

Friday, 17 November 2023

1

2 (10.00 am)

3 LADY SMITH: Good morning and welcome to the last day this
4 week of our hearings in Phase 8 case study, looking into
5 children in various forms of residential care. This
6 particular stage particularly focusing on the Scottish
7 Prison Service institutions.

8 Although we have one witness in person today, that
9 witness is going to give evidence at 2 o'clock this
10 afternoon, as I understand it; is that right,

11 Mr Peoples?

12 MR PEOPLES: Yes, my Lady.

13 LADY SMITH: We'll start with some read-ins this morning,
14 and starting with you reading this morning.

15 MR PEOPLES: Yes, the plan is I may take us up to the break
16 and perhaps at that stage I may hand over to a different
17 voice, but I'll see how we get on.

18 LADY SMITH: Very well. Thank you.

19 MR PEOPLES: The first read-in this morning is 'Bill'.

20 His statement is WIT-1-000000923.

21 'Bill' (read)

22 MR PEOPLES: 'Bill' tells us he was born in 1957, in
23 Glasgow. So far as his pre-care history is concerned,
24 I can summarise that. It's from paragraphs 2 to 5. He
25 was the oldest of five boys. His father left home when

1 'Bill' was about five years of age and then his mum had
2 three more children with 'Bill's' stepfather.

3 'Bill's' family moved several times and he attended
4 a number of primary schools as a result. Money was
5 tight and 'Bill' says he started getting into trouble
6 for stealing coal for the fire; that is paragraph 4.

7 He says he minded cars when he was young and broke
8 into them to steal if he was not paid for doing so.

9 He tells us that his mum, when she fell pregnant
10 with his youngest full brother, she was admitted to
11 hospital. His father was working away from home and
12 couldn't be contacted and the paternal grandmother did
13 not wish to look after 'Bill' and his brothers. The
14 upshot was that 'Bill' and one brother, one younger
15 brother, were sent to a children's home and his other
16 brother sent to a different home.

17 He tells us about his time in the children's home,
18 at paragraph 6. He estimates he was there between three
19 or four weeks and six and seven weeks. He's no unhappy
20 memories of that period.

21 He went back to his mum. 'Bill' tells us he was
22 continually getting into trouble. I think mainly
23 breaking into cars and shops, when he was aged around
24 nine or ten. He was caught by the police several times,
25 went to court and initially was given probation and

1 warnings.

2 Then, on [REDACTED] 1967, when he was aged nine,
3 'Bill' says he was sent to an Approved School for
4 between one and three years, but until a place came up
5 he went to Larchgrove.

6 He tells us about his time in Larchgrove between
7 paragraphs 10 and 25. He estimates there were up to 150
8 boys in Larchgrove. All the staff at that time were
9 male. He tells us there were at least four on duty at
10 any one time. He says that boys always called staff
11 "mister" and their surname, and 'Bill' was called by his
12 surname.

13 He thinks he was there around six to eight weeks.
14 He says, at paragraph 12:

15 "Larchgrove was a real shock to me. I was only
16 nine."

17 That would be about 1966.

18 LADY SMITH: Very young.

19 MR PEOPLES: Very young. There were boys in there up to 15
20 and a range of ages in his dorm.

21 At paragraph 13, he says staff were loud and
22 aggressive. He says it felt like he was in the Army.
23 He goes on to describe the general routine.

24 He says, at paragraph 17, if I pick that out, it was
25 quite disciplined in Larchgrove. There was no talking

1 at times, but we didn't have to march military style.
2 Not in the way that we've heard about some other places.

3 'Bill' says he wet the bed now and again, and that
4 staff made bed wetters strip their bed and carry their
5 sheets to the laundry basket.

6 In paragraph 18, he says other boys would see you
7 with your sheets and they would call you names. It was
8 embarrassing.

9 He says, at paragraph 20:

10 "I was homesick when I was at Larchgrove. It was
11 the first place I'd been and it was tough. I had to
12 keep my emotions to myself. It wasn't the sort of place
13 where you could show emotion or let on that you were
14 upset. There was no one that you could ask for help or
15 support. At times I saw kids crying and the bully kids
16 would ridicule them, call them names and make it even
17 worse for them. If the staff saw children crying, they
18 wouldn't offer any support and instead would tell the
19 boys concerned to man up."

20 He tells us, at paragraph 21, that the staff ran
21 a bullying regime. Indeed, he said there was bullying
22 between the boys. He says that boys were made to fight
23 against other boys in a boxing ring.

24 At paragraph 21, he says that there wasn't any
25 choice, you had to fight. Staff would choose who you

1 fought with and they were selected randomly. It was
2 often much older and bigger boys.

3 He then says, at paragraph 22:

4 "The staff put a lot of pressure on you to do things
5 the way they wanted. They would tell you if you didn't
6 do something properly the rest of the boys would have to
7 do ten press-ups. This really put pressure on you to do
8 whatever it was, otherwise the boys would suffer. The
9 staff would often say things in front of the other boys
10 just to embarrass and ridicule you. They did a lot of
11 things and said a lot of things just to try and toughen
12 all the boys up, but it was done in a cruel way. I was
13 slapped, punched and kicked on occasions by staff.
14 I was slapped if I was caught talking. I was kicked on
15 the backside if I had forgotten something and had to go
16 back for it."

17 As regards sexual abuse, he says at paragraph 23:

18 "I never witnessed, saw, heard about any sexual
19 abuse."

20 He says that he then moved on to St Ninian's.

21 Obviously a place was found by then and he went on to

22 St Ninian's. He deals with his time at St Ninian's

23 Approved School between paragraphs 20 --

24 LADY SMITH: That is St Ninian's, Gartmore, Stirlingshire?

25 MR PEOPLES: Yes. From paragraphs 26 to 64. Which was run

1 by the De La Salle Order.

2 Before I go on to deal with what he says there, he
3 does say at paragraph 24, when he was still in
4 Larchgrove, that when he heard he was going to
5 St Ninian's he asked other boys what they knew about the
6 place. He tells us, at 24, the general chat among the
7 boys was that some of the Brothers were okay and some
8 were to be avoided:

9 "I was told it was a better regime than Larchgrove
10 and the atmosphere was a bit more relaxed."

11 He goes to St Ninian's. He describes the place, and
12 he tells us that the boys were divided into houses at
13 St Ninian's and that he was in St George's. There were
14 six to eight boys in his particular dorm and his
15 housemaster was Brother Benedict, who was nicknamed
16 "Bootsie", whose quarters were next to the dorm; that is
17 at paragraph 28.

18 He tells us about the routine. I won't deal with
19 that, but I'll just pick out some matters at this stage.

20 He says, at paragraph 44, that if a boy wet the bed
21 as a punishment everyone had to get up and stand at the
22 end of their bed. He elaborates on that at
23 paragraph 53, where he says:

24 "Brother Benedict, who was creepy, would come in to
25 the dorm and pull the sheets back and check to see if

1 anyone had wet their bed. If he found that one of the
2 boys had wet the bed, he would make all the other boys
3 get up and stand at the end of their beds wearing their
4 pyjamas and vest or pants for about an hour. There were
5 a few of us wearing pants because we had wet our
6 pyjamas."

7 He goes on at 54:

8 "The bed wetter was made to stand out in the
9 corridor by Brother Benedict and face the wall.
10 Brother Benedict would tell you what to do, not the
11 night watchman. Both, however, would slap you on the
12 back of the head when they felt like it. Sometimes it
13 made your forehead hit the wall. Whoever had wet the
14 bed was later bullied for a while by all the other boys
15 for making them have to get up."

16 'Bill' tells us that he was aware of what he
17 describes as official-looking people coming to
18 St Ninian's; that is 47.

19 He says they were given a guided tour:

20 "But, before they arrived, we were always warned to
21 be on our best behaviour and told what we were and
22 weren't allowed to do. We were paraded for them to walk
23 round and they could see what we did. I didn't get
24 a chance to speak to any of them."

25 Going back to Brother Ben, 'Bill' recalls, at

1 paragraph 55, an occasion when he was accidentally hit
2 on the chin by a horse's head and was knocked out. He
3 says when he came to, Brother Benedict had his hand on
4 his knee and was rubbing his leg, which made 'Bill' feel
5 very uncomfortable.

6 He recalls, at paragraph 58, getting new shoes in
7 the boot room from Brother Benedict. 'Bill' says
8 Brother Benedict touched his legs when helping the
9 applicant with his shoes.

10 He says the way he did it was inappropriate, and I
11 quote:

12 "There was a sexual intention behind his actions."

13 He also recounts an occasion when a number of boys
14 had come back from a football match against another
15 school and the boys were all taken to SNR
16 office. He describes, at paragraph 60, what happened.
17 He said:

18 "Every boy was then made to lie over Brother GSU
19 [He was SNR] knee and he slapped our bare
20 back sides. Brother Benedict and Brother MBZ were
21 both there and watched."

22 'Bill' says, at paragraph 59, he sometimes heard
23 boys crying at night, but he's not sure where the cries
24 were coming from. He says there were rumours going
25 about it was boys being abused by the Brothers in their


1 quarters, but:

2 "I never witnessed this and it never happened to
3 me."

4 'Bill' tells us that he spent about 18 months at
5 St Ninian's before going back to live with his mum. He
6 says, at paragraph 65, that he fell back into old habits
7 and was in trouble a couple of times. He was sent to
8 St Joseph's -- and I'll come to that -- though he thinks
9 he went back to Larchgrove a second time and maybe spent
10 time there as well; that's at paragraph 70. He also
11 spent time, perhaps a few weeks, at another
12 establishment, which he deals with at paragraphs 68 to
13 72.

14 He remembers also spending a short time in
15 a children's home before going on to St Joseph's, and he
16 deals with that at 73 to 74.

17 Secondary Institutions - to be published later



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1 He then went on to St Joseph's Approved School in
2 Tranent. He deals with his time there at paragraphs 75
3 to 84. He tells us that by the time he went there,
4 Brother Benedict had been transferred to St Joseph's
5 from St Ninian's and was his housemaster; that is at 76.

6 At 78, he says Brother Benedict was much the same as
7 before and his behaviour continued as it had been at
8 St Ninian's. He says he still punched with a raised
9 knuckle and kicked, punched and slapped. He said he did
10 it to 'Bill', and he saw Brother Benedict doing it to
11 other boys.

12 He says:

13 "Complaining about anything or talking back to
14 Brother Benedict would result in a slap, kick or punch."

15 'Bill' was at St Joseph's for about 18 months; that
16 is at paragraph 84.

17 After that he says it wasn't very long before he was
18 in trouble again. He ended up initially in Longriggend,
19 and he deals with that at paragraphs 86 to 89 of his
20 signed statement, page 22:

21 "I was in Longriggend on two or three occasions
22 between the ages of 16 and 19. My first time there was
23 before I went to Polmont. I was remanded there awaiting
24 my date in court for my trial or to be sentenced, and
25 was remanded rather than being bailed. This was to stop

1 me from re-offending. I was 16 the first time I was in
2 there.

3 "It was a bullish regime at Longriggend. I was
4 locked up a lot of the time. At mealtimes I was let out
5 and I collected my tray of food and took it back to my
6 cell to eat it. Each of the three times I was at
7 Longriggend was for around two months. Some of the
8 staff were okay, but most were quite authoritarian and
9 looked down their peaked caps at you. Some enjoyed
10 instilling fear in the boys.

11 "I remember lining up in the gym, then one of the
12 prison officers, GUA [REDACTED], walked along the line and
13 punched some of the boys in the stomach. GUA [REDACTED] was
14 known as GUA [REDACTED]. There was no reason for him
15 punching the boys, but everyone was aware and tried to
16 be ready for it. It was random and he didn't do it to
17 anyone in particular. Other gym staff and prison
18 officers would be there when he was doing this, but they
19 didn't do anything about it. I was punched in the
20 stomach once by GUA [REDACTED]. I was expecting it and he
21 was just making a statement because he did it to any of
22 the new boys. It was just a quick dig and wasn't a full
23 punch. I suppose he was trying to live up to his
24 reputation.

25 "When I was released from Longriggend, one of the

1 times I was given a ticket for the bus to get home.
2 Because there was heavy snow, the buses weren't running
3 so I had to walk all the way back to Airdrie."

4 He then deals with time spent in Glenochil
5 detention centre between paragraphs 90 to 97, starting
6 on page 23:

7 "I was only in Glenochil once. It was a young
8 offenders centre, but I didn't go into that part. I was
9 in the detention part. The maximum time you could be
10 there was three months. Everyone there had been
11 sentenced to three months, no more and no less. Most of
12 the boys were there for similar type and seriousness of
13 crimes. I was in the detention centre, which was
14 designed to be run like an army camp, which was designed
15 for short, sharp, shock treatment. I was in a single
16 cell. They were all single cells.

17 "It was tough in Glenochil. On Monday we had to run
18 a mile. Tuesday we ran 200 or 400m. Wednesday we ran
19 half a mile. On Thursday we did the assault course. We
20 had circuit training in the gym and marching every day.
21 At the weekends we had Army-style parades which included
22 marching in time.

23 "Our boots had to be polished and sparkling. Our
24 bed had to be folded into a bed block with creases on
25 the corners. I sometimes slept on the floor under my

1 bed rather than disturb my sheets."

2 LADY SMITH: He's not the only person we have heard about
3 doing that.

4 MR PEOPLES: No, we have had other evidence:

5 "I sometimes slept on the floor under my bed rather
6 than disturb my sheets. The floors had to be polished
7 and sometimes I woke up with red polish from the floor
8 on my face. Our pyjamas had to be folded in a certain
9 way, also with creases. If your bed block wasn't done
10 properly, they would pull it all off and you had to
11 start again. It took ages.

12 "I was probably a bit overweight when I went into
13 Glenochil, so all the training and gym work was a shock
14 to me. But by the time I came out I was much fitter and
15 felt much better. We got recreation, which was almost
16 always exercise. It wasn't snooker or pool, but there
17 was a table tennis table and playing cards.

18 "There were young offenders in Glenochil doing life
19 sentences and some of them were training to be
20 hairdressers, so they used to cut our hair."

21 I think he means from the young offenders part.

22 LADY SMITH: The young offenders' side.

23 MR PEOPLES: Yes:

24 "That was the only real contact I had with them.
25 Although at times of the day I was in my cell for

1 several hours, there was a structure to keep us occupied
2 the rest of the time.

3 "The staff all had an Army-style mentality like
4 sergeant majors and everything had to be done to their
5 standard. Sometimes they made us scrub parts of the
6 marble floor with a big scrubbing brush, then we would
7 come back and inspect it. If they didn't think it had
8 been done well enough, they would make you do it again
9 using a toothbrush. That was an example of their
10 mentality. There was a rota for cleaning the floors.
11 They would choose ten different boys each time.

12 "Visits were allowed at Glenochil, but I'm not sure
13 how often. This happened in the gymnasium. I didn't
14 get home leave.

15 "To be honest, I didn't frown on the regime they ran
16 at Glenochil. Although it was tough, it was good
17 typical Army training. They were firm and I didn't
18 consider any of what happened to me as abuse or unfair
19 bullying. I was never assaulted or physically abused.
20 There was a lot of shouting and I suppose it could be
21 seen as being mental bullying, but it was all just to
22 toughen us up and instill discipline. At the time I
23 probably didn't enjoy it, but towards the end of my
24 detention I realised that it had done me the world of
25 good, physically. It taught me a lot of good

1 discipline, although unfortunately didn't stop me
2 getting into trouble on the outside. I possibly found
3 it easier than some of the other boys because of the
4 other places I had been in. I was in Glenochil for
5 three months."

6 He goes on to deal with time in Polmont borstal
7 between paragraphs 98 to 102, starting on page 25:

8 "When I was there, Polmont was classed as a borstal.
9 It's now a prison. There were two wings, east and west.
10 I was in the east wing. There were two in each cell,
11 although sometimes I was on my own, which I preferred.
12 Boys were in there for lots of different reasons and
13 sentences were between nine months and three years.
14 Some were there for fairly minor crimes right up to the
15 most serious, like murder. There were wings off to
16 either side.

17 "On Sunday, you could go to chapel or to church.
18 After that, you might get an hour's recreation, then
19 back in your cell until dinner time. I read books to
20 pass the time. They came round with a trolley of books,
21 but only a few were good reading.

22 "There was a choice of training and I chose to work
23 in metalwork. The other choice was carpentry and there
24 may have been others. When I was at Polmont I did
25 a vocational training course, then went to the machine

1 shop and was working on the machines. We were taken out
2 to an orphanage where we made go-carts for the children.

3 "Polmont was okay. I didn't see any bullying. I
4 saw some boys getting dragged away by staff when they
5 had been fighting. My personal experience of the 9
6 months when I was there was almost all positive. I
7 enjoyed the training and working. I was encouraged to
8 do the training and learn a trade and got on with
9 everyone at Polmont.

10 "I was allowed to do a certain amount of visits
11 a week. I think visiting was on a Tuesday and a
12 Thursday.

13 "Before I left Polmont I went in front of a board to
14 review my progress and decide how well I was doing.
15 They would have looked and saw that I had done the
16 course that had been offered to me and did other work
17 with children from an orphanage. I was involved in
18 doing other work outside Polmont for a charity. This
19 was looked upon positively by the board. This was the
20 reason I was released after nine months."

21 From paragraphs 103 to 106, he has a section headed:

22 "Life after being in care."

23 He tells us that when he left Polmont he went down
24 to London. He tells us that in 1978, when he was
25 19 years of age, he received a four-year prison sentence

1 and was sent to Jessiefield Prison, in Dumfries. He
2 then, on release, went back to London, got a further
3 three-year sentence, but tells us that that was in 1982
4 and was the last time he was convicted. When he was
5 released he says he got married, but was divorced a year
6 later.

7 He then met his partner who by the time of the
8 statement had passed away.

9 He tells us that when he was in prison in England he
10 sat and passed his English and maths O-Levels, did
11 a six-month Construction Industry Training Board course
12 in painting and decorating, and then a six-month course
13 ending in getting a City & Guilds in painting and
14 decorating. He said he sat the exam in Perth Prison,
15 because he had been released by the time he was due to
16 sit it.

17 He tells us he finally had qualified when he was
18 back in Barlinnie Prison and the governor called him in,
19 gave him a medal and told him he was [REDACTED]
20 [REDACTED] in the City & Guilds examination
21 for that year. He was [REDACTED]
22 [REDACTED] for that year's examination, sorry.

23 Then he did a course with a company. He tells us
24 that because of the training he got -- in 105 -- in
25 Polmont, that this helped to get him a job in later life

1 and he did various jobs, at one point having his own
2 company. He said that he got divorced and around that
3 time the company collapsed. But he does say that he's
4 worked is most of his life and has never found a problem
5 getting work because he liked to graft and wasn't afraid
6 of hard work.

7 In terms of impact, he deals with that at 107 to
8 115.

9 He says at 110 -- perhaps this is a familiar
10 theme -- he finds it hard to hold down a relationship.

11 Perhaps I could just say in relation to his time in
12 De La Salle establishments, he does tell us at
13 paragraph 119 that he gave evidence in the High Court
14 against Brother Benedict when he was found guilty and
15 given a seven-year prison sentence. That was after
16 serving -- when he was still serving a previous
17 sentence. This would be the third trial, if I'm not
18 mistaken.

19 LADY SMITH: He's clocked up a number of sentences.

20 MR PEOPLES: He has.

21 On page 33, he says, at paragraph 135:

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 signed his statement on 1 March 2022.

2 LADY SMITH: Thank you for that.

3 The next statement is from 'Scott'. It's
4 WIT-1-000000695.

5 'Scott' (read)

6 MR PEOPLES: 'Scott' was born in 1960. He tells us a bit
7 about his life before care, going into care, between
8 paragraphs 2 and 10. He tells us there that he was
9 adopted when he was two or three months of age. He
10 found that out when he was around 18, when he was in
11 Geilsland.

12 Around the age of five, his family moved to
13 Castlemilk. He says his parents split up when 'Scott'
14 was eight or nine years of age, when his father ran off
15 with another woman; that is paragraph 4.

16 'Scott' stayed with his mother for about six months
17 and then stayed with his dad. He says that his dad was
18 violent towards him, at paragraph 6. He says his father
19 took 'Scott' to the local social work office and just
20 left him there, at paragraph 10.

21 This resulted in 'Scott' going to Cardross Park
22 Assessment Centre, although he says he was taken there
23 by a social worker, but didn't get any explanation as to
24 why he was there.

25 He deals with Cardross Park in his signed statement,

1 between paragraphs 11 and 28. He says he was there for
2 about 12 weeks.

3 On his first day, 'Scott' says he was told to take
4 off his clothes, was given a belting and put in a locked
5 day room, with other boys. He was then put in
6 a dormitory with older boys who took the mickey out of
7 him; that is at paragraph 14.

8 He says boys were kept in a room all day, not given
9 any playtime or schooling. He says, at 17:

10 "If we made too much noise, then someone would come
11 in and we'd be given a slap around the head."

12 At 18, he says that at night he was beaten by the
13 night watchman after the night watchman had returned
14 from the pub.

15 He says, at paragraph 22:

16 "The older boys would make you fight some of the
17 other boys in the room and outside the sight of the
18 staff, all for their fun. To survive you had to get
19 better at fighting."

20 He says, at 27, staff would embarrass bed wetters by
21 making sure everyone was aware who wet the bed.

22 After appearing before the panel, following this
23 assessment, 'Scott' tells us that he was released into
24 the care of his mother at that point, at paragraph 28.

25 He says that there was a honeymoon period with his

1 mum at that point, but then she began drinking and
2 verbally abusing him; that is paragraph 30.

3 Between the ages of around 12 and 14, about 1972 to
4 1974, 'Scott' says he was going to school less and less;
5 that is paragraph 32.

6 He was caught breaking into cars and premises and
7 appeared before a Children's Panel and was sent to
8 Larchgrove Assessment Centre. He tells us that at 34.
9 He was in Larchgrove, he thinks, when he turned 15,
10 which would have been about [REDACTED] 1975.

