentioned there, 'Edward', that you weren't supposed
13 to talk about things; was that sort of some prison
14 unwritten rule: you don't talk about what happens to
15 you?

16 A. No, it was -- that was it. You are not allowed to talk
17 about anything. You are told if you wrote anything in
18 a letter and sent it home your letter would not be
19 getting posted because you had to leave your letters
20 open, so they could read them. And they told you not to
21 mention anything about the prison or your letter
22 wouldn't go and neither will your visiting pass with you
23 letters, so you'll not get a visit. So you were afraid
24 to write anything in the letter.

25 Q. You were warned about that when you got to Glenochil:

1 don't put anything in a letter?

2 A. They tell you all the time, even when somebody comes to
3 visit you, before you went into the room to have your
4 visit, "Don't you talk about this prison".

5 Q. When you spoke to this gym teacher; did you also tell
6 him about something else that had happened to you whilst
7 you were in Glenochil?

8 A. I told -- I think I probably had the beasts anyway and
9 then I told him about the officer hitting me, and I just
10 told him I couldn't take no more.

11 Q. There is something else that you have talked about in
12 your statement that had happened. This was with someone
13 you have described as an Asian doctor, about three or
14 four weeks after you got in?

15 A. Aye. That's right, aye.

16 Q. This was somebody that I think you went to see for some
17 sort of check-up; I think you thought it was?

18 A. I think it's after I got put in that room again --
19 because they started to think I was going to do
20 something to myself -- that I went to see him.

21 Q. Was that before you told the gym teacher that happened,
22 that you saw this doctor or was that after?

23 A. No, he knew about the first doctor shaving me. The
24 second doctor -- I never told anybody.

25 Q. When you were talking to the gym teacher then, you were

1 telling him how you felt and you were telling him about
2 what happened with the sergeant major?

3 A. Aye.

4 Q. I think you said that he was sort of trying to reassure
5 you; is that right?

6 A. Aye.

7 Q. You didn't have long to go and that you would be out.

8 A. Aye.

9 Q. After you spoke to that gym teacher; did things change
10 for you in Glenochil?

11 A. Things did change.

12 Q. What happened?

13 A. I got put down to -- like that. To me it was -- in my
14 mind it was a suicidal thing, keep an eye on him, just
15 in case he does anything.

16 But I was in there a couple of days and then I got
17 told I was getting transferred to the cooks and I was
18 getting taken off the top landing and going on the
19 bottom landing where there were -- cooks' rooms were.
20 They got up earlier in the morning.

21 I got a job with the cooks. And that cook turned
22 his back -- the gym teacher, taking me back, he did
23 speak to that big boy and said there was no fucking need
24 for that, what you're doing. And that's when I --
25 things changed.

1 Q. This day that you speak to the gym teacher; are you
2 saying that he took you back to your landing?
3 A. Aye.
4 Q. You heard him speak to the sergeant major officer?
5 A. Aye.
6 Q. And have words with him?
7 A. Because I was afraid because I was telling him and then
8 he was speaking to him that he was going to come and get
9 me again.
10 Q. You thought there might be repercussions?
11 A. Aye.
12 Q. But, after you went back, you ended up having to go to
13 one of these isolation rooms?
14 A. I was told to get all my belongings in my room and I had
15 to go do that isolation again. But, this time, there
16 was a mattress and everything in it.
17 Q. That wasn't the same room you were in to begin with?
18 A. It was the same room when I first went in.
19 Q. It was the same room?
20 A. Aye. But it had a mattress on the floor this time and
21 a chair.
22 Q. Had you told the gym teacher, when you spoke to him,
23 that you were thinking about trying to steal a razor?
24 A. No. I didn't want to get into more trouble than what
25 I was in. Because I didn't ken that things changed

1 after I spoke to him. So I always felt maybe he was
2 trying to help a wee bit, didn't like what was going on.

3 LADY SMITH: You were saying, 'Edward', that you knew you
4 would risk getting punished for having tried to steal
5 a razor blade?

6 A. Aye.

7 LADY SMITH: I've got you. Thanks.

8 A. We were punished if they caught you. And you probably
9 lose time on your remission because you were there for a
10 few months, but if you behaved you got out in only
11 weeks. So they could add days on any time they wanted,
12 so you were afraid to do anything because you didn't
13 want to get days added on.

14 LADY SMITH: I suppose the last thing you wanted to do was
15 lose time for your remission; would that be right?

16 A. Aye. You just wanted to get out as quick as you can.

17 LADY SMITH: Get back home.

18 A. If you got an extra five days added, it was another five
19 days you had to go through, yeah.

20 MS FORBES: In the lead-up to this, you had thought about
21 stealing this razor blade; these were razors that --
22 they had a [REDACTED] in them, these kind of old --

23 A. Aye, [REDACTED]
24 [REDACTED].

25 Q. With a proper blade?

1 A. [REDACTED]

2 [REDACTED]

3 [REDACTED]

4 I can still remember the laddie's face and he said,
5 "Don't do that", and I put it back in, [REDACTED],
6 and just put it back on the tray.

7 Q. That was before you had spoken to the gym teacher about
8 what had happened?

9 A. Aye.

10 Q. After you get out of this isolation room -- how long
11 were you in there for?

12 A. Just a couple of days I was in there, until I got
13 transferred over to the cooks.

14 Q. When you come out of there, you're on a different
15 landing; is that right?

16 A. Aye, different landing, because we were like half an
17 hour earlier to go preparing breakfast for the landings.

18 Q. You didn't have to deal with the sergeant major guy
19 being in charge of the landing you were on?

20 A. No, it was the cooks.

21 Q. It meant you got to go and work in the kitchen?

22 A. Aye.

23 Q. So you had a job then that you could do?

24 A. Aye.

25 Q. You tell us that you liked that?

1 A. Aye.

2 Q. Things were a lot better in there?

3 A. They were good to you in there. They never shouted at
4 you. They helped you and explained what they wanted you
5 to do. And all you had to do was wash dishes and the
6 cook boy, prison officer, cook, he was all right with
7 us.

8 Q. You say that you were grateful for that prison officer,
9 because -- sorry, the gym teacher --

10 A. I always feel, if it wasn't for him, I wouldn't have
11 ended up in the cook house, so -- I've always felt that
12 the man must have helped me, must have ken what I was
13 going through.

14 Q. You think that this change of you getting a different
15 landing, getting the job in the kitchen, was probably
16 down to his help?

17 A. It was helping me, but I was still feeling the same.
18 I still didn't want to be there, but my day was a wee
19 bit better.

20 Q. We touched upon it a little while ago, 'Edward', but
21 there was another incident you tell us about, and that's
22 why I was asking you about it, when that happened. You
23 say that you were in Glenochil for three or four weeks
24 and you went to see an Asian doctor, with black glasses?

25 A. Aye.

1 Q. You thought he was a psychiatrist or something?

2 A. Uh-huh.

3 Q. Was that in the same room that you had been in when you
4 were getting shaved and things or somewhere different?

5 A. It was like a doctor's room.

6 Q. Did he introduce himself or tell you who he was?

7 A. Aye, he did, but I couldn't -- I would never remember
8 a name or anything. Just I know he was Asian, coloured
9 skin.

10 Q. When you went to see him in this room, you say that he
11 told you to do something; what was that?

12 A. That he was giving me a wee checkover and he told me to
13 take my trousers and that off. I've had that done
14 before with my own doctor. He kind of holds you on your
15 private parts and tells you to cough, which I done, and
16 he just told me to sit there. I started getting --
17 I wanted to put my clothes back on, ken the way I was
18 feeling. Then he came and done it again. Then he got
19 me to go up on the table and done it again. Then I was
20 starting to get worried.

21 Q. That is three times he asked you to cough --

22 A. Any normal doctor would just do it once, but when he
23 tells me to get my trousers and that back on, I think it
24 was safe, I was all right. Maybe in some ways you're
25 meant to do it or -- but it always felt -- when the CID

1 come to see me years after it, I always felt it was --
2 because of what I had, he didn't want to touch me or was
3 he kind of worried about touching me he -- catch eggs
4 off him. I always used to think that way. Maybe it was
5 just innocent. I don't know.

6 Q. You didn't know why he was doing that to you?

7 A. No. I know my own doctor done it years ago when I was
8 young and I thought it was just -- he didn't do it a few
9 times. I always thought you only do that once to
10 somebody.

11 Q. What you are describing is he's coming over to you and
12 you've got your trousers off and your underwear off; is
13 that right?

14 A. I started to think he had intentions, only because of
15 what I went through before and I didn't like men
16 touching me, and I started to get worried.

17 Q. He's taken hold of you with his hand?

18 A. Aye.

19 Q. Holding your private parts, and you describe it as your
20 balls that he's taken hold of and he's cupping them in
21 his hand?

22 A. Aye.

23 Q. Asking you to cough?

24 A. Aye.

25 Q. He does that three times?

1 A. Aye. And there were pauses of five minutes between it.
2 He was sitting down, like paperwork; you ken? Then
3 after it, he just said, "Get changed".
4 Q. You don't know what he was doing that for? There was no
5 explanation?
6 A. No. The only reason -- I knew it had been done to me in
7 the past by a doctor, so -- but I never understand why
8 so much.
9 Q. You say that later on in life the police came to you see
10 and wanted to talk to you about Glenochil?
11 A. Asked if anything happened to me in Glenochil.
12 Q. You didn't want to tell them at that time; is that
13 right?
14 A. When you've got a partner in the house and a family in
15 the house and they come: nothing happened, get away.
16 You're embarrassed. You don't want to talk about
17 it. You want them to go away. They asked if anything
18 happened and they just looked at each other because they
19 ken I wasn't going to tell them anything and they just
20 left.
21 Q. They're asking you these questions when you've got
22 someone -- other people in the room with you; is that
23 right?
24 A. It was about eight years after it.
25 Q. You didn't feel like you wanted to tell them at that

1 time?

2 A. I didn't want to live my past experience. I tried to
3 forget about it.

4 Q. I know that obviously you didn't want to be there. But
5 after you got moved to the landing; were things a little
6 better for you in Glenochil?

7 A. Aye.

8 Q. You say that you were there for the eight weeks?

9 A. Aye.

10 Q. And you just got your head down and wanted to get out of
11 there?

12 A. When you have somebody like the cook -- he had a wee fat
13 stomach, the guy -- he said, "Right, lads, have a break.
14 Go out the back for fresh air", and you go out and
15 there's a fag left on the window sill for you and things
16 like that, you start to feel better.

17 Q. There were little kindnesses like that that would
18 happen?

19 A. Aye, all from the cook. The cook was a good prison
20 officer. They always look after you. He would just
21 say, "I don't like nibblers, don't get caught", meaning
22 you're taking (indistinguishable) back. So you felt
23 a wee bit more settled, but I didn't want to go back to
24 the other bits. I just wanted to stay there until I got
25 out, so you were afraid to do anything.

1 Q. This cook, he was -- was it a kind of prison officer
2 cook?

3 A. He was a prison officer. He was a -- what you would
4 describe now as a fat Mario, that kind of good going
5 person. He was good to us. He never shouted at us.
6 Never bawled at us. He just said, "Keep the kitchen and
7 the dining areas clear and you'll be all right. And
8 make sure when the governor comes to taste the meals
9 that it's perfect".

10 Q. That changed your time a little bit before you got out?

11 A. It helped a little bit, aye.

12 MS FORBES: I'm just going to move on what happened when
13 your time came to leave Glenochil?

14 LADY SMITH: We'll take the morning break. 'Edward', I
15 normally take a break at this point in the morning for
16 about 15 minutes; would you like to do that just now?

17 A. Aye.

18 LADY SMITH: Let's do that and we'll sit again after the
19 break.

20 (11.31 am)

21 (A short break)

22 (11.48 am)

23 LADY SMITH: Welcome back, 'Edward'. Are you ready for us
24 to carry on with your evidence?

25 A. Yes.

1 LADY SMITH: Thank you. Ms Forbes.

2 MS FORBES: My Lady.

3 'Edward', before I talk about what happened when you
4 left Glenochil, I just want to talk about any visitors
5 that you had when you were there.

6 I think it was your mum that came to visit it you?

7 A. Aye.

8 Q. Was that twice?

9 A. Twice, aye.

10 Q. The first time she came, I think you say it was because
11 she was worried about you?

12 A. She was, aye.

13 Q. Had you written a letter home to your mum at that time,
14 telling her how you felt?

15 A. Aye, because she had to -- when you sent -- your
16 visiting pass went out with your letter.

17 Q. You tell us that you hadn't talked about any specific
18 incident in the letter to her because you knew you
19 weren't allowed to you, but you told her you were
20 feeling quite down?

21 A. Aye, when she was -- at the visit.

22 Q. She came in to see you?

23 A. I did say to her, "I didn't want to tell you, I'll get
24 punished".

25 Q. The second time she came it was with a set of clothes;

1 is that because your clothes that you came in with had
2 been taken away and they weren't going to be given back
3 to you because --

4 A. They were bagged and labelled "contaminated".

5 Q. Did your mum have to come and take those away?

6 A. Take them way.

7 Q. You tell us about the visits with your mum, at
8 paragraph 42, and your state of mind. You say you were
9 upset when she was there?

10 A. Uh-huh.

11 Q. You were just crying during the visits?

12 A. Aye. She knew, as mothers do. How can I tell her
13 anything?

14 Q. You couldn't tell her anything; is that because you
15 weren't able to -- because you didn't feel able to or
16 because there were other people around that might be
17 listening?

18 A. I was afraid to, just in case I got into trouble when
19 she was away.

20 Q. You couldn't tell your mum what was going on, just in
21 case you were overheard by any prison officers?

22 A. Aye, they used to walk about on your visits, round the
23 tables, to make sure you weren't passing anything or
24 saying anything that you shouldn't be saying.

25 Q. Were they close enough that they would be able to hear

1 what you were saying to someone?

2 A. Oh aye. They used to just walk up and walk past your
3 tables, four or five tables with the visits, and one
4 would be standing, like, on a wee, raised platform, just
5 looking.

6 Q. In those eight weeks, you see your mum twice, but that
7 was the only visitor you got while you were there?

8 A. Aye. You had to put your hand up and you could go and
9 get a cup of tea. You had to put your hand up, just in
10 case somebody else was at the tea urn. So you just put
11 your hand up and I would say, "Can I go and get mum
12 a cup of tea?" And they went, "Aye".

13 Q. That was the routine at the visiting area?

14 A. Aye.

15 Q. You tell us there would be four or five of you at the
16 visit at the one time?

17 A. There were four or five visits going on in the room at
18 the same time.

19 Q. You also say that you think your mum knew that you
20 weren't right?

21 A. Aye, she knew I wasn't right. She was getting a hard
22 time before I went in too because of the bullies and
23 everything. She did say something the second time
24 because of the state that I looked.

25 Q. She said something to somebody?

1 A. No, she just demanded that she see, "Alright, what about
2 my son and everything?".

3 Q. This is when she saw you at the visit?

4 A. Aye.

5 Q. She said something about how she thought you looked?

6 A. Aye.

7 Q. That you weren't right?

8 A. My face was still swollen.

9 Q. This was after you had been slapped?

10 A. Aye. I just tell her I fell. And as mothers do, they
11 worry about their boys. She just started asking
12 questions, and they asked me: did you say anything about
13 this prison?

14 And I said no. And they never said anymore to me.

15 Q. So your mum is asking them questions because of how you
16 looked?

17 A. Aye.

18 Q. Afterwards, you were getting questioned about what you
19 had told her?

20 A. Aye.

21 Q. When you said you hadn't said anything; did they take
22 that at face value?

23 A. They never asked any more.

24 Q. After these eight weeks, you tell us about leaving
25 Glenochil, from paragraph 60. You say, on the day that

1 you were released, you were able to go to a cubicle; is
2 that one of those reception cubicles or a different type
3 of cubicle?

4 A. It's just the same as on the way you came in, as on the
5 way back out. But the doors weren't locked when you
6 were getting released.

