

Thursday, 15 February 2024

1

2 (10.30 am)

3 LADY SMITH: Good morning, and welcome to the third day this
4 week of evidence in Chapter 3 of Phase 8 of our case
5 studies looking into the abuse of children in
6 residential accommodation for young offenders and
7 children and young persons in need of care and
8 protection.

9 Now, Mr Sheldon, I think we have a witness ready to
10 give evidence in person.

11 MR SHELDON: That is correct, my Lady. We have a live
12 witness this morning, who wishes to be known as 'Allan',
13 which is his pseudonym.

14 LADY SMITH: Thank you.

15 'Allan' (sworn)

16 LADY SMITH: A couple of things before we begin. The red
17 folder on the desk has your statement in it. So, once
18 you have your glasses, if you find it helpful to refer
19 to, it will be there for you. But we will also bring it
20 up on the screen, so you'll see it there in larger print
21 than in the hard copy. That will possibly be useful to
22 you.

23 'Allan', while you are giving your evidence, if
24 there is anything I can do to help you give your
25 evidence easily, more comfortably, you must let me know.

1 I don't want you being worried about giving your
2 evidence, or confused. If you don't understand what
3 we're asking you, it's our fault, not yours, so just
4 speak up.

5 If you want a break at any time that's fine. You
6 just tell me and you can either have a break sitting
7 where you are or go out of the room for a little while,
8 if that would help.

9 A. Thank you, my Lady.

10 LADY SMITH: Is that okay?

11 A. My hearing is just a wee bit -- if I could get it a wee
12 bit louder.

13 LADY SMITH: I'll turn the control up on my microphone; is
14 that better?

15 A. Yes.

16 LADY SMITH: Good.

17 If you use your microphone, we'll be able to hear
18 you properly. The position you are in is probably quite
19 good. We don't need you to get too close to it, but it
20 means you don't have to shout and your voice should be
21 able to be heard clearly.

22 If you're ready, 'Allan', I'll hand over to
23 Mr Sheldon and he'll take it from there; is that all
24 right?

25 A. Yes, thank you.

1 LADY SMITH: Thank you. Mr Sheldon.

2 Questions by MR SHELDON

3 MR SHELDON: Morning 'Allan'.

4 A. Good morning.

5 Q. First of all, is the volume from my microphone all right
6 for you? Can you hear me well enough?

7 A. Yes.

8 Q. Good.

9 Lady Smith has pointed you in the direction of the
10 red folder on your desk. Perhaps I could just ask you
11 to open that. I think you'll find that's the statement
12 that you gave to the Inquiry.

13 Can I just ask you to look at the last page?

14 A. Yes, that's my signature.

15 Q. You have signed it. You have the date there?

16 A. 3 August.

17 Q. You have said:

18 'I have no objection to my witness statement being
19 published as part of the evidence to the Inquiry.

20 I believe the facts stated in this witness statement are
21 true.'

22 Is that right?

23 A. Yes.

24 Q. I'll just read the reference number of the statement for
25 the record. So the reference is WIT-1-000001309?

1 A. Yes, that's correct.

2 Q. Thanks very much, 'Allan'.

3 I don't need your date of birth, but what year were

4 you born, 'Allan'?

5 A. 1956.

6 Q. Thank you.

7 You want to tell us about some experiences that you

8 had while you were at Larchgrove Remand Home and

9 Balgowan Approved School; is that right?

10 A. Yes, that's correct.

11 Q. If you just go back to page 1 of your statement; do you

12 have that in front of you?

13 A. Yes.

14 Q. You start off telling us a bit about your life before

15 you went into care. I think you grew up in, first of

16 all, the Maryhill area of Glasgow and then Possilpark;

17 is that right?

18 A. Yes.

19 Q. How was your family life? How was your upbringing?

20 A. It was okay. I had a younger sister when I stayed in

21 Maryhill. And I met a wee boy, [REDACTED], and he was

22 off school a lot, and he asked me if I wanted to stay

23 off school with him, which we did, and we would go into

24 town. That is when truancy started.

25 Q. If you just go over the page, to page 2, you talk about

1 that a little bit there, at paragraph 5 in your
2 statement.

3 I think you said the wee boy's name was
4 ██████████; is that right?

5 A. Yes, that's correct.

6 Q. You start skipping school; what happened after that?

7 A. After that? Well, I was -- I must have been taken to
8 court with my mother.

9 Q. What sort of age would you have been then?

10 A. Pardon?

11 Q. What sort of age would you have been then?

12 A. I would have been 11.

13 Q. Why did you have to go to court? What happened that --

14 A. I think I had been caught stealing.

15 Q. You tell us a bit about that, at paragraph 9 of your
16 statement; is this the incident that you're talking
17 about, in 1967?

18 A. Yes.

19 Q. I think you say there that you were part of a group of
20 boys and what was taken was a block of butter; is that
21 right?

22 A. Yes.

23 Q. You ended up in court for that?

24 A. I don't think so.

25 Q. Okay.

1 A. No.

2 Q. In all events, you go to court and the court, I think
3 you say, sent you to Larchgrove Remand Home?

4 A. Yes.

5 Q. You're about 11 years old at that time?

6 A. Yes.

7 Q. You tell us in the statement -- this is page 3 -- that
8 you were put on a big black bus straight from the court
9 and taken to Larchgrove.

10 What were your first impressions of Larchgrove when
11 you arrived there?

12 A. I was very scared. It was at nighttime, and the door
13 opened on the bus and a police officer says, 'You, come
14 here', and he grabbed hold of me by the shoulder and my
15 shirt. And they folded steps down on the back of the
16 bus. We went down the steps and there were two steps
17 leading up into Larchgrove and there was a door open,
18 a big glass door, and there was a man standing there,
19 Mr GIA .

20 I came in and he said, 'Stand there, on the
21 left-hand side', and he closed the door.

22 Q. Who was Mr GIA ?

23 A. He was SNR .

24 Q. So he opens the door. Were you on your own at that time
25 or were there other children with you?

1 A. Yes, I was on my own.

2 Q. What did Mr GIA do then?

3 A. I think he gave papers to the police officer and said
4 goodbye and he closed the door.

5 I looked across and there was a boy standing in
6 front of me naked, with his -- he was standing in front
7 facing us. Then, as soon as the door closed,
8 Mr GIA told him to turn round and he asked him to
9 bend over and pull his bum cheeks apart, which the boy
10 did. And when he did that, Mr GIA walked over and
11 kneeled down behind him and looked very closely at him
12 and said, 'Well, there's no drugs in there then'.

13 He then step backwards and took a belt out of his
14 pocket and proceeded to belt the boy across his bare
15 buttocks. I think it happened three times.

16 Q. Three strokes, three blows with belt?

17 A. Yes.

18 Q. You said this was a boy that was naked. Can you give us
19 an idea of how old the boy would have been?

20 A. He would have been ages with myself possibly.

21 Q. You thought this was some kind of search for drugs; is
22 that right?

23 A. I thought what?

24 Q. You thought it was a search for drugs?

25 A. Yes. It transpired -- later I found out, once I was in

1 there, he had escaped with another boy and they had been
2 taking drugs, and they got caught in Woolworths store
3 and they had no shoes on. And that's why he was there
4 in Larchgrove. He had been brought back to Larchgrove.

5 Q. You tell us in your statement -- this is page 4 -- that
6 you thought the drug might be a drug called Mandrex or
7 Mandies?

8 A. Yes.

9 Q. Might that also have been known as Mandrax?

10 A. Mandrax.

11 Q. This seemed to be a search, a strip search essentially;
12 is that really what you're saying?

13 A. Yes.

14 Q. So that's, as it were, the first thing you see when you
15 came into Larchgrove; what did you think about that,
16 coming into Larchgrove, into that place?

17 A. Given it was a first impression, I didn't know what to
18 think. I was very, very scared at the time.

19 Once the wee boy had been belted, someone came down
20 the corridor and they took me away, took me up to
21 a dormitory.

22 Q. What was the dormitory like? How many boys were in
23 there?

24 A. There was four or five beds in each dormitory. I think
25 there was one bed empty in the dormitory I was in, and

1 I think there was four of us.

2 Q. How close together were the beds? What sort of size of
3 room was it?

4 A. It would have been a room about the squareness where
5 you're standing behind -- up to here, and possibly up to
6 about -- maybe about halfway across the carpet here.
7 It's a good-sized room. They were all low down and
8 there was windows that looked out on to the gardens
9 outside.

10 Q. You say, at page 5 of your statement, that there was
11 also an initiation ceremony at Larchgrove, just at
12 paragraph 20 there.

13 A. Yes.

14 Q. Can you tell us about that?

15 A. Yes. The new boys that came in, once you came in and
16 the teachers would come in and say, 'That's yours in
17 for...' And, 'Get into your bed for tonight, get your
18 pyjamas on', and they would leave the doors open. The
19 doors all led down to a central square and --

20 Q. So the doors weren't locked at night?

21 A. They weren't locked at night, no. So you get out and go
22 to the toilet.

23 Once the teacher went away, the boys said, 'Oh, it
24 will not be long until the cocoa comes round', and
25 I said, 'What was that?' They said, 'You get a cup of

1 cocoa at night. You won't be able to get one because
2 you've not got a cocoa ticket'. I asked, 'How was
3 that?' They said, 'Well, you need to go down to the
4 square and ask one of the staff for a cocoa ticket',
5 which I duly did.

6 Q. Was there a cocoa ticket?

7 A. No, he informed me that the boys were making fun of me.

8 Q. They were pulling your leg?

9 A. Yeah.

10 Q. But I think you say that he gave you a bit of fruit bun?

11 A. Yes, he gave me a bit of fruit bun and said, 'Stand over
12 there and eat it, and don't tell the other lads I gave
13 you it'.

14 Q. Slightly nicer experience than the one that happened to
15 you when you first arrived?

16 A. Yes. I stood for about five minutes and then he let me
17 go back to my bed.

18 Q. From page 5 onwards, you tell us a bit about the routine
19 at Larchgrove and the food and so on.

20 A. Yes.

21 Q. I think you say the food was delicious?

22 A. Yes.

23 Q. It was good food?

24 A. Yes, it was good. Absolutely, yes.

25 Q. Was there enough of it?

1 A. Yes, you got big fish, spam fritters. Well fed. Lots
2 of bread.

3 Q. You talk about the showering routine. At the foot of
4 page 6, you talk about uniforms at Larchgrove, and you
5 say that there seemed to be different uniforms for
6 different boys?

7 A. Yes.

8 Q. Why was that? Or how was that, I suppose?

9 A. It was to separate the boys -- there were two levels of
10 imprisonment. There was 14 days' detention, then there
11 was 28 days' detention.

12 The ones that were doing 14 days' detention, because
13 they were in for such a short time, they wore brown
14 clothing. They wore brown shorts. And the boys that
15 were in doing 28 days, they were wearing blue. And if
16 you were doing 28 days, that was your second time in
17 Larchgrove. You were probably pending -- awaiting
18 a placement in a List D establishment.

19 Q. Over the page, page 7, you talk about leisure time, and
20 you say that you had the opportunity to be outside and
21 playing football and so on?

22 A. Yes.

23 Q. Is that something you did, as well?

24 A. No. No, I didn't play football. But we got out one
25 day. We got taken to the swing park one day, a day out.

1 Q. All right.

2 A. When I was there, I didn't play football, no.

3 Q. What sort of range of ages were the boys at Larchgrove?

4 A. They were different ages. Some were the same ages and
5 some were older.

6 Q. Would you have been among the youngest or were there
7 younger boys than you there?

8 A. Boys the same age, yes. But, in my dormitory -- and
9 I can't remember -- I can't recall if it was when I was
10 doing the 14 days or the 28 days -- in my dormitory
11 there was an older boy called [REDACTED]. He was a lot
12 older than the rest of us, I think.

13 Q. Did that pose any problems, having an older boy in the
14 dormitory?

15 A. Yes, it did for me.

16 Q. We might come back to that in a wee while. You talk
17 about that later in your statement.

18 First of all, I want to ask you about what you say
19 at paragraph 31. You are saying you had classes during
20 the day. And then at ... sometimes you had films; were
21 these sort of educational films?

22 A. Yes, they were oil exploration.

23 Q. At paragraph 31, you talk about something that happened
24 when one of those films was being shown; can you tell us
25 about that in your own words?

1 A. Yes. One day we went in to see the film and I was
2 close, I was -- the row of seats behind the very front
3 seats. And down the front on the left-hand side, facing
4 the screen, sat the teacher and he sat on -- there were
5 chairs that had the bases missing off them, and he sat
6 down literally in front of me and it was his job to
7 change the reel.

8 I looked down when he had come back from changing
9 the reel and I saw him lifting -- there was a wee boy
10 sitting next to him, he said --

11 Q. What sort of age was the wee boy?

12 A. He would have been about 10 or 11.

13 Q. Sorry, I interrupted you. Please carry on.

14 A. And when we had went in, he said to the wee boy, 'You
15 come here'. The wee boy was going to sit on a chair and
16 he said, 'No, you sit down here beside me', and he sat
17 him on the floor, on a cushion, I think.

18 And it was once the film had started, or after he
19 had changed a reel or something, when he came and sat
20 back down I happened to look down and he lifted the wee
21 boy's hands towards the front of his trousers. And
22 I think during the film I can remember him pulling him
23 over, a bit closer to him.

24 Q. Go on. Did anything else happen after that?

25 A. No. I just looked down and looked away and watched the

1 film.