11 LADY SMITH: He's now 15 years old at that stage?

12 MR PEOPLES: 15.

13 He tells us quite a bit about Larchgrove
14 Assessment Centre between paragraphs 35 and 69.
15 I'll pick out some things, if I may.

16 He estimated there were as many as 250 boys in
17 Larchgrove, split into four houses named after Scottish
18 islands; that is at 35.

19 He remembers some of the staff, including
20 a Mr [REDACTED], who was a member of the senior staff. He
21 says, at 36, he was a really big guy and a rugby player.
22 If you did anything wrong, you were given a slap by him.
23 He was so strong you would be knocked to the ground.

24 He does also say in his statement there was a high
25 turnover of staff as well. He tells us that he was

1 allocated to Bute House, where he says there would be
2 about 30 boys aged between 12 and 17.

3 Bute House had four or five dormitories, with
4 between about eight and 12 boys in each. He says the
5 boys were a mix of real bad boys and other boys, who
6 should never have been in that kind of place. He says
7 that at 39.

8 He tells us, at 49, that there were classrooms at
9 Larchgrove:

10 "But we were never given any education."

11 As regards bed wetting, he says at 52 that if
12 someone wet the bed, one of the members of staff,
13 Mr HDW, would make a big deal of it. He would make
14 sure everyone was told the person had wet the bed. On
15 the dormitory door there were name cards showing who was
16 in each room. The card might have information such as
17 which religion you were part of, but he would add the
18 letters "BW" to ensure the person was identified even
19 more.

20 At 53, he says during leisure time there was a lot
21 of violence as the boys would fight with each other, and
22 one time he recalls there was a boy who suffered
23 a slashing wound when a boy had used a broken plate.
24 The boy responsible was transferred to Longriggend.

25 At 54, he says there was one lad in his house who

1 was a really big guy and had the nickname [REDACTED]. He
2 was always bullying everyone as no one was able to take
3 him on with his size. Eventually, staff stepped in and
4 he was given a beating.

5 He says, at 66, that sometimes if he was having
6 an argument with some other kid in the home, SNR

7 SNR [REDACTED] I think he means:

8 "Would often hit me on the head without me knowing
9 he was behind me."

10 He says, at 67, that Mr HDW [REDACTED] was a vulgar man:

11 "He always shouting and swearing at us kids. He
12 behaved like an old-style sergeant major. If he caught
13 you doing anything wrong he would come up behind you and
14 slap you to the head, sometimes even punched you there."

15 He ran away from Larchgrove, as he tells us at 58.
16 On one occasion, indeed, he was away for several months.
17 He says when he was brought back -- he says this at
18 64 -- he would be put in a cell next to the reception
19 area and would also be placed in there if he did
20 anything wrong.

21 He recalls, as a punishment, getting between four
22 and six strokes of the belt on the backside, but over
23 his clothes, from SNR [REDACTED] in the presence
24 of a witness. I think that at least would conform to
25 the regulations at the time.

1 He obviously tells us a bit about other things and
2 more positive things, including day trips and trips to
3 other places.

4 From Larchgrove 'Scott' goes on to Geilsland, and he
5 tells us about that, starting at paragraph 70 to 111
6 roughly, page 14.

7 On arrival, he says he was met by SNR
8 EZD, an ex-military man,
9, he recalls at paragraph 70. He talks about
10 when he arrived going to a reception area within
11 something called Rookie House, and then was taken to see
12 SNR.

13 He says that SNR told him to call him
14 SNR, and said he was given a breakdown of the rules
15 of the school. He tells us also, at 70, that SNR
16 SNR told him, if he didn't behave, he would make
17 sure he was sent to borstal.

18 He tells us about the sort of set-up and says it was
19 a house system, there were houses. There was
20 Rookie House, which was on three levels, there was New
21 Vic House, which he describes as like a prefabricated
22 building on one level, and White House, which he says
23 was a large modern house on different levels.

24 He says new arrivals were allocated to Rookie House,
25 and after eight to 12 weeks 'Scott' says he was

1 transferred to New Vic House.

2 He says at paragraph 78:

3 "When you arrived at Rookie House they would turn
4 all the lights out and make you pretend to get up and go
5 for a cold shower. This was to make you learn some of
6 the things you were required to do. You were left in
7 the shower until such time as you sang them a song or
8 took several strokes of the stick, given out by SNR
9 SNR. I could not sing, so I always took the
10 stick. This was repeated maybe 12 times over a two-week
11 period. This was merely a punishment."

12 I think he is perhaps describing getting taught what
13 you would do in the shower, rather than -- it's not
14 clear whether this was happening in the shower or
15 something that happened to teach him how he would behave
16 in the shower. But, at any rate, he does describe this
17 rather curious --

18 LADY SMITH: Pretend to get up and go for a cold shower?

19 MR PEOPLES: I think he meant he had to get up, pretend he
20 was in the shower.

21 LADY SMITH: And that was to learn the songs?

22 MR PEOPLES: Learn a song and --

23 LADY SMITH: Maybe then he's going on to explain that was
24 because, when they did have their cold showers, they had
25 to stay there until this song had been sung, otherwise

1 they would be hit by SNR [REDACTED], presumably naked,
2 with a stick.

3 MR PEOPLES: Yes. I think he had to sing a song. I think
4 we heard some evidence about that earlier on, about
5 singing in showers, if I'm not mistaken.

6 LADY SMITH: It also happened at the Edinburgh Academy.
7 Part of the reason I think was to ensure a particular
8 amount of time was spent in the cold shower.

9 MR PEOPLES: In cleaning.

10 LADY SMITH: It's a bit like we were all taught to sing
11 happy birthday during the lockdown pandemic periods
12 while we were washing our hands, to make sure we carried
13 on washing for at least 20 seconds.

14 MR PEOPLES: It seemed in marked contrast to some of the
15 evidence about how quickly you had to shower in SPS
16 establishments.

17 LADY SMITH: How much of the regime was based on logic,
18 Mr Peoples?

19 MR PEOPLES: Indeed.

20 He's describing something -- this seemed to be the
21 regime or the ritual in this particular establishment,
22 that he recalls.

23 He also says on the same theme, at paragraph 80,
24 that in the morning beds had to be made in the same way
25 in the Army. If a bed wasn't made properly, the boy had

1 to sing a song or receive the stick from SNR .

2 So it seems he's describing a situation where SNR

3 SNR carried a stick around and wielded it in
4 various circumstances.

5 He tells us about bed wetting. At 95, he says:

6 "When a boy in New Vic House unexpectedly wet the
7 bed, he was ridiculed by the staff and SNR
8 brought it up at morning assembly."

9 He was issued with a rubber mattress and identified
10 as a bed wetter on his name card, which I think is what
11 he told us about the card on the door. He says that
12 there was a certain military feel to things because he
13 said they had to march everywhere that they had to go in
14 the school, at 84, including going to the dining hall
15 for meals. He said they had some instruction on how to
16 march.

17 He tells us at 85, that he was allocated to the
18 building section, and if the instructor thought that
19 'Scott' had done anything wrong:

20 "He would hit me with drainage rods."

21 He says he asked to transfer to the engineering
22 section, which was a different section. He was allowed
23 to do so, where he did mainly plumbing and some car
24 mechanics.

25 LADY SMITH: Drainage rods would normally be metal and

1 heavy.

2 MR PEOPLES: Yes, yes.

3 At 96, he says:

4 "Some of the manners of disciplining us would be to
5 complete a physical education in the snow, in our
6 swimming trunks. It could also involve going on
7 a six-mile run over a course known as the Bickham which
8 was always timed. If you had been on a run and
9 disciplined on a later occasion you would have to better
10 your previous time. Sometimes he would follow you in a
11 van or even chase you in the van to make you run
12 faster."

13 He then describes an occasion when there was some
14 sort of memorial service for a resident who had been
15 known as ██████████, who had died accidentally from a fall
16 from scaffolding, when mucking about or fooling around.
17 He says someone within the group of boys who were there
18 played the piano and SNR ██████████, Mr EZD ██████████, demanded
19 to know who had played the piano. No one came forward,
20 so he slapped each boy in turn. When no one spoke up,
21 he went round again and did the same. 'Scott' says he
22 only stopped, at 97, when he got too tired to continue.

23 He tells us, at 100, that social workers did come to
24 the school, but not to visit the boys. He says at 100:

25 "We were to show them around the place, but we were

1 not allowed to say anything bad to them as you were
2 under the threat of violence."

3 He comes back to the subject of sticks at 104:

4 "SNR [REDACTED] EZD [REDACTED], had
5 a variety of sticks of different widths. Each of them
6 was wrapped in different coloured electrical tape. If
7 he decided he was punishing us, he would send us to his
8 office and bring a particular coloured stick to him,
9 which he would hit us with. At assembly, if we had done
10 anything wrong the previous day, he brought it up. He
11 would make us bend over in front of everyone and he
12 would hit us with between four and six strokes each
13 time. I got this several times from SNR [REDACTED]."

14 He goes on to describe, at 105 and 106, that other
15 members of the staff also hit boys from time to time.

16 Then he describes a form of emotional abuse, at 107.
17 'Scott' recalls being invited by a girl to a party and
18 he says the girl wrote to the school to seek permission
19 or to confirm permission to attend the party that
20 'Scott' was invited to. He says one of the staff, HDY [REDACTED]
21 HDY [REDACTED], read the girl's letter, telephoned
22 her and told her that 'Scott' wanted nothing more to do
23 with her.

24 He then goes on to tell us:

25 "He came to me and told me what he had done and

1 started laughing at me. When he told me this, I felt
2 like I wanted to hurt him."

3 He describes the point at which he was leaving the
4 school at age 16, and Mr HDX -- this is around
5 paragraph 111 -- apparently said he could come back any
6 time to visit. At that point 'Scott' told him there was
7 no chance of that, as he had never liked the place. He
8 says that at that point Mr HDX grabbed him by the neck
9 and pinned him against the wall. He says when Mr HDX
10 finished telling 'Scott' what he thought of him, he let
11 him go.

12 LADY SMITH: This is a different HDX from SNR? It
13 seems that SNR is referred to as Mr HDX
14 and SNR is EZD.

15 MR PEOPLES: It may be there are two , although --
16 it's possible -- or it may simply be that he is
17 describing -- it's difficult to tell, but he's got the
18 occasion when at least he's expressed his views about
19 the school and something has happened. It's a member of
20 staff. Whether it's SNR , no doubt something
21 perhaps that may become apparent.

22 Although he had said this about the school, he says,
23 at 116, that he did in fact go back to the school after
24 he left and met two members of staff, HDY
25 HDY , who he told us about with the letter

1 from the girl, and a Mr HFA and he describes
2 an occasion, that occasion, at 116, and says that HDY
3 HDY left the room and Mr HFA locked
4 the room. He goes on:

5 "Without warning he punched me and knocked me to the
6 ground. Mr HFA starting punching me and hitting me
7 in the head and body. He started accusing me of
8 stealing overalls and selling them on. I had never
9 stolen from them at all. He insisted they had been told
10 by two of the other residents that I was involved and
11 that as a result they wanted me to sign over the money."

12 That is the money he had earned before leaving:

13 "To them to recompense the school. I could not take
14 any more and agreed. I later learned there had been no
15 thefts and they had just made it up."

16 That is his recollection of how that matter arose.

17 He says, after Geilsland, he was charged with
18 stealing a bike. He says he didn't do it, but he was
19 charged and was sent to Longriggend just before he
20 turned 17. That would be around 1977, I think, when he
21 got there.

22 Perhaps I can take the story up from there. It is
23 page 24, paragraph 121:

24 "I was sent to Longriggend for seven days when I was
25 still 16."

1 So that would be 1976, if he's right:

2 "During that time I saw there was a lot of bullying
3 from the staff towards the boys there. At the end of
4 the seven days I was then bailed from the court, but as
5 I had fines outstanding I was sentenced to three months
6 in prison.

7 "Prisoners would sometimes store the petrol from
8 their lighters in a plastic bag, and one day I saw a sex
9 offender who had been involved in the murder of
10 a six-year-old child have some of the petrol poured over
11 him and lit."

12 He goes on to describe in a single paragraph, at
13 123, being sent to HMP Barlinnie. He says:

14 "I was then sent for assessment to Barlinnie and I
15 spent seven days there. Barlinnie, apart from the food
16 which was terrible, was tolerable and there were no
17 issues there. They came round regularly as we were so
18 young to check all was okay. Speaking to some of the
19 boys there, they often hoped that Longriggend was full,
20 as it meant they could stay at Barlinnie. When I was
21 there the staff put on a film once a week."

22 He says that after this period of assessment he went
23 on to HMP Glenochil, and he tells us about that at 124
24 to 134. I'll just read that:

25 "After the assessment, I was transferred to

1 Glenochil. There was a lot of bullying from the staff
2 there towards the inmates. I would be allowed out for
3 exercise, but it was always at the same time as
4 mainstream prisoners. I saw a lot of violence during
5 those periods. At that time there was no such thing as
6 segregation.

7 "Glenochil was quite a new building when I was
8 there. There were about 20 cells on each landing, ten
9 on each side. I think there must have been between 80
10 and 100 in total. On the first full day in there, I was
11 once more given a competency test, was quite clever and
12 did really well at that. The next day I was in the
13 assistant governor's office. He wanted to see me
14 because those were not the results he expected and was
15 trying to find out why I was in the system.

16 "The inmates were between 16 and 21 and there were
17 no hassles from any of the other prisoners. I had
18 a single cell and there was a sink in there to get
19 a wash.

20 "Breakfast was about 7 o'clock and then back to your
21 cell for 15 minutes. As long as you were not in bother
22 and having to attend the governor's office, then it was
23 on to your work. Apart from lunch break, you worked
24 until 4 o'clock. Tea was at 5 o'clock, and after being
25 locked up for an hour we would have recreation where we

1 could play pools, games and watch television. We were
2 sent to our cells about 9 o'clock in time for lights out
3 at 10 o'clock. On Saturdays and Sundays, we did not
4 have work, but after finishing recreation at 4 o'clock
5 we were locked in our cells for the rest of the night.

6 "The food in Glenochil was exceptional and was
7 probably the best I had in any of the institutions I was
8 in. We were also able to get a haircut in there. One
9 of the prisoners, a lifer, was cutting hair and he was
10 doing this as training for when he was released.

11 "We were issued with hairy trousers, a jacket and
12 a striped shirt for us to wear at all times.

13 "We had showers, but those were allocated and
14 controlled by the staff. We were in the gym probably
15 twice a week and we would be allowed an extra shower
16 after that.

17 "There were some jobs available when I was inside
18 and you got a few pounds for that. I was tasked with
19 putting toys for the Thomas Salter Group into their bags
20 and stapling them closed. I would be able to spend my
21 money on soap, toothpaste, sweets or tobacco.

22 "I had no visitors from anyone in the family.

23 "If you had got into any trouble at Glenochil you
24 would be up in front of the governor. If it was serious
25 enough, you were put into isolation for a few days.

1 I was never in bother there and did not suffer any
2 abuse, but I did see one of the methods of hurting
3 someone, as prisoners would keep a big square battery in
4 a sock and use that to hit other people.

5 "After about six weeks at Glenochil came to an end,
6 I was at Kilmarnock Sheriff Court for the outstanding
7 bike thefts. I wanted to be sent to borstal, as I
8 thought it would be better for me. There were
9 discussions with Sheriff Smith and he listened to my
10 reasons and agreed to send me there. I was sentenced to
11 two years at Polmont."

12 He goes on to deal with Polmont at paragraphs 135 to
13 145:

14 "Initially staff were taking me to Glenochil and
15 when the mistake was found out I was taken straight to
16 Polmont.

17 "When I arrived at the reception area at Polmont I
18 met a pal from Geilsland who arrived on the same day as
19 me. When I went into the main blocks I met a couple of
20 other pals from there as well. At reception we were
21 issued with a uniform and met the doctor who would carry
22 out checks for head lice or other medical problems. He
23 would also question if you were a drug user or a bed
24 wetter.

25 "Allocation hall has three floors, dormitories on

1 each floor with four on the ground. It housed between
2 80 and 90 inmates. The numbers were constantly changing
3 with inmates transferring to main halls or being
4 transferred."

5 I think he means to the other prisons:

6 "I think the other halls were north, east and west,
7 there was Wendy House, which is where anyone with mental
8 health issues would be sent, along with sex offenders.
9 There was a guy who had issues and was found hanging in
10 his cell. We were locked in our cells until they dealt
11 with this.

12 "The following morning again you had a test to see
13 how your reading and writing skills were. We were then
14 told to write a letter to our mothers. While we were
15 writing, the staff would be standing over you and
16 shouting at the you.

17 "We were allocated a senior officer who would carry
18 out the assessment for the first six-week period. I
19 tried to explain the relationship between me and my
20 mother, but at that stage he was insistent I write to
21 her. That letter was returned with instructions not to
22 write again. When he saw that he apologised, as he was
23 thinking I was just making excuses.

24 "For the first six weeks I spent my time in
25 allocation hall. During that period I would again have

1 to learn to double march to wherever I was going to.
2 The beds had to be made in a block and each week the
3 assistant governor would carry out a kit inspection.
4 During that training, I was constantly being shouted at
5 until I learned it all.

6 "I was given the job of tea boy. That meant my cell
7 door was left open during the day, so I could make
8 coffee for the screws. I could even play pool with
9 them. I was given pay for that which was better than
10 most jobs in allocation. My cell door was closed at
11 7 o'clock, with lights out at 10.

12 "The officer in charge of the food had a budget, but
13 the prisoners did the cooking. If the prisoner cared
14 for the food, it was good; if not, then it was horrible.
15 Once a week the governor would have a taste of the food
16 and confirm all was tasting okay.

17 "Each landing had its own sets of showers and
18 toilets. There was still slopping out from the cells in
19 those days. There was a lot of PT in the gym. I was
20 okay with this as I was quite fit. During the rest of
21 our leisure time we had access to pool tables, table
22 tennis, television, games and basic library. I was not
23 a reader of books before that, but I learned to enjoy
24 some of the books, particularly Harold Robbins.

25 "Again, like other institutions if you misbehaved

1 you'd be up in front of the governor and sent to the
2 isolation cell. Sometimes you gave an explanation to
3 him and, if he believed it, you were returned to your
4 cell.

5 "Prior to being transferred to one of the main
6 halls, your senior officer would interview you, having
7 assessed you over the six weeks. I told him I was
8 hoping to be a mechanic. This was available, but not at
9 Polmont, but at Castle Huntly. If I did the course
10 there, I would be able to get an HNC qualification.

11 "Four of us were sent to Castle Huntly [he describes
12 Castle Huntly at 146 to 152] and spent next seven months
13 there. The chief officer was a really big guy, who was
14 tough but fair. I had no complaints of my time there.
15 If any of the screws were being heavy handed, the chief
16 officer would step in and deal with them the same way he
17 would deal with prisoners.

18 "In the first three weeks I was in a multiple cell
19 with the three boys I transferred with. Sometimes we
20 were misbehaving and the only punishment was a loss of
21 recreation privileges. After the three weeks, we were
22 all moved to individual cells.

23 "When you first arrived at Castle Huntly you were
24 issued with red shirts, and after about three months it
25 was changed to blue and you had earned enough trust you

1 were able to move about more freely. Castle Huntly was
2 an open prison and, if you decided to walk out, there
3 was nothing in place to stop you.

4 "I trained as an engineer and got a distinction in
5 my City & Guilds. It was a guy from Perth College who
6 taught us. I was so good at fixing cars that screws
7 were even bringing their own cars to the complex. Even
8 the chief officer, when he was having issues with his
9 car, would bring it in and, along with his son, we would
10 fix it together. I was even invited to his house and
11 had a meal there. The other officers would pay me in
12 cigarettes for fixing their cars.

13 "Some of the inmates as they were nearing the end of
14 their sentences would be allowed home leave at the
15 weekend. I couldn't take that advantage as I had
16 nowhere to go.

17 "Near the end of my time there, the social worker
18 got me a weekend job in a hotel as kitchen porter. I
19 stayed in the staff quarters during the weekend. The
20 chef had a boat on Loch Earn and, on a Sunday, I was
21 able to go water skiing.

22 "About five weeks before I was supposed to be
23 released I was asked to attend at the governor's office.
24 He told me there was a full-time job available at the
25 hotel, but the staff needed someone immediately. To

1 enable me to get the job he changed my release date."

2 Then he goes on to tell us about the job that he
3 had, which I think started great, but really didn't
4 finish so well.

5 If I could move on from there to the section which
6 deals with impact, at 164 to 172. Just to pick out
7 a few things that are said there, 'Scott' says at 167,
8 on page 32:

9 "I was never given any education in any of the
10 places I was in and that definitely held me back."

11 At 169:

12 "I was let down by the Social Work Department. None
13 of them ever wanted to listen to what I might have to
14 say. They never took the time to find out why I was
15 doing the things I was doing and getting into trouble.
16 They did nothing to help me and, when I was trying to
17 better myself, they were trying to put things in place
18 that would have spoiled that."

19 LADY SMITH: He said he was never given any education, he
20 has also told us that he got a distinction in his City &
21 Guilds for an engineering course.

22 MR PEOPLES: I think he means the school education,
23 traditional education, rather than vocational training.
24 I think that's what he's -- maybe I've done him
25 an injustice by -- I think that's what he's trying to

1 say, that there wasn't what he would regard as
2 a mainstream school education, but they did vocational
3 training and he obviously liked it and did well.

4 LADY SMITH: Of course. Thank you.

5 MR PEOPLES: He says at 175, under:

6 "Lessons to be learned."

7 He makes a point:

8 "When someone is constantly telling you what to do
9 you don't get any chance to learn and to make your own
10 choices."

11 At 176, he says:

12 "I don't think I should ever have been sent to
13 Cardross. That was the start of where things went wrong
14 for me. When I was in my local school, I was never in
15 trouble and never received the belt."

16 If I go to page 34, he says:

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

21 He signed his statement on 21 May 2021.

22 This read-in is a signed statement from Derek Allan,
23 who has waived his anonymity. His statement is
24 WIT-1-000000697.

