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Wednesday, 13 December 2023

(10.00 am)
LADY SMITH: Good morning. Welcome back to our hearings in Phase 8, in which we're hearing Scottish Prison Service evidence and coming to an end of our witness evidence, I think.

This morning, we have a witness ready on the link, I see. Would you like to introduce him, Mr Peoples?

MR PEOPLES: Yes, good morning, my Lady.

The next witness is James McLaughlin, who is known as Jim.

LADY SMITH: Thank you.

James McLaughlin (sworn)

(Via videolink)

LADY SMITH: Thank you, Jim, for that.

In the course of your evidence, if you have any questions please speak up. Will you do that?

A. I will.

LADY SMITH: Or if there's anything I can do to make it easier for you to give your evidence, which I know is not an easy thing to do, let me know. If you want a break, that's absolutely fine. Just say. Just ask.

Or if you don't understand what we're asking you it's our fault not yours and you ask us to sort out what we're saying, will you?

1 A. Yes.

2 LADY SMITH: If you're ready, Jim, I'll hand over to
3 Mr Peoples and he'll take it from there. Is that okay?

4 A. Yes, that's fine.

5 LADY SMITH: Thank you.

6 Mr Peoples.

7 Questions from Mr Peoples

8 MR PEOPLES: Good morning, Jim.

9 A. Good morning, Jim.

10 Q. I think you have a red folder with your signed statement
11 inside and in front of you. I wonder if you could begin
12 by just turning to the final page of the statement.
13 It's on page 29. Can you confirm that you have signed
14 your statement?

15 A. That's correct.

16 Q. That you state at paragraph 105:

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 A. Yes, that's fine.

22 Q. What I'll do at this point is give a reference for your
23 statement. You don't need to worry about that. It's
24 just our reference for our record purposes in the
25 transcript. I'll just read it out just now. You don't

1 need to worry about this. Your statement is
2 WIT-1-000001356.

3 Jim, this morning you can take it that we're
4 familiar with what is said in your statement and I'm not
5 proposing to go through the whole statement this
6 morning. We have it before us and I will concentrate on
7 certain parts and ask you some questions. That's how
8 I propose to do it.

9 Can I say at the outset that the focus today will be
10 on what you tell us about your time at Glenochil between
11 1982 and 1987 as a basic grade discipline officer in the
12 detention centre between 1982 and 1984 and subsequently
13 in the young offenders institution there between 1984
14 and 1987. That's what I plan to focus on today.

15 A. Okay.

16 Q. We have your evidence on other matters. If I can just
17 begin to get some background information. I think you
18 tell us that you were born in 1946; is that right?

19 A. That's correct.

20 Q. You started working -- this is in paragraph 2 of your
21 statement, if you want to look at that -- as
22 a discipline officer in Barlinnie in 1972?

23 A. That's correct.

24 Q. Three years later you were transferred to the newly
25 opened female prison at Cornton Vale in Stirling?

1 A. That's correct, yes.

2 Q. In paragraph 3 what you tell us is that after around
3 four months there they were needing a maintenance
4 plumber and you took up that job and essentially you did
5 that job there for about seven years?

6 A. That's correct.

7 Q. What you also tell us, Jim, is at paragraph 4, that you
8 were keen to get back to working as a discipline officer
9 and that you passed some promotion exams and that you
10 then were transferred to Glenochil, where you worked
11 between 1982 and 1987?

12 A. That's right.

13 Q. Then you say that there were some health issues and that
14 caused you to be put back to Cornton Vale in 1987?

15 A. That's right.

16 Q. You tell us in paragraph 5 of your statement, on page 2,
17 that you worked there for another six years as a plumber
18 again?

19 A. That's right.

20 Q. You also tell us that you retired, essentially on
21 medical grounds, in 1994?

22 A. Correct.

23 Q. Can I begin by asking you some questions about the
24 detention centre. If you want to turn to page 4 of your
25 statement, if it assists, you tell us a bit about the

1 detention centre, where you worked between 1982 and
2 1984.

3 In paragraph 10 -- we already know this, but you
4 tell us that detention was usually given as a first
5 sentence and was intended as a form of short, sharp
6 shock treatment, I think that's the expression that was
7 used?

8 A. That's right, that is it.

9 Q. What you say -- you describe it in quite straightforward
10 terms -- is that everything was left, right, left,
11 right, the inmates marched everywhere and did a lot of
12 drill?

13 A. That's correct.

14 Q. Just on the type of regime, I think you also say, if
15 I could go to paragraph 17, on page 6, you tell us about
16 a bit about the regime and we can read the whole thing
17 for ourselves, but what you tell us there is about bed
18 blocks.

19 We know about bed blocks, but what you say there and
20 I think it's in line with what we've heard already, that
21 the bed blocks had to be immaculate with the sheets in
22 between?

23 A. That's right.

24 Q. You say that if an inmate hadn't done his bed block
25 properly he would be made to do it again?

1 A. Correct.

2 Q. You also tell us a bit about what happened at meal times
3 when you were at Glenochil. If I could ask you to just
4 turn to paragraph 27, on page 8.

5 A. Right.

6 Q. You will see there -- I'm not going to read it all
7 out -- you describe what happened at meal times and it
8 seems to have been something done with military
9 precision and in your opinion, as you put it at the end
10 of paragraph 27, it was a work of art?

11 A. Oh, yes. It was a sight to be seen.

12 Q. Maybe with that in mind, can I just ask you a few
13 questions.

14 I get the impression from your statement that it
15 appears that if anything was done in the
16 detention centre in your time that was -- if I can put
17 it this way -- less than perfect, the inmate, even if he
18 was doing his best, might well be punished, was that how
19 it was?

20 A. Sometimes, yes.

21 Q. Yes. Because I suppose you'll agree that surely some of
22 the inmates at that time, without deliberately not
23 conforming to those very exacting standards, would not
24 have coped well with that type of regime?

25 A. Well, they weren't managing in the detention centre, it

1 was a grade system and it was blue, yellow, red. Very
2 few got the red. But if somebody wasn't managing
3 I could put them in and say they were red grade, and say
4 "Show them what to do", and that's how they did it.

5 Q. I appreciate what you are saying, you do tell us about
6 the grading systems but would you agree that whatever
7 you tried to do there would be some people that simply
8 didn't cope well with that type of regime, however much
9 you tried?

10 A. There were always one or two, but most of them tried
11 hard.

12 Q. I'm not really looking at the non-conformists, if you
13 like, I'm looking at people who might have come in, they
14 were not maybe physically fit, they didn't like gym
15 work, they didn't like that type of regime and they
16 might have found it very difficult at age 16, 17 or 18
17 to cope with that type of regime.

18 A. I think they were assessed before getting sentenced to
19 that. They were fit enough to do it all, because as
20 I say it was all drill and marching everywhere, so
21 I'm sure they were passed fit before they went there.

22 Q. The reason I'm asking that, Jim, is I think we have
23 a bit of evidence from a number of people who were there
24 who say that the regime was -- they considered it quite
25 brutal in a sense and it was quite punishing and some

1 people struggled to manage the things they were asked to
2 do, like the running, the gym work and so forth and
3 I don't know if you can help us with that?

4 A. I don't know much about the gym work. That was -- when
5 they would go to the gym it was with an officer, who was
6 a PT instructor. We weren't involved in that.

7 Q. I suppose, Jim, the problem might be for the inmates
8 that did struggle to cope is that they couldn't really
9 escape this regime because they couldn't do what they
10 might have done in an open establishment and run away or
11 abscond?

12 A. They could try and run away, but they were fenced in.
13 I know on one occasion somebody did get round to the
14 fence and it was myself and another officer who got
15 them, pulled them down. And that was the only time
16 I recall.

17 Q. It would be pretty difficult to escape from Glenochil in
18 those days?

19 A. Yes.

20 Q. I think I'm comparing it with places that are open
21 establishments like Approved Schools or List D schools
22 or open borstals, at least the person could make a run
23 for it even if they might get caught?

24 A. There was a metal fence and on top it was bound with
25 garotte(?) wire, which is a form of barbed wire.

1 Q. The only other thing I might want to ask you at this
2 stage about this form of detention is that you say it
3 was a first sentence for many people and it was intended
4 to be one that might deter them from going back into
5 prison?

6 A. Yes.

7 Q. I suppose therefore you would have an intake of people
8 that -- this would be a totally new experience for many
9 of them?

10 A. Absolutely. As I say, the short, sharp shock.

11 Q. If they had come from an environment where they hadn't
12 ever had experience of prison, it could be quite
13 a terrifying experience for them, even the fear of what
14 was going to happen?

15 A. Oh, yes. They didn't know what they were walking into.
16 That's why it was a shock.

17 Q. We know from other evidence -- I'm sure you're familiar
18 with this -- that there were in the 1980s, in the early
19 part of the 1980s, a number of suicides in the
20 detention centre and young offenders institution at
21 Glenochil and were you aware that there was a report in
22 1985 by a working group chaired by Dr Derek Chiswick.
23 Do you remember that?

24 A. Vaguely, vaguely remember that.

25 Q. It was trying to look at the suicide precautions at that

1 time and just to review, report and recommend things,
2 but you have a vague memory of that happening?

3 A. Oh, yes.

4 Q. As far as the suicides were concerned, I don't know if
5 you can help me with this, and please say so if you
6 can't, did these suicides or any of them have anything
7 to do with the regime at Glenochil in the 1980s?

8 A. I don't think so.

9 Q. Can you really be confident about that from your
10 knowledge?

11 A. Yes, aye. I don't think so. I don't think it was too
12 harsh.

13 LADY SMITH: Have you any memory, Jim, of what people
14 thought the suicides were caused by?

15 A. Well, I know some of them was because of other inmates
16 shouting to them through the night to go hang
17 themselves. Because I had to move one inmate one time,
18 he was in -- he was a big lad and he just -- he wasn't
19 too clever and I can't remember what he did, but the
20 inmates in that group of rooms they were in, they were
21 shouting to go hang himself or cut his wrists and break
22 something up, so we had to go out and take him out and
23 put him in the strong cells, for the rest of the night
24 he was observed --

25 LADY SMITH: Bullying might be a cause?

1 A. Oh, yes.

2 LADY SMITH: Was there anything else?

3 A. Maybe owing money, owing tobacco and not paying them
4 when you ordered stuff and borrowing when they came in
5 at first and when they got their first pay day and they
6 got their tobacco and that. It was taken off them.

7 LADY SMITH: I see. Thank you.

8 Mr Peoples.

9 MR PEOPLES: Jim, just following up on some of that, if we
10 go to paragraph 13 of your signed statement, you tell us
11 that there were three wings in the detention centre, A,
12 B and C, is that right?

13 A. That's correct.

14 Q. You estimate that there might have been between about 30
15 and 40 inmates in each of the wings?

16 A. That's correct.

17 Q. Am I right in thinking from what you say in
18 paragraph 13, that you, during the time at the
19 detention centre, between 1982 and 1984, mainly worked
20 in C wing?

21 A. That's right, yes.

22 Q. Would it follow that you would not know what was
23 happening in the areas where you were not working or how
24 the young people in those areas were being treated by
25 your colleagues or the other young people. You wouldn't

1 know?

2 A. I don't know, because when they went to recreation they
3 were all together. You could hear the other staff in
4 the units and the exercise yard and at tea breaks and
5 all that. We were all there. Everybody was there. All
6 the wings and all the inmates were lined up, so you
7 always knew what was going on.

8 Q. I can appreciate you might know when you were all
9 grouped together from the different wings, but if
10 something was happened for example in the wing itself,
11 you might not know what was happening in B wing or A
12 wing if you were working in C wing, is that right?

13 A. That's correct. That's correct.

14 Q. I suppose it follows and just is that you are not in
15 a position to say for that reason that there was no
16 young person in the detention centre in the period you
17 worked there, that you -- you can't say that no young
18 person experienced abuse either by prison staff or other
19 inmates or suffered any form of inappropriate or
20 unacceptable treatment by a prison officer. You can't
21 go that far?

22 A. No.

23 Q. Did you ever personally see an officer who in your view
24 had a bad attitude when interacting with young people in
25 the detention centre?

1 A. Once or twice. If someone came in from the young
2 offenders institution, maybe come in on overtime, maybe
3 put them right about the different regimes.

4 Q. I suppose so far as the wings you didn't work in, if
5 there were prison officers with a bad attitude when
6 interacting with the young people and were displaying
7 bad attitude through word or deed, you don't know
8 whether that was happening because you weren't there?

9 A. No, but the other staff in that wing would tell you.

10 Q. You say they would tell you --

11 A. We would all go on the tea break out in the parade
12 ground. They were all out there, all the staff, they
13 were all mixed and they would tell you what was
14 happening.

15 Q. Would a person who was working in one wing effectively
16 whistleblow on one of their colleagues at that time?
17 Was it not really something that whatever happened on
18 the wing stayed on the wing?

19 A. No.

20 Q. No?

21 A. No.

22 Q. Not on your wing?

23 A. As I said, when we went to -- out for the tea breaks and
24 everything else we were all together. We would all talk
25 about it.

1 Q. You do say, and if I can just take you to paragraph 40
2 and I think what you say there is that, page 12, Jim, if
3 you can go to that part of your statement, do you see
4 you tell us:
5 "There was nothing in the way that the
6 detention centre ran that gave me any cause for
7 concern."
8 A. That's right.
9 Q. You didn't see anything, you say, that you considered to
10 be abusive?
11 A. That's correct.
12 Q. Although you do say sometimes some of the officers that
13 came from the young offenders, who might be doing
14 overtime there, they might overstep the mark, is that
15 right?
16 A. That's right.
17 Q. You say if you saw that happen you would have a word
18 with them?
19 A. Oh, yes.
20 Q. You say that approach seemed to work and they would
21 apologise?
22 A. They would apologise to me, yes.
23 Q. Did they apologise to the inmates?
24 A. I would doubt it.
25 Q. What you also say and can I take you to a later part of

1 your statement, paragraph 103, in the final page,
2 page 29, you say there very frankly:
3 "Abuse could have taken place at Glenochil that
4 I wasn't aware of."
5 A. That's correct.
6 Q. Because you couldn't be everywhere at the same time, so
7 things could happen you just simply didn't know were
8 happening?
9 A. That's correct.
10 Q. Can I ask you this: if you go to page 25 of your
11 statement, at paragraphs 85 and 86, do you have that,
12 Jim?
13 A. Yes.
14 Q. You tell us about an officer called GRK [REDACTED] ?
15 A. That's correct.
16 Q. You tell us he was a person you considered to be a good
17 officer and that when you, Jim, saw him interacting with
18 young people he did nothing that gave you any cause for
19 concern?
20 A. That's correct.
21 Q. But in paragraph 86 you do tell us that he was sacked
22 for slapping a prisoner?
23 A. That's right.
24 Q. You tell us that what you heard about the reason was
25 that inmates were lined up in rows of three and that

1 GRK walked behind a boy and, as you put it, banged
2 him on the head and told him to behave and for that he
3 was dismissed. Is that what you understood happened?
4 A. As far as I know that is what happened, but he resigned.
5 He wasn't dismissed, as far as I know, he resigned.
6 Q. You say "sacked", that normally means that the service
7 might -- you say he resigned, you think?
8 A. As far as I know.
9 Q. Because of that incident?
10 A. Yes.
11 Q. There is an example of someone who you obviously
12 considered to be a good officer but at least on that
13 occasion he did something that he shouldn't have done?
14 A. Absolutely.
15 LADY SMITH: All you know about how he left is what you
16 heard, Jim, is that right?
17 A. That is correct.
18 LADY SMITH: When you gave your statement very recently you
19 said you thought he was sacked?
20 A. Well, sacked -- well, either sacked or he resigned, one
21 or the other, it was certainly said to me that this
22 happened --
23 LADY SMITH: One way or another he left?
24 A. One way or the other, yes.
25 LADY SMITH: It might have been he was sacked. It might

1 have been he handed in his resignation, is that it?

2 A. Yes.

3 MR PEOPLES: You understood it was in connection with the

4 incident that you tell us about?

5 A. Yes, that's right.

6 Q. The reason I ask you, Jim, is that we have had evidence

7 from a person who was in Glenochil who said that boys

8 were getting beaten up in the detention centre and one

9 of the persons he named was a Mr GRK ?

10 A. No, not when I was there.

11 Q. You didn't work with Mr GRK ?

12 A. No, different shifts.

13 Q. You wouldn't know what Mr GRK was doing when he was on

14 a different shift from you?

15 A. I think if something untoward was going on you would

16 hear about -- staff would hear about it in the muster

17 room.

18 Q. The person who has been called 'Gary' told us that in

19 evidence and I think we have also heard similar evidence

20 by other people who were in Glenochil that there were

21 officers who would sometimes take the law in their own

22 hands and give boys a beating?

23 A. I wasn't involved in anything like that and I don't

24 remember seeing it.

25 Q. No, I'm not suggesting you were and you have said very

1 clearly that you weren't involved and you didn't see it.
2 I'm just putting it to you that there are other people
3 who say they were involved in the incidents which did
4 involve staff giving them beatings. I don't suppose you
5 are in a position to say either way whether that
6 happened?

7 A. No, I couldn't say.

8 Q. Can I ask you also about another matter which you deal
9 with in your statement. You deal with an incident which
10 was described by another person who was in Glenochil who
11 has given evidence to this Inquiry. I don't want you to
12 use his name, but we have been calling him 'Max' and if
13 you go to paragraph 90, page 26, if you could just refer
14 to this individual as 'Max'?

15 LADY SMITH: Mr Peoples, before you embark on this section,
16 I think maybe I should explain to Jim what his position
17 is here.

18 MR PEOPLES: I'm going to explain it. I don't think it's
19 a necessary warning after what I'm about to say about
20 this matter.

21 LADY SMITH: Well --

22 MR PEOPLES: I think --

23 LADY SMITH: Take it one step at a time and let me know if
24 anything changes. I didn't mention anything at the
25 beginning because I wasn't sure --

1 MR PEOPLES: I would said and I would have warned Jim.

2 What I am going to say is you were asked about

3 an incident that was described by 'Max' in his signed

4 statement which happened at Glenochil according to him

5 and that incident, according to his evidence, happened

6 before you started working there in 1982, because

7 I think 'Max' told us that he left Glenochil in the late

8 1970s, so we're not talking about an incident that

9 involved you, let's be clear about that. You understand

10 that, I think?

11 A. Absolutely.

12 Q. The reason I'm asking about that is that the incident

13 that 'Max' describes and that you were asked to comment

14 on was one that was said to involve an assault on 'Max'

15 by a Principal Officer who had the name GHB ?

16 A. That's right.

17 Q. At paragraph 101, Jim, what you tell us is this: you

18 don't remember any such incident. It didn't happen in

19 your time so that would be consistent with what you're

20 saying at 101, but what you also say is there was

21 a Principal Officer at Glenochil who could have done it.

22 Do you see that?

23 A. Yes, I see that.

24 Q. You say his name was zGHB ?

25 A. That's right.

1 Q. You say he was a bit older and I think he was
2 a Principal Officer, was he?
3 A. Correct, yes.
4 Q. What you say, I'll just read what your position on this
5 is:
6 "I wouldn't have thought he would have jumped on top
7 of an inmate [which I think is what 'Max' said
8 happened], but I did hear that he was quite liberal with
9 slaps. He might have given him a skelp around the ear
10 and told him to behave. I never saw zGHB
11 raise his hand to an inmate. He worked in a different
12 hall from me so I just heard about it."
13 That's all you can tell us on that matter really?
14 A. That's all.
15 Q. At least zGHB, you did hear that he was quite
16 liberal with slaps?
17 A. Correct.
18 Q. Was he the only officer that was quite liberal with
19 slaps in those days?
20 A. As far as I can remember. I mean, it was 40 years ago.
21 Q. I do appreciate it was a long, long time ago.
22 Can I just move on to something else that you deal
23 with in your statement, at paragraph 36. Which if
24 I could go back to that paragraph, which is on page 11.
25 A. Yes.

1 Q. You talk about punishment cells in the detention centre
2 and I think there were punishment cells in both the
3 centre and the young offenders?
4 A. That is correct.
5 Q. We know about that. We have heard quite a bit of
6 evidence about these cells. You say there that you only
7 saw the cell being used once when you were there and it
8 was you who put the inmate in there because he had tried
9 to escape. I think that is what you told us about
10 earlier, is that right, Jim?
11 A. That's right, yes.
12 Q. You tell us about what the background to that was in
13 paragraph 36 and you tell us towards the end of
14 paragraph 36:
15 "That was the only time that I had to restrain
16 someone in the detention centre. I didn't see any other
17 officers restraining inmates at the detention centre."
18 A. That is correct.
19 Q. Can I just be clear, you are not going as far as to say
20 that in the two years you spent in the detention centre
21 no inmate was ever restrained except on that one
22 occasion that you tell us about?
23 A. That's the only time I saw it.
24 Q. Yes, that's the only one you saw. But you are not
25 suggesting, because there are three wings, there could

1 have been restraints happening --

2 A. Three wings, but I didn't hear about it because the

3 staff would talk about it if anything happened.

4 Q. I suppose the point I make again is the one that I think

5 we discussed at the beginning, that you wouldn't be able

6 to say what was happening in the areas where you weren't

7 working when you were on duty, because there might be

8 occasions where restraints would have to be carried out?

9 A. I'm not sure, I don't think so. The situation with the

10 wings were placed, there was a central bit and the staff

11 were always roundabout there. You would have heard

12 something going on. It that was that kind of thing --

13 Q. Can I just then maybe with that answer take you to

14 paragraph 38, Jim, where you do say, page 11:

15 "If an inmate was cracking up and smashing things

16 about you could put him in his cell and pull the bed out

17 until he calmed down. You didn't need the Governor's

18 approval to do that."

19 In that scenario, Jim, there might surely be a need

20 sometimes to use physical restraint to get the inmate to

21 his cell?

22 A. Are you still talking about the DC or the YOI here?

23 Q. Either. They could crack up in either, I suppose?

24 A. I never seen it in the DC, never. In the YOIs, yes.

25 Q. When they did crack up, was there a need to use physical

1 restraint at times?

2 A. Oh, yes, because they were -- in the YOs at the time of
3 the riots they were smashing the beds up, you would go
4 in there they would have a bed leg in their hand and try
5 and hit you with it. And we were trained in how to
6 combat that ...

7 Q. Just on the question of riots and you can take it that
8 we've had some evidence that the 1980s was a time of
9 riots in various prisons and we know about obviously the
10 famous Peterhead riot in 1987, but there was also, as
11 you tell us, a riot situation at the young offenders, is
12 that right?

13 A. That's correct.

14 Q. Just to be clear, I think the young offenders also had
15 a number of parts in terms of halls. They had different
16 halls, is that right?

17 A. That's right.

18 Q. If you want to go to page 13, Jim, paragraph 42, you
19 tell us a little bit about your time at the young
20 offenders institution between 1984 and 1987. Is that
21 right?

22 A. That's right, yes.

23 Q. You tell us that you were actually put into the top flat
24 of C hall, which was all long-term prisoners?

25 A. That's correct.

1 Q. You tell us that so far as the young offenders
2 institution was concerned, at paragraph 43, there were
3 four halls, D hall, C hall, B hall and A hall, is that
4 right?

5 A. That's right.

6 Q. You were in C hall?

7 A. Correct.

8 Q. On the top flat?

9 A. Correct.

10 Q. You reckon at paragraph 43 that there were maybe 120
11 prisoners in each of the halls?

12 A. There was something like that, yes.

13 Q. What you say is that at paragraph 44 your recollection
14 is that inmates would go to D hall for about a month
15 when they first arrived at the young offenders; is that
16 right?

17 A. Yes, for assessment.

18 Q. Yes, for assessment. That staff would perhaps be
19 writing reports on them and they would then be sent
20 first to A hall and would work their way up and could
21 take a few years to get to C hall, is that the way it
22 worked?

23 A. That's correct.

24 Q. What you say is that C hall was for the creme de la
25 creme?

1 A. Absolutely, these boys were long term and got into
2 a good position where we could help them.

3 Q. Yes, you say that these were for the long-term prisoners
4 who had settled down?

5 A. Yes.

6 Q. You tell us that in their case there were very few
7 problems in C hall, certainly compared to A hall, which
8 was the worst hall, you say?

9 A. That's right.

10 Q. Why was C hall the worst hall?

11 A. C hall wasn't the worst hall.

12 Q. Sorry, why was A hall -- sorry, my mistake?

13 A. They were usually just in and they were just trying to
14 buck the system. That is basically what it was.

15 Q. Was it more than that. Was it something to do with the
16 way that C hall was run or the regime in C hall was
17 maybe not as good as the one that operated in your hall,
18 in C hall, could it be partly to do with that?

19 A. C hall was good. It could have been, because A hall you
20 had to be on your guard -- we all had to be on our
21 guards all the time, but in A hall it required a wee bit
22 of extra vigilance.