2 Q. You say in your statement that the member of staff
3 concerned was a Mr MKI ?

4 A. Yes, that's correct, Mr MKI .

5 Q. What was Mr MKI 's position in the home?

6 A. He was a teacher that taught English, I think, and
7 showed us films.

8 Q. You have told us that you saw him pull the little boy's
9 hand --

10 A. Yes.

11 Q. -- towards front of his trousers?

12 A. Yes.

13 Q. But you didn't see anything else after that?

14 A. No.

15 Q. It's just that you tell us in your statement that he put
16 the boy's hand inside his own trousers?

17 A. Yes.

18 Q. You don't remember that happening now?

19 A. I beg your pardon?

20 Q. Are you saying that didn't happen?

21 A. No, he lifted the wee boy's hand. He lifted his hand
22 right over to the front of his trousers.

23 Q. Was the boy's hand touching the trousers?

24 A. No. No.

25 Q. Over the page, page 8, you talk a little bit more about

1 life at Larchgrove and, at the foot of that page, you
2 talk about wetting the bed?

3 A. Yes.

4 Q. We have heard evidence from other former residents of
5 these types of homes that they would be punished if they
6 wet the bed.

7 A. Yes.

8 Q. Did that happen at Larchgrove?

9 A. No, no, we weren't punished. No, if you wet the bed,
10 they took your sheets off you, off your bed, and made
11 you change your bed. But, no, we weren't punished for
12 it.

13 Q. Did they make you change the sheets during the night or
14 was that in the morning?

15 A. When they checked the sheets, that was in the morning,
16 when they come in.

17 Q. Page 9, you talk a bit about visiting and you say, at
18 paragraph 41, that there were no external inspections at
19 Larchgrove. So were you just not aware of anyone coming
20 to visit or inspect the home?

21 A. No, no.

22 Q. At page 10, you have a section about discipline,
23 paragraph 45. You say that the tawse was the main form
24 of discipline, and you go on to say that you didn't get
25 belt and you didn't see anyone else getting it.

1 But did you know of other people that got the belt?

2 A. No, no. Just the wee boy, [REDACTED].

3 Q. Okay. Can you tell us about him?

4 A. Yes. I actually spoke to him after it, and he said,

5 'Oh, you were the wee guy that came in when I get the

6 belt'. I think it was a couple of days after I had been

7 in and he told me what had happened. He had been taking

8 the drugs and dancing through Woolworths in his socks.

9 Well, they put him in -- they locked him in a cell

10 when he came back. I don't know why. And he escaped

11 from the cell. He got out. He got up into loft and out

12 the roof, and that's how he managed to get away.

13 Somebody had passed him in a post. I don't know if

14 he had escaped before. I think he had escaped, and that

15 was him getting brought back and punished by the belt.

16 Q. So this boy, [REDACTED], he was the boy you had seen on

17 your first day --

18 A. Yes.

19 Q. -- being stripped searched and belted?

20 A. Yes. He escaped with a friend of his called --

21 LADY SMITH: Don't worry, I don't need the names of the

22 boys. There is no problem if you can't remember.

23 A. Thank you.

24 MR SHELDON: After that, 'Allan', you go on to talk about

25 abuse. You mentioned earlier a boy called [REDACTED], who

1 I think was in your dormitory --

2 A. Yes.

3 Q. -- and caused some difficulty for you; can you just tell
4 us about that, please, about what happened with [REDACTED]?

5 A. Yes. There was a speaker, there was a radio speaker in
6 each dormitory, and they would wake you up in the
7 morning. They would switch the radio on, and the staff
8 could speak through it as well.

9 There was a song on the radio at the time by a group
10 called the Ivy League. It was called 'Tossing and
11 Turning'. And this boy, [REDACTED], used to -- he would
12 sing other words to the song and he would sing, 'What's
13 that funny smell? [REDACTED]'s [REDACTED]' instead of,
14 'I can't sleep at night from tossing and turning'.

15 And I didn't know what the word meant. But it came
16 to night time and he just leaned over. He was sitting
17 on his bed with his knees up and the sheet over him, and
18 he leaned over and grabbed my bed and he pulled it right
19 over to his bed. The beds were quite close to each
20 other. And he says, 'Give your hand', and he took my
21 hand and pulled his sheets back, and he exposed himself
22 and he made me put my hand on his member.

23 Q. What happened then?

24 A. He says, 'Take your hand away'. He says, 'Smell it'. I
25 smelt it and I did a yuk and he started laughing. It

1 wasn't the only time he did it. He did it on a few
2 occasions.

3 Q. Roughly how many times do you think that happened?

4 A. Possibly three times. More than twice, anyway. Three
5 times I would say that happened.

6 Q. Did that happen all the time that he was in the
7 dormitory with you?

8 A. Just on those three occasions. I didn't see him doing
9 it with anybody else.

10 Q. Over the page, page 11, this is paragraph 49, where you
11 talk about another incident and someone called -- that
12 you describe as IJR [REDACTED].

13 A. Yes.

14 Q. Can you tell us about IJR [REDACTED], please?

15 A. Yes. There were two brothers, they run the woodwork and
16 the metalwork shop --

17 Q. I'm sorry to interrupt again, but these were teachers,
18 were they?

19 A. Teachers, yes.

20 LADY SMITH: So this man, IJR [REDACTED], was a teacher?

21 A. Yes.

22 LADY SMITH: Thank you.

23 MR SHELDON: I interrupted you again, 'Allan'. Please do
24 carry on with what you were saying.

25 A. Yes, he wore a brown -- just an overall-type jacket and

1 his brother wore a grey one. His brother had glasses
2 and smoked wee brown roll-up cigarettes. And the one
3 that we called IJR [REDACTED], he was a wee small, bald
4 man.

5 One day we went into the woodwork class and,
6 possibly because of what [REDACTED] had been singing in the
7 dormitory, I asked him what -- I went up to the teacher
8 and asked him, 'IJR [REDACTED]', I says, 'Excuse me, why are
9 you called IJR [REDACTED]?' and he kind of gave a laugh
10 and he put his arm around me and he walked me across --
11 there were boys still coming into the class -- he walked
12 me across to where the woodwork lathe was and he brought
13 his arm up to the front piece of my nose here, and he
14 wiggled it and took his hand away. And he says, 'Ah,
15 now, that's why'. He said, 'Now, you'll not call me
16 that', and he just said, 'Go on, on you go', and he
17 pushed me away from him.

18 The minute he put his hand up here, I could smell
19 the same smell from [REDACTED].

20 Q. Right. The same smell that you had smelt after [REDACTED]
21 had put your hand on his penis?

22 A. Yes, yes.

23 Q. I think you say at the end of that paragraph:

24 'It's unbelievable to think of an adult doing that
25 to a child.'

1 A. Yes.

2 Q. The next paragraph, paragraph 50, you talk about another
3 incident, this one I think you are talking about
4 an incident with the gym teacher?

5 A. Yes.

6 Q. Can you tell us about that, please?

7 A. Yes. We all sat in rows in the gymnasium and, one night
8 a week, I think it was a Sunday, he would come up and
9 down and put antibacterial shampoo on your head in case
10 you'd got nits.

11 We were in the gym one day and the gym teacher -- I
12 don't know his name -- he was a small, heavy man and we
13 were sitting down. I think we were going to play games
14 or something and he told a boy to stand up, and the boy
15 wouldn't stand up. He shouted at him and he walked very
16 quickly across the gymnasium and he says, 'When I tell
17 you to stand up, you stand up'.

18 He leaned down and grabbed the boy by the ear and he
19 lifted him right off the ground.

20 Q. Just one ear?

21 A. One ear, yes. Lifted him right up and the wee boy's
22 feet were going like that off the ground.

23 Q. What sort of age would the boy have been?

24 A. He said, 'Listen to me when I tell you to stand there',
25 and he made him stand for quite a long time.

1 Q. How old was the boy at that time, do you think?

2 A. I don't know. The age as myself, a young boy, about ten
3 or 11.

4 Q. How long did the teacher make him stand?

5 A. A good while. About -- maybe about ten minutes.

6 Q. At paragraph 52, you say you didn't tell anyone about
7 the abuse that you experienced and that you saw when you
8 were at Larchgrove?

9 A. Yes.

10 Q. Did you think about telling anyone about it?

11 A. I'd never ever thought about telling anybody.

12 Q. Can you give us an idea of why that would be?

13 A. Looking back now, as an adult, I can only surmise,
14 David, that seeing the adult world has always been all
15 correct and all-knowing and we have to respect our
16 elders and do what we're told and do what they tell us
17 to do. I just couldn't tell anybody.

18 Q. So you were at Larchgrove, I think you said, for 14 days
19 on the first occasion?

20 A. Yes.

21 Q. Then you were back with your mum; is that right?

22 A. Yes.

23 Q. How long was that for?

24 A. I don't remember, David.

25 Q. You tell us that you ended up in Larchgrove again for

1 a little bit?

2 A. Yes.

3 Q. Was that also for 14 days or was that longer?

4 A. That was for 28 days.

5 Q. All right.

6 A. That's before I went to Balgowan.

7 Q. We'll come to that in a minute or two.

8 In your statement at page 12, you say that you were
9 sent back to Larchgrove in [REDACTED] 1968. So you would be
10 about 12 by that stage; is that right?

11 A. Yes.

12 Q. Did anything else happen to you or did you see anything
13 else happen to other boys that second time that you were
14 at Larchgrove?

15 A. No, no.

16 Q. You say that the routine and so on was just really the
17 same as it had been the first time?

18 A. Yes.

19 Q. Can I ask you this: did you see any violence between
20 boys at Larchgrove? Was there bullying or anything like
21 that?

22 A. No.

23 Q. You didn't see that?

24 A. I never saw anything like that.

25 Q. You say, on the previous page actually, you didn't think

1 anyone really misbehaved at Larchgrove or they would be
2 taken down to the headmaster and given belt; is that
3 what you thought at the time?

4 A. Yeah, yeah.

5 Q. So, page 13 of your statement, you say:

6 'I was 12 years old [this is paragraph 60] when
7 I went to Balgowan.'

8 Had you been to court again? Was it a court that
9 sent you to Balgowan?

10 A. Yes, yes. It was the County Buildings in Ingram Street,
11 in Glasgow, and it was an informal court hearing. It
12 was in an office and the judge was sitting on the other
13 side of the table, and my mother was sitting there and
14 I was sitting here.

15 Q. Did the judge talk to you?

16 A. Yes.

17 Q. Do you remember what he or she said?

18 A. No.

19 Q. Did you understand what was being said?

20 A. No, but I know he was speaking to me. I don't know.

21 I can't remember what I said or what he said.

22 Q. Okay.

23 A. I remember him when he said -- he told my mother that
24 I'll have to be going away to a home, 'It's for the best
25 reason', and it was for where I would get a proper --

1 receive a proper education, and my mum was crying and he
2 said, 'That's it, Mrs [REDACTED], you can leave now'. And she
3 got up to walk away and I tried to climb over the desk,
4 and a big policeman pulled me back.

5 Q. So you had to stay; is that how it happened?
6 Your mum went away, but you had to stay?

7 A. Yes, I had to stay.

8 Q. Were you taken to Balgowan straight from there?

9 A. No. Taken down the stairs and put in a big, cavernous
10 cell. And there was an older man and there was another
11 young boy there. I think there were two of us taken to
12 Larchgrove that day. And there was an older man in
13 there. He gave us a graphic description of how his
14 girlfriend had just had a baby.

15 Q. This was really a much older person than you?

16 A. Yes.

17 Q. Was this the time before you went to Larchgrove, the
18 second time, or was this the time before you went to
19 Balgowan?

20 A. Yes. This is the second time I went to Larchgrove and
21 waiting to go to Balgowan.

22 Q. So you were taken to Larchgrove first?

23 A. Yes.

24 Q. Then transferred to Balgowan?

25 A. Yes. You had to wait on a vacancy. I don't know how

1 long I would have been at Larchgrove for the second
2 time. It wouldn't have been long, maybe two or three
3 weeks.

4 Q. You were taken to Balgowan. How did that happen? Was
5 there a bus? Were you driven up?

6 A. No, a social worker came and took me in his car. One of
7 the teachers came in -- I can't remember who it was --
8 and he said, 'ILY [REDACTED], do you know where Dundee is?' I
9 said, 'No', and he said well, 'You're going to Dundee
10 today. Make your bed and we'll give you your clothes to
11 put on', and then he came back with my clothes and said,
12 'You'll be going to Dundee. There is a social worker
13 coming to take you'. And eventually the social worker
14 came and took me up to Dundee in a car.

15 Q. That was the first that you knew you were going to
16 Dundee that morning?

17 A. Yes, that morning.

18 LADY SMITH: Did you know where Dundee was?

19 A. No.

20 LADY SMITH: You had never been there?

21 A. No, never been there.

22 LADY SMITH: Did you know how long it was going to take to
23 get to Dundee?

24 A. No.

25 LADY SMITH: Thank you.

1 MR SHELDON: At paragraph 61 in your statement, page 13,
2 'Allan', you say that Balgowan was a big magnificent
3 building, and we have seen photographs of it, so we have
4 some idea of that. You describe arriving, looking at it
5 from the outside; what was your impression of it on the
6 inside?

7 A. On the inside? Oh, it was a lovely place. It was
8 a lovely, big building. We got the free run of the
9 place when we were inside. They locked the door that
10 took you out -- they locked the front door that took you
11 out the front and the two back doors that took you into
12 the playground. And we'd go up to our dormitories. We
13 could go to classes in the evenings.

14 Q. You say, in paragraph 62, you thought there were between
15 35 and 40 boys at Balgowan?

16 A. Yes.

17 Q. Might it have been more than that, do you think? Or are
18 you fairly sure about that sort of number?

19 A. No, I couldn't see there being more than that. No, no,
20 no, no.

21 There were approximately about -- there were about
22 seven or eight boys. There were four dormitories. They
23 were named Scott House, Wallace House, Bruce House and
24 Duncan House. And Wallace House was for the youngest.
25 Scott House was for slightly older. Then Bruce and

1 Duncan and they were for the really bigger boys.

2 Q. Which one were you in?

3 A. I was in Wallace House when I first went in.

4 Subsequently, I moved into Scott House at a later stage.

5 Q. Were the dormitories individually called houses?

6 A. Yes.

7 Q. So Wallace was a dormitory?

8 A. Yes.

9 Q. You think there were about eight boys in a dormitory?

10 A. Yes. Maybe about ten or 12 in Scott House. There was

11 about six or seven of us in Wallace House while I was

12 there.