7 Q. You change into your clothes in that cubicle?

8 A. Aye, my other clothes that my mum brought in for us.
9 There was your name on the cubicle, because there would
10 be two or three of us leaving. You just went into the
11 cubicle, put your prison clothes into a black bag and
12 put on your clothes you were going home in.

13 Q. Is this the cubicle that had the glass halfway up?

14 A. Aye.

15 Q. You are having to get changed out of your prison uniform
16 into your clothes?

17 A. Aye. Well, it was just the top that was glass, but they
18 couldn't see waist below. It was just to watch what you
19 were doing.

20 Q. On that day, you were given a bus pass to get home?

21 A. Aye.

22 Q. And you had to get three buses to take you home?

23 A. You were given a giro as well to cash, but you could
24 cash it on the way out of the prison.

25 Q. So there was a place you could get money before you

1 left?

2 A. Aye, and they had a bus timetable for you to go to
3 Stirling if you were getting buses. If you weren't
4 getting picked up.

5 Q. Because of where Glenochil was, to get back to where you
6 lived, you had to get three different buses?

7 A. A bus from the prison into Stirling, Stirling to
8 Edinburgh, then Edinburgh to Tranent.

9 Q. You tell us that after you left you went back again to
10 stay with your mum?

11 A. Uh-huh.

12 Q. You also tell us a little bit about the bus journey
13 home, that you got drunk on some rum on the bus and fell
14 asleep?

15 A. They told me and then they gave me. Aye, I've had,
16 like, rum in the past when I was a young laddie, like.
17 You got it at new year and all that, and your granny
18 always used to give you one or two tipples and it was
19 done with blackcurrant, so it was good. It tastes like
20 juice. It tastes like nothing else. So I bought a
21 bottle of that and a bottle of blackcurrant with it,
22 mixed it on the back of the bus.

23 Q. That when you got to Edinburgh?

24 A. Stirling.

25 Q. You say the bus driver knew where you were going anyway

1 and he woke you up?

2 A. The bus driver, when I told him in Edinburgh that
3 I'm going to Tranent, bus stop at the police station.
4 That is where the bus stop was, the main sort of stop in
5 each town. It also had it on your pass anyway, where
6 you were going.

7 Q. You talk about life after Glenochil and you say that you
8 were pretty much always with your mum, because you were
9 looking after her?

10 A. Aye.

11 Q. She had some medical issues?

12 A. The problems before I went in and the problems I came
13 home with, I just didn't want going out. I couldn't
14 take no more. I just wanted to be with my ma, my mum.

15 Q. You say that it was quite solitary, you didn't have any
16 friends, and you were just you on your own?

17 A. Never had friends because of what I was before. I just
18 got slagged because I used to do it on myself and picked
19 on by older ones, even my family picked on me, my
20 sister.

21 Q. You tell us earlier in your statement that your sister
22 was one of the people that would call you names?

23 A. Oh, she used to go about (indistinguishable) and start
24 it off when we were outside, the back, playing and ken
25 when we were playing, she was the one that always

1 started it off.

2 Q. You talk about how you felt after you left Glenochil;
3 are you able to talk about that, for the few months
4 after you left, how you still felt?

5 A. Aye.

6 Q. How did you feel?

7 A. Two or three times I attempted it.

8 Q. You attempted?

9 A. Aye, and old back polish(?), tried to cut my [REDACTED] and
10 everything and couldn't do it.

11 Q. This is you wanting to take your own life?

12 A. Take tablets. Quite a few times.

13 Q. You tell us you didn't really feel like that before you
14 went in?

15 A. No, but I did feel down, because I had nobody. And
16 I had wee suicidal thoughts, but I think Glenochil
17 triggered me off. This is what life is all about, you
18 know? Nil.

19 Q. You say that after a while you decided to go and join
20 the fun fair?

21 A. Yeah.

22 Q. You travelled around?

23 A. I left -- I went -- I helped -- I went down on the
24 weekend when the shows were there, when they came, and I
25 gave them a hand to build up and that, and [REDACTED]

1 ██████ was a nice kid and father, and he came to me and
2 said, "You are a good worker", and he just come and give
3 us loads of tickets for the fair and then asked to pull
4 down.

5 And then I (indistinguishable) to travel with them
6 and he got us a caravan and everything on my own. A new
7 start, a new beginning, (indistinguishable) and I did
8 make friends after that, when I was travelling, and I
9 liked it. Nobody knew who I was.

10 Q. Did you start to get a little bit of confidence at that
11 time?

12 A. I started getting stronger.

13 Q. You actually then moved back to Tranent at one point and
14 started your own business?

15 A. I got a job with a policeman. I got loads of friends,
16 policemen, and one of them's a great friend to this day
17 and has always looked after me, still my best pal.

18 I got a job with a -- he was good to me, the
19 policeman. He was good to me. He gave us a good wage;
20 you know what I mean? I said, "I can do this", so I
21 started going out in the woods and cutting up logs and
22 going to the doors and selling them, and I thought: I
23 could start my own coal business.

24 And I did. I left him.

25 Q. You did that for a while?

1 A. Aye, I did, to the police. Because he was a sergeant
2 they all came after me and tried to destroy me, pick my
3 business off and I kept fighting back. They got the
4 speed police to stop me seven times in one week, trying
5 to put my lorry off the road. And I kept fighting back
6 and I beat them.

7 So I started my own coal business and we got really
8 successful and my life changed. I got stronger and
9 harder and then I got an attitude. I went away when
10 they heard my (indistinguishable) I talked to them in
11 the wrong way because if I did they would have been
12 going down.

13 My past was coming back and I made sure nobody was
14 ever going to hurt me again, my family.

15 Q. You got married at one point and you had two sons?

16 A. [REDACTED]. I got married, but I was a typical -- me and
17 my wife split up and I met [REDACTED] and we had two sons.

18 Q. You had two sons with [REDACTED]?

19 A. Aye.

20 Q. You say that even after you had been married you bought
21 a house, but you still stayed with your mum?

22 A. I was still living with my mum, yes, because she had
23 a stroke and they wanted to put her in a home and I
24 wouldn't -- they weren't taking her off me. I wouldn't
25 let her go. I'm looking after my ma.

1 (indistinguishable) And I looked after my ma.

2 Then she got [REDACTED], and I still
3 wouldn't let her go and I still cared for her, washed
4 her, bathed her, cleaned her after the toilet, fed her,
5 and it got too much for me. I just got her in a home
6 where it was ... but the problem was, when she went to
7 a nursing home, to me, it was like prisons and it was
8 the (indistinguishable) nurse and all
9 (indistinguishable) you're not treating her right.
10 (indistinguishable). I made sure my mum was all right,
11 aye.

12 Q. You say that you liked being with your mum and in your
13 mum's home, that was always somewhere where you were
14 safe?

15 A. I wouldn't leave my ma with anybody (indistinguishable),
16 even her boyfriends. Because she worked in a pub and
17 that, and that makes you -- through the boyfriends.
18 Wouldn't leave them one minute with my ma.

19 I liked her boyfriends, so ...

20 Sorry, if that's not relevant to the case, a little
21 bit. It's just -- I -- it's the way I feel about my ma.

22 Q. The one thing that happened is you didn't get in trouble
23 again after Glenochil?

24 A. No. And I had my two sons because I wouldn't allow it.
25 They're good laddies. Turned out two good laddies.

1 Q. You tell us it's not somewhere you wanted to go back to?

2 A. No, I made sure they weren't going off the rails and
3 nobody was going to do to them what they done to me.
4 And I just wanted to have a proper family life, a happy
5 family life, and I did get it. I worked hard for it and
6 I got it.

7 Q. You tell us about the impact and you say that Glenochil
8 changed you?

9 A. Aye. It changed my tempers. Sometimes -- I can't
10 punish my partner, but sometimes when she was showing
11 off, fawning over men -- nay, nay, nay. Nay, nay, nay.
12 And building up and building up. And then I just -- I
13 could take a light switch off a wall with one swipe with
14 a punch and break my hand. "Leave me, leave me, leave
15 me away", and just went into a corner.

16 Q. Do you think that sometimes meant you would be angry and
17 you would lash out at things?

18 A. Aye, if I feel threatened by anybody I do lash out
19 before I think, but then I kind of -- after I've done
20 it, I feel ashamed and I just want to go away and hide.

21 Q. You have been told that sometimes you shout things when
22 you are sleeping?

23 A. I do. I'm very -- even in a relationship with somebody,
24 I find it difficult to sleep in a double bed. I don't
25 like sleeping in a double bed. [REDACTED] says I sleep on

1 a couch, with my back to the couch because there's
2 nobody behind me, and I shout and scream and bawl when
3 I'm asleep. "They're coming to get me", and things like
4 that, and [REDACTED] is probably black and blue sleeping
5 next to me, kicking out and ...

6 Q. You told us about your thoughts when you were in
7 Glenochil, and I think you tell us in your statement
8 that if you had managed to get hold of a razor blade or
9 part of one --

10 A. I would have.

11 Q. -- you would have tried do something with it?

12 A. I wouldn't be here today. It was the most degrading and
13 worthless -- I just felt like there was something wrong
14 with me and nobody loved us and just didn't want to be
15 here.

16 Q. That's what Glenochil made you feel?

17 A. Aye. And I always says to [REDACTED] I'm afraid of myself,
18 because I'm the kind of person that wouldn't cry out for
19 help I would just go and do it.

20 Q. I missed that last part, you wouldn't cry out for help,
21 you would?

22 A. I wouldn't cry out for help I would just go and do it.

23 Q. Do you mean you would hurt yourself?

24 A. Oh, aye. That's why I had to go to the mental health.
25 I was going there for two year now, once a week for

1 two years, because it's just -- it seems to be all
2 coming back for some reason.

3 Q. You have been getting some group therapy?

4 A. Oh, aye, aye.

5 Q. You feel like that's been helping you?

6 A. Aye. I've been trying to sort my tempers out and trying
7 (indistinguishable) to try and forget. But, as you get
8 older and that, you always seem to go back and remember
9 things in the past, and my past it's -- just shouldn't.
10 Nobody really wants to remember.

11 Q. You tell us in your statement -- this is at
12 paragraph 76 -- you are a protective person over
13 vulnerable people?

14 A. Oh, aye, aye. I take folks who are getting bullied
15 under my wing and then I become a vigilante and nobody's
16 touching them. I've tamed folk with a
17 (indistinguishable) put them through their driving tests
18 and helped them get on with their lives. I tell lots of
19 people this. Maybe it's because I've struggled myself,
20 but I'll not stand by and watch somebody being bullied.

21 Q. You say that you know how those people will be feeling,
22 because it happened to you?

23 A. Aye. If I see a woman getting battered in the street by
24 a man, I can't watch, because my ma went through -- and
25 I intervene, but sometimes it's the wrong way to

1 intervene.

2 Q. I just want to ask you a couple of things that you tell
3 us about the lessons that you think should be learned.
4 You start telling us about that at paragraph 81 of your
5 statement.

6 A. I thought when went to the jail you would get lessons on
7 not committing crime and getting helped with when you
8 get out and that, and getting jobs and that. And kind
9 of -- not lessons you get nowadays, you get sent on
10 courses, but, like, group kind of talks. But you never
11 got any of that.

12 Q. You thought there would be something when you were in
13 Glenochil that might help?

14 A. Aye. Because when I was in Saughton it was all right,
15 and I thought when I was on my way to Glenochil I
16 thought I would be all right.

17 Q. Glenochil was very different from Saughton?

18 A. Aye. It was just a continuation of what was going on in
19 my life.

20 Q. When you say that; do you mean the bullying?

21 A. The violence and the bullying and everything. And
22 that's why when it became adults treating me like that,
23 that's when you decide you don't want to be here,
24 because everybody is like it.

25 Q. It makes you think everybody is like that?

1 A. Everybody.

2 Q. You say that you should just treat people fairly in
3 prison and that most of them are there to be punished
4 for what they've done, but not abused?

5 A. Aye.

6 Q. Is that how you feel?

7 A. Aye.

8 Q. You comment about what they did to you, with shaving
9 you, because you say that you understand that they had
10 to shave you because of what you had, but then they
11 didn't have to mock you in front of everyone?

12 A. Aye. They mocked us, swore at me. Bullied and slapped
13 me and called me names. I seemed to be the attraction
14 to slag, the slag-off; ken what I mean?

15 Q. You were the target?

16 A. Aye. Even getting picked in the prison, every name
17 being like -- I didn't know (indistinguishable) in that
18 kind of style, discipline, if they used you as a target
19 for the other men. This is what happens when you bring
20 beasts in the jail. There is a bucket and pail, scrub
21 the parade ground, outside scrubbing concrete ground.
22 All day, scrubbing away, and they would even kick your
23 bucket over, "Start again, you've made a mess".

24 Q. They would just deliberately kick it over and say,
25 "Start again"?

1 A. Aye, it was just keeping you busy.

2 Q. You talk about some hopes that you have for the Inquiry
3 from paragraph 85. You say prison should be a place
4 where you go to learn and talk about what you did wrong?

5 A. Aye.

6 Q. It shouldn't be a place --

7 A. I think if I was staying outside and learnt right from
8 wrong I would have probably listened in that day and age
9 and era. In this day and age and era, it's all
10 telephones and computers and it's not one-to-one
11 talking.

12 Q. You say you hope somebody from the Prison Service
13 apologises about what happened to you and others and
14 acknowledges what happened to you?

15 A. Aye. It shouldn't have happened.

16 Q. This Inquiry, 'Edward', has heard that they have
17 apologised publicly for what happened to people.

18 A. I've always said it wasn't just me; it's a lot of folk
19 that were suffering.

20 Q. You say, at the end, that you went into Glenochil and
21 you were already feeling down and low, but the way that
22 they treated you, by abusing and humiliating you, made
23 you feel suicidal. It was only the gym teacher who got
24 your trust and stuck up for you, that you thought he
25 saved you?

1 A. Uh-huh. I actually seen him years after, because I had
2 a market stall at Ingliston and I seen him when I was
3 serving somebody. And after I served the person, I ran
4 after him and I just wanted to shake his hand and thank
5 him. That's how I felt about that guy. I never had any
6 quarrels with the guy. I just wanted to run after him
7 and thank him and I couldn't find him because it was
8 that busy. Because I was serving somebody at the time.
9 I served him and he was gone.

10 Q. You couldn't catch up to him?

11 A. Aye.

12 MS FORBES: That is all the questions I have for you,
13 'Edward'. There is just one thing I wanted to clarify.
14 At the end of your statement, when I asked you about
15 what date you signed it, I suggested to you it was
16 19 January 2023, but actually it's just the way it's
17 been written, it's 19 September 2023; does that sound
18 right to you.

19 A. Aye.

20 Q. It's not that long ago, really.

21 A. No.

22 MS FORBES: Thank you very much for answering my questions.

23 LADY SMITH: 'Edward', before I let you go I want to add my
24 grateful thanks to you for coming here today.

25 It's obviously been really difficult and we've put

1 you through the mill emotionally, in taking you back to
2 a really bad time in your life. But please be assured
3 that your remarkable ability to bring to life the
4 awfulness of what happened to you in that short period
5 has been a tremendous value to our learning here. Tough
6 for you to go through it, but I promise you it's
7 valuable to us and we'll make good use of it, so thank
8 you for that.

9 I'm now able to let you go. Can I also thank your
10 supporter for coming here today. It's obviously been
11 important for you to have her here. I'm grateful to her
12 too. Thank you.

13 A. I can go to my ma's grave and tell her I've got closure.

14 LADY SMITH: Good.

15 A. I've told somebody.

16 LADY SMITH: You leave these awful stories with us now and
17 let us carry that burden for you.

18 A. Aye.

19 LADY SMITH: All right.

20 (The witness withdrew)

21 LADY SMITH: I'm guessing we have some time to read in some
22 evidence?

23 MS FORBES: There is time, and it is my learned senior,

24 Mr Peoples, who has something ready for your Ladyship.

25 LADY SMITH: Mr Peoples.

1 (Pause)

2 MR PEOPLES: My Lady, the next witness is a read-in and he
3 is 'David' and his statement is WIT-1-000001122.

4 'David' (read)

5 MR PEOPLES: 'David' was born in 1955 in Glasgow and he
6 tells us about his life before he went into care,
7 between paragraphs 2 and 12 of his statement.