23 Q. Even if we go to C hall and if can just move to another
24 part of your report, at page 20, Jim, you have a section
25 headed "Bullying".

1 You have a memory at paragraph 69 of there being one
2 person there that you can recall who was a real bully
3 and was taking tobacco --

4 A. Absolutely.

5 Q. -- off other lads.

6 Indeed, on that occasion you say the police were
7 brought in, so you thought that was quite unusual?

8 A. It was unusual, but maybe there was more to it and we
9 didn't get told about it from higher up.

10 Q. Am I right in thinking from what you say that very
11 rarely in your time between 1982 and 1987 would the
12 police become involved in what essentially were prison
13 matters?

14 A. Yes, that's right. I don't remember much about that
15 happening.

16 Q. You don't know the outcome, but you say the boy did in
17 fact stay, the one that was seen as being the bully, is
18 that right?

19 A. Yes.

20 Q. The other thing you do tell us, and I suppose we have to
21 be reminded and this echoes something you just said,
22 that Glenochil could at times, the young offenders, be
23 a violent place?

24 A. Oh, yes, yes.

25 Q. You give some examples of that, you give one

1 particularly in paragraph 70, do you not, that you can
2 recall boys who had access to Stanley knives and you can
3 remember at least one getting badly slashed in the face
4 in the engineering shop?

5 A. That's right.

6 Q. Indeed you tell us that one of the officers had to give
7 the boy in question the kiss of life?

8 A. Correct.

9 Q. Although you understand the boy did survive and
10 continued to stay at Glenochil?

11 A. That's right.

12 Q. There is one other matter I would just like to ask you,
13 Jim, it's to do with inmates reporting concerns to
14 staff. You have a section in your report at page 23
15 starting at paragraph 79. Do you have that, Jim?

16 A. Yes, I've got that.

17 Q. At paragraph 80 you say:

18 "I think young offenders knew they could tell me if
19 they had a concern. I think they would have felt
20 comfortable doing that, as long as there was nobody else
21 there."

22 I suspect that's perhaps a recognition that there's
23 the well-known prison norm that inmates don't grass on
24 each other?

25 A. Absolutely, yes.

1 Q. Generally speaking, in terms of their treatment in
2 prison, would you say that in the period you worked
3 there that inmates don't generally complain at all, they
4 just accept their lot?

5 A. Yes, I think -- that's it, yes.

6 Q. That may be underlined by what you tell us at
7 paragraph 80, that although there were people that would
8 come to see you, it only happened once or twice?

9 A. That's right.

10 Q. When they did come to see you, can you recall whether
11 they were reporting abuse or ill-treatment either by
12 another inmate or a prison officer, was that what they
13 were reporting or was it another matter?

14 A. Usually about other inmates.

15 Q. But that was a fairly uncommon situation?

16 A. That's correct.

17 Q. You would have seen a lot of boys in your time there,
18 you would have --

19 A. Oh, yes, yes.

20 MR PEOPLES: These are all the questions I want to ask you
21 this morning, Jim.

22 I'm conscious that you have made an effort to travel
23 to take part in this session today and I do know that
24 you are not keeping the best of health, so thank you
25 very much both for your statement and also for making

1 yourself available today in answering the questions that
2 I've asked you. I do wish you well and hope that you
3 keep better health.

4 A. Thanks very much.

5 LADY SMITH: Jim, could I add my thanks. I'm glad to see
6 that we've managed to complete the questions we have for
7 you today in a relatively short time.

8 Please be assured that doesn't mean that your
9 written statement is not also of considerable value to
10 us. It's really helpful and I'm grateful to you for the
11 time and trouble you put into engaging with us to enable
12 us to complete that statement and to have you review it
13 and then sign it. That's really useful to me and helps
14 with my learning about Glenochil.

15 Safe journey back home from the session today with
16 us and thank you again for joining us over the link.

17 Thank you.

18 A. Thank you.

19 LADY SMITH: You will be switched off now.

20 Just one name to remind everybody about, the name
21 GRK was mentioned, a prison officer of that name,
22 and that name is covered by my General Restriction
23 Order, so that man can't be identified outside this
24 room.

25 Read-ins, Mr Peoples?

1 MR PEOPLES: Yes. I think it's probably going to be
2 Ms Forbes that will do some read-ins.
3 Hopefully there is no need to have any kind of break
4 to change over.
5 LADY SMITH: Let's go on. I'm ready.
6 MR PEOPLES: We'll just perhaps swap places and she can
7 continue with some read-ins.
8 LADY SMITH: Thank you.
9 MS FORBES: Good morning, my Lady.
10 LADY SMITH: Good morning.
11 MS FORBES: First of all then this morning the first
12 statement that we have from an applicant to be read in
13 is an applicant who is anonymous and his pseudonym is
14 'Jason'.
15 LADY SMITH: Thank you.
16 MS FORBES: The reference for his witness statement is
17 WIT-1-000000916.
18 'Jason' (read)
19 MS FORBES: 'Jason' was born in 1966 and brought up in
20 Denny. His parents were from the travelling community.
21 When he was 15, he was sent to Longriggend on remand and
22 he tells us that after Longriggend he ended up spending
23 most of his life in prisons either in Scotland or in
24 England.
25 He talks about there being harsh rules at

1 Longriggend and that he got what he describes as
2 a kicking just for putting a bag on a table.

3 There were issues with other inmates whilst there,
4 who would call him a pikey because of his travelling
5 community background and challenge him to fight. After
6 eight weeks there he was sent to Glenochil and he talks
7 about that from paragraph 12.

8 From paragraph 12 he deals with the routine at
9 Glenochil and we have heard quite a lot about the
10 routine that he talks about at that part of his
11 statement, which we can obviously read for ourselves,
12 but it's the same thing that other applicants have
13 talked about, this military style and short, sharp
14 regime.

15 He talks about bed blocks and slopping out.

16 If I can go to paragraph 17 of his statement, he
17 states the following:

18 "I remember one morning, before going for our
19 breakfast, we were told as usual to come out of the cell
20 and just stand at the door. When I came out of my cell
21 I could see into the cell opposite. When I looked over
22 I could see that the guy in there had hung himself and
23 was still there as they opened the door. They just left
24 the door like that and left me standing for about
25 15 minutes having to look at him."

1 He then talks about other matters that he
2 experienced in Glenochil, such as the polishing of the
3 boots as punishment and discipline and the standing on
4 parade.

5 Then, at paragraph 28, he talks about abuse at
6 Glenochil and if I can read from paragraph 28:

7 "At Glenochil we picked our tray of food and had to
8 call out 'Thank you, sir', before taking it back to the
9 table. When you were went back to the table to eat your
10 food you had to make sure you did not have your hands on
11 the table. If you did one of the staff would come from
12 the side and slap you on the side of the head.

13 If you had soup as a meal you were not allowed to
14 dip the bread into the bowl. Again if you did, you
15 would receive a slap in the face from the staff. They
16 never hid it as it happened in front of the other
17 inmates and staff.

18 Some of the staff were particularly brutal. They
19 had a cricket bat which they named 'Fred'. We had to do
20 different physical training and when we were doing some
21 distance runs you always had to make improvements on
22 your previous time. If you did not make any improvement
23 they would beat you with the bat. It was used by them
24 on a regular basis so they could demonstrate to other
25 inmates what would happen if you did not make those

1 improvements. They would shout me over calling me
2 a gypsy. I then had to lower my trousers and underwear
3 and bend over. As I was bent over they would hit me
4 several times on the bare backside with 'Fred'. This
5 was done in front of the other inmates.

6 Another punishment was that they made you stand in
7 a corner and face the wall. You had to stand at
8 attention while you faced the wall and were made to
9 stand like that for hours at a time.

10 Another form of abuse at Glenochil was polishing the
11 different coloured tiles on the floor. We were given
12 a large bucket of water, hand brush and a block of soap.
13 The officers would shout out a command, 'bucket', and
14 you would dip the brush into the bucket of water. The
15 next command, 'ready', meant you had to scrub the tiles
16 continually for about a minute-and-a-half. There were
17 different colours tiles, red and black and each of the
18 inmates would be allocated a particular square. Once
19 you had finished the scrubbing, then you had to lacquer
20 each tile until they were all like a mirror. If the
21 staff were not happy then they would walk all over the
22 tiles not done properly with their big black boots. You
23 would have to start from scratch.

24 In 1982 when I was at Glenochil I would be doing
25 some extra chores. When I was there [he mentions

1 a notorious well-known criminal son by name] was working
2 beside me. He had been told by some of the officers to
3 fight me. If he did not fight me he would be beaten by
4 the staff. This became a regular thing by the staff
5 members. Prior to this, I did not even know how to
6 fight but you soon learned as this became a regular
7 thing with the staff. As far as the staff were
8 concerned, they were doing this just for their own fun.

9 One of the prison staff stayed in Stirling and there
10 were some travellers who camped near to where he stayed.
11 He took exception to this and when he came into work at
12 Glenochil he had some of the inmates beat me as some
13 form of revenge. What did the other travellers have to
14 do with me?

15 My whole time at Glenochil was like living in total
16 hell. Every day and all day you were scared of what the
17 staff would do to you next."

18 Then he talks about the fact that after he left
19 Glenochil he was arrested when he was 16 and sent to
20 Barlinnie before being transferred to Noranside, where
21 he spent 13 months.

22 If I can go to paragraph 38. I can read from
23 paragraph 38:

24 "When I arrived at Noranside I found that there were
25 about 100 boys there all about my age, 15 or 16, and no

1 older than 19.

2 Noranside was an open prison and the regime there
3 was much more relaxed. This relaxed atmosphere was good
4 for me most of the time. It also meant with the relaxed
5 routines, one of the staff was able to abuse the boys.
6 In the closed prisons there was a much stricter
7 atmosphere and also less opportunity for this sort of
8 abuse to take place, as the staff worked in pairs most
9 of the time."

10 He then talks about his routine whilst he was in
11 Noranside and again that's something that we have heard
12 about before.

13 If I can go forward in his statement to paragraph --

14 LADY SMITH: Ms Forbes, can I just take you back to 39. I
15 know he does later talk about some abuse at Noranside,
16 but I wondered about the sentence:

17 "It also meant with the relaxed routines one of the
18 staff was able to abuse the boys."

19 That is a reference forward to what he's going to
20 talk about later?

21 MS FORBES: Yes.

22 LADY SMITH: Not the general atmosphere, which seemed to be
23 better?

24 MS FORBES: Yes.

25 LADY SMITH: Thank you.

1 MS FORBES: I think the way I took it, my Lady, and I could
2 be wrong, was that perhaps if there was a more strict
3 routine with more staff then it was more difficult for
4 the opportunity to arise for someone to be abused in
5 that way.

6 LADY SMITH: Yes, of course, and in a closed prison less
7 opportunity and staff working in pairs.

8 MS FORBES: Yes.

9 LADY SMITH: Thank you.

10 MS FORBES: If I could read then from paragraph 52 of his
11 statement, where he talks about the abuse at Noranside.
12 He says:

13 "At Noranside there was a prison officer who was
14 a pervert. He was always saying he wanted to have sex
15 with a gypsy. He tried several times when I was on his
16 work duty to try and sexually assault me. He was
17 a heavy built guy, quite small but stocky, almost like
18 the dart player Jocky Wilson. I think he would have
19 been about 30 to 35 years old and between five foot
20 eight and five foot nine, he wore overalls with only
21 a pair of shorts underneath. If there were no other
22 members of staff around then the shorts were removed and
23 you could see everything whenever he bent over.

24 One of those occasions when I was about 16 was when
25 he was in the barn at the farm. When I went inside he

1 was just standing there masturbating. He turned to the
2 side and make a comment, 'Oh, you've caught me'. He
3 tried a couple of times in that barn to get me into the
4 horse stables to have sex with me. I was able to fight
5 him off each time.

6 This same member of staff would also try to come
7 into my room at night. He would come to my room about
8 4.00 in the morning, when I would be getting up to work
9 on the farm. He was trying on different nights to have
10 sex with me, but again I was able it fight him off.
11 I found a way to use things in my room to act as a door
12 jam, which stopped him coming in.

13 Eventually I was moved to a different work party and
14 the abuse stopped.

15 Although I never saw him abusing any of the other
16 boys I have no doubt that he would have replaced me with
17 another boy. I have no doubt I was not the first boy he
18 abused. It was not something that was talked about
19 among the boys. I know if I was not as fit as I was
20 then he would have raped me.

21 The staff member who was attempting to have sex with
22 me knew I would be too scared to report anything. If
23 I did try to report it he would have made sure that
24 other prisoners would be aware I was a grass. If the
25 other members of staff found out I reported anything

1 about a colleague, then I would end up with a beating.
2 There was already so much prejudice against me because
3 I was a traveller and this meant there was no one
4 I could go to and he knew that."

5 He then tells us about his life after leaving
6 Noranside and later got married and had three children.
7 He talks about currently being in prison and hopes this
8 is his last time. He also mentioned the continuing
9 prejudice he's experienced towards him in prison for
10 being from the travelling community. He has struggled
11 with drugs during his adult life. If I can go to
12 a later paragraph, paragraph 84 of his statement, he
13 says:

14 "When I was at Glenochil there was another prisoner
15 [and he names him] that I got on well with. One morning
16 I said to staff I was going to see him for a cuppa, the
17 member of staff told me that I couldn't as he had died.
18 When I asked what had happened I was told he had
19 committed suicide."

20 He says that that individual obviously had issues
21 that he could not talk about or cope with:

22 "I knew that I was having dark thoughts."

23 But he says that this person's death forced him to
24 stop thinking those things and try and sort what damage
25 the memories were doing to him.

1 If I could go on to paragraph 92 of the statement,
2 where he talks about lessons to be learned. He thinks
3 that there should be more scrutiny of staff in the open
4 prison systems and there should have been more scrutiny
5 of staff in the borstal system and there should be more
6 rules in place in relation to staff having one-to-one
7 contact with prisoners in an attempt to try to prevent
8 any abuse.

9 If I can then go to paragraph 95, he states:

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

14 'Jason' has signed that and dated it
15 18 February 2022.

16 LADY SMITH: Thank you very much.

17 MS FORBES: My Lady, the next applicant again is anonymous
18 and is known as 'Iain'. His statement reference is
19 WIT.001.002.2326.

20 LADY SMITH: Thank you.

21 'Iain' (read)

22 MS FORBES: 'Iain' was born in 1966. He talks about his
23 background earlier in his statement between paragraphs 2
24 and 8. He lived with his parents, his four brothers and
25 a sister in Nitshill in Glasgow. They didn't have much

1 money and he stopped going to school because of the
2 clothes he was wearing. He was eventually taken into
3 care when he was about nine or ten because he wouldn't
4 go to school.

5 He went to Larchgrove from a Children's Panel and he
6 was assessed, which was later extended, and he later
7 went on to Loaningdale after Larchgrove.

8 He talks about the fact that he experienced violence
9 at Larchgrove and it was inflicted daily and it was
10 extreme at times. He also witnessed sexual abuse by
11 staff on boys and there was bullying among the boys and
12 emotional and physical abuse.

13 He comments that all the way through care he saw the
14 weaker boys being targeted for sexual abuse. He was for
15 a time shipped off to Rossie before he was then sent to
16 Loaningdale and he was in Loaningdale when he was ten
17 years old from 1976 and he stayed there until he was 16.

18 He comments that the level of violence at
19 Loaningdale was nowhere near that of Larchgrove, but
20 nevertheless one of the members of staff broke his arm,
21 which never healed properly and was, as a result,
22 misshapen. There was physical assaults by staff there,
23 sexual abuse among the boys and bullying.

24 He left Loaningdale when he turned 16 and he ended
25 up in Longriggend a few months later, where he spent

1 just over four months there, before being transferred to
2 Glenochil.

3 If I could go to paragraph 132 of his statement,
4 'Iain' states from 132 -- he talks about Longriggend
5 first of all:

6 "Longriggend was a remand centre for young
7 offenders, it was just like Larchgrove, it was brutal.
8 The staff in Longriggend were violent. It's hard to
9 explain what it was like to anyone who hasn't been in
10 the system. It was like what they call the schoolboy
11 wing in Barlinnie. It was the same kind of setting. We
12 were in locked cells. There were three of us in my
13 cell.

14 The violence between the prisoners was unbelievable.
15 There were different gangs and people would congregate
16 in their gangs when we got out for recreation. Every
17 now and again fights would break out and the staff would
18 kick the shit out of you. It was crazy, I saw young
19 boys at 14 in there getting severe beatings by staff
20 with wooden truncheons. I inflicted a lot of violence,
21 but didn't suffer any myself. My ability to look after
22 myself and inflict violence without even blinking
23 an eyelid protected me. A lot of people were scared,
24 but because I had been through Larchgrove and
25 Loaningdale, it felt like just another institution to

1 me."

2 He was then transferred to Glenochil after
3 Longriggend and he talks about the regime there and the
4 short, sharp shock treatment. If I can go to
5 paragraph 136, he talks about having to march everywhere
6 before that and having to say, "Excuse me, sir" and keep
7 his cell immaculate.

8 At paragraph 136 he says:

9 "About eight people committed suicide when I was in.
10 Two of them did it in front of me. Two prison officers
11 caused the eight suicides. Any time a lad annoyed them
12 they would tell the other lads that the boy was a police
13 informant. The lads would then gang up on the boys and
14 they'd commit suicide because they couldn't handle the
15 pressure. That was the case with all eight of them.
16 This was well known in the prison system. It ended up
17 getting closed down because of it."

18 He then talks about the fact that the prison
19 officers told them their names but he doesn't remember
20 any, but remembers calling one of them "Kung fu" as
21 a nickname.

22 He comments at paragraph 138 that he remembers the
23 press coming in and taking photos of them and that they
24 used to have to do a Sunday parade in their best blues
25 for the Governor and a picture appeared in the papers of

1 them doing the Sunday drill with black bands across
2 their eyes so they couldn't be identified.

3 At paragraph --

4 LADY SMITH: Have we sourced these pictures? I know we have
5 photographs from the German journalist.

6 MS FORBES: Yes. I don't know, my Lady, if they were picked
7 up by the national press here at all, but we don't have
8 certainly those --

9 LADY SMITH: The timing would probably fit.

10 MS FORBES: Yes.

11 LADY SMITH: It could be a use of that portfolio of
12 photographs of course. Thank you.

13 MS FORBES: Yes.

14 At paragraph 140, 'Iain' tells us that when he was
15 back in a second time that the two prison officers he
16 referred to earlier as having caused the suicides were
17 no longer there, so in that respect it was easier and
18 that he was in Glenochil a second time for four months
19 and came out just before he turned 18.

20 He talks about the impact of his experiences in the
21 whole system from paragraph 142 onwards. He states that
22 he started taking heroin when he came out of Glenochil
23 the second time and he was addicted to heroin for
24 27 years.

25 If I can go to paragraph 156 of his statement, he

1 states:

2 "I was never afraid in prison. I suppose that lack
3 of fear indirectly caused the prison sentences. I had
4 been through the system, so to my mind there was nothing
5 to fear as an adult. I didn't fear the prison officers
6 either. I would look at them and think, when I was
7 younger, you people used to take advantage of me and
8 beat the shit out of me. Try it now. I couldn't cope
9 with them telling me what to do in prison. I attacked
10 prison officers just for asking me to go back to my
11 cell."

12 He then talks about his current life where he has
13 moved to England and has been clean for the last
14 13 years. He was with his partner for 38 years and they
15 had five children, although they have now split up. But
16 he tells us that he completed a degree in counselling,
17 but realised that he wouldn't be able to counsel sex
18 offenders because of his experiences.

19 He tells us also that he's doing a PhD in
20 criminology.

21 At paragraph 177 of his statement he tells us:

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 that and dated it 13 October 2018.

2 LADY SMITH: Thank you very much.

3 MS FORBES: My Lady, the next applicant is again anonymous
4 and his pseudonym is 'James'.

5 His witness reference is WIT-1-000001197.

6 'James' (read)

7 MS FORBES: 'James' tells us that he was born in 1967 in
8 Burnside, Glasgow and he tells us about his life before
9 going into care at paragraphs 2 to 7. Which was not
10 an easy one, but when he reached 14 he started getting
11 in trouble with the police for things like stealing from
12 school, fighting and he was also dogging school.

13 There was no social work involvement up to that
14 point but he ended up before a Children's Panel, because
15 he and some friends broke into the school.

16 He was taken to Glasgow Sheriff Court and then he
17 was sent to Larchgrove for assessment. Whilst at
18 Larchgrove he suffered an incident of assault from
19 a teacher there. Thereafter, I think he says he was
20 around 14 years old and he had two stays at Larchgrove,
21 I think three weeks and a six-week stay.

22 Thereafter, he was sent to Kerelaw and he talks
23 about that between paragraphs 41 and 89. He was
24 14-and-a-half when he went there. Whilst there he
25 suffered assaults by staff and a well-known name,

1 Matt George, is somebody who he mentions as being one of
2 those individuals who assaulted him.

3 He stayed at Kerelaw for about a year to
4 a year-and-a-half. He also talks about organised boxing
5 matches between the boys there. Just before his
6 16th birthday he went before a panel and was released
7 and he was back home, but this sort of started his
8 lifecycle after that of being in and out of jail and he
9 was in and out of Longriggend between the ages of 16 and
10 21, about five or six times, usually for about five
11 weeks at a time.

12 He says that they were all young offenders in
13 Longriggend who thought they were wee gangsters and he
14 talks about the abuse there at paragraph 103. If I can
15 go to paragraph 103. He states:

16 "I was abused many times in Longriggend. The screws
17 were just cheeky to you non-stop. You always had to be
18 in single file, hards out your pockets and you were not
19 allowed to talk to anybody. If they caught you they
20 would tell you off the first time but if they caught you
21 again they would be dragging you out. They would wait
22 until everyone moved on and next thing is they are
23 getting a good few digs in at you. They would punch you
24 about the body but never on the face. Sometimes it was
25 on the back of the head. This could happen anywhere,

1 wherever they pulled you out of line. There was always
2 a good few screws around if we were moving around. This
3 didn't just happen to me. It would happen to everyone."

4 He says that he stopped being sent to Longriggend
5 when he was 21 and he tells us about his life after,
6 between paragraphs 106 and 108. He was in and out of
7 jail. 14 months was the longest that he was out. He
8 did get married at 19 to a school sweetheart but that
9 didn't last very long and he has two daughters. The
10 petty crime that he undertook became more serious as he
11 got older and he developed a drug habit.

12 He talks about impact in his statement. If I could
13 go to paragraph 117, he states:

14 "I have heard of the term 'institutionalised' and
15 I definitely think that fits with me. I think places
16 like Larchgrove and Kerelaw institutionalised me so it
17 probably was no surprise that I ended up in the prison
18 system. It wasn't just me. I met a lot of the boys
19 I had been in care with in the jail. I believe that
20 getting sent away to these schools was a case of we were
21 forgotten, like they locked us up and threw away the
22 key. No one cared after that."

23 If I could then just go to the declaration at
24 paragraph 125, where he states:

25 "I have no objection to my witness statement being

1 published as part of the evidence to the Inquiry.

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

4 He signed that and it's dated 14 February 2023.

5 My Lady, the next applicant then is again anonymous
6 and his pseudonym is 'David'.

7 The reference for his witness statement is
8 WIT.001.001.8847.

9 LADY SMITH: Thank you.

10 'David' (read)

11 MS FORBES: My Lady, 'David' was born in 1968 and he talks
12 about his life before care between paragraphs 2 and 6.
13 He believed growing up that his mother's partner was
14 actually his father, until he learned that that wasn't
15 the case later, but he suffered sexual and physical
16 abuse from him.

17 They eventually split up and his real dad came back
18 into his life, but they then split up after a few years
19 and things went downhill for him.

20 He started getting into trouble for breaking into
21 shops. He wasn't going to school and he ended up before
22 the Children's Panel at age 13.

23 He tells us that he went to two children's homes and
24 then on to Kerelaw. He suffered physical assaults from
25 staff in one of the children's homes and sexual assault

1 from a member of staff whilst at Kerelaw.

2 He ended up being a day boy eventually at Kerelaw
3 and went back to live with his mum and was initially
4 working as a milk boy, which he loved, until he was
5 about 17. Then he was on fishing boats for about six to
6 eight months. However, he was earning money, drinking
7 and getting into trouble with friends, joyriding and he
8 was caught and sentenced to 30 days' detention. He was
9 still only 17 at that stage and he went to Glenochil.

10 He tells us about Glenochil from paragraph 55. He
11 describes the staff at Glenochil being animals and that
12 it was definitely the short, sharp shock treatment.
13 Again, talks about having to march everywhere and having
14 to use the terms "Excuse me, sir".

