

Tuesday, 7 November 2023

1

2 (10.00 am)

3 LADY SMITH: Good morning. We return to oral evidence in
4 Phase 8 of our case study hearings, looking into the
5 provision for children of residential accommodation,
6 also for young offenders and young persons in need of
7 care and protection.

8 I think the plan is we'll have two in-person
9 witnesses today. Maybe some time for read-ins. We'll
10 see. Maybe not.

11 I'm told that our first witness is ready; is that
12 correct, Mr Peoples?

13 MR PEOPLES: Yes. The first witness is ready. I propose to
14 call him at this stage. He is 'Frankie'.

15 LADY SMITH: Thank you.

16 'Frankie' (sworn)

17 LADY SMITH: 'Frankie', a couple of things, just before we
18 start your evidence.

19 That red folder in front of you has a copy of your
20 written statement in it. Thank you very much for
21 providing that. That means I already have a lot of
22 evidence from you. It's really helpful to have that in
23 advance.

24 Otherwise, 'Frankie', if you need a break at any
25 other time you must let me know, please.

1 A. Yes, ma'am.

2 LADY SMITH: If it works for you, it will work for me and I
3 will break if you need it. If you have any questions,
4 speak up. We want to hear them. If you don't
5 understand what we're asking you, that's our fault, not
6 yours, so tell us if we don't make sense, will you?

7 Otherwise, I want to do anything I can to help you
8 give your evidence as comfortably as possible, so you
9 help us to help you if you need anything.

10 A. Thank you.

11 LADY SMITH: I'll hand over to Mr Peoples now and he'll take
12 it from there; is that okay?

13 A. No problem.

14 LADY SMITH: Thanks.

15 Questions from Mr Peoples

16 MR PEOPLES: My Lady. Good morning, 'Frankie'.

17 A. Good morning.

18 Q. As her Ladyship has said, you have provided the Inquiry
19 with a statement in advance of giving evidence today and
20 can I, for the record, just give our identification for
21 that statement before I ask you some questions. The
22 reference is WIT-1-000001140.

23 You do have the statement in front of you,
24 'Frankie'; can I begin by asking you to turn to the last
25 page of the statement, page 54? Can you confirm that

1 you have signed your statement to the Inquiry?

2 A. Yes, I have.

3 Q. You say there, at paragraph 300:

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 A. Most definitely.

9 Q. Can I go back to the beginning of the statement?

10 I'm going to take you through the statement. I'm not
11 going to look at everything in it. I'll ask you some
12 questions about places you were in care and also about
13 prison establishments that you spent time in as a child.

14 I think you tell us, in paragraph 1, that you were
15 born in 1948.

16 A. Yes.

17 Q. You were born in Glasgow?

18 A. Yeah.

19 Q. So far as your life before going into care is concerned,
20 you tell us a bit about that at paragraphs 2 to 4.

21 I'll just ask you a few questions, if I may?

22 As I young child, you were living in the east end of
23 Glasgow, I think in the Dalmarnock and Bridgeton area?

24 A. Yes.

25 Q. You are one of five children?

1 A. Yeah.

2 Q. You tell us a little bit about your parents in this
3 section; can you tell us just a little bit about your
4 father?

5 A. My father was an alcoholic, drunk every day, and my
6 mother -- constant fighting in the house. Constant.

7 Q. Was that something you have a memory of still?

8 A. Yes, I do. Yeah.

9 Q. How did that affect you?

10 A. I suppose it affected my behaviour later on in life and
11 led me on a kind of more violent side of things because
12 that had been the norm for me in my formative years.

13 Q. How were you treated by your mother and father?

14 A. Sometimes cruelly by my father, sometimes cruelly.

15 Q. Did that involve violence?

16 A. Well, cold baths -- you didn't have baths then, in the
17 sink. I do recall once getting hit with a carpet
18 beater, the old bamboo carpet beater on the arm. And
19 bruising -- and later on the bruising, I became quite
20 proud of the bruising because it was like a sergeant's
21 stripes on my arm.

22 Q. I think you say, in paragraph 4, that you look back and
23 I suppose you remember good times and bad times at that
24 time?

25 A. [REDACTED]

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4

Also lived next to the railway, which was about 100 yards from the close mouth, and that would be my playground, jumping in between trains and things like that, and underneath them and things like that, playing commandos, et cetera, et cetera. So that was my formative years.

10

Q. In those formative years; were you running about a lot outside in areas you lived in?

11

12

A. Yeah. Were never really had much TV at that time, so you had to do something else.

13

14

Q. Were you running about with other boys?

15

A. Yeah, maybe two or three from your immediate area, not outside. We had a close and maybe the same block of flats, if you like, same tenements.

16

17

18

Q. Did you meet them again later in some of the places that you tell us about?

19

20

A. Well, you never forget them. You never forget them.

21

Some of them you would see. Certain types, you would see later on, you know what I mean.

22

23

Q. If I can move on in your statement, you have a section dealing with Larchgrove, I think it was a remand home then?

24

25

1 A. On Edinburgh Road, yes.

2 Q. Yes. You tell us, in paragraph 5, that you went there
3 in about 1958. Can I perhaps say this: we have some
4 records that we have managed to get hold of and they
5 tell us that you, on [REDACTED] 1958, received 14 days'
6 detention in Larchgrove for theft by house breaking?

7 A. Yes, that would have been one of the places we used to
8 frequent, me and my colleague. I think we got nicked
9 for stealing a bicycle or something; do you know what
10 I mean? I recall it.

11 Q. I'm going to ask you a few questions about Larchgrove,
12 but you weren't in there a long time?

13 A. No.

14 MR PEOPLES: I just maybe want to take a few points from
15 you.

16 LADY SMITH: Can we just note, at that point, you must have
17 been about 10 years old.

18 A. Something like that, ma'am.

19 LADY SMITH: Thanks.

20 It was 1958.

21 MR PEOPLES: I think you were just nine, but getting close
22 to 10.

23 LADY SMITH: Depends what time of the year.

24 MR PEOPLES: You were around 10 or approaching it at that
25 stage.

1 Although I think you say it was probably towards the
2 latter end of 1958, I think we know from the records
3 perhaps it was a wee bit earlier than that, [REDACTED] that
4 you spent time there.

5 A. Yes.

6 Q. In Larchgrove, you were put in a dormitory?

7 A. Yeah.

8 Q. Do you remember how many boys were in your dorm?

9 A. Several, several. Yeah, it'd be several. Yeah.

10 Q. Can you remember sort of what age they were?

11 A. They would be -- well, you would start off about my age,
12 eight, nine, and maybe up to 17, I believe. I think
13 that would be the age group, something like that. So
14 there would be older boys, yeah.

15 Q. In your statement, you describe at paragraph 14, on
16 page 3, that Larchgrove was quite a tough place at that
17 time; can you just tell us why you describe it in that
18 way?

19 A. You wouldn't really know most of the boys. But, because
20 of the various age groups, you would be intimidated by
21 the older ones from different areas that you didn't
22 know; you know what I mean? They would already have
23 previous reputations of being this, that, or the next
24 thing. So you would be kind of -- in that environment,
25 you look up to them and be frightened of them, but

1 playing a game with them, to tell you the truth.

2 Q. Was there a sort of hierarchy then?

3 A. Always a hierarchy.

4 Q. Was there any bullying by older boys of younger boys?

5 A. In every institution I've been in there's always been
6 bullying, and it was always the case, you were -- on
7 some occasions, you had to -- not bully, but you had to
8 stand up for yourself. You had to go to the extremes,
9 because boys can be very cruel. And girls, and
10 children, can be very, very cruel, and you soon learn to
11 adapt. Well, I did, anyway.

12 Q. I may come back to that, because you tell us more about
13 that later on.

14 But already you have a situation where there is
15 a hierarchy and, to some extent, bullying goes on in
16 Larchgrove?

17 A. Yes.

18 Q. So far as Larchgrove is concerned; how did the staff
19 treat you, if you can recall?

20 A. Larchgrove, because of the number of boys -- I think
21 there would be 50 or 60 boys that I recall; right? My
22 grandmother lived not far from it, in Springboig, which
23 is just adjacent, about a mile away. And I think one of
24 the deputy headmasters lived quite near there, so
25 I would have an affinity with it. But when you went to

1 them places, them institutions, you always knew somebody
2 from your area, but you didn't know everybody. So you
3 would tend to group in your own communal groups.

4 Q. In Larchgrove at that time; was there any form of
5 cliques or gangs that would group together?

6 A. The gangs -- they wouldn't really be gangs as such,
7 because some of the boys would be young, too young for
8 the gangs. But borstal would be the time, it'd be more
9 for the gangs.

10 Q. I'll ask you about that when we come to that then.

11 What you tell us, at paragraph 16, is that you
12 personally never suffered what you would consider to be
13 abuse at Larchgrove?

14 A. Never. Never.

15 Q. And I think you were only there for about 14 days --

16 A. Yeah.

17 Q. -- is that right?

18 You tell us that you left Larchgrove, in
19 paragraph 17, page 4, and there was almost a status
20 thing when you went back to school and you say that you
21 developed a swagger?

22 A. This would be the norm. This would be the norm. And
23 even today, still the norm.

24 Q. We have seen -- you had some sort of status because
25 you've been to a remand home?

1 A. Well, you've climbed Mount Everest and nobody else has.

2 Q. You went back to school, you tell us. Just one point
3 I would like to pick up, at paragraph 18 of your
4 statement, you went to a secondary school where you
5 lived and you say you weren't too bad at school and you
6 liked school and there were some subjects you liked
7 particularly. You tell us that you liked military
8 history?

9 A. Still do.

10 Q. You go on to tell us:

11 "I was always into that sort of thing and I suppose
12 that's why I liked the regimentation in the
13 Approved Schools."

14 A. It wouldn't be alien to me.

15 Q. You didn't mind a bit of regimentation?

16 A. No.

17 Q. I take it not all boys would think that way?

18 A. They got different attitudes, haven't they? Different
19 mentalities.

20 To me, because I'd be interested -- because
21 I couldn't play football or didn't play football, but
22 they made me a house captain in Balrossie, when I was in
23 Balrossie. They made me a house captain, so that made
24 it even better. I suppose I had been given a bit of
25 rank and authority for the time; you know what I mean?

1 Q. So that routine or regime could at least suit you
2 because of your liking for military history?
3 A. Yes.
4 Q. And --
5 A. And not everybody else.
6 Q. No. I think we have heard evidence, and no doubt we'll
7 hear more evidence, that many of these regimes in
8 Approved Schools, and indeed in borstals and other
9 places, were militaristic?
10 A. All of them. All of them.
11 Q. I think it's plain from some of the people that we have
12 taken statements from that they didn't all like that
13 type of regime?
14 A. No, no.
15 Q. But you didn't find it too bad?
16 A. No.
17 Q. Can I move on to -- you have said that from Larchgrove,
18 after a period of time -- I think it was maybe almost
19 going on for two years -- there came a point when you
20 were sentenced to or committed to Balrossie school?
21 A. Yes.
22 Q. I think we know, from some records we have, that you
23 appeared at Glasgow Juvenile Court, on [REDACTED] 1960,
24 and you were committed to Balrossie Approved School when
25 you were aged 12?

1 A. Mm hmm, yes.

2 Q. Can I ask you some questions about Balrossie at this
3 stage, if I may?

4 Were you one of the younger boys at Balrossie?

5 A. No, there was younger boys. Two brothers, I remember.
6 There were two sets of brothers younger than me.

7 Q. But were there also older boys?

8 A. Yeah. Well, there would be older boys who came from
9 another Approved School, Mossbank Approved School, who
10 came -- they were like the spearhead group. They came
11 maybe with 20 of them from Mossbank Approved School, in
12 Edinburgh Road.

13 Q. I think --

14 A. And the teachers, too.

15 Q. I think you tell us a lot of boys had come from
16 Mossbank, at paragraph 26.

17 Was Balrossie effectively a replacement school for
18 Mossbank?

19 A. I think it was for younger persons, and I think Mossbank
20 had been open for a number of years. How many years,
21 I don't know. But Balrossie being new, state-of-the-art
22 for the times, but for a younger person, that was my
23 conclusion.

24 Q. I think, at least you tell us in your statement, that
25 you did hear some things about Mossbank from people who

1 had been there?

2 A. Yes, I did.

3 Q. Can you just tell us briefly: I appreciate you weren't
4 in Mossbank, but --

5 A. I wasn't in Mossbank, but my best friend [REDACTED] was in
6 it. My younger brother was in it. He was in it for
7 a short period, but the headmaster, who was
8 previously -- not prior to Mossbank, after Mossbank was
9 the headmaster in Kerelaw School on the west coast of
10 Scotland.

11 Now, he used to bring -- he was very interested in
12 football. He used to come to the area where we ran
13 about in the street gang if Glasgow, Baltic Street, came
14 there and used to take the boys up in the school van,
15 minibus, on Sundays for football.

16 At the time, I thought it was a wonderful thing that
17 he had deigned to take the boys, the less well-off boys,
18 to the football and give them a day out and treat them
19 relatively nice. But, later on, there was scandals
20 became apparent.

21 Q. Was the scandal about abuse happening to some of the
22 boys?

23 A. With him.

24 Q. With him?

25 A. With him.

1 Q. Right. Was that something you were told about at the
2 time?

3 A. No, not really. Later on. Because one of my closest
4 friends at the time seemed to be -- had an affinity with
5 him that was second to none. And he seemed to be the
6 golden boy, if I use that term, because my other friend,
7 [REDACTED] would tell me, because the three of us
8 associated when we were younger and he would say, "Oh,
9 no, he's like that with them (indicating), very, very
10 friendly. Maybe he likes him because he plays football
11 and he's a proficient footballer", which he was.

12 Q. Were some of the boys that you were told he was friendly
13 with -- were they actually in the school at Mossbank?

14 A. I think they were in Mossbank and Kerelaw, because he
15 used to take them on holidays, too; you know what
16 I mean? And I thought that was a bit strange.

17 Q. We'll no doubt hear a bit about Kerelaw later on in this
18 case study and we can bear in mind what you were told.

19 So far as Balrossie is concerned, I think you tell
20 us in the section of your statement dealing with
21 Balrossie, that was a place where you learned to stand
22 up for yourself?

23 A. You had to. You had a lot of freedom in Balrossie. You
24 weren't contained, like in the MacDonald Wing. You had
25 relative freedom. You could go in the woods. You could

1 go on slides. You could climb trees. These were things
2 that we never had. You could even see cows and sheep,
3 which weren't in my area in Glasgow.

4 Q. I appreciate you tell us there were a lot of things to
5 do and lots of things you had never done before.

6 A. Aye, and they took you places. They took you to
7 factories, to visit factories and kind of gave you
8 an interest in -- Michelin factories in Inchinnan, they
9 took us there, showed us how the tyres were made and
10 things like that. It was interesting.

11 Q. Why did you have to learn to stand up for yourself?
12 What was it that required you to do that?

13 A. You are in the junior jungle.

14 Q. You are in a jungle --

15 A. And you're on your own. And the different age levels
16 and all that carry on. There's bigger boys, stronger
17 boys and whatever, and you've got to, you've just got
18 to.

19 Q. You were in one of the places called Moray House?

20 A. Moray House, yes.

21 Q. At Balrossie?

22 A. Yes.

23 Q. When you were in Moray House; did you experience any
24 problems with either the staff or the other boys in the
25 house?

1 A. That was when I was made house captain from Moray House.
2 There were four houses.

3 Q. So you did quite well?

4 A. I quite liked it because I had a bit of authority, which
5 was new to me.

6 Q. Do I take it that your answer is you didn't really have
7 too many problems from the staff or the boys?

8 A. No.

9 Q. But did other boys have any problems, to your knowledge?

10 A. I did see one of my -- it was a friend of my father's,
11 his nephew, [REDACTED] his name was. I did see
12 [REDACTED] getting the strap one time all over his legs.
13 I don't know what caused it, but I did see the results
14 of it, and he had about 20 or 30 strap marks all down
15 his -- you know, like his back and his legs and all
16 that.

17 But [REDACTED] was rather stubborn, but he was my pal.
18 He was my pal and, to use the phrase, I felt gutted for
19 him.

20 Q. But you saw evidence he had some sort --

21 A. I seen it.

22 Q. You saw it?

23 A. I saw it with my own eyes. I remember it clearly.
24 I remember who did it. I remember where we were. We
25 were in the tower in Balrossie, which you can see on

1 videos on the TV. Though it's derelict now, but you can
2 still see it. And it used to have a -- we were making
3 boats out of cows horns; do you know what I mean?
4 I don't know what happened, but he took [REDACTED] away and
5 I heard the shouting and bawling. No tears. There were
6 no tears; do you know what I mean? Because you couldn't
7 show the tears. It shows -- the tears was weakness.

8 Q. You remember occasion at Balrossie where a teacher took
9 your friend away and you heard shouting and bawling?

10 A. I heard shouting and bawling and the strap. He never
11 took him away 100 yards. He was only maybe -- another
12 room.

13 Q. Did you see him using the strap?

14 A. No, I did not see him using the strap. But I seen him
15 before he went out and I seen him when he came back, so
16 it was obvious to me that he'd been hit with the strap.

17 Q. And you saw marks on his body?

18 A. I seen marks on his legs. Yes, I did, because you wore
19 short trousers in Balrossie, yes.

20 LADY SMITH: Did you see the types of strap that the
21 teachers used?

22 A. Well, they're all standard, ma'am. They're all
23 standard.

24 LADY SMITH: The tawse?

25 A. The tawse. There was -- the Lochgelly was one of the

1 favourites --

2 LADY SMITH: -- (overspeaking) --.

3 A. (Overspeaking) -- from Fife. People used to be quite
4 proud of that. This is my Lochgelly; do you know what I
5 mean? I remember that.

6 LADY SMITH: Thank you.

7 MR PEOPLES: Just on that, obviously there were rules and
8 regulations for these schools and SNR could
9 certainly administer punishment with a belt.

10 A. Yes.

11 Q. But did all the teachers have a belt?

12 A. Yes. If they were given -- he could tell them, he would
13 tell them.

14 Q. Would all the teachers, at some time or another, be
15 using the belt in the classroom?

16 A. Yes. What I'm going to say now is the teachers that
17 I mentioned, Mr GPN -- who I liked, nothing against
18 him, except that incident -- they weren't teachers.
19 They were workers. There was two -- I think he was
20 a gardener, actually; do you know what I mean? There
21 was two people, HHK and him. And I think he
22 used -- he might have been an engineer because he used
23 to do the stoking the fire in the boiler room.

24 Q. Was he more like an instructor rather than a teacher
25 of --

1 A. No, he was like a boilerman come staff; do you know what
2 I mean?

3 Q. Maybe using the word "teacher" is maybe not the best
4 description for him?

5 A. I wouldn't think it was appropriate.

6 Q. This Mr GPN that you've told us about; he's the one
7 that gave the beating to [REDACTED]?

8 A. Yes.

9 Q. What happened if you didn't eat what was put in front of
10 you? I think you tell us a little bit about that in
11 your statement.

12 A. Balrossie, I can't complain about the food, except two
13 particular things I didn't like. I had a great disdain
14 for. I liked the cakes and biscuits and sweets, as
15 everybody does. I did not like the sago. I never have.
16 I've never eaten it in my life and I never will.
17 I didn't like that then and I didn't like cold custard;
18 two things revolted me. And when you didn't eat them,
19 you would get them that day and the next day. But,
20 being quite cheeky, or whatever you want to say, I still
21 wouldn't eat them.

22 LADY SMITH: 'Frankie', a lot of children don't like sago.

23 A. I would eat -- the sago, I do recall they gave you
24 prunes. I could eat the prunes. I think they gave you
25 two or three prunes. There weren't many, maybe two or

1 three. I could eat them. But I couldn't it. And even
2 the thought of it, as I'm telling you just now, has
3 given me a thing in my throat.

4 MR PEOPLES: You say then, if you didn't eat something, you
5 might get it back the next day.

6 A. Yes.

7 Q. Did they do anything else?

8 A. No.

9 Q. That was it?

10 A. Yes. You know what I mean, once it was by its sell-by
11 date they conceded that you weren't going to eat it.

12 (Pause)

13 LADY SMITH: 'Frankie', these hard-working ladies are making
14 a transcript and it's really important that the system
15 is working correctly for them and there's a problem with
16 it. Five minutes should sort it out.

17 (10.29 am)

18 (A short break)

19 (10.32 am)

20 LADY SMITH: 'Frankie', if you're ready, we'll carry on with
21 your evidence. Mr Peoples.

22 MR PEOPLES: 'Frankie', I have been asking about Balrossie.
23 Can I just take one thing that you tell us? You tell us
24 about a PT teacher. In paragraphs 37 to 38 of your
25 statement, you say you got PT, physical training, from

1 this teacher two or three times a week and you've,
2 I think, more recently read some things that were said
3 about him.

4 A. About two or three years ago, about a case he was
5 involved in, in Balrossie.

6 Q. Yes. I think you tell us that he had a nickname "GJF
7 GJF"?

8 A. They called him GJF, because he was a -- persistent
9 at playing golf.

10 Q. He had [REDACTED] for golf?

11 A. Yes.

12 Q. You tell us that you have read that some boys had
13 complained that he used to fire golf balls at them, and
14 you say you knew that wasn't true?

15 A. Yes, I know it wasn't true.

16 Q. Whenever you saw him using a golf club, it wasn't to
17 fire golf balls at other boys?

18 A. No. He'd be firing it at -- there was -- not a swimming
19 pool, a water tank, to the left. I would say the
20 football field and a road going up to the water tank was
21 used as a kind of boating thing, and he would be on the
22 right-hand side, a slight hill. I don't know if it is
23 something to do with golf. And he would fire it down at
24 the trees, which would be about 100-odd yards, something
25 like that, if memory serves me. He would be firing it

1 there. I never, ever seen him firing or using anybody
2 as a target.

3 Q. Would there have been boys, though, in the area where he
4 was hitting the balls?

5 A. Well, they would be quite near, because the road would
6 be on the left. It would be -- but he would be about
7 50 yards over this way, or 50 feet or something like
8 that.