13 Q. Was there a separate building as well at Balgowan, where

14 there were other boys --

15 A. Yes, there was.

16 Q. -- called 'The Cottage' or something like that?

17 A. Yes, it was called The Cottage.

18 Q. What do you remember about the cottage?

19 A. It was situated -- if you looked towards the front of

20 Balgowan, it was down to the right-hand side, down

21 that path and, before you exited, a fence that went

22 right round the whole place. And it was a white

23 roughcast building, a square block building, and that

24 was where the Dundee boys were housed, for fear of them

25 getting bullied by a lot of boys from Glasgow.

1 Q. Do you know how many boys were in The Cottage?

2 A. Yes.

3 Q. Roughly how many boys were in the cottage?

4 A. How many? I would say about maybe 12 or 14.

5 Q. You thought those were all the Dundee boys. Was it all
6 Glasgow boys in the main building then?

7 A. Yes. Mostly. And some from other parts of the country.

8 Q. Was there friction between the Dundee boys and the other
9 boys from Glasgow and other parts?

10 A. No, no, no. No. No. They would come up after they got
11 their breakfast and come to the main building, and it
12 would just be the curriculum of the day.

13 But there's one wee boy I remembered was often
14 bullied with most of us and his name was [REDACTED].

15 He had an [REDACTED] shaped -- his head was [REDACTED] shaped at
16 the back, and we would really get on his nerves, calling
17 him [REDACTED], [REDACTED], [REDACTED], [REDACTED], [REDACTED], and he would
18 start crying. And he would go to Mr LID [REDACTED], who was an
19 army [REDACTED], and say, 'Mr LID [REDACTED], Glasgow boys are
20 calling me names', and he would say, 'What are they
21 calling you, [REDACTED]?' He says, 'They're calling us
22 [REDACTED], Mr LID [REDACTED]', and he would say to him,
23 'Well, you tell them, [REDACTED], I'm going to be giving them
24 bad marks for calling you [REDACTED]'.

25 Q. Did the bullying stop?

1 A. You didn't see much bullying. In the dormitories at
2 night we had a bully, in Wallace House. He was a boy
3 from Bridgeton. And when we changed -- we got changed
4 once a week. We changed our underpants and he would go
5 round with a stick that held the window up and lift
6 everybody's underpants to see if they had soiled them
7 or, in his words, 'See if you'd any skid marks on them'.

8 There was one wee boy who was two beds away from me,
9 he used to lift his pants and he had a terrible habit of
10 soiling his pants all the time. And he used to lift his
11 pants and actually poke him in the face with them. He
12 was a bully.

13 Q. Page 23 of your statement, paragraph 112. Is that the
14 person you were talking about? Is that the behaviour
15 you were talking about there?

16 A. Yes, that is correct.

17 Q. Did that happen more than once? Did it happen all the
18 time?

19 A. It happened every week, yes. Every single week it would
20 happen.

21 Q. And this boy, who was lifting up the underpants, I think
22 you say that he also was abusing or insulting this boy?

23 A. Yes.

24 Q. Was [REDACTED] much older or about the same age?

25 A. Maybe about a year older than us, than a couple of us,

1 yeah. He was a wee, small, heavy set guy. He used to
2 do upwards of 500 keepie-ups heading a ball against the
3 wall every day. He would do more than 500. I would
4 stand and watch him. Amazing. But he was a bully.

5 Q. Thank you. If I can just turn back then.

6 You are still really setting the scene or describing
7 how things worked at Balgowan. At page 18, you mention
8 Mr LID and you say that he would teach you about
9 rifles and a Bren gun?

10 A. Yes.

11 Q. Did you get to fire the rifles and the Bren gun?

12 A. We didn't get firing the Bren gun. We could sit on the
13 Bren. But we got to shoot the .22 rifles. We shot them
14 in the gymnasium.

15 There was a bucket at the far end and they would put
16 a square card on it and had a -- it was split across the
17 middle. It was ground and sky and there was just the
18 shape of a helmet, a Tommy helmet, and that was the
19 centre. You had to aim for that and put the bullets in
20 him, and we got taught how to shoot.

21 Q. Was that something that the boys and you enjoyed? Did
22 you enjoy that?

23 A. Yes.

24 Q. At page 21, you talk a bit about discipline and I think,
25 again, you say that the tawse was the main source of

1 discipline in Balgowan; that is paragraph 103.

2 You say that you didn't see anyone else getting the
3 belt at Balgowan, but you did when you went back to
4 secondary school. So this was after you had left
5 Balgowan; is that right?

6 A. Yes.

7 Q. Do you know of anyone who got the belt at Balgowan?

8 A. No. I didn't see anybody actually getting belted,
9 physically, during the day for anything bad. But, ILX
10 ILX, he wouldn't give you the belt; he would give you
11 the nose treatment. He'd take two fingers across your
12 nose.

13 Q. I was about to ask you about Mr ILX, yes. What was the
14 nose treatment?

15 A. He would just say, 'Come here', and take his two fingers
16 and hit you right across the nose. One time, he hit
17 a wee boy's nose and it was bleeding.

18 And there was another teacher, ERM, if you
19 weren't paying attention he would throw -- he had
20 a duster for dusting the blackboard, a wooden one. If
21 you weren't paying attention in class, he would throw it
22 at you.

23 Q. Did you see anything else or experience anything else
24 about Mr ILX that was odd?

25 I think, at page 17, you tell us a little, at

1 paragraph 79, about an incident with [ILX] and
2 a boy, one of the boys at the school.

3 A. Yes.

4 Q. Can you tell us about that, please?

5 A. Yes. We were in the showers and the older boys that
6 could reach, they used to swing like a trapeze from the
7 shower top. And I was sitting on the ground and I
8 looked up and a boy was swinging. He was swinging
9 across on the trapeze, and I looked at him and I
10 looked -- the teacher was standing in front of me, [ILX]
11 [ILX]. I was sitting down on the ground. I looked up at
12 him and I saw his head. He was just watching this boy
13 swinging back and forth, and his head was looking down
14 to his area where his genitals is. He was a big boy.
15 He was doing that. He was just watching him swinging.

16 I wondered what he was looking at, and I looked and
17 I saw -- I grabbed his trouser leg and I tugged on his
18 trouser and I asked him, Mr [ILX], going to lift me up,
19 so I can swing? He said 'No, if you can't reach it
20 you're not swinging from it. Leave me alone', something
21 like that. He was annoyed at me disturbing him. And
22 then he just went back to watching this boy, [REDACTED],
23 swinging again.

24 Q. You thought that Mr [ILX] was watching this boy's
25 genitals?

1 A. Yes.

2 Q. Did something else happen between Mr [ILX] and this
3 particular boy, later on?

4 A. Yes.

5 Q. What was that?

6 A. It was during the -- it was the lead-up to the Christmas
7 concert and we had to build the stage. And the younger
8 ones were carrying chairs and the bigger ones would
9 carry big, long sections of the stage floor. They went
10 from one end of Balgowan to the other.

11 I was lifting chairs and the same boy was standing
12 there, and Mr [ILX] came round the corner and he said,
13 'I'm looking for a big strong boy', and he pointed and
14 he saw the boy, [REDACTED]. He said, '[REDACTED], you'll do.
15 Come with me', and he took him away.

16 Q. What did you think happened?

17 A. At that time, I wasn't aware anything was happening,
18 David. It's not until now, as an adult, I look back and
19 I say: after seeing him looking at his area of his
20 genitals in the showers and seeing him looking for a big
21 strong boy, 'You'll do. Come with me', and he took him
22 way somewhere. I just thought I should mention it.

23 Q. You felt it was suspicious?

24 A. Yes.

25 Q. Is that what you feel now, it was suspicious?

1 A. Yes, I do now think it was suspicious. Yes.

2 Q. Thank you. There is another incident I would like to
3 ask you about that you talk about a bit later in your
4 statement. It's page 22. I think we may have looked at
5 that already.

6 Page 22, paragraph 106. This is where you talk
7 about running away. You mention the belt and that the
8 belt was used at Balgowan.

9 A. Yes.

10 Q. In this paragraph, you say that you had run away and,
11 well, nobody was guarding gate and you decided to go
12 over and try to run away and someone spotted you?

13 A. Yes.

14 Q. This was the gardener, I think, IPS [REDACTED] ?

15 A. Yes, that's correct, David, IPS [REDACTED], the gardener.

16 Q. What happened then?

17 A. He had spotted me and I got halfway down the path.
18 There is a wee road goes down and takes you out the back
19 gate, and I got halfway down by -- passed the raspberry
20 bushes, and I heard running behind me and I turned round
21 and he was right on top of me, 'Come here', grabbed me.
22 Took me back up. Took me into the sick bay. And
23 they've got a big sofa bed, and him and Mr IPR [REDACTED],
24 somebody was holding my neck down and somebody was
25 holding my ankles and my trousers got pulled down and

1 I got three of the belt.

2 Q. So you mention Mr [REDACTED] and another individual; were
3 they the only people there or were there others?

4 A. No, just them.

5 Q. Okay.

6 A. Yeah.

7 Q. Was the belt across -- were you wearing trousers or were
8 your buttocks bare?

9 A. No, bare buttocks.

10 Q. Can you think roughly when this was? Was this shortly
11 after you arrived at Balgowan or had you been there for
12 a while when this happened?

13 A. I think I had been there for a while, David.

14 Q. Any thoughts on how long? Was it a year? Was it more
15 than that?

16 A. No, it wouldn't have been, David. I can't remember.

17 Q. That's all right.

18 Over the page, at page 23, you start to talk about
19 abuse at Balgowan?

20 A. Yes.

21 Q. You mention a particular boy in Wallace House who tried
22 to bully you; how did that play out? How did that --

23 A. It was horrible. He used to spit on me all the time,
24 every day practically. One day -- Mr Stewart was
25 always -- he was the permanent nightshift. He woke the

1 wet beds up, I think at about 2 o'clock in the morning,
2 and made sure you went to the toilet and went back to
3 your bed.

4 And he was on day duties and got myself and this
5 boy, [REDACTED], and he got us to clean Scott House
6 dormitory, so he -- so he handed [REDACTED] a brush and
7 handed me a yellow duster. He told me to dust the tops
8 of the window ledge and the top of the radiators, and he
9 instructed [REDACTED] to use the brush. It was a long
10 bristle brush, with a handle. It was round. And he had
11 to go through the bottom of all the radiators and clean
12 the dust.

13 So we started cleaning. He locked the door. He
14 locked us in the dormitory and went away. We started
15 cleaning and, quite quickly, I got ahead of [REDACTED] and
16 he had saw that my job was easier than his job and he
17 says to me, 'ILY, come here', and I walked over and
18 I said, 'What is it?' He said, 'Come here. Give me
19 that', and he snatched the duster off me and he handed
20 me the brush. He was holding the wooden bit and he
21 handed me the bristle bit. He said, you can do that and
22 I'll do your job. You go round and you dust the
23 bottoms.

24 As soon as he handed me the brush I swung it and hit
25 him across the face with it and he started screaming at

1 me. He stopped. I told him never to spit on me again.

2 Q. Did he stop?

3 A. Yes. I'm sorry about that, David. I'm sorry for doing

4 that to this day, for hitting that boy.

5 Q. I think we understand that it's difficult --

6 A. I would like to meet him and apologise to him.

7 Q. You have talked a little bit about another bully, [REDACTED].

8 This was the boy who picked up the underpants.

9 A. Yes.

10 Q. Just at the end of page 23, you talk about another boy

11 in Wallace House.

12 A. Yes.

13 Q. You say that one night you were sitting up talking and

14 this particular boy said a particular thing; can you

15 tell us about that, please?

16 A. Yes. This was in Wallace House. We were sitting one

17 night. They would close the door. They wouldn't lock

18 the door and they would leave the light on and, at

19 a certain time, they come round and put the light out.

20 And a small red light stayed on in the dormitory, so you

21 could see at night if you got up to go to the toilet.

22 One night we were sitting. I hadn't been long in

23 Balgowan. I was the first bed as you come in the door.

24 Wee boy, [REDACTED], was the next bed to me. And one

25 night we're all sitting talking and laughing, and he

1 just blurted out, he said, 'I like to suck willies'.
2 When he said that there was a boy at the bottom of the
3 dormitory, his name was [REDACTED], [REDACTED], and he got out
4 of his bed and came up to him and he said, 'Well, you
5 can suck mines', and he put his penis in his mouth.

6 After about a minute, the boy, [REDACTED], started
7 screaming and the boy, [REDACTED], pulled away from him and
8 ran back to his bed. He started screaming and he
9 shouted -- I think he shouted, 'You bastard, you've
10 pissed in my mouth'.

11 That was his very words, and the boy had urinated in
12 his mouth. As soon as that happened, the door burst
13 open and Mr IQH [REDACTED], the art teacher, he came into the
14 class and he shouted, 'What's going on, right? What's
15 going on?' and the boy, [REDACTED], shouted, 'He pissed in
16 my mouth', and he said, 'What was that?' And he said,
17 'Nothing'. He said, 'What did you just say there?' He
18 said, 'Nothing'. He says, 'I'm warning you. No carry
19 on in this dormitory or getting into a row. I'll be
20 outside listening'.

21 And I looked across at [REDACTED] and he was
22 looking over, pure menacing like, at the wee boy,
23 [REDACTED], and he threatened him, 'Don't say anything to
24 the teacher', and nothing was ever said to Mr IQH [REDACTED].
25 None of us -- he wouldn't report it, I don't think.