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Derek Allan (read)

MR PEOPLES: Derek was born in 1960 in Edinburgh. He talks about his -- he speaks about his life before going into care, at paragraphs 2 to 9.

Derek tells us his mother had mental health issues.

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED] He says the family moved around a lot. Derek says [REDACTED] battered him, sometimes with a metal dog lead. That is at paragraph 6.

[REDACTED] was very cruel to him, he says. Derek's father died when he was six years of age. That would be about 1966. He says that after his father's death Derek [REDACTED] [REDACTED] were placed for a time in foster care in Portobello for a few weeks.

He says the family who he stayed with were lovely. He then returned to live with his mother, who had remarried shortly after the death of his father. He says that because his family were moving around a lot he attended a number of schools. He says he fell behind in his education and stopped going to school.

He says abuse, in the form of beatings from [REDACTED] [REDACTED], continued. Derek wet the bed a lot and was called by her a "dirty wee bastard". That is at paragraph 15.

1 He deals with his return to family life between 12
2 and 23.

3 He says he told a policeman what was happening at
4 home, but was sent on his way, having been told that he
5 must be doing something wrong and probably deserved what
6 he got. That is at paragraph 16.

7 He ran away from home several times. He tells us
8 ██████████ was going to the pub every day and was
9 bringing different men home, who were physically abusive
10 towards Derek. Social Services became involved with the
11 family and he recalls, around the age of nine or ten, he
12 was starting to attend children's hearings because he
13 was not attending school.

14 He says he wasn't really allowed to speak at these
15 hearings. Though he does say that he did tell the Panel
16 he was running away because of the way ██████████ was
17 treating him; that's at 18.

18 He feels the panels didn't listen to him and were
19 believing what his mother was saying and considered him
20 simply to be a problem child because of the death of his
21 father; that is at 19.

22 He says he was referred on about four occasions to
23 a psychiatrist. He says he told both Social Services
24 and the psychiatrist about the abuse by ██████████; that
25 is at 21.

1 But he goes back to saying, at 22:

2 "Everything seemed to be put down to my father's
3 death, rather than the way [REDACTED] was treating me."

4 After running away from home, around about 1971 or
5 1972, Derek tells us he was taken to Howdenhall Centre
6 in Liberton, he thinks he was there about 6 months when
7 he was 11 years of age. He says that at paragraph 24.

8 He deals with Howdenhall between paragraphs 24 and
9 59 of his signed statement. He tells us that Howdenhall
10 was a locked assessment centre -- that is at 25 -- with
11 children of different ages.

12 On his first day, not having been told why he was
13 there, he says he kicked off and was placed in a locked
14 room to calm down; that is at 28.

15 The following day he was told he was there for his
16 own protection and safety.

17 He goes on, at 29:

18 "I was told by one of the staff members, 'You'll not
19 run away from here in a hurry, you wee bastard'. I gave
20 a bit of backchat and I was slapped because of that."

21 At paragraph 34, he says:

22 "You had to keep your own bed space tidy. You had
23 to make bed bundles. There were inspections to make
24 sure you did all of that. If you failed the inspection
25 depended on who was doing the inspection. Some staff

1 members would give you a slap, others would take away
2 privileges or your recreation time."

3 He says he can't remember getting any schooling or
4 attending a class when he was there.

5 At paragraph 42, he says:

6 "Nobody came up to me and talked with me to say that
7 they were assessing me to work out where they could put
8 me for my own safety. As far as I was concerned, all I
9 thought was that I had been taken to a place, locked up,
10 and that was it."

11 He says he spent a lot of his time thinking about
12 how he could escape from the Howdenhall. He did get
13 a job picking rubbish in the grounds because he had
14 gained the staff's trust, as he tells us. He and
15 another boy scaled the fence at that point and ran away,
16 and he said he went to his mother's home, but she called
17 the police and he was taken back to Liberton.

18 He tells us that there were rooms there where, as he
19 put it at 49, they flung you so you could calm down, and
20 that some boys would be locked in these rooms for two or
21 three days or even for a week; that is at 49.

22 At 50, he says the way the staff kept discipline was
23 through physical abuse. The staff used restraint:

24 "I remember occasions where a couple of members of
25 staff sat on me, so I couldn't move and told me to calm

1 down. Looking back, I was quite loud and rowdy, so they
2 needed to do that."

3 He then says at 51:

4 "Sometimes they would either give you a slap on the
5 jaw or a punch in the gut. That's how they dealt with
6 most things."

7 He says he was hurt, but he says it wasn't anything
8 he could class as excessive. I suppose that depends on
9 what you are used to and what your definition is.

10 LADY SMITH: Your scale will be calibrated according to your
11 personal experience.

12 MR PEOPLES: One has to see the context in which that remark
13 is made.

14 He then says that after he arrived back at Liberton
15 following running away, he was hit a couple of times by
16 staff members. It was the usual, a slap to the face and
17 punch in the stomach. He says:

18 "Looking back, if you were a child who had escaped
19 then, you were basically someone who had made a fool of
20 these guys, by escaping you had made them look stupid.
21 I appreciate that because of that they would have been
22 upset, but I don't think that gave them the right to act
23 in the way they did towards children."

24 He says he never reported what happened at Liberton
25 to anyone. But he said, at 54, he thinks all the other

1 staff knew what was going on in Liberton while he was
2 there:

3 "I saw nothing to suggest that, but I can't see how
4 they couldn't have known in the environment they were
5 working in."

6 He says that when he appeared in front of a panel
7 while he was in Liberton they decided that he should
8 return home. This is at 56. But his mother didn't want
9 him back, so they sent him to Dr Guthrie's.

10 He queries himself, at 58, why he was sent to
11 an open establishment rather than a secure unit, given
12 his history of running away, as it was an easy place to
13 get away from.

14 He then deals with his time at Dr Guthrie's. He
15 deals with that at paragraph 60 to 134 of his signed
16 statement, starting at page 15. He reckons he spent
17 about three years there, between about 1972 and 1974.
18 He describes the layout of the school.

19 What he does say is that there were both male and
20 female staff at the school in his time. He says some
21 allowed boys to call them by their first name, but the
22 majority wanted the boys to call them "sir".

23 He says, at paragraph 66, there were quite a few
24 teachers there who were decent.

25 Then he says, at paragraph 75, that he reckons there

1 were between 100 and 150 boys, some from Glasgow and
2 other parts of Scotland. There were a lot of coming and
3 going of boys. He said that a lot of the boys were
4 there for care and protection, or COP, as staff called
5 it.

6 He says, at 76:

7 "I remember that the boys who were COP were the ones
8 who got slagged off by the gangs that were in
9 Dr Guthrie's."

10 He says at 77, he was a loner at Dr Guthrie's. He
11 kept to himself to a large extent.

12 He says at paragraph 96, if boys were good they were
13 awarded privileges, including weekend home leave. He
14 does say that no one ever checked where I was going.
15 Derek says he would stay with friends and sometimes he
16 would go to Glasgow.

17 At paragraph 104, he says he attempted suicide
18 before he ran away from the school, when he was around
19 12 or 13 years of age.

20 At 104, he says:

21 "To put things into perspective, I had been put into
22 Dr Guthrie's and told I wasn't loved or wanted.
23 Everything was running around in my head and I'd had
24 enough."

25 He says of that attempt, at 105:

1 "Nothing was offered to me that could help me after
2 I attempted to commit suicide. I was taken to the
3 headmaster's office. I was asked by the headmaster why
4 I had done what I had done and so on. I told him that I
5 didn't want to live and I didn't want to be in there.
6 Someone then got in contact with my mother. My mother
7 then turned up at Dr Guthrie's. I remember that she
8 said to a staff member that, 'You should have let the
9 wee bastard hang'."

10 He said he was not seen at that time by
11 a psychiatrist or psychologist and nothing was really
12 put in place to help him at that time. He doesn't know
13 if his social worker was informed, but he assumed she
14 was.

15 He tells us that after about 18 months or two years
16 at Dr Guthrie's he ran away once with another boy and he
17 was away for a period of months.

18 As far as bed wetters are concerned, at
19 paragraph 111, he says the bed wetters were the weak
20 ones. They were the ones that got bullied and picked on
21 by other boys:

22 "I don't know whether they went to the staff and
23 reported that. The staff weren't silly, they would have
24 known who was weak and who was being picked on or not."

25 He goes on to say, at 112:

1 "If there were rules, I would break them. That was
2 the type of guy that I was. Rules are made to be
3 broken."

4 He says, at 113:

5 "When I kicked off I was just put into the
6 dormitory. I was never locked away in a room."

7 He says, at 114:

8 "I suppose their only real form of discipline
9 surrounded taking away weekend leave. Your main
10 privilege was getting out and going home."

11 Of the environment, he says at 115:

12 "The environment and atmosphere in Dr Guthrie's was
13 intimidating. I would describe the feeling that I had
14 there as being always walking on eggshells."

15 At 116, he says:

16 "They did use all the mental stuff if I lost my
17 weekends. A number of staff would say things to me.
18 The sort of sly comment I remember was along the lines:
19 you don't miss your weekends because you've a mother who
20 doesn't fucking want you anyway."

21 At 117, he says he was never sexually abused in
22 Dr Guthrie's. He says:

23 "For me it was more mental and physical abuse that I
24 suffered during my time there."

25 He speaks about one particular teacher, at 119,

1 Mr GBD. He says:

2 "Mr GBD was an absolute bastard and the worst
3 staff member there. He should never have been employed
4 in that job because he was an animal. He would hit me
5 quite regularly. He was always on his own when he hit
6 you."

7 At 120, he goes on:

8 "There would be times when you were just walking
9 past him and he would give you a slap around the head.
10 He was a chunky guy and I was a child, so to be hit like
11 that was quite powerful to me. If he hit you, you went
12 down. If you fell down, he would drag you up and say,
13 'Will you stand up and fucking look at me when
14 I'm talking to you'. He would maybe then punch you in
15 the gut or whatever. If Mr GBD caught you smoking,
16 he would slap you and punch you. I remember occasions
17 when he caught me and stood telling me off before he
18 slapped me around the face."

19 He describes an occasion after he ran away in the
20 shower room. This is at 121. Where Mr GBD "skelped
21 me around the jaw with his fist". When Derek said,
22 "What the fuck was that for?" Mr GBD punched him
23 again, causing Derek to fall over and split open his
24 head. Mr GBD then took Derek to the matron's office
25 and told her that Derek had slipped in the shower.

1 The matron, says Derek, didn't ask Derek what had
2 happened, though he thinks she knew as Derek shook his
3 head when Mr GBD said he had slipped. He says, at
4 122, that he saw Mr GBD hitting other boys.

5 At 123, he says night staff came to his dormitory at
6 night well after lights out at 9.00 pm and removed boys
7 from their beds. The boys were those who were known as
8 "wet the beds". At the time Derek says he thought they
9 were being woken to be taken to the toilet. He says
10 however they were away for probably more than 45 minutes
11 and when they came back they were always crying.

12 He says, at 129, that he reported what was happening
13 at Dr Guthrie's to his mum, but she didn't seem to be
14 bothered. He says he didn't report it to anyone else.

15 At 130, he says there was no point in doing so.
16 None of the staff would have listened to him. He tells
17 us he left the school when he was around age 15.

18 He then saw his social worker for about a year
19 afterwards. That is 136.

20 He also went before he was 16 to a secondary school
21 in Craigmillar, but was expelled and then ended up going
22 to James Gillespie High School for around four weeks.
23 He got involved in crime and ended up in Edinburgh
24 Sheriff Court. He was a passenger in a stolen vehicle,
25 which ran over a police officer who was trying to stop

1 the car and he tells us that one of the original charges
2 was attempted murder.

3 He was remanded in Saughton, where he spent 14 days,
4 which is a place, he says, that he had by then been in
5 and out of many times. After trial he says he was
6 convicted and sent to Polmont.

7 He deals with time at Polmont 141 to 156:

8 "I think I was about 16 or 17 the first time I went
9 to Polmont. That would have been in either 1976 or
10 1977. When I first went there I did not know how long
11 I was going to be there. However, I had known people
12 who had been to borstal, so I was aware the minimum time
13 I would be spending there would be nine months and the
14 maximum two years."

15 I think he means two thirds of his sentence probably
16 for the latter, and the other would be on early release
17 on good behaviour:

18 "I ended up spending 18 months there. I left when
19 I was about 18. Looking back on my time there, I
20 thought I had done wrong, I deserved jail and that was
21 just how everybody was treated. All the boys there were
22 between the ages of 16 and 21. We were all basically
23 first time offenders or people not ready for the prison
24 system. I can't really describe the place because I was
25 taken there in a prison van and didn't really see the

1 outside of it. All I could see was a big building with
2 fences around it. It was just a prison.

3 "I don't remember the names of any of the staff
4 there. All the prison wardens who supervised us were
5 called 'civils'. They didn't wear uniforms; they wore
6 civies instead. You had to address them as 'sir'. They
7 referred to us by our number.

8 "I went straight from the court to Polmont in the
9 back of a prison van. There were quite a few of us
10 going in that day. When I went in, I was sent to what
11 they called Alicante [I think that should be
12 Ally Cally]. I was given my prison uniform and was
13 given a medical. I was then taken to a prison officer
14 who explained the rules. That prison officer was a bit
15 like the headteacher of the place. I don't remember his
16 name. Before I went into the room, I was told to half
17 run towards a bit of carpet in there and shout my name
18 and number. When I landed on the carpet it slipped and
19 I fell right under the desk that was in front of me. I
20 later found out from other prisoners that they did that
21 to all the people who went in there. It was a wee trick
22 that they did with everybody."

23 We have heard that before.

24 LADY SMITH: We have heard that from at least one other
25 applicant.

1 MR PEOPLES: "I was then told what would happen if I did
2 this and that, and that I would lose privileges and all
3 the rest of it before being taken up to a cell in the
4 allocation unit. They placed new arrivals in that unit
5 before they decided where they would put you. It was
6 basically a remand wing within the prison. You were
7 either put into a single cell or dormitory in another
8 part of the prison after those six weeks. After those
9 six weeks I was allocated into a dormitory in a wing
10 that I don't remember the name of. It could have been
11 north wing, but I'm not sure.

12 "The dormitory I was in, in the wing I was allocated
13 to, had about a dozen guys in it. There is always one
14 guy in every dorm who thinks they're the bees knees and
15 causes trouble for everyone else. At that time I was
16 a red head. He picked on me because of that. I was
17 called all the usual names by him. I found that fine
18 because I was used to all that. He then proceeded to
19 slag my dad off. Because of that, I snapped and got
20 into a fight. I lost privileges because of that
21 incident. I was taken out of the dormitory and put into
22 a cell by myself. I spent the rest of my time on my own
23 in a cell, rather than a dormitory for the remainder of
24 my time there because of that.

25 "I was locked in the place all the time and locked

1 in my cell at night, but it did feel like a normal day.
2 Each day was spent getting up, getting dressed,
3 breakfast, work, lunch, work, dinner. I remember the
4 food consisting of a lot of steamed stuff. That was the
5 same in all the prisons I went to. The food was okay at
6 the time. I was hungry because I was grafting all day.
7 You were allowed to smoke. I used to sneak tobacco in
8 and had a bit of business in there selling it. I had no
9 education in any form at Polmont. However I did
10 undertake an apprenticeship in bricklaying. At that
11 time I felt it was positive and that it might lead to me
12 getting a job when I came out. After I finished that
13 course, I got a job within the borstal building in the
14 new gymnasium that they were building there. I was
15 laying breeze blocks, bricking, mixing cement and so
16 on. I find that all brilliant. I loved doing that
17 during my time there. I basically completed my sentence
18 through working on that building site during the days.
19 They were still building that gym by the time I left.

20 "My mum used to come up and visit me. She used to
21 sneak me in money to spend while I was in there. By the
22 time I was in Polmont she had sort of changed. [REDACTED]

23 [REDACTED]
24 [REDACTED] However, my mum wasn't a stupid woman, she was
25 making the visits for a reason. I think she knew that

1 I would be earning money when I got out and might give
2 her some, too. That was why she was visiting me around
3 that time.

4 "I was abused as soon as I walked in through the
5 door at Polmont. I was shown to my cell by the prison
6 officer who took me up there from Alicante [Ally Cally].
7 I can't remember the prison officer's name. I remember
8 that at the time I had a tattoo which said 'King Billy'.
9 When the prison officer saw that, he called me
10 an 'orange bastard', punched me in the face and then
11 gave me a kicking. He then said something like, 'You're
12 in fucking borstal now. You think you're a hard man,
13 but I'm bigger and harder than you'. To me that
14 incident and the incident where I was made to run into
15 the office when I arrived and shout my name and number
16 before slipping on the carpet was abuse. They knew what
17 they were doing on both those occasions.

18 "Back then your tobacco used to be wrapped up in
19 silver paper. We would make frames out of that silver
20 paper to put pictures of family or loved ones in. There
21 were two or three times when I would come into my cell
22 and the photographs and frames would be lying there on
23 my dresser all ripped up. I don't know who did it, but
24 I assume it was the screws. That was abuse.

25 "I did have other physical altercations with staff

1 over the 18 months I was there, but I fought back. By
2 rights staff members and myself, when those things
3 happened, could have been charged with assault. However
4 we both just viewed it as 'fair cop' and walked away
5 from one another. I don't think that because of that
6 I would class that sort of thing as abuse. I know that
7 some people might, but I don't. I saw all of that
8 happening between staff and other boys as well.

9 "I saw someone get raped by a whole load of other
10 guys during my time in Polmont. It was like something
11 out of the film Scum. They picked on the weak guy and
12 did that.

13 "I didn't report anything to anyone whilst I was
14 there. You just don't do that sort of thing in jail.

15 "Once you've done so long in borstal they give you
16 a long weekend leave. They give you that weekend to get
17 you used to being back in society. During that time
18 you're not supposed to drink alcohol, associate with
19 known criminals and so on. When I was released for that
20 period of leave I went back to Polmont drunk and not
21 giving a shit. I had a bottle of vodka in my pocket.
22 When I got back to the prison a prison officer ordered
23 me to go down to the Digger as a punishment. The Digger
24 was basically a part of the prison down below, where you
25 were isolated and not allowed to have any privileges.

1 It was basically solitary confinement. I think I was in
2 there for six weeks.

3 "After the six weeks, they had to decide how much
4 longer I was going to be there. There wasn't a hearing
5 or a court appearance or anything like that. All I
6 remember is a female officer had to make the decision.
7 Because I went back in the state I was in, she initially
8 wanted me to do the full two years. When I was told
9 that I said, 'Fine, I'll just make your life hell for
10 the remainder of my time here'. I knew they couldn't
11 make me do any more time there. I also remember that
12 I had had a letter from my uncle, saying that I had
13 a job waiting for me upon release, that I showed to
14 a female prison officer around the time they were
15 considering my release. I think that helped. In the
16 end I was released after only 18 months. When I left it
17 was a fantastic feeling. I remember there were people
18 cheering in the wing."

19 He deals with life after care. I'll just briefly
20 pick up one or two points before we have a break.

21 Life after care is at 157 to 159, starting on
22 page 38:

23 "After leaving borstal no one at all kept in contact
24 with me to offer me any direction or support."

25 He confesses now that the letter he gave to the

1 prison officer before his release was a load of rubbish.
2 There was no job waiting and he basically started a life
3 of crime.

4 He tells us he's never been married, but has had
5 a few partners and he has children. He says, at 158, he
6 loves his family. He tells us he's had various jobs
7 over the years and, in 159, that he's not been in
8 trouble for a long time and his life at the moment is
9 positive and is going forward as best it can.

10 On impact, between 160 and 166, he says that he went
11 into these places, the care places, straight and came
12 out knowing how to steal cars, how to break into places
13 and so on:

14 "They turn you into a criminal."

15 At 161, he says he's no trust of authority. He
16 says:

17 "I'm seeing a social worker now for various reasons
18 and I have told her plain that I just don't trust her.
19 As far as I can see, she works for a system that's let
20 me down."

21 At 162:

22 "I never really received an education during my time
23 in care."

24 He says his spelling is still atrocious. That maybe
25 confirms what he meant earlier on. He says at 163:

1 "After my father died nobody ever showed me any
2 affection or gave me a hug during my childhood. It
3 affects your whole life because you don't know how to
4 love somebody properly. I find it difficult to show
5 affection. That should be natural, but it's just
6 something I don't know how to give out."

7 Then, at paragraph 168, on page 41, he says he has
8 never reported anything about what happened during his
9 time in care to the police. At lessons to be learned,
10 briefly, at 172, on page 42, he says:

11 "I was in the system since I was seven years old.
12 In all that time nobody would listen to me."

13 At 174, under, "Hopes for the Inquiry":

14 "The way I describe it to social workers when they
15 speak to me now is: the system fucked my life up.
16 I will take that opinion to the grave with me."

17 He says, at 176:

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 He has signed his statement on 24 May 2021.

23 LADY SMITH: Thank you very much.

24 In those read-ins of 'Scott's', 'Bill's' and
25 Derek Allan's evidence a number of members of staff have

1 been mentioned and they included a Mr HDW , Mr HDX ,
2 Mr EZD , a HDY , Mr HFA ,
3 Mr GUA and Mr GBD and maybe one or two others.

4 But can I just remind everybody, my General Restriction
5 Order affords anonymity to all these members of staff.

6 Brother Benedict, of course, is an exception because
7 he has been convicted. His identity is well known.

8 I'll rise now and we'll have the morning break for
9 about 15 minutes. Thank you.

10 (11.35 am)

11 (A short break)

12 (11.50 am)

13 MR PEOPLES: My Lady, I'm going to do one more and then
14 I'll hand over to Ms Forbes. I'll now deal with another
15 statement provided by 'Charlie'. The reference is
16 WIT.001.001.9841.

17 'Charlie' (read)

18 MR PEOPLES: 'Charlie' was born in Glasgow in 1961. He
19 tells us about life before going into care in his
20 statement, between paragraphs 4 and 6. I'll just pick
21 out one or two things from that section of his
22 statement.