15 He says that he was in there for three weeks and he
16 told himself that he never wanted to go back there
17 again.

18 If I can read from paragraph 56 of his statement,
19 where he talks about abuse there:

20 "When I first went into Glenochil I remember getting
21 marched into the dining hall. The officers were telling
22 us to do this and do that and you had to play along. We
23 had to say 'excuse me, sir', 'thank you, sir' all the
24 time. They were trying to get the discipline into all
25 the boys that hadn't been there before. I picked up my

1 dinner then sat down it was fish and chips and three
2 bits of bread. I was starving so I got the bread and
3 put my fish and chips on to the bread. I flattened it
4 down and then took one bite out the piece. All of
5 a sudden this big guy, a member of staff, appeared and
6 hit me hard on the side of my head. I will never forget
7 it. My mouth was full and I was slavering and there
8 were tears. He told me I wasn't allowed to make
9 a sandwich. My words to him were, 'You want to fucking
10 tell me then'. For saying that I got booted between the
11 legs. The boys sitting at my table thought it was
12 really funny.

13 There was one member of staff who was either an SO
14 or a PO, which is a Senior Officer or a Principal
15 Officer. He was horrible. He called me a little scummy
16 bastard. He used to tell us that he used to batter the
17 fuck out of Jimmy Boyle. Some boys actually wet
18 themselves with fear when he was on duty. Your boots,
19 your kit and everything had to be perfect. If it wasn't
20 right, he would hit you across the head with his hand.

21 I was locked up at 6 o'clock on a Friday night
22 through to 7 o'clock the Saturday morning. All you had
23 in your cell was a piss pot. They came and gave me
24 a cup of coffee and a biscuit at night. You were
25 actually glad to be locked up, because when you were

1 locked up you were not getting shouted at, hit or
2 ridiculed. The staff would call me a wee, useless
3 bastard and ask if I had ever had sex before or ever had
4 to shave before.

5 Other officers, but I can't remember their names,
6 shouted things like, 'I probably shagged your ma, you
7 wee loser'. At Glenochil you were made to run a mile.
8 I was last. I had never run a mile in my life before.
9 I did one circuit and thought it was okay, then a member
10 of staff was behind me and punched me in the back all
11 the way until I finished. I did it in seven-and-a-half
12 minutes. Some of the staff you just had to look at them
13 the wrong way and they would hit you across the head
14 with their hand.

15 They used to do what was called the magic square.
16 The magic square was when they made you go on your knees
17 for two minutes and brush the floor for two minutes.
18 All the times your arms were screaming at you to stop
19 and he was hitting you at the back of head screaming,
20 'I will fucking tell you when to stop'. Everything was
21 done along those lines."

22 After he got out of Glenochil he tells us that he
23 got into more trouble and sentenced to either six or
24 nine months in Polmont. He says he got his eyes opened
25 up in Polmont but he doesn't tell us any more at that

1 part of his statement about what he meant by that.

2 He was assessed and after a couple of days he ended
3 up in Castle Huntly, but he doesn't tell us anything
4 about abuse in either place.

5 He talks about his life after being in care from
6 paragraphs 64 and says he met someone at 22 and they had
7 children but they split up. She was physically
8 assaulting them so he actually obtained custody of them.

9 He met someone else, got married and had two
10 children, but that only lasted four years.

11 He states that he's had over 40 jobs since leaving
12 the care and prison system, they were all manual
13 labouring-type jobs.

14 He talks about the impact from paragraph 67 and it's
15 mainly the impact of the sexual and the physical abuse
16 he suffered as a child. If I could go to paragraph 68
17 of his instalment in relation to impact, he says the
18 following:

19 "When I left care and prison, I had a lot of anger
20 and hatred inside me. I felt used, unloved and
21 unwanted. When I was in Polmont I know of one boy who
22 put his leg on the bed and got his pal to jump and snap
23 his legs so that he could get out."

24 He then talks about fact that he turned to alcohol
25 later in life, but has recently been trying to give it

1 up. He talks about the fact that he has at times
2 contemplated suicide, but that his children and his
3 grandson have given him a focus and a reason to be here.

4 He talks about the fact that he has tried to report
5 the abuse he suffered in Kerelaw a few times.

6 If we go to paragraph 78 of his statement, he says:

7 "I have no objection to my witness statement being
8 published as part of the evidence to the Inquiry.
9 I believe the facts stated in this witness statement are
10 true."

11 He signed that and it's dated 18 May 2018.

12 LADY SMITH: Thank you.

13 MS FORBES: My Lady, the next instalment is from
14 an applicant who is anonymous and is known as 'Stephen'.
15 His reference number is WIT-1-000001094.

16 'Stephen' (read)

17 MS FORBES: My Lady, 'Stephen' was born in 1969. He was
18 born in Glasgow and lived in Pollock with his mum, dad
19 and four siblings. He describes his life at home being
20 pretty violent and his parents split up when he was five
21 in around 1975.

22 He lived with his mum after that, but life with her
23 was chaotic and she was a drinker. She would either not
24 come home or bring random men back to the house and she
25 would pass out and these men then would try and sexually

1 abuse him.

2 Him and his siblings would try and fight them off
3 and he grew up having to watch men tampering with his
4 mum while she was passed out drunk.

5 However, when he was ten or eleven he woke up to
6 a man taking his clothes off who threatened to hurt his
7 mum so at that time he didn't resist and he never told
8 anyone about what happened after that.

9 He says that all of his siblings and him went
10 through some sexual or physical abuse because of his
11 mum. He says the only one who escaped that was his baby
12 sister who they all protected and made sure no one went
13 near.

14 His behaviour became unruly. He started dogging
15 school. They had been stealing milk and rolls from
16 neighbours' doorsteps to feed themselves and he went to
17 see a psychologist and assigned a social worker and
18 ended up before a Children's Panel, when he was about
19 ten years old, and was sent to Larchgrove.

20 He was there a couple of times, once when he was ten
21 and once when he was 11, and he spent time in Larchgrove
22 and St Mary's Kenmure.

23 Whilst in these places he suffered physical assaults
24 by staff and he and others would be beaten up and have
25 visible injuries. There were sexual assaults on boys by

1 several members of staff and there was emotional abuse.
2 He thinks he left that system of care at about 15 years
3 old and he was first remanded to Barlinnie at 16. He
4 was in and out of Barlinnie about four times before he
5 turned 18.

6 If I can go to paragraph 71 of his statement, when
7 he talks about Barlinnie:

8 "Barlinnie was a stop gap before you went on to
9 Longriggend, but they would sometimes keep you there
10 from Friday until Monday before you moved on. It is the
11 worst jail in the world and it was certainly an eye
12 opener. It was six to a cell, with mattresses on the
13 floor and the prison officers weren't slow to batter wee
14 boys. You were locked in your cell pretty much the
15 whole day. The only time we got out was for two slop
16 outs and a bit of exercise. They wouldn't let us out in
17 the yards with the older prisoners. The YOs had to
18 exercise on one of the landings inside.

19 The prison officers would allow the older prisoners
20 to rob you. They would open the cell door for the older
21 prisoners to come in and take your trainers. The only
22 reason I never got robbed is because some of the older
23 ones knew me. The place was nuts and I ended up with
24 an opiate habit from being in there at 16.

25 Longriggend was just one of these places where staff

1 weren't interested. I watched loads of people get
2 assaulted by staff and other prisoners. Each time I was
3 in, I was assigned to A hall. It was a wee bit quieter
4 than the rest but it was still crazy at times. There
5 were loads of big grown men and I was just a wee guy.
6 You thought you were tough enough, but you weren't.
7 I only ever spent between six and nine weeks there for
8 reports."

9 He then talks about his life after care from
10 paragraph 74 onwards and he says that once he turned 18
11 his life was just as chaotic as ever. His dad had been
12 or was a criminal and he was running about with his dad
13 doing things for him.

14 He passed his driving test at 18 and had his own
15 flat but was taking drugs and then he ended up getting
16 a five-year sentence and was in Shotts and Perth Prison
17 and that was from the age of 21.

18 At 26 he got a life sentence and went to Barlinnie.
19 He had a heroin habit. He got out in 2010 but then was
20 back in in 2015 for a six-year sentence in Low Moss and
21 he spent three spells in Castle Huntly. He says most of
22 his adult life has been spent in custody and he has
23 added it up and says it's about 26 years in custody.

24 All of the jails he describes as being pretty
25 violent and he talks later in his statement about

1 restraints from officers and being carted, which is
2 something we have heard --

3 LADY SMITH: We have heard about that, haven't we.

4 MS FORBES: He talks about health conditions, which he feels
5 is from the restraints to do with his wrists. He has
6 had relationships in between and has had children and he
7 has a ten-year old son who he's in contact with and says
8 has changed his life.

9 He's on a life sentence so he is back in contact
10 with social work and he struggled, he says, for a long
11 time to build a good relationship with social work due
12 to his experiences, but he does have a good relationship
13 now.

14 He talks about impact from paragraph 78 and says
15 he's been seeing a clinical psychologist who has helped.

16 At paragraph 85 of his statement he states:

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 has signed that and it's dated 4 October 2022.

22 LADY SMITH: Thank you.

23 MS FORBES: I wonder if that is --

24 LADY SMITH: Would that be a good point to break?

25 Let's take the morning break now and then we'll

1 social work and 'Brian' said he wanted to go to
2 a children's home because his pals were in them.

3 From the age of 13 'Brian' appeared at the
4 Children's Panel and was sent to an assessment centre
5 because of the trouble he got into in school and for
6 dogging school. He was sent to a place called the IT
7 Centre, which was referred to as the doggers' school.
8 He went on and off five days a week for about a year but
9 he was still getting into trouble and running away from
10 home.

11 He still wanted to go to a children's home. He said
12 that his parents didn't know what to do and agreed to
13 put him in care.

14 'Brian' moved to a children's home from about two
15 months, where he says he learned more criminal behaviour
16 from the young people there which made things worse. He
17 returned home on a year's supervision but kept
18 committing crime and his parents were at their wits'
19 end.

20 'Brian' says he was getting lifted all the time and
21 found himself in the Sheriff Court cells. He ended up
22 in another children's home for four to five months when
23 he was aged 14. Secondary Institutions - to be published later

24 Secondary Institutions - to be published later
25

2 'Brian' was then sent to Cardross for two months
3 when he was 14 years old. He ran away. He speaks of
4 physical abuse and restraint.

5 'Brian' was then moved to Kerelaw, where he
6 experienced physical abuse. After three months and
7 shortly before his 16th birthday the Children's Panel
8 removed 'Brian' from supervision and he returned home.

9 Moving now to paragraph 77 on page 19:

10 "I was glad to be back home but I was still
11 stealing. It was ironic. I'd been running away from
12 care a lot of the time and now I was getting thrown out
13 of the house a lot by my dad. He threw me out for not
14 paying digs and bringing the police to the door. I was
15 thieving and he knew I was getting involved in the drug
16 scene. My mum would let me back in. She was the softer
17 of the two of them.

18 They had taken me off supervision at 16 but I was
19 wanting to stay on so I would have supervision as
20 a safety net. I was still stealing and I thought that
21 way I wouldn't go to court and be treated as
22 a young offender. I wouldn't go to the jail. It didn't
23 work out like that and I ended up in the young offenders
24 at 16. My education finished at Kerelaw. They had me
25 on a summer programme and they had taken me fishing with

1 other delinquents. They put me in touch with
2 Barnardo's. I only met the woman once and then I
3 started get remanded. It's vague what Barnardo's did.

4 I was caught shoplifting and I was remanded at
5 Longriggend for five weeks. My social work reports were
6 done and I went back to court. They decide if they're
7 going to give you a community sentence and I got
8 probation. I breached probation by not going and got
9 a six-month sentence. I went to Polmont.

10 I was back and forth to Longriggend for a few years.
11 I was 16 the first time I was in. It was a lot
12 different from the care system. Longriggend was strict.
13 You couldn't sit down and shoot the breeze with the
14 screws. You knew the screws by their names but it was
15 more the names you called them behind their back. There
16 was no interaction with them. It was just discipline.
17 There were four halls called A, B, C and D. Each hall
18 had three or four landings. There were maybe about
19 1,000 people there.

20 You're in a cell with another guy. You get a porta
21 potty or a pish pot. It's a set routine in Longriggend
22 as well. You get the gym and exercise. You're locked
23 up apart from exercise and your meals. You get marched
24 down to the dining hall. The screws were always
25 shouting at everyone and that was the difference. You

1 got visits and you got canteen once a week. You had
2 a wee radio in your cell. There were no tellies or
3 plumbing in the cells at that time. I didn't have
4 social work dealings unless they were doing a report on
5 me for the court.

6 Everything you wore was jail issue and most people
7 wore it. In the mornings you got a small kit change.
8 That was your boxers and socks. You got a fresh set and
9 handed over your dirty set. On Friday, you got another
10 shirt, denims or clean bedding. That was called a big
11 kit change. A couple of guys had their own clothes but
12 I never. It seemed too much hassle because you needed
13 to hand them out at visits.

14 There were one or two people who got into trouble
15 for fighting with each other but I didn't. It was
16 mostly the Glasgow people who brought their fights in
17 from outside. I wasn't hit or restrained at Longriggend
18 because I knew to stay away from it.

19 I did two sentences in Polmont. I was 17 when I did
20 my first one. They were six months and about eight
21 months. There was no abuse at Polmont, not with me
22 anyway.

23 When I got my first sentence I tried to run away
24 from Motherwell District Court. I got caught and
25 brought back to the digger in Polmont. That was the

1 only time I was in trouble in Polmont. I was in the
2 digger for a month because I was an absconder. I had
3 a wee passport book called a strict escapee book and
4 I had to have the screws sign it everywhere I went. It
5 was so they could keep tabs on you.

6 The digger was solitary confinement, there was
7 an exercise yard outside your window so you could shout
8 and talk to each other out the windows. People on
9 exercise would walk up and pass things through the
10 window. There was a cardboard table and chair and
11 a porta potty. The bed was built into the wall and
12 there was a mattress and bedding. After a month, I was
13 let up into the halls.

14 Polmont was more of a routine than Longriggend. You
15 had work sheds and you got recreation every night.
16 There was more to do. I was treated all right in
17 Polmont. After what happened with Matt George [I think,
18 my Lady, we know about him] I never had any runs in with
19 staff. I was intimidated by them and I didn't step out
20 of line."

21 From paragraph 88, 'Brian' speaks of his life after
22 care and the impact his whole care experiences have had
23 upon him.

24 Moving to paragraph 100, page 24, where he says:

25 "I have no objection to my witness statement being

1 published as part of the evidence to the Inquiry.

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

4 'Brian' signed his statement on 18 April 2023.

5 My Lady, the next statement is also an applicant who
6 is anonymous and has the pseudonym 'Rory'.

7 'Rory's' statement is WIT-1-000001271.

8 'Rory' (read)

9 MS RATTRAY: "My name is 'Rory'. I was born in 1987. My
10 contact details are known to the Inquiry."

11 From paragraph 2 'Rory' speaks of his life before
12 care. He lived in Glasgow with his parents and
13 siblings. As he grew up he was aware that his parents
14 were both drinkers and for a lot of the time 'Rory'
15 could do what he wanted. When he was ten or eleven he
16 started to get into trouble. Social work became
17 involved. His parents separated.

18 The children went to live with different relatives.
19 'Rory' lived with his mum. He started high school. His
20 mum couldn't cope with 'Rory's' behaviour and he was
21 appearing at Children's Panels fairly regularly.

22 'Rory' stopped going to school and social work
23 arranged for him to attend a day centre, then St John's
24 Springboig as a day pupil. He kept missing school. At
25 the age of 11 or 12, 'Rory' was placed with a foster

1 carer but he ran away after 20 minutes.

2 For a few days he stayed rough or with people he
3 knew. When he was found by the police he was allowed to
4 return home. He was told that if his behaviour did not
5 improve he would be kept at a residential home.

6 At the age of 13, 'Rory' was taken to Kerelaw, where
7 he suffered physical and sexual abuse. He was not
8 behaving and was constantly running away.

9 At the age of 14 or 15 he was transferred to Kerelaw
10 secure unit, where he suffered physical abuse.

11 Moving to paragraph 66, on page 14:

12 "I was 16 when my time came to an end at Kerelaw
13 secure unit and I was no longer under any social work
14 care. When I got out of Kerelaw I was staying with my
15 mum. I had no support from the Social Work Department
16 and no one had shown me any life skills like being able
17 to cook.

18 I was only out for a little while before I was back
19 in custody for getting into more trouble and sent to
20 Polmont YOI. From when I was between 16 and 21 I was in
21 custody perhaps six separate times, the longest time
22 being out would only be three months.

23 I was in the allocation unit of Polmont on and off
24 for about a year, continually getting into trouble.

25 A remand, out, then back in bother. I was in Lomond

1 Hall, which was for the under 18s. Polmont itself
2 catered for all ages between 16 and 21. You might
3 occasionally have someone who was 22, who may have been
4 waiting for a space within places like Barlinnie.

5 I can remember some of the staff from Polmont. The
6 first one was Greary, who was in the allocation unit,
7 Spey Hall, Rosco was in Iona Hall, which was a new unit,
8 north wing, with toilets built into the cells and Jip,
9 who was in the under 18s in Lomond Hall.

10 We were woken by staff each morning and then we had
11 cereal and milk in our cells. We were locked up
12 continually for 23 hours per day with one hour for
13 exercise. In the cell I had a television for
14 entertainment. There was a bed, and a wooden-framed
15 table. I shared my cell with another prisoner. The
16 windows in the cell were often broken. This meant that
17 when it rained hard our beds were soaked.

18 When I was in Lomond Hall we could ask the staff to
19 get out for the toilet. It was all automated as you
20 pressed buttons and the door opened automatically. When
21 you were finished at the toilet you pressed a code and
22 your cell door was locked again. During my later time
23 after I was 18 we still had slopping out. We used
24 a pail in the cell and emptied it twice a day. As you
25 can imagine, when you are first in jail it's really

1 embarrassing when you need the toilet. You eventually
2 become institutionalised and it seemed natural. There
3 were a few times during the day if you needed you might
4 be able to press a bell and use the actual toilet. This
5 was only if the good staff were on duty.

6 When it came to our lunch and dinner, we were able
7 to go to the pantry and then take our food back to our
8 cells where we had to eat it. There were other wings in
9 the jail that the inmates were able to go to the dining
10 room for their meals.

11 When we were having our one hour of exercise, it
12 could be a dangerous time for people in prison. At any
13 time you might be the victim of a slashing. If not
14 outside, it could also happen when you were in the
15 showers. There were staff supervising the showers, but
16 they stood outside and by the time anything happened in
17 the showers it was too late.

18 The healthcare in the prison is almost non-existent.
19 During my time I have lost my teeth and I have never
20 been able to see a dentist.

21 The prison had a punishment system. One of them was
22 a three-day rule and whatever you had done wrong you
23 were given this punishment. You would then end up in
24 front of the Governor and he might tell you were to lose
25 privileges, such as your TV, for a set time. Rule 95

1 meant it could be for as long as a month or down to the
2 digger for that period. That punishment was usually
3 handed out for fighting.

4 Life in Polmont was really bad as the staff there
5 were brutal in how they treated inmates. I think the
6 conditions I had in Polmont were the worst I stayed in.
7 Even nowadays in Barlinnie there are toilets in the
8 cells.

9 One of the staff I had issues with was known as
10 'INL [REDACTED]'. When you were lined up in a single
11 file for whatever reason if anyone was slightly out of
12 line, INL [REDACTED] would threaten to use his baton to hit us
13 to get us all back into line.

14 There were other staff who would overstep the mark
15 when restraining you. They would have you on the floor
16 and fold your legs up your back and your arms folded
17 behind your back. While they had you like that they
18 would then punch and kick you. Three or four of them
19 would then carry you to the digger and as they were
20 carrying you they were still hitting you. Each time we
21 came to a door they placed me onto the ground and when
22 the door was opened I was lifted back up in the same
23 position and then carried to the next door. I can even
24 remember there was a supervisor watching and he would
25 join in and start punching you in the ribs. When I was

1 put into the room, I was told to get on to my knees
2 first before being told to stand up.

3 The digger was a punishment cell where there was
4 a four-foot raised concrete base and on top of that
5 there was a small three-inch mattress. There was
6 a table and a chair in the cell, but they were made of
7 paper mache material.

8 In the morning, you would be woken about 7.00 am and
9 the staff would come in to remove your mattress. You
10 would only have the table and chair left in the cell.
11 You might be given a pen and some paper and you were in
12 there for a long period, you might be able to ask for
13 a book. You were allowed out for an hour each day for
14 exercise. All your meals were eaten in the cell. Your
15 mattress would be returned at 7.00 pm. I was in there
16 a few times when I was in Polmont, and one time I was in
17 for about a month.

18 There was also a silent cell. That cell had
19 insulation throughout which stopped any noise coming
20 out. If you were in there you were always wary of the
21 staff. Sometimes they would put a mattress over you and
22 then start beating you. They use their steel-toe-capped
23 boots to kick, but the mattress there, it stopped a lot
24 of the bruising. I can't remember why I was put in the
25 silent cell. You might be in there for a couple of

1 hours until you had calmed down.

2 I don't know the names of any of the staff that beat
3 me in the silent cell or the digger.

4 There was no one you could report anything to when
5 even the supervisors were involved in the beatings."

6 From paragraph 85 'Rory' speaks of his life after
7 care and the impact that his whole care experiences have
8 had upon him and accordingly moving to paragraph 95, on
9 page 19, and 'Rory' says:

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

14 'Rory' signed his statement on 20 June 2023.

15 My Lady, the next reading is also an applicant who
16 is anonymous and has the pseudonym 'Pablo'.

17 'Pablo's' statement is at WIT-1-000000889.

18 'Pablo' (read)

19 MS RATTRAY: "My name is 'Pablo'. I was born in 1993. My
20 contact details are known to the Inquiry.

21 I lived with my mum in Muirhouse in Glasgow. I have
22 two brothers and one sister. I'm the oldest."

23 After paragraph 2 'Pablo' speaks about -- sorry,
24 I have that wrong. I will continue reading from the
25 statement:

1 "When I was about one year old I fell down the
2 stairs and broke my leg. I was initially sent home from
3 the hospital saying that there was nothing the matter
4 with me. Sometimes I wonder if this was early trauma
5 that I experienced and affected me. My mum has always
6 said that I have always been violent and was assaulting
7 my peers so it is possible that this had something to do
8 with it.

9 The first time I was told I met my father was when
10 I was three years old. Apparently I was in a pub with
11 him and I threw a pint of beer at someone. He skelped
12 me for doing it and my mum went off her head at him for
13 hitting me, because he had no right to do it. After
14 that first time, my father was in and out of my life
15 which probably made things worse for me.

16 I went to primary school, which I hated and I felt
17 like an outsider. I was ashamed and embarrassed because
18 I was the only person in the class who had a single
19 parent who didn't work, because she was bringing up
20 three children on her own. When anything was said to me
21 about it my reaction was always to lash out with
22 violence. One time my teacher asked me how I would feel
23 if she lined up everyone I had assaulted and let them
24 assault me. I had no fear at that time and I would have
25 loved that. I was an angry boy full of aggression."

1 From paragraph 6 'Pablo' speaks about his education.
2 He went to school every day but the school cut his days
3 to half days because he was disruptive in the classroom.
4 In primary 4 he was sent to another day school where
5 there were only six boys in each class.

6 'Pablo' says that he saw things a boy of his age
7 should never have seen.

8 When he was five or six he saw a boy getting out of
9 the lift with his face slashed. Another time he saw
10 a guy lying in a pool of blood with gashes all over his
11 head. 'Pablo' started going to Children's Panels about
12 the age of 11.

13 He was getting bullied where he lived. He was
14 hanging around with drug dealers who he looked up to and
15 appeared to 'Pablo' to have everything. He thought that
16 if he could be like them he would be classed as
17 successful.

18 He says drugs and crime were rife where he lived.
19 'Pablo' says that he first saw a child psychologist or
20 psychiatrist when he was about 12 and attending what he
21 calls a List D school as a day pupil.

22 He went for respite care with a lovely woman one
23 night a fortnight, because it was hard for his mum to
24 cope with him. 'Pablo' was stealing and at the age of
25 13 he was sent to St John's School, Springboig. From

1 paragraph 14 'Pablo' describes his life at St John's,
2 where he experienced physical, emotional and sexual
3 abuse.

4 Moving now to paragraph 75 on page 17:

5 "Towards the end of my time at St John's I was
6 getting bullied by another boy and he kept stealing
7 things out of my room. I got fed up with him and
8 I stabbed him. The police were involved and I was
9 arrested. I had just turned 16 and was given police
10 bail from the police station but I wasn't allowed to go
11 back to St John's. I didn't go to court at that time.
12 I went back to stay with my mum. I had been at
13 St John's for about three years and I was over 16 when
14 I left in 2009.