9 Q. I suppose those who play golf, they're not all Tiger
10 Woods --

11 A. No, they can hit off trees at the end. They can hit
12 them off trees and they bounce. These things can
13 happen. But I never saw him -- he was always fair with
14 me, GJF ██████████, his name was, wasn't it? That was his
15 name. I recall him clearly. He was always fair. He
16 was a proficient PTI. He wasn't that type. He wasn't
17 a bully.

18 Q. What you are saying is that you didn't see any evidence
19 on deliberately trying to target boys with a golf ball?

20 A. No. I was quite saddened when I read it, because it was
21 nearing the end of the case. There's nothing I can do
22 here; do you know what I mean? Because I didn't think
23 it was right. It wasn't fair.

24 Q. In the statement you -- he's named as GJF ██████████?

25 A. Yes.

1 Q. If I say that I think we have other evidence from people
2 who worked there that there was a person called -- a PT
3 teacher called GJF --
4 A. Yes, yes, yes.
5 Q. That is the same person?
6 A. Yes.
7 Q. You have told us -- and I'm not going to go through this
8 in detail -- about this earlier, there were certainly
9 plenty of trips and holidays when you were at Balrossie?
10 A. Yes.
11 Q. You told us about some of the trips, you went to various
12 places during your stay at the school.
13 I'll not dwell on that, if I may. We can read that
14 for ourselves, where you went, and I think you enjoyed
15 these occasions; is that right?
16 A. Yeah.
17 Q. So far as birthdays and Christmas are concerned, if we
18 go to page 9, paragraphs 47 to 48, I think you tell us
19 that you certainly were in Balrossie at Christmas time
20 and it was treated as a special occasion. That's your
21 memory of Christmas and Balrossie; is that right?
22 A. Yeah.
23 Q. But that you don't think that birthdays were really
24 celebrated at the school?
25 A. No, I don't recall that. I have no recollection of

1 that.

2 Q. So far as official visits were concerned, you tell us --

3 we're going back a bit here -- you had a probation

4 officer rather than social worker?

5 A. I wasn't very fond of him. Even now.

6 Q. You say he didn't really come to see you?

7 A. No.

8 Q. So far as family contact was concerned, you tell us,

9 I think, once you'd been at this school for a little

10 while boys would be allowed home visits?

11 A. Yeah.

12 Q. Would that be dependent on whether you were a good boy

13 or a bad boy?

14 A. Depending on your behaviour.

15 Q. But you say, so far as the school itself was concerned,

16 that when you were there it was all about "keeping us

17 under control"; so was that really the way it was? It

18 was to control the boys?

19 A. I think the boys controlled the boys more than the staff

20 controlled the boys.

21 Q. When you say that; do you mean older boys and younger

22 boys?

23 A. When they gave people like me a bit of authority,

24 I think the control was passed down the line.

25 Q. Was it always used benignly or well?

1 A. We used to do a lot of drilling, because I wouldn't say
2 I was a nice fella, to tell you the truth. I wasn't
3 nice; you know what I mean? I wasn't a nice person. I
4 thought I was special, but I wasn't.

5 Q. Could there have been times then when you might have
6 treated a younger boy harshly?

7 A. Not necessarily a younger boy. Any boy.

8 Q. So far as trips home are concerned, I suppose that --
9 you tell us at 52 to 54 of your statement, on pages 9
10 and 10, that you would go home from time to time when
11 you were at Balrossie?

12 A. Yes.

13 Q. I think you tell us that Balrossie was a more affluent
14 world, I think you describe it, compared to life at
15 home?

16 A. Because of the area. Kilmacolm is one of the most
17 affluent areas in Scotland, in the central bit, more
18 millionaires per area. It was very, very nice. Very,
19 very nice, and it wasn't like where I came from. I come
20 from the ghetto, so to speak. This was rural Scotland,
21 affluent Scotland.

22 Q. But you told us earlier that Balrossie, and indeed other
23 places you went to, were still a jungle?

24 A. Oh, yes. I'm talking about superficially everything is
25 sweet and dandy. It's like that Rugby school. You do

1 have your bullies there, too. I forget his name
2 offhand, but you have your bullies there, too. But,
3 superficially, on top it looks sweet and dandy, but
4 there is always an undercurrent. Same in life.

5 Q. If I can just ask you, also, about -- it's sometimes
6 a difficult area. I think we know from evidence that
7 quite a lot of boys in these places have a problem with
8 bed wetting?

9 A. Yes.

10 Q. Can I just ask you: how were bed wetters treated at
11 Balrossie?

12 A. Two of the bothers that I mentioned previously, two of
13 them was bed wetters for some reason. And I suppose
14 I -- one time I wet the bed myself. One time in my
15 whole life, I wet it in Balrossie and I never felt so
16 embarrassed and ashamed in my whole life. I still
17 recall it. It's nearly 70 years later -- well, 60-odd
18 years later and I still recall it. I do recall it.
19 I wet the bed. It must have been a dream I had, on the
20 toilet or something.

21 But, anyway, you had to get into the -- which
22 I don't think was a bad thing, to tell you the truth.
23 You had to go into the washroom and rinse them out and
24 then take them into the drying room and throw them over
25 a clothes horse, which I didn't think was bad, bad.

1 Q. In fact you tell us, at paragraph 59 of your written
2 statement, that the boys who wet the bed weren't
3 punished by the staff for doing so?

4 A. No, no.

5 Q. But they did get treatment from the other boys?

6 A. You would get -- yeah, a ribald commentary and all that,
7 "You're a baby", and childish things like that.
8 Belittling and demeaning.

9 Q. So, if you were a boy who was a regular bed wetter, you
10 would get a lot of ribbing and ridicule from other boys?

11 A. Yes. I got a bit on that day that I did that, but it
12 didn't last long. It didn't last long.

13 Q. You only did it once?

14 A. Yeah.

15 Q. There would be other boys doing it on a regular basis?

16 A. Constantly. I remember they used to give them rubber
17 mattresses in Balrossie. I remember that clearly now
18 that you've reminded me of it. Rubber mattresses with
19 electrical things that, if water went on it, it would
20 ring a bell, a wee bell. And it's just come into my
21 head there, but I forgot that for a number of years.
22 But it never ever stopped the boys because they still
23 did it; do you know what I mean?

24 Q. Looking back, given that some boys might sort of
25 ridicule and humiliate other boys who wet the bed --

1 A. You would be seen as weaker.

2 Q. Because you wet the bed?

3 A. Yeah. This would be the standard procedure. You would
4 still be regarded as -- though you were only children,
5 you would be regarded as a younger child.

6 Q. Would that not have been all the more reason, looking
7 back, to have a system where the staff simply didn't say
8 anything, take the sheets away?

9 A. I don't think the staff was oppressive. I've no
10 recollection of that.

11 Q. I don't mean oppressive. What I'm trying to say is
12 maybe they could have found a way to make sure that
13 other boys didn't know that certain boys had wet the
14 bed?

15 A. Well, you would know if you are going to the communal
16 bathroom, wouldn't you? Where you would wash your hands
17 and you would know -- you would see them and you would
18 know.

19 Q. You are not sure it would have been possible to protect
20 them?

21 A. You couldn't have eradicated it because they would know.
22 They would know.

23 Q. It might have been better if the staff had taken the
24 sheets away and did the laundry, rather than the boys?

25 A. I don't think it would be regarded as a pleasant job.

1 I think that's why they -- it's part of the treatment,
2 if you like. They would let the boys do it themselves,
3 to maybe help them in some way that I'm not aware of; do
4 know what I mean?

5 It was only a rinse out. It's not like you were
6 scrubbing in the Magdalene places or anything like that.
7 It was one sheet.

8 Q. If you are that person who's having to do this on
9 a daily basis that could take its toll, if you are
10 getting ridiculed and treated as a weaker person?

11 A. I think the ridicule that you got from other boys would
12 be worse than the bed wetting.

13 Q. The staff would know that they would be getting
14 ridiculed?

15 A. But the staff are not there 24/7. Because you had a lot
16 of freedom, lots of freedom.

17 Q. In the morning, they would see the boys taking their --

18 A. Yeah, yeah. Some boys would do it covertly. You would
19 see them.

20 Q. The staff would know the boys who wet the bed would take
21 the sheets to be washed?

22 A. Yeah, you know.

23 Q. I will move to something else that you tell us about.

24 You were someone who ran away from the school from time
25 to time?

1 A. Yeah, yeah.

2 Q. First of all: why did you run away?

3 A. Adventure.

4 Q. Was that the reason that --

5 A. Yes.

6 Q. -- you ran away?

7 A. Yeah. Two or three of us would go in. Boredom, maybe,

8 we'll go away and -- it shows you how naive we were.

9 I remember going to Port Glasgow, thinking it was near

10 Glasgow, though it was in the opposite direction. But

11 I said, "Now we're near Glasgow", but then getting

12 caught by the police and taken back. And -- but not

13 really -- I think I got the belt for it, I'm not sure.

14 I think you probably get the belt and a couple of other

15 wee shocks; you know what I mean? But you would accept

16 that because you had knowingly broken the rules and

17 regs.

18 Q. You remember being punished for running away?

19 A. Yeah.

20 Q. You think it was probably the belt?

21 A. Always the belt.

22 Q. I'll come back to that. There was another question

23 I was going to ask. You have told us why you ran away,

24 but would other boys have run away, too?

25 A. They would go because you were going.

1 Q. Did boys go for reasons other than adventure?
2 Do you see the point I'm asking?

3 A. I can only give you one instance and that's my own
4 brother, younger brother, who was in Mossbank too. But
5 he went to Mossbank for a week and decided that he
6 didn't like the deprivation of freedom, so he left
7 Mossbank and never went back to any institution in his
8 whole life and, latterly, he got caught, about a year or
9 two later, and I went to the court for him, in Glasgow
10 Sheriff Court, and he was placed under my jurisdiction
11 and I was placed in loco parentis, which I quite liked
12 the word, you know? And I still remembered it. And
13 he's never been in any institutions since.

14 Q. What I'm asking is if you know whether there were some
15 boys that ran away because of how they were being
16 treated by either the staff or other boys?

17 A. There would be. There would be, yeah. There would be.

18 Q. That wasn't your reason, but other boys --

19 A. No, I just did it for devilment or whatever.

20 Q. Just in terms of running away; you were inevitably
21 caught?

22 A. Yes.

23 Q. Your brother wasn't, but you were caught each time you
24 did it?

25 A. Yeah, yeah.

1 Q. Were you ever asked when you got caught by the police or
2 by anyone else why you ran away?
3 A. No, no, not that I recall, no.
4 Q. Was there any interest in finding out?
5 A. I think it was a standard procedure with boys, with
6 young boys and girls, and the girls, running away from
7 institutions. We just did it.
8 Q. The boys and girls who ran away were just not asked why
9 they were doing so?
10 A. I do know somebody that's closer to me -- again, another
11 family member, closer to me, who ran away because she
12 just wanted to.
13 Q. All I'm trying to get from you is: at that time, were
14 people asking the question, "Why are you running away
15 from this place?"
16 A. Have you been abused or anything like that? I've no
17 recollection of it. It may have been the case, but
18 I wouldn't be privilege to that knowledge.
19 Q. You certainly weren't asked?
20 A. No. I think they more or less had me in a certain
21 category, as I had myself.
22 Q. Just in terms of punishment, you have a section in your
23 statement, on page 11, it starts, paragraph 60 and 61,
24 about getting the belt. I think you tell us there
25 that -- you tell us about the time you ran away to Port

1 Glasgow, in paragraph 60, and on one occasion when you
2 were caught by the police and taken back to Balrossie.
3 You say there that you would get the belt, six of the
4 best automatically, as a punishment, but I think they
5 were more just glad to see you back, because you had put
6 yourself at risk?

7 A. I would assume that now, then I wouldn't have.

8 Q. At the time, what you had when you came back was six of
9 the belt?

10 A. Yeah, which you expected.

11 Q. Right. You've told us earlier on what the belt looked
12 like. It was a traditional type of schoolteacher's
13 tawse?

14 A. Yes.

15 Q. You tell us a little bit about how the belt was given,
16 and I think you tell us that at paragraph 65 and 67 in
17 particular, on page 12. I just wonder if you could tell
18 us how the belt was given to boys?

19 A. Well, in various places it was done differently. In
20 Balrossie, mainly Mr GKF, SNR. You would
21 just bend over a round table and always have
22 a recollection of one of them things that you use in
23 hospitals, with the skeletal body, with the glass,
24 containing all the heart and lungs, et cetera. I used
25 to focus on that. I think that was my escapism.

1 I would focus on that and try to get out of my mind what
2 was about to happen. But that would be there. You
3 would get the six belt there. Quite rapid. Two
4 minutes, over and done.

5 Balrossie -- in Thornly Park, you had to put on gym
6 shorts, which was thinner.

7 Q. Before you got the belt?

8 A. Before you got belt, yeah; right? That was to make it
9 more effective; right?

10 What you had to do was lie on a table. A refectory
11 table, probably six feet long, something like that. You
12 would actually lie on it, like something out of
13 plantation days and you would get it then, that way.

14 Q. Wearing thin shorts?

15 A. Wearing thin shorts. Yeah, the gym shorts.

16 Q. That was at Thornly Park?

17 A. That was in Thornly Park.

18 Q. But, at Balrossie; did you have to wear shorts?

19 A. No, you had your own trousers on.

20 Q. I don't suppose at that stage you would have any idea of
21 what the rules were about giving boys the belt on the
22 backside?

23 A. No, because as a child I already had the belt in the
24 house. This would be a standard procedure and in my own
25 family home. I would be used to it. It wouldn't be

1 strange for me or a horror for me, though I didn't like
2 it. But I had had it on numerous occasions to no avail.
3 Q. If I told you, at that time in Approved Schools, there
4 were rules that said that SNR could give up
5 to six strokes on the backside, over ordinary cloth
6 trousers; that's not what happened at Thornly Park?
7 A. No, it did not. No.
8 Q. They were breaking the rules?
9 A. Yes.
10 Q. You didn't know it at the time?
11 A. Wasn't clued up on rules and regs at that time. That
12 came later.
13 Q. Yes, you'll tell us about that.
14 So that was done, and I'm telling you that if we
15 look at the rules for that stage that wasn't something
16 that the rules permitted to be done, to give you the
17 belt.
18 A. Yes.
19 Q. You could get it on the posterior, but over ordinary
20 cloth trousers?
21 A. No, I suppose it's a matter of fact the degree, what you
22 define as ordinary.
23 Q. You have just told us you had to change into gym shorts
24 from ordinary trousers, so I think we can answer that
25 one.

1 LADY SMITH: That was at Thornly Park?

2 A. Yes. And I do recall who gave me the belt in
3 Thornly Park on that occasion. That would be SNR
4 SNR, Mr GTX.

5 LADY SMITH: Thank you.

6 MR PEOPLES: I suppose you would expect SNR of
7 all people to know the rules?

8 A. That particular one, I would have assumed him to know
9 the rules better because he was actually a Church of
10 Scotland minister. I thought he'd have a -- or
11 something to do with the church. I assumed it was
12 minister, because he was very that way inclined -- of
13 quotations about calling you certain names and biblical
14 names, and things like that.

15 Q. I'll come to that, because I think you mention one thing
16 you recall him saying.

17 But, if I stick with Balrossie at the moment, you
18 have told us how belt was given there; over the table
19 and on the backside over trousers and you could get six
20 of the belt.

21 Did you ever get any more than six?

22 A. Not on the same day.

23 Q. No. Was getting the belt painful?

24 A. I've never forgotten it. My recollection of it was the
25 waiting to go in to get it was infinitely worse than

1 actually getting it. Because the waiting, you may have
2 waited several minutes -- I'm only using that
3 relatively -- so your mind would be twirling over how
4 sore it's going to be. But, when you were actually
5 getting it, the period would only be about two minutes,
6 may have been less.

7 Q. But it was sore?

8 A. Yes. It -- the sore, personally -- a lot of people
9 would cry, I would never show -- I would never cry.

10 Q. Why did you not want to show emotion or cry?

11 A. Because of the environment that you were in, it would be
12 termed a weakness.

13 Q. Who would consider it to be a weakness?

14 A. Mainly myself, for a starter.

15 Q. What about other boys?

16 A. They wouldn't see you getting the belt, but they would
17 know afterwards that you got it.

18 Q. If they saw you running out of SNR office
19 crying; how would they have reacted?

20 A. You would be lower on the social ladder. You would
21 never have seen me running -- you may have seen me
22 running out, but I wouldn't have been crying. Not in
23 public, anyway.

24 Q. You might cry in private?

25 A. I often do.

1 Q. But did you at that time?

2 A. No.

3 Q. After getting the belt?

4 A. No. What I do recall, coming out, you wouldn't show
5 any -- I wouldn't show any. I wouldn't show any.
6 I would have the lump in the throat and the eyes would
7 be ready to start weeping. I wouldn't show it and
8 I would be gritting, holding the edge of the table or
9 whatever it was, digging in, quite sure there are
10 fingerprints there still, nail indentations, but
11 I wouldn't show it then.

12 But when you walked out, there would be -- you would
13 be rubbing your rump like anything to comfort yourself,
14 and if anybody came -- after about 10 minutes, it
15 dissipated.

16 Q. Did it cause any injury?

17 A. The injuries would be the width of the belt, the
18 thickness of the belt. When it swelled -- the belt
19 would be approximately quarter of an inch, something
20 like that, and the width of the belt would be two
21 inches, 2.5 inches in my estimation, and it would be
22 about several inches to a foot long wrapped round; you
23 know what I mean?

24 Q. Did it cause, for example, bruising?

25 A. Substantial. The length and the breadth of the belt.

1 Q. And welts?

2 A. Yes. That would be the appropriate word, welts.

3 Q. And did you have injuries of that type?

4 A. All the time. The worse ones was when the belt

5 overlapped the previous welt, that would be -- that

6 would cause bruising near to bleeding.

7 I never bled. I never bled that I recall, but the

8 bruising -- and it would be worse -- you've just brought

9 it into my mind there. It would be worse if it went on

10 the previous one.

11 Q. You say you obviously had bruising and welts from

12 belting; did you see other boys with similar marks?

13 A. What?

14 Q. The one you mentioned, [REDACTED]. But did you see it any

15 other times, like the showers?

16 A. No. Because in Balrossie they had doors on the showers.

17 In Thornly Park, it was open. It was communal.

18 Q. Have you any reason to think, based on what you recall,

19 that other boys were not bruised or didn't have welts as

20 you did? Have you any reason to think they would have

21 escaped that injury?

22 A. Not everybody was mad, bad or dangerous to know,

23 I suppose. Not everybody -- some of the boys was timid.

24 Some boys was timid. Not everybody -- not every boy in

25 an Approved School was bad.

1 Q. You are saying not every boy in the Approved School got
2 the belt?

3 A. No. There would be a select few. There would only be
4 the select few.

5 Q. I'm looking at the majority who did get the belt; do you
6 think they would have similar types of injuries,
7 bruising, welts, to the injuries you had?

8 A. Guaranteed.

9 Q. You have certainly told us about the incident involving
10 your friend, [REDACTED], so I'll not go back. But that's at
11 paragraph 69 to 71. You told us about the teacher and
12 what happened that day with your friend, and I think you
13 describe it as a "fucking terrible beating" with the
14 belt?

15 A. I think that would be appropriate terminology.

16 Q. Did you say it wasn't your normal six of the best?

17 A. No, it wasn't. He had lost his temper, which was
18 unusual.

19 Q. You say he was hitting your friend:
20 "All over the place, all over his body. It was all
21 over his legs and what a mess he was in."

22 A. Yes, and he still never cried.

23 Q. I think, in paragraph 71, you basically -- he lost the
24 plot, did he? He did his nut?

25 A. The first and only time I saw him losing the plot, which

1 surprised me and shocked me. It wasn't the norm. It
2 wasn't -- they didn't walk about with canes and beat you
3 up everyday in Balrossie. It wasn't like that. There
4 would be the few, maybe a dozen out of 70 people, that
5 would be constantly in trouble, myself being one of
6 them.

7 Q. You were in the class that day?

8 A. No, it was a hobby class. We were making -- I recall it
9 clear. We were making boats, little galleons out of
10 cows' horns and I don't know what happened. But
11 I recall that and I recall the smell of the cows' horns.
12 It was the smell of the meat market.

13 Q. You don't recall, that day, anything particularly
14 significant happening before Mr GPN reacted as he did?

15 A. No, no. I just remember him grabbing him, "Come on,
16 you, out", and then the slaps you could hear him and the
17 shouting; do you know what I mean?

18 Q. You tell us about some other punishments you remember.
19 I'm not going to take too much time, but you say that
20 other punishments that you recall were stopping home
21 visits if you were bad?

22 A. Standard procedure, yes.

23 Q. I think you also tell us, at paragraph 64, that you
24 could also be punished by stopping your canteen and you
25 say if you didn't get your McCowan's toffee there would

1 be something wrong?

2 A. Oh yeah, there would be trouble -- I'd be troubled at
3 the time. Three pence, I think it was, at the time.

4 Q. So you weren't allowed to go to the tuck shop or
5 whatever it was?

6 A. Canteen. No, no.

7 Q. You moved on to Thornly Park.

8 A. Yes.

9 Q. I think we know from records that you were transferred
10 there on [REDACTED] 1962 as a result of a transfer order
11 made by or on behalf of the Secretary of State?

12 A. Yes, that's right.

13 Q. It wasn't through a court appearance. There was some
14 form of transfer.

15 The records record the reason for the transfer as
16 "serious misbehaviour", and it records that you
17 assaulted another boy, who is named, by stabbing him
18 several times while he was asleep. You tell us about
19 that incident in your statement, at paragraphs 73 to 75.

20 Can you just tell us what happened?

21 A. Well, there were two or three of them. Because you've
22 got the different groupings, there were two or three of
23 them going to beat me up, and I decided it wasn't going
24 to happen. I ain't -- it ain't going to happen.