23 He was brought up in Blackhill. He was the oldest
24 of five children. He had one brother and three sisters.
25 He tells us that both parents had problems with

1 addictions to alcohol and drugs. He says he was living
2 hand to mouth and became a thief; that is paragraph 5.

3 His parents encouraged him to steal to support their
4 addictions. He was not attending school and indeed he
5 tells us at a Children's Panel meeting his mother told
6 the panel she didn't want 'Charlie'.

7 There was social worker involvement with the family,
8 and his first experience of care was at a children's
9 home in Fife. He tells us about that at paragraphs 7 to
10 11 of his signed statement.

11 Secondary Institutions - to be published later



15 His next placement was St John Bosco's, List D
16 school, Aberdour in Fife and 'Charlie' tells us about
17 his time there, between paragraphs 12 and 53.

18 He says it was run by the Catholic Church. But we
19 know it was run by the Salesians. It was an all-boys'
20 school, as he tells us.

21 He says at paragraph 12, it was a brutal place where
22 he learned to become violent and to defend himself. He
23 says, at 13, that he remembers being terrified when he
24 was taken there. He estimates he was there for around
25 two years and was placed in a dormitory which

1 accommodated around six boys.

2 Q. He says:

3 "No one spoke to me or told me what to expect."

4 This is at 13. There were children from all over
5 Scotland. He says, at paragraph 15, the boys were
6 mainly under 12, but there were older boys at the
7 school, aged 16 or 17. He tells us they were used by
8 the staff:

9 "to keep us under control. They were just bully
10 boys."

11 He says later on, in paragraph 40, most of the boys
12 at the school were there for care and protection
13 reasons. He says the boys that were there for care and
14 protection were slagged by the other boys.

15 I'm jumping around this statement, but I'll try to
16 give you the reference.

17 At 39, he says that they used to go to swimming
18 baths in Kirkcaldy and there was a large communal
19 changing area. He said the older boys would bully you
20 as you were getting changed. He's picking up the theme
21 there again there.

22 Going back to earlier paragraphs, he does say that
23 there were no chores for the pupils; that's at
24 paragraph 17.

25 The school had its own cleaning staff, at 22. He

1 says he was in the Ogiliviy Wing and SNR
2 SNR was Father LOB. He tells us that at 19.

3 He says:

4 "I was always an absconder, so I was regularly
5 punished by him. He used to hit me with a walking
6 stick."

7 At paragraph 42, in relation to physical abuse, he
8 says:

9 "You would get battered from running away and put
10 into a cold bath. No one ever asked me why I was
11 running away. It was all about surviving."

12 He says, at paragraph 44:

13 "It was a brutal regime and the older boys would be
14 acting under the direction of the priests in charge.
15 They would punch you."

16 At 45, he gives an example of what he's describing
17 as emotional abuse, when he says he was told by
18 Father LOB:

19 "If I behaved for six weeks I would get home leave.
20 I got on the bus and as I was sitting on the bus he told
21 me that my mother didn't want me home at the weekend and
22 to get off the bus. He did it in front of all the other
23 boys to humiliate me. All the boys laughed at me. It
24 would break my heart."

25 He gives another example at paragraph 48, where he

1 says he can recall an occasion when mail from relatives
2 was being handed out and that 'Charlie's' name was
3 called out and he says, as he walked towards
4 Father [REDACTED] in front of the other boys,
5 Father [REDACTED] said that 'Charlie's' mother had not
6 written to him. 'Charlie' says he was laughed at by the
7 other boys. He said it was terrible:

8 "It made me feel isolated."

9 He says, at paragraph 41, that when he ran away and
10 was caught by the police he tried to tell them what was
11 going on at St John Bosco's, but they were not
12 interested.

13 When he was on the run, he would be committing petty
14 crimes and was usually caught by the police, which is
15 a fairly familiar theme.

16 LADY SMITH: His reference to mail being a source of
17 emotional damage is interesting. As we heard earlier,
18 being forced to write to a mother who the boy knew
19 didn't want to have any contact with him, also resulted
20 in the hurt of the letter being sent back and being told
21 not to do that.

22 MR PEOPLES: Also the boy who wrote about what a good time
23 he'd had, although he'd just been beaten up as well,
24 that is his recollection. And he didn't do all the
25 things that he had written.

1 LADY SMITH: Letters of fiction.

2 MR PEOPLES: Yes.

3 'Charlie' does say on the subject of reporting,
4 apart from trying to tell the police, at 51 he told his
5 social worker what was happening. He mentions two
6 trainee police officers who visited the school, but says
7 nothing happened. He says he also told his parents, but
8 says they didn't seem to care.

9 In relation to sexual abuse, 'Charlie' does deal
10 with that matter. At paragraph 46, he tells us he was
11 an altar boy when he was at St John's and there was
12 a particular Brother who was very kind to him and
13 'Charlie' says he really liked him and that the Brother
14 persuaded him to become an altar boy.

15 At 46, he said he started getting me to go on my
16 own. He always helped me get dressed. It was then he
17 started to touch me.

18 In paragraph 47, he describes being sexual assaulted
19 by him and he gives the details of that there.

20 Indeed, he mentions another member of staff, at
21 paragraph 29, and says a female member of staff is
22 convinced she knew he was being abused and says she used
23 it as a threat to try to punish me. She would threaten
24 to send 'Charlie' to see this particular Brother, who he
25 was terrified of, and he says she didn't treat him well.

1 She treated him very badly and did everything to demean
2 him. He is suggesting there was knowledge of what the
3 Brother was like.

4 He says that boys would go to their dorms around
5 8.30 pm. At 23, he says they would often fight and
6 carry on with each other. He says, at 23, the Brothers
7 had a room near the dormitory and would often creep
8 about the dormitories:

9 "But I didn't witness any sexual abuse."

10 However, he says he recalls an occasion -- at
11 paragraph 50 -- in the dining room when a boy, whom he
12 names, screamed out he was being sexually abused.
13 'Charlie' says he thinks the boy was taken away from the
14 school after that, because he never saw him again.

15 He says, at paragraph 28, that the boys wore jeans,
16 but absconders had to wear shorts.

17 In his case, in terms of home leave, although it
18 could be given, he didn't get it because he was always
19 running away.

20 He goes back to the issue of discipline at 32, where
21 he says the Brothers would hit you and the older boys,
22 under the direction of the Brothers, would also hit you.
23 You also got the cane from Father **LOB**.

24 He tells us that while he was there he preferred his
25 own company and spent a lot of time in the nearby woods

1 and countryside; that is paragraph 38.

2 He says that without warning he was transferred to
3 St Joseph's, Tranent. I'm not sure whether he realised
4 that obviously these schools were junior, intermediate
5 and senior, so it may be that based on his age the time
6 had come to move from one to another.

7 I don't think he articulates that.

8 LADY SMITH: If the date of 1973 or so for him going to
9 St Joseph's is correct, he would be 11/12, which would
10 be a transition stage.

11 MR PEOPLES: It could be a transition. I think St Ninian's
12 was a junior Approved School, List D school and I think
13 St Joseph's was for older pupils.

14 I don't necessarily think there was a rigid age
15 range for any of them based on what we've seen.

16 Going to St Joseph's, he deals with his time there
17 in between 1972 and 1974, at paragraphs 54 to 78.
18 I'll just pick out one or two things from that.

19 He says, at paragraph 54, that he was much more
20 streetwise than he'd been at St John Bosco's and he had
21 turned into quite a violent person and was not going to
22 stand for any of the abuse he'd previously experienced.

23 He says at St Joseph's the other boys were a lot
24 older than him. I'm not going into the detail, but he
25 tells us, at 58, that St Joseph's was a different form

1 of arrangement. It was split up into cottages with
2 house parents and he tells us about things that went on
3 at the cottages.

4 He says there was a big house and four cottages,
5 with about 30 boys in each cottage, and that the boys
6 came from all over Scotland. He thinks that most were
7 there because of involvement in criminality.

8 He goes on to tell us a bit about -- in his cottage,
9 he -- 'Charlie' shared a room with about six other boys.
10 He describes the routine as being quite relaxed,
11 although as an absconder he says he wasn't often allowed
12 out, although there were trips to various places.

13 At 62, he mentions Brother Ben and he describes him
14 as a bit of a nut case:

15 "He was brutal with us and he used to punch us with
16 his closed fist. He used to get very angry and someone
17 would end up getting hit. He was a very big man and we
18 were all frightened of him."

19 He's on the same theme at 71, and says he was very
20 unpredictable. He wasn't someone you would argue with,
21 because he would punch you once and that would be it.

22 He also mentions others, including a metal work
23 teacher, at paragraph 64, whom he names, who had the
24 nickname **MJK**, because he used to throw hammers
25 at the boys.

1 He mentions being asked to hold two metal rods with
2 an electric current. That is something we have heard
3 about -- by Brother Ben. Maybe he is the one who has
4 mentioned it -- of someone else's -- he's recalling did
5 something similar.

6 He also has another member of staff that he talks
7 about at paragraph 73, Mr HPS, who he says would
8 sexually abuse boys by touching their privates and
9 putting his hands down the front of the boys' trousers.
10 He says that this individual told the boys he was
11 teaching self-hygiene and how to wash their private
12 areas. He says this didn't happen to him as he was wise
13 to it, but he did see it happen on a few occasions.

14 He says that he thinks one of the main reasons that
15 he left St Joseph's was because he attacked Brother Ben
16 with the leg of a desk, at paragraphs 77, and was
17 charged with serious assault. He thinks he would be
18 around nearly 15, which, if correct, would be about 1976
19 or thereabouts.

20 He says that after St Joseph's he was in Larchgrove
21 on more than one occasion, but only for a few days at
22 a time; that is paragraph 79.

23 He was then sent to St Mary's, Kenmure. He doesn't
24 really say very much about Larchgrove. He makes that
25 point: he doesn't have a lot to say about it.

1 So nothing of note happened to him at least when he
2 was there. He says it was run more like a prison.

3 He goes on to deal with his time in 1966, at
4 Kenmure, St Mary's. It's the one in Bishopbriggs. He
5 deals with that school. It will be a List D school by
6 then. It's paragraphs 82 to 87, he deals with his time
7 there.

8 He thinks he was there for maybe around six months
9 when he was aged about 15; that's paragraph 82.

10 He says at paragraph 82, the staff did seem to know
11 all about him and indeed he says he knew one of the
12 staff, who in fact he's now related to.

13 He says there:

14 "I heard stories from the other boys at the home
15 about things that went on, although I didn't see any of
16 the events."

17 He's not saying he has any direct knowledge on that.
18 He says at 83, there were two members of staff called
19 Bill Franks, who was chef, and a man called **LYT**
20 **LYT**, they were sexually abusing boys and he does
21 believe that they were both in court and convicted. I'm
22 not sure he's right about one them, but he's certainly
23 right about Bill Franks, who was convicted.

24 He says when he was at St Mary's he was in the open
25 unit, because they did have a secure unit there. He

1 says he ran away regularly, and that when he was away he
2 was committing offences and was charged with them,
3 remanded in custody and sent to Longriggend. He says he
4 was still under 16 when that happened. Most of the
5 other boys were older, he says at 17, than he was and
6 there was an area where the boys were aged between 16
7 and 21.

8 If I can pick up what he says about the SPS
9 establishments. Page 17, paragraph 88, this is
10 Longriggend:

11 "I was remanded in custody by the courts to
12 Longriggend. I was to remain there for five months.
13 I was unconvicted of the charges that were against me.

14 "Longriggend was run by the Prison Service and was
15 a locked establishment. All the boys there had
16 committed crime of one kind or another and a lot of them
17 were awaiting trial.

18 "I would describe routine there as being as harsh as
19 it would be in any prison. I do recall because of my
20 age I was forced to attend school every other week.
21 I was the only resident who was attending school. I had
22 a one-to-one with the teacher [he says that was a female
23 teacher he had previously met at St Joseph's] ... most
24 of the boys at Longriggend were between 16 and 21 and
25 went to work instead of school."

1 He says at 91:

2 "I had an issue with one of the prison officers
3 called zHEG, he was constantly hitting me and
4 bullying me. I eventually had enough of him and
5 retaliated in such a manner I was charged with
6 assaulting him. This was another charge that was added
7 on when I appeared at court.

8 "I appeared in court to answer all the charges
9 against me and I was sentenced to three two-year
10 sentences to run concurrently. I was sent by the court
11 to do my sentence at Polmont Young Offenders
12 Institution. I was still under section 413 [that's the
13 Criminal Procedure (Scotland) Act 1975] which was on the
14 card on the front of my cell door at Polmont."

15 He has a section about dealing with Polmont between
16 1978 and 1979, beginning on page 17:

17 "I was transferred there from the court by prison
18 officers, and I remember my first day, I was put into
19 the educational unit called the Ally Cally. It was like
20 an Army training unit. I was now nearly 16 and about to
21 serve a two-year prison sentence. I was no longer
22 a child. I had become a man, but I was still the
23 youngest resident at Polmont. I understood the rules at
24 Polmont and it was easy to cope with the routine. I
25 knew where I stood and I was not being bullied or

1 abused. There was nothing that went on that I need to
2 tell you about. It was a locked place, so I didn't run
3 away. I was in my own cell and felt happy that I was on
4 my own. I had been in Polmont for 18 months when I was
5 told I was getting released. No one told me why, it
6 just happened and, again, I was not consulted. They
7 told me to collect my belongings. I was given a train
8 ticket and went home to my parents in Glasgow. When I
9 walked in the front door my little sister didn't know
10 who I was. My parents also got a shock when I turned up
11 out of the blue. They were not expecting me. There was
12 no prior warning to either my parents or me. I was
13 17 years old.

14 "I continued a life of crime and was getting into
15 more trouble with the police. I again appeared at court
16 and at this time was given a sentence to serve at
17 Barlinnie Prison in Glasgow."

18 He deals with his time in Barlinnie Prison at 97:

19 "I was one of the youngest prisoners at Barlinnie.
20 I was well looked after and a lot of the other prisoners
21 became my friends. I liked being in prison as I felt
22 safe. As a young man in prison I was looked after by
23 the other prisoners and they taught me how to deal with
24 adults. Prison was just prison and I had no
25 difficulties there."

1 He has a section:

2 "Life after being in care."

3 Paragraphs 96 through to 101, starting on page 19.

4 He tells us that he drifted in a world of crime and
5 drugs. 'Charlie' was using Class A drugs and was
6 addicted. He said he had married and had children, but
7 the drugs took over his life. He had little or no
8 education, and in fact had taught himself to read and
9 write when he was in prison.

10 He says his schooling had not really taught him
11 anything. He says, however, at 101, the last time he
12 appeared at court he was offered the choice of prison or
13 to be put on a drug treatment programme administered by
14 the court called a drug testing treatment order,
15 involving being monitored and tested every few days. He
16 did what he calls "cold turkey" and received support
17 from his drug treatment officer. He also received
18 cognitive behavioural therapy and completed the
19 programme.

20 He then goes on to deal with impact at
21 paragraphs 102 to 108. I'll pick out some of the things
22 he tells us.

23 At 102, he says:

24 "My childhood was wrecked by the system. My mother
25 put me into care. She apologised to me later in life,

1 before she died. I was sent out by my father to steal,
2 so he could get money for alcohol. If I didn't make any
3 money stealing I would be punished by him."

4 He says:

5 "Even though both my parents are dead I miss them
6 and also forgive them for placing me in care."

7 At 103, he goes on:

8 "I was originally meant to go to St John Bosco's for
9 a year, but ended up spending more than five years in
10 the care system, until it finally turned me into
11 a criminal. I didn't have any say in my own destiny."

12 At 104:

13 "As a result of my time in care I was quite happy to
14 go to prison because I was institutionalised. I felt
15 safe in prison as I was able to adapt to something that
16 I knew how to cope with. What I learned in the
17 institutions prepared me for prison life. I thought
18 that the life I led was what life was all about. It was
19 all that I knew."

20 At 106, he says that he doesn't trust anyone except
21 his family, and he says that he doesn't want to go back
22 to prison.

23 At 107, he says that he's a changed person and with
24 the help of the drug treatment officers he's stayed
25 clean of drugs.

1 He says there that he knows that his time spent in
2 the care system made him the type of person that he
3 became and tells us there was no love in his life when
4 he was growing up.

5 At 109, he says -- this is to do with reporting of
6 abuse:

7 "The only people I mentioned the abuse that I was
8 suffering at the hands of the care staff to were the
9 young police officers who were at St John Bosco's. I
10 also tried to tell my social worker, but he did nothing
11 about it. My parents did nothing when I told them.
12 They didn't believe me and I didn't trust adults enough
13 to confide in them anymore."

14 He says, at 112:

15 "It is a bonus to me today that people from the
16 Inquiry have spent the time to listen to me. It is
17 a big thing for me."

18 He says, at 113:

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

23 He signed his statement on 27 June 2018.

24 LADY SMITH: Thank you very much.

25 MR PEOPLES: I'll pass over to Ms Forbes.

1 (Pause)

2 MS FORBES: My Lady, this next statement is from
3 an applicant who anonymous and his pseudonym is 'Bruce'.
4 His statement is at WIT-1-000000788.

5 'Bruce' (read)

6 MS FORBES: My Lady, 'Bruce' was born in 1960 and stayed in
7 Barrhead, in Glasgow.

8 From paragraph 2, 'Bruce' speaks of his life before
9 care. He lived in Glasgow with his parents and his nine
10 siblings. 'Bruce' loved primary school, but had a bit
11 of trouble with reading because the letters would
12 disappear from the page and didn't make sense.

13 He didn't want to tell anyone and he would rub his
14 eyes when he was asked to read. His dad worked as
15 a general labourer, was a brilliant joiner and 'Bruce'
16 and his brothers helped him build pigeon huts.

17 Their home life in his eyes was brilliant, and his
18 mother and father would dance to Frank Sinatra in the
19 living room. However, 'Bruce' says a social worker
20 visited and his dad threw the social worker out. Ten
21 days later 'Bruce' found himself in Cardross Park Home.
22 He was only seven years old at the time.

23 At paragraph 6 of his statement, he tells us what
24 happened in the lead-up to that. He tells us:

25 "I was with a 17-year-old boy who was my brother's

1 mate. The boy said he'd give me tuppence if I went with
2 him to get his wallet. It was nothing to do with
3 getting his wallet. We got to a works place with
4 an office and the boy told me to run round and check if
5 the front door was open. When I came back, he was
6 talking a calculator and a magnifying glass out of the
7 window. At that, the police came up and grabbed us.
8 The boy had the calculator and magnifying glass in his
9 hand.

10 "I got put in a cage at Well Street Police Station
11 and remanded overnight. I went to Paisley Sheriff Court
12 the next day because the boy was 17. The court wasn't
13 interested in me and gave the boy a £3 fine. Three
14 weeks later, I went to the Children's Panel and I was
15 put into Cardross Park for 28 days."

16 He references the social worker that had been at his
17 house and said he has hated him ever since. His life
18 fell to pieces after that.

19 He then talks about the Children's Panel experience
20 at paragraph 8, and says:

21 "Nobody came to the house before the
22 Children's Panel, but I had to go to Glen Street Clinic
23 in Barrhead. I think that was because of the way my dad
24 had treated [he references the social worker] ...
25 I think the social work offices were in the clinic.

1 I can't remember a thing the guy said.

2 "My da came to the panel with me and there was a
3 woman writing things and a Panel member. There was
4 someone in the background with papers. [Again he
5 references the social worker and says] ... he was beside
6 me and my da at the side. The head man on the panel
7 spoke to the social worker and the man looked up and
8 said, '28 days'."

9 And he says that the social work said, "Aye", and
10 that was it.

11 He then says:

12 "When I went out the policeman said it was the first
13 time he had seen anybody get 28 days for breaking a
14 window."

15 And he thinks that the social worker had something
16 to do with him getting the 28 days because of what had
17 happened in house with his dad. He had never been in
18 trouble and he was good in school.

19 At paragraph 10, he goes on to say:

20 "I was breaking my heart."

21 Right away he says the social worker left and 40
22 minutes later came back. He says his dad told him to
23 keep his chin up, and then goes on:

24 "We walked out and my da was right behind me. The
25 social worker's motor was there and in it were his wife

1 and two weans. They weren't much older than me and they
2 were two boys."

3 He didn't know why they were there. Years later he
4 thinks he knows why, and that was because his dad had
5 called him a name when he was in the house and he
6 thought he was wanting to prove to his dad that wasn't
7 the case.

8 He says then he was in Cardross Park twice. The
9 first time was when he was seven years old and he gives
10 the dates, which is in [REDACTED] 1968. I think for
11 a period of three weeks, and then the second time when
12 he was eight, in 1969.

13 He goes on to say that he can't remember why he was
14 put there the second time to Cardross, but says he must
15 have tried to break in somewhere.

16 From paragraph 12, 'Bruce' speaks of his experiences
17 in Cardross and says he was the smallest boy in there.
18 He was seven and the oldest boy was 12. He thinks it
19 was easier the second time because he knew what to
20 expect and knew what he had to do, but both times he was
21 there he was bullied by other boys.

22 'Bruce' says he was home for a year after the second
23 stay at Cardross and he says that he put into practice
24 what he learned at Cardross and got caught. He was put
25 into Bellfield Remand Home for breaking into a garage

1 with his mate.

2 From paragraph 48, 'Bruce' speaks about Bellfield.
3 He says he was there three times between the ages of ten
4 and 15. The first time was in 1971 for three or four
5 weeks, and the second time, in 1973, was for the whole
6 summer. He says the staff were rough. He had a lot of
7 arguments with other boys, but the arguments didn't go
8 too far because he didn't want to get dragged out and
9 put in the cooler.

10 After his first stay in Bellfield, 'Bruce' was sent
11 to St Ninian's School in Gartmore. It was 1971 and he
12 was ten years old.

13 From paragraph 73 'Bruce' describes his life in
14 St Ninian's, where he talks about suffering physical and
15 sexual abuse. He left and returned home in 1973, when
16 he was 13 years old.