1 I didn't think of reporting anything.

2 Q. Was that behaviour between these two boys, as far as you
3 know, repeated? Did it happen again between these two
4 boys?

5 A. Did it happen again?

6 Q. Yes.

7 A. I don't know. No, no, no, just that night.

8 Q. Later in this same page, page 24 of your statement, you
9 talk about another boy that was in Scott House -- you
10 had moved from Wallace House to Scott House by that
11 stage. You talk about another boy and something that
12 happened, or may have happened with him?

13 A. Yes.

14 Q. Can you tell us about that, please?

15 A. Yes. The wee boy, [REDACTED]. I moved in to Scott House
16 dormitory. Again, I was the first bed. I used to get
17 woke up first to go to the toilet. I could be through
18 and done in the toilet while the other wee boys were
19 still coming out.

20 I was in the first bed and it was a boy,
21 [REDACTED], from Brechin, and then next bed up was
22 this wee boy, [REDACTED].

23 And we were in the dormitory one night and the boys
24 were laughing and somebody said, just out the blue,
25 '[REDACTED] can suck his own willy'.

1 Some of the boys were laughing, and it's the first
2 time I had heard it. And I think maybe one of the other
3 boys said, 'No, surely not', and he says, 'Yes'. And he
4 sat up in bed and somebody said to him, 'Show the boys,
5 ██████████, what you can do'. And he sat up in bed and he
6 bent his head forward and he put his hand under the
7 sheets and he lifted his penis up to his mouth and
8 kissed it, I think.

9 Q. You say that the boy you are talking about, ██████████, he
10 often got taken out by a teacher?

11 A. Yes.

12 Q. Can you tell us more about that, please?

13 A. Yes. We would sometimes go into the dormitory after our
14 tea, and he obviously hadn't been in the dining hall.
15 He would maybe just be going in. And the staff would go
16 away to get their tea and he would come in, and we would
17 say, 'Where were you today, ██████████'? And he would tell
18 us one of the teachers took him out and we would say to
19 him, 'You're always getting taken out because you're
20 always well behaved. You're one of the teachers' pets.
21 You're one of the good boys', and he would laugh and
22 give a wee smile. As an adult, I think back now, after
23 he smiled his face always went deadpan into a kind of
24 shock.

25 One night I saw him lying facing me and he was

1 crying, tears were rolling down his cheeks. I just lay
2 there watching him crying for ages and then the covers
3 went over his head. He seen me looking at him.

4 Q. Did you understand why he was being taken out by
5 teachers?

6 A. No, we didn't know. We just thought because he was
7 a good boy and he was -- when I think back, as an adult,
8 David, I say to myself: why was he being -- if it was
9 common knowledge what we knew in the dormitory and what
10 they would have seen in the showers, it would have been
11 common knowledge to the staff.

12 Q. About what [REDACTED] could do?

13 A. Yes, what he could do.

14 Q. Was anyone else taken out in this way?

15 A. No, not that I'm aware of.

16 Q. We're on page 25 of your statement now, and you tell us
17 something there about a teacher, a Mr IDH [REDACTED]?

18 A. Yes.

19 Q. Can you tell us about him, please?

20 A. Mr IDH [REDACTED]. He taught English. There were school
21 rooms outwith the main building. There was small sheds.
22 One was for Mr IDH [REDACTED]'s class and, across the way,
23 there was Mr LIO [REDACTED]'s class. He taught woodwork and
24 metalwork.

25 Mr IDH [REDACTED] taught science and general studies.

1 Went in one day and he had a big steel contraption
2 on his desk. He put a bar of metal in it and you heat
3 it with a blow torch, so it would expand. We would see
4 the metal snapping. It was a light metal.

5 It was to show us about metal expanding. Another
6 day, he got a bottle that had acid in it and he told us
7 all to line up and he put our hands on top of the bottle
8 and he upended it and then did that. And he says, 'You
9 will see a wee yellow circle appear on your hand. It
10 will stay there for a day, then it will go away'.

11 He says, 'You can lick it. It tastes like salt and
12 vinegar', and that's what we did, we licked our hands,
13 and he had us all licking our hands to taste this.
14 I think it was acetic acid.

15 Then one day he brought in a big knife, it was about
16 that size, a Scottish dirk and it had a wee knife and
17 fork on it. And he told us that this -- I'm sure he
18 said it was his father's, but he may have mentioned his
19 grandfather as well. I don't know. He said it was --
20 it belonged to the family and he was proud to show us
21 it, and he showed us a big knife and he pulled the knife
22 out and he says, 'This is a knife. This is used to kill
23 people'.

24 He says, 'It's a [REDACTED]'s knife'. He says, 'And
25 the [REDACTED] family will use it. If anybody does

1 anything bad against us, they'll get what for'. He put
2 the knife back in and then he took out the knife and
3 fork. And he said, 'And after we kill them, we can eat
4 them', and we all started laughing. He put the knife
5 and fork back.

6 Then, another day, he came in and he had sitting on
7 his desk -- there was a wee oblong block, about three
8 inches by about an inch. It was clear plastic and it
9 had a scorpion inside it, and he says to us all -- he
10 was going to show us what 'luminous' meant. So he told
11 us all to stand up and took us outside the classroom
12 into the main foyer, before you go out the front door,
13 and there was a small cupboard.

14 He said, 'Everybody in the cupboard'. He lifted me
15 and he put me up on the left-hand side, at the back
16 wall. And he lifted another wee boy, I think it was
17 [REDACTED], and he put him on that side, and then he
18 stepped up -- it was a small shelf -- he stepped up and
19 stood in the middle. His head was very close to the
20 ceiling, and then he told everybody to come in. And he
21 leaned forward and pulled the door shut.

22 He held the wee scorpion up to the light, and he
23 said, 'Right, everybody look up'. Held it for a few
24 minutes, and then he leaned over and switched light off.
25 And we all looked up and we saw this bright green square

1 with a scorpion in it. When we were looking up I felt
2 a hand going down my trousers and, as soon as it went
3 down it, I did that. I kind of bent forward. And
4 I thought it was one of the boys, fooling about,
5 carrying on or something. Then the hand went right --
6 I knew then it was an adult hand. It went inside my
7 pants and felt round my genital area.

8 It was only momentarily.

9 Q. Were there any other adults in the room apart from
10 Mr IDH [REDACTED] ?

11 A. No, no, no. He was the only teacher there.

12 Q. What made you think it was an adult hand?

13 A. Well, I knew it wasn't a wee boy's hand. It was too
14 big.

15 Q. Mr IDH [REDACTED]'s done what I suppose you might think of as
16 a trick, and made the scorpion luminous; is that right?

17 A. Yes.

18 Q. And did it seem to you then that he was doing this as
19 a kind of distraction?

20 A. Yes.

21 Q. So that he could put his hand down your trousers?

22 A. Yes. No sooner as he had taken his hand away and he
23 turned on his feet and he moved backwards -- because his
24 bum is against my face and it pushed me into the wall,
25 as if he'd turned to face the other wee boy that was on

1 the other side of him.

2 Q. What did you think of all this at the time; the incident
3 with the dirk and the incident with acetic acid, as
4 you've described it, and now the incident with the
5 scorpion? Did you think this was all quite normal or
6 a bit strange?

7 A. We thought it was just classes. I did anyway. I didn't
8 think anything about it at the time. I never even told
9 anybody what he had done.

10 Q. How did you feel about it?

11 A. Now?

12 Q. Well, now and then?

13 A. Then I was a bit scared, David. Now I feel -- I don't
14 feel anything, David.

15 Q. You tell us in your statement as well that there were
16 trips to a place called Glenhead Lodge; is that right?

17 A. Yes.

18 Q. I'm looking now at page 26. I'll just ask you, again,
19 for your own recollections. You talk about a trip to
20 Glenhead with Mr IDH [REDACTED]?

21 A. Yes.

22 Q. Can I ask you: in general terms, how were these trips?
23 Did you enjoy these trips up to Glenhead?

24 A. How was it?

25 Q. Yes.

1 A. It was a fair journey. It was in the Glens of Angus --
2 LADY SMITH: Did you like -- I know where you mean. That's
3 north of Dundee.
4 A. Yes.
5 LADY SMITH: Did you like going there, 'Allan'?
6 A. Oh, yes. It was lovely. Beautiful place. We seen some
7 scenery. We seen golden eagles. We seen big herds of
8 deer. There were cages away up in the hills that had
9 trapped carrion crows, and we would see big piles of
10 mountain hares, piled up. They'd been running up the
11 runs and the gamekeepers had trapped them. It was
12 fascinating. It was a fascinating place. We had the
13 time of our lives there.
14 MR SHELDON: How long did these trips last?
15 A. A week. We stayed there for a week. Same when we went
16 to Inverbrothock School in Arbroath. It was during
17 school holidays. We would accommodate a classroom and
18 put mattresses down. It was usually a week at a time.
19 I only went the once to Glenhead and the once to
20 Arbroath, Inverbrothock.
21 LADY SMITH: What was Inverbrothock?
22 A. It was a primary school in Arbroath. We went up there
23 during the summer holidays. And we got a classroom in
24 the bottom and our beds would all be laid out and a big
25 bucket on the floor for urinating in. Every morning,

1 two of us would get designated to take it out and empty
2 it outside, at the toilets.

3 LADY SMITH: You were allowed to use the school building to
4 sleep in?

5 A. Yes.

6 LADY SMITH: Thank you.

7 MR SHELDON: What were you doing during the day when you
8 were at Inverbrothock?

9 A. They would take us everywhere. They would take us to
10 the beach mostly, most days, or the open-air swimming
11 pool. And they gave us a shilling every day, to buy
12 sweets. And they'd take us to the beach and we'd
13 collect whelks and small crabs, and they would take
14 large catering tins that would be used for beans, they
15 would take them down. And the teachers would put stones
16 on the beach and get wood and light a fire, and we'd all
17 have whelks to take home with us.

18 They taught us to put in our finger and do that with
19 our hand. We didn't need a pin to get the whelks out.

20 Q. Did you enjoy that, too?

21 A. Yes. I went missing one day. They would look away
22 along as far as the beach, they could see that way and
23 say, 'You're not allowed to go past there'. The other
24 end was a pier. One day myself and [REDACTED] went
25 along the pier and we disappeared. We climbed up on to

1 some of the boats, and we found a case with a gun in it
2 and cartridges. I think now it would be a flare pistol.

3 We took it off the boat and we hid it underneath the
4 pier. We dug some of the sand away and buried it with
5 sand, and we says: we'll get it next time we come here.

6 We never ever got back. We didn't know what it was.
7 We didn't know if it was a gun of sorts. We never told
8 the teachers.

9 Q. You didn't come back for it?

10 A. No, no.

11 Q. Can I take you back to Glenhead? We're still on page 26
12 of your statement. You talk about a couple of incidents
13 that happened at Glenhead. Can we start with what
14 you're talking about at paragraph 124, please?

15 A. Yes.

16 Q. You are talking about playing bingo at night, and
17 I presume that was with the teachers there as well, was
18 it? The teachers would be there as well, not just the
19 boys?

20 A. Yes, yes.

21 Q. You talk about an incident with a particular boy and
22 a member of staff that happened on one of those bingo
23 evenings; what happened? Can you tell us what happened
24 about that?

25 A. Yes, well, I was speaking to [REDACTED]. We were

1 outside, next to the lodge, and there were chickens
2 running about. A farmer had a place there. We were
3 throwing wee bits of polystyrene down and they were
4 chasing it, thinking it was bread, and they would pick
5 it up and let it go. We were laughing.

6 He turned to me and he said, 'You know, you saved my
7 life'. I says -- I started laughing.

8 We had been out hill climbing one day, and we were
9 at the top of a wee rocky bit and he had kind of fallen
10 over the side and he shouted, 'Help me up', and I
11 grabbed his hand and pulled him up. And I don't think
12 it was very high, David. It wouldn't have been a high
13 height. He said, 'Oh, you saved my life', and he
14 said -- he come up to me and he says, 'You saved my
15 life, ILY'.

16 I says, 'Aye, thanks'. He says, 'Can I tell you
17 something and you'll not tell anybody?' I said, No.
18 What is it?' He told me that the night before when we
19 had been playing bingo for penny dainty, there was a big
20 box of penny dainties and there was a high bit in the
21 dining hall, where the tables were, and Mr IOE sat
22 there. He would read out the numbers. We're all
23 playing bingo and, if you win bingo, you get a penny
24 dainty. At the end of the night, everybody got one
25 anyway whether you won or not.

1 If the teacher picked somebody to sit up there, he
2 would give them an extra dainty. And ██████ says to me,
3 he says, 'Mr IQE ██████ picked me up and lifted me on to
4 the stool and got me to play with his willy while I was
5 picking the numbers'. He said, 'He got me to touch it',
6 I think he said, 'And play with it, and I said, 'That's
7 bad, eh?'. He said, 'Aye, it scared me. It's
8 frightened me'.

9 Q. Was this while the game was going on, 'Allan'?

10 A. Yes, yes. It was almost -- it was very dark. They lit
11 wee paraffin lanterns and -- so we could see the
12 numbers. There was no electricity in the place at all,
13 David. It was all lamplight.

14 Q. How was it heated? Was there a fire?

15 A. I don't know, David. I can't recall.

16 Q. Did your friend ever say that this happened again or was
17 that a one-off occurrence?

18 A. No, he just mentioned it and never mentioned anything
19 else about it again. After that, I had constant
20 nightmares, David. I had constant nightmares about it,
21 and I would dream that I was picked to be picking out
22 the numbers. Only when he picked me up in the dream and
23 sat me down, I looked down at his genital area and it
24 was another teacher that I saw, the name of Mr GNB ██████.
25 And they were really bad nightmares, and it's got to the

1 stage now in life, I'm 55 years on, I can't recall,
2 David -- I can't be certain if that really happened to
3 the boy, if he did tell me, or if I have been dreaming
4 it. I can't separate fact from fiction. I just can't
5 be sure.