25 Because I was outnumbered, I said the only way

1 I could get them was one at a time. That was my
2 thinking and rationale at the time, whether it was right
3 or wrong.

4 I don't feel any -- I've since seen the guy, [REDACTED]
5 [REDACTED], his name was; is that you call him?

6 Q. That is one of the boys that you name.

7 A. I seen him later on in life and was very friendly with
8 him. It was like a childish thing that got out of hand,
9 and I did go to the extremes, but I'd be frightened for
10 my own -- looking after myself, and I had made up my
11 mind I wasn't going to get beat up for nobody and this
12 wasn't part of my agenda. This is not happening. Even
13 today it is still on my agenda. It ain't happening.

14 Q. Going back to then, though; were these boys the same age
15 or older?

16 A. I don't know if they were older, but they were certainly
17 bigger.

18 Q. You tell us, at paragraph 74, that there were two at
19 least who are named, and there was a third boy as well,
20 and you say they were trying to bully you and they were
21 going to beat you up.

22 A. Yes.

23 Q. Had they told you that was going to happen?

24 A. Yes, something like: you'll get it tomorrow.

25 Probably the worse thing to say because it gave me

1 all that time till tomorrow to think what to do. It
2 gave me time to plan and react.

3 Q. Do you know why -- it's a long time ago; do you know
4 whether there was any particular reason they wanted to
5 beat you up?

6 A. I suppose in a way it's not sibling rivalry, but it was
7 rivalry. How I would define it, I don't know at
8 present.

9 Q. Were you in the same group as these boys --

10 A. No.

11 Q. Did they have their own group?

12 A. Yes. It was all -- there were 70 boys in there, and
13 what you would have, on average, would be three or four
14 in a group; do you know what I mean? Or if they were
15 brothers they'd be in a group.

16 Q. What you tell us about is it was a situation where, as
17 far as you were concerned, there were three boys that
18 were intent on beating you up?

19 A. Yeah.

20 Q. You decided --

21 A. It ain't happening -- I would get them first.

22 Q. You would get in first?

23 A. Yeah.

24 Q. One of the things you did was -- I think you accept you
25 stabbed [REDACTED]?

1 A. Not deep or anything like that. I think it was more of
2 a frightener.

3 Q. What did you use?

4 A. I wasn't going to stab him through the heart, or murder
5 him or anything like that. It was more: stay way from
6 me.

7 Q. I think the wounds were inflicted on the back?

8 A. Yeah, superficial.

9 Q. You say superficial?

10 A. Superficial, yeah.

11 Q. What did you use?

12 A. A nail or something like that.

13 Q. It wasn't a knife?

14 A. No, no, no, no.

15 Q. That was the background to that. But the upshot of that
16 was that meant you were transferred to Thornly Park?

17 A. Yes.

18 Q. In 1962, on [REDACTED]. I'll maybe just ask you a bit
19 about Thornly Park, if I may. You have told us a little
20 already about how belt was administered, but maybe a few
21 other questions I could just ask you, if I may.

22 You tell us a little bit about the staff, on
23 page 14. At paragraph 79, you tell us that most of the
24 staff were ex-servicemen; that is your recollection?

25 A. Yes, that would be right. Yeah.

1 Q. When you were there; was it a militaristic regime?

2 A. Well, they had their own army cadet force in

3 Thornly Park. They had 18 rifles, 303, a couple of 22s,

4 and a BREN gun with a spare magazine. Because I was

5 into military history, so I recall that. So they had

6 that. You did wear grey, RAF battle dress tops.

7 Q. You know what I mean when I say it's like a military

8 regime?

9 A. Yes, marching around and the bell rung and --

10 Q. Was it like that?

11 A. Yeah. Oh, yeah.

12 Q. You say, at paragraph 80, it was more numbers they

13 called you; what did you mean by that?

14 A. I think I was [REDACTED]. In Balrossie, I was [REDACTED], I

15 think, and in Thornly Park [REDACTED], or the other way about.

16 But I said to myself, I'm stopping in the [REDACTED].

17 I remember a thing about that. How did I not get

18 a higher number or something like that?

19 Q. Did they just call you by number?

20 A. Standard procedure.

21 Q. Did they use your surname?

22 A. GTY [REDACTED], [REDACTED]. After a couple of weeks, that's who you

23 were. That's who you became.

24 Q. Did they ever use your first name?

25 A. I've no recollection of it.

1 Q. On page 15, you have a section in your statement that
2 you tell us a bit about washing, bathing and toilet
3 facilities, at paragraphs 83 to 84.

4 I don't want to take too long over this, but just to
5 get an impression of what they were like. It doesn't
6 sound as if there was a lot of privacy?

7 A. No, there wasn't.

8 Q. Can you give us an impression of what it was like?

9 A. I remember the first day, going into Thornly Park, and
10 the woman in charge would be Nan Cooper, her name was,
11 Ms Cooper. I think she suffers from some disease in her
12 legs because, like elephantitis or something. She was
13 heavy made. And she would teach you to sew. And
14 I remember her taking me to the basement and the big
15 baths, big lovely baths, big beautiful baths that people
16 want today. But it was very -- my first impression,
17 coming from Thornly Park and going into there, it was
18 more -- how can I say? I wouldn't say Rugby school or
19 anything like that, but it was more Victorian. More up
20 the social ladder, more was expected of you, you know
21 what I mean, in Thornly Park.

22 And there were boys -- some of the boys in there
23 were from the islands, all over the country, Dundee,
24 Edinburgh, everywhere. Inverness, everywhere. And
25 they're all big farmers' boys, and me being five feet

1 four at the time -- which I still am, I think -- you've
2 got to be on the ball because they're big lumps.

3 Q. Obviously, the boys are different ages?

4 A. Yeah.

5 Q. But in terms of the shower area; were they communal
6 showers?

7 A. Communal showers. Thornly Park it was just like in
8 here.

9 Q. You tell us that the toilet doors --

10 A. I have no recollection of the toilet doors in
11 Thornly Park.

12 Q. There wasn't a lot of privacy going on there?

13 A. No. I always used to think: was some sort of -- kind of
14 conditioning you into something like that, conditioning
15 you to -- I wasn't really aware. I would have half
16 a thought on it: why is that not there? And the lack of
17 privacy. You would always, if you wanted to go to
18 toilet, try to sneak in when there was nobody there.

19 Q. Did you find it embarrassing?

20 A. It's embarrassing, if I can still remember it 60 years
21 later.

22 Q. You wouldn't be alone, would you, in thinking that?

23 A. That's what I'm saying. That's how you would sneak in,
24 when nobody would be there and get in quick. It would
25 be embarrassing, yeah.

1 Q. Do you think other boys felt the same way?

2 A. I've no doubt that they would.

3 You soon become -- you soon become used to it. It
4 don't take you too long before your inhibitions drop
5 a little bit.

6 Q. But you don't have any choice?

7 A. No, that's what I'm saying. So you had to.

8 Q. One thing you do say, maybe on a more positive note, is
9 that you consider that you at least got a pretty good
10 education at Thornly Park?

11 A. I was nulli secundis, that's me. The term is second to
12 none, as you know. I thought the teaching facilities in
13 there was excellent. I thought the camping that they
14 took you -- they took you on expeditions for the Duke --
15 Thornly Park was second only to Rugby school for the
16 Duke of Edinburgh awards scheme.

17 Actually, it was on the film in the 1950s,
18 Thornly Park school. Didn't say it was an Approved
19 School, but it was second in the United Kingdom. There
20 was this sort of thing for the Duke of Edinburgh's
21 award. Swimming, everything like that. Cycling,
22 everything.

23 Q. We can say this, perhaps, from what you have been
24 telling us, that you considered you had a good education
25 and there were plenty of activities, and you've told us

1 about some of them?

2 A. Yes.

3 Q. I think we have a record. I'm not going to take you to
4 it, but I think there is a record of when you were in
5 Thornly Park. There is a letter from you, on
6 2 February 1963, to Mr GKF [REDACTED], SNR [REDACTED], at
7 Balrossie?

8 A. If I may say something about Mr GKF [REDACTED], I was
9 watching the TV [REDACTED] and relative to [REDACTED]
10 [REDACTED] and there is a [REDACTED] come on the
11 TV and I assumed it was him, his son. He had a son
12 called [REDACTED] who lived in the school, but his
13 daughter was kidnapped a few weeks ago, and he said:
14 "I hope she's dead".

15 But he only got word this morning. The name struck
16 me, it's an uncommon name, and it said [REDACTED]. He
17 got word that she was alive and I felt happy for him.

18 Q. Just the Mr GKF [REDACTED] that you knew in the 1960s, this
19 letter -- and it confirms, I think, what you have been
20 telling us -- that in the letter you make reference to
21 gaining a bronze medallion for swimming and completing
22 a first aid course?

23 A. A bronze cross for the swimming, too.

24 Q. On the other hand, the records also contain a report and
25 on [REDACTED] 1962 -- just around the time you were

1 transferred to Thornly Park. If I can pick out some of
2 the descriptions of you that were said at the time,
3 I'll just read out:

4 "Aggressive, defiant throughout your time at
5 Balrossie. Resents reprimand. Persistent insolence.
6 Bullying attitude to other boys."

7 Also, there is a record saying you were confident
8 when you were admitted to Balrossie and you were cheeky
9 and cocky, so these are the things that the record says.

10 A. I wouldn't deny any of it.

11 Q. It also mentions there were people who were a bad
12 influence on you at that time.

13 A. I think the first bad influence on me was in my own
14 home.

15 Q. They mention a boy, and I think you mentioned him
16 earlier in connection with the incident that led to you
17 moving to Thornly Park.

18 One of these boys, [REDACTED]?

19 A. Who ended up in Carstairs.

20 Q. Was described at the time as a bad influence on you?

21 A. He ended up in Carstairs mental institution.

22 Q. I'm saying what they were saying at the time about him.
23 They felt he was a bad influence on you?

24 A. I had trouble with him before. I think -- and you just
25 reminded me -- that the other boys might have went on

1 his side; you know what I mean? Or I perceived it at
2 the time that it's them against me; you know what
3 I mean?

4 Q. Yes. Going back to Thornly Park, just to ask a few more
5 questions about it.

6 You tell us about the situation of personal
7 possessions, at paragraph 98, on page 17, and you say
8 you didn't have any personal possessions in
9 Thornly Park. But I get the impression that what you
10 are telling us is you, personally, didn't have any great
11 complaints on that account?

12 A. No.

13 Q. Why was that?

14 A. In Balrossie -- I've got to start -- when you went to
15 Balrossie, coming from the east end of Glasgow, the most
16 common shoes that you had would be plimsolls for the
17 summer or wellingtons for the winter. Or if you were
18 poor and had no money, the wellingtons would be worn in
19 the summer, too. Billy Connolly talks about that.

20 It would be very embarrassing, like a badge of
21 poverty; you know what I mean? That's how I can
22 describe it nowadays. At the time -- I was even
23 embarrassed and ashamed then.

24 When you went to Balrossie -- which struck me, which
25 struck me then, even now, 60-odd years later -- when you

1 went in there you got a pair of Clarks shoes.
2 I'll never forget it. My mother spoke highly of Clarks
3 shoes. You know what I mean, the sandals? You got them
4 with the crepe soles, a pair of plimsoll, a pair of
5 wellingtons and a pair of Oxford shoes for church,
6 St Columba's in Kilmacolm. A hair brush -- I had hair
7 at the time -- a comb and a toothbrush. I never had
8 that all my life. I felt affluent.

9 Q. You didn't have many personal possessions at home, but
10 when you went to the school they gave you personal
11 possessions?

12 A. Materially, and a suit and a coat. Excellent, it was,
13 yeah.

14 Q. You tell us -- and this seems to be the same as the
15 situation at Balrossie, at paragraph 99, page 17, that
16 you didn't get visits from the probation officer or
17 welfare officers.

18 A. Mr Reid, no.

19 Q. Do you recall whether any other boys were getting visits
20 like that?

21 A. I've no recollection of it. I think the only time we'd
22 see the probation -- because they were a separate entity
23 at that time. They were separate from what they are
24 today.

25 The only time you would see the probation officer

1 would be when you went to court or when he was
2 delivering you to where you were going. That would be
3 the only place.

4 Q. We know that at that time there were what were called
5 "inspectors of schools" who would come to visit various
6 schools, including Approved Schools.

7 Can I just ask you this: do you have any memory of
8 people like that coming to the school?

9 A. They wouldn't have any dealings with us, would they?

10 Q. If they came, they didn't talk to you?

11 A. They didn't come up and ask you questions.

12 Q. What you do tell us, though, is, in paragraph 99, you
13 recount an occasion when SNR [REDACTED] at Thornly Park,
14 Mr GTX [REDACTED], that you have told us about, came to your bed
15 at 9 o'clock one night. Tell us about that.

16 A. He sat down on the end of my bed, because it was a big
17 dormitory. Beautiful building, Thornly Park. All
18 covered in ivory and oak floors and all that carry on
19 I suppose much like Rugby, but a different type.

20 A beautiful building, and land and potatoes and
21 strawberries. All things I'd never seen in my life.

22 And he sat down on the end of my -- I have
23 a recollection of it right now and I've got a picture of
24 him sitting right in front of me. And he sat down and
25 I went "Something has happened and this is unusual"; you

1 know in that couple of seconds? Because you know, you
2 can tell by a look, a gesture. Well, I can now, and he
3 sat down and he went, "GTY", he called me GTY that
4 time, "You know ..." he was confiding in me, I later --
5 thought later on in life. At the time I wasn't sure
6 what it was about.

7 He said, "I remember boys in here", and I think
8 he's -- some people -- of the regressive, I think like
9 a bear or something like that. Or think of a fighter, I
10 think of a lion. Or if they're timid, I think of a deer
11 or things like that.

12 He said, "Do you know what I think of you?" I went,
13 "No", I didn't know whether to answer him or not. But
14 I did, I said, "No". He said, "I think of you as
15 a lion", and it was going through my head. It was
16 probably the aggression I would think now and the way
17 I was; do you know what I mean? Later on I became quite
18 proud of that, to tell you the truth. I was quite proud
19 of that. I like a bit of praise now and again.

20 Q. You took that as praise?

21 A. At the time, I didn't know what he was talking about.
22 But, as it evolved, I took it as praise. He may have
23 meant something different, but I did take it as that.
24 I took it as a pat on the head.

25 Q. I suppose boys who he might have described as deer might

1 have been afraid of boys that were lions?

2 A. Could well be. I never even thought of that. I never
3 thought of that. I never even thought of that, no. It
4 didn't go through my mind, no.

5 Q. You tell us a little bit about what you did. You had
6 home leave at Thornly Park, as you did with Balrossie,
7 and you tell us about that at paragraph 101, page 18.

8 You say when you were on home leave at that time you
9 didn't spend too much time in the house, because you
10 were out with the local ruffians, as you call them?

11 A. Yes.

12 Q. That was the norm, that was the lifestyle, and that was
13 the mode you were in?

14 A. Ruffians like myself.

15 Q. By this stage, you are maybe 14 or thereabouts?

16 A. Yes.

17 Q. Are you running with gangs?

18 A. Yes, I most certainly was.

19 Q. When you are out?

20 A. Oh, yes.

21 Q. Then you would go back to the school --

22 A. Yes.

23 Q. -- after the weekend leave?

24 A. Yes.

25 Q. What you do say is, at paragraph 102, you never actually

1 ran away when you were at Thornly Park; was there any
2 reason for that? Because you liked adventure, you said,
3 at Balrossie.

4 A. In Balrossie -- in Thornly Park, there were several
5 people from my own area, who I knew and I'm still
6 friendly with, even today. One phoned me about six
7 months ago and I hadn't spoken to him for 50-year. [REDACTED]
8 [REDACTED] his name is. He phoned me and I thought: this
9 is a surprise.

10 And yes, friendships I've normally held.
11 Thornly Park, I would be friendly with people in there.

12 One of them actually stayed round the corner from me
13 in [REDACTED], up there in London, and I was always --
14 he lived in my area, in Bridgeton. His family was
15 poorer than mine. [REDACTED] his name was, [REDACTED]
16 [REDACTED] or three years ago, and always friendly with
17 him.

18 Q. Are you saying because you had people there that you
19 were friendly with that you didn't see the need to get
20 the adventure or run away?

21 A. The gang was there, wasn't it? They were in situ. They
22 were here.

23 Q. You could also go home at weekends, as well?

24 A. Yeah. If you were lucky, yeah.

25 Q. As long as you behaved?

1 A. Yes.

2 Q. You've told us about how the belt was administered at
3 Thornly Park, and you did get the belt at Thornly Park
4 from time to time?

5 A. Yes.

6 Q. You tell us that at paragraph 104, on page 18. There is
7 only one question I might ask. You say it was over in
8 about two minutes or thereabouts. It was sore for ten
9 minutes and then you were over it and you could flash
10 your war wounds.

11 Just one question: what war wounds did getting the
12 belt leave you with?

13 A. There would be the stripes on your buttocks, down to
14 your kind of lower buttocks. Maybe the top of your leg,
15 if they were bad. If there was a misfire, so to speak.
16 Or maybe they were spacing them out, so they wouldn't be
17 on top of each other, I don't know.

18 But you would show the boys and say -- you would
19 show the boys and they would go, "Ooohh", so that would
20 be like a pat on the head, if you so like, and you would
21 feel a bit macho about it.

22 Q. This is your war wounds or battle scars?

23 A. That is the battle scars. You had endured it. You were
24 special -- (overspeaking) --

25 Q. Did other boys do the same thing; show off your war

1 wounds?

2 A. They wouldn't get in trouble because they knew what you
3 got from somebody else's experience.

4 Q. Those who did get into trouble; did they do what you
5 did, show war wounds?

6 A. I suppose everybody did, didn't they? I suppose
7 everybody did, yeah.

8 Q. You weren't the only boy there that had those sort of
9 marks?

10 A. No, no, no.

11 Q. You tell us, on page 19, a bit about SNR and
12 you tell us, first of all, that you liked and respected
13 him, but you also say that he was one of the best at
14 hitting you?

15 A. Well, he was, wasn't he? Because he had God on his
16 side. I remember him telling me. I remember it
17 clearly, and I've heard the phrase from other sources.
18 He said: "This is hurting me more than it's hurting
19 you".

20 Q. I think you tell us that you remember one time him
21 saying, and I quote:
22 "Get behind me, Satan, this hurts me more than it
23 hurts you."

24 A. Yeah, I remember it clearly. We were in the exercise --
25 we were in the square, so to speak, where they ring the

1 bell, where you all have to line up and all that. And
2 he went, "You", I can't recall what it was. But he went
3 up and he shouted -- there was a flight of stairs, ten
4 stairs, and I'm walking up more or less beside him,
5 because I don't know what it's about. And he says to
6 me -- I remember it clearly -- "Get thee behind me,
7 Satan", in a gruff voice. And I thought to myself,
8 "I don't know what I've done, but I don't think
9 I'm Satan yet".

10 And I do recall that one.

11 Q. What you have told us, obviously, he was one of the
12 people who made you put on gym shorts to get the belt?

13 A. Yeah.

14 Q. There is another incident you tell us about, just before
15 I pass on to looking at some of the prison institutions
16 you were in.

17 At Thornly Park, you suffered a burst ear drum?

18 A. Yes, Mr [REDACTED] slapped me in the billiard room.

19 Q. How did that happen?

20 A. I'm guessing now. But I'm trying to guess, so I can --
21 the type of person I was. Because you have already
22 described me as aggressive and all this carry on, he's
23 probably said something to me and I've retorted the way
24 I would normally; you know what I mean? And he just
25 slapped me. And I recall it, because I still had the

1 thing in my ear for years, and it was ringing and
2 ringing and ringing. I still feel it in my mind.

3 I did threaten him after that, I recall. "I'll fuck
4 you", those was the words I used.

5 Q. But what you're saying is: whatever gave rise to this,
6 he slapped you on the ear?

7 A. I must have thought it at the time for me to -- to give
8 as a reply, because I know myself a little bit. I must
9 have felt it was an injustice, but -- for some reason,
10 but I don't know what the reason is now. I'm not clear
11 on it.

12 Q. Obviously, there may be a background to it, but the main
13 thing is, what he did on that occasion was to slap you
14 on the ear and you tell us he burst your ear drum?

15 A. Yeah.

16 Q. You couldn't hear -- you could hear hissing sounds for
17 months?

18 A. Still hear it.

19 Q. And this wasn't the man who had given the beating to
20 [REDACTED]?

21 A. No. This is in Thornly Park.

22 Q. This is another man who lost the plot?

23 A. Yes, lost the plot temporary. We all can.

24 Q. At Thornly Park?

25 A. Yeah.

1 Q. I think you say that you remember threatening him that
2 you would tell your old man and he would come and kick
3 him up and down?
4 A. That's right, some words to that effect.
5 Q. Did that do any good?
6 A. Probably a bit stronger than that. No, he stopped.
7 Q. It stopped?
8 A. Yeah. I would just get one belt.
9 Q. You tell us that on that occasion you didn't get any
10 medical attention?
11 A. No, you wouldn't, would you? That would be a sign of
12 weakness.
13 Q. Were you offered any attention?
14 A. No. You wouldn't go; you know what I mean? You just
15 tolerate it because going for medical attention in that
16 environment is weak.
17 Q. Would it have been obvious to him that you might need
18 some attention?
19 A. I don't think he cared at that particular moment. He
20 may have thought afterwards, but not then, because he
21 would be still in his anger mode.
22 Q. You didn't get any treatment?
23 A. No.
24 Q. You left Thornly Park and from there you were in the
25 community for a little while?

1 A. I think about 18 months.

2 Q. You went back to school in your local school and I think
3 then you returned to Thornly Park, did you?

4 A. Yes.

5 Q. For a time.

6 A. What happened was I went to work on a farm for a while
7 because I didn't want to go back to the parental home.
8 I do recall that. They got me a job on a farm. But,
9 after a while, it was lonely on the farm. It was only
10 me talking to me all day, after I got my instructions.
11 And I stood it a couple of weeks and I thought:
12 "I'm off".