15 I stayed with my mum when I left St John's then
16 I got my own flat. I got lots of help and support from
17 North Lanarkshire Council, Georgio O'Blease from
18 Community Alternatives, Barnardo's and others were there
19 to help me and through them I got my own flat. Because
20 my head wasn't in the right place at the time I probably
21 didn't utilise all the support that was made available
22 to me.

23 Unfortunately, some local heavy drug guys starting
24 using my flat. I asked them to move out but they
25 wouldn't and they didn't even pay me for using my flat.

1 I moved back to my mum's after a while then one day
2 I went back to visit my flat. When I was there the
3 police raided it and they found a kilo of heroin. I got
4 the blame for it because it was my flat. When
5 I appeared in court I told them I was getting paid in
6 drugs but I wasn't. I was too embarrassed to say I was
7 letting them use my flat for nothing. The court didn't
8 understand that I was just out of care and there was no
9 way I could have afforded GBP 60,000 worth of drugs.
10 I asked my lawyer if he could recommend that I get
11 psychiatrically assessed but he refused. I only had
12 that flat for four months when I was sentenced and sent
13 to Addiewell Prison. My sentence was for four years for
14 the drugs and six months for the stabbing back at
15 St John's.

16 I was sent first to Addiewell Prison for about four
17 weeks. I don't think there was anywhere else I could go
18 at that time, when I was in my cell I was told I was
19 a protection case, but then another prisoner told me
20 that if I smashed up my cell I would get out. I know
21 now that he just said that for a laugh and so I would
22 get put in solitary confinement. I smashed up my cell
23 and I was put straight into the digger, which was the
24 isolation cell. That was the normal protocol. There
25 was nothing in particular about Addiewell that I want to

1 tell the Inquiry. It was prison. I was subsequently
2 transferred to Polmont.

3 I was 17 when I was moved to Polmont Young Offenders
4 Institution. I was released from there in 2013. One
5 thing that I want to say about Polmont is that prisoners
6 were kept in their cells for far too long. I only ever
7 got out my cell for recreation once every two days for
8 an hour-and-a-half. The rest of the time I was locked
9 up in my cell, apart from getting out to get showered or
10 for meals. It was brutal. There was a television in
11 the cell but it was on a loop so it was the same
12 programmes repeated over and over. The food was
13 disgusting too.

14 The prison officers were okay with me, apart from
15 when I kicked off, which was usually at meal times.
16 When I did, they were brutal in the way that they
17 restrained me in wrist locks. They would bend my
18 fingers and thumb over into what was called a turkey.
19 It felt like they snapped my wrists. My tendons were
20 and still are overstretched. I heard that some boys did
21 have their wrists and arms broken and they were left
22 lying for days in the digger.

23 I was in solitary confinement for six-and-a-half
24 weeks at one point. There were no curtains in there and
25 it was summer, so sleep was impossible because it was so

1 bright in the cell. By law they can't release you from
2 prison from solitary confinement, so for my last night
3 they moved me back to the hall just for that one night,
4 then the next day I was liberated.

5 Polmont was worst than St John's in a way, because
6 at St John's you weren't locked in a cell and there were
7 activities or things you could do. Polmont was
8 definitely a punishment.

9 After being released from Polmont after my
10 four-and-a-half year sentence, of which I served
11 two-thirds, I was recalled to prison.

12 When I was released in 2019 I felt positive about my
13 future. It was the best I had ever felt in my life.
14 I got a job. I had been told from a very young age that
15 no one would ever want to employ me, it was instilled in
16 me that I was a criminal, bad and no one would want me.
17 I believed it and I became exactly what they said.

18 I had been released about four months when I got
19 a nine-year sentence. I could not cope with life
20 outside prison. I tried to hit someone with a meat
21 cleaver and he fell and cut his hand on glass. He said
22 I was trying to kill him, but basically I just wanted to
23 be sent back to prison because that's where I felt
24 safe."

25 From paragraph 86 'Pablo' speaks of the impact his

1 whole care experiences have had upon him.

2 Moving to paragraph 95, page 21, where 'Pablo' says:

3 "About four or five years ago I was diagnosed with
4 dissocial personality disorder. I sought this diagnosis
5 myself as I wanted to know why I am the way that I am.
6 I got this diagnosis from a doctor when I was in
7 Glenochil. This can be caused by early childhood
8 adverse trauma. I believe I must have this disorder.
9 It probably started when I was a child before I went
10 into care but then continued into St John's.

11 I have now found the church and I have been
12 transformed through the power of the Holy Spirit.
13 I've meditated a lot over the wisdom of the Bible.
14 I'm lucky to be alive right now and I believe I have
15 a guardian angel looking out for me."

16 Now to paragraph 107, page 23:

17 "Young boys shouldn't be given long-term prison
18 sentences unless there is no other alternative. A long
19 sentence when you are between 16 and 18 seems like
20 a lifetime at that age. You end up surrounded by other
21 criminals and just come out worse. Boys just become
22 institutionalised. Prison doesn't reform people. The
23 only thing that works is genuinely caring people. They
24 want to help people."

25 To paragraph 116, page 25:

1 "The reason I have come forward is because I care
2 about the children of the future. No child should go
3 through what I did."

4 Then:

5 "I have no objection to my witness statement being
6 published as part of the evidence to the Inquiry.
7 I believe the facts stated in this witness statement are
8 true."

9 'Pablo' signed his statement on 17 January 2022.

10 LADY SMITH: Thank you.

11 MS RATTRAY: My Lady, I will now pass to Ms Forbes for
12 further readings.

13 LADY SMITH: Thank you very much.

14 MS FORBES: My Lady, the next statement from an applicant is
15 again one who is anonymous and his pseudonym is
16 'Robert'.

17 The reference number for his statement is
18 WIT-1-000001137.

19 'Robert' (read)

20 MS FORBES: 'Robert' was born in 1969 and he talks about his
21 life before care between paragraphs 2 and 6.

22 He was born in Dundee and information that he's
23 obtained from his records show that he was put into care
24 not long after he was born. He knows that he has one
25 full brother and five half siblings and he understands

1 that his father was apparently mentally ill and has been
2 in and out of institutions for 40 or 50 years, so he and
3 his brother were then fostered from a very young age and
4 his dad was put into hospital.

5 However, both parents were hospitalised with nervous
6 disorders when he was a baby.

7 He and his brother were put initially into
8 a children's shelter and he was there for one or
9 two years. He thinks he was there twice and he was
10 moved five times in 1971.

11 He was then taken in and fostered by a single woman,
12 who later married, and they lived in various places in
13 or around Dundee and Arbroath. She became a Jehovah's
14 Witness and that was a very strict regime. His foster
15 father was violent. He suffered physical abuse and
16 emotional abuse, including physical assaults for bed
17 wetting and soiling the bed.

18 He spent some time in Liff Children's Unit and his
19 foster father told him and others that he must have
20 a mental illness like his father. He thinks he was
21 eight years old at the time he was in the children's
22 unit. **Secondary Institutions - to be published later** he was there
23 for five months in 1977, before going back to foster
24 care.

25 But by this time he was becoming angrier. His

1 foster father said he couldn't handle him and he was put
2 into a home and he was told by him that he was going
3 away because he was bad. This was around 1979. He
4 never went back to live with them again fully, although
5 there were times he went back at weekends but things
6 didn't work out with them.

7 He was in a children's home in 1979 and tells us
8 about that between paragraphs 50 and 86. **Secondary Institutions -**

9 **Secondary Institutions - to be published later**
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11

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11

12 **Secondary Institutions -** He thinks he was only there about a year
13 and he was then in and out of other homes and he ended
14 up in a boarding school in 1981.

15 He talks about that between paragraphs 87 and 93.

16 **Secondary Institutions - to be published later**
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22 He was again in another children's home in 1981 and
23 he talks about that from paragraph 94. **Secondary Institutions - to be**

24 **Secondary Institutions - to be published later**
25

25

1 He was there for
2 about a year and it was decided that he would be sent to
3 Burnside.

4 He was in Burnside in 1981 and 1982 and in between
5 he was back at the children's home. He talks about
6 Burnside from paragraph 114 and he thinks that even
7 though you were supposed to only be sent there for a few
8 weeks he ended up being there for a number of years and
9 he thinks just under three years in total.

10 He talks about physical assaults there by staff,
11 including being spat on and having it rubbed all over
12 his face.

13 He ran away from there numerous times and whilst
14 there his birth mother got in touch and he tried to stay
15 with her, but that was a bad situation and she was
16 living in a state of deprivation.

17 Burnside involved fighting among boys on almost
18 a daily basis and there was solitary confinement, which
19 he describes as being worse than the digger that he
20 later encountered in prison.

21 He was sent to Balgowan as a day pupil, he talks
22 about that from paragraph 155 onwards, and then he would
23 go back to Burnside at night. He does talk about being
24 pushed into a wall there and knocked unconscious, where
25 he ended up with black eyes and a split lip and received

1 stitches in hospital.

2 He was in a couple of establishments in Fife in
3 1982, between Burnside, [Secondary Institutions - to be published later]

4 [Secondary Institutions - to be published later]
5
6
7

8 Burnside refused to take him back. At one point he
9 went to Howdenhall, and he talks about that from
10 paragraph 164. That was a locked unit. He wasn't there
11 long. But he was quickly told by the other boys that he
12 couldn't behave the way he had been because he would get
13 done in by staff.

14 He thinks he had about 14 moves in care in total and
15 he eventually left Burnside on his 16th birthday. He
16 ended up being fostered privately from 1984. An advert
17 was put in the paper and he remembers it being titled
18 [redacted] Those private
19 foster parents looked after him for about six months and
20 he loved it there and thought it was fantastic.

21 But he was just about to turn 16 and he got drunk on
22 [redacted] and apparently assaulted someone and he
23 was put back into Burnside until his 16th birthday in
24 1985, when he was let go.

25 After leaving Burnside, he was put into what he

1 describes as a horrible dirty hotel and he couldn't pay
2 his rent. He was drinking and homeless and he had no
3 experience of looking after himself. He had never been
4 taught how to do that and he couldn't budget. He turned
5 to crime and just days after his 16th birthday he was
6 arrested and sent to prison.

7 He had been involved with his birth mother at that
8 time, who was also drinking, and he describes having to
9 sleep outside sometimes and being hospitalised with
10 hypothermia twice.

11 He then talks about being sent to Perth Prison from
12 paragraph 174, and if I can go to that part of his
13 statement:

14 "The first prison I went to was Perth Prison in
15 [REDACTED] and on remand. It was an adult prison and I was
16 straight in at the deep end and on a wing with
17 murderers. It was very foreboding. At that time, I had
18 somewhere to sleep and I was getting fed. After a few
19 weeks on remand, I was back to court and sentenced and
20 sent to Friarton Detention Centre. It was 60 days the
21 first time and in military-style detention. The regime
22 in the detention centres is abusive in itself.

23 At Perth Prison, the reception was the same as any
24 prison. You go in and you get searched and they take
25 your clothes off you and you get the uniform to put on

1 and then off to the wing. You always get a health check
2 when you first go into prison and back then they would
3 delouse you on arrival. They don't do it now. You
4 initially go into dog boxes, not like a big room full of
5 prisoners, and you're dealt with separately. There was
6 no privacy and you had to take all your clothes off and
7 get showered in the ablutions. I hated it and it was
8 very strange to begin with, but I got used to it.

9 In Perth Prison at 16 I was a young impressionable
10 person and wanted to graduate to be like the other
11 people in there. I had to slop out at Perth Prison and
12 slopping out continued throughout my time in prison. It
13 was 1992 when I was released the last time.

14 When I first went to Perth I tried acting like the
15 big man to the prison officers, the screws and refused
16 to take orders. I was put in the punishment cells that
17 were known as the digger to teach me a lesson. It was
18 a cell that was pitch black, filthy and wet and soaking.
19 There was water everywhere and cockroaches. It scared
20 the hell out of me and they'd threaten I'd just have
21 bread and water to eat. They let me back on the wing
22 and I behaved myself. I was in the digger for maybe
23 half an hour just to frighten me.

24 I had to share a cell with two other people. We
25 were in a bunk bed and a single bed. The other two were

1 much older than me. I got exercise but I was more or
2 less a 23-hour bang-up. I wasn't segregated from other
3 prisoners when I was on exercise, despite being only 16.

4 I didn't have any chores to do in Perth Prison.
5 I was on remand and I was just locked up. In
6 Perth Prison you could smoke and it was noisy and you
7 could virtually do what you wanted and there were people
8 smoking pot in there. It was different in the
9 detention centre.

10 I didn't get any visitors and my aunty [who he has
11 spoken about before in his statement] didn't come to see
12 me. I was only there a couple of weeks before I was
13 sent to Friarton for 60 days. I can just remember the
14 filthiness of it all, as the prisons were filthy back
15 then and the people were dirty as well. I've always had
16 a thing about cleanliness and I hated the prisons for
17 being dirty."

18 He then talks about his time at Friarton from
19 paragraph 182:

20 "The reception system there was the same. In the
21 detention centres we couldn't speak in the reception
22 areas. We had to march everywhere, once we had learned
23 how to do it. If you had been away you know exactly
24 what to do when you come back, but you have to learn the
25 drill first of all.

1 I was in a single cell in Friarton. In detention
2 it's all single cells. The prison officers were called
3 'sir' in Friarton. The routine was regimented. You had
4 to do as you're told and speak when spoken to. You'd
5 get a slap about the head if you did something wrong.

6 I liked the detention centres because they were
7 spotlessly clean. Things like your bed block were
8 folded up neatly. The place was cleaned thoroughly.
9 From the minute they get you up to the minute you go to
10 bed you're constantly busy. There's no minute to
11 yourself. There's no lying on your bed doing nothing.
12 You weren't allowed to. All your stuff had to be kept
13 pristine and folded up on your bed in a certain order
14 and you couldn't lie on the bed. You could only sit on
15 your chair in your cell. You could be in work all day.
16 I worked in so many things in prison that I can't
17 remember what I did in detention. You did chores like
18 cleaning the floor with a toothbrush.

19 I wasn't getting any education at this stage, now
20 that I'd turned 16. My education had stopped in the
21 second year of school. I didn't really get anything
22 after that and I didn't go to school. I was slopping
23 out in Friarton. I got another health check on arrival
24 at Friarton.

25 I had one visitor, my girlfriend came to visit me

1 one time in Friarton. When I was in prison up between
2 the ages of 16 and 18 I didn't have any social work
3 involvement. I did get visits in prison from the
4 different on-call social workers. They came in to take
5 notes so they could say they'd been to see me.

6 We couldn't smoke at all and that was the biggest
7 thing. But you could in the prisons and you could smoke
8 in Polmont and in young offenders institutions. You
9 can't smoke at all in detention centres, so everybody
10 has to stop smoking. That was good as when I came out
11 I was fit because I'd spent so much time in the gym
12 doing circuit training with other inmates and supervised
13 by a PTI. We had to run a mile at 5.30 am in the
14 morning. We had to run around the football pitch and do
15 the mile in a certain time. I had to do that at
16 Friarton and at Glenochil. You could lose some of the
17 remission days off your sentence if you failed to do the
18 run in a certain time and you would be put on report.
19 We got to play football as well sometimes. That was my
20 routine for the time I was there.

21 The food there was tremendous, the best food in the
22 Prison Service. They had to keep us well fed because of
23 the physical regime we had. We ate at tables for four
24 people with four chairs and the chairs had to be lifted
25 and banged down on the floor at the same time in

1 military style. If you didn't do it right, you'd be on
2 report. There were rules about what we could do and the
3 way we ate the food. I had to learn the rules as I went
4 along and watching other people and I realised I'd be on
5 report if I got it wrong.

6 If I was on report, it meant going in front of the
7 Governor the next day and back then he could take
8 remission days off you or you lost recreation or you
9 lost canteen. Loss of canteen referred to loss of
10 pocket money that you got to spend in the canteen and
11 you wouldn't be able to buy tobacco in the canteen.
12 I served 40 days of the 60 days' detention, as I only
13 had to serve two-thirds. I lost a few days' remission
14 and it was just over 40 days that I did."

15 He then talks about going to Polmont Young Offenders
16 Institution:

17 "After I was in Friarton, I got arrested again and
18 was sent back to Perth Prison. I was in Perth Prison
19 about five times, as you have to go there initially on
20 remand then you're sentenced to either young offenders
21 or detention and it was mostly young offenders that
22 I got. I got detention twice and young offenders I got
23 five or six times.

24 You go to Polmont to be assessed and given
25 a category, either an open prison, Castle Huntly or

1 Noranside or put on the allocation unit in Polmont. On
2 that unit everyone has to be the toughest guy in the
3 jail and its constant warfare in there. You have to be
4 on your toes the whole time for the bullying. It's
5 better now in Polmont. Back then, prison was
6 a dangerous place in the 1970s and early 1980s for the
7 tanking you could get from the officers and not so much
8 as time went on. In young offenders your fear would
9 come from other inmates but I didn't get beaten up by
10 screws there. I didn't feel safe and you're on your
11 toes the whole time. I was seriously injured in there,
12 but I've seen other people get seriously slashed in
13 there. I had to fight all the time.

14 In the allocation unit in Polmont there wasn't much
15 of a daily routine and you wouldn't be in there for
16 long, two weeks maybe. There was some sort of classes
17 we went to and education just to be assessed really.
18 I can't remember what that was like. There was a lot of
19 dope smoking in there. I'd never come across drugs
20 before I went to Polmont and it was rife in there.

21 The Governor used to come round every day to inspect
22 but there were no outside inspections that I saw ever in
23 any place I was at. I don't think you got a job in the
24 allocation unit. I don't think you got allocated a job
25 until you got to the prison for your sentence.

1 From the allocation wing you could go to one of the
2 other wings in Polmont or one of the two open prisons.
3 I went to every one of them at some stage. The screws
4 would just tell you where you were being placed.
5 I think you're assessed according to the crime that
6 you're in for and not on what might be best for you.

7 The military nature of the regime in detention
8 sticks with me to this day. If somebody told me to do
9 a bed pack I could still do it in the way I was supposed
10 to do in prison. In a way, I think it's a good thing
11 and I've always kept myself spick and span and I keep my
12 things in order at home. It didn't do anything to stop
13 my offending at the time. I'd be in and out of prison
14 all the time. The only differences between the
15 institutions was in the levels of security."

16 Then if I could just read briefly about the part
17 where he talks about the prison system in Scotland and
18 England:

19 "Between being first arrested in ██████████ 1985 and
20 finally being arrested in ██████████ 1992 I had only ever
21 been out of prison for a couple of weeks at the most, so
22 I was in and out of prison and detention all the time.
23 I think I had 12 different sentences in total in eight
24 different prisons in England and seven in Scotland.
25 I was in Castle Hurlly for a period of time. It was

1 an open prison and you could climb out of your window if
2 you wanted, but the cell door was locked at night. You
3 could escape in you wanted to, but if you did, you would
4 get picked up and sent back to Polmont.

5 I was in prisons for crimes of dishonesty, car
6 theft, assaults and over the years it got worse. The
7 institutions in England were much better and much more
8 easygoing. When I first got arrested in England I got
9 sent to Risley Remand Centre and it was overrun with
10 drugs. Inmates could drink beer. I couldn't believe
11 it. Prisoners could get a visit and get a can of beer
12 handed in on a visit. They could take it back to their
13 cell. They can't do that any more. Prisoners could
14 have food handed in for them in England, there were no
15 checks so the prison was rife with drugs. It was
16 a better regime in the English prisons than in Scotland.
17 There was less bullying. In Scotland there was bullying
18 and taxing all the time and fighting among the
19 prisoners."

20 He then talks about his life after care and he
21 states that he moved to England when he was 17 and met
22 a girl and they had a child together. That relationship
23 didn't continue but he is still in touch with his son.
24 He did some exams in 1989/1990 in prison in Liverpool
25 and he got O-Levels, maths and arithmetic. He went to

1 London and got a job there and was there for 17 years in
2 total and he got married and had a daughter and she's
3 now at university.

4 He moved back to Scotland in 2009 and has stayed
5 here since. He wasn't in prison again until 2017, when
6 he served a year sentence and he was very surprised to
7 be back in prison again after so long. He now lives on
8 his own, works for his son who is a joiner who has his
9 own company.

10 If I can go to paragraph 215 of his statement, where
11 he makes the declaration:

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

16 He signed that and it is dated 28 November 2022.

17 LADY SMITH: Thank you.

18 MS FORBES: The next statement is from an applicant who is
19 anonymous, my Lady.

20 His pseudonym is also 'Robert', the reference for
21 his statement is WIT-1-000001320.

22 LADY SMITH: Thank you.

23 'Robert' (read)

24 MS FORBES: My Lady, 'Robert' was born in 1976 and he was
25 brought up in Bellshill. He was one of six children.

1 He says he was a handful as a child but he initially had
2 a happy and content childhood.

3 At 13 he was stealing from shops and when his dad
4 found out he would be beaten to a pulp. He broke his
5 leg when he was 14 or 15 and he was back and forward to
6 school and started drinking heavily. When he was about
7 14 or 15 he went to the Children's Panel and was put on
8 a supervision order until he was 18.

9 At 16 he walked into a shop when he was drunk with
10 no mask on and with a pretend gun and robbed it. He
11 handed himself in a few days later. He was then
12 remanded to Longriggend.

13 He was in Longriggend for about a week and then
14 bailed and when he got out he went down to England and
15 it was just less than a year later that the dates came
16 up for that offence. He came back up but he missed his
17 date and handed himself in to the police and was taken
18 back to Longriggend.

19 He was 17, nearly 18, when he went back to
20 Longriggend for the second time. He was there for about
21 three or four months until he was dealt with for the
22 robbery. If I can then go to paragraph 11 of his
23 statement:

24 "This time I was in Longriggend for three or four
25 months until I was dealt with at court for the robbery.

1 Most of the memories I have about Longriggend come from
2 this second spell here. I think I was 17, nearly 18, by
3 the time I went back there.

4 Longriggend was just a remand centre. There were no
5 convicted prisoners there. There were boys from
6 Lanarkshire and boys from Glasgow and usually we got on
7 okay together. When I first went in I felt quite alone
8 because no one knew me. Initially I was in D hall,
9 which was for remand prisoners. After I was put in the
10 digger for three days, I was moved to A hall, which was
11 better because I knew someone in there who came from my
12 area.

13 I remember there were A, C and D halls."

14 He talks about the fact there might have been about
15 200 boys in total in Longriggend and that he shared
16 a cell with another boy. He talks about the routine at
17 Longriggend and slopping out. If I can go to
18 paragraph 21, he states:

19 "There was a lot of self-harming in Longriggend.
20 I still self-harm to this day. It does things to your
21 head, even though I had lots of things going on in my
22 head from before I went to Longriggend. The mental
23 health of a lot of the boys in Longriggend was bad. The
24 staff knew but they don't have the staff to watch them
25 24/7. Young people that go into prison are full of

1 pride. They wouldn't want to talk to anyone about
2 personal things and certainly not anything that
3 indicates they are weak. I would never break down and
4 open up fully to anyone because it shows weakness."

5 If I can then move to paragraph 28 of his statement,
6 where he talks about discipline at Longriggend:

7 "The rules were never explained to me by anybody.
8 I think everyone just picked things up as we went along.
9 One of the ways I learned that they punished you was the
10 digger, which was solitary confinement in the cell
11 block. This was usually the Governor that gave you this
12 punishment. The only other thing was the restraints
13 when the prison officers pushed your thumb against your
14 wrist.

15 I was aware of some deaths when I was in
16 Longriggend. I never saw it, but I knew of one wee guy
17 whose mum had missed a visit. Because of that, he ended
18 his life. There was no support offered or given to any
19 of the other young offenders.

20 Longriggend was just full of toxins. I had the same
21 fear all the time, just like I had when I had been there
22 for a week. I had constant stress and anxiety and the
23 adrenaline in me was pumping all the time. I was hyper
24 vigilant because I didn't know what to expect and
25 I didn't know what was coming next. There were lots of

1 new noises and lots of banging and clattering. The
2 banging was something else. My emotions were
3 heightened. I would never have shown how frightened
4 I was. I was terrified to speak and not to speak.
5 I just had to put a brave face on it.

6 One day I had been shouting on another prisoner out
7 of my window, because I had heard he was from Bellshill.
8 He was in his cell too. I had heard other boys shouting
9 out their window so I thought that was the thing to do.
10 Lots of boys then started shouting back at me, attacking
11 me because I was shouting. The next morning at
12 breakfast I was sitting with a couple of boys from my
13 area, Coatbridge. This one eejit when he was passing
14 sort of shoulder barged me. I knew it was coming
15 because he had told me before. When he barged me
16 I jumped up and hit him. I didn't know what the rules
17 were back then or what I was supposed to do. Apparently
18 it wasn't the right thing to do by hitting another
19 prisoner in front of everyone else. This was one of the
20 rules among young offenders.