8 I'll just pick out some of the things from that at
9 this stage. He tells us that he learned about his early
10 years later in life from an aunt.

11 It appears that when 'David' was very young his
12 mother had a breakdown and spent some time in hospital.
13 It appears that the Local Authority considered that she
14 was not fit to look after 'David' and he was, as I think
15 he indicates, under some pressure on his mother from the
16 Glasgow Corporation. He was placed on a voluntary basis
17 in Quarriers when he was around three years of age.

18 While he was there, between [REDACTED] 1958 and
19 [REDACTED] 1963, he didn't see his mother or indeed
20 know who his mother was, and until late in life he
21 didn't know who was his father.

22 His first care placement was in Quarriers. He deals
23 with that care experience between paragraphs 13 and 52.
24 He describes there -- and I'm not going into the detail
25 of this -- a variety of abuse, physical abuse, sexual

1 abuse and psychological or emotional abuse, and indeed
2 some abuse of practice. There is quite a long catalogue
3 in that section of his report about things in Quarriers,
4 some of which will bear a resemblance to the findings in
5 the case study. So there is, I think, a familiarity, to
6 some extent, with the evidence that he gives on that
7 front.

8 I'll not go into that.

9 All I can perhaps just say is he says, at
10 paragraph 50, he would describe his life in Quarriers as
11 "horrible". He would sum up his time there as "horrible
12 and disgusting". That was his first care experience.

13 On leaving Quarriers, he tells us that he went back
14 to live with his mum in Govan, in an area that was known
15 at Wine Alley. His mother had a new partner who was
16 sometimes around. Her partner was often drunk and
17 shouted at 'David'. 'David' says, at paragraph 56, that
18 he was unhappy at home and was running away and skipping
19 school. He says aged about nine, which would be around
20 1964, he went back into care. After an appearance in
21 the juvenile court he was taken temporarily to
22 Larchgrove Remand Home until a placement could be found
23 for him.

24 He tells us about Larchgrove Remand Home between
25 paragraphs 60 and 75 of his signed statement. Just

1 picking out some things that are said there, 'David'
2 remembers a Mr MKI slapping him on the jaw for being
3 cheeky; that is paragraph 60.

4 He was in a dorm with about 12 boys that was locked
5 at night. He says that during the day the boys spent
6 a lot of time in the yard at Larchgrove, kicking a ball
7 about or smoking; that is 64.

8 Boys who were on detention, that is remand, wore
9 a brown uniform and the rest wore blue; that is
10 paragraph 66.

11 He has no recollection of social work visits at that
12 time; that is in paragraph 69.

13 LADY SMITH: He would have been about nine or ten years old
14 at that time?

15 MR PEOPLES: He says he was about nine, 1964.

16 LADY SMITH: Just before his 10th birthday.

17 MR PEOPLES: That was his age.

18 At paragraph 71, he says that he was made to
19 masturbate several older boys in Larchgrove. This would
20 happen in the dorms and it was one boy at a time that he
21 had to do this with.

22 He says, at 72, he thinks the staff knew what was
23 going on, because one time when he was meant to
24 masturbate a boy he could hear someone coming along the
25 corridor that he knew to be staff. He says he ran back

1 to his bed, but before he could get into it, there was
2 Mr MKI coming in and touching his heart and he said
3 he called him a "dirty wee bastard" and gave him
4 a skelp.

5 He says he tried to get out the windows a lot, at
6 paragraph 73, but if you got caught you would get a slap
7 and kick and belt on your arse over your clothing. So
8 that was another thing that he tells us about.

9 Aged nine, he was admitted, after the spell in
10 Larchgrove, to Dr Guthrie's Boys' School, which would be
11 an Approved School at that stage. He tells us about
12 life in Dr Guthrie's between paragraph 76 and 89. It
13 was ██████████ 1965. He tells us that he thinks the boys
14 were aged between about nine and 16, at paragraph 77.

15 He says, at paragraph 78, there were loads of dorms
16 with about 16 boys in each. He remembers SNR ██████████
17 was a Mr GZP ██████████ and he remembers someone called GVI ██████████,
18 another member of staff.

19 He tells us that he went to Dr Guthrie's on two
20 occasions. Firstly, I think, around the age of nine and
21 then, later on, when he was around 13. He says between
22 those two ages he was in other places. He's not
23 entirely sure whether the people he remembers were there
24 the first time round or second time round.

25 He does say there were classes with normal school

1 subjects, at paragraph 81. He tells us that pupils were
2 free to go about their dorm or go outdoors in the
3 grounds.

4 At 83, he says he ran away, but he can't remember if
5 that was on the first or second occasion he was at
6 Dr Guthrie's. As a punishment for running away, he
7 tells us he would get battered and belted.

8 He says, at paragraph 84, the same things that had
9 happened to him at Larchgrove started to happen to him
10 with the older boys at Dr Guthrie's. He says it was
11 just one boy at a time, but there were several of them
12 who would make him do it. It was happening a lot and
13 they would drag 'David' into the toilet block or back of
14 the dormitory to make him do things.

15 He says he doesn't want to go into the details
16 again, but he said what was happening to him was also
17 happening to other boys.

18 He says, at 85, just on the same matter, there was
19 something else vulgar that happened, but he doesn't wish
20 to talk about it. But he thinks the staff knew what had
21 happened as "they were always around me after that".

22 As regards the staff, at paragraph 86, he does say
23 the staff would call him names. They called me
24 "snotty", he said:

25 "Because I was always crying and had snot running

1 down my nose."

2 He says this was because he was so unhappy because
3 of what was happening with the older boys, but that
4 nobody asked him at any time why he was so unhappy.

5 'David' thinks he was moved because the staff knew
6 what the older boys were making him do; that is at
7 paragraph 88.

8 The upshot was he was transferred to the
9 Dale School. He tells us about his time at the
10 Dale School between paragraphs 90 and 115.

11 Secondary Institutions - to be published later



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On release from the Dale School, he went back to his mother. He got into some trouble during that period. He recalls going back to Larchgrove for a short time and was then committed or recommitted to Dr Guthrie's. He tells us a little bit about Larchgrove on the second occasion he was there, between paragraphs 120 and 123.

He says he thinks he was around 13 or 14 when he went back to Larchgrove, that is would be 1968/1969. He says that the boys who had abused him the first time

1 around weren't there any more. Indeed, he says on that
2 occasion nothing happened that he considered to be
3 abusive; that is 123.

4 He tells us a bit about his second spell at
5 Dr Guthrie's, between paragraphs 124 and 135. 'David'
6 says that Mr GZP, SNR was all right and he
7 recalls that he actually died when 'David' was there.

8 He says in this part of his statement he does
9 remember Mr GVI and also a Mr GFG. He thinks he
10 was there around 18 months. But he said the boys were
11 different from those who were there the first time he'd
12 been there, when he was about nine years of age.

13 He tells us a bit about the routine at Dr Guthrie's.
14 He says that boys did a lot of sport when they were
15 there, such as football, wrestling, boxing, trampolining
16 and so forth. But he also says, at 126, that they were
17 also made to play murder ball. I think we have some
18 idea of what murder ball is. It seems to be a game that
19 was played in a number of settings.

20 LADY SMITH: Wholly unregulated game like rugby, no rules
21 and a ball that's even heavier than a rugby ball.

22 MR PEOPLES: I'm not sure which ball they used here, but we
23 get the idea of what the game involved from this and
24 other evidence.

25 He says he has no recollection of social work visits

1 when he was at Dr Guthrie's. He sometimes went home for
2 the weekend or at times during the school holidays; that
3 is 127.

4 He tells us he ran away a couple of times. At 128,
5 he says he got the strap across the backside over his
6 clothes from the deputy headmaster. He was given six of
7 the belt and he says other teachers at the school would
8 send boys to the deputy head if they were doing anything
9 wrong and he would belt them; that is 128.

10 At 130, he says when he went back to Dr Guthrie's
11 the same kind of abuse happened a couple of times, where
12 he was dragged into the toilets and made to masturbate
13 an older boy. He said it was just the one boy that made
14 him do that twice. He was around 13 or 14 years of age
15 and says he started to stand up for himself, so it did
16 stop.

17 He says he doesn't know if this was happening to
18 other boys and he never told anyone what he had been
19 made to do.

20 He recalls an occasion when he and another boy tried
21 to run away and that Mr GVI and Mr GFG, or perhaps
22 Mr GFG -- I think he's not sure of the surname --
23 pursued the boys in a Land Rover, caught them when the
24 boys fell over and, at 131, he describes what then
25 happened. He says:

1 "The two of them battered us both whilst we were on
2 the ground. They started kicking us to the body. We
3 got taken back to school and the deputy headteacher gave
4 us the strap across the backside over our clothes. It
5 was the usual teacher's belt with two tongues at the
6 end. We got hit at least six times each with belt."

7 He says, at 133, that his face -- this is after this
8 occasion that he was battered -- was covered with
9 bruises. He says that at 133.

10 At 134, he says he also had bruises on his thigh and
11 stomach. He says he recalls writing a letter to his
12 mother about the incident. She came to the school and
13 'David' says that he can -- 'David's' recollection is
14 that she attacked one of his assailants.

15 He certainly says he was there and shes was cursing
16 and swearing. He says he was told to leave at that
17 point, but was later told by his mum that she had and I
18 quote "got physical" after he left.

19 He tells us, at 132, that boys had to swim naked in
20 the swimming pool. He says the teacher made them do
21 life saving, but he says that wasn't nice if you were
22 doing it naked, although he said the teacher himself
23 didn't come into the water.

24 After leaving Dr Guthrie's, he went back home again.
25 He started skipping school again and getting into

1 trouble. When he was around 15, which would be 1970 or
2 thereabouts, he was sent to Kibble Approved School for
3 two years, but went to Larchgrove for a short period
4 first. This is the third time at Larchgrove, I think.
5 He tells us briefly about the third time, at 141 to 142.

6 What he does say at 142 is:

7 "The time I was there there were gangs. I saw
8 people getting stabbed in the legs. This never happened
9 to me, though. By the time I went back, I was bigger,
10 stronger and more streetwise."

11 He then, in his statement, tells us about his time
12 at Kibble, between 143 and 161. He says he thinks he
13 was there around a year and that SNR [REDACTED] was
14 Mr GHK [REDACTED] who was called "GHK [REDACTED]" by the boys; that
15 is at 144. He remembers some of the staff, other staff
16 as well. He says he helped out with painting a new unit
17 that was being built while he was there. He estimates
18 there were perhaps 30 to 40 boys aged between 13 and 14
19 and as much as 18 years of age; that is at 145.

20 He said each boy had, as he puts it, separate cubes,
21 that's areas partitioned off in a dorm, with a bed and
22 chest of drawers.

23 At 140, 'David' says that there was lots of gangs
24 stuff going on at the time with gangs from Carlton,
25 Easterhouse, Maryhill, all of these places. He said:

1 "We'd get out at the weekend and I would go with
2 people from the gang and get involved in fights instead
3 of going to my mum's. It was just something different
4 to do."

5 He says at Kibble, at 149, there weren't school
6 classes, but there were workshops where boys would do
7 various things, including joinery, painting, gardening
8 and so forth. He says at one stage he and three other
9 boys worked at a car wash in Paisley in the day and went
10 back to Kibble at night; that is 150.

11 He said it was not secure, Kibble, and boys were
12 allowed to go out with permission; that is 151.

13 At 153, he says:

14 "We were treated a bit better and had more freedom
15 at Kibble."

16 He says he didn't see a social worker or have a key
17 worker; that is 154.

18 Home leave was dependent on behaviour the previous
19 week; that is 157.

20 He never ran away or tried do so because he got on
21 well with the people there; that is 158.

22 He says, at 159, there were lots of fights in Kibble
23 and indeed, on one occasion, he says he was in a fight
24 after someone had slashed a boy.

25 At 159, he says:

1 "I got a doing from Mr GHK and another staff
2 member. I got the blame and they were looking for the
3 blade, but it wasn't me that had the blade. He put me
4 in a headlock, banging my head off the wall and shouting
5 'Where's the blade?' We were in the gym room. He then
6 sat me down and told me I was getting denied home leave
7 and they kept me in for six weekends."

8 He goes on to say, at 160:

9 "There were lots of fights that went on at Kibble,
10 but the staff didn't bother trying to stop it. I got my
11 head split open by another boy who hit me with a table
12 tennis bat and they just stood and watched it. There
13 was gang stuff going on in there with all the different
14 Glasgow gangs and they would just fight. The gangs were
15 decided by what area you were from. I was in a gang
16 with mates and we would all look after each other.
17 I was in the Govan gang, but I ran about with boys from
18 other gangs who I got pally with and I would go with
19 them at the weekends."

20 He tells us that he left Kibble, at 161, when he was
21 about 16 years of age, which would be around 1971.
22 He went back home. At that time his relationship with
23 his mother was not a good one. 'David' tells us he was
24 drinking a lot, fighting with gangs and getting into
25 trouble with the police. He ended up -- aged about 17,

1 which would be 1972 -- at Glasgow Sheriff Court charged
2 with attempted murder, which was later reduced to
3 serious assault. He received a sentence of three years'
4 detention and was taken first to Barlinnie for, he
5 thinks, around three months, but it could have been less
6 and he was then transferred to Polmont.

7 He tells us about his time in the SPS
8 establishments, starting at paragraph 164. I'll maybe
9 read some of that if I can.

10 LADY SMITH: Thank you.

11 MR PEOPLES: He deals, firstly, with HMP Barlinnie:

12 "I got taken to Barlinnie first of all for a period
13 and then got transferred to Polmont. It might have been
14 three months, maybe less. Barlinnie was an eye opener,
15 being locked up in a cell nearly all the time. There
16 were a few of us got sent there at the same time and we
17 wore pinstripe shirts in there. The prison officers
18 were working to rule at the time. We got our food
19 brought to us and we were only out for about 15 minutes
20 a day for exercise, although we would sometimes get out
21 to polish the brass.

22 "The staff in there were all right with us. They
23 were working to rule and just wanted a quiet life.
24 There were no issues of abuse whilst I was in
25 Barlinnie."

1 He goes on to deal with his time in Polmont borstal
2 from 168:

3 "When I first went to Polmont borstal I went to the
4 allocation centre for six weeks. I was in a single cell
5 that had a bed and chest of drawers in it. I can't
6 remember whether there was a toilet in the cell or not."

7 He then goes on to describe the routine, on
8 page 31 of his statement:

9 "We got woken up in the morning, cell doors
10 were opened and we got shouted out on to the landing.
11 We were then shouted at to face our cell doors. We
12 were then told by a landing [officer] at a time to turn
13 right, march down the stairs and into the dining area
14 to get fed. After breakfast, you had to go back to
15 your cell, clean it out and make your bed up in bed
16 blocks.

17 "Our cells used to get inspected three times
18 a day. They would check to see if there was any dust,
19 that your cell was tidy and your bed block was made up
20 properly.

21 "We then got shouted at again, had to face
22 the cell door and brought out again. We were then told
23 what chores we were going to be doing. This involved
24 jobs like breaking up the old Bakelite phones,
25 gardening, cleaning and scrubbing the floors in the

1 mile corridor, which was the worst one.

2 "We were out our cell most of the day and you
3 couldn't go back to it unless you were told to. You
4 couldn't do anything unless you were told. After tea,
5 we were allowed to sit about. People would be smoking
6 and chatting and then we would be back into our cell
7 for 8 o'clock and that was us for the rest of the
8 night.