13 I went back to the home and then I got sent back to
14 Thornly Park.

15 Q. It wasn't really much different to what had been before;
16 is that what you're telling us?

17 A. No. It was actually worse on the farm because --

18 Q. Sorry, I meant Thornly Park. When you went back; was it
19 any different?

20 A. No, no, no, no, no. It becomes part -- it was actually
21 better than the parental home.

22 Q. On page 21, you say that you went back and you finished
23 your sentence or your period of detention there, at
24 Thornly Park, and you then went to stay with one of your
25 pals, at his house. And that you were about -- you

1 think you were nearly 15 and you started working with
2 your pal; is that right?

3 A. That's correct, yes.

4 Q. You were doing various things and you mention both of
5 you were van boys, delivering lemonade to Italian cafes.
6 Then you tell us of an occasion, when you were around
7 15-and-a-half, you think, when you and [REDACTED] were
8 involved in a fight?

9 A. In the local dance hall.

10 Q. You got into a bit of trouble?

11 A. Yeah.

12 Q. And your pal got into trouble and you sought to defend
13 him on this occasion. You describe it as part of a gang
14 fight which ended up with the gang, or members,
15 attacking the bouncers and getting beaten up for their
16 pains?

17 A. I think it was the bouncers who attacked us first, to
18 tell you the truth. This is before they were licensed.
19 I think they were more ruffians than us. However, being
20 in the same frame of mind, it was us or them, and they
21 come off second best.

22 Q. You were running with a gang at that stage?

23 A. Yes, at the time.

24 Q. You were at a dance hall and there was a fight?

25 A. Yes.

1 Q. The gang members had a fight with the bouncers?

2 A. No, three of us.

3 Q. Some of the gang members.

4 A. Three of us and three of them. Three of them got

5 wounded.

6 Q. That was presumably the culture; there were gangs in the

7 locality, different types, different names?

8 A. In my area, in the east end of Glasgow, there were about

9 20 gangs. Among them being the Bridgeton Billy boys

10 that numbered in the region of several hundred, which is

11 quite infamous, as you'll see on the TV, and there were

12 subsidiaries of that. And a lot them were based on

13 religious beliefs, too. Or pseudo religious beliefs,

14 whatever the case may be.

15 And the gang culture, poverty, rotten houses. It's

16 all changed now. It's changed for the better.

17 Q. That is the way it was then?

18 A. That's the way it was.

19 Q. I think you can see the time. But the upshot of this

20 was you were remanded in custody at Longriggend when you

21 were still under 16 years of age?

22 A. Yes.

23 MR PEOPLES: We can maybe resume after the break?

24 LADY SMITH: Right. We leave you having been remanded in

25 Longriggend. We'll have a break for a cup of tea or

1 coffee, and then we'll start again in about a quarter of
2 an hour, 'Frankie'.

3 (11.33 am)

4 (A short break)

5 (11.53 am)

6 LADY SMITH: 'Frankie', I hope you've had enough of
7 a breather and you're ready for us to carry on.

8 A. Yes, ma'am.

9 LADY SMITH: Mr Peoples.

10 MR PEOPLES: My Lady.

11 'Frankie', we were -- we'd been discussing the fight
12 in the local dance hall and you being remanded in
13 custody to Longriggend, when you were, I think, under
14 16 years of age?

15 A. Yes.

16 Q. I think in your statement you tell us a bit about
17 Longriggend. It starts on page 21, if I can just put
18 that up.

19 You have a section about Longriggend and I'm going
20 to ask you some questions about your time there.

21 One of the things you tell us, at paragraph 120, is
22 that when you went there you were given a rulebook. It
23 sounds like, the way you describe it, it was basically
24 a book of what not to do?

25 A. Yeah.

1 Q. And if you did do any of things, what would happen to
2 you?

3 A. Yeah.

4 Q. Is that what it was effectively?

5 A. Yeah, that's what it was.

6 Q. You tell us that, at 121, a bit about the routine.
7 I get the impression that you didn't mind the morning
8 routine and the bed blocks and getting everything neat
9 and tidy?

10 A. No, I was in for that swindle, so to speak.

11 Q. You quite liked the militaristic way of life?

12 A. Yeah, that was my identity. I was playing the role.

13 Q. But I suppose there would be other boys at the time, who
14 would have hated it?

15 A. They would have, yes.

16 Q. If they didn't do things as well as you did, they would
17 have paid for it?

18 A. Yeah.

19 Q. I don't know if you knew anything about what happened if
20 someone didn't keep their cell tidy or it wasn't clean
21 to the satisfaction of the staff?

22 A. You still get people like that today, but I wasn't one
23 of them. I was obviously on the ball with that one.

24 Q. Do you know what happened if someone wasn't as on the
25 ball as you were?

1 A. I suppose -- in Longriggend, there were bits of violence
2 in Longriggend. Never directed against me, but you
3 would hear it. You wouldn't see it. You would hear it.

4 Q. What did you hear?

5 A. You would hear people shouting various names.

6 Q. Who was doing the shouting?

7 A. Usually the cons. The recipients would be shouting
8 "Bastards" and whatever.

9 Q. Were the screws, as they were called, doing any
10 shouting?

11 A. No.

12 Q. It tended to be the cons?

13 A. I don't call them screws now. I'm a bit more familiar.
14 We call them kangas.

15 Q. It's rhyming slang, kangaroos: screws.

16 A. Yes. That's what you get from being in. I kind of
17 lapse into it now and again.

18 Q. Would you call them kangas?

19 A. It's not as crude as screws. Screws means like having
20 you over. Kanga is a bit more friendly, if you like,
21 a bit more conciliatory, isn't it?

22 Q. Well, possibly. We can call them -- I can call them
23 kangas, if that's what you would call them. But did
24 they do any shouting?

25 A. No.

1 Q. Not that you can recall?

2 A. No. I do recall a former associate of mine, who is dead
3 just now -- died a few weeks ago there -- he attacked
4 one of the screws in there, a Mr GUD. Because he
5 escaped from there and he tried to stop him, and he was
6 a bit of a ruffian from the Calton, [REDACTED] his name
7 was. And he beat him up.

8 There was another one, [REDACTED]
9 GUA [REDACTED], but he liked me. I don't know.
10 I suppose it was like Bill Sykes in Oliver because he
11 was a big lump and I was small.

12 Q. The reason I asked you that is because, at
13 paragraph 122, you say in your statement:
14 "If other boys didn't do their bed block or floor or
15 cell right, you would hear them getting slapped, but you
16 wouldn't see it because you were in your cell?"

17 A. No because all the doors didn't open at one time. It's
18 one at a time.

19 Q. But did you hear slapping?

20 A. Yeah, you would hear that. Yes, because it's in
21 a corridor, narrow corridor. It's hollow. And you'd
22 hear it.

23 Q. The slapping was coming from the staff, the kangas?

24 A. Yeah, yeah.

25 Q. And can I just ask you, because you say that you didn't

1 get into any great trouble when you were in Longriggend?

2 A. I was young, younger than most. And there would be
3 people in there -- I actually met one of them several
4 years ago, who was a friend of my uncle, and he says,
5 "You don't remember me", but I did remember him.

6 I'm not bad at facial recognition. I'm not bad at it.

7 And he said, "I was in Longriggend", and
8 I remembered his name. He says, "I remembered who you
9 were, because my uncle, who was a bit of a scoundrel,
10 used to use -- it wasn't my name, it was my other uncle,
11 and he's dead. He used to use his name when they got
12 pulled by the police.

13 So he says, "When I heard your name, I knew you were
14 associated with him". I bought him a drink. Had a good
15 conversation with him, but I hadn't seen him for
16 34 years.

17 Q. Why do you think you were never in trouble when you were
18 in Longriggend? Was it your age?

19 A. A bit more skilled then. A bit more adept. A bit more
20 of an Artful Dodger, if I may say so.

21 Q. The expression is sometimes used that people get
22 prison-wise. I know it was the first --

23 A. That would be it, yeah.

24 Q. Although this was your first time in a prison
25 establishment?

1 A. No, I'd been in Perth, previously.

2 Q. You think you were in Perth before that?

3 A. Yeah, yeah.

4 Q. You tell us about Perth. I was trying to work out --

5 A. Perth was only a few short weeks, before I went to

6 borstal. It was only a few short weeks.

7 LADY SMITH: We are still at Longriggend at the moment,

8 'Frankie'.

9 A. Longriggend, but I had been in prison before that.

10 LADY SMITH: Hang on. Wait. Don't talk when I'm talking or

11 it's a nightmare for these wonderful ladies here.

12 We've got you to Longriggend on remand, after the

13 dance hall incident, and you're not yet 16?

14 A. No.

15 LADY SMITH: I don't think you had been in prison by then,

16 had you?

17 A. No, I hadn't, ma'am. I went to Rossie Farm.

18 LADY SMITH: Keep your head in Longriggend and Mr Peoples

19 will move you on when he's ready to ask you to do that.

20 MR PEOPLES: I'm going to ask about Perth. Whatever the

21 precise time you were in Perth, we can find out a little

22 about that, because I don't think it was bad experience

23 for you as it turned out?

24 A. No, tell the truth --

25 MR PEOPLES: Don't --

1 LADY SMITH: Hang on, 'Frankie', we'll go back to Perth.
2 I'm going lose track if we don't stay chronologically in
3 order.
4 A. So will I.
5 MR PEOPLES: I'll ask a few more questions about
6 Longriggend, if I may.
7 I've asked you about what happened if boys didn't do
8 the bed block right or there was some criticism of the
9 way they cleaned their cell.
10 A. Yes.
11 Q. This was an era when people had to slop out?
12 A. Yes, it was.
13 Q. You tell us about that at paragraph 123, on page 22.
14 I just want to know: how did you feel at the time about
15 having to slop out a cell?
16 A. The same as I feel today. It was an indignity. I never
17 liked it. It was a Victorian thing.
18 Back in those days, Victorian things in modern
19 times. It was out of place, out of time, and it was
20 an indignity. I still feel embarrassed about doing it,
21 because you would always try and control yourself, but
22 that didn't always work when you are banged up.
23 Q. Can I ask you this in terms of slopping out; was there
24 ever a time when you were in a prison establishment
25 where you had to share a cell?

1 A. Normally, I was on my own. Thankfully.

2 Q. I don't know whether you can help us with this. There
3 obviously was a time when, because of perhaps
4 overcrowding, that people in certain places shared
5 cells?

6 A. I think I was locked up one time with somebody for about
7 two or three days, but he was off his head and I told
8 him in no uncertain terms he better move because he used
9 to just -- I think he was on drugs. I don't know what
10 it was.

11 Q. What I really want to know is: if you were in a cell
12 with someone else; was there --

13 A. Friction?

14 Q. No, slopping out. Was there just one pot?

15 A. No, two.

16 Q. You each got a pot?

17 A. You got your own, yes.

18 Q. You still didn't have the privacy if needed to use the
19 pot?

20 A. Hence the term "indignity".

21 Q. It wasn't screened off or anything like that?

22 A. No, no, no.

23 Q. Okay.

24 A. That was an issue I tended to forget because of the
25 embarrassment.

1 Q. You tell us that you don't recall getting a lot of
2 recreation when you were in Longriggend?
3 A. No.
4 Q. You spent a lot of your day in your cell?
5 A. Reading, yes.
6 Q. You read?
7 A. Yeah, profusely.
8 Q. At least you had some access to books.
9 A. Oh, yeah. I think you got six a week, something like
10 that. There was a specific number, five or six books
11 a week.
12 Q. Did you have a choice or were you just given books?
13 A. Oh, no, you got a choice. Normally, we started off with
14 cowboy books, Zane Grey and the like. But in the end
15 they all became similar, if not the same. And then you
16 would go into biographies, autobiographies, and see how
17 people dealt with situations. I suppose, in a way, it
18 sewed some seeds in my half a brain.
19 Q. We might come to some of that.
20 You tell us, in Longriggend, you did go to the gym
21 and you -- the boys that were in there, played a game
22 that was called murder ball?
23 A. Yeah.
24 Q. I want to ask you: was playing murder ball compulsory?
25 A. Yeah. If you were in the gym, yes. One thing about **GUA**

1 GUA -- that's what they called him, GUA, who
2 I quite liked because he liked me and I liked him -- he
3 was SNR. And I quite liked it, to tell you the
4 truth, murder ball. It was a kind of macho thing; do
5 you know what I mean? There were no rules or
6 regulations. It was like rugby without the rules and
7 regs.

8 Q. You tell us about it at paragraph 126, at page 22, and
9 this question for you: you might have enjoyed it; did
10 all the boys enjoy a game that was compulsory, that had
11 no rules, that involved kicking and punching?

12 A. I don't think they would.

13 Q. Presumably, as in any other institution, there would be
14 boys of different ages and there would be some that were
15 considered within the system as weak and others that
16 were strong and so forth?

17 A. I suppose in an institution like Longriggend they would
18 be making you strong.

19 Q. I suppose that it sounds to me that what you describe as
20 murder ball might, on occasions, have been
21 an opportunity for some people to settle a few scores?

22 A. There were scores settled all the time. There were no
23 rules. There were no rules.

24 Q. Presumably the supervisor, the kanga that was
25 supervising, whatever you thought of him, he would see

1 this all going on?

2 A. He would goad him on, yeah.

3 Q. He didn't try to stop a fight if it broke out?

4 A. No.

5 Q. Apart from that, I think you tell us that there would be

6 fights between boys? Not just during murder ball; there

7 would be fights?

8 A. May I say, Mr Peoples, when we make reference to "boys"

9 we are talking about boys, six feet, big lumps of men,

10 boys that work in pits. To me, a boy is like

11 an Oliver-type. These were big hens, as they say in

12 London, big lumps.

13 Q. I take that. You tell us that some of them were like

14 that and they were from all over the country, and they

15 would be different sizes and weights?

16 A. Yeah.

17 Q. Although, I think in comparison, you would be one of the

18 smaller ones?

19 A. I would be like a dwarf, comparatively.

20 Q. There would be other boys of your size as well?

21 A. Yes, but I don't think us Glaswegians had much in our

22 diets.

23 Q. There was a variety of sizes as well?

24 A. Yeah. You would invariably find that from the rural

25 communities they would be bigger. Whether that's

1 because of the fresh air or the diet, I don't know. But
2 they would be bigger and working in the pits.

3 Q. They wouldn't presumably come from the same gang culture
4 that the Glasgow boys did?

5 A. No, they didn't have gang cultures. What I found with
6 the rural ones, they were more boxing-types, toe to toe.
7 Whereas Glasgow it's -- well, you know what it is. Even
8 in Edinburgh.

9 Q. You use anything?

10 A. Well, anything you've got at the time, yeah. Yes.

11 Q. Feet, hands?

12 A. Guns, knives, hatchets. Boots and knives being one of
13 the favourites in Glasgow.

14 Q. We have this group in the jungle, as you've described
15 it, and there are all sorts of sizes. They come from
16 all sorts of places, some from gangs in the Glasgow
17 area, different gangs, some from the Edinburgh gangs and
18 then you have the boys from the country who are maybe
19 not used to the gang culture?

20 A. Invariably tougher, in the end.

21 Q. But tough.

22 A. Yes.

23 Q. Presumably, it's more difficult for them if they don't
24 have a clique --

25 A. They don't really associate with you because they have

1 nothing in common, have they? The rural ones would be
2 more into rugby and the like, and that would be alien to
3 us.

4 Q. I suppose I'm asking: did the Glasgow boys, the cliques
5 and the gangs; did they sometimes pick on the boys from
6 the country?

7 A. No.

8 Q. No?

9 A. No. Them country boys were an unknown quantity,
10 I found.

11 Q. But there were fights, presumably, between boys?

12 A. Strangely enough, there would be fights. Not
13 frequently. What I found -- what I did find, on
14 a personal note, is in that environment, the older you
15 got, the more aloof you became for the opposition.
16 There would be less confrontation because each would
17 know what the outcome would be, so they were more
18 sociable, if you like.

19 Q. But if there was a fight -- and I'm sure it was never
20 a situation where there was never any fights -- if there
21 was a fight; would the staff do anything to stop it?

22 A. Well, after a couple of minutes, when they had estimated
23 what was going on. I've seen a few gang fights, only
24 a few. People getting trays bent over their head,
25 et cetera, and people getting stabbed. I've seen all

1 that.

2 I suppose, looking at it from the staff's point of
3 view, it's not all -- I don't look at things one way.
4 I look at it from their point of view, too.

5 I suppose you would need to see how many was
6 involved, how many, the age you were, could you handle
7 the situation; do you know what I mean? That's the way
8 I looked at it from their point of view.

9 I did see some nasty things, yeah. I did, yeah.

10 Q. I think we have heard some evidence before that you had
11 fights, on the one hand, that could happen in various
12 parts of a prison environment?

13 A. Yes.

14 Q. People would find a place to have a fight?

15 A. Invariably the toilets, because people didn't want to go
16 there, did they?

17 Q. We have also heard that on some occasions staff in
18 certain places would try to encourage boys to get into
19 the boxing ring to sort their differences out?

20 A. Definitely **GUA** had me box a guy in the gym one
21 day. He was about six feet and thin, but I was swinging
22 about like anything, like a fool, but he was encouraging
23 me. I landed a few on him, but he landed more on me
24 because he was bigger. But he encouraged it.

25 I don't say in a bad way. I'm not saying he

1 encouraged it for -- violence for violence sake.

2 I think he thought it was playing to his rules. Fair

3 play. It was his idea of fair play.

4 Q. What you describe is that particular occasion was a bit

5 of a mismatch because it's like putting Ken Buchanan in

6 with Muhammad Ali?

7 A. He wasn't as nasty as me.

8 Q. But you are telling us that the bigger boys and smaller

9 boys could be in the ring together?

10 A. Yeah. What they did with me, yeah.

11 Q. And the staff would let them fight, box?

12 A. GUA [REDACTED] and the one called GUD .

13 Q. So far as -- you tell us a bit more about -- I think

14 this was another place where you never had any visits

15 from any social workers or the probation officer, unless

16 you had a court appearance or something?

17 A. That's when you would see them, Glasgow Sheriff Court;

18 before you went in for sentencing, before you had the

19 reports. That's when you see them.

20 Q. I think you tell us, at paragraph 131, on page 23, you

21 didn't really think much of your probation officer?

22 A. No, not that particular one. No, I did not.

23 Q. Why was that?

24 A. Because he had promised me something and my mother, he

25 says, "GTY will do this or GTY will do that", and as it

1 turned out it was totally different and I never forgave
2 him for it. I would have appreciated it more if he'd
3 have said to me, "No, you have this bad this and bad
4 that, he's going there. There's nothing I could do".
5 I would have accepted it because it would have been
6 honest, but he promised me something that he couldn't
7 give.

8 Q. You say, I think: he would have been better to be silent
9 than give me hope?

10 A. Yes, that's what -- yeah, that exactly it, yeah.

11 Q. Can you try to help us understand what the general
12 culture was at Longriggend when you were there, if you
13 can put it in a few sentences?

14 A. Everybody's macho. Everybody wants to be macho.
15 Everybody wants to be cleverer than you or me or
16 whoever. It's a macho environment.

17 Q. Did that include not just the boys or the big boys, but
18 also the staff?

19 A. It would have to be. They are the dominant ones there.
20 They're the ones in control, so they had to be more
21 aggressive than you and I.

22 Q. I think you tell us that you were aware of -- I think
23 you call it "lots of beatings" by staff of boys when you
24 were there? What did you see or hear?

25 A. You hear. What you hear in that environment, prison or

1 at borstal, or all them type of institutions, are
2 hollow. You can hear footsteps the other end of the
3 hall. You can tell after a while who that person is by
4 the way they walk; do you know what I mean. If they
5 walk with a skip or if they scuff their feet, you know
6 who it is. This is one of the -- it's like a fifth
7 sense that you adapt to. You think, "Oh that's so and
8 so". You know where he is. Because you can't see him,
9 so you have to rely on hearing him.

10 Q. Are you saying, based on what you heard, you are
11 perfectly satisfied that staff were beating boys?

12 A. Yes.

13 Q. You have no doubt about that?

14 A. I would swear on the Bible.

15 Q. I just wanted --

16 A. Oh, yes.

17 Q. It's based on what you heard, rather than what you saw?

18 A. Yes.

19 Q. Just picking up on one point -- and I don't want to
20 dwell on it, because it's not something you've
21 necessarily direct knowledge of. But, at paragraph 141,
22 on page 26, I think you have been asked whether you were
23 aware of any form of sexual abuse in Longriggend and you
24 said you weren't?

25 A. No, I wasn't.

1 Q. But you say that you were made aware that that sort of
2 abuse did happen in other places because people told
3 you. You mention --

4 A. I was approached in Barlinnie once myself.

5 Q. I'll come to that. Just sticking with this for moment,
6 you tell us, on page 26, that it happened in the
7 MacDonald Wing. This is what people were telling you,
8 of St Mary's Kenmure, I think St Mary's Kenmure. St
9 John's Springboig, St Ninian's, Gartmore, and a place
10 run by the Christian Brothers.

11 You say you had pals in these places, and they said
12 they were cruel, the people were bad to them and they
13 thought they were the elite, the SS.

14 I'm just wanting to be clear: were your pals telling
15 you this when you were a young boy or were they telling
16 you later on?

17 A. My pals would tell me and I remember it clearly.
18 I remember who told me.

19 You wouldn't hear it from the one person. But what
20 I first became aware of was, the MacDonald Wing was
21 a state school, and I used to say: why are all these
22 boys from the Catholic Approved Schools coming here?

23 Because what had happened, these were the ones that
24 confronted the abusers, the violent abusers. [REDACTED]
25 [REDACTED] being one. [REDACTED] being one. They

1 were two. [REDACTED] being one. They were
2 the ones that would -- when they would be attack or
3 anything like that, they would attack back. So what
4 would happen -- what I found, and I found difficult at
5 the time, I went: "Why are they putting them in our
6 schools when the schools are segregated?"