17 At paragraph 138, page 28, 'Bruce' talks about
18 keeping in touch with his social worker after leaving
19 St Ninian's. If I can read from that part:

20 "Sometimes our phone was cut off for lack of paying
21 the bill, so we couldn't phone and say if we were going
22 to be late."

23 That is in relation to meetings with his
24 social worker. He goes on to say:

25 "I didn't read any letters and sometimes my ma would

1 say I had the social worker and I wouldn't listen. That
2 was my fault, but the social workers never wrote down
3 the times I went up and they weren't in. I missed
4 appointments and that looked bad for me when I went to
5 court. I think that's why I was dealt with so harshly.
6 It looked like I wasn't bothered."

7 He goes on to tell us that at the age of 14 the
8 police arrested him off the street. He later appeared
9 in court and he says the social worker asked the court
10 to put him into Longriggend because he was unruly.

11 If I can go now to paragraph 142, on page 29:

12 "I was in Longriggend three times as a schoolboy.
13 Sometimes it was because I'd missed appointments with
14 the social worker to get reports prepared and I was
15 remanded for the reports to be done. My offences
16 weren't planned. The police knew me so well that when
17 they saw me they stopped and searched me. More times
18 the police were right and I was running away from
19 something or to something.

20 "I went for the first time in 1974. I was 14 years
21 old. I didn't survive in there the first time. It was
22 hard. Maybe the Procurator Fiscal thought that was
23 enough punishment and I got out again. I was remanded
24 in custody for three weeks on an unruly certificate
25 until my trial. I only did ten days because my da went

1 to the Procurator Fiscal with my lawyer and managed to
2 secure me bail. I was taken back to Barlinnie Prison,
3 to court and then got home until my trial. The trial
4 was dismissed.

5 "I wasn't out long before I went in again for
6 a second time. I was in for about seven weeks on remand
7 and classed as unruly. I can't remember what happened
8 to the court case, but the social worker started looking
9 for a List D school for me. The third time was for
10 a few weeks. I was arrested and taken to court and then
11 to Barlinnie and Longriggend.

12 Longriggend was a remand unit for schoolboys and
13 under 21s. The schoolboys were up to 16 years old and
14 in a wee section. There was an A hall, C hall and
15 D hall for the under 21s. The screws kept us separate.
16 There were 20 to 25 schoolboys. There were ten peters
17 or cells on each side, with two or three boys in each.
18 The routine was the same each time I went in. The
19 screws let us smoke."

20 He then talks about the routine:

21 "The first time I went to Longriggend the police
22 took me to Barlinnie Prison first. I was put in a wee
23 box called a dog box. It has 'LRU' marked on it. It
24 stands for Longriggend Remand Unit. Police officers
25 came down and took me from Barlinnie to Longriggend.

1 The reception area at Longriggend was really busy.
2 There were only two schoolboys and eight or nine older
3 folks who were 16 years old and over.

4 "All along one wall were the dog boxes. There was
5 a reception desk where the screws took all your gear off
6 you. Your gear is passed to the cons at the end and put
7 in a bag. I was given a jacket, jumper, trousers and
8 shoes. The trousers never fitted. Once you got past
9 the reception that was you, you never got out the gate.
10 All you got was a visit."

11 He says at paragraph 148, he knew some of the boys
12 there from St Ninian's and he names them.

13 I continue from paragraph 149 -- I should say that
14 he also mentions he got on well and there was no beef
15 from the boys, even though they knew that previously, at
16 St Ninian's, he had wet the bed. They never said
17 anything.

18 From 149:

19 "The cell was called a 'peter'. There were two beds
20 in it, a locker and two chairs. You could hear the
21 staff coming in at 6.00 am. The screws flicked up the
22 spy hole and banged the lock to get us up. The staff
23 did a numbers check and phoned it over to the gate.
24 You'd get up after that at 6.30 am or 7.00 am. You made
25 your bed and folded the sheets and towels. You'd to

1 keep the peter nice and tidy.

2 "There was a pee pot, not a toilet. First thing in
3 the morning you slopped out and washed your pee pot out.
4 You washed at the sink and went back to your peter.
5 Then you went downstairs for your breakfast and went
6 back to your peter. At 10.00 am you got exercise and
7 walked in the yard outside for an hour. You went back
8 to your peter for dinner. If you were lucky then you
9 got to go to the gym for 45 minutes and went back to
10 your peter.

11 "You got your tea at night. At about 6.00 pm, the
12 screws came in with the TV. You got to watch TV for
13 an hour and got a cup of tea and a cake. Most times I
14 gave my tea to other people. I knew it didn't matter if
15 I drank the tea or not, I was going to wet the bed.
16 Then you went to your peter for the night. The lights
17 went out at 10.00 pm. It was the same routine every
18 day, except for weekends when you were locked up from
19 4.00 pm until 8.00 am the next day. There were less
20 staff at the weekend because they had to get home.

21 "I was still wetting the bed. I never told the
22 staff. The mattress had a rubber cover. Sometimes I
23 never slept with a sheet. You put in your laundry on
24 a Friday afternoon. You could have a shower then if you
25 wanted. When Friday laundry came, I'd give my sheets to

1 the guy next to me and tell him to take them. You'd do
2 anything to hide it.

3 "When you went in the dining hall there was a row of
4 tables for schoolboys and another row for under 21s. We
5 ate in the same hall. You got your meal on a steel
6 tray. The only possession you had was a beaker for your
7 tea. The food was something different every day. The
8 soup was in a plastic bowl and you had plastic knife,
9 fork and spoon. There was a big cake which we called
10 'duff'. It was good and everybody looked forward to it.
11 You got a tiny bit of custard, which was never enough.

12 "Everybody had to go to the gym twice a week to keep
13 up their fitness. There was no excuses. We played
14 a game called murder ball and ran about the gym. The
15 gym screws supervised, but when you play murder ball
16 there are no rules. When you went to the gym then you
17 got a shower. The showers were communal.

18 "You could smoke in your cell. You told the screw
19 what you wanted and he wrote it on your card. The screw
20 went and got it and the money was deducted from your
21 cash balance. You got a quarter ounce of Old Holborn
22 tobacco and a packet of cigarette papers for 25p. You
23 had to make the tobacco last a week, so you smoked the
24 tobacco, then you smoked the doups. [cigarette ends]
25 Then you smoked the doups of the doups.

1 "Four or five of us were taken to a classroom next
2 to the gatehouse. The screw gave us something to do and
3 sat at his desk doing his own work. He never spoke to
4 us about anything. That only happened once.

5 "The opportunity was there if you wanted to go to
6 chapel inside Longriggend. You didn't have to go. I
7 didn't go.

8 "The screws were constantly coming in and searching
9 your peter. They checked your windows to make sure they
10 only opened so far, even though they had bars outside.
11 The screws were always checking the bars to make sure
12 you weren't trying to dig your way out. I was that wee,
13 I could have squeezed out of them.

14 "You got a full medical from a doctor after you came
15 through reception. He checked your eyes, ears, mouth
16 and teeth and checked your hair for nits. The doctor
17 asked if you had anything physical you needed taken care
18 of. It was a quick medical, but better than some of the
19 places I've been in. I didn't see the doctor any other
20 time.

21 "The first time I was in Longriggend, I shared with
22 a boy from Oban. I don't remember his name. The boy
23 had broken into a butcher's and stole a load of money.
24 He was 14 or 15 years old and had never been in trouble
25 in his life. He cried every night and talked about

1 committing suicide. I told the screw. The boy did
2 attempt to commit suicide in the hall. The screws
3 brought him back to the peter that night. I thought
4 they'd have kept him in the hospital wing. The screw
5 said if anything went wrong then I was to ring the bell.
6 If you rang the bell, the screws never came anyway or
7 they took their time.

8 "When I was in Longriggend for the second time I got
9 a job as a schoolboy pass man, because I was in for
10 a while. I did the job after breakfast and before
11 exercise. I brushed, waxed and polished the floor.
12 I made sure the toilets were clean and made the officers
13 a cup of tea. I got 25p a week. That was enough to buy
14 some tobacco and you got out of your peter. You want to
15 be out of your peter as much as you can be. Everything
16 was spotless anyway so the cleaning didn't take long.

17 "When I was the pass man then I could yatter to the
18 officers. Some would tell you to shut up. When you
19 were finished your work, some officers would let you sit
20 with them and have a fag and a cup of tea. Most would
21 send you back to your peter.

22 "I've been in for my birthdays and Christmas at
23 a few places, probably, Longriggend, Polmont,
24 Castle Huntly and Glenochil. You would get a Christmas
25 gift of five cigarettes if you smoked and an orange or

1 apple. The boys who didn't smoke took the fags and
2 swapped them. Nothing happened for birthdays.

3 "I didn't get so many visits because Longriggend was
4 that bit further away from Barrhead. My da came up from
5 time to time on a Saturday or Sunday. My ma couldn't
6 bear any more. I didn't see my brothers or sisters. I
7 never saw anyone from social work or saw any inspections
8 from official bodies. If official bodies are going to
9 talk to any cons then the cons are handpicked.

10 "If you did something really bad then you were put
11 in the digger. For example, if you were banging your
12 door all the time. The digger was a separate cell with
13 a screw outside it all the time, to make sure you didn't
14 cause any grief. You could always shout to your pals
15 out of your peter window and the screw was there to stop
16 that. The screw was trying to make sure you had no
17 contact with other boys."

18 He then talks about abuse at Longriggend, at
19 paragraph 167:

20 "I got gubbed as soon as I went in the first time
21 I was at Longriggend. The reception officer shouted my
22 name and I said, 'Aye'. I walked over to the desk and
23 the screw punched me in the face. He told me to call
24 him 'sir'. The screw did that to let everyone else know
25 they'd to call him 'sir'. I don't remember his name or

1 what he looked like. I gave my name, address, age and
2 what I was in for. Later, another con said to me to
3 call the screws 'boss', not 'sir'. There was a lot of
4 verbal abuse from the screws, but that's to be expected.

5 "The third time I was in Longriggend I got dismissed
6 from court for the Panel to take care of what happened
7 to me. The Panel sent me to St Andrew's school for a
8 period of time. A social worker was at the Panel and
9 took me to St Andrew's. My da was at the Panel. My ma
10 knew I was going away again and she didn't come."

11 He then talks about Barlinnie from 169:

12 "When I was 14 or 15 years old, and the second time
13 I was sent to Longriggend, I was kept at Barlinnie in
14 D hall for two weeks. I had to wait for a space to come
15 up before I got transferred to Longriggend. D hall in
16 Barlinnie was all cons who were men over 21 years old.
17 There was a wee section on gallery 1 for schoolboys. It
18 was the first floor and the first six or seven peters
19 were for schoolboys.

20 "The schoolboys mixed with the cons. We slopped out
21 with the cons and we went down for our dinner with them.
22 The only thing that was different was that there was
23 a gap between us during exercise in the exercise yard.
24 The gap was about 15 metres. If you got too close the
25 screws told you to wait.

1 "My ma and da visited me. It was a closed visit
2 behind glass and you talked through wire mesh."

3 He talks about abuse at Barlinnie from
4 paragraph 172:

5 "The screws gave you any clothes that were there.
6 The clothes were grey and the shoes never fitted. I
7 told the screw the shoes didn't fit. I was walking and
8 scraping my foot off the ground to make sure the shoes
9 wouldn't fall off. I asked him for a lace and said
10 I would tie the shoe on. The screw got me in the hall
11 and punched me in the face. He told me never to talk to
12 him like that.

13 "A con said to me that they were waiting for me to
14 whack the screw and they would have been in for me.
15 I'm glad I didn't do that. You got a lot of verbal
16 abuse from the screws. They swore at you, saying things
17 like, 'Fucking move your arses.' The screws wrecked
18 your peter to search it. That happened a lot. If you
19 had anything you shouldn't have, the screws pulled out
20 the cupboards and pulled all the sheets apart on your
21 bed."

22 From paragraph 174, 'Bruce' speaks about his
23 experience at St Andrew's School, Shandon, where he
24 stayed from 15 months from 1975 until 1977, when he was
25 16.

1 He speaks of bullying by other boys there.

2 'Bruce's' dad died shortly before he was released and
3 'Bruce' says he was emotional when he left St Andrew's,
4 but the staff were first class and good people.

5 I'll now go to page 42 and paragraph 205. This is
6 after he leaves St Andrew's:

7 "I was getting into trouble and I saw social workers
8 until I was 21 years old. The Barrhead social workers
9 never came to my house and later they never came to
10 prison. I had to make the effort to see them when I was
11 out. I never felt the social workers listened to me,
12 they just wrote what they wanted in their reports for
13 court."

14 He talks about Polmont Young Offenders Institution
15 from paragraph 206:

16 "I was sentenced to 18 months' borstal when I was
17 17-years-old in 1977. I was at Polmont for six weeks
18 and Castle Huntly for 17 or 18 months. I was at Polmont
19 to do my allocation. The jails they could pick for you
20 were Polmont, Castle Huntly or Noranside. I was sent to
21 Castle Huntly.

22 "Polmont was harder than Castle Huntly. It was
23 regimental. You had to make your bed and make sure the
24 edges were square. You had to clean your peter. You
25 had to stand to attention and stand at your window

1 whenever a screw came in. You marched everywhere. It
2 was: yes, sir, no, sir, three bags full, sir.

3 "I heard a few boys getting a couple of doings off
4 the screws for not saying 'Yes, sir', 'No, sir'."

5 He then talks about Castle Huntly from
6 paragraph 209:

7 "Castle Huntly was easier than Polmont. There was
8 no regimental stuff. It was relaxed. There was no
9 marching and you could just walk about. The routine at
10 borstal and young offenders institutions was the same.
11 You got up in the morning, had your breakfast, and went
12 to work. You went back to the hall for lunch, then back
13 to work, and back to the hall for tea. You were in your
14 peter for an hour and then there was recreation at
15 night. Your personal possessions were shampoo and soap.
16 You got things sent in.

17 "I wet the bed at Castle Huntly. The boys knew, but
18 they never bothered. They never said anything.

19 "I played for the football team at Castle Huntly.
20 We played against Dundee and beat them 2-1. We were
21 delighted. For our win the screws took us to watch
22 Dundee United v St Mirren. St Mirren was my team and
23 I was cheering them on. Dundee United won.

24 "If you had any ailments then they were dealt with.
25 I got a couple of x-rays at hospital in Dundee and I had

1 a bit of bone missing from one of my ribs. I was taken
2 back to hospital for the doctors to try to find out
3 where it was. The doctors asked me if I had been in any
4 accidents or anything like that and where would I have
5 got such a thing. I had no idea. I never heard any
6 more after the second x-ray. I've had other x-rays and
7 they haven't mentioned it.

8 "I didn't get any visits from family at
9 Castle Huntly. I didn't see a social worker. I didn't
10 see any inspections, but I was all over Castle Huntly
11 and wouldn't have noticed.

12 "My borstal work at Castle Huntly was at farms. I
13 counted the chickens and picked up their eggs, then I
14 took the eggs up to the farmer. I counted the sheep.
15 Sometimes the snow was deep and I was out by myself
16 every weekend. We cleaned the Dundee and Dundee United
17 stadiums on a Monday after they played. That was
18 a regular thing. We'd give the stadium a brush to get
19 it ready for next game.

20 "At Christmas you got a wee parcel with five fags
21 and some fruit. Your Christmas dinner was special. You
22 didn't get a great deal, but it was different. You
23 don't get anything for your birthday.

24 "I was writing to a girl from Norway, who I'd met
25 a couple of years before I went into Castle Huntly.

1 First, I had to write to her mother for permission to
2 write. Her mother said I could. She sent me a birthday
3 present of a wee Snoopy dog for my 18th birthday. The
4 screw held up the wee dog in a room full of cons and
5 said, 'Happy birthday', you can tell the abuse I got,
6 but it was all kidology. I was embarrassed, but
7 delighted to get the present.

8 "I never thought about running away and nobody ran
9 away while I was at Castle Huntly. The screws were all
10 right at Castle Huntly. You had done something wrong
11 and you were there to do a sentence and get home. The
12 way I thought was that you don't cause yourself grief
13 and get a bigger sentence or get sent back to Polmont.
14 If you screwed up, then you went back to Polmont.

15 "I got out of Castle Huntly when my sentence
16 finished."

17 He then talks about his time at Glenochil Young
18 Offenders from 219:

19 "I was in Glenochil three times as a young offender.
20 I was sentenced to three months, six months and when
21 I was 20 years old, 18 months at Glenochil. The
22 sentences were all for house breaking. My first
23 sentence in a young offenders institution was the
24 three-month sentence. I was 17 years old. Glenochil
25 had just opened up and I was one of the first in it.

1 There was only one hall, D hall, being used at the time.
2 There were four halls altogether. In each hall there
3 were 36 boys on each level and there were three levels.

4 "The routine was the same as borstal. We all ate
5 together in the dining room. We had metal trays and
6 plastic cutlery. The food was all right. You could
7 have a shower any time you wanted. There were showers
8 in the hall and in the gym. There was no pee pot. You
9 pressed a button and got out to use the toilet. You had
10 seven minutes to do the toilet and get back into your
11 peter. The boys used it to go out and swap their papers
12 and comics. They would leave the book on the toilet and
13 the boy who was getting it next would press his button
14 and go out to get the book.

15 "I had my own peter. I was still bed wetting now
16 and again. The good thing was that there was a sink in
17 the peter. I could wash the sheet, hang it up on the
18 bars and open the window. The bars were on the inside.
19 You got clean sheets every Friday. It was at Glenochil
20 that I realised the bed wetting was slowing down and
21 sometimes I'd get up dry in the morning. What
22 a celebration I felt those days. I realised I had gone
23 a whole month without wetting the bed and I had no
24 problem after that. I was delighted.

25 "When I was 20 years old, I started reading and

1 writing in the classroom. That was voluntary. I took
2 guitar lessons and the teacher asked if anybody was
3 interested in coming for a bit more education. About
4 six of us did. It was the first education I'd had in
5 an institution since I was seven years old. We went
6 twice a week after work from 7.00 pm to 8.00 pm, that's
7 when I got into reading. You got to take work back to
8 the peter and you completed it at your own pace. You
9 took the work back and the teacher had a look at it. In
10 my peter, I sat and wrote songs out.

11 "At first I worked in the upholstery section as a
12 machinist. My last job before I left Glenochil was in
13 the main store working with the prison officers. That
14 was giving out uniforms, serving food and accepting
15 goods from the outside. The boys got proforms to get
16 things they needed. We checked the proforms, put the
17 things together in a package and sent them to the hall.
18 We kept a tally of what was used, so that the officer
19 could order new supplies. I enjoyed that job and did it
20 for about 12 months. We were paid £3.75 a week.

21 "You earned grades, A, B and C. The higher the
22 grade you got, then the more trustworthy you were. I
23 had a C grade which was the highest grade you could get.
24 That's why I got the job in the main store and why I was
25 allowed to walk the prison by myself. I pressed the

1 button, the screw came on and I told him who I was and
2 what I was doing. The screw opened the door and I shut
3 it behind me. On a Sunday, six of us who were C grades
4 would go out and walk up the Ochil Hills to Sheriffmuir
5 and back.

6 "There was a shop in Glenochil selling tobacco,
7 stamps and sweets. One of my jobs in the main store was
8 to put all the things for sale in a big basket. One of
9 the boys from the hall would come up and take the basket
10 down.

11 "I hadn't had any visits during the first two
12 sentences at Glenochil."

13 He says that his mother and one of his brothers
14 finally came up when he was doing his 18-month sentence
15 and that was the only visit he had. He didn't see
16 a social worker.

17 From 228:

18 "There were inspections at Glenochil. People walked
19 about with official things. Boys were spoken to, but I
20 wasn't one of them.

21 "My 18-month sentence was one of the saddest
22 sentences I ever did. My wee mate died in Glenochil."

23 He says he was mixed race:

24 "Our peters were next door to one another. He
25 worked in the engineering department with the joiners

1 and I worked in the main store. He would bring the rags
2 down filled with thinners and we'd sniff them in a bag.
3 We did it a lot just to break the monotony. I had
4 started sniffing glue when I was on home leave when
5 I was 14 years old. I had a bad experience and I
6 stopped when I was 15 years old, but started again in
7 Glenochil."

8 He says his friend came down one night:

9 "... and banged on my wall to get into my peter
10 after tea. He gave me the wee bag. I was cleaning my
11 peter and putting my laundry out because it was Friday
12 night and there was a governor's inspection the next
13 morning. I stuck the bag in my drawer for later on that
14 night.

15 "A screw came round for the laundry and opened [he
16 says his friend's door] ... he shouted for the laundry
17 and nothing happened. Then he shut the door and shouted
18 to the other screws to lock us up. They found him
19 sitting on his bed with his guitar and the rag. He had
20 died with sniffing the thinners. I threw mine out. I
21 never touched thinners again.

22 "I got out of Glenochil on my 21st birthday."

23 He then talks about his life after being in care
24 from paragraph 223. He says that he still got into some
25 trouble and that he found that work was really hard to

1 get in the Barrhead area because he had been in so much
2 trouble and having the record that he did. He stopped
3 breaking into places, but started taking drugs and
4 drinking. So to do that he needed money and was selling
5 drugs too. He was caught and got 18 months'
6 imprisonment, which he did in Greenock.

7 He talks about the fact that he had met a girl and
8 then had a daughter, and then he also had a son with
9 her. He says when he got out things weren't easy. He
10 says since he was 28 years old he's calmed right down
11 and he's been in trouble just for things like breach of
12 the peace. He then talks further about his family life
13 and we've that there, my Lady.

14 He talks about impact from paragraph 242, and says:

15 "Being in these institutions as a child didn't do me
16 any good. The confidence that I had was the wrong
17 confidence. I didn't want to go out and buckle down and
18 do the right thing. The confidence I had was negative.
19 I wanted to get the social workers back and it was the
20 wrong people I was hurting. That's why I was shouting
21 and using abusive language."