9 "After six weeks, I moved to the north wing.
10 It was a lot easier there and I had no issues because I
11 knew the guy that was the main man in there. He was
12 from Govan and was in for murder. He ran the north
13 wing and he knew me. There was a snooker table there
14 and because of who he was he could play snooker any
15 time he wanted."

16 He says he called him by a nickname and:

17 "He would get me to play snooker with him."

18 He says:

19 "At first in the north wing we would get up
20 at eight in the morning, do a bit of chores, do the
21 floors, do your room and that was it. A few weeks
22 later they were looking for plasterers for building
23 Cornton Vale at the time, so I volunteered. We got
24 transported up to Cornton Vale, did the work, went back
25 down to Polmont, got our tea and then went to bed."

1 Moving to page 32, at paragraph 175, under a
2 heading, "Abuse at Polmont":

3 "There was a screw called **GSM** and if
4 anything was wrong in your cell he would hit you with
5 the bed stick. This was a piece of wood used to
6 measure your bed block. It was about two-feet long and
7 was thin. One time my bed block was a bit loose and he
8 hit me across the side of the face with his bed stick.
9 When he did this I went for him, but he overpowered me.
10 I was dubbed up in the cooler for the night. That's
11 where you got sent if you were fighting or did anything
12 wrong. It was underneath the blocks and was a cell
13 with just a bed in it.

14 "**GSM** was one of these guys that if he
15 didn't like you he would take it out on you. When we
16 were in the mile corridor he would come up behind you,
17 kick you up the arse with his big pointed shoes and
18 call you a 'fucking bastard'. We were all in a line
19 scrubbing with a brush and water. He made you look at
20 the ground in front of you and you weren't allowed to
21 talk. We would shite ourselves that he was going to
22 come back up behind us and kick us with these shoes.

23 "Nothing happened to me at the north wing in
24 Polmont. It was all very easy-osey because of the main
25 man that I knew.

1 "Going back and forward to Cornton Vale went
2 on for a while and then they shifted a few of us up to
3 Cornton Vale because they had their own borstal there.
4 We stayed in the rooms up there. I never thought about
5 running away from there as I enjoyed it and was with
6 a lot of people I knew from Govan. I liked the work
7 and they kept us busy.

8 "I'm not sure what dates I left Cornton Vale,
9 but I think I was about 18. One of the reasons I
10 volunteered to go was because I was told I would get
11 an early release from my sentence. I kept my nose
12 clean and I finished my sentence up there after only
13 doing one year of a three-year sentence.

14 "I never had any issues or suffered any abuse
15 at Cornton Vale."

16 He says something about his life after care,
17 between 181 and paragraph 202. He says after his
18 release from Cornton Vale he went back to his mother.
19 He was again getting drunk and getting into trouble for
20 breaches of the peace and other offences. He says he
21 couldn't get a job because of his convictions and he
22 said his mum put him out the house, as he couldn't get
23 work and he tells us about what happened after that.

24 He tells us that he went on to have children.
25 This is paragraph 187, page 34. However, his wife did

1 end up in hospital with depression before one of his
2 children was born. Then he says that after that, when
3 one of his children was about six months old his wife
4 just disappeared and that was the last he saw for
5 a while. He was then a lone parent and brought up his
6 children on his own. He says that they are a very
7 close and loving family, although he says he did
8 struggle to bring his children up on his own and went
9 off the rails a bit with drinking alcohol, but he says
10 he fought tooth and nail to try to make sure nothing
11 happened to them and they were safe from any kind of
12 harm. This is at paragraph 188.

13 He says:

14 "I wanted to make sure that they did not end
15 up having the kind of life that I had by being taken
16 from me and sent to somewhere like Quarriers."

17 He says his wife then reappeared on the
18 scene, but about four years on they were divorced. He
19 then says that around the millennium, through social
20 work, he got involved with the Braindam Link(?) and the
21 Pearce Institute and he tells us about a co-ordinator
22 for the place and they ended up doing voluntary work
23 with the group. He said that the work involved
24 children camping and things, and he says he loved doing
25 that work.

1 He then had a spell with what is called the
2 Govan Initiative, which was training people back to
3 work.

4 Then he says, on page 35, at 192, that
5 through the Govan Initiative he went back to college
6 and started an HNC course and did get some modules, but
7 didn't complete it. He was intending to go back, but
8 in 2005 one of his children was murdered.

9 He says, at 194, that put more strain on him
10 and he took unwell and suffered heavy depression. He
11 has some issues with circumstances surrounding his
12 son's death, as is clear from his statement.

13 LADY SMITH: He's very frank about that.

14 MR PEOPLES: At 196, he says that based on his engagement
15 with the justice system he doesn't have a lot of faith
16 in it because of concerns he raised about the
17 circumstances of his son's death.

18 He tells us indeed, at 202, that since his son's
19 death he's not worked in a paid job, but he was still
20 involved in doing various voluntary work, helping
21 homeless and helping out the poverty lines, he says,
22 before the COVID lockdown. He was also helping at the
23 Riverside Museum, and this was a way of keeping off
24 drink at least for some of the time.

25 In terms of the impact of his times in care, it's

1 clear at page 37, from paragraph 204, that his time at
2 Quarriers had a very significant impact. He says the
3 thoughts about what happened there have never left him.

4 At 205, he says he hated the place so much, as he
5 feels that it destroyed his life and turned him into
6 something he didn't want to be. He did rebel against
7 the system after coming out of Quarriers and he hated
8 any kind of authority.

9 He tells us, at 206, that he believes he spent more
10 time in institutions than at home until he was about
11 20 years of age.

12 He says that things happened and he was involved
13 in -- in going to Polmont borstal on a basis which he
14 says he didn't have anything to do with in fact, but he
15 says -- and this is perhaps something that we have seen
16 before -- at 208, that at the time it was taboo to be
17 a grass. So he doesn't want to elaborate on that
18 matter, but he says he didn't say anything about whether
19 he was the right or the wrong person who was
20 apprehended.

21 He goes back again, at 38, to say about the impact
22 of Quarriers:

23 "Quarriers turned me into someone that I did not
24 want to be or even like. This is due to the trouble
25 that I had with authority and authoritative figures.

1 I was constantly getting into trouble, but most of this
2 was due to the aggression that I had inside of me, which
3 led me into getting into a lot of fights. This
4 aggression that I had inside of me came from Quarriers,
5 as it had followed me from there even from an early
6 stage."

7 At paragraph 214, still on impact, he says he still
8 bears the emotional and physical scars from the place.

9 At 218, he says that he started drinking as soon as
10 he came out of Cornton Vale and had turned to drink
11 because, as he put it:

12 "I was fucked up in the head from being in all these
13 places. Drink has been me with the rest of my life."

14 He also says that he has taken drugs for the same
15 reasons. As regards education, at paragraph 220, he
16 says he never had a consistent education because of all
17 the disruption and he thinks this affected him because
18 he probably would have made something of his life.

19 At 221, page 40, he said he did turn to crime and he
20 attributes that to being so angry after what had
21 happened at Quarriers. He says:

22 "If I hadn't been put into care, I don't know if
23 I would have turned to crime."

24 He says he thinks his time in care has affected his
25 relationship with his own family; that is 222.

1 At 223, he tells us that he finds it very hard to
2 speak about things that have happened to him, that he
3 has a long history of depression and has attempted
4 suicide on a few occasions during his life, before he
5 had his children.

6 At 224, he has no trust in authority and he feels
7 that the full system -- I think he means the care
8 system -- has let him down.

9 As regards treatment and support, there is a section
10 dealing with that, on page 41.

11 At 225, he says he did talk to his doctor many years
12 ago about what had happened to him, but he didn't really
13 go into much detail because he still felt very
14 embarrassed about it.

15 On page 42, as regards reporting, he says he has not
16 reported the abuse he suffered to the police and,
17 towards the end, he refers to some documents which give
18 us dates for Quarriers. He has some documents
19 and records in relation to that period. I've given the
20 dates for that.

21 LADY SMITH: You have. That is helpful.

22 MR PEOPLES: If I could just pass on finally to "Lessons to
23 be learned", which starts at page 46, paragraph 250. At
24 paragraph 252, he goes back to how he ended up in
25 Quarriers. He says:

1 "All these people that have been involved with me
2 ending up in Quarriers at the beginning of my life and
3 up until I was 20 years of age and what they did to my
4 mother should all bow their heads in shame. These
5 people that made my mother give me up to Quarriers would
6 often visit my mother, but not once did they ever visit
7 Quarriers to find out how I was doing. I was just
8 another statistic to them. I did not matter to them and
9 was forgotten by them."

10 At 255, he makes the point that -- he says that
11 things are still happening today and are going on day by
12 day, week by week and year after year.

13 He says, at 257, he would like to finish by saying
14 that the people who ran these institutions should be
15 made accountable for what happened in them. Also, the
16 people that run these systems should be made accountable
17 and that also includes the governments. Things have
18 been covered up over a long number of years and for far
19 too long.

20 Just finally, at page 49, he states, at
21 paragraph 267:

22 "I have no objection to my witness statement being
23 published as part of the evidence to the Inquiry.
24 I believe the facts stated in this witness statement are
25 true."

1 He has signed his statement on 8 November 2022.

2 LADY SMITH: Thank you very much, Mr Peoples.

3 MR PEOPLES: This is probably a good time to take lunch. We
4 have another live witness at 2 o'clock.

5 LADY SMITH: Yes. I'll rise now for the lunch break and sit
6 again at 2 o'clock. Thank you.

7 Before I do that, names to remember. I'm sure
8 people are picking this up. My General Restriction
9 Order applies to quite a number of members of staff who
10 were mentioned today. They include people with the
11 names MKI, [REDACTED], GVI, GFG, GHK and
12 somebody known as GSM. They can't be identified
13 outside this room. Thank you.

14 (12.58 pm)

15 (The luncheon adjournment)

16 (2.00 pm)

17 LADY SMITH: Good afternoon. I'd like to turn next witness
18 in person, who I think is ready; is that right,
19 Mr Peoples?

20 MR PEOPLES: Yes, I think next witness is ready, and he is
21 'Peter'.

22 LADY SMITH: Thank you.

23 'Peter' (sworn)

24 LADY SMITH: That microphone is now on, 'Peter', you can see
25 from the red light. It sounds as though you're in

1 a good position for it. Don't move, that seems to work
2 well. We'll let you know if we need you any further
3 away or closer to it.

4 That red folder on the desk there has your statement
5 in it. Thank you for providing that in advance. It's
6 been a great help to have your written evidence before
7 you come in here today. Thank you for agreeing do that
8 as well. It does add value to actually hear from the
9 witness in particular cases, and I'm sure you appreciate
10 that.

11 I hope you realise I do understand that it's not
12 easy to do what we're about to ask you to do and go back
13 to difficult times in your early life, when you were
14 still a child, but we'll do what we can to make it as
15 comfortable as possible for you.

16 You can help by letting me know if you have any
17 problems or any concerns, or any requests, like a break.

18 I'll take a break around 3 o'clock in any event, but
19 if you want one before then, that's absolutely fine. If
20 it works for you, it works for me, whether that's just
21 sitting and pausing where you are or leaving the room,
22 so do speak up.

23 If you are ready, I'll hand over to Mr Peoples and
24 he'll take it from there; is that all right?

25 A. Yes.

1 LADY SMITH: Thank you. Mr Peoples.

2 Questions from Mr Peoples

3 MR PEOPLES: My Lady.

4 Good afternoon, 'Peter'.

5 A. Hi.

6 Q. As Lady Smith has said, you have your statement in front
7 of you and you are very welcome to look at that any
8 stage. It will also come up on the screen in front of
9 you, if you want to use that to see anything that you've
10 said in the statement.

11 I'm going to ask you some questions based on what
12 you've told us in the statement, but can I begin by
13 going to the final page of your statement, which is on
14 page 39? I'll just give the reference of the statement
15 for our purposes, WIT-1-000001191.

16 On page 39, the final page of your statement, you
17 say, at paragraph 217:

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

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

22 So you are happy to have your statement published?

23 A. Yes.

24 Q. Just to confirm, you have signed your statement on the
25 final page of --

1 A. Yes.

2 Q. If I just go back to the beginning -- you may want to
3 keep the statement in front of you, but I'll start at
4 the beginning, if I may?

5 First of all, I'm going to ask you a little bit
6 about your life before you went into care settings.

7 First of all, you were born in 1970?

8 A. Yeah.

9 Q. You tell us about life before you went into care. You
10 tell us you were born in Leith?

11 A. Yes.

12 Q. And you were brought up near Portobello?

13 A. Yes.

14 Q. You are the youngest of five children?

15 A. Yeah.

16 Q. You have three older sisters and you have one older
17 brother?

18 A. Yes.

19 Q. You tell us at paragraph 3 of your statement, page 1,
20 that your childhood memories are not good at all.
21 I want to get a little information about why you say
22 that.

23 First of all, you tell us that your father was
24 an alcoholic?

25 A. Yeah.

1 Q. You also say that your mum suffered postnatal depression
2 after she gave birth to you?

3 A. Yes.

4 Q. You had a tough time from your brother as well; is that
5 right?

6 A. Without doubt, a bad time.

7 Q. You say, in paragraph 4, he was horrible and did
8 horrible things to you and bullied you all the time?

9 A. I can't remember any good memories with him, no.

10 Q. You certainly tell us, in paragraph 4, that there was
11 an occasion where your brother made you drink bleach?

12 A. Yeah.

13 Q. You also say that he kicked you in the stomach?

14 A. When -- I had appendicitis and they thought I was just
15 trying to skip school, and I was complaining about the
16 sore stomach for two days and eventually he kicked me in
17 the stomach and says, "Go to school", and that's when it
18 must have ruptured, and I was taken by ambulance and
19 ended up in hospital for a week.

20 Q. You tell us about the home situation in paragraph 5,
21 page 2, that your father was drinking and your mum was
22 having to hold down a number of jobs to try --

23 A. Three jobs, just to make ends meet.

24 Q. You say your dad was drinking a lot of the money that
25 was coming in?

1 A. Yeah.

2 Q. Because your mum had to go out and do all these jobs,
3 you tell us that --

4 A. There was zero parenting.

5 Q. One of your sisters was the main --

6 A. Carer.

7 Q. -- carer.

8 However, you did have a good relationship with your
9 nana, you say?

10 A. Yeah, but she died when I was seven.

11 Q. So it wasn't a relationship that carried on for too
12 long?

13 A. No.

14 Q. You attended a local primary school, you tell us about,
15 in paragraph 7. You had a tough time, again, at the
16 school; you say you were tormented?

17 A. Yeah.

18 Q. Can you give us an idea what the problem was?

19 A. Just because I never had the best of clothes. I never
20 had the best of things then. I was going unkempt to
21 school because there was no one to basically make sure
22 your clothes were clean or anything.

23 Q. The other kids tend to say things?

24 A. They did. Yeah.

25 Q. Nasty things to you?

1 A. Just nasty things to you. I've had that my whole life
2 though, I think.

3 Q. You say you had the mickey taken out of you at school
4 because you didn't have good clothes, and you've told us
5 why that was.

6 You also say you had to either fight or surrender,
7 so you just learnt to fight; was that when you really
8 had to start fighting for yourself?

9 A. Survival, as they would call it. Fighting for survival.

10 Q. You say if you hadn't done that you would just get
11 bullied again and again?

12 A. Again, again, again.

13 Q. You say that you don't have any memory of social work
14 involvement with your family, until perhaps you're a bit
15 older, into your teenage years?

16 A. No, there was no social work. It was only when I
17 started getting in trouble, not going to school and then
18 the social workers got involved. That was at high
19 school.

20 Q. You tell us about an occasion when you were caught
21 throwing stones at a train by the railway police?

22 A. Yeah.

23 Q. You say that so far as the police were concerned, that
24 you would be getting beatings from them?

25 A. Yeah, I got a lot of beatings from police officers,

1 yeah.

2 Q. You say one of the things they would do would be twist

3 your knuckles?