6 Q. You think this might have been a dream?

7 A. Yes.

8 Q. What is your best recollection about the incident?

9 A. My recollection is that he did tell me.

10 Q. You doubt that now because you have had a lot of dreams
11 about it?

12 A. Yes.

13 Q. They certainly sound like bad dreams.

14 A. Yes.

15 Q. Moving on, again, you talk about another incident that
16 you talk about at Glenhead?

17 A. Yes.

18 Q. What happened to you this time?

19 A. Yes. I got up one night for the toilet and ... the
20 stairs go up. You go up the stairs and turn on the
21 landing and go up another flight of stairs. Behind you
22 on the landing there is a big, high window.

23 It was moonlight coming in there and, as you're
24 turning right on the first top of the landing, the first
25 room on your right was our dormitory. We slept in bunk

1 beds. The one by that was another dormitory and then it
2 went in, in an L-shape, and the next room is the one
3 where the staff slept.

4 I got up and walked out and turned to my right to go
5 round. At the very end there is a toilet, and I got out
6 of my bed and I was walking round to get to the toilet
7 and I had to pass one of the teachers, who was standing
8 on the left-hand side, Mr ERM . We called him
9 ERM . That was his name.

10 He was standing with his arms folded and he was just
11 looking down at me and smiling. But, as I looked up to
12 him, I noticed his penis was sticking straight out of
13 his pants -- his pyjamas, and it was moving up and down
14 of its own accord and he was just smiling at me. I just
15 kept looking at it, and I walked past him and went to
16 the toilet.

17 When I came out he wasn't there.

18 Q. Can I just ask you this, first: why did you call him
19 ERM ?

20 Was that something he asked you to call him?

21 A. That's -- everybody called him ERM . That was
22 his name, ERM .

23 Q. Did he ask boys to call him that?

24 A. No, I've never asked anybody why he was called
25 ERM .

1 Q. That was just the name he had when you arrived at
2 Balgowan?

3 A. Yes.

4 Q. You describe this incident, where he's standing on the
5 landing, and you think that he was standing there with
6 an erection?

7 A. Yes.

8 Q. That was sticking out of his pyjamas; is that right?

9 A. Yes.

10 Q. Did he say anything or was he doing anything in
11 particular?

12 A. No, no, didn't say anything. Just looked at me smiling.
13 I'll never forget his face.

14 Q. What did you make of that? What did his face seem to
15 be -- you said he was smiling, but what did you take
16 from that?

17 A. I was just scared. I thought if I had even stood for
18 a minute, he would have said something to me like --
19 equivalent of -- or if I did anything -- equivalent of
20 what [REDACTED] would have did. I just wanted to get past
21 him and into the you toilet. And when I came back out,
22 I was so glad he wasn't there.

23 Q. What did you think he was doing?

24 A. I don't know. I think he was maybe up -- maybe heard
25 noises. Somebody had been horse playing or ... I don't

1 know why he was there.

2 Q. Over the page, at page 27, you talk about another
3 incident with ERM . This is when you were at
4 the beach, I think; do you remember that?

5 A. No, that wasn't ERM , David. No, no. That was
6 Mr IQE . Yes, Mr IQE took us to the beach.

7 Q. Can you tell us what happened with Mr IQE at the
8 beach?

9 A. Yes. We were in Balgowan, in the playground, and he
10 says, 'Who wants to come to the beach for a couple of
11 hours?' All our hands were going up and he picked us.
12 He said, 'Go and get your towel'. We went and got our
13 towels and he took us to the beach.

14 We had went with shoresheils(?), at Broughty Ferry,
15 and it was further up. I think we went back in the van
16 again. And we were a bit further on, to Carnoustie, and
17 there was sand dunes. He took us along to a quiet spot
18 of the beach, and he says to us -- we were running about
19 and he says, 'Come here everybody, line up here'. He
20 says, 'Sometimes when some of the older boys were here
21 they used to put their towels down and make a wee nudey
22 woman', and somebody says to him, 'What do you mean,
23 Mr IQE ?' He says, 'I'll show you'.

24 He bent down and he formed two mounds, like lady's
25 breasts, in the sand. Then he made a wee hole in the

1 middle and he put a towel over it, and he says some of
2 the older ones lie down there and they kid on it's
3 a woman and they have a wee shag.

4 Q. That is what Mr IQE said?

5 A. Yes. Some of the boys said, 'Can we do it, Mr
6 IQE?' He says, 'Yes, you can do it if you want'.
7 So that was us. We just started making these wee nudey
8 women, as he called them. And we were lying down and
9 he's like that, 'You do that with your bum', and our
10 bums were going up and down.

11 Q. You were lying face down; is that right?

12 A. Yes, all lying on towels, and he was watching us.

13 Then he says to us, 'Right, stand up', and he walks
14 round in front of us and his feet started to scatter all
15 the mounds away, and he looked down the beach and he
16 said there was somebody coming up the beach. I think it
17 was a couple with a dog. And he says to us, right stand
18 up, tidy this up. We can't have these good people
19 seeing what you lot have been up to. That is what he
20 says to us.

21 Q. Were you wearing swimming trunks during this?

22 A. No, I wasn't sure of the dress sense. I think now we
23 wore shorts in Balgowan. We did have long trousers for
24 church, but I think we wore shorts, and we would just
25 take them off and we had underpants and go in skinny

1 dipping and dry ourselves with our towel.

2 Q. During this incident, on the beach; were you wearing

3 just your underpants?

4 A. No, no, we had our shorts on.

5 Q. Your shorts on as well?

6 A. Yes.

7 MR SHELDON: My Lady, I was going to move on to another

8 incident.

9 LADY SMITH: I wonder if we should take the morning break

10 now.

11 'Allan', I would normally take a break at about this

12 point in the morning and we have been keeping you giving

13 evidence for about an hour-and-a-half now. If it would

14 work for you, we'll take the break now and resume in

15 15 minutes or so; would that be okay?

16 A. Yes.

17 LADY SMITH: Very well. Let's do that.

18 (11.29 am)

19 (A short break)

20 (11.45 am)

21 LADY SMITH: 'Allan', are you ready for us to carry on now?

22 A. Yes, my Lady.

23 LADY SMITH: Thank you very much.

24 A. Thank you.

25 LADY SMITH: Mr Sheldon, when you're ready.

1 MR SHELDON: Thank you, my Lady.

2 'Allan', before the break, you were telling us about
3 some incidents that happened while you were at Balgowan.
4 You talked about Mr ERM and Mr IQE and
5 Mr IDH.

6 Still on page 27 of your statement, just at the
7 foot, you start to talk about what you say is a similar
8 experience with -- paragraph 130 -- a teacher called
9 Mr GNB?

10 A. Mr GNB or Mr GNB. I'm sure his name was GNB.

11 Q. GNB. Is that who you mean when you talk about
12 Mr GNB here, in this paragraph?

13 A. Yes.

14 Q. You were saying it was a similar experience to the one
15 with Mr ERM?

16 A. Yes.

17 Q. You think that was someone called GNB?

18 A. Yes.

19 Q. You give a description over the page of this person. Do
20 you remember what Mr GNB taught? You say he was
21 a teacher; what was his subject?

22 A. No. He would be there sometimes during the day, David,
23 and we were in the dining hall at lunchtime. I don't
24 know if he taught classes during the day.

25 He was mostly there during the evenings and that's

1 when it would be leisurely classes. You could do art
2 and things like that, and basket making. I asked him
3 could I play out in the corridor. It was a big, long
4 corridor. I asked him if I could play with a small
5 racing car. He said, 'Yes, as long as I keep you in
6 sight. No running about'.

7 He sat at his desk in his chair and the door was
8 opened.

9 Q. And this was during one of his classes; is that right?

10 A. Yes, one of his classes. There were other boys all in
11 the class. He'd be reading comics or -- they used to
12 stand dominos up and do the domino challenge and knock
13 them all down.

14 I was playing out in the corridor one night with
15 this wee car. I would roll it a way up the corridor and
16 run up and get it and push it away, back along. And
17 I needed the toilet. The toilet was right facing the
18 classroom door, and I asked Mr GNB, 'Mr GNB, can I do
19 the toilet? Can I go into the toilet?' He says, 'Yes.
20 I'll come as well. I'm needing'. We went into the
21 toilet. When you went into the toilet there was
22 a cubicle on the right-hand side and, on the far wall,
23 there was a stand-up urinal and you had to stand up on a
24 concrete step, about a foot, to do the toilet.

25 I went in and he says, 'On you go', and I stood up

1 and he says, 'Move along a bit', and I moved along. And
2 when you move along, there is the back of the toilet
3 wall behind you. You can't go anywhere.

4 I was doing a pee, and I turned round and Mr GNB
5 was standing with his penis in his hand. He was
6 pointing it towards me and he was waving it up and down,
7 and he was looking at me and smiling and licking his
8 lips and smiling and waving it at me. I was frightened.
9 I was very, very scared.

10 Q. What happened then?

11 A. I tried to move away, I think, and he just put it away
12 and says, 'Right, come on into the class'. We went back
13 to the classroom and I stayed out in the corridor.

14 Q. What did you think he was trying to do?

15 A. I think he was wanting me to touch him. He didn't say
16 anything to me. He was just smiling at me and he kept
17 pushing it towards me.

18 Q. Did this happen again or --

19 A. Yes, it happened on a second occasion.

20 Q. On the same day or a different day?

21 A. Different day, David. It was the same again. I asked
22 to play with the wee car and I was playing out in the
23 corridor, and it was towards the end of the night and he
24 looked out and he saw me and he did that, stop, and he
25 pointed to the toilet.

1 At first, I didn't know what he meant and then he
2 pointed to the toilet. He did that, go, with his
3 finger. And I said: oh maybe he's wanting us to do the
4 toilet. Must be going back to the dormitories, class
5 must be finished.

6 I walked into toilet and he came in behind me, and
7 much the same thing happened as before. Only this time
8 his face was really serious and he was looking at me
9 menacingly and almost forcing me to touch him, and I
10 backed right into the corner --

11 Q. Sorry to interrupt, 'Allan', but how was he forcing you?
12 What was he doing to force you?

13 A. He kept moving up a wee bit forward towards me and doing
14 that. Kind of turned. Somebody shouted something.

15 I think I heard someone calling his name, and he turned
16 and then he just left me, walked away, went out, out the
17 toilet and he was -- I walked out behind him and he was
18 speaking to another teacher.

19 Q. What do you think would have happened if he hadn't been
20 called away?

21 A. I think he would have grabbed my hand and put his hand
22 on it, made me touch him. I think he would have.

23 Q. Did you tell anyone about any of these matters?

24 A. No.

25 Q. We might come back to that just right at the end,

1 'Allan'.

2 But, again, did you feel there was anyone that you
3 could tell about these matters?

4 A. No, David.

5 Q. Was there anyone at Balgowan that you could confide in?

6 A. Once it happened, I never ever gave it any thought to
7 report a teacher.

8 Q. What did you think would happen if you did?

9 A. I think I would have got belted, maybe. And as I said,
10 that didn't happen at all: you're making that up; you're
11 telling stories.

12 Q. What makes you think that?

13 A. I don't know. It's just -- don't think they would have
14 believed us, David. That's speaking from now,
15 of course. That's looking back in retrospect, sorry.

16 Yeah, I don't think -- just didn't think to mention
17 it to anybody. Never told my parents.

18 Q. We'll come back to that in a wee while, because you have
19 come forward to the Inquiry, and I'll ask you a little
20 bit about that.

21 But I just want to ask you about what happened when
22 you left Balgowan.

23 I think you went back to school after that, another
24 school, a school in Glasgow?

25 A. Possilpark Secondary, yes.

1 Q. When did you leave school, finally?

2 A. I left school when I was 15.

3 Q. Can you just tell us about how life was for you after

4 you left school? What happened, and how did you get on?

5 A. As soon as I left school I got a job as

6 an apprenticeship sheet metalworker in [REDACTED]

7 [REDACTED]. And there was a ships

8 chandlery next door to where I worked, where I got the

9 job. I was going to be an apprenticeship welder. The

10 welder was going to teach me everything he knew about

11 welding.

12 And one day during lunchtime I wandered into the

13 ships chandlery and I was looking in big boxes and there

14 were a box of knives, about that size, big knives.

15 At that time, as a teenager, we were kind of wild

16 boys and we would arm ourselves with knives to fight

17 other boys. We wouldn't use them, but just to show

18 them. And I stole a box of six, and one of the staff

19 had saw me and reported it and I got sacked.

20 After that, I got a job as an apprentice painter and

21 I really tried to keep that job. Tried not to do

22 anything wrong, get into any trouble with the law. But

23 I had been committing other offences before I got that

24 job and it ended up I got sent to borstal and I lost my

25 job as an apprentice painter.

1 Q. Around about that time, your mother was going through
2 quite a hard time as well; is that right?

3 A. Yes.

4 Q. What was happening there?

5 A. With my mother?

6 Q. Yes.

7 A. My social worker would come up to see me, but my mother
8 would send me out the house and she would sit and speak
9 to him herself and he would ask her what kind of things
10 I had been up to. I never really -- he never really
11 spoke to me much, my social worker.

12 Q. He would speak to your mum rather than speaking directly
13 to you?

14 A. He would speak to my mum, yeah.

15 Q. Did something happen with your mum and your dad that you
16 had --

17 A. My dad accused my mother of having an affair with the
18 social worker. He beat my mother up quite often, my
19 father.

20 Q. What did you think of that?

21 A. Oh, I hated him for it all my life. Then I got older
22 one day and I said, 'You are not going to hit her
23 again', and he promised me he wouldn't.