7 It's as if they rejected them -- because they were
8 non-conformist -- and put them in the state schools and
9 all this, even today, I went: that wasn't right.

10 Q. Just so I'm clear, the boys that ended up in places like
11 Rossie, MacDonald Wing and some of the other places,
12 when you were being told about these places; were you
13 being told about that when you were a young boy?

14 A. They would tell me. They would be my friends at the
15 time.

16 LADY SMITH: This is, 'Frankie', when you were at the school
17 stage as well?

18 A. Yes.

19 LADY SMITH: Thank you.

20 MR PEOPLES: So you came to know about where these places --

21 A. And actually who the abusers were. Because they would
22 name them and you would hear it over and over, and you
23 would go -- it was in your mind.

24 Q. Moving on to another place that you went on your journey
25 through care and childhood, you say that you --

1 paragraph 142, that you went back to court having been
2 on remand at Longriggend and you recall that you were
3 committed to Wellington Farm, but ended up you never
4 there?

5 A. Up in this region, Penicuik, Midlothian and I waited to
6 go there two weeks and then the two of them came for me
7 and I went, "Where am I going? This don't look the way
8 to Edinburgh". I was half glued up. They went, "You're
9 not going there, you're going there".

10 Q. What happened was I think you ended up going to
11 Rossie Farm?

12 A. MacDonald Wing, at reception --

13 Q. So we get some dates, you went to Rossie Farm and it had
14 a secure unit and an open unit at the time that you were
15 there and you were in both?

16 A. Yes.

17 Q. We can look at how that happened. You were taken there,
18 although you thought you were going to go to Wellington
19 Farm?

20 A. I didn't think I was sentenced to there.

21 Q. For some reason they changed the place?

22 A. I was probably persona non grata, to tell you the truth.

23 Q. Perhaps another possibility, because we have heard some
24 evidence, is that some of the places were too full to
25 take more people and they maybe had to find alternative

1 places to take you?

2 A. That may be the case, but to take you from open school
3 and put you in a closed school is a bit of a difference.

4 Q. We'll come to that as well.

5 Just to explain why you might have ended up in
6 Rossie rather than Penicuik. We know from -- can I tell
7 you what the records say about when you arrived in
8 Rossie? The records say that you went to Rossie on [REDACTED]
9 [REDACTED] 1964, having been admitted -- you were admitted on
10 that date or around that date, following an appearance
11 at Glasgow Sheriff Court on [REDACTED] 1964 and the records
12 say the reason you were in court was assault times
13 three, so that was the background to your admission?

14 A. That would be right, yeah.

15 Q. You went to Rossie and maybe I'll ask you something
16 about Rossie.

17 At paragraph 148 to about 154, pages 27 to 28, you
18 kind of describe your first day at Rossie and you say
19 something happened or at least they did something, they
20 put you somewhere?

21 A. I went to see SNR [REDACTED] and he had a few words, put
22 me under the manners, so to speak, and he would take me
23 away. I remember him taking me up like the ballroom
24 stairs and going to a left and we came to a door which
25 was combination -- first time I had seen a combination

1 lock thing, so I was quite enamoured with that.

2 I went in and then they put me in the cells. There
3 were two cells. And I went -- and handed me a book,
4 Biggles. That was the book. I had read it before, so
5 I wasn't really involved in it because I had read it and
6 knew the story.

7 They put me in there for about two or three hours
8 and I did think to myself at the time: this is where
9 you're going to go if you're a naughty boy.

10 Q. You were shown the place that naughty boys would go?

11 A. That's right, yeah.

12 Q. On your first day?

13 A. On my first day.

14 Q. You had two hours in a cell in the wing?

15 A. Yes.

16 Q. You hadn't done anything wrong at that stage?

17 A. No. It was also the day later that GUB [REDACTED] broke
18 my thumb.

19 Q. I'll come to that, maybe.

20 You met SNR [REDACTED] at the time and that was

21 Mr LLY [REDACTED]?

22 A. Mr LLY [REDACTED], yeah.

23 Q. At page 28, about paragraph 156, I think you describe
24 what happened when you first went into the wing,
25 MacDonald Wing and what I'm interested in is that what

1 was the MacDonald Wing like for new boys like yourself?

2 A. Much like Longriggend, and I knew three of the boys that
3 was already there from Longriggend, so that would be me
4 already spoken for, if you like. That would be me
5 spoken for, because they knew me and they knew me, so
6 you've got your identity.

7 And the day later, if I may add, that is when I had
8 a fight with one of the chaps who ended up in Carstairs
9 because he was in the same clique as them and I would be
10 stealing his position in his mind, not mine, so we had
11 a fight in the dining room. He attacked me actually and
12 I was defending myself.

13 Q. I think there is a record there were some fights at
14 least between you and others, but what you seem to be
15 saying at 156 is that basically you are a new boy going
16 in and maybe you were lucky because you knew some of the
17 people there?

18 A. I knew three or four of them.

19 Q. If you hadn't known anyone it would have been a
20 difficult place?

21 A. You have to prove yourself.

22 Q. How would do you that?

23 A. Well, normally you would have to get into a fight.

24 Q. That is proving it?

25 A. That's me proving it or at least having a go.

1 Q. Because you have --

2 A. You have to prove yourself.

3 Q. As a new boy?

4 A. Yes.

5 Q. Unless you know someone already who will help you?

6 A. Yes.

7 Q. Who is already there?

8 A. There is a lot of Harry Flashmans in them places.

9 Q. What you are describing at 156, you talk about them

10 having their own wee rules and regulations, and the new

11 boy has to maybe prove himself, as you've said?

12 A. Everywhere.

13 Q. Was there a hierarchy in the wing?

14 A. Strangely enough, with the people I was friendly with

15 they were in the hierarchy because, they were bigger and

16 larger, do you know what I mean, and I knew them

17 previously, so that was me having the affinity and if

18 you knew the bigger lads and higher up the social ladder

19 then people would equate you that you were in that gang,

20 so you would not be in a gang. The only thing you had

21 in common was a previous institution with them and

22 I suppose in that environment it's a credential.

23 Q. If I can go back to what Mr **GKF** said, you probably --

24 if you entered the wing, there were maybe a few lions

25 there and you could join the lions in the jungle but

1 there might be deer there who have never been in the
2 jungle?

3 A. There always was. There always was, everywhere.

4 Q. You've told us how it was for you in the wing and I get
5 the impression that for you at least there weren't too
6 many bad experiences in the MacDonald Wing?

7 A. No.

8 Q. Why was that? Was that because of what you've just told
9 us?

10 A. Because you know people.

11 Q. Did other boys have bad experiences?

12 A. I've no doubt that they did. I did see one of the
13 saddest moments of my life. It was only later in my
14 life I learned this. When you used to go into
15 Barlinnie -- when I was 16, in between Longriggend,
16 don't forget, if you are going to Longriggend you passed
17 via Barlinnie. You got your dinner there, your tea and
18 then you went to Longriggend. They would drop you off
19 and it was on the circuit. So you would be in Barlinnie
20 from 15.

21 That was regarded as a credential by me at the time.
22 Fool that I was. You get to notice the same people you
23 meet in the same institutions going up the ladder. The
24 same people and you're known. You got your credentials.
25 They're established and all this carry on because you

1 know him, you know him. That's the way it is.

2 Q. For some boys in the wing, the MacDonald Wing, at the
3 time, it seems to me what you're saying is for some of
4 them it was a badge of honour to be or to have been
5 there?

6 A. Of course it was. I suppose it would be the Special Air
7 Services Approved School system.

8 Q. This was like a special unit?

9 A. It was a special unit.

10 Q. It was a secure --

11 A. Yeah. Pre-H blocks, 18/20 feet fences around it, with
12 the boards there so people couldn't see in, six feet
13 high. They had bars on the window and they told you it
14 was a school and I used to have arguments. "It's not
15 a school. It's a prison," and they used to say, "No,
16 this is a school." And I would say, "It's not a school,
17 it's a fucking prison and it's got bars on the windows
18 and locks on the doors". That would be my attitude at
19 the time.

20 Q. You were in that unit and the record suggests that you
21 went to the MacDonald Wing on 25 June 1964 and you were
22 there until 2 October 1964 when you were transferred to
23 what is called the training school, the open unit?

24 A. Yes.

25 Q. From the MacDonald Wing.

1 This may not be something you're aware of, but we've
2 been told by other evidence of the development of secure
3 units like Rossie and I think that we were told that
4 Rossie was probably one of the first places or
5 Approved Schools to have a special secure unit built?

6 A. Yes.

7 Q. That was around 1962. You were there in 1964?

8 A. Well, what I would say is there was people from Northern
9 Ireland in Rossie Farm. It would be the first for at
10 the time the United Kingdom. If somebody comes from
11 Belfast at the time, [REDACTED], his name was, he
12 was in. I thought that's a funny accent. I would be
13 attracted to this. Why has he got a funny accent?
14 I don't understand. And you get the gist and he comes
15 from there, there, there. I said why is he here? He
16 was in trouble in a place over there and the same as the
17 boys here. He was thrown out from the Approved School
18 over there.

19 Q. He ended up in Rossie?

20 A. He ended up in Scotland.

21 Q. I think we know that approved schools were meant to be
22 open units. They weren't locked institutions?

23 A. Yes.

24 Q. But Rossie secure was?

25 A. I've often thought of this myself. I do try and reflect

1 and go: what would I do in their position? I know not
2 everybody's the same, not all dogs are the same, not all
3 cats are the same and not all animals are the same, and
4 there are those, myself included, inherently bad,
5 inherently uncontrollable. And I say myself, as I have:
6 what do you do with them? Do you let them mix with the
7 rest of the barrel of apples? Do you keep them
8 segregated and try and re-educate them, which they
9 didn't?

10 Q. Just looking at this period when you were in the
11 MacDonald Wing, the record suggests you did get punished
12 a few times?

13 A. Oh, yes.

14 Q. What the record suggests is, on 15 August 1964, there is
15 a record of you causing a fight and you got six strokes
16 on the posterior from --

17 A. [REDACTED] in the kitchen --

18 Q. I'm sorry, if I can just finish. Mr McLaughlin. So
19 I don't know if you can remember what caused you to get
20 that punishment?

21 A. Yes, I do.

22 Q. What did you say it was?

23 A. It was [REDACTED] who was in that gang -- in the
24 same Approved School as him and they went there, so
25 they've all got things in common. I'm the new boy.

1 I'm coming in and probably -- because he ended up in
2 Carstairs, so he wasn't fully compos mentis if he ended
3 up in Carstairs; right? Unless he was the exception to
4 the rules.

5 But he would -- I always thought that he thought
6 I was trying to steal his position within that clique,
7 if you like, but I wasn't. There were two or three
8 blows and that was it.

9 Q. But there was a fight?

10 A. Yeah, he attacked me.

11 Q. But you ended up getting six strokes from Mr McLaughlin?

12 A. I think he got it, too.

13 Q. Who was Mr McLaughlin, by the way?

14 A. He would be one of the teachers. I remember him being
15 tall.

16 Q. I think the same Mr McLaughlin seems to have given you
17 six strokes on the posterior again, on 6 September 1964,
18 for what is recorded as "gross impertinence to staff"?

19 A. I wouldn't say that it was not true, because that would
20 be -- I would only be that way -- inclined that way for
21 this gross impertinence -- if I thought I had been done
22 a wrong, I would reciprocate.

23 Q. Can I just go back to, perhaps, something that I think
24 I picked up from the records? When you were in one of
25 the earlier places in Balrossie, there is a record of --

1 on 16 February 1961, and I quote:
2 "GTY is a clever youngster. His quick tongue is
3 apt to get him into trouble."
4 A. You can see that now.
5 Q. Perhaps that got you into trouble on 6 September 1964?
6 A. Probably.
7 Q. According to the records, there was also another
8 punishment while you were on the wing in Rossie, on
9 7 September, which was 1964, impertinence to staff, six
10 strokes, and this time it was a Mr Littlejohn that seems
11 to have given the punishment.
12 A. I don't think you get on with him too much. He's come
13 up a couple of times, hasn't he?
14 Q. Then you move to the open school --
15 A. Yeah.
16 Q. -- on 2 October 1964, and you tell us in your statement
17 that the open school was an easier environment than the
18 wing?
19 A. Yes. I worked with a Mr Stewart from Montrose, who was
20 an ex-servicemen at Dunkirk, et cetera. Because I had
21 an affinity with the military history, when he would
22 tell me stories, then I would already half know it. He
23 was one of the rescue party that went over, with Captain
24 Tennant and all that. So I remember that clearly, and
25 I liked him and all. He was just a working man.

1 Q. But what you say, at paragraph 161, on page 29, is that
2 it was an easy environment, but you still had to prove
3 yourself again?

4 A. It's not an environment. If you go to a job anywhere in
5 this world, whether it's an office, a factory, anywhere,
6 you must prove yourself because you know that people are
7 looking at you to see how you perform. Not in a bad
8 way, but you've -- everybody's got to prove themselves.
9 Some in different ways.

10 Q. It strikes me, at least looking back, that one way you
11 sought to prove yourself was, if you had to stand up for
12 yourself, you got into a fight and you took people on to
13 try to prove yourself?

14 A. Or defend yourself, depending on your point of view.

15 Q. That was how you tried to respond?

16 A. That is how you had to respond.

17 Q. Sometimes that would be in response to older boys trying
18 to bully you, for example?

19 A. I don't think in my life that many people tried to bully
20 me, to tell you the truth. Because, to be perfectly
21 honest, I ain't the bullying type.

22 Q. But there could be other people that wouldn't have been
23 able to prove themselves like you?

24 A. I think, when you're in that environment, you get to
25 know who you can and who you can't. Because when --

1 what I found later in life, people try to do things by
2 degrees. It might be a bad word. It might be a slight.
3 It might be a push at football. It might be brushing
4 into you. But, when they try to bully you, it steps up.
5 Then it becomes bumping into you. A bit of verbal
6 abuse, by degrees. And then it becomes -- but, after
7 a while, you begin to learn he's at stage 2, time to
8 defend, do this or do that, because you know the coup,
9 to use that term. I know what's going to happen next.
10 So you get to stage 2, and bang.

11 Q. Turning to the staff -- you mentioned him earlier -- you
12 tell us about what happened in your first week on the
13 MacDonald wing, at paragraph 171 to 174, page 31.

14 This is where you tell us about a teacher called
15 **GUB**, who was an ex-serviceman and something
16 happened to you. Can you tell us?

17 A. The first week, just after the cell carry-on. So that
18 was a programme and: one day this is where you are going
19 to end up.

20 **GUB** being cleverer than me, which he was, stockier
21 and heavier and everything, and a nice man; right?
22 Probably steps ahead of me -- was steps ahead of me. He
23 dislocated my thumb, like a gear change. But it wasn't
24 extremely -- it was painful. But a numb -- paining
25 thing. But I was more enamoured with how he did it, how

1 he did it. How did he do this to me? How was I so
2 unprepared for it? I still never learnt how he did it.

3 Q. He put it back?

4 A. Yes, seconds later he went, bang; you know what I mean?
5 Put it back in. I kept looking at it. Looking at him;
6 do you know what I mean? That was **GUB**.

7 Q. You hadn't done anything to justify this?

8 A. No, that was the warring done.

9 Q. At paragraph 173, I think you have looked back on this
10 incident and sought to understand why you think he did
11 it and you say --

12 A. I know why he did it.

13 Q. You say:

14 "The conclusion I arrived at was that it was him
15 saying: I'm stronger than you and look at what I can do.
16 "That was my salutary lesson and it did teach me."

17 A. Aye. I still remember it.

18 Q. I'm trying to add up these things. You have mentioned
19 that incident and you have also mentioned your first
20 admission to the MacDonald wing and being put in the
21 cell as a warning, if you like?

22 A. Yes.

23 Q. They were, to some extent --

24 A. Programming me.

25 Q. -- programming you not to do anything wrong or this will

1 happen to you.

2 A. It didn't work.

3 Q. I'm not saying it worked in your case, but that's the

4 way it was done?

5 A. Yes.

6 Q. It wasn't to say: this is the wing. We will try and

7 look after you. We'll do this, we'll do that. If

8 you've any problems --

9 A. No.

10 Q. Nothing like that?

11 A. No, no.

12 Q. This was your introduction to Rossie?

13 A. Yeah.

14 Q. Can I move on from Rossie? It's maybe a little

15 difficult to piece together, because the records we have

16 say, the Rossie records say you stayed in Rossie until

17 ██████████ 1967, and that's wrong, because we have other

18 records that show you were in Barlinnie in 1965 and

19 1966.

20 Let's assume that you were in Rossie and then, at

21 some point, I think you tell us that you ended up for

22 a spell in Perth prison?

23 A. That's correct.

24 Q. According to your recollection; did that happen

25 immediately after --

1 A. That was the incident on Rossie Farm, with [REDACTED]
2 from Edinburgh.

3 Q. This was another boy?

4 A. This was another boy, stockier and heavier and whatever.

5 Q. What was the incident, again?

6 A. The threats, the usual, and I went: well, I'm not having
7 this, man.

8 Q. You reacted?

9 A. I did. Yeah, well, that's standard procedure for me at
10 the time.

11 Q. What happened was, you ended up being taken to Perth
12 prison on remand?

13 A. Taken to Perth prison and then they took me back to
14 Rossie Farm and placed me in the cells there, because
15 Rossie had cells, too. And I do recall the judge went:
16 we can't do that, he's underage. We have to get the
17 Secretary of State.

18 Lord MacLean at the time, I believe it was, I'm not
19 sure. And he said, "You need to take him back after
20 a week", or ten days, whatever it was.

21 So they weren't the next best pleased, but they put
22 me in the cells in Rossie Farm and -- for a couple of
23 weeks, and then I went to court again. By this time,
24 they probably had the Secretary of State's authorisation
25 to penalise me in Perth.

1 Q. Basically, when you were still under 16, you were in
2 an adult prison?

3 A. Yes.

4 Q. In Perth. I suppose the one good thing is -- and
5 I think you say, you didn't have any experiences there?

6 A. In some prisons, depending -- mainly untried prisoners
7 I was in with, and they look upon you as a young boy,
8 and some people will seek to protect you. Other ones
9 will seek to abuse you. But, fortunately, I had ones
10 who liked me. I must have had the talk and chatter and
11 whatever, as it says I did, and they would like me. And
12 you would sit with them and be protected. You wouldn't
13 know you were being protected. It's only later on you
14 would know.

15 Q. When you say "protected"; are you meaning protected by
16 the staff or the adult prisoners?

17 A. The cons against other cons. Because you are in with
18 them, people won't go near you.

19 Q. You say, at 182, you were a wee boy in comparison and
20 out of your depth?

21 A. They were big men. They were robbers, they were this,
22 they were murderers, they were rape -- and all this.
23 I was more -- I suppose, I wouldn't say as bad as naive
24 as all of that. More Artful Dodger, I would think, but
25 in with Bill Sykes types. Not all Bill Sykes. Bill

1 Sykes, Fagins and the like; do you know what I mean?

2 People that would be streaks ahead of you

3 intellectually, whatever. Streetwise, everything.

4 Q. You are in Perth. Then you had a short spell at Rossie
5 again, as you've said, and then you were in court again
6 and you were sentenced to borstal training for two years
7 at Polmont?

8 A. That's correct.

9 Q. Can we move to Polmont then? And I'll ask you some
10 questions about that.

11 We see in your statement, you deal with this period
12 starting at page 33, in paragraph 184, through to
13 paragraphs 201.

14 I'll ask you a few questions about Polmont. I think
15 you tell us that for the first six weeks you were put in
16 a place that was called the Rookies?

17 A. Yes.

18 Q. That suggests a place for new boys?

19 A. Well, it is. You go there for six weeks, and then
20 that's when you do all the bed blocks, which
21 I'm familiar with, as I've said previously. And all the
22 polishing of the floor and the shoes all shined up. The
23 chamber pots shined up, shining like a mirror.
24 Everything is spotless, but I fell into that. You do go
25 to the gym. They train you up for the gym and all that,

1 and the weights and the circuit training, which was all
2 in my subconscious anyway.

3 LADY SMITH: 'Frankie', you see that microphone in front of
4 you? You are drifting further and further away from it.
5 I need to be able to hear you. You can pull it a bit
6 nearer.

7 MR PEOPLES: The Rookies, I think we have heard some
8 evidence about Polmont over the years and I think that
9 what seems to have been the general situation was that
10 people who went to Polmont were in -- you call it the
11 Rookies, but some people have called it the Ali Cally
12 later on, the allocation unit.

13 A. Well, that's what it was.

14 Q. Then they were allocated to a wing.

15 A. To the different wings. The Rookies would be Rossie
16 House at the time. Bruce was next door. And what I did
17 gather at the time, depending on your level of violence
18 or your intelligence, or both of them, you were put
19 in -- the bad lads, for want of a better word, were put
20 in Wallace House.

21 Q. In a sense, you were being assessed in the Rookies?

22 A. Yes, assessed.

23 Q. And they were going to decide which house you would go
24 in.

25 A. Yes.

1 Q. You ended up in Wallace House, which you think would
2 broadly be the place for the bad lads?

3 A. It definitely was, because most of the men were in other
4 institutions.

5 Q. Before you got to Wallace House, when you were in the
6 Rookies, was it a bit like a military regime?

7 A. Yes, it was exactly a military regime.

8 Q. You appear to be talking about -- starting at
9 paragraph 190 and 192, you talk about both things that
10 were happening, which I think you describe as
11 "psychological tactics" by the staff when you were in
12 Polmont.

13 At paragraph 192, you said it wasn't meant to be
14 a homely -- this is your cell environment -- the screws
15 would come in and they would take down things that you
16 put on the wall and say, "You can't have that", and you
17 say it was a power thing, and that was what they were
18 seeking to do. That they were in control.

19 A. Yes. I've seen the exact same things on programmes that
20 I've walked about army regiments on the TV, when they
21 are training in the beginning. Shoes in there and the
22 shoes go to the -- and the bed block, all the same, all
23 the same.