21 The prison officers jumped in and restrained me.
22 They bent my thumbs up my wrist and had my arms behind
23 my back and carted me off to the digger. Which is
24 solitary confinement in the cell block. It was sore at
25 the time getting my thumbs bent back to my wrist, but

1 I suppose I got used to it. I liked and got on well
2 with most of the prison officers. The next day I was
3 taken up in front of the Governor and my punishment was
4 three days back in the digger.

5 In the digger, I just felt anxious all the time and
6 felt sick from the pit of my stomach. I suppose I was
7 used to that kind of feeling. I never saw anybody apart
8 from the prison officer who brought me my meals. I got
9 my breakfast early, probably about 6.00 in the morning.
10 There was no exercise in those three days.

11 I saw one boy getting whelped in one of the
12 corridors. I didn't see what led up to it but the boy's
13 face was being pushed to the floor and the prison
14 officer slapped him several times to the face. You
15 could see the venom in his face. I don't know who the
16 boy was or the name of the prison officer hitting him.
17 There was another prisoner officer standing there
18 watching. His name was Mr McKetchin and he was a good
19 guy. I don't think he agreed with what was going on but
20 he had to follow the others to fit in. I was standing
21 quite a distance away.

22 It was like every boy in there was gasping for air,
23 trying to survive. Inside, everyone's emotions are all
24 over the place. It's quite difficult to remember what
25 went on at Longriggend, because it is a long time ago

1 and I'm trying to forget this period of my life. Bad
2 things happen in prison and that's just the way it is.
3 I think I try and minimise them in my head.

4 I never spoke about my feelings or told anyone about
5 Longriggend, because that had been beaten out of me at
6 home. I had learned not to open my mouth and shut my
7 feelings off. There was no one I could have spoken to
8 anyway.

9 I was at Longriggend for three or four months. My
10 time at Longriggend finished after I went back up to
11 court where I pled guilty to the robbery. I was
12 sentenced to four years, with an additional nine months
13 or a year added on to my sentence for failing to turn up
14 at the bail appointment. I don't remember seeing
15 a social worker when I was at court. From the court
16 I went back to Longriggend or possibly Barlinnie Prison
17 for one night then I was transferred to Polmont."

18 Then he talks about his time at Polmont:

19 "When I was 16 I had got seven days at Polmont for
20 an unpaid fine. I spent Monday to Wednesday there.
21 I don't remember much about that, except going to the
22 train station with a couple of guys when I was released.

23 I was 17 or 18 when I went back. There were about
24 170 people in Polmont. I stayed at Polmont for about
25 a year. My first impression was that it was horrible.

1 I got a shock but then you put a face on it. It was
2 different from Longriggend. The prison officers were
3 different. Everybody was different. Things kept
4 changing and I always hated change. It caused too much
5 anxiousness. You end up broken."

6 He then talks about the routine there and if I can
7 then go forward in his statement to paragraph 41, where
8 he says the prison officers' attitudes there were
9 different in the way they talked and acted:

10 "You couldn't talk to the prison officers the way
11 you could talk in Longriggend or be civil. Their
12 attitude was bad. The way they talked back at you was
13 bad, so you ended up not speaking. The prison officers
14 put you down. I suppose you get used to that and I was
15 used to that. Trying to deal with it as
16 a young offender, it destroyed you. It destroyed your
17 soul."

18 He then goes on to talking about sharing a cell and
19 slopping out and the time that he spent in Ally Cally
20 before being moved to north wing and west wing.

21 At paragraph 45 he says:

22 "There were deaths in other wings but not next to
23 me. There were deaths all through my time in prison."

24 He then talks about discipline at 46:

25 "I tried to keep out of bother but it was hard. If

1 you got into trouble then you'd be taken to the
2 Governor. I was never in the digger.

3 There was no abuse of me at Polmont but I remember
4 things. Some things are better left where they are and
5 I don't want to talk about them."

6 He states he was about 18 when he left Polmont and
7 he was transferred to Dumfries, but he's not really sure
8 why. He then states at paragraph 48:

9 "A prison officer got right in my face, saying I was
10 going to Dumfries, as if I would be terrified. I was
11 terrified, but I never let him know that."

12 He then talks about his time after that, after
13 Dumfries. He went to Shotts and Barlinnie and he says
14 that his behaviour as an adult prisoner got worse.

15 He talks about his life after prison from
16 paragraph 50 and he says that his life has been a blur
17 his he left prison.

18 If we go to paragraph 51, he states:

19 "The young offenders institutions don't care at all.
20 They try to dehumanise you. I wondered if that was what
21 they meant to do. The way young people were treated is
22 a disgrace. You wonder why these prison officers are
23 taking the jobs. You would think they'd be
24 understanding instead of bullies. That's what they are,
25 bullies. I wouldn't wish that on anybody. It knocks

1 you down and you keep fighting to get back up, until you
2 get to a point where you can't and you think about
3 ending your life. You're not wanting to die. Some
4 things happen in life and prison, and you think that
5 there's got to be something. It used to be easy to get
6 into trouble but I try to work out if things are right
7 or wrong."

8 He then talks about lessons to be learned from
9 paragraph 59.

10 If I could move to paragraph 60 in his statement:

11 "There should be someone there for young boys going
12 into prison. Someone that will listen to the boys and
13 support them while they are in detention centres or
14 young offenders. If things haven't changed since I was
15 in Longriggend and Polmont in the 1990s then there is no
16 hope for any boy going through the system.

17 Boys in there should be given advice on how to keep
18 themselves straight and out of prison. Trying to tell
19 the boys to keep good company and away from the boys who
20 are doing those things would help. If boys hang about
21 with others who are up to no good they will end up doing
22 the same thing and end up in trouble.

23 Being a young offenders is like being caught in
24 a revolving door. You become cannon fodder in the jail.
25 You have to try and break the cycle. No one ever tried

1 to find out my history or my background to try and help
2 me.

3 There's loads of things that could have made things
4 better for young offenders. If you start going down
5 that road then you're going down a rabbit hole. I don't
6 want to go down too many rabbit holes.

7 Where young offenders are concerned, 90 per cent of
8 them don't need to be put to prison. 10 per cent do,
9 because of the heinous things they do. An alternative
10 to prison needs to be found. Too many of them are souls
11 lost."

12 At paragraph 65 he says:

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 'Robert' has signed that and it's dated
18 28 August 2023.

19 LADY SMITH: Thank you very much.

20 MS FORBES: My Lady, there is probably another one we could
21 do.

22 LADY SMITH: To fit in before lunchtime?

23 MS FORBES: Yes.

24 LADY SMITH: Let's do that.

25 MS FORBES: This next statement is from an applicant who is

1 anonymous and his pseudonym is 'Stuart'.

2 The reference for his witness statement is
3 WIT-1-000000762.

4 'Stuart' (aka Raymond) (read)

5 MS FORBES: My Lady, 'Stuart' was born in 1977 and he was
6 born in Glasgow and lived in Barmulloch with his parents
7 and brothers, he says he had no problems at school and
8 was top of the class at everything. However, when he
9 was 13 he and his friends stole a pedal scooter and he
10 was charged with that.

11 He started dogging school, going off the rails. He
12 went to the Panel and got a slap on the wrist. Then he
13 continued to dog school and went back to the Panel, he
14 was sent to Newfield Assessment Centre.

15 He says that whilst there he was on medication,
16 which zonked him out a lot of the time. He went the
17 first time when he was 14 and a year later he was back
18 again. Whilst there he describes assault and excessive
19 force by staff. He describes the violence there as
20 being bizarre and that the police were always in and
21 out.

22 He talks about a social worker who was assigned to
23 him being violent towards him, making him steal for him
24 and selling him drugs. He was back at home and then
25 back again and the situation at Newfield was much the

1 same. The social worker was still manipulating him.

2 He went back home again and he tried to kill himself
3 when he went home. During that incident he lost it and
4 his mum was told that he was in a drug-induced
5 psychosis.

6 He talks about the fact that when he was at Newfield
7 he was prescribed a lot of medication. He was at home
8 that time for a couple of weeks and then he went to
9 Kibble. He was in Kibble when he was 15 years old in
10 1992. He was there for about two or three months.

11 He went from being a resident there to a day boy, he
12 describes staff assaults, fighting among other boys and
13 even staff fighting with each other. He describes
14 members of staff picking on certain people. There was
15 peer abuse and people hitting others with hammers and
16 someone getting a brick in the face.

17 After about two or three months he became a day
18 pupil. He didn't have the same exposure to the same
19 violence as a day pupil.

20 If I can go to paragraph 93 of his statement:

21 "I left Kibble when I was 15-and-a-half not far off
22 my 16th birthday. I left because you were to leave
23 school when you were 16. I was still in social work's
24 care. When you are in these places it's just training
25 school for jail, I went straight from Kibble to

1 Longriggend Remand Centre.

2 I had appeared at Glasgow Sheriff Court and got
3 remanded. You go to Barlinnie for a night and in the
4 morning you got taken up to Longriggend. When you went
5 into Barlinnie you were thinking, wow, when you went
6 into Longriggend, it was hell."

7 He then talks about Longriggend:

8 "When I was 16 I still had social work involvement,
9 but I wasn't under a supervision order. The supervision
10 order ran out when I was a couple of months shy of my
11 16th birthday. I think social work knew by the way
12 I'd been that I was going to jail. Between the ages of
13 16 to 21 years old, from 1993 to 1998, I was never out
14 of Longriggend. My charges gradually got worse until
15 I was doing right bad stuff. I've been in every jail in
16 Scotland.

17 Longriggend was hell on earth for everybody. The
18 shortest time I spent there was a three-week remand.
19 The longest time was on a due course of law warrant,
20 when you were fully committed for trial on indictment.
21 The least time spent then was 110 days. A lot of the
22 times, I got extensions of time, so you could be in for
23 five months on remand. It was always indictments that
24 I was on."

25 If I can go to paragraph 98. He talks about some of

1 the members of staff who work there and he names them.

2 He then talks about the routine at Longriggend and
3 the dog boxes.

4 If I could then go to paragraph 105, where he
5 states:

6 "Twice weekly you got recreation. That was an hour
7 of TV. The place got wrecked every time. You were
8 guaranteed that within the first 15 minutes the riot
9 bell would go off, with people getting slashed and
10 stabbed or hit with pool balls. You might not have had
11 recreation for days. You'd go down for ten minutes and
12 it could be over in ten minutes."

13 He then talks about what he had in his cells and the
14 clothes. If I can move to paragraph 108:

15 "If you weren't well, you got two 'fuck-off
16 tablets', that was two paracetamol and told to fuck off.
17 That was your medication, whether you were on 100ml of
18 methadone or taking heroin. You withdrew from drugs
19 hardcore. If you didn't get drugs in, it was bad.
20 Inmates would hallucinate and a lot committed suicide.
21 I know a lot of boys who did that. They couldn't take
22 the withdrawals any more and had had enough.

23 Coming off heroin it's three or four days that
24 you're really not well for. Coming off methadone it was
25 five or six weeks. You had boys on 60ml to 100ml of

1 methadone getting stopped overnight. It was hell,
2 because you didn't have an actual toilet, so you had to
3 rely on some screw coming to open your door to let you
4 go to the toilet. Diarrhoea would be running out of you
5 and you'd be being sick. The screws would tell you to
6 clean the mess up and get a shower. It was brutal.
7 That's why the jails were rife with drugs. You had to
8 get drugs in and the screws knew they had to let drugs
9 in. If they didn't, there would be more people killing
10 themselves.

11 For years, there was nothing to help you detox. It
12 was because of all the suicides between Barlinnie and
13 Cornton Vale that Longriggend decided to change things.
14 When you went into Saughton Prison in Edinburgh you got
15 a detox. That was the only jail in Scotland that did
16 that."

17 If I can then go to paragraph 115 of his statement,
18 he talks about abuse at Longriggend:

19 "Violence in Longriggend was every day. The screws
20 were brutal. I got one doing but other people got
21 doings too. One side of the shift was called the dog
22 squad, you were entitled to nothing, you qualified for
23 nothing and you got nothing when they were on. You got
24 your dinner and that was it. You got no recreation.
25 The dog squad were nasty. They used to play mind games,

1 saying to inmates that another inmate had stuck him in,
2 so that boys would be stabbed and slashed. The dog
3 squad would sit laughing. That was their form of
4 entertainment. It was like Gladiator, the screws picked
5 people to fight. As soon as you were cheeky with
6 a screw they would set about you or they would get
7 another inmate who was well know and had done a bit of
8 time to set about you.

9 The second time in Longriggend I was nearly killed.
10 I was 16 years old, it was the year the lottery came
11 out, 1994. LVF [REDACTED] used to call me a
12 'junkie bastard' every time I went by him. He was
13 right. I was a drug addict. I had access to a lot of
14 drugs inside because of the people I knew. It must have
15 pissed him off. I went by him one day and he slapped me
16 on the back of the head. I turned round, punched him
17 and put him on his arse. I knocked him out. What
18 a blunder that was.

19 LVF [REDACTED] got back up, other screws had
20 restrained me and were taking me to the digger to
21 solitary confinement. They got me a lock, my arms and
22 my legs were up my back. LVF [REDACTED] was running at
23 the side of me, kicking me with a pair of
24 steel-toe-capped boots on. I can't remember much about
25 what happened, other than seeing flashes to my face when

1 I was getting kicked in the face. I got flung into
2 a cell.

3 By a pure fluke, a screw wee Rabb was on that night.
4 Rabb saved me. He used to give me newspapers that were
5 lying around. Rabb had gone to my cell and realised
6 I wasn't in but I was still marked on the hall board as
7 being in. Everything in the jail is run on numbers. If
8 you get moved from one hall to another that first hall
9 has to take you off their numbers and you get added to
10 the next hall's numbers.

11 Rabb did a bit of checking and found out I was in
12 the segregation unit. He came over to the unit. The
13 cell I was in had a blue floor. Every other cell had
14 a red floor. Rabb could see I was lying in a pool of
15 blood. Rabb opened the cell up. Rabb was a first aider
16 at Parkhead Football Stadium and he realised the mess
17 I was in. Rabb and another nightshift screw took me to
18 Monklands Hospital. They had to get permission from the
19 Governor to take a prisoner out of prison. I was in the
20 back seat of the van spewing blood up. When I got into
21 Monklands I was going into septic shock. My ribs were
22 broken and my appendix was burst. What had happened was
23 when I was kicked in the ribs the rib had snapped, went
24 in and pierced my appendix. I was black all over. You
25 could see the boot marks on my legs and the bruises.

1 For two weeks, Longriggend told my mum and my lawyer
2 that I was refusing visits. My lawyer [he names him]
3 threatened to go to the press if they didn't let him see
4 me. The staff then said I wasn't in Longriggend, I was
5 in Monklands Hospital. My mum says a screw at the
6 hospital told the ward sister to phone her. The ward
7 sister said to my mum she had better go to the hospital,
8 I was being moved at that moment. My mum came to the
9 hospital and saw the prison van outside. My mum says
10 when she got to the ward the screw was wrapping up the
11 chains I'd been chained to the bed by. He said he was
12 sorry but I was away back to jail. The ward sister told
13 my mum I'd had my appendix removed but I was in a bed
14 way.

15 I was taken to Barlinnie hospital wing. My mum had
16 gone to Longriggend and they said I wasn't there. My
17 mum demanded to see someone in charge and they refused
18 at first. Longriggend had no idea where I was. It was
19 two days before my mum was told I was in Barlinnie.

20 What the screws said was that I had been struggling
21 and while restraining me they had stood on me. I said
22 to the medical staff that the screws were liars, I said
23 they had smashed my head and ribs in. The staff
24 couldn't say I had fallen down stairs because of the
25 mess I was in. The incident wasn't reported by me.

1 A couple of the screws told me if I was charging them
2 I was getting charged with seven assaults on the screws.
3 Alec, who did hospital watch with me at Monklands, said
4 that. He was friendly with the [REDACTED], he
5 is still a screw in Barlinnie.

6 I knew I was walking out jail after my trial that
7 I was remanded for. I knew if I got charged with seven
8 assaults on seven screws that I was going to jail. They
9 would have made sure I went to jail. You just bit the
10 bullet, thinking you weren't getting charged. What was
11 the point? I could charge the screws knowing they
12 wouldn't go to jail or I could get charged knowing
13 I would go to jail. I never qualified for anything
14 other than jail. I wonder how many people were involved
15 in covering up what happened? You can't cover up what
16 happened to me without the help of other people.

17 Later I walked into Barlinnie and was telling
18 a screw what happened to me at Longriggend, Alec was
19 there and said it didn't happen. He said I got dropped
20 down the stairs, I didn't get kicked. Alec was a nasty
21 piece of work."

22 Then if I go to paragraph 128 of his statement, he
23 talks about his time in Barlinnie hospital wing. He
24 says he was the youngest person to do a sentence at
25 Barlinnie and that if you were a young offender you

1 would usually only ever spend a night in Barlinnie but
2 he spent two-and-a-half months in the hospital wing
3 there, which was unheard of.

4 He said that the prison didn't know what to do with
5 him and that the first six or seven weeks he was held in
6 what they called the tanks and that he was in there for
7 24 hours a day, which was a single cell with silver
8 aluminium walls and a roof. And there was an aluminium
9 toilet and a digital clock which he looked at all the
10 time and it clicked every time the time changed.

11 He states that whilst he was there his clothes were
12 taken off of him and he was given suicide stuff to wear
13 and that that was the standard practice. His mum came
14 to see him when he was there and he says that he doesn't
15 forget her face because he was covered in bruises and
16 wearing these clothes that they'd given him.

17 He said that whilst he was there the good shift
18 would let him go into the ward and to the day room to
19 watch TV, but other staff would say he couldn't be there
20 because he was a young offender and he would be put back
21 into what he called the tank.

22 He says then at paragraph 132:

23 "At Christmas I was moved into the ward. The ward
24 was like the film One Flew Over the Cuckoo's Nest, you
25 had guys on hunger strike and guys that were

1 schizophrenic, you had guys attacking other guys. There
2 was one guy that I'll never forget. He went out and did
3 all sorts of robberies to stay in Britain. He was in
4 the Rhodesian White Army and was getting sent back to go
5 in front of the firing squad. The guy thought the
6 screws were trying to poison him and he would only eat
7 the food he got from the priest."

8 He then talks about another guy being there who used
9 to swallow [REDACTED].

10 He says:

11 "It was a frightening place and not the kind of
12 place a wean should have been in."

13 He then talks after that about his life after being
14 in care and in prison, from paragraph 134.

15 He says his life since 21 has been hell, that
16 a large part of his life he's been in prison and
17 addicted to drugs.

18 He then talks about some of the incidents that
19 happened and affected him when he was younger, including
20 the social worker.

21 At "Lessons to be learned", paragraph 144, he says
22 that he doesn't think he merited going to assessment
23 centres. He was clever at school and had sporting
24 achievements and that someone should have seen that he
25 was somebody who needed to be put on right path.

1 At paragraph 147 he says:

2 "I have no objection to my witness statement being
3 published as part of the evidence to the Inquiry.
4 I believe the facts stated in this witness statement are
5 true."

6 He signed that and it's dated 27 July 2021.

7 LADY SMITH: Thank you very much.

8 I will now rise for the lunch break and we'll sit
9 again at 2 o'clock and we should have a witness here
10 ready to give evidence at 2 o'clock?

11 MS FORBES: That is correct, my Lady.

12 LADY SMITH: Thank you very much.

13 LVF [REDACTED]'s name, just to remind, he's covered by
14 my General Restriction Order, not to be identified
15 outside this room.

16 Thank you.

17 (1.05 pm)

18 (The luncheon adjournment)

19 (2.00 pm)

20 LADY SMITH: Good afternoon.

21 As I said before lunch, we return now to in-person
22 evidence and I think the witness is here, is that right,
23 Ms Rattray?

24 MS RATTRAY: Yes, that's right, but before we ask the
25 witness to come in, my Lady, I just wish to make

1 a correction in relation to the read-ins that we did
2 before lunch.

3 There was a read-in in relation to an applicant with
4 the pseudonym of 'Stuart' and his statement was
5 WIT-1-000000762. In fact there has been a recent change
6 of pseudonym, so in fact 'Stuart' should be referred to
7 as 'Raymond'.

8 LADY SMITH: I did wonder about that at lunchtime, I think
9 it was a very recent change --

10 MS RATTRAY: Yes.

11 LADY SMITH: -- but I realised it was still the same person.

12 We need that corrected for the transcript.

13 'Raymond', not 'Stuart'.

14 Thank you.

15 MS RATTRAY: My Lady, the witness this afternoon is
16 anonymous and has a pseudonym 'Alan'. As there will be
17 a point in his evidence where certain allegations are
18 put to him, he will perhaps benefit from a warning.

19 LADY SMITH: I think I should warn him at the outset. That
20 makes sense.

21 Thank you, Ms Rattray.

22 'Alan' (sworn).

23 LADY SMITH: 'Alan', if you can stay in a good position for
24 that microphone it will help you and it will help us,
25 particularly the stenographers who listen to you through

1 the sound system.

2 The red folder on the desk has your statement in it.
3 You may find it helpful to consult your written
4 statement, either in the folder or on the screen. We'll
5 put it up on the screen as we're going through your
6 evidence so you might want to use that instead or use
7 neither, whatever works for you.

8 'Alan' if you have any questions during your
9 evidence, please don't hesitate to speak up. It's
10 important that we are able to do all we can to make
11 giving your evidence as comfortable as possible.

12 Let me say at the outset, I know it's not
13 a comfortable thing to do and I'm sure there are
14 a hundred places you would rather be than here this
15 afternoon, but I'm grateful to you for engaging with us
16 and coming to assist in the work that I'm doing here,
17 that's really important work for the interests of all
18 children now and in the future.

19 There is one thing that I want to say at the
20 beginning. In the course of your evidence it's possible
21 that some of the questions you're asked are questions
22 the answers to which could incriminate you. You don't
23 have to answer any such questions. It's your choice to
24 answer or not, as you wish, but of course if you do
25 answer you must give a complete answer.

1 A. That's fine.

2 LADY SMITH: Because you've taken an oath to tell the whole
3 truth, not just part of the truth. I'm sure you'll
4 remember that.

5 Finally, 'Alan', if you want a break at any time
6 please speak up. Please tell me. Take a break at
7 around 3 o'clock anyway if you want to bear that in
8 mind, but I can stop at any other point if you feel that
9 would help you.

10 A. That's fine, thanks.

11 LADY SMITH: Thank you.

12 Ms Rattray, when you are ready.

13 Questions from Ms Rattray

14 MS RATTRAY: 'Alan', you've given a written statement to the
15 Inquiry and we've given your statement a reference,
16 which I will read out for our records, that is
17 WIT-1-000001357.

18 A copy of that statement should actually appear on
19 the screen in front of you and you also have a paper
20 version in the red folder before you.

21 To start, I would like you to look at the version in
22 the red folder, the copy of your statement in the red
23 folder, and I would like to take you to the back page of
24 that, which is page 25.

25 Just to confirm that you have signed your statement?

1 A. Yeah.

2 Q. You will see that the final paragraph of your statement,
3 paragraph 94, you say:

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 Is that right?

9 A. That's right, aye.

10 Q. Thank you. You can put that to one side now.

11 To start, 'Alan', you tell us that you were born in
12 1961?

13 A. [REDACTED] 61, aye.

14 Q. You tell us about your earlier work experiences and by
15 way of a summary you left school at 16 and you started
16 on what was then available, which was the youth
17 opportunities programme?

18 A. Yeah.

19 Q. It was through that, although you were taken on to clean
20 buses, you ended up actually training as a mechanic?

21 A. Yeah.

22 Q. Is that right?

23 A. That's right, aye.

24 Q. Through that, you were given an apprenticeship --

25 A. Yeah.

1 Q. -- as an apprentice mechanic. Then you tell us there
2 came a point where you were to join the Prison Service,
3 the Scottish Prison Service?

4 A. Mm hmm.

5 Q. What was it about the Prison Service which made it a job
6 that you wanted to do?

7 A. Nothing. I knew nothing about it. I had an old aunty
8 that worked in the Prison Service and I was down fixing
9 her car and I was moaning about being cold or whatever
10 and she mentioned the Prison Service and it got
11 advertised a couple of months later and I applied for
12 it.

13 Q. You tell us that there was an exam that you sat and then
14 you were interviewed, but you also say that you think
15 basically you got the job because the people on the
16 board used to work with your -- the woman you called
17 your aunty, is that right?

18 A. That was my view, aye. Where they asked me about it at
19 the board, eh, so I am thinking if it wouldn't have been
20 a good report I wouldn't have got the job. That's just
21 the way I viewed it.

22 Q. What I'm going to do next, I'm just going to take you
23 through an overview of your career in the Scottish
24 Prison Service. You tell us you began your career in
25 1984 and you were about 22 years old at that time?