22 At paragraph 246:

23 "I don't blame the social workers for putting me
24 away from the ages of 16 to 21 because I was
25 foul-mouthed. The reason I was foul-mouthed was because

1 I had kept trying to tell social work what was happening
2 in St Ninian's and they shut me down and ignored it. I
3 thought, 'Why bother?' That's when I got aggressive
4 with social workers and I would tell them to shove it.
5 I felt a lot of anger towards social workers and
6 I'm still angry now."

7 If I move to page 51, paragraph 249:

8 "One time when I was home in between remands at
9 Longriggend, my da said he didn't know what to do with
10 me. He said I was no good at what I did. I wasn't
11 a good liar and yet I kept doing these things. There
12 was nothing he could do. I was one of those boys and
13 I was angry at everything. After my da died, my family
14 all drifted and we've never got back together since."

15 He says it's a shame for his mother because both of
16 his two brothers are dead, one that's older and one
17 that's younger.

18 At 250, he says:

19 "My time in institutions was perfect for my criminal
20 education. Everything I learned about breaking into
21 places or stealing motors, I learned in Cardross and
22 Bellfield. The things that really matter like reading
23 and writing and history, I didn't have at all. I still
24 have trouble reading and letters still disappear. In
25 jail I got the new books that came in last because I was

1 the slowest reader."

2 At paragraph 261, page 53 this is in the section
3 about lessons to be learned:

4 "If a kid's angry with an official adult, the adult
5 should take the time to listen to what that wean is
6 shouting about, don't just shut the kid up, fob them off
7 or make excuses for somebody. Social workers should ask
8 kids they're dealing with why they hate social workers
9 so much. If social workers get the kids young, then
10 they can nip it in the bud and weans like me wouldn't be
11 so angry."

12 Paragraph 264.

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

17 'Bruce' has signed his statement and it's
18 dated 25 August 2021.

19 LADY SMITH: Thank you very much.

20 Before I rise for the lunch break, in the last of
21 Mr Peoples' read-ins there were some names to be aware
22 of. Father **LOB**, Mr **HPS**, somebody whose
23 nickname was **MJK** and somebody whose nickname
24 was **LYT**, all of whom have the protection of my
25 General Restriction Order.

1 Staff, unless I say to the contrary, have the
2 protection of my General Restriction Order and are not
3 to be identified outside this room.

4 I'll rise now for the lunch break and we'll move on
5 to the witness who is going to be here in person this
6 afternoon after that. Thank you.

7 (12.58 pm)

8 (The luncheon adjournment)

9 (2.00 pm)

10 LADY SMITH: Good afternoon. As promised we now move to
11 a witness in person.

12 MR PEOPLES: Yes. The next witness, my Lady, is 'Steven'.

13 LADY SMITH: Thank you.

14 'Steven' (affirmed)

15 LADY SMITH: 'Steven', thank you for coming along this
16 afternoon to let us hear from you in person to give
17 evidence in addition to the written statement that we
18 already have from you. I'm very grateful to you for
19 doing that.

20 The red folder on the desk there has your statement
21 in it. I think you'll be referred to that in a moment.
22 We'll also bring it up on the screen. If you want to
23 check anything in the statement, it's there for you.
24 You don't have to look at it, but it will be available.

25 Otherwise, 'Steven', will you let me know if there's

1 anything I can do to help you give your evidence as
2 comfortably as you can? Whether it's a pause or
3 a break, or for us to explain something better than
4 we're explaining it, please don't hesitate to speak up.
5 There may have been times when you were a child when you
6 weren't allowed to speak up, but you are allowed to
7 speak up here and I'd prefer you did.

8 Any questions at any time, just let me know. If
9 you're ready, I'll hand over to Mr Peoples and he'll
10 take it from there; is that okay?

11 Thank you. Mr Peoples.

12 Questions from Mr Peoples

13 MR PEOPLES: My Lady.

14 Good afternoon, 'Steven'.

15 If I can ask you, first of all, to look at the red
16 folder, which contains a copy of the signed statement
17 you've provided to the Inquiry. I'll give the reference
18 for the transcript. WIT-1-000000620.

19 If you turn to the final page of your statement, on
20 page 27. Can you confirm that you have signed your
21 statement?

22 A. Yeah.

23 Q. You say at paragraph 209:

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

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

3 A. Yes.

4 Q. I'm going to ask you some questions based on the
5 statement. You might want to have that in front of you
6 to help. It will also be on the screen.

7 You were born in 1973?

8 A. Yes, aye.

9 Q. I'm going to ask you about your life before you went
10 into care. You tell us about that in your statement, at
11 the start of your statement. First of all, your mum was
12 a single parent?

13 A. Yes.

14 Q. You were one of four children?

15 A. Three.

16 Q. Sorry, do I have that wrong? Sorry, you had an older
17 brother?

18 A. And a younger sister.

19 Q. That's right.

20 So far as your dad was concerned; you didn't ever
21 meet him, did you?

22 A. No.

23 Q. Your mum, when you were a youngster, brought you up on
24 her own?

25 A. Aye.

1 Q. You tell us in your statement a bit about home life and
2 your family life. At page 2, in paragraph 8, you say
3 life at home was rubbish and you were singled out by
4 your mum?

5 A. Aye.

6 Q. You say you were the only one of the children that got
7 a kicking from her?

8 A. Yeah.

9 Q. What sort of things would she do to you?

10 A. Pull you about by the hair, punch you, batter you with
11 one of those wooden clothes poles. One time she threw
12 a hammer at us, just lucky I ducked.

13 Q. You tell us that there was an occasion when your
14 neighbours had to come to stop your mum choking you; is
15 that right?

16 A. Aye, Mrs [REDACTED] that stayed underneath us.

17 Q. She heard a commotion and came round?

18 A. Aye.

19 Q. Did you ever work out why you were the one that was
20 singled out for this sort of treatment?

21 A. No. The only thing I would think of is I got on well
22 with my cousins and my aunty and that in Aberdeen, and
23 my granny and my grandad. And it's like I couldn't do
24 anything wrong in my granny and grandad's eyes, so I put
25 it down to maybe she was jealous of that. I didn't ken.

1 Q. That is the only thing you can think of, but you don't
2 know. But that's what she did to you?

3 A. Aye.

4 Q. It wasn't just once, she would give --

5 A. It was all the time.

6 Q. She would treat you that way all the time.

7 You also tell us about school, because school wasn't
8 great either; is that right?

9 A. Mm hmm.

10 Q. You tell us that from an early age, when you went to
11 primary school, you were getting suspended from school?

12 A. Yeah.

13 Q. Even in your first and second years of primary?

14 A. Yeah.

15 Q. Do you know why they were doing that; why they were
16 suspending you?

17 A. The first time I got suspended it was my own fault. The
18 primary school, there was a wee roof along the primary
19 and then, as you got to primary 4 and 5, it got higher.
20 So we were climbing on the roof, me and [REDACTED],
21 and there was glass where the stairs took you up to the
22 headmistress, and we were just standing on the roof
23 giving them the V signs, because we didn't ken any
24 better. We were only young and that was the first time.

25 Q. You were sent home?

1 A. Aye.

2 Q. That happened a few times, that you were sent home?

3 A. Aye.

4 Q. You think you were also suspended because you weren't
5 concentrating in class; do you think the school sent you
6 home for that reason or do you think it was more for the
7 behaviour --

8 A. I can't remember saying that.

9 Q. It's just in your statement, on page 1, at paragraph 5:
10 "I was getting suspended because I couldn't
11 concentrate in class."

12 Do you think it was because they thought your
13 behaviour was such you should be sent home?

14 A. No, because usually you -- if that was the case, you
15 would be sent up to sit outside the assistant head's.

16 Q. You tell us that when you were in primary 3 you had
17 a particular teacher that you didn't like because she
18 did things?

19 A. Aye, Mrs [REDACTED].

20 Q. What did she do?

21 A. She used to stick the metre stick down your back and
22 pull it and let it go, snap rulers over your hands. She
23 was just a wicked woman.

24 Q. You got through primary school with some suspensions.
25 You didn't get expelled from primary school, did you?

1 A. No.

2 Q. You started your secondary schooling at a place called
3 Gracemount High School; is that right?

4 A. Aye.

5 Q. You tell us in your statement that it was much the same
6 as before, you were being suspended quite a lot --

7 A. Aye.

8 Q. -- in your first couple of years? It looks as if there
9 were things you liked doing at school, but you didn't
10 get a chance to do them?

11 A. Aye.

12 Q. You said that you were good at art and drawing --

13 A. Yes.

14 Q. -- cartoon characters, but you weren't really allowed to
15 do that?

16 A. No, they wanted you to draw apples and bananas. I
17 couldn't draw them.

18 Q. You tell us that you actually told them that you didn't
19 want to draw that, but you feel they didn't really pay
20 any attention?

21 A. Aye.

22 Q. You tell us that as a result you eventually got kicked
23 out of the class?

24 A. Aye.

25 Q. You were put into a class which you call "the unit"?

1 A. The unit.

2 Q. Which you tell us is where the bad laddies were put?

3 A. Aye.

4 Q. You say that wasn't just in the art class, because you
5 did choose to do music as well?

6 A. Yeah.

7 Q. You said that one of the reasons for that was that you
8 were keen to learn to play an instrument?

9 A. Yeah.

10 Q. You didn't get that chance?

11 A. No.

12 Q. You say that you ended up getting sent to the unit from
13 that class as well?

14 A. Aye. I got sent to the unit for most of my classes.

15 Q. On page 3 of your statement, there was a point at which
16 your mum was telling the Panel, the Children's Panel --
17 because you came before a Children's Panel -- she was
18 saying she couldn't control you?

19 A. Aye.

20 Q. You tell us you disagree with that, because you feel she
21 was well able to control you?

22 A. Aye, she was more than able.

23 Q. You tell us that up to that point, you had never had the
24 police at your door because of what you were doing?

25 A. I had had the police at the door, but only for silly

1 things, like a group of us -- when I used to go down to
2 my granny's, a group of us used to play games up the
3 King's Buildings and we used to get chased off -- the
4 security guard, and when he couldn't catch us, he would
5 phone the police and the police would come and take you
6 home.

7 Q. That was the sort of thing; taking you home?

8 A. Aye.

9 Q. They weren't charging you?

10 A. No.

11 Q. You tell us then, at paragraph 16, that the worst thing
12 you were doing was not coming in at the time you were
13 supposed to, maybe doing the things you've told us, and
14 you would get battered when you came in?

15 A. Aye. So there was no point coming in when she told me
16 to come in.

17 Q. There was a Children's Panel and you have a memory of
18 being there. You felt as if they were talking without
19 paying any heed to you; is that --

20 A. Aye.

21 Q. Did you get a chance to state your position?

22 A. I remember one woman, she told everybody to kind of shut
23 up and she wanted to hear what I had to say. She asked
24 if I wanted to stay with my mum and I was like, no.

25 Q. Was that because of something your mum said at the Panel

1 or just because of the way she was treating you or both?

2 A. What do you mean?

3 Q. You told us she was treating you badly at home; is that

4 why you didn't want to stay with her?

5 A. Aye. I couldn't stand any of them.

6 Q. Were you able to tell the Panel that was why you didn't

7 want to stay with her?

8 A. No.

9 Q. You just said: I don't want to go home?

10 A. Aye.

11 Q. You say that after going to the Panel you were taken

12 straight to a children's home, Dean House?

13 A. I don't know if it was straight after the Panel, but

14 I think it was Dean House.

15 Q. There is a record saying that you were admitted to

16 Dean House around about [REDACTED] 1987, which would

17 make you about 14 and three quarters?

18 A. I couldn't tell you.

19 Q. I can tell you that. I've seen that. Just so we have

20 some dates and understand what age you were. It looks

21 as if the Panel sent you there because you were

22 considered to be beyond parental control?

23 A. Aye.

24 Q. That sounds like sort of thing your mum was saying to

25 them --

1 A. Yeah.

2 Q. -- at the time?

3 You tell us a bit about your time at Dean House in
4 your statement. Secondary Institutions - to be published later

5 Secondary Institutions - to be published later

6

7

8 A.

9 Q.

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12 A.

13 Q.

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16 A.

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1 Q. Secondary Institutions - to be published later

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4 The reason I'm saying that is the record also goes
5 on to say that, on [REDACTED] 1988, when you are just
6 aged 15, you were transferred to Uphall Children's Home?

7 Secondary Institutions - to be published later

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6 Q. That is fine. If I take you on, you were taken to
7 Uphall Children's Home?

8 A. Aye.

9 Q. You say you were 15, and the records suggest that you
10 were 15 when you were there.

11 A. Aye.

12 Q. I think you're in agreement there?

13 You say you thought you stayed there for maybe about
14 seven months to a year. I think, again, records would
15 say that you maybe were there from the end of
16 [REDACTED] 1988 or thereabouts, when you're 15, and that
17 you were perhaps there until the end of [REDACTED] 1988,
18 certainly several months?

19 A. I couldn't tell you.

20 Q. That's fine.

21 A. I just ken when I left there I went to the Gyle.

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5 Q. You say that you were told pretty quickly you were going
6 somewhere else, to South Gyle; is that right?

7 A. Well, I don't know how it came about. I think they were
8 talking about a transition period or something like
9 that, to get me eventually to go home. Then I moved
10 from Uphall to the Gyle.

11 Q. You think at that time -- I think you are right, because
12 I'll come on to something the records say. When you
13 were in South Gyle, I think you did appear before
14 a Panel and they decided that you should be sent home at
15 that stage, did they not? Can you remember that? They
16 did decide you could go home.

17 A. I can't remember what was decided at the Panel. I ken
18 that there was discussions and they brought my ma to
19 there, near the end.

20 Q. When you were there, you had another school, Craigmount
21 High School, because you were at the Gyle?

22 A. Aye.

23 Q. You didn't go to school much, you stopped --

24 A. I was only there for about half an hour.

25 Q. As you say in your statement and you've told us just

1 now, you think the reason they were moving you to these
2 places was to try to get a transition to get you back
3 home; is that right?

4 A. Aye. I don't know if that's what the changes for all
5 the homes were.

6 Q. No. But, at that time -- because you tells us that you
7 can recall staff organising for your mum to come to the
8 Gyle to sit with you and talk the thing through. But
9 you say you weren't going to have that and you didn't
10 talk to her when she came?

11 A. Aye.

12 Q. You didn't want to go home?

13 A. No.

14 Q. You say after being in the home you do say you were sent
15 to a Panel and you said you didn't want to go home, but
16 you feel they didn't really ask you why and you didn't
17 tell them about the abuse you'd suffered at home and
18 they decided to send you back home?

19 A. I just assumed that they already knew what -- the abuse
20 I suffered in the house.

21 Q. You hadn't told them, had you, ever? You had never said
22 it directly to them, the Panel?

23 A. Not at that time.

24 Q. Your mum certainly wouldn't have said: I hit him when
25 he's at home.

1 So do you think they knew?

2 A. They knew. The first panel knew.

3 Q. At any rate, you did go back home and you tell us about

4 that after South Gyle in your statement and you say that

5 you went back home and you were in a house with your

6 mum, brother and sister?

7 A. Aye.

8 Q. You tell us that something happened one day when you

9 decided to Hoover the place; can you tell us about that?

10 A. I got a Hoover in my room and the Hoover wasn't working,

11 so I shouted down the stairs to my ma that the Hoover

12 wasn't working and she came up the stair and punched me

13 in the mouth. So I said to her, "Listen, I'm not that

14 fucking wee laddie anymore. The next time you do that,

15 I'll punch your fucking face in", and then I left.

16 Q. You say that you decided that was enough and you were

17 going to leave. Indeed, when you were quite young,

18 still 16, you got your own house?

19 A. Aye, in [REDACTED] at Gracemount.

20 Q. You didn't have a supporter, or a social worker or

21 anything like that?

22 A. No.

23 Q. You just did that on your own without that support?

24 A. Aye.

25 Q. You didn't have a social worker to help you at that

1 stage?

2 A. I never had a social worker that was a proper
3 social worker. I had a trainee social worker all the
4 time. And then as I got older, I got a social worker,
5 but it didn't work out.

6 Q. When you did have a social worker, like a trainee, was
7 it always the same person or different people?

8 A. Different people.

9 Q. You didn't have one person that was a constant to
10 support you?

11 A. No. Only when I started getting into trouble and got
12 probation -- was it probation?

13 Q. Yes. I was going to ask you about that. You say that
14 you didn't get a social worker until you started getting
15 into trouble, and this is when you had your own place.
16 You say that you were put on probation when you were 16
17 for two years and you had to report in to the
18 social worker in Gilmerton once a week?

19 A. Aye.

20 Q. Although you didn't have an allocated social worker and
21 would see different people each week?

22 A. Aye.

23 Q. Was that the way it was?

24 A. Aye. Sometimes I didn't even have to go in, until you
25 were a wee bit older.

1 Q. Do you think it would have been easier and better for
2 you if you were seeing the same person every week?

3 A. Aye.

4 Q. You say that when you were 17, and you had been out from
5 Uphall and you had been at home and then into your own
6 place, that you ended up in Saughton?

7 A. Aye.

8 Q. For the first time?

9 A. Aye.

10 Q. That was your first experience of prison life?

11 A. Aye.

12 Q. I want to ask about that. You talk about that at
13 page 19 of your statement. You tell us that you knew
14 some people from the Gracemount area when you went in?

15 A. Because I stayed in [REDACTED], they were from the
16 same block of flats I lived in.

17 Q. You tell us that you thought Saughton was okay because
18 you had your mates there?

19 A. Aye.

20 Q. Although you say it wasn't that long before you ended up
21 going off to Polmont?

22 A. Saughton wasn't for young offenders at the time, so they
23 moved us from there pretty quick, up to Polmont.

24 Q. Were you perhaps on remand at Saughton?

25 A. No.

1 Q. Waiting to go to Polmont?

2 A. Aye.

3 Q. If you hadn't had any mates that you knew and you had
4 gone in there for the first time; how easy would it have
5 been for you or difficult?

6 Do you see the point I'm making? If you were all
7 alone and you had never been there; do you think it
8 would have been a lot different?

9 A. If I wasn't the type of person that I turned out to be
10 then, then it would be intimidating. But because -- not
11 just because I was in there with people I ken. There
12 were other people in there that I already knew, because
13 by the time I had my own flat in [REDACTED] at
14 Gracemount I was floating about. So I wasn't just
15 hanging about with -- the gang was called the [REDACTED] at the
16 time, [REDACTED], and then I would hang
17 about down in Polton or other places like that, so I got
18 to ken people all about the place and they were all
19 trouble.

20 Q. You would meet them in these places?

21 A. Aye.

22 Q. That made it easier for you, though?

23 A. Aye.

24 Q. If you hadn't been one of the gang or one of [REDACTED], or
25 whatever, if you were in one of these places, life would

1 be more difficult?

2 A. Aye.

3 Q. Something did happen to you in Saughton that you tell us
4 about in your statement, that you encountered someone
5 that you had met on the outside --

6 A. Aye.

7 Q. -- that you had almost got into some sort of fight with?

8 A. I was going to batter him in the pub. And then a year
9 later ...

10 I was always getting into trouble after that, so
11 I was always going to the jail, maybe four times a year
12 on remand or something like that.

13 A year after I was going to batter him in the pub --
14 because they were doing robberies, the Scot-mids, and he
15 sent one of his -- I don't know what you would call
16 him -- he was a wee radge and they sent him over and
17 asked if I had been pulled in for an ID parade. I said:
18 what the fuck are you talking about?

19 He said: [REDACTED] thinks you're a grass.

20 I said: all right.

21 I waited until he was away to the toilet and then I
22 went to the toilet and I threatened him, and he backed
23 down.

24 So, a year later, when I went to Saughton, I was
25 still in there with three of my mates, who were brothers

1 and cousins, and one of their cousins hung about with
2 him, so I thought it would be all right.

3 He came into my cell and put a wee bit of hash on
4 the table and he's went, "That's for you". When he
5 left, I said to my mate, "Do you think he's going try
6 anything?" and he said, "No, I can't see it". So I
7 flung the hash away because I didn't smoke or take any
8 drugs when I was in the jail.

9 I was playing cards in my cell and he's come in and
10 he's went, "All right?" and then he went, "You're all
11 right", and he went like that, and he had a razor
12 between his fingers and cut me across there and then --
13 I never felt it. And he went, "You're all right", and
14 then he's done that, and when he done that, I heard it
15 cutting through my hair and I felt the blood.

16 I've grabbed him by the throat and one of his mates from
17 Leith, he was standing at the door with a PP9 in a
18 sock --

19 Q. A battery?

20 A. Aye. You had to weight up what was your options. I
21 could try and batter him then, but I would only have got
22 two seconds with him. So he left, and then eventually
23 the screws came up for a dub up and seen these and I got
24 staples and stitches. They put me on protection and I
25 didn't want to be on protection, so I kept kicking the

1 door. They put the guy's brother in the Digger for it,
2 so I had his mates coming to the door saying, "Fucking
3 tell them who it was, tell them who it was". You can't
4 do that because it just ends up worse for you.

5 Q. Yes, you have told us. So you were slashed in jail
6 because of this background, you have told us about what
7 had happened before you were in Saughton?

8 A. Aye.

9 Q. The guy had grabbed you and then his mate was going to
10 try to lay into you with a battery and a sock?

11 A. Aye.

12 Q. You decided to back off from the situation because of --

13 A. I just decided I would get him later.

14 Q. You were taken to the hospital --

15 A. Never went to hospital.

16 Q. You went to somewhere in the jail and you were stapled?

17 A. Aye.

18 Q. You didn't say who had caused your injury because, as
19 you've said, that's not what you do in prison?

20 A. Aye.

21 Q. You don't grass?

22 A. No.

23 Q. That is pretty much a prison norm, is it?

24 A. Mm hmm.

25 Q. You were put into some sort of protection at that point,

1 taken away?

2 A. In the same hall, but I was on the first landing and the

3 bottom landing was all protections, so they put me on

4 the bottom landing. That was only for a day.