24 Q. You give us another example, I think, when you say that
25 there were occasions when you got sent to 'The Digger'?

1 A. Yes.

2 Q. Which is the punishment cell --

3 A. It was downstairs.

4 Q. -- in Polmont. At 192, you say you were:

5 "Sent to the digger. There would maybe be four or

6 five of us there at a time."

7 You are allowed to chat, you say, have a cup of tea

8 with no sugar and have your roll up cigarettes:

9 "I rationalised later that I was deprived not

10 getting sugar, even although you could buy sugar from

11 your canteen. Being a smoker, you wouldn't have the

12 money for tobacco and sugar, so you had your choice."

13 A. Yes, that's right.

14 Q. Are you suggesting that there was a degree of

15 deprivation on part of the staff?

16 A. No, only on my own part because I could have bought one

17 or the other.

18 Q. But you couldn't buy both?

19 A. No, you could save it up and buy both. But the money

20 you were getting was minuscule amounts.

21 Q. I suppose the point might be: the staff, even if they

22 know you like sugar, weren't going to give you sugar for

23 your tea in 'The Digger'?

24 A. You didn't get it outside 'The Digger' either.

25 (Pause)

1 Q. If I can just ask a couple more questions about Polmont
2 before we move on to Barlinnie.
3 How did Polmont compare to Longriggend?
4 A. Much similar.
5 Q. You say at paragraph 198, on page 36, that Polmont was
6 a violent place. I just want to know: what sort of
7 violence are you thinking about?
8 A. The gangs were coming in. They were taking a hold in
9 Glasgow at the time, and in the institutions you would
10 have all members of the same gang.
11 Q. You had the gang culture in Polmont?
12 A. You had it in every institution.
13 Q. And there would also be the strong against the weak?
14 A. There wasn't really much violence, but when there was
15 violence, there was violence; do you know what I mean?
16 LADY SMITH: This, 'Frankie', was the mid-1960s?
17 A. The height of the gangs.
18 LADY SMITH: Of course. Thank you.
19 MR PEOPLES: One more question before we move on to
20 Barlinnie.
21 You tell us at paragraphs 198 to paragraph 200, on
22 page 36, about something that you term the "mug's rush".
23 I want to know what that was.
24 A. This is my own terminology. I came to this conclusion.
25 I was in front of SNR [REDACTED] one day and he said,

1 "What you need is your backside skelpt". The same
2 SNR I had trouble with before. And I said,
3 "I've already had that", I swore at him, as I would at
4 the time. I swore at him and he said -- when I turned
5 round, one of the PTI's slapped me on this ear, and when
6 I turned round to confront him, the other one slapped me
7 on the other ear. It confused me.

8 I think I went to punch the first one and then the
9 other one would jump on my back, he'd grab an arm, and
10 then the other one would grab an arm. Then somebody
11 from outside would come running in and they would grab
12 a leg each, so they grabbed my legs. And if there was
13 a spare one, he would grab you in other areas of your
14 anatomy, to distract you from what was happening. They
15 would rush you from there across the road to another
16 cell and -- they wouldn't throw you in, but they would
17 let your legs in and get you, then door clicked.

18 Q. Was that it or did something happen in the cell?

19 A. I'll tell you, when I'd be in the cell I would be
20 frightened. And one time I recall -- that time in
21 particular, I went, "I ain't having this". You get
22 frightened. I said, "I ain't having them beating me up.
23 I ain't having it".

24 I looked about, and I remember looking at the
25 windows, they were broken windows with small panes and

1 we not get -- do one of them, because you are
2 frightened. I ain't having them beating me up,
3 squealing and twisting my arms and all that carry on.
4 But they came in all right. They kept looking through
5 the spy hole, which was frightening, on reflection.

6 I wanted them to come in now. Are they going rush
7 me in? Are they going to rush in and pile on me?
8 Because I've had that before, too, come in with
9 a mattress in front of them and ambush you.

10 Q. When did that happen? Where did that happen?

11 A. It wasn't Polmont. It was another place. It has
12 happened to me.

13 Q. Sticking with Polmont. You say, at paragraph 198, you
14 would hear the shouting and bawling, then the running,
15 the thumping and people getting the mug's rush, so it
16 suggests --

17 A. Yes. It's the same as in all the institutions. You
18 hear it, because the floors in Polmont were wooden and
19 polished flooring. You could hear the squeaking and all
20 that.

21 Q. You seem to be suggesting there -- and just correct me
22 if I'm wrong -- that this sort of type of situation did
23 involve violence by the kangas against the cons?

24 A. Not all the time. I think --

25 Q. Some of the time?

1 A. I would think -- looking at it unbiasedly and trying to
2 be fair, I would think that the screws were as
3 frightened of the cons, as it was the other way about.
4 That is why they had to gang up on you, because how else
5 are they going to control you? How else can 20 men
6 control 200 or 300 people?

7 Q. Putting it bluntly, when you were in Polmont; were there
8 times when there was something you heard or saw -- were
9 there times when prisoners were beaten up by staff?

10 A. Oh it happened. Aye, I heard it. I did hear it. Yes,
11 I did hear it.

12 Q. Would this be part of a situation that involved the
13 mug's rush or could it happen in other ways as well?

14 A. No, sometimes they would just go in and batter you and
15 then leave you to hear the door getting banged. And
16 maybe somebody laughing or whatever they were doing; do
17 you know what I mean?

18 Q. Can I move on? You tell us, at paragraph 201, that when
19 you were just coming up for 17 you were transferred to E
20 Hall, in Barlinnie, following an incident involving
21 a pal who stabbed another person over tobacco. You say
22 that they obviously thought you were involved in this
23 whole thing.

24 A. He was my pal. To use the phraseology, the English
25 phraseology: I'm in this window with him.

1 He's my pal and so, therefore, I must be involved.

2 Q. If I can ask a few questions about Barlinnie.

3 You were in Barlinnie, I think, from -- records
4 suggest -- we can see from the few records that SPS have
5 been able to provide us with that you were in Barlinnie
6 in November 1965, and you were still there on
7 12 April 1966.

8 What I can tell you is, the records say that you
9 suffered four months' reduction in grade in
10 November 1965. But the records said that after that,
11 from November 1965, your conduct vastly improved and
12 there was a recommendation for one month's restoration?

13 A. I can't recall.

14 Q. Then you appeared before a borstal visiting committee at
15 Barlinnie, on 12 April 1966, and you were given
16 a further two months' restoration of grade at that time
17 and a liberation date was recommended of ██████████ 1966?

18 A. I recall something similar.

19 Q. I'm assuming that unless you tell me differently, you
20 probably got out around ██████████ 1966?

21 A. Yes.

22 Q. The period when you were in Barlinnie, if I could ask
23 a little about that.

24 I think you say that when you were in Barlinnie it
25 changed over from being a borstal to a young offenders?

1 A. That's right.

2 Q. I think you are probably right, because the annual
3 report of 1966 for the Prison Service tells us that
4 Barlinnie Young Offenders' Institution opened in
5 February 1966?

6 A. Yes.

7 Q. Having previously been a borstal?

8 A. Mm hmm.

9 Q. I think it was the third young offenders, by that stage.
10 There had been one at Dumfries and one at Edinburgh.

11 A. One in Terregles Street, Dumfries.

12 Q. I don't want to ask too much about this. But you say
13 when it became a young offenders institution the bed
14 block wasn't compulsory?

15 A. No, no, it wasn't. Only in detention centres and
16 borstal.

17 When they came in, the young offenders came in, the
18 borstal boys were on the ground floor. They were
19 totally separate, a separate entity from young
20 offenders. They were totally different.

21 The young offenders that came in, most of them would
22 be in the street gangs.

23 Q. You were still at an age when you could be sent to
24 borstal for training, but you could also be sent to
25 a young offenders?

1 A. The ages were similar, I believe, weren't they?

2 Q. 16 to 21.

3 A. Yes.

4 Q. But you are saying in Barlinnie at that time there was
5 a level where there were young offenders.

6 A. Yeah, three levels.

7 Q. Who had been sentenced to a young offenders institution
8 and also, on the ground floor, borstal boys?

9 A. 24 borstal boys, I think it was.

10 Q. They're all there in one hall?

11 A. But we didn't associate with them. We would shout at
12 them and shout out the windows and all that carry on.

13 Q. You tell us a little bit about life then. I want to
14 check one thing.

15 At paragraph 213, on page 39, you talk about one
16 time in Barlinnie, when you were in the exercise yard,
17 you weren't allowed to talk to each other, so everyone
18 would speak out the side of their mouth and:

19 "We just had to walk in a circle."

20 A. That's the Victorian days.

21 Q. When did that stop?

22 A. Well, when I would be in Barlinnie at that time, you
23 would have some of the older cons who still spoke like
24 that, outside their mouths; do you know what I mean?
25 That was a product of -- I don't know, 50 years before,

1 something like that.

2 Q. When you were in, in 1965/66, and it became a young
3 offenders institution as well as a borstal; were you
4 allowed to speak in the exercise yard?

5 A. Oh, yes. You would be separated from everybody else,
6 the borstal boys.

7 Q. As a borstal boy, you could speak in the yard?

8 A. Yes.

9 Q. The young offenders couldn't?

10 A. I don't know. The young offenders could talk, only in
11 detention centres they couldn't talk.

12 Q. You say that there was a time when -- that was a time
13 when there were no radios in cells, but there were
14 books?

15 A. You did get a radio if you were doing over three years.

16 Q. But not under three?

17 A. Under three, you weren't eligible for that.

18 Q. If you were a borstal boy you wouldn't ever get more
19 than three years' detention?

20 A. No, that's right. No, you wouldn't have it. But we did
21 have a TV room and we did have a record player.

22 Q. You mentioned this earlier and I'll just briefly cover
23 this.

24 At paragraph 216, page 39, you tell us that you were
25 propositioned once while you were there by a kanga. You

1 tell us that someone came to your cell and came in and
2 offered you cigarettes, gave you one, and you
3 immediately sensed something wasn't right?
4 A. Yeah.
5 Q. This person asked if you had ever been loved by anyone
6 and, at that point, he stepped and locked and the door
7 and you were really worried at that point?
8 A. Yeah.
9 Q. You answered, no doubt in typical fashion, "Yes, my
10 mother".
11 A. I was on the ball that day.
12 Q. He was raging and stormed out the room?
13 A. That's right.
14 Q. At least nothing happened.
15 A. Yeah, fortunately. For him.
16 Q. For him, but you. But --
17 A. It wouldn't have been me, it would have been him.
18 Q. But he did that to you?
19 A. Yeah.
20 Q. Do you know whether this person might have done that to
21 other young people?
22 A. I would assume that they had. I also assume it was
23 rather naive, to tell you the truth. Because if I was
24 going to proposition somebody, I would find out their
25 character first; do you know what I mean? That told me

1 he was naive.

2 Q. Well, some might say there are those that think: you try
3 that ten times and nine times it doesn't work, but the
4 tenth time it does?

5 A. You would, wouldn't you? You would in that environment.
6 You have your choices, I suppose, haven't you?

7 Q. You say, at 217, that the staff weren't all bad in
8 Barlinnie?

9 A. For me, they say that everybody is all bad. But, like I
10 say, because there is a few football hooligans at Jam
11 Tarts, or Rangers or Celtic, that everybody is bad.
12 That's not the case. There will always be bad people in
13 all groups of people. In all groups.

14 Q. You have told us about what happened when you gave one
15 of the kangas verbal abuse in front of the governor.
16 I'm not going to go back over that.

17 You mention another psychological tactic, and I just
18 want to ask you about that.

19 At paragraph 222/223, where one night some of the
20 kangas came into your cell with a homemade knife?

21 A. Yes. A rather crude implement. I was rather perplexed
22 about it because if I had made it, I would have made it
23 a bit bigger. It was a lump of wood, like a square
24 block of wood with a four-inch nail in it, roughly
25 sharpened, shaky, and I looked at it. I remember who

1 was there. I started laughing. I went: "you're having
2 a fucking laugh."
3 Q. You say that they wanted to gauge your reaction and they
4 were winding you up?
5 A. They knew my reaction. They started laughing and left
6 me.
7 Q. Do you consider it was one of these psychological games:
8 we can search, we can find --
9 A. What was he doing it for? It wasn't for fun.
10 Q. Is it not, perhaps: if we want to, we can find
11 a knife --
12 A. Probably. That's what he did. I remember him doing it.
13 He lifted up the pillow and one spoke to me and I looked
14 and he lifted the pillow up and he went: "what's this?"
15 That's when I swore at him: "you having a fucking
16 laugh?"
17 Q. You would see that, maybe, as another example of playing
18 games?
19 A. It was a game. But it wasn't particularly bad, because
20 they left immediately and took it with them. I went --
21 I was more perplexed. I went: "why did he do that
22 there?"
23 By then I had no fear because he left. No charges;
24 do you know what I mean?
25 Q. If there was another person in the same situation, they

1 may not have reacted as you did and it might have been
2 a very different outcome?

3 A. That's why you can't show fear in that environment. You
4 have to have the front.

5 Q. I'm conscious of the time.

6 One last thing I would like to ask just now.
7 I'm coming towards the end of the questions I want to
8 ask. There are one or two things and I don't think
9 I'm going to finish before lunch.

10 But one matter, when you were still in Barlinnie, is
11 that you did have another incident involving a kanga
12 called **GUC** from the Highlands?

13 A. That's correct.

14 Q. You say:

15 "He was evil and never gave me my mail."

16 A. That's correct.

17 Q. "A letter was very important in these places. I asked
18 him if he had my letter and he blanked me twice, so the
19 third time I was a bit more aggressive, and I said: have
20 you got my fucking letter?"

21 A. That's right.

22 Q. You say:

23 "He thumped me right on the jaw with a closed fist.

24 At that time, that was the system, and I was a bit
25 reluctant to hit him, and he thumped me again two or

1 three times."

2 A. That's right.

3 Q. You say, at paragraph 225, on page 41:

4 "I battered him and I got nicked for it."

5 A. That's correct.

6 Q. And you were taken in front of SNR [REDACTED] who was

7 then HEO [REDACTED].

8 A. Yes.

9 Q. You say he asked what had happened. You told him about

10 the officer refusing to give you the letter three times,

11 him thumping you, and you say he believed you and that

12 he actually said something to the effect that you

13 weren't like that, and you say that you respected him

14 for siding --

15 A. There was also another officer there, who was in borstal

16 with me, a Mr GLH [REDACTED], a senior officer. So

17 HEO [REDACTED], who had been discredited much -- but

18 I don't discredit -- I thought a lot of him because he

19 was fair to me on that occasion. And I knew

20 HEO [REDACTED] from Longriggend, too.

21 Q. Did he have a reputation?

22 A. He had a reputation. People condemned him and called

23 him "HEO [REDACTED]" and the "HEO [REDACTED]".

24 Q. You called him?

25 A. HEO [REDACTED] I didn't, other people did. And the

1 HEO They put banners up of a morning,
2 which I thought: you are a criminal. You are supposed
3 to be omerta. You are not supposed to say on against
4 fellow crims. They're there condemning him because he's
5 SNR , when you are supposed to keep silent
6 because he's in the same boat as you. And when I --
7 that wasn't fair.

8 Q. Did you ever hear him referred to as "HEO
9 HEO "?

10 A. Yes, I did.

11 Q. Why do you think he had that name?

12 A. He must have offered people a . I've heard
13 other people on the TV talking about him. One of the
14 guys condemned him readily for a number of years, one of
15 the banner writers, and you'll see them on the TV. They
16 are on YouTube. And they wanted him to apologise after
17 a great number of years, saying he was sorry for the
18 abuse that he gave them, which I thought was
19 commendable.

20 MR PEOPLES: I think I have reached a point -- I have a few
21 more things --

22 LADY SMITH: Can we give 'Frankie' an indication of how much
23 longer we're going it need him to give evidence after
24 the lunch break?

25 MR PEOPLES: I would hope we could get through it in

1 15 minutes at most.

2 LADY SMITH: It won't be too long a session after lunch,
3 'Frankie', but I think it would be a good idea for us
4 all to stop now and have a breather and have our lunch
5 and start again at 2 o'clock.

6 One thing I need to say -- and this is not
7 a criticism of you, it's just flagging up what our
8 system for names is -- a number of names have been used
9 in the course of your evidence, quite rightly for
10 purposes of this evidence, but they're not upon repeated
11 outside this room.

12 I have a list, including [REDACTED], Mr GPN
13 Mr GJF, Mr GKF, Mr GTX, [REDACTED]
14 Mr GUA, Mr GUB and [REDACTED]. At one
15 point, you also used your own second name and,
16 of course, you are entitled to be known by 'Frankie' and
17 be anonymous.

18 I just wanted everybody who is here and who is
19 listening in, I think -- I hope it's been explained to
20 you there is a Webex system that means people who can't
21 be here today, but want to follow the evidence are
22 following it remotely. They all know now as well.

23 A. I'll read it myself when I go back home.

24 LADY SMITH: You might find Biggles more fun.

25 We'll have the lunch break now. Thank you.

1 (1.06 pm)

2 (The luncheon adjournment)

3 (2.00 pm)

4 LADY SMITH: Welcome back, 'Frankie'. I hope that break's
5 been helpful to you. Are you ready for us to finish
6 off?

7 A. Always ready, ma'am.

8 LADY SMITH: Thank you very much. Mr Peoples.

9 MR PEOPLES: Good afternoon, 'Frankie'.

10 A. Good afternoon.

11 Q. Before lunch we were looking at your time in Barlinnie
12 borstal. Just moving on from that, I think you tell us
13 on page 41, at paragraph 228, that you never reported
14 any of the abuse that you have told us about today?

15 A. No, never, never.

16 Q. Was there a reason for that?

17 A. Well, I suppose at the time -- a report by me at that
18 time, in that state of mind, would be regarded as
19 a weakness.

20 Q. Do you think if you had said some of the things you've
21 told us about today you would have been believed?

22 A. Sometimes, yeah, yeah. Sometimes, but SNR
23 believed me.

24 Q. You mentioned --

25 A. HEO believed me, and I was happy with that then, as of

1 now.

2 Q. We have heard evidence from other people who will tell
3 us that they didn't speak up because they didn't think
4 that anyone would accept or listen to what they had to
5 say, or indeed they were afraid of the consequences.
6 They didn't know what would happen if they said
7 anything?

8 A. I have thought of that recently of similar
9 circumstances. I don't believe that anybody in the
10 concentration camps reported to the man that was running
11 them their abuse then, because they would be afraid of
12 the self-same abuse, if not worse.

13 Q. You have a section in your statement where I think you
14 are trying to reflect on the impact of your experiences,
15 both in the care system and the prison system, if you
16 like, when you were a young person, under 18.

17 A. Yes.

18 Q. One of the things you say at paragraph 237, on page 43,
19 you say you were conditioned by the system. I would
20 just like you to tell us what -- like you to help us
21 understand what point you're making there?

22 A. Well, the point is this: the rationale behind it, the
23 way I am, the way I think and the way I act, this is
24 what it makes you do. I was trained up in institutions
25 by -- not all by them, by myself, too. I'm not

1 apportioning the blame solely to the institutions.

2 Myself, too. I've got to put my hand up to a bit of
3 the blame there, too.

4 Q. Can I ask you this: did you fight and use violence as
5 a youngster to survive in the care and prison system?

6 A. I've always used that type of lifestyle to survive.
7 Always, all my life.

8 Q. Did you have to use it in the prison and care system?

9 A. Not often, not often. While I was in a particular
10 prison system, down here in the Isle of Wight, there
11 were lots of -- I don't know what you call them -- high
12 value or high status, or whatever, criminals there and
13 there was -- the violence was almost negligible, because
14 what I found is that everybody was frightened of
15 everybody else and what each other could do to each
16 other if necessary.

17 I found that there. But the thinking, the rationale
18 there was totally different from up here.

19 Up here, we're more inclined to hit you with
20 a hatchet or axe, or stab you or whatever, and therein
21 lies the difference. And I came to that conclusion
22 because we've always been a military nation, Scotland,
23 and I think that's imbibed in us, too.

24 Q. Can I put it this way, to use one of the ways you've
25 expressed this earlier today, maybe in the Scottish

1 system, even when you were a youngster, that people felt
2 the need to prove themselves and they did it in certain
3 ways?

4 A. Yes. This is the Scottish way.

5 The English way to prove themselves would be more
6 cultural, more acceptable if you proved yourself in
7 gaining money. Money would be the status there.
8 Violence would be the status here.

9 Q. To an extent, was that borne out of -- certainly in the
10 1960s, the environment you came from and the gang
11 cultures that existed at that time?

12 A. The gang culture where I came from, the east end of
13 Glasgow, always existed from the 1920s.

14 Q. I'm not suggesting that it started --

15 A. Before I was born. Yeah, that would have a contributory
16 factor, and most of the people you find maybe fought in
17 Korea and the Second World War. My own family members
18 fought in these places, and even in Palestine and
19 Malaya. So this cultural thing would be violence in
20 a kind of -- ready to accept violence rather quickly.

21 Q. Can I ask you this then: did anyone, when you were in
22 the care or the prison system, when you were young, try
23 to educate you away from resorting to fighting and
24 violence? Did you get that kind of education?

25 A. Definitely not in Scotland. Definitely not in Scotland,

1 no. It's more acceptable here. Even the country's
2 motto is: untouched with impunity.

3 So, therefore, we have already been encouraged to
4 not let anybody away with anything before we start.

5 Q. You tell us, when you are looking back at paragraph 268,
6 on page 48, in the final sentence, that there was nobody
7 there to give you a cuddle when you were in the system?

8 A. I always missed that.

9 Q. Does it follow that what you're telling us about the
10 system as it then was, whatever the situation is now,
11 today, it wasn't a compassionate system that you were
12 cared for in?

13 A. It was fair. Compassion was not part of the thing.

14 Q. Do you consider that there were occasions when you were
15 shown kindness in any of the institutions you've told us
16 about?