4 A. No, twist my nipples.

5 Q. Your statement says "knuckles", sorry. I see. Yes.

6 A. Which is weird, to say the least.

7 Q. Did they do anything else?

8 A. Beat me.

9 Q. When you say beating; can you give an idea of what they

10 were doing?

11 A. Full-force punches, batons, kicking me, grabbing you by

12 throat.

13 Q. Would this happen when you were stopped and picked up

14 for something?

15 A. This happened when I was 12, 13, 14. It wasn't like

16 I was an adult then and they're trying to get -- I'm on

17 about I was a minor.

18 Q. You do say that they would be picking you up when you

19 were doing things like breaking into cars and things of

20 that type?

21 A. Yeah.

22 Q. You say rather honestly you weren't a good criminal; you

23 tended to get caught a lot?

24 A. I was hopeless.

25 Q. You have told us already, on page 3, you did move from

1 the primary school that you were being bullied at and
2 went on to high school?

3 A. Yeah.

4 Q. Is that Portobello?

5 A. Portobello High School, yeah.

6 Q. You were still getting problems at school with other
7 pupils?

8 A. Yeah, that never stopped.

9 Q. You say to us, in your statement, you were getting what
10 you call "ribbings" and there were fights and you
11 basically stopped going school?

12 A. Yeah, I stopped going.

13 Q. You think about S2, the second year?

14 A. I think it was maybe -- probably the last two months of
15 the first year and then I can't remember really, maybe
16 attended school about 20 times in Year 2.

17 Q. You say this was really the start of the journey of
18 going into care because you weren't going to school, you
19 were getting into trouble with the police?

20 A. Yeah.

21 Q. You are considered to be hanging about with boys that
22 were a bad influence on you?

23 A. Yeah.

24 Q. That led to you going in front of children's panels?

25 A. Yeah.

1 Q. About that process, you have something to say at
2 paragraph 13. You say that you considered that the
3 panels were basically deciding about your life then, but
4 they didn't really know much about you?

5 A. Well, they didn't. All they've seen is -- I don't know
6 if it's police reports or school reports, or whatever my
7 parents are saying, but they never once asked me: what's
8 going on?

9 Q. Do you think you would have been able, at that age, to
10 tell them the full story?

11 A. I would have been -- I wasn't mature or articulate
12 enough to probably tell them then.

13 Q. I suppose they never asked the questions?

14 A. They never asked the questions, so you're not going
15 to ...

16 Q. You make another point at paragraph 14, when the Social
17 Work Department became involved, you tell us that you
18 had the same social worker for maybe the first three or
19 four weeks, and after that it was always a series of
20 temporary social workers?

21 A. Or the senior -- the guy in charge, the senior
22 social worker, which -- looking back now, they're
23 basically just looking at your notes. They didn't know
24 me.

25 Q. You didn't have a constant person that was your

1 social worker?

2 A. No, it changed every single meeting I went to. It was
3 somebody different.

4 Q. You tell us that once you started getting into bother
5 with the police, when your dad found out he was maybe
6 drunk and he would just batter you?

7 A. Yeah.

8 Q. There came a point -- if we would go to paragraph 17 --
9 when you had appeared before the panel a few times and
10 you say that you were told you were uncontrollable?

11 A. Yeah.

12 Q. I think in the legal parlance you were "beyond parental
13 control" is sometimes how they would describe it in the
14 official forms?

15 A. I don't know about that.

16 Q. You were told you were going to Howdenhall
17 Assessment Centre?

18 A. Yes.

19 Q. You tell us a bit about that place and I'm going to ask
20 you some questions about that.

21 You think you were about 14 when you went there?

22 A. Yeah.

23 Q. Certainly, there is a record that we have seen. In
24 [REDACTED] 1985, it suggests that you were in the
25 assessment centre, in which case I think you would be

1 14 --

2 A. 14.

3 Q. -- at that stage. You tell us about Howdenhall before

4 you come on to tell us about your time at another place,

5 St Katherine's.

6 If I ask about Howdenhall for the moment, you tell

7 us -- and we'll find out about this -- you have been in

8 prison?

9 A. Yeah.

10 Q. You say that Howdenhall looked like a prison to you?

11 A. Yeah. When you go on suicide watch in prison or any --

12 "the Digger" they call it, which is --

13 Q. We have heard that word, we know.

14 A. There is a wooden chair and -- made like cardboard. The

15 room in Howdenhall was like that. The exact same

16 cardboard table, cardboard chair, very -- like a prison.

17 Q. It's not just like any prison cell, you say it's almost

18 like a suicide prison cell, where they would put people

19 that they think might be at risk?

20 A. Yeah, and they locked the door.

21 Q. And they locked the door.

22 You estimate that there were maybe around 30 or 40

23 boys at Howdenhall at that time?

24 A. Yeah.

25 Q. Around that?

1 A. Around that.

2 Q. We don't need precise numbers. Don't worry about that.

3 There were some girls as well, but they were in

4 a separate wing or block?

5 A. Separate wing.

6 Q. You tell us that you think the ages ranged from

7 around -- maybe as young as 11 and as old as 17 or 18?

8 A. Yeah, I think so.

9 Q. You say in your statement there was a hierarchy there;

10 can you tell us about that? What do you mean by the

11 "hierarchy"?

12 A. Well, you had popular boys and then you had the staff.

13 Number one pupil or something, or whatever they call it,

14 who do their dirty work for them. So it was like -- if

15 you didn't fit in, you were up against it.

16 Q. Did you fit in?

17 A. Not at all. In no way, shape or form.

18 Q. What you say in your statement, if we pick up on that,

19 you say there was a hierarchy and you had bullies?

20 A. Yeah.

21 Q. You had your terrified wee boys?

22 A. That is what I was at first, a terrified little boy.

23 Q. Then you had someone that was maybe in between these

24 two, who would at least take the bullies on and fight

25 them back?

1 A. Yeah.

2 Q. There came a point where you would do that?

3 A. I had to become that.

4 Q. You say it was quite a horrific place?

5 A. Horrific when you're taken -- my family life wasn't
6 normal, but to take somebody who -- a working mother and
7 father, although my dad was a functioning alcoholic, to
8 get put into a place like that, it was, like, alien to
9 me.

10 Q. You were being taken -- I don't know how much was
11 explained to you when you went there, but these places
12 were there to give care and protection?

13 A. No, there was not much care and protection.

14 Q. You said earlier on that there were people there who
15 were the number ones with the staff, you call them
16 "favourites" in your statement?

17 A. Yeah.

18 Q. You mentioned earlier -- and I just wanted to pick up on
19 what you had in mind, you said the favourites did the
20 staffs' dirty work; what were you thinking of there?

21 A. If you were cheeky to a staff member they would tell
22 their favourites to sort you out. It's quite simple as
23 that.

24 Q. Would they be around when you were sorted out?

25 A. No, not at all.

1 Q. They would just get someone to --

2 A. Sort you out.

3 Q. How did they sort you out?

4 A. Beat you up.

5 Q. Can you tell us what sort of beatings they were giving

6 you?

7 A. It wasn't like -- I think they were just as frightened

8 as what you were. So it wasn't like they came in and

9 coshed you over the head, but it was more like slapping

10 you about and degrading you, kind of thing.

11 Q. Degrading; was that what they said to you? Things they

12 said to you as well as things they did?

13 A. Yeah, just bullying. Just normal -- what bullies would

14 do.

15 Q. They would slap you?

16 A. They would use their fists and kick you and whatever.

17 Q. Fists and feet?

18 A. Yeah.

19 Q. Where would they slap or kick you? Which part of your

20 body?

21 A. That all depends where they catch you, I suppose. In

22 the face, in the legs.

23 Q. Did that happen to you; both face and legs at times?

24 A. I had some beatings in there, but not like -- it wasn't

25 like beatings. A couple of people hit me, but then

1 realised I would stand up for myself and that waned
2 away. But it wasn't like a daily thing for me.

3 Q. If you hadn't fought back; would it have been a daily
4 thing?

5 A. 100 per cent.

6 Q. You tell us that when you went there, this was a new
7 experience for you?

8 A. Yeah, because I've never experienced anything like that,
9 no.

10 Q. You say you didn't know anyone at that point in the
11 place?

12 A. No one.

13 Q. You say the children were mainly from Edinburgh, so they
14 weren't from your part of -- near Portobello?

15 A. Yeah, there was no one in Howdenhall ever that I knew.

16 Q. You say:

17 "They were all more street smart than me at the time
18 and had been in the care system a lot longer. It was
19 basically a criminal learning ground."

20 Had they been in places before?

21 A. You didn't go into the deep, but you can just tell
22 somebody -- looking back, it's easier to do it. At the
23 time, it was just boys what were bigger than me and more
24 attuned to what was going on.

25 Q. They knew how the system worked?

1 A. They knew how the system worked, yeah.

2 Q. They knew there was a hierarchy and there were the types
3 of people you described; they were more streetwise in
4 that way than you were at the time?

5 A. 100 per cent, yeah.

6 Q. Looking back, you can now see what the situation was
7 like?

8 A. Yeah.

9 Q. You tell us that your recollection was there was
10 violence on daily basis in the place?

11 A. In Howdenhall? Definitely, yeah.

12 Q. I'm not saying that -- you've told us you were seeing
13 violence towards you, but you were seeing violence?

14 A. Violence on a daily basis, yeah.

15 Q. So far as your first day is concerned, you tell us, at
16 paragraph 26, that you remember you were absolutely
17 terrified?

18 A. Yeah.

19 Q. Was that because you had no idea of such places or what
20 would happen?

21 A. I don't know what -- where to go for your lunch. Just
22 that unknown -- like walking into a courtroom; ken?
23 That unknown feeling. Where do I sit? Where do I
24 stand? Who do I talk to?

25 Q. You tell us about the routine. I'm not going to take

1 you through that. We can read that for ourselves.

2 But one of the things you do tell us at page 6, at
3 paragraph 31, is that you don't think in the time you
4 were there you were outside very much in the yard that
5 they had?

6 A. No, because that's where a lot of trouble was created,
7 so I stayed sort of away from it.

8 Q. You stayed way from it, to try to avoid the trouble?

9 A. Yeah.

10 Q. It wasn't you were kept in all the time?

11 A. I'd say we were kept in the majority of the time, but it
12 was, yes, like a secure unit.

13 Q. You say, at paragraph 32, your recollection was that you
14 didn't have any contact with what you call the "outside
15 world", including your family?

16 A. Yes, I think that was part of the assessment, that you
17 didn't have contact with anyone.

18 Q. You felt as if you were just on your own in a strange
19 place that you didn't know -- how it worked?

20 A. Yeah.

21 Q. You tell us a little bit about the assessment centre.

22 On page 7, you have a memory of seeing either
23 a psychologist or psychiatrist at least on one occasion?

24 A. One occasion. I can remember getting puzzles, like
25 wooden puzzles, like a jigsaw puzzle, somewhere in the

1 recess in my head, but that was the only thing, I think.

2 Q. You were asked some questions, because you say:

3 "I never gave anything away. I kept everything in."

4 You weren't giving away anything to them?

5 A. No.

6 Q. Why was that?

7 A. Because I just shut up shop. From a frightened little

8 boy to -- so just saying nothing and then it will all go

9 away, kind of thing. It didn't really work out that

10 way.

11 Q. Were you concerned about what would happen if you did

12 say something?

13 In terms of what might happen if you revealed things

14 that were going on either at home or --

15 A. Yes, because it would be like blaming my parents for

16 everything and so I basically said nothing about my home

17 life.

18 Q. Were you worried at all about saying anything about how

19 life was in the assessment centre?

20 A. I think that meeting came around quite quick after

21 I'd been there, so it wasn't like -- it's hard to

22 explain, because I can't remember if I was --

23 Q. Don't worry. If you can't remember, just say so.

24 A. I can't remember telling social workers or anybody.

25 I think I totally lost trust in everything by then.

1 Q. What you do say about the place, at page 8, is that it
2 was all very regimental. There wasn't really any care
3 given to you?

4 A. Zero care. Zero care whatsoever, which I think is
5 quite -- seeing as it's a care setting.

6 Q. You tell us you had sexual abuse at the
7 assessment centre. You say you remember getting slapped
8 on the head a few times and getting told what you were
9 to do; that was by the staff then?

10 A. Yeah.

11 Q. It was the sort of treatment they would give to other
12 people?

13 A. I think it was a 1970s/1980s thing, that anybody was
14 allowed to sort of slap you about.

15 Q. You also say that they would also sometimes, as you say,
16 get a foot up the arse?

17 A. Yeah.

18 Q. A kick?

19 A. Yeah.

20 Q. What you tell us is that when this happened it wasn't
21 hidden, it was just done in front of people?

22 A. Front of people. It wasn't, no.

23 Q. Say, for example, one member of staff was giving you
24 a kick or a slap; would there sometimes be other members
25 of staff who must have been around and seen it?

1 A. Yeah, definitely.

2 Q. You tell us, having been at Howdenhall for assessments,
3 the panel decided that you should go to St Katherine's?

4 A. Yes.

5 Q. Which is in Edinburgh, which is -- which was just pretty
6 close to Howdenhall. It was just across the road.

7 A. 10 metres apart.

8 Q. At page 9, you tell us a bit about St Katherine's. You
9 say that unlike Howdenhall it was an open unit.
10 Howdenhall was a much more secure place.

11 A. Yeah.

12 Q. St Katherine's wasn't locked?

13 A. No.

14 Q. You tell us that when you were in St Katherine's you
15 were in a room with three other people?

16 A. Three other boys, yeah.

17 Q. You tell us a bit about the staff, starting at
18 paragraph 48. You say you don't remember many of them
19 or indeed their names, but you can remember that there
20 was a woodwork teacher; why do you remember him? Was it
21 him?

22 A. Yes. Because the first day I was there they took us out
23 in the van for a drive about the city centre. I don't
24 know if I was just showing off because I was the new boy
25 or whatever, but he had a right go at me and I can

1 remember him grabbing me by the throat and saying,

2 "Don't be a smart arse in here".

3 That was round one.

4 Round two was the next morning, because I wet the
5 bed that night, and he had stood my mattress up for
6 everyone to see and that was just the beginning of hell
7 for me.

8 Q. Was there any reason why he should stand the mattress
9 up?

10 A. I imagine to dry it or air it. But, basically, he was
11 telling the whole care home that I peed the bed.

12 Q. It's the way he did it. If he was trying to dry it, he
13 could have done it without letting everyone else know
14 what was going on?

15 A. 100 per cent.

16 Q. You tell us that had consequences for you, because after
17 that you were getting a hard time from some of the other
18 kids?

19 A. Everyone.

20 Q. Because of what they'd seen?

21 A. Yeah.

22 Q. Was this names?

23 A. Names. Just constant name calling.

24 Q. Can you remember what you were called?

25 A. "Pissy bed", everything.

1 Q. Were these names --

2 A. "Smelly", "pee the bed", everything you could think of.

3 Q. The name calling; was that just by the kids?

4 A. No, no, no, that's by the staff as well.

5 Q. So they both would use these sort of terms?

6 A. Derogatory terms, yeah.

7 Q. You tell us that you found that humiliating?

8 A. It is humiliating.

9 Q. I'm not doubting you. Is that how you felt at the time?

10 A. I just felt like I wanted to get away constantly, just

11 get away. I didn't feel safe there by then.

12 Q. Just tell us about this -- because you mentioned that

13 when you had been at St Katherine's for a while you

14 received a letter from Portobello High School?

15 A. Yeah, saying I was excluded.

16 Q. I think the way you put it in paragraph 54, page 11, is

17 that the letter said if you weren't back at school in

18 the next day or so you would be excluded?

19 A. I'd be excluded, yeah.

20 LADY SMITH: That was going to be a bit difficult for you,

21 to be back at school the next day.

22 A. Yes, but the children's home should have been sending me

23 to school. I never knew that.

24 MR PEOPLES: The point you're making is, even if the letter

25 could be written, the home should have made some

1 arrangement --

2 A. For me to go to school, yeah.

3 Q. I take it from what you're saying, you weren't getting

4 any schooling at St Katherine's?