5 Q. Did you get moved to Polmont?

6 A. Not then. I got put back in my cell.

7 Q. Did you serve the rest of your sentence?

8 How did you get to Polmont from there? Was that

9 a different sentence?

10 A. That was different.

11 Q. Sorry. I just wasn't sure, because your statement

12 doesn't really say how you moved -- after this incident,

13 you got put in this cell, but you got back to the normal

14 landing, is it?

15 A. Aye, because I was only on remand at this point. Then

16 the Polmont thing, I think I was only there once or

17 twice.

18 Q. I'll come to that. I wanted to know how you ended up

19 leaving Saughton. After this slashing; did you stay

20 a bit longer in Saughton --

21 A. The slashing was after Polmont.

22 Q. This happened after Polmont?

23 A. Aye.

24 LADY SMITH: Not according to your statement.

25 MR PEOPLES: The statement starts with Saughton and Polmont,

1 so I thought that was the order in which it happened.

2 But Saughton was after Polmont?

3 A. I went to Saughton, then I got taken to Polmont. Then,

4 after Polmont, it was nothing but remands, so I was

5 stuck in Saughton. So I never went back up to Polmont

6 for a long time.

7 Q. The incident with the razor happened when you were in

8 Saughton on remand?

9 A. Aye.

10 Q. It was after you had been in Polmont for the 60 days?

11 A. Aye.

12 Q. That is what happened to you when you were there?

13 A. Aye.

14 Q. We'll move on to Polmont. You tell us that you got

15 60 days from the Justice of the Peace Court for the

16 first time that you went there, and you think you were

17 about aged 17 when you went to Polmont for the first

18 time?

19 A. Yeah.

20 Q. You were in there a few times between then and the age

21 of 21?

22 A. Aye.

23 Q. That would be 1990 to 1994. You would be in from time

24 to time?

25 A. Aye.

1 Q. Then you say that when you were there the place had, you
2 think, changed from a borstal to young offenders. But,
3 as you put it, some of the staff were still borstal
4 minded?

5 A. I think so. Just the way they treated you. Polmont was
6 different from Saughton. Polmont was -- you had all
7 these young laddies that were trying to prove
8 themselves, so it was, like, split between Glasgow and
9 Edinburgh and everybody else filtered into wherever they
10 filtered into. It was just a nightmare.

11 The way the screws treated you was regimented.
12 Like, they still had bed blocks. I didn't even know
13 what a fucking bed block was until I got to Polmont.

14 Q. You can take it we do know what it is now because we've
15 heard a bit about bed blocks, so we understand what
16 you're telling us and you said it's very regimented?

17 A. Aye.

18 Q. You tell us that what would happen if you didn't get
19 your bed block right?

20 A. Aye.

21 Q. What would they do?

22 A. It depends what screw was on at the time. Sometimes
23 they would give you a whack and force you to do it right
24 in front of them or some would put you on report.

25 Q. Go before the governor?

1 A. Aye.

2 Q. Would that mean you went to the punishment cell?

3 A. No.

4 Q. You didn't go there?

5 A. I didn't even know if Polmont had a punishment cell.

6 Q. Even though you went on report -- what would happen if

7 you went on report? What would the governor do, if they

8 thought --

9 A. He would --

10 Q. Do you lose remission?

11 A. You used to. They would either take -- add days on to

12 your sentence or, if you were on remand, they would just

13 take your rec off you.

14 Q. Your recreation time?

15 A. Aye.

16 Q. These are the ways they would deal with it if you were

17 on remand, or if you were serving a sentence, they would

18 add time on to your sentence?

19 A. Aye.

20 Q. I think I understand that.

21 You tell us about Polmont and how the other boys

22 were. You tell us about one boy from Glasgow, he and

23 some of his mates seemed to have been shouting they

24 would take your face off in the morning?

25 A. Aye.

1 Q. You have told us that there was fighting between boys
2 from Edinburgh and Glasgow. You say that sometimes
3 there would be boys in the workshops with tools and
4 having hammers?

5 A. You would get a job. It was called the pool party, and
6 it was dismantling pallets. So they gave all these
7 criminals hammers, and it was just ridiculous.

8 Q. Were they used to hit people?

9 A. Aye.

10 Q. Did you see that happen?

11 A. Aye.

12 Q. You say -- and this is why I asked you about knowing
13 mates in places:

14 "Polmont would have been a scary place if you didn't
15 know anybody, but I knew folk in there and they were
16 probably as radge as me."

17 So it was generally okay for you?

18 A. Aye.

19 Q. If you hadn't known anyone?

20 A. Ally Cally -- when you first went in, you would go to
21 the hall called Ally Cally, which was an allocation
22 hall. That was a nightmare. Like I say, you would have
23 all the Weegies shouting, like -- there was no glass in
24 the windows, so a lot of people would fit their head out
25 the window and talk to each other. I couldn't fit my

1 head out the window, so they were shouting down, "You're
2 getting it in the morning", and things like that.

3 Q. Were you a new arrival at that stage?

4 A. Aye.

5 Q. You were getting shouted you're going to get it in the
6 morning?

7 A. Aye.

8 Q. Did you know the guys?

9 A. No.

10 Q. That is the way they treated the new boys?

11 A. Aye.

12 Q. That wouldn't exactly -- you wouldn't feel great when
13 you were coming in to hear things like that?

14 A. It was easy.

15 Q. You say that fights did break out among the boys, and
16 you say when that happened staff would come and break up
17 the fights, but they would be overly aggressive; what do
18 you mean by that?

19 A. Depends. If they got caught -- I can't remember the
20 other hall, I think it was fourth hall or something like
21 that. They tried to keep the Edinburgh people and
22 Glasgow people separate, but if the two of them got
23 together, then the screws would come with the coshes and
24 start whacking you. And if it was that bad, then they
25 would have the full riot gear on.

1 Q. They would come in and try to break it up, but would
2 have batons and sometimes riot gear?

3 A. Aye.

4 Q. The point you make is it seems silly to say they were
5 aggressive because it was a prison, but you say they
6 were grown men sometimes in riot gear and you lot were
7 17 or 18-year-old -- you call them bairns?

8 A. Aye.

9 Q. They were a lot younger and not -- they weren't full
10 adults?

11 A. What do you mean?

12 Q. You are saying it's grown men against boys?

13 A. Aye.

14 Q. They were wearing riot gear and had truncheons and
15 batons?

16 A. Aye.

17 Q. They were weighing in?

18 A. Aye. Don't get me wrong, there were some laddies in
19 there that were big laddies. They would have been 20,
20 21, but other than that, it was like 17 to 21.

21 Q. You say there was an occasion when you think you were
22 about 17 in Polmont, when you pressed the buzzer in your
23 cell to get some attention; what happened when you did
24 that?

25 A. They moved me to north wing, and north wing was better.

1 There were single cells and you never had any toilet or
2 that.

3 You had nothing to drink, so you would push --
4 I would push the buzzer to get a drink. The screws
5 would come along and then they'd shout at you, telling
6 you, "Don't press that fucking buzzer again".

7 Q. Would they tell you what would happen if you did?

8 A. Aye. Well, eventually, aye.

9 Q. What did they say?

10 A. You would just get it.

11 Q. When you say "get it"; do you mean a beating, kicking?

12 A. No.

13 Q. Did you ever get a kicking for pressing the buzzer?

14 A. No.

15 Q. Did they say you would do if you kept pressing it?

16 A. They just said you would get it.

17 Q. You say the way you reacted was you started to smash up
18 your cell?

19 A. Yeah.

20 Q. What they did then was to take your clothes away and
21 leave you naked?

22 A. I kept my finger on the buzzer and, eventually, you
23 could hear them turning it off and nobody came. So I
24 ended up smashing up the cell and then they came, took
25 my bedding away, so they took my mattress and my

1 blankets. And then I smashed all the windows, and then
2 they came back and took the wooden board that would be
3 part of your bed, they took that away. Then I just kept
4 shouting and swearing, and eventually they came back,
5 took all my clothes of us and left us naked.

6 Q. That is the way they dealt with you on that occasion?

7 A. Aye.

8 LADY SMITH: Shall we take the afternoon break now? If that
9 would work for you 'Steven', I normally take a short
10 break at this time; is that okay? Let's take the break.

11 (3.03 pm)

12 (A short break)

13 (3.13 pm)

14 LADY SMITH: Welcome back, 'Steven'. Are you ready for us
15 to carry on?

16 A. Aye.

17 MR PEOPLES: My Lady.

18 'Steven', I was going to move on to a part of your
19 statement about life after care, so we find out a little
20 about your life after care.

21 You tell us, and you've said already, that you were
22 in and out of Polmont until you turned 21. Then you
23 went to Saughton Prison instead and you would be there,
24 in and out a few times a year for a while?

25 A. Aye.

1 Q. You tell us also that you were about 19 and you became
2 a dad?

3 A. Aye.

4 Q. You then moved to another flat in the same area,
5 Gracemount?

6 A. Same block.

7 Q. You stayed there for quite a while. You have told us
8 this already, the only people you feel that really ever
9 showed you any proper affection were your grandparents?

10 A. Aye.

11 Q. You tell us you were in and out of prison until you were
12 maybe in your mid-30s?

13 A. Aye.

14 Q. Then you became involved with a woman, you say while you
15 had been in jail, and you were in a long-term
16 relationship with her?

17 A. Aye.

18 Q. You tell us you've had various jobs over the years when
19 you weren't in prison, so you've done a range of things?

20 A. Aye.

21 Q. We have been through the number of schools you went to
22 because of all these places, Gracemount, Broughton,
23 Craigmount, Broxburn and so forth, and you say you never
24 really got an education because of what was going on?

25 A. No.

1 Q. This is going back to how you were treated as
2 a youngster. You say, at paragraph 184, you really
3 never got shown any emotion from your mum or any of the
4 people who were caring for you?

5 A. No.

6 Q. You experienced a lot of violence, not just at home, but
7 in care and in the jail?

8 A. Aye.

9 Q. One thing you tell us is that you don't find
10 relationships easy?

11 A. No.

12 Q. You find that they don't last because you are not always
13 able to show the affection or emotion that you think you
14 ought to be able to do?

15 A. Well, I was -- I was with [REDACTED] for, I don't know,
16 16/17 years, but there was no affection from me. It
17 just ended.

18 Q. Was that because that was the way that you were brought
19 up; you didn't get the affection and didn't know how to
20 give it?

21 A. Aye.

22 Q. You have told us, and you tell us a bit about this, and
23 we can read it for ourselves, you have had a certain
24 amount of treatment or support. You've had counselling
25 in the past. You have seen doctors. You have had some

1 medication. You have been to various places, clinics to
2 get some sort of support to try to help you. At the
3 moment you are getting support from an organisation
4 known as Future Pathways?

5 A. Aye.

6 Q. You are getting counselling at moment?

7 A. Aye.

8 Q. Do you think that's helping you?

9 A. She has helped a bit, with things that I suppose I
10 needed done in my life, but as helping me as a person,
11 no.

12 Q. Is there any kind of support you feel that you don't get
13 that would make a difference or is it hard to see what
14 would help you?

15 A. I think it's too late.

16 MR PEOPLES: Too late?

17 LADY SMITH: 'Steven', you are young.

18 A. I'm 50 years old.

19 LADY SMITH: You are still a youngster.

20 MR PEOPLES: It's never too late. We all get older, but we
21 have to maintain hope that things do get better.

22 I think they have become a bit better for you in
23 recent times?

24 A. Aye.

25 Q. Not perfect always?

1 A. It's just now -- it kind of -- I only go really out with
2 the dog at night, so I don't bump into people, because
3 I don't really get on with people well; you ken?
4 Q. You have just told us, at least you've got a dog and
5 that gives you some pleasure. You told us that you are
6 a cyclist as well?
7 A. Aye.
8 Q. There are things you like to do?
9 A. Aye.
10 Q. But they are things you do on your own or with the dog,
11 and that makes you happier?
12 A. Aye.
13 MR PEOPLES: These are all the questions I have for you, and
14 thank you very much for coming today and for providing
15 your statement before coming.
16 Thank you very much.
17 LADY SMITH: 'Steven', let me add my thanks. I'm grateful
18 to you for coming along and being as frank and open as
19 you have. You probably don't realise how much that has
20 helped us to understand how you are, where you are now,
21 against the background of your childhood and your time
22 in the institutions, particularly the Scottish Prison
23 Service institutions you have told us about.
24 I wasn't saying in jest you are young, 'Steven'.
25 You are. You have got the opportunity not to give up

1 hope. You've got a dog and your bike, and I very much
2 hope you find a way forward that is brighter than where
3 you have been in the past and that you're able to keep
4 looking ahead and believe in the brightness being there;
5 will you?

6 A. I'll give it a bash.

7 LADY SMITH: Do try.

8 Just leave the worst of your life with us, let us
9 deal with that now; all right?

10 A. Aye, no worries.

11 LADY SMITH: Thank you. I'm glad to let you go and rest for
12 the rest of Friday, or maybe it's time to get out and
13 walk the dog.

14 A. I'll do that later.

15 (The witness withdrew)

16 Secondary Institutions - to be published later

17

18

19

20

Back to a read-in, I think.

21 MS FORBES: Yes, my Lady.

22 There might be a few, if there's time.

23 The next read-in is a statement from an applicant
24 who is anonymous and his pseudonym is 'Thomas'.

25 The reference is WIT.001.002.6691.

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'Thomas' (read)

MS FORBES: 'Thomas' tells us about his life before going into care, between paragraphs 2 and 8. He was born in 1957 in Lennox Castle and brought up in Kirkintilloch. It wasn't a happy childhood and his dad was an alcoholic. They sometimes went without food.

He has two younger sisters and a younger brother. He later had stepbrothers. When he was eight his parents divorced and he and his brother moved in with his paternal grandparents. He stayed with them until he was 12.

His mum then moved to Condorrat with another man and his sisters went with her. His dad's family cut his mother off completely. He went to St Flannan's Primary School and then St Ninian's Secondary, both in Kirkintilloch, but he was playing truant a lot and stealing. A decision was taken that he needed care and protection. One day, when he was returning from primary school, two policemen drew up in a car and took him to the Children's Panel.

He had already been to a couple of Children's Panels. He says that in those days it was three strikes and you're out. He was put on probation. He had a probation officer, who was his social worker and was based in Kirkintilloch.

1 He was stealing, but he states he was doing that to
2 survive because he was always hungry. His grandad died
3 and his granny was dying, so he was left with his
4 alcoholic father. He broke his probation and told he
5 was going to a remand home.

6 At that time he was about 13 years old. He was in
7 Bellfield then for about three weeks and another panel
8 sent him back for another three weeks until a place
9 became available in St Joseph's, Tranent.

10 He tells us about his time at Bellfield between
11 paragraphs 10 and 28 of his statement. In summary, he
12 says that he was called by his surname whilst there.
13 They slept in dorms. He worked in the kitchen the
14 second time he was there, which was seen as a privilege.

15 The boys who ran away there were stripped naked
16 before being beaten and put in a cooler, which was
17 a room, he says, at the back of the mansion. They would
18 be there for days with only a mattress to sleep on.

19 He saw their injuries, especially their black eyes.
20 He witnessed physical abuse by staff on boys. He was
21 then sent to St Joseph's, Tranent, and he talks about
22 that between paragraphs 30 and 67. He was 13 when he
23 went there and he was there for just over a year.

24 At St Joseph's, he was allocated a number and he was
25 called by that, unless they were on their own with

1 a member of staff. This was run by the De La Salle
2 Brothers. He didn't get any visitors whilst there and
3 didn't try to run away.

4 There was physical and emotional abuse by the
5 Brothers and he describes life there as "horrible". He
6 talks about Brother Benedict and his electrocution
7 machine and he said this was used on a weekly basis and
8 he would be made to hold it. This was extremely painful
9 and it actually made him sick each time it happened to
10 him.

11 He says the Brothers were dreadful and made the time
12 there one of humiliation and degradation. There was
13 only one Brother he describes as showing empathy and
14 kindness.

15 After about a year, he was told that they had found
16 his mother and that he would be going home the next day.
17 Apparently his mother had never been told that he was in
18 St Joseph's. He then went to live with his mother and
19 step-dad and that was the first time he'd seen his
20 mother in about five years.

21 At that time he worked in a shop called [REDACTED]
22 and part of his job involved opening boxes with
23 a Stanley knife. One night he was heading back home but
24 still had the knife in his pocket. He didn't know it at
25 the time, but the local police had an ongoing feud with

1 his stepfather, and he got off the bus and was grabbed
2 by two police officers who searched him and found the
3 knife.

4 He was arrested for possession of an offensive
5 weapon. He was taken to Dumbarton Sheriff Court, and
6 despite his boss appearing as a witness and explaining
7 why he would have had the knife on him, he was convicted
8 and given three months' detention. He was sent to
9 Glenochil. He talks about Glenochil from paragraph 74
10 of his statement. I'll just read from paragraph 74:

11 "I was 16 when I first went to Glenochil. It was
12 a dreadful place that was very regimented and run like
13 a boot camp. When I arrived I was processed by them
14 taking all my details and was then put in a small cell
15 called a dog box. So called because they were only big
16 enough to hold a dog.

17 "The routine was strict, as I believe all the staff
18 were ex-Army. I recall a Mr G V Y and a Mr K F L ,
19 though the only reason I remember their names is because
20 they were the ones who assaulted me. I don't recall the
21 names of the other staff.

22 "We would get up at 7.00 am and make our bed block
23 up. We would then get washed and dressed and go for
24 breakfast. After breakfast we were on parade on a big
25 square in the grounds. At parade the governor would

1 tell us the agenda for the day and we would then go to
2 our work party.

3 We would clean the dinner hall, strip old phones,
4 clean the gym, and clean the place in general. We would
5 go for lunch about midday and then back to work in the
6 afternoon. Tea would be about 5.00 pm and then you were
7 locked up until 6.00 pm when we would have about two
8 hours' recreation, which was really just reading
9 newspapers. You would be back in your cell after that
10 and lights would be out at 9.00 pm.

11 "The food wasn't great but was all right. You ate
12 whatever was put in front of you, as you were always
13 hungry.

14 "You washed in the morning and showers were
15 available more or less whenever you wanted, though you
16 had to ask permission to get out of your cell to have
17 one. The rules said you had to have at least one shower
18 a week.

19 "The medical treatment was dire and basically
20 involved getting a paracetamol for whatever was wrong
21 with you. I don't recall doctors ever coming in to see
22 us. The place had a dentist who would come in from
23 outside once a week. If you had toothache you had to
24 suffer it until the day he came in.

25 "We never went on any trips outside the place and

1 you weren't even allowed visitors, though that may have
2 been because we were only in for a few months.

3 "I don't think I was in Glenochil at Christmas and
4 I have no recollection of a birthday being celebrated."

5 He talks about abuse at Glenochil from paragraph 83:

6 "I was in the dining hall one day and having only
7 been in for a week was not aware of the fact we weren't
8 allowed to talk. I tried to talk to one of the boys who
9 was sitting opposite me and thought he was just being
10 ignorant by not talking to me. After dinner I went back
11 to my cell.

12 "Shortly thereafter two prison officers, Mr **KFL**,
13 who was about 70, and Mr **GVY**, who had red hair, came
14 into my cell and gave me the kicking of my life. I was
15 only a wee boy, but they attacked me as if I was
16 an adult. They battered my ribs especially, and my nose
17 was bleeding after it. They used both their fists and
18 their boots on me.

19 "Afterwards, I was in agony, but there was no
20 suggestion that I would receive medical treatment. I
21 certainly didn't talk in the dining room again. The
22 other boys warned me not to make a complaint as it would
23 just happen to me again.

24 "I left Glenochil simply because I completed my
25 sentence."

1 He talks about life after being in care and says
2 that after St Joseph's he went to Our Lady's High School
3 in Cumbernauld, but he wasn't interested in education.
4 He left school at 16 and stayed with his mum until he
5 was 23, when he moved to Kirkintilloch.

6 By that time he was an alcoholic and getting into
7 a lot of trouble, being drunk and getting into gang
8 fights. He ended up in and out of borstal and jail and
9 says that now he stays alone in a flat.

10 He worked at various things during his life, like in
11 a foundry and a McVitie's, but mainly worked as
12 a labourer.

13 "Impact" deals with the time that he was in
14 St Joseph's to begin with. However, he does go on to
15 say that he feels, at paragraph 90 and page 16, that
16 being there affected his relationships, his ability to
17 make friends and his ability to get employment. It also
18 affected his education, but he says that later in life
19 he went to college and obtained qualifications. At
20 paragraph 91, he tells us that he's helped out on
21 children's panels for three years, but had to give it up
22 because he says:

23 "I simply couldn't be part of anything that was
24 involved in putting children in the sorts of places
25 I had been in. I'm actually now a qualified care

1 worker, though I haven't yet put that qualification to
2 use."

3 Paragraph 96, he says:

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 He signed that and it's dated 13 June 2019.

9 LADY SMITH: Thank you.

10 Before we move on. Two names to note there, whose
11 identities are protected, Mr G V Y and Mr K F L.

12 MS FORBES: My Lady, I have another statement that we could
13 get in.

14 This next statement is from an applicant who is
15 anonymous and has the pseudonym 'Colin', and the
16 reference for his statement is WIT-1-000000912.

17 'Colin' (read)

18 MS FORBES: 'Colin' was born in 1959. He had two brothers
19 and three sisters. He says that his father was a miner,
20 but passed away when he was six. His mother basically
21 brought them up by herself. She worked as a bus
22 conductor on a local Fife bus and it was hard
23 financially.

24 If I can read from where he starts talking about
25 life before going into care, at paragraph 4:

1 "I was born in hospital in Dunfermline and lived and
2 brought up in Cowdenbeath. I stayed in Cowdenbeath
3 until 2002 when I moved to Crossgates. It was tough
4 times being brought up in Fife as there was very little
5 income about. When my father passed my mother had to
6 feed the whole family on her wage as a clipper on the
7 buses:

8 "I attended school at Foulford Primary School and
9 then at Beith Secondary School. I left school at 16 and
10 that is when I got into trouble with the police. When
11 I was growing up and living at home there was no
12 involvement with social work. There were lots of fights
13 among the family, usually involving my stepfather.
14 There was also violence and drunkenness, but it was
15 always kept within the family.