17 A. HEO [REDACTED] showed me in Barlinnie.

18 Q. Was that a rare example of kindness?

19 A. For me it was, yeah.

20 Q. You say at paragraph 270:

21 "What I took and learned from the Approved Schools
22 was how to survive in the jungle."

23 Really, for you, what you learned from your time was
24 how to survive in the jungle?

25 A. That's exactly it.

1 Q. That sums it up?

2 A. Yeah.

3 Q. I think you tell us -- and this is something you told us
4 this morning -- that the places you were in, in the
5 1960s, were very much male dominated environments in
6 which I think you would say there was a
7 constant undercurrent of violence. That is
8 paragraph 272.

9 A. I was most aware of that while residing in Peterhead and
10 I would use the illustration, it was like the traps at
11 the racing. When the door was opened in the morning you
12 had -- when that door was opened up in the morning, you
13 had to be on the ball.

14 I wasn't on the ball one particular day and got 18
15 stitches. So that is the environment there.

16 Q. It sounds from the description of how you proved
17 yourself that you had to be on the ball in a lot of the
18 places you have told us about today; is that the case?

19 A. Yes.

20 Q. One thing you say, towards the end of your statement, is
21 that reflecting, back at paragraph 295, you say:

22 "What I realised later in my life was there were not
23 really many women in the Approved Schools and borstal
24 environments."

25 Or any of the other places you were in as

1 a youngster.

2 Do I take it from that you feel, perhaps, the
3 situation would have been least better, in terms of the
4 type of environment, if there had been more women
5 working in the institutions you were placed in?

6 A. Most definitely.

7 Q. Would that have helped to reduce the macho environment?

8 A. You would have a mammy and (indistinguishable) or
9 daddies.

10 Q. Would you have liked to have had a mother figure?

11 A. I think everybody does.

12 MR PEOPLES: That may be as good a way to end as any. I
13 have no more questions for you, 'Frankie'.

14 I just wish to thank you for answering the questions
15 that I've asked you today and for coming.

16 A. Thank you.

17 LADY SMITH: 'Frankie', can I add my thanks. As I indicated
18 at the outset, I was really grateful to how much you had
19 already told the team that's in your written statement,
20 which gave me so much background.

21 But hearing from you today, and hearing you talking
22 so openly and honestly about your experiences, has
23 really enhanced that. I'm very grateful to you.

24 Now I can let you go and you can have a rest for the
25 rest of today. You will be exhausted after what we've

1 it. I'm really grateful to you for already having
2 provided us with evidence in writing that we're going to
3 be able to use as the basis of what we want to ask you
4 today. You'll probably be referred to that in a moment.
5 But we'll also bring bits of your statement up on the
6 screen, so you can see that, too.

7 Tam, if you want a break at any time, you must let
8 me know. If it works for you, it will work for me. You
9 can bear in mind that I normally take a five-minute
10 break, or ten minutes, at 3 o'clock anyway in the
11 afternoon. If you have any questions at any time,
12 please do speak up. When you were a child you may not
13 have been allowed to speak up so much, but this is
14 somewhere you can.

15 It's important that we are able to do as much as we
16 can to help you be comfortable when you're giving your
17 evidence, so you guide us, if that's necessary.

18 If you are ready, I'll hand over to Ms Rattray and
19 she'll take it from there; is that okay?

20 A. Yes, that's fine.

21 LADY SMITH: Thank you. Ms Rattray.

22 A. Thank you, my Lady.

23 Questions from Ms Rattray

24 MS RATTRAY: Hello, Tam.

25 Now, Tam, as you're aware, you have given your

1 statement to the Inquiry. Simply for our benefit, we've
2 given it a reference and I'm going to read out that
3 reference for our records. Your statement has the
4 reference WIT-1-000001184.

5 As explained to you, that should appear on the
6 screen in front of you. Now, there is a paper version
7 of your statement as well, Tam. That's in the red
8 folder on the desk there.

9 To start, if I could ask you to go to the back page
10 of your statement, which is page 35; can you confirm
11 that you have signed your statement?

12 A. Yes.

13 Q. Do you see that, at paragraph 187, just above where
14 you've signed your statement, it says:

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

19 A. That's correct.

20 Q. Is that correct?

21 A. That's correct.

22 Q. Thank you, Tam. You can put that to one side again.

23 Tam, to start with, I'm going to ask you a little of
24 your background, before you went into care. You tell us
25 you were born in 1954; is that right?

1 A. That's right.

2 Q. You know that you lived in Fife with your parents [REDACTED]

3 [REDACTED]?

4 A. Yes.

5 Q. I think later in life [REDACTED]

6 [REDACTED] is that right as well?

7 A. Yes.

8 Q. You tell us that you don't have any memories of life

9 before you were involved with the care system?

10 A. What do you mean?

11 Q. What I mean is, you tell us in your statement that you

12 first went into care, I think, when you were a baby?

13 A. Yes, yes.

14 Q. Certainly your childhood memories don't involve a time

15 when you were weren't involved in the care system?

16 A. I didn't spend a lot of time at home, if that's what

17 you're referring to. I didn't spend a lot of time.

18 I spent more time in bad places than I did at home.

19 Q. Yes. Thank you, Tam.

20 Although you say in your statement you don't

21 remember this because you were so young, you do tell us

22 that you learned from your records that you first went

23 to Greenbank Children's Home?

24 A. Yes.

25 Q. You think you stayed there until you were about four

1 years old?

2 A. About four years, yes.

3 Q. Although sometimes you understand you were moving

4 between Greenbank and your home?

5 A. Like maybe two months at a time, and then it would break

6 down -- things would break down at home again. Social

7 workers would be involved and they would take us away

8 again. So home life was unrealistic, really, at the

9 time. I was more into the children's homes, the

10 Greenbanks, St Margaret's. I was more into these places

11 than anywhere else. In and out all the time.

12 Q. You tell us that after Greenbank, when you were four

13 years old, you moved to St Margaret's Home in Elie, in

14 Fife?

15 A. I got transferred there, yeah.

16 Q. For how many years did you live in St Margaret's Home?

17 A. I lived in St Margaret's for eight years off and on.

18 They would send me home for trial periods, which only

19 lasted weeks, and then -- I believe my mother and father

20 were drinking at the time. They weren't paying bills

21 and what not. They weren't feeding █████ properly, so they

22 took █████ back into care. And that happened, like, maybe

23 six times up to the age of 12 that that kept repeating

24 itself, up until the age of 12.

25 Q. You tell us in your statement, in relation to

1 St Margaret's, that you think that moving to and fro had
2 a back effect on your schooling?

3 A. Yes, yes. My first proper school was Elie Primary,
4 which was aside St Margaret's. It's about half a mile
5 way from St Margaret's. An outside school. I started
6 there when I was five years old.

7 Q. Was it the case that every time you moved between home
8 and St Margaret's you had to change school?

9 A. Yes. In East Wemyss, that school was -- it was only
10 a matter of weeks again and then back to St Margaret's
11 and back at Elie Primary. I was more at Elie Primary
12 than any other school.

13 Q. Tam, although St Margaret's is not the focus of this
14 particular case study, when we're looking at remand
15 homes and we're looking at borstals and prison settings,
16 I think it's important to acknowledge and understand
17 what happened to you in St Margaret's and how that led
18 to you being sent to an Approved School.

19 A. Yes.

20 Q. Secondary Institutions - to be published later

21 A.

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3 Q.

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22 Q.

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24 A.

25 Q. We know from your statement, that is in fact what

1 happened and you were sent to the Dale School in
2 Arbroath. But I think it would be helpful here if we
3 also consider another place you were at whilst you were
4 at St Margaret's.

5 That was later in your statement. If we turn there
6 now, you tell us, under the heading of "Records", on
7 page 34 of your statement -- **Secondary Institutions - to be published later**

8 **Secondary Institutions - to be published later**
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13 A. Yes.

14 Q. You tell us:

15 "It was decided by the medical authorities that
16 I should be sent to Ovenstone Residential School in
17 Pittenweem."

18 A. Yes.

19 Q. You say you stayed there from **██████████** 1959, when
20 you were five years old, until **██████████** 1960?

21 A. Yes.

22 Q. And whilst Ovenstone is not part of this case study, by
23 way of a background, we do know that Ovenstone was
24 referred to as Ovenstone Convalescent Home for Children
25 and it became a residential school for pupils with

1 social, emotional and behavioural problems?

2 A. Yes.

3 Q. I think by 1969 -- which is later -- it was referred to
4 as Ovenstone Psychiatric Unit?

5 A. That's correct.

6 Q. You tell us that IQ tests were carried out there?

7 A. At Ovenstone? Yes, yes. On my IQ, they done tests on
8 my IQ and it was -- the first one they done was 80. The
9 second one they done was 81, and I got a test after that
10 elsewhere and it was still 80. That was within a period
11 of three years. That was my IQ.

12 Q. Secondary Institutions - to be published later

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14 A.

15 Q.

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18 A.

19 Q.

20 A.

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25 Q. At paragraph 183 of your statement, Tam, you tell us

1 about a point you want to make about the report forms
2 that were sent for you going to Dale School; what was
3 the problem with the report forms?

4 A. There was a section -- there was a Scottish law section
5 under it, where it had to be filled in. I've not got
6 the papers with me. I've got them at home.

7 But it had to be filled in and, on two occasions, it
8 was left blank. No answer. But there was one report
9 that says that I didn't need to be seen by
10 a psychiatrist or anything like that. I didn't need it
11 more or less, just -- they had it all planned.

12 Secondary Institutions - to be published later
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20 Q. I think it might be helpful if we actually looked at
21 some of those records about the circumstances in which
22 you were sent to an Approved School.

23 I'm going to turn, firstly, to record FIC-000000904.
24 That won't be in the red folder, Tam. It will be it
25 will be on the screen?

1 LADY SMITH: We'll be able to enlarge the print for you.

2 A. I've seen all them, yes.


3 MS RATTRAY: These are the records that you are referring
4 to?

5 A. Yes.

6 Q. What this appears to be is a letter from the Senior
7 Medical Officer connected with the school health
8 service, to the Children's Officer, Nan Cooper, dated
9 29 August 1960.

10 You will see that this is a reference to the time
11 you spent at Ovenstone, which says that you have been
12 there since [REDACTED] 1959 and you are now ready to
13 return to St Margaret's. It says:

14 Secondary Institutions - to be published later



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21 A.

22 Q.

23 A.

24 Q. Turning to another record, which is at FIC-000000917,

25 and what, Tam, we see here is that this is a letter from

1 a consultant psychiatrist being sent to the Senior
2 Medical Officer, and it's dated 23 November 1961?

3 A. Yes.

4 Q. Secondary Institutions - to be published later
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6 A. Yes, I remember that well.

7 Q. It's talking about some progress you have made with your
8 mum, and it may well be this is a period when you were
9 back home?

10 A. Yes, I was attending the clinic then, the Barrie Street
11 clinic. I was attending the clinic with my mother, but
12 I think she was only there twice. Secondary Institutions - to be pub

13 Secondary Institutions - to be published later
14

15 Q. It was suggesting here:

16 "Although this family undoubtedly will have further
17 difficulties, I do not see either the boy himself or his
18 mother responding to any specifically psychiatric
19 treatment any more than they would to a continued care
20 and interest of the Childcare Officer, who continues to
21 visit. Provided this interest in the family can be
22 maintained and support given, then I feel Tommy will
23 maintain the limited degree of improvement of which he
24 is capable, having regard to the inadequate
25 personalities of his parents and his own limitations."

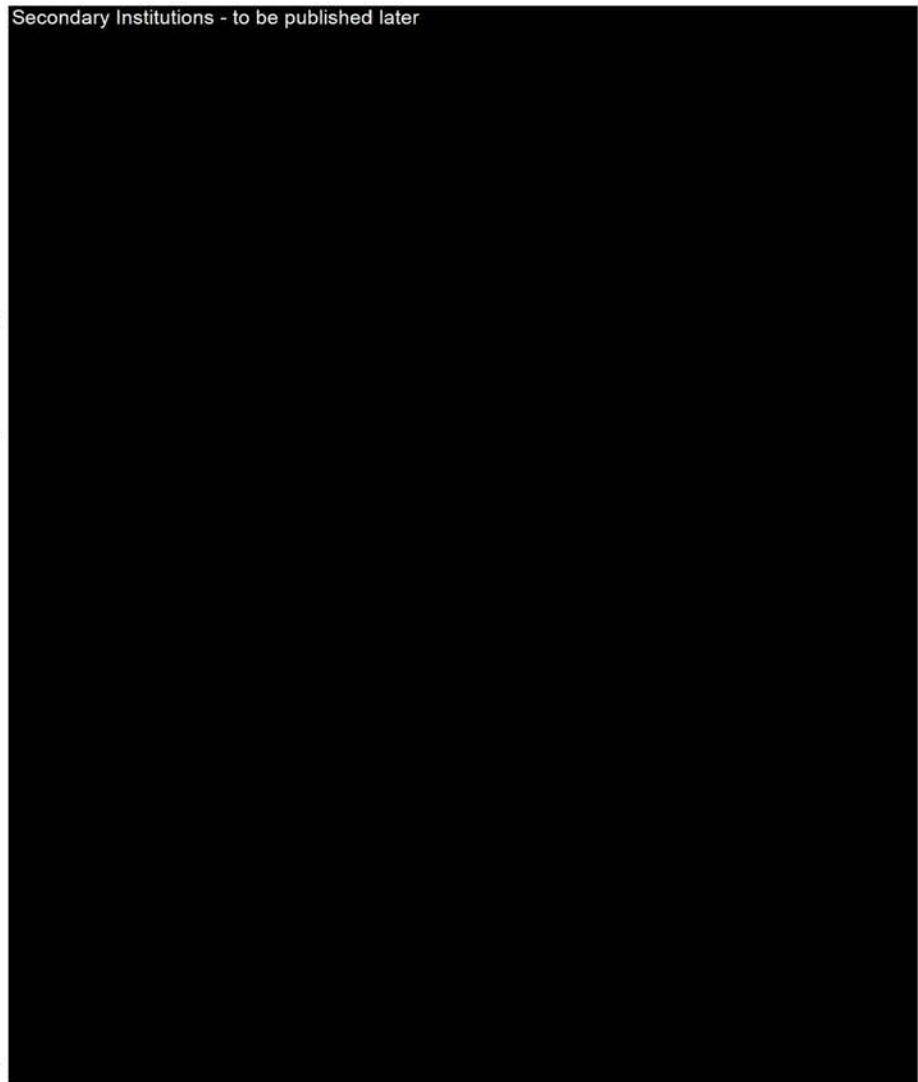
1 A. Aha.

2 Q. Here we have clear evidence you were seeing
3 a psychiatrist over many months?

4 A. Yes.

5 Q. The next record I would like to look at is
6 FIC-000000967.

7 Secondary Institutions - to be published later



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12 A.

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14 Q.

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25 A.

1 Q. Secondary Institutions - to be published later
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4 A.

5 Q. If we turn now to FIC-000001021. Secondary Institutions - to be published later

6 Secondary Institutions - to be published later
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1 A. Secondary Institutions - to be published later
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12 Q.
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14 A.

15 Q. Turning to the next item, document, FIC-000000932.

16 This, which we'll find out from the following
17 page -- but if we stick with this one first -- is a note
18 or a report from a Children's Officer who signs it later
19 R Mackay, as a Childcare Officer. It's about you and
20 the first few paragraphs give a bit of your family
21 history. But, if we look at the fourth paragraph of
22 this letter, which starts:

23 Secondary Institutions - to be published later
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Secondary Institutions - to be published later

If we move to the second page of this document, which is actually on another document, which is FIC-000000977, we see that this is a document of R Mackay, the Childcare Officer. About five lines down, in the first paragraph, it says:

Secondary Institutions - to be published later

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I'm moving now to FIC-000001132. What we have here, Tam, is something headed up "Record for transmission by a Court making an Approved School Order to the headmaster or person for the time being in charge of the school concerned."

10 A. Yes.

11 Q. I suspect this is the form that you were referring to --

12 A. Yes.

13 Q. -- when you spoke about a form which perhaps didn't contain any information about your history of having problems with your mental health as a child and of seeing a psychiatrist and being in Ovenstone?

17 A. Right.

18 Q. It appears to be -- it says:

19 "I certify that the record annexed hereto correctly sets forth information in possession of the court relating to the child or young person named and described therein."

23 So I think we will see as we go along that the court wasn't provided with any information regarding you suffering from any mental health problems or the support

1 you needed in connection with that.

2 If we just turn the page, to page 2 of this record,
3 and page 2 should be headed up with number 5. We see
4 that it asks questions about whether you had any
5 previous offences, and it says "nil". If you had
6 previously been in an Approved School, and it says
7 "nil".

8 Then, if we move over to page 3, this is simply
9 a page which gives some of your family background.

10 If we scroll down to page 4, we see the second
11 question is:

12 "Any other information (including any information
13 that emerges in the course of the court proceedings)."

14 That is blank, so apparently nothing else emerged in
15 the course of the court proceedings.

16 A. Mm hmm.

17 Q. If we scroll to page 5, this is Part B, educational
18 information.

19 A. Yes.

20 Q. It's here we see, at number 7, a question about mental
21 capacity and results of intelligence tests. We see
22 there is reference to various tests. You will see that
23 there is reference to an IQ of 81 and another date's IQ
24 of 83?

25 A. Yes. 83, yes.

1 Q. Then, at number 10 on that page, it says "Medical
2 history" and that's blank?
3 A. Yes.
4 Q. If we scroll down to page 6 of this document, it says,
5 "Any other particulars", and it's left blank. At number
6 13 it says:
7 "Name and appointment of the person who supplied
8 this information in Part B."
9 It seems to be the headteacher of Elie Primary
10 School?
11 A. That's who it was, yes, Mr Power.
12 Q. That was the school connected to St Margaret's, so one
13 would expect that information to be available?
14 A. Yes.
15 Q. If we turn over to page 7, scroll down, Part C deals
16 with medical information. This page seems to be mainly
17 questions about physical health, but it continues on the
18 final page, which is page 8, and at the top of page 8 at
19 number 11:
20 "Are there any indications of mental abnormality or
21 emotional instability?"
22 And the answer is:
23 "A quiet rather sullen boy but no other evidence of
24 mental abnormality or instability."
25 A. Yes.

1 Q. Further down, we see although there is a question at 16,
2 "General observations on the physical, mental or
3 emotional conditions noted."

4 There are no such conditions noted?

5 A. Yeah.

6 Q. So we see from what you say that that the court was not
7 apparently made aware that you were a very distressed
8 little boy who had a history of being perhaps
9 emotionally unstable anyway of mental health problems?

10 A. Yes.

11 Q. And being sent to Ovenstone for six months and indeed of
12 seeing a psychiatrist following upon that?

13 A. Yes.

14 Q. I think that was the point that you were wanting to make
15 in your statement?

16 A. Yes.

17 Q. About the very basis on which you were sent to
18 an Approved School?

19 A. Yes.

20 Q. We can set aside those records and now turn backing to
21 the statement at page 11.

22 I think we know from that, that you were 11 when you
23 were sent to your first Approved School, which is the
24 Dale School in Arbroath?

25 A. Yes.

1 Q. That's all blacked out on the screen in front of you,
2 because while Dale School is an Approved School, it is
3 not one of the specific schools that we're highlighting
4 in the course of this case study.

5 Secondary Institutions - to be published later



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22 LADY SMITH: Tam, it's really important that I can hear
23 everything you are saying and you are just a bit close
24 to the microphone at the moment. Just sit back a little
25 bit further away. That should be okay around there.

1 We'll tell you if it's not.

2 Secondary Institutions - to be published later

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19 Q. I think ultimately you were allowed to leave Dale School
20 and you went home and I think here in your statement you
21 tell us that at paragraph 94, on page 18, you say that
22 you were about 13 when you left Dale School and went
23 home to stay with your mum, but you were only home for
24 three or four weeks before you say you got yourself in
25 trouble again?

1 A. Yes.

2 Q. Secondary Institutions - to be published later

3 A.

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10 Secondary Institutions - to be published. Away I went with the lads and we

11 get up to mischief. Away I went with them again,

12 getting up to more mischief and back in the juvenile

13 court again, and sent to another Approved School.

14 Q. This time you were sent to the Rossie Farm school?

15 A. Rossie Farm, yes.

16 Q. What were your first impressions when you arrived at

17 Rossie Farm, can you remember?

18 A. Well, frightened, because most of the boys were

19 obviously a lot bigger and older than me. At that age

20 I was just a little stocky boy and just frightened at

21 the beginning. I had a few fights.

22 Q. Whereabouts did you sleep? Did you have bedrooms?

23 A. They had dormitories, eight of us in a dormitory. Maybe

24 about ten dormitories. I reckon there will be about 100

25 to 120 boys there at one time. Rossie Farm -- and then

1 right next door to Rossie Farm you had what was called
2 the closed block, where them lads never got out. They
3 were locked up there all the time. They had their own
4 wee place and it was all fenced off and everything like
5 that. They weren't allowed out, because there were
6 child killers and that in there.

7 LADY SMITH: Tam, did you say that was the Rossie Farm
8 closed block?

9 A. Closed block.

10 LADY SMITH: As in "shut"?

11 A. Closed. It's like a jail for young prisoners that are
12 doing life sentences and things like that, but don't
13 forget mixing with the other side. The other side was
14 Rossie Farm, people did get mixed up at the time,
15 Rossie Farm Approved School and Rossie Farm closed
16 block, because the closed block was still in the same
17 grounds but maybe 500 or 600 yards apart from each
18 other.

19 LADY SMITH: Okay. Thank you.

20 A. It had barbed wire fencing all around it.

21 MS RATTRAY: What was the daily routine when you were at
22 Rossie Farm? How would boys spend their day?

23 A. Most of it was work: gardening; farming; textile shops.
24 You were in the fields picking daffodils, tatties, tatty
25 picking, things like that and carrot topping. You would

1 be carrot topping which is taking the tops of the
2 carrots. You've got a stand and it's got a big, sharp
3 blade on it and you put the tops through it. Carrots go
4 to the factories. That's what most of the work
5 combined.