5 A. No, there was no school department there.

6 Q. They didn't have a school or a classroom?

7 A. No.

8 Q. They should have been doing something?

9 A. 100 per cent, yes.

10 Q. Did you see a social worker when you were at

11 St Katherine's?

12 A. I seen social workers.

13 Q. Can I just tell you something? We have seen some

14 records -- the reason I ask you is, when you say this,

15 one of the records that we've come across is you went to

16 St Katherine's, according to the record I've seen, in

17 [REDACTED] 1985, after Howdenhall. It says that there was

18 an absence of a field social worker between [REDACTED] and

19 [REDACTED] 1985.

20 That wasn't good if they were to check up how you're

21 doing and what schooling and so forth was happening?

22 A. Yeah.

23 Q. They seem to have said there was obviously a problem.

24 For some reason or another, you should have had someone

25 coming to see you, but there wasn't a field

1 social worker coming to see you.

2 A. I think if you're in care -- I don't know what they do,
3 they block sessions in, as in when you go back to the
4 Children's Panel, they see if you're coming out of care
5 or --

6 Q. I think this is an admission of a system failure. That
7 is why it's recorded.

8 You did get a social worker eventually, but probably
9 towards the end of your time at St Katherine's. But,
10 for a period of several months, it would appear that you
11 didn't have one and no one was seeing you, who -- you
12 didn't have an allocated social worker?

13 A. No.

14 Q. That's in your records, if I can just tell you that.
15 That maybe didn't help either when you got the letter
16 from the high school.

17 You've told us about the bed wetting. You tell us
18 that the -- when you were asked about the culture, you
19 say it was definitely a bullying culture. When you say
20 "bullying culture"; do you mean bullying by other
21 children or staff, or both?

22 A. Both.

23 Q. When you talk about bullying from other children; were
24 they older, the same age?

25 A. I'd say the same age. Mostly from girls, to tell you

1 the truth, the name calling.

2 Q. Really? Well. Okay. You say, on page 12, that you
3 remember a visit from your parents on one occasion?

4 A. Yes.

5 Q. You tell us that you had a social worker there on that
6 occasion and there was someone from the St Katherine's,
7 and you told them that you didn't want your parents to
8 visit you anymore?

9 A. Yeah.

10 Q. Your dad stormed out and you didn't see him for a long
11 time after that?

12 A. Years.

13 Q. Why did you not want to see them again at that point?

14 A. I think it was just because I was put in care, which --
15 I still say I was put in care, but I was -- probably
16 70 per cent of it was my own fault. But circumstance
17 put me in care, I would say.

18 I just felt abandoned, kind of thing. So I think it
19 was easier, less painful, to get in there first, if that
20 makes sense?

21 Q. Did you feel your parents, for whatever reason, at that
22 time were responsible for the situation?

23 A. I blamed them at the time. At the time, I blamed them
24 100 per cent.

25 Q. You say that obviously you were feeling at that stage

1 abandoned, on your own, that you didn't want to really
2 open up to anyone at that stage?

3 A. No, I just shut up shop.

4 Q. Was there anyone you felt you could have opened up to at
5 that stage? Because your social worker wasn't around
6 for several months --

7 A. I never had anyone fighting my corner, no one, ever.

8 Q. You didn't want to talk to the psychologist or
9 psychiatrist. So was there anyone on the staff you felt
10 you could go to speak to?

11 A. No one.

12 Q. Did anyone try to approach you to say: 'Peter', can we
13 talk and see how you're getting on?

14 A. Put an arm round me and tried to talk? No.

15 Q. Was there anyone like that, who was prepared to --

16 A. Not one single person.

17 Q. Did you get any kind of affection shown to you?

18 A. None whatsoever. Occasional -- maybe -- I can't even
19 remember a face in there, which is weird for spending so
20 long in somewhere, not even remember a name or face.

21 Q. I suppose if there was someone who had taken an interest
22 and genuinely cared for you, you might have remembered
23 better?

24 A. There was a guy. Because I can remember he used to put
25 his cards away for 12 years at a time and then bring

1 them out brand new. But he did take a wee bit of
2 an interest.

3 Q. Was he an exception?

4 A. My whole time in care, there were two people what
5 showed -- he showed just a little bit and then one in
6 Wellington.

7 Q. I'll maybe come to that.

8 You are just telling us you can only think of two
9 people that showed you any kind of --

10 A. Any care, empathy or whatever. Yeah, two people.

11 Q. You tell us, when you were at St Katherine's, you were
12 running away constantly?

13 A. Yeah.

14 Q. Can you tell us why you were running away?

15 A. Well, when you're getting bullied and humiliated on
16 a daily basis, it's easier to be on the streets than be
17 in that situation.

18 Q. And that's what you did. Because you tell us that when
19 you ran away -- in those days you were a mod?

20 A. Yeah.

21 Q. And you said you hung about the city centre --

22 A. Yeah.

23 Q. -- when you ran away?

24 A. Yes.

25 Q. You felt accepted by the people that you hung about with

1 and, indeed, they would to some extent feed you and
2 accept you into their group?

3 A. Yeah.

4 Q. You felt you belonged?

5 A. Yeah.

6 Q. Because you were describing when I asked you earlier --
7 you didn't feel that situation with any other people at
8 that stage?

9 A. No, no.

10 Q. You say, however, you wouldn't say that you felt safe --

11 A. No.

12 Q. -- at that stage?

13 A. No.

14 Q. Indeed, you were on the streets, you were 14?

15 A. 14/15.

16 Q. You are living rough?

17 A. Yeah.

18 Q. Some of the time when you were living in that way, on
19 the street, you say you were breaking into metres,
20 parking metres, to get money, breaking into cars and
21 getting into trouble with the police?

22 A. Yeah.

23 Q. You would be appearing again at the Panel?

24 A. Yeah.

25 Q. It would go on in this cycle?

1 A. Cycle. It just -- yeah.

2 Q. You tell us at page 13, paragraph 65, that on
3 an occasion when you were taken back to St Katherine's
4 by the police that the staff didn't seem to be too
5 bothered and were saying things. I quote from your
6 statement:
7 "here he is, the Scarlet Pimpernel. He's been off
8 again."
9 A. Yeah.

10 Q. Did you not feel they were really terribly concerned
11 about you?
12 A. No, there was no concern.

13 Q. Did anyone ask you where you'd been?
14 A. Not one person.

15 Q. You tell us that it was around this time that you
16 started to take drugs?
17 A. Yeah.

18 Q. You were running away, taking drugs, hanging about in
19 the street?
20 A. Yeah.

21 Q. Give us an idea of the various types of drugs you were
22 taking?
23 A. Yeah.

24 Q. I think you put it quite frankly, it was anything you
25 could get your hands on?

1 A. Anything, yeah.

2 Q. You weren't so much a drinker, but you were taking the
3 drugs?

4 A. Yeah.

5 Q. You would be taking these drugs. You might take some
6 cider, you say, if you went to some sort of party?

7 A. Yeah.

8 Q. Or you mention a mod disco you went to sometimes on the
9 Royal Mile?

10 A. Yeah.

11 Q. You were associating, though, with glue sniffers,
12 drinkers and drug takers?

13 A. Yeah.

14 Q. You were a drug taker?

15 A. But by then I was -- I don't know about hooked, but it
16 was my overriding thing, drugs.

17 Q. So far as -- in your report you tell us a bit about --
18 under "Sexual abuse at St Katherine's" -- I will just
19 ask you about that, if I may?

20 You have told us about what happened on the first
21 day with the woodwork teacher, and you say he never
22 stopped humiliating you and bullying you?

23 A. No, from day one he never stopped.

24 Q. The staff in general had nothing good to say about
25 anyone. It was just throw away comments, snide remarks,

1 belittling the children, and you say it was more
2 a mental torture than a physical one?

3 A. Yeah.

4 Q. You do have an occasion when there was physical abuse.
5 You talk, at paragraph 70, about the woodwork teacher
6 again?

7 A. Yeah.

8 Q. What happened then?

9 A. I was just -- I think I was being either a bit loud or
10 a bit cheeky, and he just came across and smacked me
11 with a stick or a plank of wood.

12 It wasn't -- I didn't think much of it at the time,
13 because it was -- that's how things were. I know now
14 it's not how it's meant to be. But, at the time, that's
15 just the way things were.

16 Q. You just thought that was okay for them to do that?

17 A. Normalised.

18 Q. That a teacher could take a plank of wood and hit you
19 with it?

20 A. I never thought anything, at the time, about it.

21 Q. You tell us that there came a point when you moved back
22 to Howdenhall?

23 A. Yeah.

24 Q. You say that when you were there -- and you were there
25 I think -- from the records, as I've said, you went to

1 St Katherine's in [REDACTED] 1985. I can tell you at this
2 stage that the records indicate that St Katherine's --
3 I'm taking this from the record -- closed suddenly in
4 [REDACTED] 1985, and you were transferred to what was called
5 the Carlton Unit, and that is actually what was part of
6 what is now termed Howdenhall Children's Unit?

7 A. Yes. Well, it was assessment centre.

8 Q. Don't worry about the terminology. You went back to the
9 same place, called the Carlton Unit within Howdenhall?

10 A. Yeah.

11 Q. That's because St Katherine's closed down?

12 A. Yeah.

13 Q. Fairly quickly, it would appear?

14 A. Yeah.

15 Q. You had been in St Katherine's from [REDACTED] until about
16 [REDACTED] 1985. Then, because it was closing, you were
17 moved to Howdenhall, back to this unit?

18 A. Yeah.

19 Q. You say that when you went back there -- this is
20 paragraph 74 -- when you were back at Howdenhall you
21 were constantly running away because it was horrific
22 there; had anything changed?

23 A. It got worse. Got worse.

24 Q. What was getting worse? The bullying? The comments?

25 A. The bullying and the comments. There was no routine. I

1 wasn't going to school. I wasn't ... anything like
2 that. So there's still no schooling involved at all.
3 So that's like a year, or seven months or something,
4 that I was in St Katherine's and not once got sent to
5 school.

6 Q. In the end, they decided to put you into
7 Wellington School?

8 A. Wellington School, yeah.

9 Q. Just to be clear, I can tell you from records, you went
10 to Wellington School on [REDACTED] 1985, but before
11 that you had gone back to the Carlton Unit in
12 Howdenhall?

13 A. Yeah.

14 Q. You did spend a short time with one of your sisters at
15 that time?

16 A. Yeah. My sister, [REDACTED].

17 Q. There was some talk that you might -- in fact, you were
18 readmitted to Portobello High School briefly on
19 26 September 1985, according to the records. I think by
20 then -- I don't think that worked out for you. You
21 didn't go to school much.

22 There was again -- I'll take this from the records,
23 I don't need to trouble you with it -- there was some
24 talk of you staying with one of your sisters?

25 A. Yeah.

1 Q. Maybe being a day pupil at one of the List D schools, if
2 they could get one that was available?
3 A. Yeah.
4 Q. That never happened. You actually went, eventually, to
5 Wellington as a residential pupil?
6 A. Yeah.
7 Is there any chance I can have a break?
8 LADY SMITH: About 15 minutes. If it works for you, we'll
9 take about 15 minutes.
10 (2.46 pm)
11 (A short break)
12 (3.00 pm)
13 LADY SMITH: Welcome back. I hope that breather helped,
14 'Peter'. Are you ready for us to carry on?
15 A. Yes.
16 LADY SMITH: Mr Peoples.
17 MR PEOPLES: My Lady.
18 'Peter', before I move on to Wellington Farm, you
19 tell us about something that did happen to you when you
20 were at Howdenhall. It wasn't when you were in
21 Howdenhall. I think you've told us you ran away a few
22 times, or maybe more than a few times?
23 A. Yeah.
24 Q. At least on one occasion when you were on the run -- you
25 tell us about this at page 15. You tell us you were

1 raped?

2 A. Yes.

3 Q. Was this the period when you were going away and

4 sleeping rough and taking drugs?

5 A. Yeah.

6 Q. You think that on this occasion that happened because

7 you had been drugged?

8 A. I was drinking and I don't have much recollection, apart

9 from little bits of flashbacks of what a man was doing

10 to me. But I don't have -- I don't know what the drug

11 there was or anything like that. But I was definitely

12 drugged because I was in and out of sort of

13 consciousness.

14 Q. You tell us in your statement that you remember you woke

15 up in the morning after this and you were naked and you

16 were in agony?

17 A. Yeah.

18 Q. You tell us that you didn't tell people at Howdenhall,

19 or indeed the police at that time, what had happened to

20 you?

21 A. No, I never told anyone.

22 Q. Were you --

23 A. More for the shame.

24 Q. They wouldn't have known about any of that?

25 A. No.

1 Q. I'm not going to ask you very much about Calder Grove.
2 You think you moved to Calder Grove for a short time --
3 A. Yes.
4 Q. -- before you went to Wellington. What does sometimes
5 happen is they maybe place someone there until a vacancy
6 comes up.
7 A. I think it was -- Howdenhall had enough of me running
8 away all the time, because I can remember the police
9 bringing me back and my suitcase being at the front
10 door. Then someone from the Social Work Department came
11 and got me, and that's when I think they took me to
12 Calder Grove.
13 Q. They're maybe just taking you somewhere because
14 Howdenhall said that they'd had enough, "take him
15 somewhere else"?
16 A. Yeah, because I basically -- I'd stay for an hour, get
17 a change of clothes, shower, and leave again.
18 Q. I think we have heard similar accounts of people in that
19 situation, where people don't want them back if they run
20 away a lot?
21 A. Yeah.
22 Q. You may well be right. You don't really have anything
23 much to say about Calder Grove because you weren't there
24 very long and you don't have any recollection of any
25 mistreatment?

1 A. No.

2 Q. Can we move on to Wellington Farm School, near Penicuik,
3 then?

4 A. Yes.

5 Q. As I've said, the records indicate that you went there
6 around [REDACTED] 1985. You were there for about six
7 months until about [REDACTED] 1986 when, as we'll maybe
8 discover later -- we will discover later, you went to
9 Dean House.

10 You were there basically from [REDACTED] 1985 through
11 to [REDACTED] 1986 and you were aged 15 at that time?

12 A. Yeah.

13 Q. You tell us it was a List D school --

14 A. Approved School, I think.

15 Q. -- at that stage. You say it was known as Welly Farm?

16 A. Yeah.

17 Q. You tell us something about the staff on page 17,
18 paragraph 87. You say that they were horrible, but you
19 do remember two members of staff who were nice to you,
20 one of whom was named HMM [REDACTED] and another was a female
21 teacher, whose name you don't recall now?

22 A. I don't recall her name, no.

23 Q. You are very complementary of the female teacher. You
24 feel she taught you a lot more in your short time there
25 than you ever learnt at the high school.

1 A. At the high school, yeah.

2 Q. You felt that the other person, **HMM**, was someone who
3 treated you like you were a human being. He talked to
4 you, and was one of the only adults that would do that?

5 A. Yes.

6 Q. You tell us that the teacher actually made you editor of
7 the Welly Weekly?

8 A. Yeah.

9 Q. Was that to stop you running away?

10 A. It was more about -- half the stories were about me
11 running away.

12 Q. You had plenty of stories for the Weekly?

13 A. Yeah.

14 Q. You tell us a bit about Wellington. So far as it was
15 concerned, you felt that you did get a benefit. You've
16 told us, at paragraph 95, that you were quite good at
17 maths and arithmetic?

18 A. Yeah.

19 Q. You say at that stage in your journey in the care system
20 you weren't beating people up or anything; you were just
21 a person who couldn't abide by the rules and they
22 couldn't keep you contained in places that were like
23 Wellington?

24 A. No. Yeah, no.

25 Q. You tell us -- and you've said that already -- you felt

1 the education wasn't bad at all?

2 A. No, the education was really good there.

3 Q. There were fewer pupils in the class than at the high
4 school?

5 A. Yeah.

6 Q. So you had more attention?

7 A. More attention.

8 Q. It was there that you first obtained qualifications?

9 A. Yeah.

10 Q. You regard passing four National Certificates as one of
11 your proudest achievements or moments of your childhood,
12 given the amount of schooling you received?