24 Q. You'd had enough?

25 A. Yeah. My mother had had enough as well. She hit him

1 with a cup of tea and took a chunk out his ear.

2 Q. You talked about, I suppose, the early years after you
3 got out of Balgowan and school. You did work after
4 that; is that right?

5 A. Yes.

6 Q. You had what you thought was a great job, delivering
7 cars?

8 A. Yes. That was my most recent job, David.

9 Q. You enjoyed that?

10 A. Yes, I loved that job.

11 Q. Just moving on to think about the effect that all these
12 experiences at Larchgrove and Balgowan had on you. You
13 talk a bit about that, at page 31.

14 A. Yes.

15 Q. At paragraph 147, you start talking about the effect
16 that you feel all these experiences had on you. Perhaps
17 you can just tell us a bit about that.

18 A. Yes. That was my granddaughter. We were in the house,
19 David, and we were in the cupboard. As soon as you come
20 in the front door that is the first cupboard as you go
21 in, where the electrics are housed and the shoes. It's
22 a shoe cupboard. It's just a small square.

23 My granddaughter said to me, 'Grandpa, Grandpa, come
24 and see this'. She took me into the cupboard, switched
25 the light on. She's closed the door. She says, 'Switch

1 the light off', and I switched the light off and she
2 held up a glow in the dark spider. And as soon as she
3 did that, I just kicked the door open and switched the
4 light on and walked up the hall.

5 She said, 'Grandpa, come and see it', and I said,
6 'I've seen it. I'll catch you in a wee minute'. I went
7 into the toilet. Felt tears come to my eye, because it
8 took me back to Balgowan.

9 Q. What did it remind you of?

10 A. It reminded me of Mr IDH .

11 Q. And his scorpion?

12 A. Yeah.

13 Q. In the next paragraph, you talk a bit about education.
14 I should have asked you a bit about that before.

15 How did you feel your education was at Balgowan?
16 Did you feel the classes, the teaching, was good? Did
17 you learn anything?

18 A. Pardon?

19 Q. How did you feel the education was at Balgowan?

20 A. I felt we didn't receive much in the way of proper
21 schooling education. Most of the boys were from poor
22 backgrounds and came from the slums of Glasgow, and
23 probably not used to getting many holidays, like myself.
24 Very few and far between holidays we would have got
25 young.

1 It was great for us to be taken out and taken places
2 and -- like the beach, seaside, hill walks with a packed
3 lunch, out all day, seeing magnificent wildlife.

4 I think they tended to focus on that, because it
5 kept us happy, maybe kept them out the classroom. And
6 if we were out, we were doing better things than being
7 stuck in a classroom, so to speak. But we didn't get
8 a lot of education. It was mostly focused on days out
9 and activity education, games, that kind of thing.

10 Q. You enjoyed the outdoor activities, but feel that the
11 education wasn't really that great?

12 A. Yeah.

13 Q. What effect do you feel that's had on your life since
14 then?

15 A. I think it's had a drastic effect on my life, not
16 receiving a proper education.

17 Q. In what way?

18 A. Well, we didn't get exams in Balgowan. We didn't get --
19 we used to get let out on a Saturday and given a half
20 crown and sent into town. We were only young boys.
21 Just pick a partner and go out in pairs. I think back,
22 I'm horrified, David, at some of the things we did while
23 we were out.

24 We would go stealing in Woolworths and take wee toy
25 cars back, and the teachers would say to us, 'You left

1 here with half a crown today?', 'Yes'. 'How much was
2 that?'

3 'Don't know. Can't remember.'

4 Q. You are telling us that there were no exams, so there
5 was nothing like O Grades to sit or anything like that?

6 A. No, no, no David, nothing. No exams. No report cards.
7 I don't think my mother ever got a report card. I would
8 have seen it later in life.

9 Q. You say, at paragraph 148, that you feel that not having
10 a proper education maybe limited you later in life; is
11 that fair? Is that what you feel?

12 A. Yes.

13 Q. You mentioned that you didn't feel able to report the
14 abuse and the incidents that you saw when you were at
15 Balgowan, when you were a young person. But you
16 obviously came forward to the Inquiry; can you tell us
17 just what made you decide to come forward and give
18 evidence today? Which you have done very helpfully.

19 A. Yes, David.

20 I was at a funeral and there was a boy there that I
21 remembered from young offenders, and he came up to me
22 and was speaking to me and he said, 'ILY [REDACTED], do you know
23 there's a public Inquiry going on just now?' I said,
24 'I seen something about it'. He says, 'Well, it's
25 actually up and running now'. He says, 'They're looking

1 for people to give evidence'.

2 He says to me, 'You know it's a long time ago, **ILY**,
3 when we were in there and as young boys'. He says,
4 'A lot of things have been happening and that's why
5 people have been asked to go to this Inquiry'. He says,
6 'I don't really want to know if anything happened to you
7 yourself. But, even if you seen things that happened to
8 other boys, would you be prepared, do you think, now it
9 would be a time to speak about it?' I said, 'Aye'. He
10 says, 'Well, go and speak to somebody'. He told me he
11 had spoken to a lawyer. He said, 'Make a statement'.

12 I contacted a lawyer and that's what I did. I made
13 a statement to the lawyer about everything that I could
14 remember. I thought, David, at the time I wasn't able
15 to speak, and I remember years later my mother spoke to
16 me one day. She got me to tell her all the good things
17 about Balgowan and then, as I was going out the door,
18 she says, 'Tell me, when we were speaking about Balgowan
19 earlier', I says, 'Yes', she said, 'If it was that good,
20 the place, why did you run away twice?' and I couldn't
21 tell her. She's dead now. But I could tell her now,
22 David, because I think I know now --

23 Q. What would you tell her?

24 A. -- what I was running from.

25 Q. What would you tell her?

1 A. I would tell her I was running away from things that
2 happened to me back then, and I'm now forced to tell her
3 and I wouldn't be running away from it anymore.

4 Q. This was running away from Balgowan; is that right?

5 A. Yes.

6 Q. You were running away from things that happened to you
7 there?

8 A. Yeah.

9 Q. We're almost at the end of your statement, 'Allan'.
10 Just looking at page 33, you were asked about lessons to
11 be learned by the Inquiry. Perhaps you can say
12 something about that for us, please, what you think we
13 can learn about your experiences, and about things that
14 happened at Balgowan.

15 A. At that time, David, a way back then, I think the
16 teachers, if any of them were doing anything that was
17 deemed wrong, they would have possibly known -- these
18 people are clever, David. They would have known they
19 would have gotten away with it.

20 When this kicked off, I said to myself -- it's one
21 thing I did say: no, I'm determined, they're not getting
22 away with it. I'm going to speak out.

23 And it says there I have a question for those in
24 authority. There is full understanding of the
25 consequences of one's actions coming to a child of ten

1 or 11 years of age -- we may know right from wrong, but
2 at that age you wouldn't fully understand the
3 consequences of your actions.

4 Q. You talk about -- this is paragraph 160 -- what happens
5 when, perhaps, children's behaviour starts to change;
6 what do you think about that?

7 A. I think just sudden bed wetting would have to be called
8 to attention in any of these institutions. If a child
9 came in and he wasn't wetting the bed and, for some
10 reason, all of a sudden he started to wet the bed or
11 soil himself, maybe he's been getting bullied, maybe
12 he's been getting abused. Someone should maybe pick it
13 up.

14 I mean, if at the time when I went to IJR
15 and asked him, 'Why are you called IJR?',
16 I think back now with hindsight and retrospect, and
17 I say to myself: had I went to another teacher, perhaps,
18 and said, 'What does [REDACTED] mean?', when [REDACTED] had
19 did what he did, there maybe would have been a different
20 outcome to everything.

21 But, back then, you just didn't think of telling
22 anybody, David. We just tend to bury it deep.

23 Q. You felt you couldn't tell anybody, is what you've said
24 to us.

25 A. Yes.

1 Q. What do you hope for the Inquiry? You have given
2 evidence and we have had others giving evidence; what do
3 you hope the Inquiry will do or change?

4 A. Basically, it's lessons learned, David, that we went
5 heard in the past. Nowadays, as you know, we are very
6 advanced with things like CCTV, vetting, things like
7 that with staff.

8 Children's homes, I'm only hoping that they don't
9 put young boys in beside older boys now in children's
10 homes. I wouldn't like to see a thing like that taking
11 place.

12 You hope to see change, David. You hope to see
13 lessons learned and bring to people's attention things
14 that could have happened and you wouldn't want to happen
15 to any child in future.

16 I mean, going forward, the internet is the biggest
17 thing these days and we need censorship, David. We
18 really do need censorship because, yes, children are
19 allowed phones to contact their parents, but I don't
20 think they should have iPhones. That is something that
21 this Inquiry has to look at, because there is a lot out
22 there that will harm our kids.

23 Politicians are telling us that they're there to
24 protect us, but they're not protecting the children.
25 They're not doing it. They all say: oh, but there's

1 people's privacy to think about.

2 And things like that. It's not about that. It's
3 about perverts and paedophiles. They're running our
4 children's lives.

5 Q. 'Allan', you have told us a lot about some unpleasant
6 things that happened and unpleasant things that you saw.

7 I think you told us about some of the better things,
8 being able to enjoy the outdoors and scenery and so on.
9 Are you still able to enjoy that? Is that something you
10 still enjoy, seeing and doing?

11 A. Yes.

12 MR SHELDON: Good.

13 My Lady, those are all the questions I have.

14 LADY SMITH: Thank you very much. I have no more questions
15 of you, 'Allan'. You have given very full evidence,
16 both in your written statement and through talking to us
17 today. It's been really helpful. So thank you very
18 much for that.

19 A. Thank you, my Lady.

20 LADY SMITH: I'm glad to say to you that you should now go
21 home and rest. I think you will find you are very tired
22 after what you have given us this morning.

23 A. Thank you.

24 Can I just say, my Lady: going forward, should any
25 man that reads into this statement today and they're

1 thinking in coming forward, I can give them advice that
2 it won't be easy, because as men we tend to think we're
3 brave and we can handle everything, but we can't. But
4 if you think you are brave and you are being brave,
5 I would like them to come forward and give evidence.

6 It's basically like wrestling. If a man's got
7 a hold on you and he takes you down, by submission and
8 by submitting he's bound to release you. He's got to
9 release his grasp on you. Once you get to your feet, it
10 will be a different story. We can get there.

11 I mean, throughout this I've been treated with
12 kindness, compassion, dignity and respect, and at no
13 time have I been ridiculed and at no time have I been
14 judged.

15 I would advise anyone with any information to please
16 come forward.

17 Thank you very much, and may God be with all of you.

18 LADY SMITH: Thank you, 'Allan'. Thank you for your
19 recognition of what we do try to achieve with everybody
20 here. I'm not here to ridicule you, nor is any other
21 member of the Inquiry team. Do feel free to go. Thank
22 you.

23 A. Thank you.

24 (The witness withdrew)

25 LADY SMITH: Mr Sheldon.

1 MR SHELDON: My Lady, those are all the witnesses in person
2 that we have today. We'll carry on with read-ins. The
3 next one is by Ms Forbes of a witness who wants to be
4 known as 'Callum'.

5 LADY SMITH: Thank you very much.

6 MS FORBES: My Lady, the reference for this witness's
7 statement is WIT.001.002.2764.

8 As Mr Sheldon said, he's known as 'Callum'.

9 LADY SMITH: That's fine.

10 Rather than wait until we rise for lunch, can I just
11 identify some names now of people who cannot be
12 identified outside this room, because it was easier for
13 'Allan' obviously to use names both of boys who were
14 alongside him in Larchgrove and Balgowan and members of
15 staff.

16 They included not only 'Allan's' own name, and he
17 has chosen to be anonymous and he's entitled to that, so
18 not to be identified elsewhere. But we also had

19 [REDACTED], Mr GIA [REDACTED], Mr MKI [REDACTED], a boy called
20 [REDACTED], a boy called [REDACTED], a boy called
21 [REDACTED], [REDACTED], [REDACTED] and a boy called
22 [REDACTED]. We had Mr MKI [REDACTED] and [REDACTED], Mr IJR [REDACTED],
23 [REDACTED], Mr LID [REDACTED], ILX [REDACTED], IPS [REDACTED],
24 Mr IPR [REDACTED] and Mr IDH [REDACTED], Mr IQE [REDACTED] and
25 Mr GNB [REDACTED], and Mr ERM [REDACTED], or ERM [REDACTED], and

1 I think he's also been referred to with the title
2 **ERM** by some others. I think it's all the
3 same person.

4 Anyhow, none of these people are to be identified
5 outside this room. Thank you.

6 'Callum' (read)

7 MS FORBES: My Lady, 'Callum' tells us in his statement he
8 was born in 1965. He talks about his life before care,
9 at paragraphs 2 and 3.

10 He was born in Edinburgh. He lived with his
11 parents, two sisters and a brother. He lived in
12 Gilmerton. His dad worked in coal mines, but liked to
13 drink and spent the wages on alcohol and they had
14 nothing in the house. Money was very tight.

15 'Callum' states that life at home was okay, but
16 hard. He felt loved by his family, but he was
17 struggling at school, played truant and stopped going.

18 He was dyslexic and he tells us that he thinks the
19 school assumed he was stupid.

20 His dad decided it would be better that he was sent
21 away to care and to a place that would give him
22 an education. He was sent to Balgowan. He tells us
23 about Balgowan from paragraph 4. I'm just going to read
24 from paragraph 4 of his statement:

25 'Because I wasn't going to school, social work got

1 involved as I was stealing and shoplifting. I can't
2 remember the names of the social workers at that time,
3 but I remember there was a good one called Alastair. He
4 was based in a social work office in Gilmerton Dykes
5 Street. A Children's Panel decided I should be sent to
6 Balgowan Residential School when I was aged 12. It was
7 just me and my dad at the panel.