16 "I started going to a local farm every weekend and
17 during school holidays. I had become very friendly with
18 the farmer and his wife. I was driving a tractor from
19 age 11 and I really enjoyed helping out on the farm.
20 The farmer was a farm manager and he moved to another
21 farm when I was about 15 and this was when I started
22 going down the wrong road.

23 "I started drinking when I was 16 and I started
24 getting into fights and breaking into shops, which I now
25 regret. It was all small, petty things which I was

1 involved in. It culminated one day when we were on the
2 bus to go to the dancing and the ballroom in
3 Dunfermline, a fight started and I ended up being
4 arrested and charged with assault. I appeared from
5 police custody before the courts. I was remanded in
6 custody for three weeks to Saughton Prison and I was
7 taken there by the police straight after my appearance
8 in court. I was 16 years old."

9 He talks about Saughton Prison from paragraph 8:

10 "I remember very little about my three-week stay at
11 Saughton Prison, apart from sharing a cell with a man
12 [he names him] ... who was a well known criminal,
13 an armed robber. In later years he became one of the
14 best-known rioters at Peterhead Prison. He was brand
15 new with me and looked after me when I was in Saughton.

16 "I had no issues at Saughton Prison and because
17 I was look after by [this man] ... no one bothered me.
18 I remember that you were locked up for 23 hours during
19 the day and only got out for an hour's exercise.
20 Nothing happened to me at Saughton and I was not abused
21 while I was there. The routine was just like any
22 prison.

23 "After three weeks, I again appeared before the
24 courts. This was the first time I learned about
25 social workers, as there was a background report from

1 social work, along with a report from my school. It was
2 very upsetting as it was the first time that I had
3 learned that my father had not passed away in normal
4 circumstances, but when I was six years old he had taken
5 his own life.

6 "The outcome of my court appearance and the
7 background reports was that I was sentenced to three
8 months' detention at Glenochil young offenders
9 institution."

10 He talks about Glenochil from paragraph 12:

11 "There were three wings at Glenochil, A, B and C. A
12 wing was upstairs, B wing was on the ground floor and
13 C wing was downstairs. There were bars on the windows
14 and all the doors locked. All the boys had their own
15 room and there was no sharing with other boys. I think
16 that I was there for a total of two months and five
17 days.

18 "I estimate that there were between 45 and 50 boys
19 in each wing. I think that there were 15 rooms on each
20 level of C wing and there were three levels. All the
21 boys were aged between 16 and 21. I think that there
22 were three or four officers looking after each wing at
23 any time.

24 "When you came out of B wing there was a door that
25 took you on the parade square. You did not mix with the

1 residents of the other wings, apart from at recreation
2 time when all the boys would be together. You were not
3 allowed to speak to other boys outwith the recreation
4 time, which was between 7.00 and 9.00 in the evening.

5 "When I arrived at Glenochil the building looked
6 fairly old, but I recall there was building work going
7 on. I think that the work was being done so that
8 Glenochil could be turned into a full prison for all
9 ages and categories of prisoner.

10 "There was an AstroTurf football park in the grounds
11 with a running track on the outside of the pitch. There
12 was a security fence that enclosed the whole area of
13 Glenochil. All the doors were locked and you only got
14 out of the building if you went to the parade ground or
15 the football pitch.

16 "I was taken to Glenochil in a police van directly
17 from court. I remember being told by the police
18 officers that I needed to keep my head down and I would
19 be okay. They obviously knew what type of place it was.
20 When I first arrived I was put in a dog box, which was
21 a very small cell where I had to wait to be booked in.
22 The staff that greeted you were in uniform, but the
23 staff who looked after you day to day were in plain
24 clothes.

25 "I recall arriving at Glenochil and being taken for

1 a shower and then given clothes to wear. I was then
2 sent to my wing, which was B wing, and I was allocated
3 room number 3, which was on the ground floor. I recall
4 the man in charge of B wing was called Mr Bell.

5 "You were always woken up at quarter to six and you
6 had to be standing outside your door with your clothing.
7 You had to take out your slop pan and empty it every
8 morning. Whilst you were standing outside your door,
9 you had to mark time until you went to ablutions. You
10 had to shave, although I didn't have any facial hair.
11 You would then brush your teeth and return to your room.

12 "You changed into your best dress, which was known
13 at BDs. You would then have to march to breakfast. If
14 you went anywhere in the building you had to march.
15 When you arrived at the table for breakfast you had to
16 stand by your chair, and then we would all be told to
17 sit, which had to be done at the same time for
18 everybody.

19 "You were only allowed to say 'yes, sir', or 'no,
20 sir' to the staff. It was worse than being at basic
21 training in the army. I think that meal times were
22 staggered, with different wings eating at different
23 times. There was only one large dining hall which
24 serviced the whole institution.

25 "After breakfast you would march back to your room,

1 where you would change into your dungarees to start your
2 day's work. You also had an older pair of boots which
3 you put on. The main job I had at Glenochil was to
4 clean the ablutions area, which meant I was on my hands
5 and knees a lot of the time scrubbing. I would be there
6 from breakfast until dinner time.

7 "Every morning you would do PT. On a Monday you
8 would run a mile and then 100 yards. On a Tuesday you
9 would run half a half mile and 400 yards. It changed
10 every day. You would also race against other boys as
11 a group carrying a telegraph pole between you. It was
12 like Army training. This was done in the grounds.
13 After PT, you would go into the gym and do circuit
14 training. I must say that I liked and enjoyed the
15 physical training.

16 "You would go back to your room just before lunch to
17 get back into your BDs, so that you could go for lunch.
18 You would have to march to the dining room at lunchtime.
19 After lunch you would repeat the process and change back
20 into your work clothes. You also did some PT in the
21 afternoon.

22 "You would continue with your job until teatime when
23 you again changed into your BDs and went for tea. After
24 that you went back to your room and en route you would
25 get a clean pair of socks to wear. You would stay in

1 your room until recreation time at 7.00 when you could
2 mix with the other wings.

3 "The food was good and you were always starving. We
4 were doing so much exercise that you would always be
5 hungry. I don't recall any punishments for not eating
6 your food.

7 "You always had a shower after you did your gym
8 session. They were communal showers and there was no
9 privacy. You were all lumped in together.

10 "I didn't continue with education when I was there
11 and I don't recall anyone having any schooling. It
12 could have happened, but not to me.

13 "On a Saturday or Sunday you would have to leave
14 your room door open and clean your floor. If you were
15 not cleaning you would have to bull your boots. We
16 would have a game of football on a Saturday afternoon
17 and on a Sunday you could go to church or chapel if you
18 wanted.

19 "You went to church on a Sunday, but it was only to
20 avoid having to do the cleaning and chores. There was
21 a man there from a Baptist church in Cowdenbeath who
22 used to try to get you interested in religion. But, to
23 be honest, most of the boys were there to avoid doing
24 chores on a Sunday. The church was in the grounds of
25 Glenochil."

1 In relation to recreation, he talks about that from
2 paragraph 31:

3 "It was always held between 7.00 and 9.00 at night
4 and was the only time when all the wings would meet and
5 you could talk to the other boys. There was nothing
6 much to do at recreation time, but I do remember a table
7 tennis table.

8 "There were two members of staff who ran the gym.
9 They were different class and would treat you like human
10 beings. They would talk to you about football and they
11 made going to the gym a pleasant experience. They never
12 had to hit you or abused you for any reason.

13 "There was a tuck shop which was open twice a week
14 and you could spend an allowance on things like crisps
15 or toothpaste. You were not given cash.

16 "I do recall that the prison had a change of
17 governor about two weeks before I left. He organised
18 a game against a team from outside. I was selected for
19 the Glenochil team and I scored a hat-trick that day and
20 we won 6-5. The whole institution watched the game and
21 it made me feel great to have scored the goals in front
22 of the other boys."

23 He says he wasn't at Glenochil when it was his
24 birthday and he was not there at Christmastime, but
25 doesn't recall celebrations for any of the other boys.

1 From paragraph 36:

2 "I think that my mother visited me on three
3 occasions, which was all that she was allowed to do. My
4 brother and sister also came to visit on one occasion.
5 The visits were held in a big room and you could sit at
6 a table and speak to your visitors. You could speak
7 openly to your visitors.

8 "I don't think that I had any officials visiting me
9 at Glenochil, although I seem to remember that a social
10 worker may have visited me at Saughton before I went to
11 Glenochil.

12 "I do recall a couple of occasions when I didn't
13 feel well and had to stay in my room. I was put on
14 a milk diet. This involved eating and drinking nothing
15 but milk, which was left in a jug in my room. I think
16 that there was a member of staff who was medically
17 trained, but also acted as a dentist who would provide
18 healthcare to any of the boys who needed it.

19 "I did not have a problem with bed wetting, but some
20 of the boys did. They would get a rubber mattress given
21 to them. I recall some of the bed wetters were
22 humiliated in front of the other boys when they were
23 given a rubber mattress.

24 "I don't recall any formal punishment, like having
25 privileges withdrawn or being belted or caned. I do

1 recall that you were not allowed to smoke when you were
2 in Glenochil. There were often fights between boys, but
3 this was dealt with by the boys outwith the sight or
4 hearing of the staff. It was usually a few punches and
5 was over very quickly.

6 "In Glenochil you were locked in most of the time
7 and there was also a large fence that enclosed the whole
8 campus, so it was almost impossible to run away or
9 escape."

10 He talks about abuse at Glenochil from paragraph 42:

11 "You had to toe the line and, if you didn't, you
12 would get a punch to the face or a slap to the back of
13 the head. You could hear other boys being slapped about
14 the head when they were in their cells.

15 "The worst offender for hitting was a member of
16 staff called Mr HRA . On one occasion I recall that
17 I was standing in a line when one of the boys farted. I
18 swore at him and the next thing I knew I was lying on
19 the floor having been hit round the head by Mr HRA .

20 "There were two other men called Mr GSM and
21 Mr HRC , who were also into inflicting physical
22 punishment. I recall that Mr HRC came from Cowdenbeath
23 and his mother ran a shop in Cowdenbeath. I recall
24 thinking to myself: when I got out of Glenochil I would
25 go and take revenge on Mr HRC because I knew where his

1 family lived.

2 "Thank goodness that I never did anything more than
3 think about it.

4 "Mr HRA was stocky built with gingery hair. The
5 man called GSM was ex-Army and had brown hair and the
6 guy called HRC also had gingery coloured hair. HRC
7 was more into the mental abuse. He would tell you to go
8 back to your room and then come in and push you against
9 the wall and threaten and hit you. I think that HRA
10 was between 40 and 50 years old. GSM would be about
11 the same, while HRC was in his late 30s.

12 "When you were in a line-up waiting to go to dinner
13 or coming back from somewhere you would be asked to
14 stand at ease. HRA would walk up and down the line
15 like he was inspecting it. You would hear one of the
16 boys being slapped for no real reason. You could not
17 react because you had to keep your eyes looking forward.

18 "The first three or four weeks were the worst and
19 then it eased off. It was as if they had broken you
20 into their way of thinking. You would always see the
21 new boys being subjected to what you had received. It
22 was mainly punches and slaps that we received. We were
23 usually hit on the side of the head.

24 "I did get a lump on the side of my head on one
25 occasion, but I never needed hospital or medical

1 treatment, although some of the boys would be knocked to
2 the ground. My lump was visible because of the very
3 short haircut you were given when you first arrived.

4 "The most common punishment was if you were caught
5 talking and you would be slapped or punched on the side
6 of your head. I recall some boys having their slop out
7 pot poured over them. They would also pass you when you
8 were on your knees cleaning and they would kick over
9 your bucket. You just had to do what you were told.

10 "I recall one guy who went berserk, but I can't
11 recall his name. I think he had mental health problems.
12 He was taken back to his cell and you could hear him
13 screaming as he was being slapped and punched by the
14 staff.

15 "On one occasion **HRC** put me up against a wall and
16 punched me in the stomach in front of the other staff.
17 The rest of the staff just turned a blind eye to what he
18 did. Most of the staff did not use physical violence
19 towards you, but they didn't try to stop it happening.

20 "You could not tell anyone about what was happening.
21 You just had to accept it. I never told my mother or
22 other family members about what was happening to me in
23 care.

24 "I spent two months and five days at Glenochil.
25 I was originally due to spend three months there, but

1 was released early. There was always a lot of coming
2 and going of boys, so I presume they needed my place for
3 someone else and they felt I had served my term."

4 He talks about his life after being in care:

5 "When I came out of Glenochil I continued to live at
6 home. I did get into trouble with the police on
7 occasions through drinking and fighting. I started work
8 as a miner and calmed down. It was the way of the
9 miners to work hard and play hard. I was down the pits
10 for nearly three-and-a-half years. I worked at
11 Mossmorran and also drove HGVs for different companies.
12 I've done a lot of different jobs."

13 He talks about impact from paragraph 56:

14 "I think that my experiences in Glenochil made me
15 man up, but also I became more violent. Without the
16 violence and brutality from the staff, Glenochil would
17 have been a good place. I suppose it was like being in
18 the Army. It was a good place for boys that were going
19 the wrong way and needed to be corrected.

20 "I learned manners when I was at Glenochil, and so
21 when I got out I started to say 'please' and 'thank you'
22 which I was not good at before. If there had been no
23 abusive behaviour from the staff it would have been
24 a good place and I would have had a positive experience
25 as I loved the physical training aspect of my time

1 there.

2 "I don't think that my experiences have held me back
3 in any way. I just have to deal with it and move on.
4 I don't think that it has had any effect on me. I have
5 not needed any counselling or support and I don't think
6 I would ever have applied to get support."

7 He then says he's never tried to get his records and
8 doesn't have any interest in doing that.

9 In relation to lessons to be learned at
10 paragraph 60, he says:

11 "There should be someone monitoring the staff to
12 detect any abuse that is going on. I am sure it would
13 not have happened if there was more control over the
14 abusers. Some of the staff were very good with us, but
15 it is the abusers you tend to remember."

16 In relation to hopes for the Inquiry, at
17 paragraph 61 he says:

18 "When there are young people involved, do the right
19 thing for them. Do not assume that when they are locked
20 up in places like Glenochil that the children are safe
21 in the hands of staff members and it is the best place
22 for them. The bottom line is that most boys are only
23 off the rails and what they need is a guiding hand to
24 get them back on."

25 He then says:

1 "I have no objection to my witness statement being
2 published as part of the evidence to the Inquiry.
3 I believe the facts stated in this witness statement are
4 true."

5 'Colin' has signed his statement on
6 18 February 2022.

7 LADY SMITH: Thank you very much.

8 MS FORBES: This is an applicant who is anonymous and has
9 the pseudonym 'Alex' and the statement reference is
10 WIT-1-000001189.

11 'Alex' (read)

12 MS FORBES: 'Alex' was born in 1960 in Cumbernauld. He has
13 five brothers and two sisters. He says that they were
14 born every two years or so. His dad was a [REDACTED]
15 just after the war and then worked for [REDACTED] on
16 nightshift. His mum did work before, but stopped once
17 the children came along.

18 He went to Cumbernauld Primary School until primary
19 6. He thinks it was all right. It was a small village,
20 so everyone knew everyone and he would just run about
21 with cousins and things like that. However his dad died
22 and his mother couldn't look after them all, so the five
23 youngest children were put into care.

24 From paragraph 6 'Alex' speaks of his experiences in
25 a children's home in Milngavie.

1 He says he was nine or ten and there for three years
2 with four of his siblings. The only complaint or
3 question he has about being there is why, in his
4 phrases, he "got chucked out of the place". He says he
5 still doesn't know why.

6 He says the main form of discipline there was
7 sending you to your bedroom and that the place itself
8 was all right. He was 13 years old and came back from
9 school one day to be told that he was leaving the next
10 day. He and one of his brothers were sent together to
11 Cardross Park Assessment Centre.

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14 From paragraph 32 of his statement 'Alex' speak
15 about Cardross. He went there with one of his brothers
16 and suffered physical and sexual abuse. He ran away
17 twice. He started glue sniffing in Cardross and says he
18 was addicted for four years.

19 He says he was there for about a year and a half and
20 then moved to Bellfield Remand Home after he had run
21 away. When he was moved his brother didn't come with
22 him that time.

23 From paragraph 62 of his statement 'Alex' describes
24 his life in Bellfield Remand Home, where he stayed for
25 about five or six months, he thinks, and he suffered

1 sexual abuse there.

2 'Alex' was moved from Bellfield to Kibble Approved
3 School, which he says was all right for an Approved
4 School, where he stayed until he was 16 years old.

5 If I can move then to paragraph 79, on page 15,
6 where he says:

7 "It wasn't until I got out of an Approved School
8 that I started getting into trouble. I think it was
9 because we had just moved through to Falkirk and we had
10 to fight a lot. My mum also still had all the children
11 at home and she was struggling. My first giro was
12 £3-odd.

13 "I got called stealing out of a car and was taken to
14 Airdrie Sheriff Court in [REDACTED] 1977. I was given three
15 months' detention at Glenochil. It was one charge and
16 the first time I was ever in trouble. I was 16 years
17 old. I don't think the sheriff even knew or cared that
18 I had been in an Approved School before."

19 He talks about Glenochil from paragraph 81:

20 "There were about 120 boys in Glenochil, aged 16 to
21 21 years old. Glenochil was hardcore. The building was
22 just like a prison. I was taken straight from court to
23 Glenochil. I was taken into reception and had to put
24 the prison uniform on. I got given a pillow slip and
25 blankets and shoes, or whatever, and then put into

1 a cell. I was in a cell on my own. We were up at 6.30
2 in the morning and had to get washed, then down for
3 breakfast. After that we were out on parade and had to
4 march. We did a lot of physical education, PE,
5 throughout the day, but I liked that. We stopped for
6 lunch and dinner, but then it was back to the same
7 again. Lights out was about 9.00.

8 "The food was all right. I never saw anyone having
9 any problems with the food.

10 "We had ablutions downstairs from our hall with
11 about 30 sinks. There were showers as well, but they
12 were supervised so you were in and out quick. Sometimes
13 you had hardly got the soap off your head and you were
14 told "out". They controlled the water. Showers were
15 every day after PE.

16 "There was a prison uniform, but it wasn't labelled
17 as yours. When it came back, you could have got
18 anyone's.

19 "We had an hour's recreation at night to read the
20 papers or watch television. We got to play table tennis
21 and had books as well. I went to the gym as much as I
22 could.

23 "There was a doctor and dentist in there, but I
24 never needed it.

25 "I was put into a sewing machine factory. It was

1 jackets we were making for the prisoners. They also had
2 textiles, joiners and cleaners. You were allocated
3 a job, you couldn't choose.

4 "There were always groups going about that looked
5 official and they spoke to some people, but not me.

6 "My family came to visit me once a month, my
7 brothers and my mum. You had to fill out a visit pass
8 and send it out to them. My family could then hand it
9 in. We got 30-minute visits in a big hall.

10 "The Digger was the discipline in Glenochil. It was
11 a separate cell away from everyone else. It was seven
12 or 14 days in there. They had two Diggers. You would
13 get put in there if you were fighting or being cheeky.
14 I was in there a couple of times.

15 "There were prison officers who would push their
16 knuckles into the back of your neck if you spoke with
17 your mouth full on a break having your tea and sandwich.
18 They would also give you a punch in the kidneys. This
19 was just for talking when you shouldn't.

20 "You could have spoken to the prison officers if you
21 wanted to [and this is in relation to reporting abuse].
22 I never did. I just got on with it.

23 "I was in Glenochil for six weeks. I was out for
24 a month and a half and got convicted again for car
25 theft. I was sentenced at Falkirk Sheriff Court for two

1 charges and was given two years in borstal."

2 Then he talks about Polmont from paragraph 96:

3 "Polmont is one of the better places I have been in.
4 It was all right. I had a lot of things to do. We
5 played football and went to the gym. There were good
6 workshops. Some of the prison officers were all right,
7 too. There was no abuse there and nothing I want to
8 tell you about there. It was all right as far as it
9 goes. They did have solitary there as well as part of
10 the discipline."

11 He talks about his life after care from
12 paragraph 97:

13 "I started going downhill after Polmont and was
14 basically in and out of prison until about 20 years ago.
15 All my grandchildren were coming along then, so I
16 thought I better get my act together. The longest
17 sentence I had was 30 months.

18 "I started working with my brother in a Cumbernauld
19 in tyre factory."

20 He had a couple of wee jobs here and there in
21 scaffolding. He then says in paragraph 95:

22 "I then ended up on heroin for 18 years, but I am
23 all right now. I haven't been near it for seven years."

24 He has four children and eight grandchildren and
25 he's about to become a great grandad.

1 In relation to impact, at paragraph 100 he says:

2 "Being in care has fucked up my life. That's the
3 only way I can put it. There is nothing else I can say.
4 I can't say for definite, but I might have done better
5 if my education was better. I just shouldn't have been
6 in secure care."

7 In we go to paragraph 106, he states:

8 "I have no objection to my witness statement being
9 published as part of the evidence to the Inquiry.
10 I believe the facts stated in this witness statement are
11 true."

12 'Alex' signed the statement on 3 February 2023.

13 LADY SMITH: Thank you very much. The final reference I
14 need to make: a mention earlier of Mr HRA, Mr HRC
15 and Mr GSM and they all have the benefit of my General
16 Restriction Order, so they can't be identified outside
17 this room.

18 That's now 4 o'clock. It's Friday afternoon and
19 I think that's time for us to stop. Thank you to both
20 of you for everything you have managed to fit in today.

21 I rise now for longer than until Tuesday. We sit
22 again on 5 December to carry on further evidence in
23 Phase 8, still in relation to the Scottish Prison
24 Service principally.

25 Thank you very much. I wish you all a good weekend

1 and whatever you may be doing between now and

2 5 December.

3 (4.01 pm)

4 (The Inquiry adjourned until 10.00 am

5 on Tuesday, 5 December 2023)

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