13 A. Yeah. A miracle.

14 Q. You tell us about bed wetting at Welly Farm. You were
15 still wetting the bed at that stage?

16 A. I wet the bed until I was about 17.

17 Q. You say that you were made to take your own sheets
18 downstairs in the morning, so everyone would know you
19 had wet the bed?

20 A. Yeah, it was just like history repeating itself again.

21 Q. Did you get the same reaction from the boys, things
22 being said?

23 A. Oh, it was worse, worse than St Katherine's.

24 Q. Was it just the boys that were saying things?

25 A. No, staff members.

1 Q. You tell us that you think maybe the person that you --
2 you believe it might have been **HMM**, the person that
3 treated you like a human being, that he may have been
4 responsible for you getting moved to a single room?
5 A. Yeah.

6 Q. As you say, the horse had already bolted because people
7 knew?
8 A. Yeah, it was open day.

9 Q. You give us an example of the things you were being
10 called on page 20, at the top, at paragraph 102, that
11 you were called things like "pissy pants"?
12 A. Yeah.

13 Q. That at the time you found that embarrassing and
14 traumatic.
15 A. Yeah.

16 Q. You tell us that at Wellington Farm drugs were available
17 and you took them?
18 A. Yes.

19 Q. It wasn't difficult to get hold of drugs in that place?
20 A. Not in that place, no. Because you had people what came
21 on a daily -- like, came in from different cities on
22 a daily basis. Day boys, they called them.

23 Q. There were day you pupils coming in and they could bring
24 stuff in?
25 A. Yes.

1 Q. I take it there weren't rigorous checks of what they
2 were bringing in?

3 A. No, it wasn't like you were being searched or anything
4 like that, no.

5 Q. You tell us that Wellington Farm, like all schools of
6 that type that didn't have a secure unit, were open and
7 you could walk away and run away?

8 A. Yeah.

9 Q. That's what you did?

10 A. At every opportunity.

11 Q. You tell us that during that period as well you were
12 still going back to Edinburgh and meeting up with the
13 mod groups, and you could be away for weeks at a time,
14 living on the street?

15 A. Yeah.

16 Q. That was, again, like history repeating itself, as
17 before?

18 A. Yeah.

19 Q. You tell us that actually on one occasion you went as
20 far as Derby?

21 A. Yeah.

22 Q. Again, when you were on the run, you tell us that you
23 were raped for a second time?

24 A. Yeah.

25 Q. In terms of Wellington; do you know whether the staff

1 knew that had happened to you?

2 A. When I refused to go -- when I went back -- so I think I
3 handed myself in to the police station after I'd been
4 raped and I went back, I can remember the next day I
5 didn't want to go to class. And I can remember -- oh,
6 it was horrible, and they just opened the door and made
7 everyone laugh at me.

8 Q. Because you wouldn't go to class?

9 A. Yeah. Where my bedroom was situated was at the end of
10 the corridor, and then there was a door and it went
11 along -- there was like a meeting room, where everyone
12 met in the morning, it was like a rota kind of thing.
13 But he held my door open and made everyone say something
14 snidey and laugh at me as I walked past.

15 Q. The member of staff kept the door open, so they could
16 see you in the room and make comments as they went past?

17 A. Yeah.

18 Q. You're not sure how much knowledge this person had of
19 what happened to you?

20 A. No, they never had any knowledge. None whatsoever.
21 I can't blame him for --

22 Q. You can still blame him for what he did.

23 A. Yes, it doesn't matter what the reason, he still
24 shouldn't have held the door open and made everyone make
25 a comment to me.

1 Q. When you were taken back; were you taken back by the
2 police or by --

3 A. Yes, I think it was the police that took me back.

4 Q. You didn't tell them anything about it?

5 A. I didn't trust them either.

6 Q. You tell us that the situation at Welly Farm, there were
7 constant fights; was that among the boys?

8 A. Yeah.

9 Q. You say the staff weren't so much physical, but
10 you think they were clever and would entice or encourage
11 the boys to do things; can you tell us what you mean by
12 that?

13 A. A bit like the assessment centre, they had their
14 favourites. They had -- another hierarchy. And because
15 I didn't go along with -- they saw me as a problem in
16 there as well.

17 Q. The staff?

18 A. Yeah, because when I ran away to Derby, they paid for
19 a plane home, to bring me home, and then they thought
20 I did a copycat. So, no, they didn't like me really.
21 But then I didn't -- don't expect them to like me. I
22 wasn't a very nice person then.

23 Q. You say that -- am I right in thinking that there was
24 the same sort of hierarchy as you told us about earlier
25 at Wellington? You have the bullies, you have the

1 people who --

2 A. Who do their dirty work for them.

3 Q. The favourites and so forth. You would have boys who

4 would get bullied and then boys who might stand up to

5 the bullies as well?

6 A. Yeah.

7 Q. So you had the same situation again?

8 A. Same situation. History repeating itself, yeah.

9 Q. You say, at 112, on this matter:

10 "Staff had their favourites. They were verbally and

11 mentally abusive. They even told other youngsters,

12 their favourites, to bully the ones that wouldn't

13 conform to what they wanted people to be."

14 You say you would get shot down and then you would

15 just stop. It was hard to explain how they were, but

16 you compare them to prison officers and --

17 A. Yeah.

18 Q. -- that's how you see them to this day. You describe

19 them as worst people on the planet. You said about

20 three or four of the staff at Wellington School were the

21 closest you've seen to prison officers, just absolute

22 bullies?

23 A. Yeah.

24 Q. Did you know who the favourites were?

25 A. I think they picked their favourites very carefully. So

1 people were big-sized boys and people were sort of
2 a street background, kind of thing.

3 Q. They effectively would --

4 A. They basically ran the place. So it was more like
5 prison than what you could --

6 Q. I suppose they would be making life easy for the staff
7 if they could control the other boys?

8 A. Yeah.

9 Q. By force or threats, or whatever?

10 A. Yeah, and they didn't have to get their hands dirty.

11 Q. If anything did happen, they could always say: it wasn't
12 us, it was these nasty older boys?

13 A. Yeah.

14 Q. You say that the way the staff behaved in Wellington
15 "bloated" your self-esteem; is that how you felt? You
16 had no self-esteem?

17 A. Still to this day.

18 Q. You were leaving school in 1986, around [REDACTED], and that
19 coincided with: where would you go next?

20 I think there was discussion about that and you were
21 shown various places that you might wish to -- to see
22 what you thought of them at least. Indeed, you say you
23 were given a choice?

24 A. Yeah.

25 Q. You chose Dean House in Ravelston because of its

1 setting?

2 A. Yeah.

3 Secondary Institutions - to be published later

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10 A.

11 Q.

12 A.

13 Q.

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15 A.

16 Q.

17 A.

18 Q.

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20 A.

21 Q.

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24 A.

25 Q.

Secondary Institutions - to be published later

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1 Q. Secondary Institutions - to be published later
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3 A.
4 Q.
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6 A.
7 Q.
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10 A.
11 Q.
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13 A.
14 Q.
15 A.
16 Q.
17 A.
18 Q.
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21 A.
22 Q.
23 A.
24 Q.
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Secondary Institutions - to be published later

2 A.

3 Q.

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5 A.

6 Q.

7 A.

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10 Q.

11 A.

12 Q.

13 A.

14 Q.

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16 A.

17 Q.

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21 A.

22 Q.

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24 A.

25 Q.

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Secondary Institutions - to be published later

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3 A.

4 Q.

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7 A.

8 Q.

9 A.

10 Q.

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14 A.

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18 Q.

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20 A.

21 Q.

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23 A.

24 Q.

25

1 **Secondary Institutions** you were taken to a children's home in East

2 Lothian?

3 A. In Haddington, yeah.

4 Q. You don't think you were there very long and you were
5 taken back, is it, to Dean House?

6 A. Yeah.

7 Q. Briefly?

8 A. **Secondary Institutions - to be published later**

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13 Q.

14

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20 A.

21 Q.

22 A.

23 Q.

24

25 A.

1 Q. You went to a closed support unit in Edinburgh for
2 a spell?

3 A. Yeah.

4 Q. Secondary Institutions - to be published later

5

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8 A.

9 Q.

10 A.

11

12 Q.

13

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17 A.

18 Q.

19

20 A.

21 Q.

22 A.

23 Q.

24

25

2 A.

3

4 Q. You tell us a bit about what happened when you left
5 South House and you found a bedsit?

6 A. Yes.

7 Q. You say there was no back-up or aftercare to give you
8 support?

9 A. No.

10 Q. You were still taking drugs?

11 A. Still taking drugs.

12 Q. What you tell us at 142, on page 26, is that when you
13 got your benefits they were all spent. You got them on
14 the Thursday and they were spent by the Friday?

15 A. Yes.

16 Q. To fuel your drug habit?

17 A. Yeah.

18 Q. Of course, presumably to try to find more money, you
19 resorted to crime?

20 A. Yes.

21 Q. You say that after leaving South House you were caught
22 on one occasion and given three months in Polmont?

23 A. Yeah.

24 Q. You went back and forth to Polmont a number of times
25 between that time -- about 16, 17 and 20?

1 A. Yeah, right up until I was 21.

2 Q. I'll ask you a little about Polmont.

3 You deal with that, starting at page 27,
4 paragraph 144. You tell us you were there maybe three
5 or four times before the age of 20. The first was for
6 three months, as we've just described.

7 A. Yeah.

8 Q. You say:

9 "My first impression of prison life was going
10 through the gates at Saughton Prison in Edinburgh.
11 I was taken from the court in Edinburgh to Saughton
12 before going on to Polmont. I always remember going
13 through those gates. It was the first time I ever
14 cried, as I knew it was the real deal then."

15 You saw this as something different?

16 A. Different again, yeah.

17 Q. I'm not sure if you can help us more, but, at 146, you
18 say you didn't know the rules or the unwritten rules of
19 the place and you nearly got battered up and down on the
20 first night because some guy set you up?

21 A. Yeah.

22 Q. Was that another inmate?

23 A. Another inmate, yeah. Telling me something about
24 tobacco or something and then, basically, just set me
25 up. But because they knew I was young -- I was only 16,

1 I think -- the guy's who it was let me off.

2 Q. The battering would have come from the other guy?

3 A. The other inmate, yeah.

4 Q. One of the things that at least was different to some of
5 the other places was that you did know some of the
6 people in there by then?

7 A. In Polmont? Yeah.

8 Q. You had met them along the way; they'd been on the same
9 journey you were?

10 A. The same merry-go-round.

11 Q. That made it slightly easier for you to deal with the
12 situation?

13 A. Yeah, because you either knew people what were mods or
14 Hibs fans or people I was in care with.

15 Q. Even if it was easier, you still say it was a horrible
16 place?

17 A. Oh, horrible, horrible.

18 Q. If I can read what you tell us at 148. If you want to
19 add anything, just say so:

20 "It was the prisoners and staff that made it
21 horrible and I was always in fights. You had to fight
22 though, there was no option. It was basically a west
23 coast jail and I was from the east coast. There were
24 gangs, or mobs, from Glasgow, Paisley, Fife and
25 Edinburgh, and the biggest and worst gang was the prison

1 officers; they had the power and they liked to wield
2 it."
3 A. Yeah.
4 Q. Can you give us some examples of how they wielded the
5 power?
6 A. Just beat people up when it took their fancy. Tell
7 people: if you're not hanging from a rope by the
8 morning ...
9 Just things, cruel. Sadistic actually, some of it.
10 Q. Where would they be beating up?
11 A. In front of everyone. They never hid it. This wasn't
12 hidden.
13 Q. Did you have your own cell there?
14 A. Yeah, yeah, it was single cells.
15 Q. Did anything ever happen when you were in the cell with
16 officers?
17 A. Not in the cells, no. In the -- what I call the digger.
18 I can't remember the name. There is another name for
19 it.
20 Q. We know what you mean, it's the punishment block?
21 A. Yeah, I had beatings in the cell there.
22 Q. You had beatings there?
23 A. Yeah.
24 Q. From?
25 A. Prison officers.

1 Q. When you were in in this punishment block, in a cell
2 down there?

3 A. Yeah.

4 Q. Why did they beat you in there?

5 A. Because they could. They didn't need a reason.

6 Q. You say you had to call the prison officers "sir" and
7 they called you by your number?

8 A. Yes.

9 Q. You had a four-digit number?

10 A. Yes.

11 Q. Was that surname and number then or just number?

12 A. No, just a number.

13 Q. Don't worry, we do know about the allocation wing. You
14 tell us, on page 28, you were put in the Ally Cally,
15 which is the allocation wing, and you were in a single
16 cell and you had slopping out to do. You could have
17 showers daily if you wanted; is that right?

18 A. Yeah.

19 Q. In terms of work when you were there, you tell us that
20 the sort of work you were doing initially, at 154,
21 page 28, you sat and bent wire every day. So it was up,
22 work, locked up, and then up, work, locked up, the same
23 every day; it was just the same routine?

24 A. Yeah.

25 Q. There came a time when you were made a category C

1 prisoner and moved to a job in the gardens; explain what
2 a category C prisoner is?

3 A. Polmont didn't have a fence around it, so it was open.
4 Apart -- you were locked in wings. It never had a fence
5 around the whole prison. So you were a category C if
6 you were allowed out and do the garden work, so you were
7 basically outside, under supervision.

8 Q. You were more trusted because you --

9 A. Yeah.

10 LADY SMITH: Was that better, when you could be outside
11 gardening?

12 A. I think so. A bit more responsibility. It's good for
13 anyone, I think.

14 MR PEOPLES: It wasn't an open prison as such, but least you
15 could get out --

16 A. Yeah.

17 Q. -- if you were a category C?

18 A. Yeah.

19 Q. You tell us, at page 29, about abuse at Polmont. You
20 tell us you did get into fights there?

21 A. Yeah.

22 Q. When you were caught you were punished and the
23 punishment was to be put in the Digger?

24 A. Yeah.

25 Q. Is that the place where you told us earlier you would

1 get beatings from officers?

2 A. I had one beating in there. It wasn't like a daily --

3 I think I was a bit cheeky to him, to be fair. But it

4 still --

5 Q. You might have been cheeky, but I'm not sure you are

6 being fair to yourself to say that it merited a beating,

7 did it?

8 A. I think that's just the way it was then.

9 Q. That is the way it was, as you tell us. That did

10 happen.

11 Was it just you that would have had that treatment?

12 A. No, no. I seen people getting beaten -- I'm lying if I

13 said daily. I'd say every second to third day you see

14 someone getting hit about, smacked about.

15 Q. When you're all together?

16 A. When you're all together, yes.

17 Q. Who was doing the smacking and hitting?

18 A. The prison officers.

19 Q. You tell us a wee bit more about -- before I go on to

20 that, you have talked about the punishment block, and

21 you say that was a group of cells in a separate

22 building?

23 A. Yes.

24 Q. You had a mattress and bedding, but that was all taken

25 away at 6.00 am and you didn't get it back until

1 bedtime?

2 A. Yeah.

3 Q. You say it was a concrete room with a piss pot and that
4 was it?

5 A. That was it. You could get a book. You were allowed
6 a book and a Bible.

7 Q. A book and a Bible?

8 A. Yeah.

9 Q. Sounds like Desert Island Discs.

10 You say the prison officers were horrible, the worst
11 human beings. I'll just read what you tell us there.
12 If you wish to add anything:

13 "They spat on us, beat us up, one member of staff
14 give me a beating once and broke my ribs. I was in
15 a fight and the prison officer told me to get off the
16 guy, but before I could move he then started kicking me
17 in the ribs. I was then stuck in the Digger for two
18 days with no mattress or nothing, just a concrete slab.
19 I didn't get to see a doctor because it had been prison
20 officers that had done it."