8 'I don't know why I was sent away to Dundee when
9 there must have been a children's home in Edinburgh.
10 I ran away to my home after the panel made their
11 decision and I was taken into care from my home address.
12 A social worker called Janet picked me up with two male
13 colleagues and I was driven away by them. I had just
14 a few minutes to say goodbye to my family before being
15 taken to Dundee.

16 'At Balgowan, there were big gates and a big fence.
17 There was one big building that was like an old mansion
18 set in large grounds. There was a section behind the
19 big house with a big exercise yard and this was in
20 a contained area surrounded by high fences. There were
21 four different wings in the house and they were named
22 after Scottish mountains. When you entered the main
23 building you could get to the dining room, kitchens, the
24 dorms and TV room. There were four dorms and over 100
25 boys living there.

1 'Balgowan was run by Dundee City Council and it was
2 not a religious institution. It was for boys only.
3 I was one of the youngest there at the age of 12, and
4 some boys went up to the ages of 16 and 17. The
5 children divided themselves into groups, depending on
6 where they came from. So there would be a group of
7 Glasgow boys and a group of Aberdeen boys and so on,
8 depending on the city.

9 'The staff were hard people. With regard to staff,
10 apart from the headmaster, I just be remember a guy
11 known as LAQ . He was aged in his 60s. He was
12 violent. I still have scars on my back from being caned
13 by him.

14 'There wasn't one person in charge of each of the
15 wings, and there wasn't only one person who was
16 responsible for my welfare on any given day. There were
17 different staff members on duty on different days. The
18 atmosphere between the staff members seemed okay and
19 they clearly knew each other and got on okay.

20 'I can't remember any good staff or receiving any
21 praise from anyone. I was just basically bullied all
22 the time. The staff were all male, even the teachers.
23 There may have been some female staff members in the
24 kitchen, but I didn't see them.

25 'I don't remember much about my first day, but I was

1 probably introduced to the headmaster and shown my bed.
2 I was put into a dormitory with other boys. Once they
3 had shown me where my bed was, I had to find out
4 everything else by myself. I was allowed to go to the
5 TV room, but I wasn't shown around properly.

6 'We were up in the mornings between 7.00 and
7 7.30 am, before going to the dining room for breakfast.
8 Supper was at 8.30, and that was just a slice of plain
9 bread and margarine. I was getting bullied by the older
10 boys and they took the bread off me. One young guy from
11 Glasgow spoke to the bullies because I was a young boy
12 and he told them to leave me alone. The bullies would
13 rip up letters and pictures that came from my family.
14 There was five or six boys who did that. They'd put
15 soap bars inside pillow cases and hit me with them.
16 This happened a lot at first, every night. They'd
17 giggle and laugh at me a lot. They were 15 or 16 and
18 I was only 12. We had to be really quiet at bedtime in
19 the dorm and no talking was allowed.

20 'Breakfast was porridge. The food was basically
21 slops and was terrible. We came back from school for
22 our lunch. We got a slice of bread and marge for supper
23 and we had fish and chips on Fridays. If somebody
24 didn't eat the food, they'd get reprimanded. I ate the
25 food because I was too scared not to eat it. The vibe

1 of the place was that you'd get in trouble if you didn't
2 eat the food or generally do what they told you to do.
3 People who didn't eat the food or took too long would be
4 cuffed about the ears by LAQ . We weren't allowed
5 to talk in the dining room and that sort of thing
6 happened every day.

7 'Two or three times a week we would get up in the
8 morning to get a shower. The water was usually cold.

9 'We wore a uniform of jeans, black plimsolls and
10 a jersey during the week. On a Sunday, we wore a black
11 flannel top, a white shirt and tie and a maroon jacket,
12 for going to church.

13 'There was a school within Balgowan in the bottom
14 part of the building. The teachers in the daytime were
15 in charge of us. If you talked or whispered in class or
16 didn't get the right mark in a test, you would get caned
17 by the teacher in front of the class. I can't remember
18 the names of the teachers who caned us.

19 'At lunchtime we'd go back to the Balgowan canteen
20 to eat. Every day education was the focus of the place.
21 The headteacher was focused on us getting an education.
22 I was quite bad at school and I struggled with writing.
23 We learned geography and general knowledge. I didn't
24 learn how to spell and I struggled to read anything.
25 The children were all treated the same at school and

1 I wasn't given any extra help. The atmosphere was quiet
2 and you could hear a pin drop in school. There was fear
3 throughout the school. I know I was scared I'd get the
4 cane.

5 'I was caned at school and I have scars on my back
6 from it. The teachers used a long, thin cane like the
7 one from the Pink Floyd album cover. I would be walking
8 through the class room to the toilet and the teacher
9 would hit me as I walked for getting my sums wrong or
10 being cheeky. I was caned over my clothes, on my bum
11 and the base of my back. I remember there would be
12 a whipping noise.

13 'I was there to get an education, but, because of
14 what was happening to me at the time, I couldn't
15 concentrate on schoolwork. I have no qualifications,
16 but I'm not stupid. School was hard for me. There was
17 no one to help me with schoolwork. There was no one who
18 was approachable. At the time, it was very painful and
19 I have welts from the cane. I saw other boys punished
20 by getting the cane, too. It was not just me.

21 'We had to do things like mopping the floors and
22 tidying the dorms. Some boys would be picked to do this
23 every day. I think there was a rota of chores.

24 'Religion was a big thing at Balgowan, but not
25 overdone like it was in religious homes. We had to go

1 to church. I remember walking through the town in a big
2 group and local people would point at us and say we were
3 the bad boys from the bad school. We walked about one
4 mile to the church and back to Balgowan. It was just us
5 in the church. We said prayers in the home, too, and
6 said grace before meals.

7 'We weren't allowed to go on many trips. Once I
8 went away for the weekend, hillwalking up north, near
9 Glencoe.

10 'After school, we'd go back to the wings. There was
11 a vegetable garden where you'd do some work before
12 teatime. After tea, we had our own time. I could write
13 a letter to my mum. The grounds were securely fenced.
14 The only time to play in the grounds was on sports day.
15 Otherwise, we had to make do with playing inside the
16 exercise yard that was fenced. The sports day was the
17 only time we were allowed out of the yards.

18 'We spent our time in the yard talking with each
19 other. I don't remember playing football. There was
20 nothing to play with and no facilities. We'd just be
21 mingling about, smoking and talking. It was just a big
22 square yard with nothing in it.

23 'On the other Saturdays, after I'd seen my mum, we'd
24 watch TV and play boardgames, like chess. We didn't get
25 any pocket money at Balgowan, but my mum gave me some

1 money when I saw her. I don't remember there being
2 a tuck shop.'

3 He's talking now about birthdays and Christmas:

4 'I was able to go home to my family in Edinburgh. I
5 ran away from my home at Christmas so I wouldn't have to
6 go back to Balgowan. Birthdays were not celebrated.

7 'I was told when I was first in Balgowan that it
8 would be for three months only. After the first three
9 months was up, I was taken to a meeting and told that as
10 I was getting an education I would have to stay.

11 I wanted to go back home to Edinburgh, but the
12 social worker, Janet, told me I would have to stay.
13 I wanted to go to a school nearer to my home.

14 'Every Saturday I would see my mum as she would come
15 up to Dundee to see me. She'd come up for 12 noon to
16 take me out and I'd be back in between 4.00 and 4.30 pm.
17 I'm not aware of any visitor book for her to sign.
18 I didn't see my siblings on visits, as it was just my
19 mum who came up. I saw my brother and sisters briefly
20 when I managed to run away to Edinburgh. I'd not see
21 them at all if my dad caught me, as he'd send me
22 straight back to Dundee and the police would come to the
23 house for me.

24 'I never received medical attention when I was
25 caned. I didn't see a nurse. I don't remember if there

1 was one. I never saw a doctor or dentist when I was in
2 Balgowan and I was never ill.

3 'I ran away constantly from Balgowan and tried to
4 get back to Edinburgh. I got myself into some dangerous
5 situations. The social workers started to get
6 concerned. I ran away on my own and went to the train
7 station in Dundee. I asked strangers for lifts to the
8 train station. I begged strangers for the two pence
9 I needed to get a platform ticket to get in the station
10 and then got on the Edinburgh train. Sometimes I made
11 it back to Edinburgh and to my mum's house. I'd be
12 taken back to Balgowan, my dad made sure of that.
13 I couldn't say anything to him about what was happening
14 to me at Balgowan. He thought I was getting
15 an education there and that's what I needed. The police
16 would come round to the house for me, so I started to
17 find other places to hide, like in doorways or under the
18 bridge in Gilmerton.

19 'I had to steal things in order to run away. No one
20 asked me why I was running away so much. There was
21 a meeting three months after I started at Balgowan to
22 extend my placement, but there was never any meeting to
23 discuss why I was running away so often. The headmaster
24 asked me why I was running away, and there was no way
25 I could tell him what was going on, so I told him

1 I wanted to be with my family. I didn't trust anyone.

2 'I used to pee the bed when I was first at Balgowan.
3 I used to have to take the sheet off my bed to dry it on
4 the radiator. The older bully boys would pick on me
5 because of that and call me names. At nighttime,
6 I would knock on the staffroom door to report I had wet
7 the bed. I had to go back to my bed. Then the night
8 staff would come along with a torch to see who had wet
9 the bed. They would slap me across the face and shout
10 at me. The staff on duty at night could be on duty
11 during the daytime, too. They weren't only on at night.

12 'The sheets would be taken off you and put on the
13 radiator. This made the sheets smell, so the other boys
14 would notice the smell and see you drying them. Nothing
15 was done to try to help the problem. I was too scared
16 to speak to someone during the day, because I didn't
17 know how to tell anyone and whether anyone would believe
18 me. I was just told I was a bad laddie. It was always
19 one of the abusers who gave me clean sheets.

20 'I was running away constantly from Balgowan. I got
21 one home leave from Balgowan and didn't go back.
22 I decided that, as I was always getting sent back to
23 Balgowan from Edinburgh, that I'd get to Dundee train
24 station and get on the first train to London, but the
25 Edinburgh one came in instead and I jumped on that.

1 'I always begged the social worker to send me to
2 Edinburgh, so I could be near to my family. I don't
3 remember there being any meeting, but she arranged for
4 me to attend an assessment centre near to Edinburgh and
5 maybe I wouldn't run away so much. I went to
6 Wellington Farm in Penicuik. This was also known as the
7 Welly Farm. I was there for six to nine months.
8 Everything was okay there. I was then moved from
9 Penicuik, as an assessment was required in a closed
10 centre.'

11 He then talks about going to Howdenhall
12 Assessment Centre from paragraph 34, and he says he was
13 there from ages 14 to 16, which was 1979 to 1981. He
14 talks about suffering physical assaults from staff
15 there.

16 If I could then go to paragraph 53. This is where
17 he talks about abuse at Balgowan. I will read from
18 there:

19 'I was sexually assaulted by two or three or four
20 different people from the night staff. It happened
21 weekly or more often. It was always at night, when
22 I was in my bed. I don't know if these people were on
23 duty during the daytime, too, as I couldn't see their
24 faces at night. Other laddies were assaulted, too.
25 I don't know if we were chosen because we were the

1 youngest ones in the dorm. A few other laddies were
2 taken from their beds. They took me to a room with a TV
3 in it and I was sexually abused there by staff members.
4 I can't remember the names of the staff.

5 'Sometimes staff would take me out of Balgowan
6 during night and take me to another house. Sometimes
7 they'd tell me a special person was coming to visit me
8 and he would take me in a car to this other house.
9 I didn't know where I was going. These special people
10 sexually abused me and sometimes that happened inside
11 the car. The other houses were somewhere in Dundee.
12 I don't know where.

13 'I was running away from the home by this time as
14 I couldn't take any more. The nighttime staff had some
15 sort of link with these special people and I don't know
16 how they would get them into the home. There were about
17 five young laddies that they took to some big fancy
18 houses, like mansions. They'd give us alcohol and
19 drugs. I don't know how many adults there were. I just
20 remember there were fancy leather couches in the one
21 house that we were taken to. I was sexually abused
22 there. I never spoke to the other boys about this.
23 I didn't know the other boys I saw, but they were from
24 Balgowan. I didn't know them as they were older or from
25 different wings. This abuse didn't happen all the time

1 when I was at Balgowan, but there was always people
2 coming in with the night staff. I don't know how. One
3 of these people would always be nasty and another one
4 would always be nice. The sexual abuse was always at
5 night, not during the day when the teachers were around.
6 It always involved the night staff and they would shine
7 the torch in your face to wake you up.

8 'I don't know how many nighttime staff there were in
9 total. There was maybe between four and six staff
10 members involved in the abuse. I can't recall their
11 names. One staff member had a beard and a moustache and
12 was a heavy set guy in his late 30s. With regard to the
13 special people we were taken to meet, I never saw their
14 faces. It was always in the dark, so you can't see them
15 and they shine a torch in your face.'

16 He then talks about the abuse he suffered at
17 Howdenhall from paragraph 56. He says that whilst he
18 was there there was physical abuse and sexual abuse by
19 members of staff, both within the establishment itself
20 and a member of staff took him to their house to abuse
21 him. He would be given alcohol by that staff member
22 before the abuse would happen. He also states that he
23 suffered sexual abuse from a neighbour for years, back
24 when he went home, until he was 15.

25 He says this started after he was first placed in

1 Balgowan. When he would run away and go home, the
2 neighbour would take him in and that neighbour would
3 also come into his parents' house and abuse him, and he
4 thinks that his wife was also involved on one occasion.

5 If I can then go to paragraph 68 of his statement:

6 'I never reported anything at the time it happened.'