1 A. Yeah.

2 Q. Your first posting was to Glenochil?

3 A. Glenochil Detention Centre, aye.

4 Q. You were there for six years from 1984 until 1990?

5 A. Well, during that six years I worked in the Glenochil
6 Detention Centre and I worked in Glenochil
7 Young Offenders. It turned adult in 1987 and I left
8 there in 1990.

9 Q. From 1987, were you working with adults rather --

10 A. Working with adults from 1987, aye.

11 There was a riot in 1988 and it was a lockdown for
12 about a year-and-a-half.

13 Q. What post did you hold at Glenochil?

14 A. Just an Officer.

15 Q. An Officer. Okay.

16 When you finished at Glenochil in 1990 you applied
17 for a post in HMP Barlinnie?

18 A. Barlinnie Special Unit, aye.

19 Q. You were working there for about three-and-a-half years?

20 A. Yeah.

21 Q. At that time you were working with adult prisoners?

22 A. Adult prisoners, yeah, just nine of them.

23 Q. We have heard some evidence that at various times some
24 children and young people might spend a night or more at
25 Barlinnie after a court appearance, before being moved

1 on to somewhere like Polmont or Glenochil.

2 Were you involved with any of those young prisoners?

3 A. At Barlinnie?

4 Q. Yes.

5 A. No, I worked in the unit.

6 Q. Right. From Barlinnie, in 1993, you tell us that you

7 were looking for more experiences in order to apply for

8 promotion?

9 A. Aye.

10 Q. So you moved to Cornton Vale and you were there until

11 1994?

12 A. No, I was there -- no, that's right, aye, that's right.

13 Q. What was the post you held at Cornton Vale?

14 A. Just a Residential Officer.

15 Q. Were you working with under 18s there?

16 A. Sometimes, aye.

17 Q. In 1994 you were promoted and you became a First-line

18 Manager and that was at HMP Low Moss?

19 A. That's right.

20 Q. You would be aged about 33 then; is that right?

21 A. 1994, I'd be 33 in the [REDACTED] -- I would be 32 or 33,

22 aye.

23 Q. In 1997 you moved to Polmont?

24 A. Yeah.

25 Q. You would be about 36 or so at that time, would that be

1 about right?

2 A. Aye, aye.

3 Q. You were a First-line Manager in Polmont?

4 A. That's right.

5 Q. In 2004 --

6 A. Sorry, I got my First-line Manager at Low Moss, as well,

7 aye.

8 Q. Yes, yes.

9 A. Sorry.

10 Q. But the post that you got at Polmont was also as

11 a First-line Manager; is that right?

12 A. Aye, aye.

13 Q. In 2004 you were transferred to Shotts and what was the

14 post you held at Shotts?

15 A. First-line Manager.

16 Q. Again. Okay.

17 You also tell us that there have been times when

18 you've worked in HMP Grampian; when was that?

19 A. Back end of 2014 to [REDACTED] 2016.

20 Q. Was that also as a First-line Manager?

21 A. Yeah.

22 Q. You returned to Polmont in 2011 and that too was as

23 a first line manager; is that correct?

24 A. That's right, yes.

25 Q. You remained at Polmont until you left the service, that

1 was in 2021?

2 A. Apart from the period of detached duty at Grampian
3 Prison.

4 Q. You also mentioned that while you weren't based in
5 Longriggend, there were occasions where you took
6 prisoners to and from the reception area there?

7 A. If it was your time to go -- there was a rotation for
8 staff to go in the draft bus. If it was your time to go
9 on the draft bus you left Polmont and you went to
10 Glenochil, then you went to Longriggend and you dropped
11 off at various courts. That was basically it.

12 The only place I would be in Longriggend would have
13 been the reception.

14 Q. When you were in the reception at Longriggend, was there
15 any time that you saw any treatment of prisoners that
16 caused you any concern?

17 A. No. You didn't really see anybody, because there's --
18 like there's holding boxes, they're called dog boxes,
19 right, everybody calls them that, right. So the laddies
20 would be in there. They had already been processed and
21 just waiting to get either pick them up or return them.

22 Q. I'm going to move on to paragraph 6 of your statement.
23 That's where you tell us about your experiences at
24 Glenochil.

25 You tell us that you were mostly based at the

1 detention centre?

2 A. That's right, aye.

3 Q. But also undertook shifts in the young offenders unit?

4 A. Aye, you were posted there, aye.

5 Q. You tell us you were an Officer in Glenochil. What was
6 your job? What kind of things were you doing in your
7 daily work as an Officer at Glenochil?

8 A. In Glenochil Detention Centre?

9 Q. Yes.

10 A. Well, early shift you would come in in the morning,
11 whatever flat you were on, you would get your keys, you
12 would go and unlock, you would do a body count. You
13 would shout the numbers downstairs. Once the hall
14 numbers were okay you would get your flat out for the
15 toilet. There were potties they had them, so they had
16 to empty them in the morning. They would then put them
17 back and the boys would go back in their room.

18 They would do cleaning or have something to do. The
19 detention centre was based on always doing something,
20 right. I've got there that the detention centre was
21 brutal, hindsight's a great thing. The detention centre
22 was done as a short, sharp shock treatment to try and
23 deter people not to go back to jail.

24 I'm not sure if it worked or didn't work. It was --
25 they were non-stop from morning to nighttime. That's

1 going from showering to getting dressed, going to their
2 work. There was a lot of marching that went on at that
3 time. It was often regimented. There was a lot of
4 ex-military worked in there, because it was based on
5 that sort of regime.

6 You wouldn't be allowed that regime nowadays.
7 I used to hate doing the drill, so I would swap with
8 somebody and go and do something else.

9 LADY SMITH: Why did you hate doing it?

10 A. The drill? I just found it boring and it was -- it was
11 all shouting and the full place was built on speed in
12 doing things.

13 Like going to the dining hall, the dining hall,
14 everybody marched, so going to the dining hall and you
15 were maybe in the dining hall for 40. The actual hall
16 held 60, so say there would be 60 there. You would have
17 tables of four for that. You had to march round the
18 tables. It was just the way the regime was.

19 You had to march from leaving the hall, into the
20 dining hall, round to the tables. The senior officer,
21 whoever it was at that time, would point to a table and
22 tell the boys to sit. So they had to pull the four
23 chairs out at the one time and all click in at one time.
24 If it didn't click in at one time they had to do it
25 again --

1 LADY SMITH: I've heard that described as something that
2 looked like a work of art.

3 A. Well, it was all right if it worked. But it didn't
4 work. The hotplates, the meals were already -- they
5 were already done and on the hotplate. The table would
6 get sent up at a time to collect their meal. There was
7 nobody at the hotplate, but they all had to shout out --
8 they had to thank the cook if nobody was there, which
9 I found quite bizarre.

10 Then there was no talking in the dining room and
11 after they'd finished their meal they had to fold their
12 arms just as I'm doing now and sit with their feet flat
13 on the floor and if they were all finished they were
14 marched back to the hall and if it was rec night you
15 would turn up to rec.

16 LADY SMITH: If I could just stop you there. I was asking
17 you why you found drill something you didn't want to do.

18 A. Oh the drill, I didn't like it. I had been in the Army
19 cadets as a kid and I left that, I didn't like that
20 either. I just didn't like the drill, so I would swap
21 with somebody that was ex-forces and they actually liked
22 it, because that's what they'd done for years.

23 LADY SMITH: Thank you.

24 Ms Rattray.

25 MS RATTRAY: You certainly tell us it seems to be a very

1 controlled environment and you say even in the showers
2 the boys were told when to use soap.

3 A. Aye. You would have 20 razors, a box with 20 razors and
4 they'd come in and tell you what cell they were in and
5 you would hand them their razor blade and you are
6 talking -- understand that you're saying that children
7 are classed between 16 and 18. But you go back to 1984
8 there was no difference between 16 and 21.

9 So whatever Sheriff was putting them to the jail
10 didn't make any difference either and everybody was
11 treated the same, so you would be getting the razors
12 back of somebody at 16 that had shaved and the Bic razor
13 blade they had never took the top of it. They didn't
14 ken how to shave, but you didn't have time to show them
15 or anything like that.

16 The showers, you are lucky if they were in the
17 showers about a minute. It was soap on and soap off.
18 Time-wise everything was rapid.

19 You had three flats to shower, so if you're taking
20 your flat down you had X amount of time, which was very
21 little time and when they left the flat to walk down to
22 the shower the towels had to be folded over their arms.
23 It was quite -- you look back and it's quite a brutal
24 regime.

25 Q. Obviously you said with the benefit of hindsight where

1 you are now and you look back at that and you think it's
2 brutal --

3 A. Sorry to interrupt, I did as much shouting as everybody
4 else, because that's what your role was if you're doing
5 the drill or whatever, but then you look back 30 or
6 40 years later and it's different.

7 Q. You mention about bed blocks and we have heard evidence
8 about what bed blocks are. You say that some boys never
9 opened their bed blocks?

10 A. Some of them never opened them, no.

11 Q. Why not?

12 A. They didn't know how to build them. Again, it was -- it
13 is with sticks and it was all sort of army blankets and
14 it was the way you folded them, then you had an outside
15 cover and these sticks went into it and you had ... it
16 wrapped around. There was an officer there called --
17 his nickname was "Geordie bed block" (?), he used to help
18 laddies build them, but I didn't ken how to build them
19 and 90 per cent of the staff didn't know how to build
20 them. So you would maybe be doing your numbers count in
21 the morning and the bed block would be on the floor and
22 the boy would just be using his sheets or whatever,
23 because they didn't know how to rebuild them.

24 If they couldn't rebuild them there was a sort of
25 penalty for that. Punishment. They would maybe miss

1 rec or something.

2 Q. You also tell us about another punishment might be that
3 the boys had to polish the floors?

4 A. No. It was -- Glerochil Detention Centre used to be
5 a coal board facility and the jail must have bought it
6 over when they got that land and it was like a marble
7 stone floor. It wasn't marble, but stone kind of marble
8 effect, whatever punishment that was going -- some of it
9 was scrubbing floors. It was called the magic --
10 I'm trying to mind, but they were basically trying to
11 rub this floor away, so they maybe bulled it for five
12 minutes and it was hard work and you could see the boys
13 were sweating, boys were knackered.

14 Q. You tell us that you saw some boys pass out with the
15 exertion?

16 A. Aye, I've seen that, aye.

17 Q. What happened when a boy passed out?

18 A. A member of staff would come down and bring -- well,
19 pass out, I don't mean pass out unconscious but they
20 would be sort of falling over. They would kind of take
21 them to the side and that would be their night kind of
22 finished.

23 Q. Were they given any medical attention?

24 A. No, I'm saying -- I phrased that. They weren't passing
25 out as in going unconscious but they were physically

1 knackered, they were physically exhausted with doing
2 this scrubbing.

3 It was like they had kneeling pads and the boys were
4 kneeling on the floor. They had the bucket, they had
5 the scrubbing brush, they had the soap and it was
6 basically going forward and back but it was rapid and
7 they were at it for five or ten minutes, so a lot of
8 them, it was taking them by their sort of physical ...
9 that is what it was.

10 Q. You are saying that, looking back, you consider it
11 brutal. At the time, you were new to this and you just
12 thought it was normal prison life?

13 A. No, I knew it wasn't normal prison life. I knew you
14 wouldn't have somebody doing it a number of years in
15 that kind of environment. I knew it was short, sharp
16 shock, but looking back, aye, it was brutal, aye.

17 Q. If you had been concerned about any of the boys or
18 anything about that at the time, was there anyone that
19 you could have spoken to and raised concerns?

20 A. No. You had Senior Officers and Principal Officers at
21 that time, right. I could maybe have spoken to a Senior
22 Officer but that would be very rare. It was kind of
23 different. They were kind of -- the First-line Manager
24 took a -- they combined the two roles and the First-line
25 Manager that I got was actually their old role. It was

1 a different thing in the end.

2 No, there was -- I reckon there was maybe -- there
3 was a couple of suicides in Glenochil Detention Centre
4 when I was there, but I think there was maybe overall
5 maybe about eight. I think that's -- I'm pretty sure
6 that is what it got closed for.

7 Q. We have often heard of a culture among prisoners where
8 no one would grass. Do you think that there was
9 a similar culture among staff when you were working at
10 Glenochil?

11 A. Well, in what respect?

12 Q. I mean in the respect that if you'd had concerns about
13 a boy or about treatment, that it would have been
14 against the general staff culture to actually raise
15 concerns about it or report it?

16 A. To get treatment for somebody, no, no.

17 Q. No, when I say --

18 A. What kind of treatment? I've never seen nobody going --
19 I've seen -- I've come across attempted hangings, like
20 that is a totally different matter.

21 LADY SMITH: 'Alan', that is not what Ms Rattray has in
22 mind.

23 Let me explain. I think what she has in mind is if
24 one prison officer saw another prison officer
25 ill-treating a boy or if he was aware that routinely

1 another prison officer took it out on another boy, was
2 the culture one that you kept your mouth shut and you
3 didn't grass on a fellow prison officer or was it not?
4 A. I would say it was a possibility. If I seen something
5 when I was an Officer, somebody doing something that
6 they shouldn't be doing, I would more than likely have
7 a word with them first.
8 LADY SMITH: You might speak to your colleague first?
9 A. I would speak to my colleague, aye. I wouldn't just go
10 to run to my gaffer and say, "I have seen this". So if
11 you're taking that as no grassing, aye, I wouldn't just
12 go running to the gaffer but speak to the person first
13 to see what it was all about or whatever.
14 If I seen it a couple of times that would be
15 different.
16 LADY SMITH: What then?
17 A. You've got a First-line Manager and you can go to --
18 LADY SMITH: In your position in Glenochil, in the
19 detention centre, who was your First-line Manager?
20 A. I had a good First-line Manager, his name was --
21 LADY SMITH: I don't need the name, sorry, what level was he
22 then?
23 A. He was an SO.
24 LADY SMITH: He would be an SO.
25 A. You had Senior Officer and you had Principal Officer.

1 One Principal Officer would run that shift. You had
2 three Senior Officers, because there were three halls.

3 LADY SMITH: Of course.

4 A. Right, so you had three Senior Officers and, right, and
5 you had six staff on each hall, because there are three
6 landings on each hall.

7 LADY SMITH: Your hierarchy is a triangle with three levels
8 in it, is it?

9 A. No, I'm actually wrong there. You had four staff. You
10 had a Senior Officer and a bottom flat man, then you
11 had -- I'm trying to think back. I was in the second
12 flat myself and then you had a third flat guy and you
13 had some somebody spare -- it wasn't overstaffed, but it
14 wasn't understaffed either.

15 LADY SMITH: You would speak to somebody one level up from
16 you?

17 A. No, if I seen you doing something that I thought was out
18 of order I'd come and speak to you about it.

19 LADY SMITH: Got that. I'm at the stage that you are
20 concerned --

21 A. If it goes --

22 LADY SMITH: 'Alan', can I just ask you one thing. If you
23 speak when I'm speaking these hard-working stenographers
24 here can't record it --

25 A. No, listen, I'm not trying to over speak --

1 LADY SMITH: No, I know you are not and I don't expect you
2 to have thought of that, because I'm pressing you to try
3 and delve into your memory, but if we can try and think
4 of them when we're speaking to make sure only one of us
5 speaks at a time that's really helpful.

6 I think what I have from you, and listen to this: if
7 you had spoken to me but you don't see any change in my
8 behaviour say towards a particular boy, then what you
9 could have done was speak to your Senior Officer and
10 then you would leave it to your Senior Officer to think
11 about whether the Principal Officer needed to know, do
12 I have that right?

13 A. Aye, I would expect the Senior Officer to deal with it.

14 LADY SMITH: Okay. Thank you.

15 Ms Rattray.

16 MS RATTRAY: 'Alan', what would happen if a boy didn't do as
17 he was told or did something wrong, for example, if
18 a boy wasn't marching in time or he didn't thank the
19 cook?

20 A. Well, if he didn't thank the cook you got asked to thank
21 the cook again. All the boys did it, right.

22 The no marching in time, that is one of the reasons
23 I didn't do it because I couldn't march either, so the
24 guys that took the marching most of the time were
25 ex-forces and they were pretty good with the boys,

1 right.

2 But you have got boys doing stuff that they've never
3 done before, maybe. They don't want to do it. The
4 place where the marching got done, the parade square,
5 was right between -- was right in the middle, adjacent
6 to it was A hall and B hall in Glenochil
7 Young Offenders, so a lot of abuse used to come out of
8 there, verbal abuse at the boys for doing it. Sometimes
9 they would just -- due to the abuse they would just
10 chuck it and go back inside.

11 So if they chucked it and went back inside they
12 would put on report. They'd then go to an orderly room.
13 Nine times -- if they've quit it they just get found
14 guilty and get a punishment, which was more likely two
15 nights rec or whatever.

16 Q. Was there any slapping and kicking of the boys by staff?

17 A. Slapping and kicking?

18 Q. Mm hmm.

19 A. Not that I seen, no, but I can only go with what I see
20 when I'm there.

21 Q. You didn't see that?

22 A. No.

23 Q. If you didn't see it yourself, did you ever hear of it
24 having happened?

25 A. There was sometimes a laddie would put a complaint in,

1 or that, but if you're not there you can't make
2 an opinion on it, but there were complaints that would
3 go in.

4 Q. We spoke about the bed blocks. Were there cell
5 inspections?

6 A. Oh, there were cell inspections, aye. There were cell
7 inspections every day with the flat officer, I was one
8 of them. At the weekend you would get whatever duty
9 Governor was on, they would do a cell inspection.

10 Q. What would happen if a boy's cell didn't meet or pass
11 the inspection?

12 A. Again, it was a punishment again. It would be -- the
13 one thing that they can't lose on a punishment is
14 visits. They can't lose visits. Some folk didn't have
15 visits because for whatever reason but they can't lose
16 visits, but you would lose rec, wages, stuff like that.

17 Q. We heard evidence about bed blocks, that if the bed
18 block wasn't done properly or the cell wasn't completely
19 clean, then officers would throw the bed block in the
20 air and turn everything in the cell upside down so the
21 boy had to redo it all over again. Did that ever
22 happen?

23 A. I've heard that happening, aye.

24 Q. Did you ever see it happen?

25 A. No, I've heard it happened. Like see the inspection on

1 a Saturday, the boys used to wear a uniform, it was
2 called best blues at that time for the parades and the
3 rooms are absolutely spotless. The boys done them, but
4 the rooms were absolutely spotless. But during the
5 weekend inspection, if I was inspecting them or another
6 flat officer was inspecting them, Monday to Friday, say,
7 you would be looking for their bed block to be on the
8 bed. You would be looking for stuff to be in the
9 cupboard tidy. You would be looking for their bin to be
10 empty. All that kind of stuff. It was regimented
11 right.

12 But at the weekend, it would be a suit that would
13 come down and look at it and maybe -- he wouldn't do the
14 full jail. He would maybe do some. And the best blue
15 jacket would get taken off the door and would get put
16 under the bed, like swiped and would come out. If there
17 was any dust on that jacket, that boy didn't get any rec
18 for about three days.

19 I don't know -- I don't know how you're supposed to
20 keep as much stuff out your room as that, but that was
21 just the way it was at the time.

22 Q. You have spoken about the detention centre and you have
23 also mentioned the young offenders institution, was the
24 routine and regime the same in the young offenders
25 institution or was that different?

1 A. No, the young offenders was a lot more relaxed.

2 The detention centre was a three-month sentence,
3 eight weeks, five days and a breakfast, that was it.

4 Young offenders could be anything from three months
5 to life -- it wasn't life, it was held at Her Majesty's
6 pleasure and all that, but it was a lot more relaxed.
7 You had a lot more communication and interaction with
8 people. The thing that I viewed that caused as much
9 bother in the young offenders was the senior management
10 decided to have top-end prisoners, right. So
11 I've worked with adults and young offenders, so I should
12 be calling them "young offenders", but I'm just using
13 the terminology of prisoners, right. They had top-end
14 prisoners, right, but to have top-end prisoners you've
15 got to have bottom-end prisoners.

16 Q. When you say "top-end" and "bottom-end prisoners", what
17 do you mean? What is the difference?

18 A. Top end would get more rec, maybe more wages, maybe more
19 access to different clothing for during their rec time
20 and things like that. So if they had more rec they had
21 more money for the phone and keep in contact with your
22 family more.

23 Bottom-end folk had nothing.

24 LADY SMITH: How did the management decide who was a top-end
25 prisoner and who wasn't?

1 A. I don't know. I would take it they'd be going on --
2 either going on their misconduct reports, maybe where
3 they worked, maybe whatever intelligence they had on
4 them. The Prison Service keep intelligence on prisoners
5 and staff.

6 LADY SMITH: It would be to do with --

7 A. It caused a big divide.

8 LADY SMITH: It would be to do what evidence they had and
9 how well behaved a person was?

10 A. Basically, aye.

11 LADY SMITH: How easy they were to manage?

12 A. Aye. But the downside of that is when you take
13 everything off somebody you are left with very little to
14 manage and you get more violence. Not maybe aimed at
15 you, but aimed at the regime, because that's all they're
16 left with.

17 LADY SMITH: Thank you.

18 MS RATTRAY: I'm wondering, 'Alan', the top end and the
19 bottom end, was that to do with some kind of grading
20 system that they had?

21 A. In a respect, but before they brought this in when you
22 had a hall with 120 or 140 whatever, right, and you had
23 a mixture -- this is just the way I'm looking at it,
24 right, if you had a hall of 120 or 140 whatever and you
25 had a mixture of top end and bottom end, if that's what

1 you want to put them, so a lot of people that were
2 compliant to the regime and the system and different
3 things, and you had different people that were
4 non-compliant to that, it normally balanced out and you
5 didn't have much bother, but when you divided it totally
6 and you've got top end up there, which is getting
7 everything, you have no bother.

8 When you've got the bottom end, and they've got less
9 visits, less money, less clothes, less access to phones,
10 less everything, it causes a lot of bother. You
11 normally find it's the same staff that work with the
12 bottom end, because this member of staff can't work
13 there because it gives his problems or he's not happy
14 and he's not happy, so you usually find it's the same
15 staff that are stuck in the same position all the time.

16 The people that are bottom end are classed as bottom
17 end, right. There's no difference between me and you.
18 That's it.

19 Q. In the young offenders institution did you see any
20 treatment of the young offenders that concerned you?
21 When I say "treatment" again, I mean the way they've
22 been treated by staff.

23 A. I would say the control and restraints -- they've now,
24 the last couple of, years, they have brought in control
25 and restraints for a lesser age, for under 18s, right.

1 Control and restraints is a mixture of martial arts that
2 was put to the Prison Service about 1985 or 1986,
3 because I think it was 1987 that -- I could be wrong
4 about, maybe a year or that out, but control and
5 restraint is a mixture of martial arts that is for
6 strikes, blocks, for defending yourself and you've also
7 got locks, they are classed as locks, that's wrist locks
8 and that, that get applied to contain somebody that has
9 been non-compliant, right.

10 But it's actually pain. You are painning somebody
11 for them to become non-compliant. Then once they become
12 non-compliant you take the locks off, which reduces the
13 pain. You can put them in come-along holds and if it
14 kicks off again you are back to square one.

15 So I'll go back to 1987 when I was trained up in
16 control and restraints, there was no difference if you
17 were 16, 17 or 21.

18 These control and restraints were brought in for
19 adults, right, but they're also applied to adult females
20 and anybody between 16 and 21. It's just in the last
21 couple of years they've started reducing it, different
22 holds that are non-pain, I think. I've not been there,
23 so I couldn't tell you.

24 But I know when you get locks on you during control
25 and restraints it's agony.

1 LADY SMITH: You said a minute ago that you can put them in
2 what sounded like come-along holds?

3 A. Come-along holds, aye.

4 LADY SMITH: What is that?

5 A. Right, if I go to an incident where there's two people
6 fighting, you usually find when the staff get there that
7 one has attacked the other one, the other one doesn't
8 have much to do with it but they have got to defend
9 themselves during that time. So once the staff get
10 there you'll find that one is going to become compliant.
11 One's maybe got an anger reason for it whatever, might
12 not become as compliant as quickly, so when you --
13 they've got a bit that is called an out-of-control
14 moment, they call it an out-of-control moment, that's
15 the actual nice word for it, it's actually a fight
16 because when you are trying to geld a hold of somebody
17 to put a lock on them, they're not going hand their arm
18 out to you and say, "Just take it", so it's a struggle.

19 So once you get the lock on, right, and it is sore,
20 they usually become compliant, so if somebody is
21 compliant you shouldn't need to keep your locks on for
22 too long, so whoever is supervising that removal, it
23 would normally be a First-line Manager or somebody that
24 has been trained up on that, they would ask whoever is
25 in that removal, you would ask them if somebody had been

1 assaulted and if anyone was being assaulted you removed
2 them and replaced them with another member of staff so
3 that they didn't put undue force on the locks because
4 they had been assaulted, so you would take them out.