21 A. Yeah.

22 Q. That was a beating before you went to the Digger?

23 A. On the way to the Digger, yeah.

24 Q. Is that the beating you told us about earlier that
25 you're thinking of?

1 A. No.

2 Q. You had another one?

3 A. I got another one when I started arguing about seeing
4 a doctor about my ribs.

5 Q. Was it on the same occasion you had the two --

6 A. The same thing. Two beatings in a 24-hour space.

7 LADY SMITH: 'Peter', how was it your ribs got broken?

8 A. They just came running up and kicked me.

9 LADY SMITH: With their feet?

10 A. Yeah.

11 LADY SMITH: Knocked you over?

12 A. Yeah, knocked me over and told me to strip naked,
13 because the guy I was fighting had hepatitis or
14 something bizarre, which they made me do in front of the
15 whole workshop.

16 MR PEOPLES: Apart from what you described, you had to take
17 your clothes off?

18 A. Yeah.

19 Q. And was naked?

20 A. Yeah.

21 Q. And were you taken to the digger naked?

22 A. Yes, with my arms up behind my back and another one
23 pushing my head down.

24 Q. How many officers did it take to take you there, naked?

25 A. Six. Four, six. Four or six.

1 Q. You tell us about the nature of the beatings, at 158.
2 You say:
3 "The beatings were full-force punches, no trying to
4 hide marks or anything like that. They just steamed
5 right in and beat the living shit out of you. It would
6 happen in front of other prisoners. No one cared. It
7 was just part of the system."
8 Is that what you say; these beatings did happen
9 regularly --
10 A. I don't know if it's a daily basis, but it happened --
11 in all the time I was there, maybe I see 50 beatings
12 like that. So once a week.
13 Q. When you say "all the time you were there"; do you mean
14 between 17 and 20, or 16 and 20?
15 A. The whole time, every time I went into Polmont. Maybe
16 ten times each time I went in.
17 Q. You say it happened all the time. You also say that
18 officers did a lot of laughing at you, ridiculing and
19 humiliating you as well; is that the language --
20 A. That was their culture.
21 Q. You tell us -- and I think you have already described
22 an occasion when this happened -- something called
23 "carting"?
24 A. Yeah.
25 Q. That is when they restrain you, take you to the digger?

1 A. Yeah, and the corridor is about a mile long.

2 Q. You say that if you had given, for example cheek, the
3 officers would march you with your thumbs behind your
4 back. It was horrible and painful and called carting.
5 They would twist your wrists behind your back, hold you
6 by the thumbs, push your head down and march you
7 forwards?

8 A. Yeah.

9 Q. Do you know how many officers were doing this? We have
10 heard about three-man holds?

11 A. That is what I think it is, a three-man hold. But then
12 you always see -- I think there is five of them, but
13 two, and then one pushing your head down.

14 Q. Certainly your head was pushed down, and they're holding
15 you with your arms towards the back, so you --

16 A. Your arms sort of like -- with your thumb bent up like
17 that.

18 Q. What if you tried to resist?

19 A. You just get beaten more.

20 Q. Did you ever try to resist when they did the carting?

21 A. Only once in Saughton.

22 Q. What happened?

23 A. I ended up in the cells for two weeks.

24 Q. Did they do anything when you were resisting?

25 A. No, they just beat me more. Cut the clothes off me with

1 scissors.

2 Q. Going on about abuse, on page 30, you tell us you can
3 remember an occasion when you refused to shut your door,
4 which pissed off the prison officers?

5 A. I got to that stage where I refused to comply with them
6 as well. So I refused to shut my door because I
7 thought: you're employed to shut my door, so you can
8 shut my door.

9 Q. That didn't go down well, did it?

10 A. No.

11 Q. They set about you, punched and kicked you?

12 A. Yeah.

13 Q. You feel it wasn't just a personal thing, but more about
14 control?

15 A. Definitely about control, like God complex.

16 Q. I'll read what you say at 162:

17 "They would have you standing facing into the corner
18 of a room or a door or wall, that kind of thing. It was
19 quite a military-type of regime. I've been raped and
20 I would still class some of those prison officers who
21 were absolute animals as being worse than anything
22 I have experienced in my life."

23 A. Yeah.

24 Q. That is the way you feel about how they were?

25 A. I still feel like that about prison officers. I used to

1 feel like that about police, but the police were doing
2 their job. But prison officers are not employed to do
3 that to vulnerable young men.

4 Q. You tell us a bit about why you might not like them
5 still or hate them, at 164. You say that you suppose
6 there were a few that were all right:

7 "But they were never going to dob each other in.
8 Just like the police, I've seen them lie in court about
9 things."

10 Is that your experience?

11 A. That is my experience, yes.

12 Q. Did you ever go before the governor?

13 A. In front of the governor, they just lied to the
14 governor, and you can't go against them in front of the
15 governor. They just make your life even more
16 unbearable.

17 Q. Do you remember an occasion when you went before the
18 governor, and if you said something that contradicted
19 an officer, that your account was accepted; do you ever
20 remember that?

21 A. Never would they turn against their own in that office,
22 not once, that I seen. I've been in front of maybe the
23 governor, seven, eight times. No matter if you're
24 telling the truth, there's no way they're going to not
25 back each other up.

1 Q. Even if they weren't responsible for a beating, for
2 example, if that's what you complained of, you would say
3 that the colleagues would still stick up for their own?
4 A. Yeah.
5 Q. You say you were in a situation where there was no one
6 you could go to speak about this?
7 A. There's no one you could turn to. If you speak about
8 other prisoners you're known as a snitch. You can't go
9 round speaking about other prisoners. Prison officers,
10 they were just their own laws.
11 Q. You said you won't grass if it's another prisoner, but
12 if you go before the governor and tried to say something
13 about the staff, the staff will all stick together and
14 the governor will believe the staff?
15 A. That's the way it is. That's the way it was.
16 Q. When you left Polmont, you say you weren't given any
17 preparation for life on the outside?
18 A. No, no.
19 Q. You have a section about life after care. I'll just ask
20 a few questions about that.
21 You say when you got out of Polmont you were
22 homeless for a time and your life was a bit chaotic, was
23 it?
24 A. Totally chaotic, yeah.
25 Q. You say that you served sentences not just in Polmont,

1 but in a number of other places before you stopped
2 getting into trouble; is that right?

3 A. Yeah.

4 Q. You stopped getting into trouble maybe in your early
5 20s?

6 A. Yeah, 23/24, something like that.

7 Q. You put that down to having met your wife and having
8 children, is it?

9 A. As soon as my daughter was born, that was it, I've never
10 got in trouble again.

11 Q. Was it the birth of your daughter that made some
12 difference to --

13 A. No, my sister and my mum, to be fair, they says: listen
14 you either ...

15 So I actually moved from Edinburgh to Fife for five
16 or six years, just to remove myself from any influences.
17 My sister gave me a bit of money, just to get me and my
18 wife a start, and I never looked back, as in a criminal
19 life. I don't think I was a criminal. I just think
20 circumstance took me to being --

21 Q. You tell us when this happened and this change, apart
22 from moving out of Edinburgh, you stopped taking drugs?

23 A. Yeah.

24 Q. You stopped committing criminal offences and got
25 a full-time job?

1 A. Yes.

2 Q. You have gone on to have four children?

3 A. Four children, yeah.

4 Q. As you got older, you also started your own business?

5 A. Yeah.

6 Q. I think there were problems with your partner and you
7 moved on to doing other work, involving engineering
8 work?

9 A. Yeah.

10 Q. That took you to Holland?

11 A. For eight years.

12 Q. Life has ups and downs, as I think you tell us in this,
13 because you say that life was good in terms of --
14 financially and otherwise, but the oil market crashed in
15 2015 and you lost --

16 A. Lost my employment.

17 Q. You had another blow at that time because when you came
18 back from Holland, you say you discovered something
19 about your wife, that she had a drug habit, and your
20 relationship came to an end at that time?

21 A. Yeah, four months after returning.

22 Q. At that period, if I can take it short, as you describe
23 it, your life went a bit downhill for a while?

24 A. Yeah.

25 Q. You were depressed and you actually started smoking

1 cannabis?

2 A. Yeah.

3 Q. You did try to take your own life three times?

4 A. Yeah.

5 Q. Because you were in a bad place?

6 A. Yeah.

7 Q. Things have improved, have they, in more recent times up
8 to a point? I know it hasn't all been straightforward,
9 but are things better now?

10 A. Things are better, until I got the operation in my
11 mouth.

12 Q. Tell me about that.

13 A. That has put me back. But today's a good day.
14 Tomorrow? I don't know. That's the kind of life I
15 live.

16 Q. I want to ask you, because you had to have your teeth
17 removed?

18 A. Yeah.

19 Q. You don't have dentures?

20 A. No, I can't wear them. I just gag.

21 Q. Is that something to do with your childhood experiences?

22 A. Yeah, I get flash backs right away. So I can't have
23 something loose in my mouth. I couldn't brush my teeth
24 because of the movement in my mouth, so I only use
25 mouthwash. There are certain things what trigger things

1 and that's one of them.

2 Q. In terms of the overall impact of these experiences you
3 have told us about this afternoon, if we go to page 33,
4 you tell us about that. One of the things that you say
5 is that that you've a lack of trust in human beings and
6 particularly a distrust of people in authority?

7 A. Yeah.

8 Q. You have told us about the problem with your teeth, at
9 186. That's what we have been discussing a moment ago.

10 You have told us there have been times when you've
11 been so low that you've tried to take your own life?

12 A. Yes.

13 Q. You told us earlier -- you say at 190 that even now you
14 feel your self-esteem is -- you put it at zero?

15 A. I still live in a room, in a prison cell basically. So
16 I still live in one room, although I've got family
17 members and I've got a part-time job again, but I just
18 go back to a room and that's it. I don't go out. I
19 don't socialise until this day.

20 Q. You say that -- you have said this now, when you look
21 back, at the time you thought a lot of the treatment
22 that you've told us about was just normal and it was
23 what people did and you didn't know any different?

24 A. Yeah.

25 Q. At least one thing, you do know now that isn't the

1 way -- that wasn't normal?

2 A. I know it's not normal, the life I led. But, at the
3 time it was happening, I wasn't articulate enough to
4 know any different; ken?

5 If you're getting hit at home, and you go in a care
6 home and you're getting hit, you're not thinking any
7 more. And then you go to prison and you're getting hit
8 again, you don't think again. You just think that's
9 normal.

10 Q. You've nothing else to judge it by?

11 A. Yes, I had no moral compass.

12 Q. You say -- and maybe this is one of the more positive
13 things -- at 197, page 35, that obviously your
14 experiences had an impact on the nature of your
15 relationship with your children, and indeed you say
16 you've tried to conceal some of your past?

17 A. Yeah, my kids didn't know anything about being in
18 prison, in care, anything.

19 Q. You give the reason for that. You have hidden it from
20 them to try to give them as normal an upbringing as
21 possible?

22 A. Yeah.

23 Q. The one you didn't have?

24 A. Yeah.

25 Q. I'll finish off with impact. You really don't see very

1 much in terms of positive things that have emerged or
2 come out of your time in care; is that right, 'Peter'?

3 Not a lot?

4 A. I can't -- hindsight's a great thing, but I don't see
5 anything about my whole experience that was positive. I
6 deal with it every day. Some of it -- I don't see
7 anything positive out of it. I prejudge people. I push
8 people away. Nothing positive at all.

9 Q. Do you feel now that you think you need support and
10 you're getting it?

11 A. I definitely know I need support. I'm definitely not
12 getting it.

13 Q. You're not getting it?

14 A. No.

15 Q. Do you think you'd benefit if you did?

16 A. I think psychologically, I definitely need support. But
17 when I got it through hospital -- because I was working
18 full-time their opening hours were 9.00 to 5.00, so they
19 were phoning me on my lunch break and sometimes I missed
20 the call, so that was down as a missed appointment. So
21 eventually they took me off the list.

22 Future Pathways is meant to be setting me up with
23 a psychologist or something, so we'll wait and see.

24 Q. That's been suggested, that they'll try to arrange
25 something, but that's not happened yet?

1 A. No.

2 Q. On lessons to be learned, if I could turn to that, you
3 have got a few things to say. One of them is, on
4 page 37, that you feel that perhaps it might have been
5 better if the panels that you appeared before had
6 a different composition?

7 A. Yeah.

8 Q. That maybe they would have been able to find out what
9 the underlying problems were and a bit more about you?

10 A. A bit more about what the actual problems were, instead
11 of just a painter and decorator and a plumber, no
12 disrespect to them. But they don't know the insides of
13 a child's mind.

14 Q. It may be that some people are advocating what you're
15 suggesting in recent times about more professional
16 independent panels.

17 We don't know what is going to happen on that, but
18 it's something that has been considered recently.
19 I don't know if you know about that or not?

20 A. No, I don't.

21 Q. You also say that -- and this is the very strong
22 message -- it's good to talk, at 207. It just needs
23 people to take some time and sit down and talk to the
24 children. Everyone has a story and delving a bit deeper
25 and talking to children could get that story and help

1 them?

2 A. Yeah.

3 Q. You never had that?

4 A. I never had that.

5 Q. You told us before we began with this that you have

6 criticism of the Social Work Department because of the

7 way they dealt with your case, the frequent change of

8 social workers. We have got the record where there was

9 a period with you didn't have a social worker and so

10 forth.

11 A. Yes.

12 Q. You say, at 211, that there should be someone -- and it

13 doesn't have to be a social worker -- who would actually

14 care and be there to talk to you; is that right?

15 A. Somebody a bit more articulate than a 14-year-old boy

16 who is out of his depth.

17 Q. You feel, if they get the right people, that could make

18 a big difference?

19 A. I think so.

20 Q. You feel you were let down by the system, as it was?

21 A. I was definitely let down by the system. But then I

22 didn't make it easy for the system either.

23 Q. The system is meant to cater for children who are not

24 easy to deal with, so you mustn't look at it necessarily

25 in that way. That's the whole point of the system.

1 A. Yeah.

2 Q. You say at 214, you really look back and see yourself as
3 being considered a problem that was just getting passed
4 around when you were in the system?

5 A. Yeah.

6 Q. Lastly on the hopes, you would like to see at least
7 there is an acknowledgement by the people that were
8 running these places and devising these systems to admit
9 and acknowledge they didn't get it right?

10 A. Yeah.

11 Q. And an appropriate apology?

12 A. Yeah.

13 MR PEOPLES: These are all the questions I have for you,
14 'Peter'. All I would like to say is -- I would like to
15 thank you for being patient and responding to all the
16 questions I've asked this afternoon. I wish you well.

17 A. Thank you.

18 LADY SMITH: 'Peter', can I add my thanks? You have
19 explained so much that is really powerful, like saying
20 that you realise you weren't articulate enough to know
21 any different from what was happening to you when you
22 are getting hit at home, and you go in a care home and
23 you are getting hit in the care home, you are not
24 thinking any more. Then you go to prison and you're
25 getting hit again, you don't think about it, you just

1 think that's normal.

2 I have heard many people sitting in the same chair
3 as you telling me that, who have been in all sorts of
4 different places where children were supposed to be
5 being cared for, and in fact they ended up being abused
6 in the way that you were abused. This hitting, the way
7 you explain it, was a form of abuse. I hope you realise
8 that now.

9 A. I do now.

10 LADY SMITH: I hope that in some way helps you to move
11 forward. If Future Pathways are successful in doing
12 what they hope do in finding the right psychologist to
13 give you some help, that also assists.

14 Do go away knowing that you have contributed so much
15 to our work and I'm very grateful to you for coming
16 along today. Now you are free to go and relax for the
17 rest of the day.

18 A. Thank you very much.

19 (The witness withdrew)

20 MR PEOPLES: My Lady, I think that's all for the day. We
21 have one live witness and probably some read-ins
22 tomorrow.

23 LADY SMITH: I'll rise now until 10 o'clock tomorrow
24 morning.

25 (4.00 pm)

1 (The Inquiry adjourned until 10.00 am
2 on Friday, 17 November 2023)
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