6 Then the gardening of course, the gardeners.

7 Q. Were you paid or given pocket money at all for the work
8 you were doing?

9 A. We were given -- I can't remember exactly what it was,
10 but it wasn't a lot, but you were given something.
11 Because if you had been in maybe six months being good
12 all week then you go down to Montrose, into the town,
13 Montrose, for -- like on your own for a few hours or go
14 and watch the Montrose playing football or whatever it
15 may be.

16 Obviously, you had to be good to -- you didn't get
17 out, they didn't let you out.

18 Q. What about school? Were there any school classes?

19 A. There was school classes for them that was classed as
20 really delinquent, that needed -- that couldn't read and
21 couldn't write. There were classes for them but that
22 was it. That was it.

23 Q. Did anyone come to visit you while you were staying
24 there?

25 A. Very seldom. Very seldom. I got a letter saying --

1 from my mother and promising she was coming, but she
2 never. Nine times out of ten she never turned up, which
3 was a disaster for me obviously. Heartbreaking.

4 Q. What about discipline? What would happen to a boy if he
5 didn't behave?

6 A. Well, it was mostly the belt, the strap, a thick -- half
7 an inch thick strap that they used. You would get that
8 over the hand. I was always a coward. I could never
9 take the belt, even at school. I couldn't take the belt
10 over the hand, so they had to land up whipping me around
11 the legs with a belt, but I've seen some lads just put
12 their hands up and bang, bang, bang, take six of the
13 belt and away they go, but I just couldn't do it. Kept
14 pulling my hands away. I was a coward.

15 Q. When you were hit with the belt on your legs, did it
16 leave any marks?

17 A. Yes, yes, red marks. They were there for about three or
18 four days and then they go away.

19 Q. I think you say in your statement, whilst they did use
20 corporal punishment, they used the belt, there were no
21 beatings or kickings from any of the staff at
22 Rossie Farm?

23 A. No, nothing like that, not that I seen.

24 Q. What about bed wetting? You described what happened at
25 Dale School. Was there a problem with bed wetting at

1 Rossie Farm?

2 A. No, no, no, no. I had stopped by then, but obviously
3 it -- all the beatings I got in the Dale School had
4 stopped me wetting the bed. I mean, even some nights
5 you were fighting to go to sleep in case you wet the
6 bed. No, no.

7 Q. You have told us there weren't any beatings or anything
8 of that nature from the staff, and you tell us there was
9 some bullying, older boys would bully the younger boys,
10 is that right?

11 A. Yes, yes.

12 Q. Is that something you experienced yourself?

13 A. Yes, oh, yes.

14 Q. And what about the staff? Were the staff aware of that?

15 A. There wasn't a great lot of staff for the amount of boys
16 that was in the place. There wasn't a great amount of
17 staff. The staff that was there, it was mostly like
18 Mr Fraser, who was a janitor there and he was there most
19 of the time because he was there when you went on parade
20 and things like that. You went on a parade to make sure
21 you were present and there and what not. He would shout
22 your name out and what not.

23 LADY SMITH: Tam, what did the bullies do? What sort of
24 bullying?

25 A. They would bully you --

1 LADY SMITH: Not why. What sort of bullying?

2 A. Punches, slap you. If they told you to do something and
3 you didn't do it for them, you would get a slap for it,
4 a hiding. But nothing too serious. It was still
5 bullying and you knew if a bully said to you: do this,
6 do that, you just done it.

7 LADY SMITH: Thank you.

8 MS RATTRAY: You also tell us that you experienced some
9 sexual abuse from an older boy.

10 A. Yes, yes. [REDACTED] who funnily enough he came
11 from Arbroath. He used to put his hand down my
12 trousers. This was really the first time I was involved
13 with like sex with another laddie or -- but he kept
14 putting his hands down my pants and playing with me,
15 playing with my penis and this went on near enough all
16 the way through the sentence, maybe once a week, twice
17 a week. He would do this to me and I didn't have to do
18 nothing to him in return or nothing like that. I didn't
19 think it was abuse at the time, obviously. I didn't
20 think it was abuse.

21 Q. Was there anyone about any of this abuse, whether sexual
22 or bullying, anyone that you were able to tell about
23 what was happening?

24 A. No, because if you told you were told you were grassing
25 and if you grassed everybody else in that Approved

1 School, 90 per cent of them in the Approved School,
2 would turn against you for being a grass, so anything
3 that went on you just kept your mouth shut and you
4 didn't grass about it, you know.

5 Q. At paragraph 111 of your statement, Tam, you tell us
6 about leaving Rossie Farm and you were told you were
7 leaving about a month before you did and you went home?

8 A. Yes.

9 Q. I think you tell us that you were home for about six
10 weeks before you started getting into trouble again?

11 A. That's right, yeah.

12 Q. You were back at another panel?

13 A. The juvenile court, yeah.

14 Q. Juvenile court. You tell us that you were sent to
15 a remand home in Edinburgh, but it's not a home you can
16 remember the name of?

17 A. It could be Howdenhall. I've thought about it. It
18 could be Howdenhall. Something like that. I was there
19 for about three weeks and then they transferred me to
20 Oakbank.

21 LADY SMITH: Ms Rattray, it's 3.05. Tam, I usually take
22 a break about this time in the afternoon, as
23 I explained, just a short one, for a breather. If it's
24 all right with you, we'll do that now and then finish
25 your evidence after it.

1 A. Yes.

2 LADY SMITH: Thank you.

3 (3.08 pm).

4 (A short break)

5 (3.15 pm)

6 LADY SMITH: Tam, are you ready for us to carry on with your
7 evidence?

8 A. Yes, please.

9 LADY SMITH: Thank you very much. Ms Rattray, where you're
10 ready.

11 MS RATTRAY: Tam, when we left off before the break you were
12 telling us that you think the name of the remand home in
13 Edinburgh might be Howdenhall.

14 A. Yeah.

15 Q. You were there for a short period. Do you remember
16 anything about abuse occurring there?

17 A. No, no.

18 I was only there two or three weeks at the most.
19 I was there for allocation, to be allocated another
20 Approved School.

21 Q. And that school, you were then sent to, was Oakbank in
22 Aberdeen?

23 A. Mid Stocket Road, Aberdeen, yeah.

24 Q. How old were you when you got to Oakbank?

25 A. I would be 14/15, at the most, 14 probably, because

1 I spent two periods in Oakbank. I got recalled there,
2 before I went to borstal. I got recalled.

3 Q. How long were you there the first time you went?

4 A. In Oakbank?

5 Q. Yes.

6 A. I would have been there about 12 month, 15 month at the
7 most.

8 Q. When you arrived at Oakbank, what were your first
9 impressions of Oakbank, do you remember?

10 A. The same as Rossie. This time you had lads in there up
11 to 18 year old. There were some lads in there 18 year
12 old. The lads from Glasgow, they done most of the
13 bullying.

14 Q. What were the sleeping arrangements, was it a dorm
15 again?

16 A. The sleeping arrangements was big dormitories, but you
17 had like -- about the same length of this room. Beds on
18 one side of the wall and beds on this side of the wall,
19 all the way down, like a hospital ward more or less.
20 Then about 200 or 300 yards along the corridor you had
21 another big room like this, the same idea, beds -- you
22 had a bed then a little locker and then next bed, then
23 a locker. So there was only a locker difference between
24 the beds.

25 Q. What was the daily routine at Oakbank? How was your day

1 spent there?

2 A. Again, gardens. They had a couple of classes, school
3 classes. Most of it was just janitor work, cleaners,
4 gardeners.

5 Q. Did you ever think about running away from Oakbank?

6 A. No.

7 Q. **Secondary Institutions - to be published later**

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16 Q.

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19 A. Yeah. They were much more relaxed in the sense that
20 there's no corporal punishment or anything like that.
21 The belt. They still had the strap, but I can't
22 remember if I ever received the strap all the time I was
23 in Oakbank. I behaved myself. I struggled in Oakbank.
24 I had one visitor in all the time I was in there.
25 I think it was 15-month or something.

1 That was the first time and I did struggle. I was
2 getting abused.

3 Q. Who was abusing you?

4 A. A lot of little boys were getting abused. It was
5 happening all the time with the bullies. They all
6 worked -- they all worked a lot then. To them, they
7 were like 17, 18, they all worked outside and -- they
8 were outside work parties. Forestry commissions and
9 what not. That's what they worked at, because they were
10 trusted. They just bullied on the night-time when they
11 were back. Just bullies bullying.

12 I didn't see anything wrong with the staff, unless
13 something happened when I wasn't there. But there was
14 a lot of sexual abuse among the laddies and it happened
15 to me on three or four occasions with the sexual
16 abusers.

17 Q. It happened to other boys as well, did it?

18 A. Yes, yes. It was pretty rife at Oakbank because laddies
19 that were there at 18, but near enough men. The first
20 time I was there I think I was 14, going on 15, the
21 first time I was in Oakbank.

22 Q. Once again, I think in your statement you say that you
23 couldn't really tell anyone because you would be a grass
24 and your time in care would be hellish?

25 A. You would be a grass. But I have admitted today and in

1 my court hearing, at the court, that there was others
2 who abused me. [REDACTED] from Inverness, he
3 actually was in -- about ten beds down from me and I was
4 getting a lot of trouble off the older lads and he
5 decided to stick up for me. But, unknown to me, he was
6 trying to be friendly with me in other ways.

7 Anyway, he eventually slid under the beds -- because
8 you could pull yourself along the floor. It was like
9 hard wood with varnish on the top. And he pulled
10 himself along and come into my bed. He stuck his penis
11 between my legs. Not up my anus, but between my legs
12 and ejaculated between my legs.

13 There was another 18-year-old that made me
14 masturbate him, where the boiler house is. Where the
15 gymnasium and the boiler house join each other, he made
16 me masturbate him.

17 Another one called [REDACTED] that was his nickname --
18 I can't remember his real name -- I was in the toilets
19 and he came in with an erection and tried to force it
20 into my mouth, things like that happened.

21 Then there was [REDACTED] from Dundee, he came
22 from Dundee. He was in my bed with me and I masturbated
23 him and it was -- he wouldn't do it back, so that was
24 the end of that.

25 But, yes, sexual abuse did go on at Oakbank, yes.

1 It was happening to more than me. There were other boys
2 that I know that were in there and seen it happening, so
3 I know it was quite rife in there. But I think it was
4 only because of the ages of some of the laddies that
5 were in there, near enough men, you know.

6 Q. So the older boys were still sharing a dorm with the
7 younger boys?

8 A. Oh, yeah. Oh, aye.

9 Q. Were the staff aware of what was going on?

10 A. Probably turning a blind eye to some of them. But I did
11 hear rumours, but I never seen it with my own eyes, but
12 I did hear rumours that the night watchman -- because on
13 the night-time, there was no staff on the night-time
14 when we were in bed. It was a night watchman. They
15 only had one night watchman. So he looked after the two
16 dormitories, one at each end, and he was based in the
17 middle, sitting in the middle, in an office in the
18 middle. And that's only the staff that was on in the
19 night-time. Just the one.

20 I think there would be a lot more abuse going on
21 through the night than what happened to me. Yes.

22 Q. When you eventually left Oakbank; where was it you went?
23 Was it home or did you go somewhere else?

24 A. No, I went home. I went home. But, again, by then
25 maybe a couple of month, back in trouble again. It just

1 seemed to be that home was never for me. It seemed like
2 it wasn't my mother. It seemed like it wasn't my
3 father. And I had a stepfather by the name of [REDACTED]
4 [REDACTED] and I never liked him, my stepfather, I never
5 liked him.

6 Q. The next place, I think you went bank to Oakbank
7 briefly?

8 A. I got recalled briefly to Oakbank.

9 Q. From there, I think you went to Polmont borstal; is that
10 right?

11 A. Then I went to Polmont, yeah.

12 Q. How old were you when you were at Polmont?

13 A. I would be 17, 18. 17.

14 Q. For how long were you there?

15 A. I was only at Polmont for either six weeks or eight
16 weeks. It's what they called allocation. You were
17 there to see what borstal you were going to go to, get
18 allocated to. That's why they called it allocation
19 centre.

20 I started my borstal training in the allocation
21 centre.

22 Q. What do you remember about when you first arrived at
23 Polmont?

24 A. Just as soon as you got in the door you got battered.
25 There were about maybe 10, 12 staff waiting on you

1 coming in. They just give you a battering. Not 12 of
2 them, but maybe two of them would give you a slap.

3 It could be things like, you could be standing with
4 one of your hands in your pocket or something like that
5 and they would just pick on you for that reason, or if
6 you didn't call them "sir" or by their name, if you --
7 because I wasn't used to doing things like that, so
8 I did get a few slaps for things like that, you know?

9 They more or less put you in your place, showing you
10 who's boss. You do as we say. Like a mini-detention
11 centre.

12 Q. How often would the staff slap you or anyone else?

13 A. As soon as you stepped out of line or did something
14 wrong, did something stupid. Because it was all done --
15 it was army style. Wherever you went you marched, left
16 right, left right, left right. You marched in time, and
17 if you were out of time, you would get somebody like,
18 Mr HWN, he used to come up behind you with a stick
19 and batter you on the back of the head with a stick.

20 That's the kind of things that went on there. Just
21 petty little things. If you even laughed or sniggered
22 or anything like that, they just outright smacked you,
23 gave you a slap. It's full force with a slap. It's
24 not -- it's an adult doing that, but that went on.

25 Everybody got that when they went in there, into

1 allocation, because that's their way of putting you in
2 your place. It's more or less a short, sharp lesson,
3 because you only do six weeks, or eight weeks at the
4 most, allocation, but you get allocated to another
5 borstal.

6 Q. You say that you never hit any of the officers, but you
7 saw that others did?

8 A. Oh, yeah.

9 Q. And what happened to someone if they hit one of the
10 officers?

11 A. There would be six or eight officers that would take
12 them into their cell and batter the daylight out of
13 them with their truncheons and what not. Most of --
14 some of them never lasted six weeks with the injuries
15 they had. They couldn't go through the system, the
16 allocation. They just couldn't go through it. Broken
17 arms. Broken legs.

18 Q. I think you say in your statement, paragraph 148, that
19 most of the officers were ex-military and they knew how
20 to hurt you without marking you.

21 A. Yes. Aye, they did that quite a lot.

22 With me being slow -- I think with me being slow --
23 because I was still slow then, my brain, it was still
24 slow then. I don't know what was affecting me to be
25 honest, but it was still affecting us. And with my

1 brain being slow I probably got a lot of hidings that
2 I didn't deserve. Like I say, if you are not marching
3 in time with the rest of the lads -- everything was done
4 regimental. You had to have it spot on.

5 Then there was a corridor that was about a mile
6 long, part of the punishment, they made you scrub that.
7 This great big, long, long corridor. They made you
8 scrub it with a big carbolic soap and the scrubbing
9 brush. You had to do it.

10 If they come along and found a bit of dust or a spec
11 of dust, another slap around the head. It was all about
12 the punches and what not. It was all for real.

13 I actually tried -- I think it was the first time
14 I tried to commit suicide was in there, was in Polmont
15 borstal.

16 Q. You were only there for a few weeks, but the few weeks
17 of that regime and you wanted to take your own life?

18 A. Yeah. I just couldn't handle it. It was too much for
19 me. It was too much.

20 [REDACTED]
21 cell, because everybody had a single cell. They were
22 only tiny, but you had a single cell and I tried to hang
23 [REDACTED]. I got caught. One of the
24 officers come round to check in, checking through the
25 spy hole and seen us, so I got caught. That was

1 a failure.

2 But that was the start of a downward spiral for me,
3 because all my life has been psychiatrists,
4 psychologists, all my life. That is what it has been.

5 I'm still attending. Up to four years ago I was in
6 hospital with alcohol problems. I came out of there and
7 I have never drunk for the last four years now.
8 I've not had a drink. I spent another two weeks,
9 because my liver -- you can't have a liver like that.
10 I was drinking about a litre-and-a-half of whiskey a day
11 and there was everything that was going on with court
12 cases.

13 Q. Tam, after you tried to take your life at Polmont,
14 I think you tell us you were cut down and you were taken
15 to SNR [REDACTED]?

16 A. I was taken to SNR [REDACTED], aye. But, in them days,
17 they had no sympathy for boys whatever.

18 Q. I think you say that you tried to tell SNR [REDACTED]?

19 A. Tell SNR [REDACTED]?

20 Q. Tell SNR [REDACTED] that it was because of the abuse that
21 you tried to take your life?

22 A. I can't remember that, love. It might have been.
23 I might have told SNR [REDACTED] that, but I can't
24 remember. Because SNR [REDACTED] at the time, I believe,
25 was HEO [REDACTED]. HEO [REDACTED] they used to call him.

1 He was in there.

2 Q. I think, Tam, at paragraph 144, you tell us that you did
3 manage to see the prison psychologist twice when you
4 were in Polmont, and you say that you would tell him the
5 issues you were having was due to abuse you were
6 suffering from the staff?

7 A. That would be right. Because they would make me see
8 a psychiatrist or a psychologist after you have
9 attempted to commit suicide. They would make -- you
10 were made to see one and at Polmont that would be right,
11 that part.

12 Q. If you told the psychiatrist or psychologist that; did
13 anything change after telling about the abuse?

14 A. They would lay off us a little bit. But you still got
15 a slap now and again for stepping out of line or talking
16 at the wrong time, or ...

17 No, it was just like being in the army, to be honest
18 with you. Everything done on the double, quick march,
19 bed blocks. You made a bed block. You had -- they
20 would come and inspect your room every week. Any dust,
21 you got a slap. You got a hiding.

22 They would put -- some of SNR would put
23 them white gloves on and come round and go around your
24 cell on the shelves and that, and if they got any dust
25 with their finger, that's it, no recreation tonight, you

1 are getting nae recreation, which was like pool, board
2 games and television, things like that. So that was
3 a punishment.

4 **Secondary Institutions - to be published later**

5 **Secondary Institution** I went on to another borstal by the name of
6 Noranside, in Forfar. They always seemed to put me up
7 that end of the country. Noranside is Forfar way. They
8 put me up there.

9 I thought I got on great there, at Noranside.

10 Q. I think in your statement -- but we're not looking at
11 that particular borstal in great detail.

12 A. Sorry, dear.

13 Q. What you are saying is very important. You tell us that
14 the atmosphere was very different in Noranside?

15 A. In Polmont?

16 Q. No, in Noranside compared to Polmont?

17 A. Oh, yes, entirely different. The staff were all
18 different. The staff were good. There was hardly any
19 bullying, anything like that.

20 I landed up doing -- I done two-month allocation and
21 then I done eight-month up at Noranside. I think I done
22 ten-month on that sentence and that was me, I got
23 released from borstal.

24 Q. Tam -- carry on. Sorry, I stopped you there.

25 A. I worked on the farms when I first went into Noranside

1 and I enjoyed that. I worked on the farms, taking the
2 cows in more milking and things like that. I quite
3 enjoyed it.

4 About three months after working on the farms, I got
5 the job as a tractor boy, driving the tractor. That was
6 me, I had one of the best jobs in the place, really, at
7 Noranside.

8 The officers, and -- they didn't wear uniforms or
9 nothing, like prison uniforms or nothing like that, they
10 wore civvy clothes. It was a different atmosphere.

11 Q. Now, Tam, I'm going to move on to some of the things you
12 tell us about the impact that your experiences in care
13 have had upon you. You have already mentioned this in
14 your evidence, and I think it's had a major impact upon
15 your mental health and you say that you started to drink
16 alcohol when you were about 16 --

17 A. Yes.

18 Q. -- onwards?

19 A. Yes.

20 Q. **Secondary Institutions - to be published later**

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Secondary Institutions - to be published later

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14 Q.

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24 Q. I think some time later you also sued Fife Council and
25 you were paid compensation?

1 A. Yes, yes.

2 Q. And you have written a book about your experiences?

3 A. Yes.

4 Q. And that was published in 2007, I think?

5 A. It would be, yes.

6 Q. What is the name of your book?

7 A. Tears at Bedtime.

8 Q. Did writing that book help you?

9 A. Yes, yes, very much so. Especially the reviews I got on
10 the book. I got a lot of reviews back on the book and
11 nine out of ten were very good reviews about the book,
12 so I was quite happy. I was quite pleased.

13 I did tell Fife Council in advance that I was
14 writing a book. I told them. They didn't want me to
15 write the book, but I wrote it.

16 MS RATTRAY: Well, Tam, that is the end of my questions and
17 thank you very much for answering them.

18 My Lady, I'm not aware of there being any other
19 questions.

20 LADY SMITH: Thank you.

21 Tam, can I add my thanks to Ms Rattray's, for the
22 written statements, that I've already referred to, that
23 was such a help to enable me to prepare for today and
24 for us to base our questions on.

25 You have made so much come alive for us. Much of it

1 in a painful way, but it's really important that we
2 understand that. I'm sure it's been difficult for you,
3 but I hope in a way it helps you to know at the very
4 least you are contributing really valuable evidence to
5 the work that we're doing here.

6 I'm very grateful to you for that.

7 A. Thank you very much, my Lady.

8 LADY SMITH: I'm now able to let you go and hopefully have
9 a restful time for the rest of today.

10 A. Thank you very much.

11 LADY SMITH: Thank you.

12 (The witness withdrew)

13 MS RATTRAY: My Lady, I think that concludes the evidence
14 for today.

15 LADY SMITH: Very well. I'll rise now until tomorrow
16 morning and the plan is that we'll move on to another
17 oral witness tomorrow morning; is that right?

18 MS RATTRAY: No, my Lady.

19 I think there was originally an oral witness planned
20 for tomorrow, who is no longer giving oral evidence. So
21 tomorrow morning we will catch up on our read-ins and
22 there will be an oral witness at 2 o'clock.

23 LADY SMITH: Of course. Thank you very much. Until
24 tomorrow morning.

25 (3.37 pm)

1 (The Inquiry adjourned until 10.00 am
2 on Wednesday, 8 November 2023)
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