5 Once the person becomes compliant you would put them
6 into come-along holds, which is the lock would get
7 removed and they would get an arm up at the top and
8 bottom.

9 LADY SMITH: Thank you.

10 Ms Rattray.

11 MS RATTRAY: You tell us about control and restraint later
12 in your statement, but we're on that subject so if we
13 move there now. It's paragraph 31 onwards in your
14 statement.

15 You tell us in your statement much of what you've
16 just told us now. You say a lot of this you're speaking
17 also from your experience at Polmont as a First-line
18 Manager, but you say that obviously the control and
19 restraint techniques came in in the mid-1980s?

20 A. Aye.

21 Q. And that everyone had training on that at that time?

22 A. You get trained -- it lasts a year, so if I got trained
23 in the January, come the next January I should be
24 putting in for a request to get a refresher course,
25 right. Sometimes you didn't get that refresher course

1 because there's some kind of setback and you can be
2 a couple of months out of competency, right, but they
3 could still end up in a removal. So whoever was taking
4 over that removal would have to ask them if they were
5 competent, right. If they weren't competent, if their
6 time was out, you get them removed.

7 If somebody was getting attacked by somebody and
8 a member of staff was standing there and they weren't
9 competent in their C&R removal, you can't ask them just
10 to stand there and watch somebody get assaulted, so they
11 would involve themselves to try to stop it.

12 Once the rest of the staff came, because they were
13 out of competency, they would be removed out of that.

14 Q. In an emergency situation, staff have to simply act
15 there and then?

16 A. Aye --

17 Q. But it could well be that in theory they were not
18 regarded as being competent, because they hadn't taken
19 the refresher course?

20 A. The training -- maybe their training had lapsed, they
21 had maybe put in for it but there is a no STO, Staff
22 Training Officer, who had time to book them in or
23 whatever, but they would still take part in the initial
24 restraint if they were on that location, but once the
25 supervising officer checked if they were competent or

1 not they would remove them or if they've been assaulted
2 and they were involved in that removal, you would have
3 to remove him out of there.

4 Q. I think you speak about in case of adrenaline perhaps if
5 things go too far or use undue force.

6 A. Not everybody gets assaulted and it's not nice and your
7 adrenaline does go up to different levels and you don't
8 want somebody taking -- losing a plot a wee bit and
9 somebody ending up with an injury.

10 Q. Did that sometimes happen, because these must be
11 adrenaline-filled fast moving?

12 A. Did what happen?

13 Q. That things went out of -- someone lost the plot or it
14 perhaps went beyond the bounds?

15 A. I've seen staff that have been assaulted and they're not
16 very happy about it. I've been assaulted several times
17 myself and I've never said, "That's great, aye". I have
18 usually been a bit upset with it, aye.

19 Q. Did any of this sort of formal restraint techniques, did
20 that ever involve hitting or kicking a prisoner or
21 anything like that?

22 A. See until you've been in a position, actually getting
23 somebody trying to stab you or assault you, you can't --

24 LADY SMITH: 'Alan', can I just assure you, we fully
25 understand that we -- particularly Ms Rattray and I --

1 have never been in a position like this. We get that
2 and we do understand that it's all happening very
3 quickly.

4 What we are inviting you to do is help us understand
5 what it's like to be in the midst of it. I'm not
6 prejudging anything, we are just looking for assistance
7 here.

8 A. In 1985 I was on the door in the shed in Glenochil, the
9 joiners' shed, and all you do is you count the bodies
10 in, you are a discipline man, so if there's anybody
11 going, you change the board different things like that,
12 and at the end of that shift there was two boys
13 assaulted the Senior Officer in the shed. They
14 assaulted him with chisels and the alarm got raised.
15 And I went down and they were trying to hit the Senior
16 Officer in the head with a chisel and I pushed the first
17 one off and they came back and I ended up punching them.
18 So my choice at that time was either punch them or
19 actually someone has a chisel in the head.

20 That was that.

21 I got charged by the police for that. The boys got
22 charged with assaulting an officer to his injury, I went
23 up to the Governor. The union man was taking me up to
24 the Governor. I was still on my probation at the time
25 and he told me I would get sacked, because of what I had

1 done and I went, all right. I went up to see the
2 Governor, the Governor told me I would have got sacked
3 if I hadn't done what I had done, because the attack on
4 Mr McGregor(?) and I got put in the electronic control
5 room for nine month [REDACTED].

6 [REDACTED] That was
7 that.

8 Q. What I'm going to do now is move on to the part of your
9 statement where you tell us about your experiences in
10 Polmont. That starts at paragraph 12 of your statement.

11 You start that part by telling us that Polmont, in
12 terms of statistics anyway, is the most dangerous jail
13 in Scotland.

14 A. Right, that is statistically. It's due to the amount of
15 assaults on prisoners and staff and smashups and
16 different things. Statistically it's the most dangerous
17 jail. It isn't the most dangerous jail. The most
18 dangerous jail is an adult jail, where you have got
19 adult males, Shotts or that, right, Glenochil.

20 But on the stats side, it tells you that Polmont due
21 to the amount of incidents it's got, be it -- it's not
22 just assaults. You've got cell smashups, fires, you've
23 got fire raising, different things like that.

24 LADY SMITH: That is looking at the matter quantitatively
25 rather than qualitatively, how many not really what is

1 involved?

2 A. You've got more chance of getting a serious assault in
3 Shotts than you have in Polmont, but it's just
4 statistically there are more wee incidents that adds up.

5 LADY SMITH: I get that, thank you.

6 MS RATTRAY: When you moved to Polmont, and that was in
7 1997 --

8 A. Yeah.

9 Q. -- you were there as a First-line Manager?

10 A. Mm hmm.

11 Q. What were your responsibilities in Polmont as First-line
12 Manager?

13 A. You had various roles. I'd done the mandatory drug
14 testing, I oversaw that for a wee while. That got
15 chucked out after about three or four years, the Prison
16 Service didn't like to tell how much drugs there was in
17 Prison Service, everywhere was failing. I'd done that
18 at Low Moss as well, but at Polmont I done that. I done
19 the NVT testing.

20 I worked in the visits room. I worked in the
21 segregation. I worked in Argyll Hall. I worked front
22 of house. I worked in most places.

23 Q. In terms of the location within Polmont, where you
24 worked, you mention working in Argyll Hall. Were there
25 any other halls that you work in?

1 A. Not for long periods of time, but I worked in -- I done
2 a couple of shifts in the -- they called it the
3 Ally Cally, the allocation hall. I worked in there.

4 Polmont prison, right, was built on the old prison
5 and they had a couple of new halls that were the same as
6 what you had in Glenochil. That had night sanitation
7 and that. East wing and South wing -- or East and West
8 and South all had night sanitation. Argyll Hall and
9 allocation hall, they had porta potties.

10 I found that strange after going to -- I had worked
11 in Glenochil from 1984, take out the detention centre
12 but the young offenders all had night sanitation, which
13 meant you could press a bell at night one at a time,
14 leave your room for eight minutes, I think it -- either
15 seven or eight minutes, go and use the toilet. Whether
16 they used it for the toilet or passing about or passing
17 whatever, that was the process.

18 That was what was available to folk. Then 13 years
19 later you go to Polmont and they're running about with
20 porta potties in a hall that wasn't fit for purpose.

21 Q. I think you tell us about Argyll Hall especially was in
22 very poor condition?

23 A. Argyll Hall was poor. I was never in every hall -- in
24 every cell, sorry, but any cell I was in, either talking
25 to somebody or mail or whatever, whatever the reason

1 was, maybe somebody had opened the door or whatever,
2 every cell had at least a couple of windows broken, so
3 the porta potties -- I think I said to the fella that
4 they got emptied once a week. I'm not sure if it was
5 twice a week, but it was putrid, eh.

6 Q. How was it that boys were allocated to different halls?

7 A. I don't know. You would talk to the reception for that.
8 The new admissions would go into the allocation hall.
9 From there they would either get put to Argyll Hall or
10 east or west. I'm not 100 per cent on this, but I think
11 a lot of that would maybe determine what sentence they
12 were doing at the time and you would maybe put the
13 longer term people up to the cells with night san in it,
14 right. Because my recollection is that the majority
15 Argyll Hall prisoners were under a year sentence.

16 Q. You mention the Governor when you started at Polmont and
17 you say he was Dan Gunn and you say he was a bit inept.

18 A. Aye.

19 Q. Why is it you think that?

20 A. He was my Governor at Barlinnie Special Unit, and we
21 only had nine prisoners there and he dealt with that.
22 But when I was at Glenochil working and YOs and the
23 detention centre, the number one Governor would come
24 round the halls, maybe once a fortnight or if he could
25 get in once a week, but sometimes it is harder, so maybe

1 twice a month he would come in the halls, he would speak
2 to staff, speak to maybe the pass men that were going
3 about, he would have a look at the hall, see was there,
4 cleanliness, that kind of thing, what state windows and
5 that were in.

6 Dan Gunn never did that. Not when I was there
7 anyway. I just feel you can't run a prison from
8 an office without having sort of some kind of contact in
9 the actual place where the people are.

10 Q. You say at paragraph 15 that Mr Gunn believed what
11 people below told him?

12 A. Aye.

13 Q. What kind of things did he believe, what are you
14 referring to here? Are you suggesting that some people
15 weren't telling him the truth and he was believing that?

16 A. No. I would say some people were telling Mr Gunn their
17 perception of people and he was just believing that.
18 There is a difference.

19 Q. You say perception of people, is that perception of
20 staff or perception of prisoners?

21 A. Well, one was me. One was me. You get APRs, you get
22 your annual appraisal report every year. I went from As
23 and Bs down to Cs, and the reason I was getting a C was
24 because I didn't agree with senior management, right.
25 But if I'm in a hall, running a hall that's got maybe X

1 amount of prisoners, 150, 200, whatever, and I've got 16
2 staff and I've got senior management coming down and
3 telling me what's going to be happening in the hall,
4 they didn't work in the hall and they don't know what
5 impact their decisions are making. So I've got
6 a choice, I can either stand there and shut my mouth and
7 just go along with the management view and it impacts
8 maybe worse on prisoners, impacts worse on staff,
9 impacts worse on both or I can open my mouth and I can
10 talk about it.

11 So I usually challenged that, so because
12 I challenged it, it didn't go down too well.

13 Q. Dan Gunn told the Inquiry that when he arrived in
14 Polmont, which is about 1996, he described it as having
15 a very authoritarian and hierarchical culture, both in
16 terms of staff and young people. Would you agree with
17 that?

18 A. Go and say that again.

19 Q. He said that he thought Polmont had a very authoritarian
20 and hierarchical culture, both in terms of staff and
21 young people.

22 A. As far as staff go, right, the Prison Service used to
23 be -- you could get transferred to any other part of the
24 country. You are going to find that the majority of
25 staff that were in Polmont hadn't worked anywhere else.

1 That doesn't put any slight on them, but if you've got
2 the same people and area, some people are going to have
3 more say than other people. Some people didn't want
4 involved in the say. Some people just are quite happy
5 to float around, they detached themselves or whatever.
6 You've always got somebody coming that's seen as they're
7 the person in that area.

8 As far as prisoners go, that's always been the way.
9 Depending on what your sentence is, you could be
10 liberated you could be whatever, but whatever hall
11 you're in, you're going to have somebody running that
12 hall, it's either Glasgow or Edinburgh and that's where
13 Aberdonians coming down, Dundonians coming down, folk
14 from the borders, they get quite tight, it's a bit
15 harder for them than Glasgow people or Edinburgh people.
16 That's between -- that's between -- that's in the prison
17 population.

18 Q. You also tell us that the relationship between staff and
19 prisoners at Polmont was generally okay, but it really
20 depended in what hall you were in.

21 I suspect what the main point you're making is --
22 you can tell me if I'm wrong -- that better conditions
23 led to a better relationship between staff and
24 prisoners, would that be right?

25 A. That's right, aye. If I'm a prisoner and I'm in the

1 hall, there's telly, there's phones access, my room's
2 warm, I've got sanitation, whatever, I'm going to feel
3 a lot happier than I am down in Argyll Hall, where
4 I've got broken windows, we're all watching the one
5 telly and you can't watch different channels, whatever.
6 It's different, so you are going to have resentment.

7 Q. You tell us at paragraph 16 that you used to box and
8 that was something that you used as a subject to build
9 a relationship with the boys; is that right?

10 A. Aye. I boxed for 20 years, just amateur, but you box in
11 areas that are classed as deprived. Because you come
12 from that area it doesn't mean to say that you didn't
13 deserve a chance. There is a lot of good boys that come
14 out of a lot of the areas, I boxed in a lot of the areas
15 and I used to get dog's abuse, I never got any issues
16 when you were finished and you were sitting down for
17 a pint or whatever. Never got any abuse then, but you
18 got abuse when you were in the ring but that was just
19 part of the -- it's just the craic, isn't it?

20 Q. Talking about boxing, was that something that helped you
21 build a rapport with the --

22 A. I actually got reported -- there was a laddie in from
23 Ayrshire and he was friendly with a family that I know
24 quite well through that, and I showed him a couple of
25 boxing videos on the computer and he must have been on

1 the phone and told his brother that he had seen
2 something on the computer and I got reported for all
3 that, but I didn't see -- it wasn't as if I was showing
4 him anything dodgy or anything like that, but they
5 should come and ask you why -- you are asked to run
6 a hall right and if I'm outside and I get a problem,
7 I can deal with that problem. If you're inside and you
8 have got a problem, the problem maybe goes from down
9 there to up there, because you've got no control over
10 that, so if you've got somebody that you can go and talk
11 to or relate a wee bit to or just vent off a wee bit
12 without getting yourself into bother it actually helps
13 but if you've got no relationship with anybody, right
14 ... prisons run on relationships. They don't just run
15 on prison rules. They also run on prisoner rules and
16 there's got to be a combination of the two of them.

17 The prison rules have got to be bent a wee bit, if
18 it comes down to visits, somebody's got a problem,
19 a further two or three visits whatever. If you've got
20 a spare visit sitting there, I don't see how you can't
21 give them a visit. So there's all different things and
22 wee things like that build up and they usually pay you
23 back, as in through behaviours or whatever, but you
24 need -- every jail has to run on staff relationships
25 with whoever's on that flat.

1 Q. You say at the end of paragraph 16 that going back
2 30 years no one really knew about mental health issues?
3 A. No, nobody knew about that. Everybody was just classed
4 as a bam or rocker. That is the jail terminology. It
5 doesn't mean to say the person is that, but nobody knew
6 about mental health 30 years ago.

7 Q. How did that old-fashioned view, being a bam or
8 something ... how did that perspective, that view,
9 effect how boys were treated at Polmont if a boy was
10 considered to be a bam?

11 A. That's how you had the top end and bottom end, because
12 people that were perceived as that didn't go up for --
13 they ended up being in the lower end all the time.

14 Like I says to you, it's not everybody -- the
15 majority of the guys in there were all right, you know
16 what I mean. They have different issues going on
17 outside, different issues that they can't cope with,
18 issues they can't cope with inside if you're getting --
19 Aberdonians coming down and they would get terrorised by
20 everybody, do you know what I mean?

21 LADY SMITH: Ms Rattray, might that be a sensible time to
22 take the afternoon break?

23 MS RATTRAY: Yes, my Lady.

24 LADY SMITH: If it would work for you I will take the
25 afternoon break now, just a short break for a cup of tea

1 or whatever and then we'll finish your evidence after
2 that.

3 (3.05 pm)

4 (A short break)

5 (3.15 pm)

6 LADY SMITH: 'Alan', I hope the break was of some help to
7 you. Is it okay if we carry on now?

8 A. Aye.

9 LADY SMITH: Thank you very much.

10 Ms Rattray.

11 MS RATTRAY: Thank you, my Lady.

12 Next, 'Alan', I'm going to ask you about something
13 you tell us in paragraph 19 of your statement. You tell
14 us what your overriding principle was as a manager.

15 A. Aye.

16 Q. You say your overriding principle was to look after your
17 staff?

18 A. That's right.

19 Q. You tell us that all you were worried about was looking
20 after them and making sure that at the end of the day
21 you came out with the same number of staff?

22 A. Aye. You phrased that a wee bit -- if I'm running
23 a hall, right, and I've got 16 staff or 12 staff, that's
24 my main priority at that time, right.

25 Next one down is running the regime for the

1 prisoners. I'm not just talking about Polmont here.
2 I've worked in a lot of adult jails, so I want to come
3 out with the same amount of staff I go in there with, so
4 they won't get assaulted or whatever, so that's what
5 I'm trying to say there.

6 So my main priority is looking after the staff, aye.

7 Q. Moving now to paragraph 25. You have told us something
8 about the sanitation in Polmont. At paragraph 25 you
9 are telling us in the old Polmont that showers were
10 communal. But in the old Nevis Hall there might be
11 cubicles and you had to watch for boys crawling below
12 the partition?

13 A. Sometimes, aye, that would happen.

14 Q. What was happening when boys were crawling under
15 a partition?

16 A. The majority of the time it would be for assault,
17 physical assault. But sometimes it would be somebody
18 trying to tamper with somebody in a sexual assault, so
19 although the cubicles had doors on them you could see
20 underneath and sometimes you would maybe get -- it
21 wasn't a regular occurrence, but you had to get a member
22 of staff there to keep an eye on that if somebody did
23 try to get through to either physically assault somebody
24 or assault another way.

25 Q. We've heard evidence generally from witnesses who were

1 young people in young offenders institutions that if
2 boys had fallen out or they had differences or there was
3 bullying, that sometimes it was the toilets that was the
4 place they tended to go to, to fight. Was that
5 a problem that you had to deal with in Polmont?

6 A. No. See, what you've got with young offenders, right,
7 adults will decide what's going to happen, right. It
8 more than likely will happen, but it will be in the view
9 of staff or somewhere, right. Young offenders react
10 instantly and you get fights in front of you, fights
11 everywhere, right.

12 I read a bit one of the boys says that staff were
13 getting them to fight in toilets and all the rest of it
14 in Argyll Hall. Argyll Hall is an old-style hall. You
15 can look from the bottom flat up to the top flat and see
16 everything, right. Although I was based in the bottom
17 flat, that's where my office was, anything that happened
18 on the third flat I would know about it, shouting
19 screaming, bawling. Folk didn't have fights without
20 shouting, bawling, whatever, right.

21 The bit where they're saying staff arranged fights
22 in toilets, right, I actually find that to be madness,
23 right, because a lot of laddies at that time -- a lot of
24 them didn't have the metal detectors and there were
25 a lot of weapons getting carried with young offenders.

1 To suggest that a member of staff would put two
2 individuals in a toilet to settle a dispute, to me is
3 kind of madness, because that member of staff could get
4 themselves locked up if somebody gets seriously injured,
5 so I just say that bit -- all I can speak about is about
6 the time that I'm there.

7 If I'm doing an early shift I can't speak about the
8 back shift. I'm not the back shift. But I've never
9 seen fight night like on the telly, because that's what
10 that's more or less saying.

11 Q. On the subject of violence, at paragraph 28 you say that
12 if people were violent outside prison they don't turn
13 into nice guys when they come into prison and probably
14 become more violent?

15 A. Aye.

16 Q. And other prisoners who aren't violent outside come into
17 prison and find they don't have a choice other than to
18 turn violent if they want to survive?

19 A. It's just my view. Not everybody that gets to jail is
20 getting to jail for violence. So you are maybe getting
21 somebody getting done for fraud or whatever, whatever
22 the crime, it's not violence, you have got other people
23 that are coming into jail for stabbings, attempted
24 murders, murders, whatever, right, because they get the
25 jail they don't turn into Mr Nice Guy. They're still

1 the same person as outside doing physical crimes.

2 And depending -- there is a lot of drug culture in
3 the jails. It's as bad now -- in my view it is as bad
4 now as it was 25 or 30 years ago. It's maybe worse
5 because they've got all the different synthetic drugs.
6 They come in in jerseys, different things.

7 The people that aren't violent if they're getting
8 pressured for violent people, they have got to stand up
9 for themselves. Either that or end up in protection or
10 they end up with injuries or they end up paying money
11 out through having to get relatives to send money to
12 folks so they don't get bullied. That's reality. So
13 nice people who are in for non-violent crimes will turn
14 to violence to protect themselves, and I don't blame
15 them.

16 Q. At paragraph 29 you tell us what happened in terms of
17 punishment and the process of putting a boy on report
18 and you tell us in all your time at Polmont you think
19 you've only ever put three boys on report?

20 A. Aye.

21 Q. You then say if prison officers are doing their job
22 properly, putting prisoners on report should be very
23 rare?

24 A. Aye, unless it's to do with an assault in front of them,
25 they've no choice. If I'm on the landing or wherever

1 I am, or whoever is on the landing, there is a fight in
2 front of them, they can't just say, "Right, we will just
3 put that to the side, that didn't happen", because that
4 could escalate to a stabbing or whatever, so they've got
5 to get put on report, right.

6 What I mean is in normal context, the prison
7 staff -- you see it all the time, the staff trying to
8 interact, so if I go to somebody -- everybody has off
9 days, right. So if I go to somebody's door and open his
10 door and I say, "Right, this is happening, get your
11 clothes on", "Get yourself fucked, that's not
12 happening", right, I'm not going to go like, "You're on
13 report". I've got to interact a bit to see what has
14 happened there, because the guy has already been all
15 right the previous day or whatever, so you get ups and
16 downs in prisons, because they're -- like I says to you,
17 wee problems outside are bigger problems inside.

18 Q. When you say that if prison officers are doing their job
19 properly, do you mean that if they build a positive
20 relationship with the prisoners then there's less likely
21 to be --

22 A. No, I'm saying I've worked in eight jails and all the
23 staff try and build a relationship. You can't work in
24 a jail without having a relationship, right. You've got
25 to have a bit of come and go, you have got to get a bit

1 of respect for each other, right. That's the way it
2 revolves.

3 You can't have -- me, as a member of staff, I can't
4 go in and just lay the law down and say, "This is what's
5 happening, this is what's happening". It's not
6 happening. You are just getting bother, so you have got
7 to come and go a wee bit.

8 Relationships with people -- sometimes staff have no
9 option but to put somebody on report, whether it's drugs
10 or a fight or whatever, but other areas staff do make
11 leeways and that's if they're doing their job right.
12 It's not right just to impose, report, report, report,
13 because that's not going to build any relationship, bar
14 a bad relationship.

15 Q. I think you tell us while you are the First-line
16 Manager, and therefore much of what you do is in the
17 office, at paragraph 38 you tell us that you would go up
18 to the flats in the morning to make sure they were
19 staffed. Throughout the day you would be back at
20 various times depending on what was happening. But you
21 would really only go back to the landings if there was
22 any issue?

23 A. Aye.

24 Q. If there was something kicking off between a prisoner
25 and a member of staff or something like that, that would

1 bring you up to the landing?

2 A. Aye, but see, during the day, if your office is based
3 downstairs, right, you're not in that office all shift,
4 right. You should go up in the morning to make sure
5 that if you are early shift, make sure the correct staff
6 are on that landing, right, and if you're one short you
7 can actually wait and do the count with them and then
8 they can leave them locked up if you have a member of
9 staff running late or somebody is feeling sick or
10 whatever, right.

11 Throughout the day you would maybe go to go up with
12 registered mail, you've maybe got an orderly room to do
13 in the flats. You could see any reason to go up, you
14 may have prisoners asking to see you, somebody that is
15 refusing to come to the door, whatever, maybe got
16 a smashup, so you should be -- you are not just stuck in
17 an office, you are kind of mobile.

18 Q. You tell us that you've never received any complaints
19 from the boys about any of your staff and you've never
20 had any boy approach you and try and report any abuse to
21 you personally?

22 A. Well, I've never had any paperwork reports, but some
23 boys can't read. The majority can, but there are some
24 that unfortunately they can't.

25 I've never had somebody come up and say to me, "So

1 and so's done this to me. That's happened. This has
2 happened". I've not had that.

3 That doesn't mean to say it's not happened, but
4 I've not -- if I'd had a complaint off somebody saying
5 you've done this or you've done that, I would have to
6 then put a paper in to say that I've heard that
7 complaint, I would expect then -- I would expect for
8 that complaint then to be either investigated or passed
9 on to the police, right.

10 They've got CCTV in the majority of the halls. The
11 old jail just had it in the cells, north, west and south
12 wing I think had the CCTV, so you could get somebody
13 looking at that to get their opinion, but looking at
14 CCTV doesn't give you the full situation, but it gives
15 you a good idea.

16 Q. Right.

17 Moving to paragraph 58, you say that in your service
18 you've had a couple of complaints made about you?

19 A. I've had more than a couple.

20 Q. I'll clarify that. Sorry, my fault, 'Alan'.

21 It's under the heading of "Allegations of abuse by
22 children or young people". You say that you've had
23 a couple of complaints made about you, they were
24 investigated by the police and thrown out. That you are
25 not going into specific complaints but you say that if

1 you are doing your job properly and someone decides to
2 slash or attack you, you are not going to stand there
3 and let it happen?

4 A. The majority of my complaints have been in adult jails,
5 right, but I have had a couple in young offenders as
6 well.

7 What I'm saying about the slash -- the attempted
8 stabbing on me in Shotts, I'm not going to stand there
9 and let somebody stab me. I've got to defend myself.
10 Excessive force, I think you've got somebody trying to
11 stab you, what do you deem as excessive force?
12 I'm doing what I've got to do to make sure I don't get
13 stabbed.

14 Q. You have been asked from paragraph 59 to comment about
15 your knowledge about other staff members. There is
16 someone which we were given a name of HJU [REDACTED] and
17 you tell us that you knew an HJU [REDACTED], whose nickname
18 was "HJU [REDACTED]", is that right?

19 A. I got asked -- see this is what you're asking me, right,
20 I think this is unfair to everybody, right, because
21 you're asking me about a personal opinion on certain
22 people.

23 LADY SMITH: 'Alan', I'm not asking for your opinion --

24 A. You are asking for my opinion.

25 LADY SMITH: No, I'm not. Give me a chance, I haven't asked

1 yet.

2 What I'm interested in finding out from you is what
3 you knew about things that are said to have happened,
4 either because you saw them or somebody else told you
5 about them. I'm not asking for your views or opinions.

6 A. Lady Smith, when I was first asked this I was asked
7 opinions on people, probably when I gave my interview --
8 I'm not trying to argue with you, I'm saying to you when
9 I was asked about this, I was asked my opinions, "what
10 do you think of this and that?" And --

11 LADY SMITH: Thank you for explaining that, and I don't want
12 you to worry about this, but what today I'm interested
13 in and I think Ms Rattray is about to ask you is
14 anything you can tell me about what you remember seeing
15 or hearing about, because I can look at evidence of
16 somebody saying, "Well, I was told such and such". That
17 is all, so don't worry about me asking you for your
18 judgment on anybody or your grading of them, whether
19 they were gold star, silver star or no star.

20 I'm not looking for that. I think I have my
21 prediction right with where Ms Rattray is going.

22 Does that help?

23 MS RATTRAY: It's simply facts, it's simply things that you
24 know or don't know.

25 I think you are able to tell us when asked about

1 this person, that as far as you were aware he served all
2 his time at Polmont?

3 A. Yes.

4 Q. He was there both times that you were there?

5 A. Yeah.

6 Q. You say he was a couple of years younger than you and he
7 was a gallery officer when you were in Argyll Hall?

8 A. Mm hmm.

9 Q. Was he one of your staff below you who, you were line
10 manager to?

11 A. I'm pretty sure he was the top flat.

12 Q. You say he was in the top level and you were in charge
13 of him?

14 A. Mm hmm.

15 Q. You speak about you think you heard anyway that there
16 was some kind of allegation made against him at one
17 stage?

18 A. I think that was the second time I was there, there was
19 an allegation but I wasn't working with him the second
20 time. But there was an allegation the second time.
21 I'm pretty sure him and another member of staff were
22 suspended for I think four or five years. It was
23 investigated by the police and it was found there was no
24 case to answer and the Governor at that time decided to
25 transfer them out the jail anyway, which was like --

1 when there is no case to answer but there's a punishment
2 anyway, and I'm sure both members of staff resigned.

3 Q. You go on to tell us that as far as you're concerned
4 from what you know and have seen or heard, you have
5 never seen this person acting in a way that is abusive
6 towards a young prisoner?

7 A. Well, no, I've never seen him doing anything that he
8 shouldn't be doing. He was a bit flamboyant, loud, he
9 had a good rapport with the prisoners. He used to run
10 the football team for the prisoners. He spent a lot of
11 his own time coming in and helping them with their
12 football team and that.

13 The majority of the laddies that I had seen him
14 interacting with, it was a good interaction. There was
15 a bit of slugging going on. It was going both ways, but
16 there was -- I mean, slugging, there was a bit of verbal
17 joking abuse going on between both, but it was all ...
18 it never caused any issues and that was it.

19 I'm saying to you I can only tell you what I see.

20 Q. Of course, of course.

21 I'm not actually going to ask you about any of the
22 other names that you have told us about in your
23 statement for the purposes of today.

24 I'm going to move on to the specific allegations or
25 at least the allegations which appear to have been made

1 against you.

2 A. There are two.

3 Q. Two of them, that's right.

4 Before I move on to that, I'll simply remind you of
5 the warning that Lady Smith gave you --

6 A. That's fine.

7 Q. -- at the beginning.

8 At your statement, paragraph 64, there is reference
9 to a young person, who was a young person at the time,
10 and this is around 2001 it appears and that person has
11 a pseudonym and that pseudonym is 'Nick'. You know the
12 real name of 'Nick' but for today's purposes we'll
13 simply refer to him as 'Nick'.

14 A. Aye.

15 Q. There is a quotation of what 'Nick' has said to the
16 Inquiry in his statement set out at paragraph 64. The
17 first thing he says is:

18 "I saw some boys getting really battered by staff,
19 not the same staff who battered me."

20 To your knowledge, were any boys in Polmont battered
21 by staff?

22 A. Well, I'm -- the only boys I've seen with injuries are
23 boys that have been restrained.

24 LADY SMITH: Injuries apart, did you ever see boys being
25 subjected to anything that could be called "battering"?

1 A. No, your Honour.

2 LADY SMITH: No.

3 Ms Rattray.

4 MS RATTRAY: You talk about injuries in the context of

5 restraint.

6 A. Aye.

7 Q. Is it possible that in a fast-moving and

8 adrenaline-filled situation a staff member might have

9 used excessive force?

10 A. It's possible, aye.

11 Q. In the next sentence you will see that 'Nick' says that

12 he saw a staff member, apparently with your surname or

13 a surname similar to your surname, battering a boy.

14 A. Mm hmm.

15 Q. Did you ever batter a boy?

16 A. I've restrained plenty of boys, but I have never

17 battered one, no.

18 Q. Do you think that you've ever used the control and

19 restraint techniques to restrain a boy in such a way

20 that an onlooker, another boy, might have thought the

21 boy was being battered?

22 A. I would think somebody that has not been trained in

23 control and restraint might see control and restraint to

24 be excessive, right. But like I says to you earlier,

25 you've got your initial out-of-control moment but even

1 at that there is things you can't do -- it's not
2 a street fight. It is an out-of-control moment, but
3 it's not a street fight where you can just do what you
4 want, right.

5 Somebody that's not trained -- that bit there "put
6 your arms up your back", initially that does happen in
7 control and restraint and then the arm comes through to
8 the front, right, that does happen.

9 That bit there, "They would run into the doors when
10 they were taking you into segregation", I've never seen
11 staff run into doors, but I have seen boys hit doors,
12 right. They've not hit the doors. They've hit the door
13 through the restraint and the struggle and they have hit
14 doors. The boys have not hit the door, it's the staff
15 that's controlling them but it's not been intentional.

16 Q. Another thing that 'Nick' says is:

17 "If boys smashed up their cells the staff would go
18 in one cell at a time and you just heard boys
19 screaming."

20 A. I must have worked in a different place, I think.

21 Q. If a boy was in the middle of smashing up a cell for
22 example, and if there was a restraint going on, is it
23 possible that a boy would scream?

24 A. Oh, aye. During your refresher course, I've not got
25 much flexibility and you get -- you would take turns

1 getting used as a dummy and other staff would restrain
2 staff to put locks on and different things. I've no
3 flexibility, so I would be screaming, right. But he's
4 saying -- I can't comment on what he's saying he has
5 seen, right, but somebody with burst lips and black eyes
6 and a sore mouth after a restraint or maybe been
7 fighting with somebody and been restrained, you wouldn't
8 have black eyes at that stage, because black eyes take
9 a few days to come through. But you might have burst
10 lips and a sore mouth --

11 LADY SMITH: 'Alan', Ms Rattray wasn't asking you about the
12 black eyes or the lips. We were just asking you to
13 think about whether if a boy had smashed up his cell and
14 staff had gone in, did you ever hear boys screaming,
15 that is all. I think you said "yes", didn't you?

16 A. That would be a "yes", aye, but if it was a restraint,
17 if it was a restraint you would take a minimum of three
18 staff in that cell. You wouldn't have one member of
19 staff doing a restraint. One member of staff doesn't do
20 a restraint.

21 LADY SMITH: I don't think it was being suggested it was
22 just one, it was staff in general. You could hear
23 screaming from a cell where staff were having to go in
24 because a boy had been smashing it up, yes?

25 A. Aye ...

1 LADY SMITH: That's all we were checking.

2 A. Sometimes it's better to just shut the door, depending
3 on what he's got in the cell. If he's got glass or
4 different things. Sometimes you're better to shut the
5 door, because if he's done a smashup, right, I'm not
6 going to put staff in that haven't got protective
7 equipment, so the door will get shut, right.

8 LADY SMITH: Shut with just him in the cell?

9 A. Aye, if I had somebody that's done a smashup and they
10 have got glass or a weapon, the door would get shut.
11 You wouldn't put staff in to restrain that person at
12 that time. You would have to get them to put the
13 protective gear on, right, the arm bits, their helmets,
14 the shield and all that. That would all get done. Then
15 you would take -- if you videoed it would you take --
16 you would ask the staff their name and number, right,
17 their P reference number. Right, you tell them -- that
18 would go down as a planned removal, that would be
19 videoed, if possible, right.

20 The door would then be opened, right and you could
21 sometimes -- the door sometimes comes back if you take
22 the bit off, right, and your shield man would go in with
23 the two behind him and basically whoever was in front,
24 the shield would get smashed, right. And they would get
25 restrained from there.

1 MS RATTRAY: You mentioned injuries, so when 'Nick' says:
2 "I saw boys with burst lips, black eyes and sore
3 mouths."
4 Is it possible that at some time when he was there
5 in Polmont there would be boys who had these kind of
6 injuries?
7 A. I've seen people with injuries, aye.
8 Q. You have already told us about staff putting the arm
9 right up the back as part of a restraint technique and
10 about doors.
11 Is there anything further you would like to say in
12 response to the allegation that is made by 'Nick'?
13 A. No, I'm not saying he's not seen that. I'm not saying
14 he's never seen that, no. If you break it down there's
15 bits that can be answered, but if it was a restraint you
16 would have more than one person in that cell.
17 Q. I'm now going to move on to paragraph 68. This is in
18 relation to the second allegation, you know who this
19 person is but today we're going to call him by his
20 pseudonym, which is 'Brendan'.
21 A. That is fine.
22 Q. Do you remember 'Brendan'?
23 A. I've had him in two establishments, aye. I had him in
24 Polmont and I had him in Shotts.
25 Q. I think you say in your statement that he was volatile,

1 but you thought he was all right?

2 A. Aye, he assaulted about three members of my staff, but
3 as a lad he was all right, aye. It's one of them
4 things.

5 Q. At paragraph 69 there is a quotation from the statement
6 that 'Brendan' gave to the Inquiry and like the last
7 time I'll go through it sentence by sentence, so that
8 you can have a chance to respond:

9 "There was another Senior Present Officer ..."

10 But that is in fact a typing error, in his statement
11 he says:

12 "There was another Senior Prison Officer [here he
13 gives your name] and he too was always willing to beat
14 up prisoners."

15 A. Right, aye.

16 Q. What is your response to that allegation?

17 A. I've been involved in dozens of restraints with YOs,
18 right, who have perhaps been -- the response to whatever
19 is happening, right. Their actions have caused them to
20 be restrained. If that's what he's saying -- if he's
21 saying I went into somebody's room and just beat them
22 up, that didn't happen, right.

23 But, aye, there's been dozens of restraints.

24 I've been involved with restraints on 'Brendan'. He
25 assaulted one of my staff because his dinner wasn't warm

1 enough.

2 Other ones, I can't remember what it was about, but
3 there have been about three restraints that he was
4 involved in.

5 He was a volatile boy. I had him in Shotts. He
6 spoke to me in Shotts. Didn't mention -- didn't cast up
7 nothing or whatever. I class it as what's -- if he's
8 been volatile in one place, then two or three years
9 later he's older and matured a bit, what's the point of
10 bringing up the past?

11 Q. 'Brendan' says:

12 "I have heard that he was transferred from loads of
13 prisons following complaints about his violence."

14 A. Mm hmm.

15 Q. We know elsewhere in your statement you have helped us
16 by giving us some of your history. I wouldn't expect
17 that 'Brendan' would know what is right or wrong about
18 that. Is it possible that there has been some rumours,
19 which are wrong perhaps, which have circulated and he's
20 heard things about you?

21 A. You always get rumours. I've worked in eight jails.
22 Seven -- six of my moves have been through my own
23 choice, right ... sorry, five of my moves have been
24 through main choice. Two of my moves, one I got moved
25 by Polmont senior management, right, through no choice

1 of mine, right. They deemed I'd done something totally
2 unacceptable. I can tell you about that if you want.

3 My second move was brought at my request to move
4 from Shotts to Polmont, due to what I deemed Shotts
5 senior management had done to me.

6 Q. Indeed, you tell us about that in your statement.

7 'Brendan' then says:

8 "He used to be a boxer and used to go on about the
9 number of fights he had won."

10 A. Aye.

11 Q. We know that indeed you were a boxer and in fact you
12 used the subject of boxing to build up --

13 A. I used to speak to the laddies about it, about their
14 areas and different things, if they knew people, aye.

15 The bit about me being punch drunk, maybe, aye.

16 Q. Another thing he says was:

17 "He was about 50 ..."

18 A. Mm hmm.

19 Q. If I'm correct, in 2001 you would be about 40, is that
20 right?

21 A. 2001?

22 Q. Yes.

23 A. I would be 39, aye. Coming up 40, aye.

24 Q. Moving on to another thing:

25 "One time he was searching me when I was in

1 segregation."

2 A. Yes.

3 Q. Just in that sense alone, was there ever an occasion
4 when you had to search 'Brendan'?

5 A. Right, if somebody is coming into the segregation unit,
6 they get strip searched, right, that's to make sure
7 there's no weapons on them or drugs, right. Regardless
8 of what they've done in their hall before they come to
9 the segregation unit, they've got to get strip searched,
10 right.

11 At the other segregation units I've worked in it's
12 always been the same. If I was on duty the day that he
13 came in, he would have been strip searched and it's
14 usually -- it would be a three-man team that strip
15 searches him in case they become volatile, because you
16 two -- two persons didn't make a three-man team so you
17 need three people there. So when I was in the
18 segregation block I was a supervisor and I had three
19 staff with me, so there may be four of us doing that
20 strip search.

21 Q. He says:

22 "A few prison officers would come in to search us
23 before we were allowed out for exercise."

24 Is that right, was that part of the procedure?

25 A. No, I think he's getting mixed up with the new Nevis

1 Hall, which was the hall that senior management took
2 about ten out of each hall which they deemed as
3 troublemakers, right. Some of them were, some of them
4 weren't, but they all got put in the one basket. They
5 put 50 in the new hall, because he's getting his story
6 mixed up a wee bit here.

7 If you're in the segregation unit, if you're getting
8 searched, are you talking searched or rubdown?

9 Q. He goes on to say that the prison officers regularly did
10 this and they're supposed to just pat you down --

11 A. Right --

12 Q. You would call it a rubdown?

13 A. He's talking about a rubdown, right. I only had
14 37 years' service before I finished, but I never patted
15 nobody down. You put their hands on their arms. You
16 didn't go, pat, pat, pat. It's called a search. To do
17 that search right it can take at least over a minute,
18 right. If you are emptying a hall to go to work you've
19 not got time to do proper rubdowns and it's a quick
20 flick, right.

21 The bit he's saying I was touching his private area,
22 you didn't go nobody near anybody's genitalia, right.
23 You are talking about sexual assault. You are talking
24 about police. That's not happening, so you start at the
25 top, you rub -- you put your hands across their arms and

1 down the sides, one hand goes down the back and you rub
2 the two legs down the outside. That's it.

3 Q. 'Alan', is it possible he may present this in a manner
4 of being a sexual assault, but is it possible that there
5 is another view of this? For example, given you say
6 that 'Brendan' was a violent prisoner and had assaulted
7 staff on various occasions, is it possible that the
8 rubdown was a thorough rubdown to make sure he wasn't
9 carrying a weapon and he's taken it the wrong way, is
10 that possible?

11 A. Listen, see how I'm saying he's volatile and that,
12 right. He was volatile but he was actually quite
13 a likeable character at the same time. It's just his
14 make up, right.

15 If you're doing a rubdown what you are saying is
16 correct, right, but you're not patting, right. It's --
17 your hand on -- over there, over there, and you go down
18 this side, one hand down the back in case there is
19 anything put down the back of the trousers and you do
20 the legs.

21 You don't go anywhere near the groin area, right.
22 If you've got a metal detector you could use that, but
23 we never used metal detectors there.

24 Q. I'm wondering is there a danger if a thorough rubdown
25 didn't go nearer the groin area that it would be

1 possible for a prisoner to conceal a razor or a nail in
2 their underwear?

3 A. Well, what you're saying is the reason I got put out of
4 Polmont in the first place. That is the reason I got
5 put out of Polmont. I was in the New Nevis, which was
6 50 young offenders that senior management deemed to be
7 troublemakers, so they took them all out of the normal
8 halls and they put them all into this hall called New
9 Nevis and they got nothing. The only thing you can't
10 take off somebody is the visits. It doesn't matter if
11 they're in the cells or whatever, they're still going to
12 get visits with their family which is only right, right.

13 But everything else, wages, rec, different things,
14 that came off them. So you had 50 laddies that have
15 came from normal halls, all get put into the one hall.
16 They had nothing and I got information one day when they
17 were going out for exercise there is -- the only time
18 you wouldn't put them out at exercise at that time if it
19 was inclement weather, now that's changed if it's
20 pouring with rain they still get allowed out right,
21 staff have got jackets. But at that time if it was
22 inclement weather you didn't get out.

23 But it was dry that day and I got information that
24 there was going to be an Edinburgh-Glasgow fight in the
25 exercise yard and it was supposed to be quite serious

1 and I phoned my Governor and asked my Governor if
2 I could cancel the exercise and told him what the
3 information was. I got told, "No, it's legislation,
4 they've got to go out for an hour's exercise", I found
5 that madness, right.

6 So due to me having that information, and the person
7 that gave me the information was a prisoner, I found
8 them all right, I believed the information, I made sure
9 all my staff had their sticks with them before they went
10 out, because some staff didn't carry sticks. They would
11 become a bit blase about it and didn't want to walk
12 about with it, so I made sure they all had their batons
13 with them and we went outside and the Glasgow teamed
14 off, the Edinburgh teamed off and they all pulled out
15 blades and set about each other, right.

16 My choice at that point was stand back, didn't tell
17 my staff to do nothing. Let somebody get stabbed. Let
18 somebody get slashed, maybe worse. I told my staff to
19 draw their sticks and told my staff to stop It.
20 A couple of prisoners got injured. One of my staff got
21 slashed and I got transferred to Shotts for that.

22 If I hadn't told my staff to draw their sticks and
23 somebody had got killed or a serious injury, I was
24 getting the sack anyway, so I didn't regret what I done.

25 Q. Moving on to paragraph 76, 'Brendan' says something

1 else. He says and you have answered this really, but
2 I'll put it to you anyway:

3 "Boys were encouraged to fight each other and as
4 long as it happened in the toilet area that was fine.
5 The prison officers would just watch from their office.
6 Before you started fighting you would just go in and
7 tell them that you were going to have a fight in a few
8 minutes and that was allowed. It was all sanctioned by
9 the management and I'm saying that because they did it
10 too. They encouraged the others to do it."

11 I think in fairness you have already spoken about
12 that?

13 A. That's madness.

14 Q. That wasn't something which happened as far as you're
15 aware?

16 A. It didn't happen in any hall that I was in, no.

17 Q. Have you ever seen any abuse of boys or young people in
18 any of the places you've worked?

19 A. Who?

20 Q. Have you ever seen any abuse of boys or young people by
21 staff in any of the places you have worked?

22 A. I've seen a couple of restraints that have been a bit
23 excessive, and I've replaced somebody, aye. I think
24 that's where the adrenaline and different things, but
25 I've seen it maybe been a bit excessive and then have

1 had to replace them, aye.

2 Q. Is there any other abuse that you've perhaps heard
3 about?

4 A. (Pause)

5 There was one member of staff got investigated at
6 Polmont who was on the outside patrol, who was allegedly
7 doing something sexual to somebody in a block, and then
8 a friend put in a complaint and they looked at the CCTV
9 and I think they got chucked out. I don't know,
10 I wasn't there. I can't -- but I know the prisoner was
11 concerned about it. I don't know what happened in the
12 end. You would need to speak to senior management about
13 that.

14 Q. Moving on to what you tell us under the heading of
15 "Lessons and hopes", we have what you say there in your
16 statement. I think you mention, you say at paragraph 82
17 that you have sustained many injuries and have scars on
18 your face?

19 A. I've got a couple, aye.

20 Q. That's from incidents that have arisen during the course
21 of your employment?

22 A. Mm hmm. The Scottish Prison Service, I had a good job
23 for 37 years, right, but you get used, you get used by
24 certain management, I've never asked to work in
25 a certain area. I've always been put in that area,

1 because this one can't cope ... that's not good, or
2 they're not doing too well at Peterhead, you need to
3 tighten that up. I've never asked to go and work
4 anywhere. I get put places.

5 Not being disrespectful to the prisoners that they
6 class at bottom end, that's where I get to work all the
7 time. You can't help where you're brought up or you
8 live or whatever and I've lost faith in Scottish Prison
9 Service years ago, right.

10 I've had -- I got dismissed after 37 years for
11 pulling a prisoner off a fence that was demonstrating.
12 The member of staff next to me, he pulled a different
13 prisoner off the fence. He didn't get dismissed because
14 his feet weren't off the floor, because he was about six
15 foot ten. So if I had been six foot ten I wouldn't have
16 got sacked. But I don't put it down to that, I put it
17 down to ... I've been -- I've had stuff going for years
18 with senior management, I've put complaints in against
19 senior management, they just shut up shop on you. So
20 the way I look at it is if I can't get a complaint in
21 against senior management, the boys haven't got much
22 chance.

23 Q. At paragraph 89, 'Alan', you tell us that later on when
24 you are at Polmont they introduced something called
25 listeners. What was that?

1 A. That came from the adults. That's quite a good thing,
2 that is other prisoners. So if you've got
3 a young offender or an adult prisoner and they've got
4 problems, they maybe don't want to talk to a member of
5 staff about it because maybe a fear of getting sued or
6 something like that, so they train up these other
7 prisoners or young offenders as listeners and if I was
8 in the cells for example and I got -- somebody requested
9 to speak to a listener, I would get a listener up. The
10 listener would get searched. Oh he has done nothing
11 wrong, he would get searched to make sure he's not
12 bringing in any contraband into the segregation unit,
13 right.

14 He would then get put in a room with that person
15 that's asked to speak to a listener and it might be
16 advice thing he's looking for or maybe somebody to give
17 his story to or whatever and you would maybe give that
18 45 minutes or an hour. The listener would come out.
19 You put the other person away and back into their room
20 and the listener would tell you, "Aye, he's all right"
21 or, "Can I come back up in two days and see that
22 everything is ... that things are going okay?" That
23 kind of thing.

24 It's quite a good thing. It can get abused, like
25 anything, but you can't just stop it because one person

1 abuses it. I mean maybe they bring something up through
2 the hall banked to give to somebody to smoke later on,
3 but that's just life.

4 Q. Elsewhere in your statement in this section you suggest
5 various things that could change and one of those things
6 that you suggest is that you think prison officers
7 should wear bodycam?

8 A. Certainly, aye, aye.

9 Q. I think you say that that would be a good way to protect
10 both the officer from false allegations and also protect
11 the prisoner from any heavy-handed treatment by prison
12 officers?

13 A. Aye. Bodycams in my opinion would be really good. It
14 would stop false accusations going on. It would also
15 help real allegations going in and for the prison member
16 of staff it would also stop them putting false
17 allegations in.

18 There used to be a charge for prisoners putting
19 false allegations in, then that got removed, I think it
20 was about 2000 or something and all allegations shot
21 through the roof then after that.

22 You could look at it as if you put -- it was maybe
23 stopping people putting genuine allegations in as well,
24 so it got removed ...

25 No, I think the bodycams would be a step forward for

1 I'll rise now until 10 o'clock tomorrow morning.

2 Thank you, all.

3 (4.03 pm)

4 (The Inquiry adjourned until 10.00 am on
5 Thursday, 13 December 2023)

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