7 This is him talking about abuse at Balgowan:

8 'I was scared of what would happen and I didn't know
9 who was involved in it. The headmaster could have been
10 involved for all I knew. I didn't tell anyone until
11 I spoke to my wife, seven years into our marriage. She
12 had guessed something like that had happened to me
13 before I ever told her.

14 'I went to Children's Panels and I was never asked
15 why I was running away and behaved the way I did.
16 I couldn't say anything to anyone else. I didn't know
17 who I could approach and I didn't think anyone would
18 believe me. I didn't trust anyone. I can't remember
19 being asked by anyone why I ran away.'.

20 He talks about a staff member:

21 'Even when that staff member was belting me he
22 didn't ask why I ran away, and I wouldn't have told him
23 anything.'

24 Then, when he was 15, he tells us that he was
25 allowed to become a day boy at the assessment centre and

1 sleep overnight in his own home. He was then a day boy
2 for six months and, at 16, he left the care system.

3 He talks about his life after being in care from
4 paragraph 72. He says he stayed with his mum and dad
5 after care for about six months. In that time, he had
6 six court appearances. He was always fighting with the
7 police and getting into trouble, but then he met his
8 wife. They've been together 36 years at the time of
9 this statement.

10 They were married at 17. They got a flat together
11 and had two children, a son and a daughter, and both of
12 them have children of their own. He says that he has
13 drunk a lot over the years and used alcohol to block
14 things out. It took him years to tell his wife what
15 happened.

16 'Callum' says he's not worked for more than a couple
17 of weeks at a time and he didn't learn skills for life
18 whilst in care. He didn't have much by way of social
19 skills and doesn't know how to mingle with other people.
20 He lacks trust in others and imagines that people always
21 have an ulterior motive.

22 He talks about impact from paragraph 77, and he says
23 he has nightmares about what happened to him in care.
24 He was always terrified of something similar happening
25 to his own children.

1 He was a glue sniffer, which he learned, he says, in
2 Balgowan. He was still sniffing glue when he met his
3 wife. He's taken a lot of drugs over the years and he
4 says he's nearly lost his leg twice.

5 'Callum' tells us he's tried to take his life on
6 numerous occasions, but at the time of giving his
7 statement to the Inquiry he was two years clean from
8 hard drugs. He is bipolar and given anti-psychotic
9 medication, and he says that he has been in prison, but
10 only on remand and for non-payment of fines. He's never
11 received a sentence.

12 He says he suffers from paranoia and has mental
13 health problems.

14 He talks about lessons to be learned at
15 paragraph 88. If I can just go to that, he states:

16 'Bairns that go into care now need to be safe and
17 better protected than I was. I don't want what happened
18 to me to happen to other children. I was adamant that
19 I would give a statement to the Inquiry and I hope the
20 Inquiry can help children. There should be more support
21 for children and vetting of people working in homes, as
22 well as CCTV of the buildings to view people going in
23 and out of children's homes.'

24 At paragraph 89, he states:

25 'I have no objection to my witness statement being

1 published as part of the evidence to the Inquiry.

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

4 He has signed that, and it's dated 26 November 2018.

5 LADY SMITH: Thank you very much.

6 MS FORBES: There is another one that is perhaps quite
7 short --

8 LADY SMITH: Let's do that just now, before the break.

9 MS FORBES: My Lady, this, again, is an applicant who is
10 anonymous and wants to be known as 'Trevor'.

11 He has died since giving his statement to the
12 Inquiry. The reference for his statement is
13 WIT.001.001.0486.

14 'Trevor' (read)

15 MS FORBES: My Lady, 'Trevor' says that he was born in 1959,
16 and born and brought up in Edinburgh. He talks about
17 his background between paragraphs 2 and 4. He had one
18 brother and one sister.

19 He said that growing up he hated his mother and
20 related more to his dad, but that he had a fairly
21 normal, happy childhood until there was an accident at
22 age five. [REDACTED]

23 [REDACTED]

24 [REDACTED]

25 [REDACTED]

1 He was sent to a children's unit at a hospital, at
2 six-years old, [Secondary Institutions - to be published later]
3 [Secondary Institutions - to be published later]
4 [Secondary Institutions - to be published later] He was there for two years.
5 [Secondary Institutions - to be published later] In
6 1967, he was moved to a children's home. [Secondary Institutions - t

7 [Secondary Institutions - to be published later]
8 [Redacted]
9 [Redacted]
10 [Redacted]
11 [Redacted]
12 [Redacted]
13 [Redacted]
14 [Redacted]
15 [Redacted]
16 [Redacted]
17 [Redacted]

18 He then was sent back to a hospital unit in 1969.
19 [Secondary Institutions - to be published later]
20 [Redacted]
21 [Redacted]
22 'Trevor' says he was then sent to what he describes
23 as a special school in 1970. [Secondary Institutions - to be published later]
24 [Secondary Institutions - to be published later]
25 [Redacted]

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Secondary Institutions - to be published later

He was then sent to Balgowan, and he talks about that at paragraph 28:

Secondary Institutions - to be published later [and he talks about the residential place he was in before] I was sent to Balgowan because that was the only place that would take me. My records say that I was at Balgowan for about nine months.

'I didn't go to any outside schooling and only got a little bit, like getting shown pictures and things like that.

'I can't remember seeing any of my family when I was at Balgowan, apart from my mum, who came up a couple of times with my dad. I think the only other person I saw was someone from the Children's Panel.'

He talks about the fact he never saw a doctor that

1 he was seeing before when he was there. He talks about
2 abuse at Balgowan from paragraph 31:

3 'The headmaster -- I can't remember his name -- used
4 to hit us regularly with his belt over the table.
5 I think he was the only one that hit us. Sometimes he
6 would get other members of staff -- or I seem to think
7 that sometimes it was the bigger boys -- to stand either
8 side of you and each would hold an arm and pin you on to
9 the table, and the headmaster would belt you. He would
10 hit you a number of times on the back of the legs or on
11 the backside through your clothes, although it was only
12 shorts I had on. You would get the belt if you tried to
13 abscond or if you stole food and lots of other things.

14 'Balgowan was run like a military camp and they were
15 very strict. They used to have a scoreboard and I was
16 never off the bottom of the table. The more points you
17 had, the bigger the prize you got, and if you had enough
18 points you got to go home. You would get points if you
19 tidied up, made your bed properly, things like that. In
20 the nine months that I was there, I was never allowed to
21 go home.

22 'I used to steal food sometimes because I was
23 hungry. One of the punishments, if you were bad, was
24 that they would give you less food. Sometimes you would
25 only get bread, sometimes only water or milk. If you

1 were caught stealing food you would be taken up to the
2 headmaster's room and belted.

3 'When I was at Balgowan, I told the Children's Panel
4 what was going on, including that they were very handy
5 with the belt. I also told my mum and I remember her
6 shouting the odds about it all the time, because rather
7 than them helping me, my behaviour was getting worse.
8 I think that's why I only lasted nine months there.
9 When I told the Children's Panel for the second time,
10 that's when I got moved out of there to go to Liberton
11 Assessment Centre. They said it was time for me to go
12 to a different environment.'

13 He talks about Liberton Assessment Centre then from
14 paragraph 34. He was there more than once and he says
15 on his first visit he was there a few weeks. He had
16 good memories of his time there.

17 He started to get some kind of schooling for the
18 first time and he got projects to do. However, he went
19 to school at Panmure House, but broke into their safe
20 and stole money. He then went to Liberton High School.

21 All was going there until he was asked to read from
22 a book and he couldn't read or write. He was only there
23 for a matter of days, because the headmaster tried to
24 give him the belt and he smashed the office up. He says
25 he was about 13 at the time.

1 He was sent home for a period, but then he ended up
2 back at the assessment centre, in his second time there
3 he experienced sexual abuse by a member of staff.

4 'Trevor' says he told staff and the Children's Panel
5 and, eventually, he heard that the staff member had been
6 caught. However, he ran away whilst there and regularly
7 broke into houses and stole things. When he got back,
8 there would be more charges by the police. Eventually,
9 they refused to take him back. He spent a weekend at
10 the police station and was then taken to
11 Children's Panel. He was certified as unruly and sent
12 to Saughton.

13 He talks about Saughton at paragraph 41. He says he
14 spent six weeks there. He then states that he went from
15 there to Geilsland and he talks about that from
16 paragraph 42.

17 'Trevor' says he was just over 13-and-a-half when he
18 went there and he was there until he was 16.

19 He says that Geilsland was really strict. He said
20 it was the first place where he felt like they were
21 trying to help him. They were quick to give him the
22 belt, but he describes it like a holiday camp and
23 doesn't compare it to any of the other places he'd been.

24 Whilst there he learned about plumbing and got
25 a weekend's leave to find a job. He went to a house

1 with the intention of breaking in, but the people were
2 in and next thing he knew he asked if they had a job and
3 they offered him a job as a heating engineer.

4 When he got that job he finished at Geilsland. He
5 says that he would never have run away from Geilsland,
6 but sometimes he didn't go back after weekend leave.

7 He says he told the police, from about 1996 onwards,
8 about all the things that happened to him whilst he was
9 in care.

10 He talks about life after care from paragraph 46.
11 He says that he was sent to Glenochil in 1977. He was
12 in and out of young offenders and, eventually, he went
13 to Saughton when he was 20 and then Perth Prison.

14 He continued breaking into houses and was involved
15 in crimes of dishonesty. Between 21 and 34 years of age
16 he spent most of his time in prison.

17 'Trevor' says he's been married twice and he lived,
18 at the time of this statement, with his current partner
19 for a long time. He said that he has children and
20 stepchildren from relationships.

21 He states that his wife was involved in a car
22 accident in 1994 and that this is when he found out
23 about his own accident as a child and his [REDACTED] injury,
24 and he stopped committing crimes.

25 He talks about impact. If I can go to paragraph 52

1 of his statement, 'Trevor' says:

2 'When I was at Balgowan, my crime got worse and
3 started stealing from a shop just outside the school.
4 The police didn't really get involved and the school
5 dealt with it all.'

6 If I go to paragraph 54:

7 'I think that the problems I have had as a young
8 adult stem back to the accident I had when I was five,
9 and then because I was put in all these homes I was
10 institutionalised. If I had hadn't had my accident
11 I wouldn't have resorted into a life of time and my
12 behaviour would have been different. I always wondered
13 why I wasn't normal like my brother and sister.'

14 He tells us, after that, that he had COPD and, at
15 the time of the statement, he was on oxygen 24/7 and
16 that was the situation prior to his death.

17 He talks about his hopes for the Inquiry and, if
18 I go to paragraph 68 of his statement, he states:

19 'I think things are much better now and children in
20 the homes are better protected than when I was there.
21 People listen to what children say now and action is
22 taken. These homes were supposed to be looking after me
23 and I know my behaviour was unpredictable and that
24 I deserved some punishment, but I don't think I deserved
25 what I got.'

1 He states:

2 'I have no objection to my witness statement being
3 published as part of the evidence to the Inquiry.

4 I believe the facts stated in this witness statement are
5 true.'

6 He has signed that, and the time of him giving that
7 statement was 27 February 2017.

8 LADY SMITH: Thank you very much.

9 MS FORBES: I'm not sure, my Lady -- there is another one
10 that could fit in before the break.

11 LADY SMITH: I think we can take the lunch break now and sit
12 again at 2.00.

13 One further name to mention, LAQ [REDACTED] was referred
14 to and, insofar as somebody can be identified from that
15 name, they mustn't be identified outside this room.

16 I'll rise now until 2 o'clock. Thank you very much.

17 (12.52 pm)

18 (The luncheon adjournment)

19 (2.00 pm)

20 (Proceedings delayed)

21 (2.10 pm)

22 LADY SMITH: Good afternoon.

23 Now, we move on to another read-in, I think; is that
24 right, Ms Forbes?

25 MS FORBES: Yes, my Lady.

1 The next read-in is from an applicant who is
2 anonymous and known as 'Alec'.

3 The reference for his statement is WIT-1-000000468.

4 'Alec' (read)

5 MS FORBES: 'Alec' was born in 1962 in Dundee, and he talks
6 about his life before going into care between
7 paragraphs 2 and 7 of his statement.

8 He spent his young life in Dundee and lived with his
9 parents and three sisters. He was the second oldest.
10 He says he didn't have a close relationship with his dad
11 and 'Alec' says that's maybe due to the shame he brought
12 to the door by getting in trouble by driving offences
13 and stealing cars.

14 He went to primary and secondary schools, though, in
15 his local area. He had no problems at primary school,
16 but at secondary school he says he was bullied. 'Alec'
17 said that then led to him skipping school a lot and he
18 was chastised by his parents for that. He ended up in
19 front of the Children's Panel for truanting. This, he
20 says, was -- the first time he went was a year after
21 starting secondary school.

22 When he was being bullied at school, 'Alec' says he
23 was trying to reach out to people, but felt that there
24 was nobody he could speak to. Because of skipping
25 school, he says the Children's Panel put him into

1 Burnside Detention Centre and that was in 1976.

2 He does say that he thinks it's possible he had been
3 there before, but he's not sure. He would have been 14.

4 He talks about his time at Burnside from
5 paragraph 8, and I'll just read from there:

6 'I can't remember for sure if it was my mum and dad
7 or a social worker who first took me to Burnside.
8 I don't recall much about my first day, other than
9 I just remember that when I first arrived I was scared
10 because I didn't know what I was walking into. I had
11 a fear that bullying was going to happen all over again,
12 but I knew I had no choice but to go.

13 'The place had about 50 or 60 boys and girls aged
14 from about 11 up to 15. I think there were between six
15 and 12 members of staff who rotated duties. The only
16 member of staff I recall was Mr Pendrick, who was a nice
17 old man, but I'm not sure what his job there was. The
18 only other member of staff I recall was the chef, called
19 **GTV**. His second name may have been **GTV**.
20 I think the building had two levels, but I don't
21 remember if it was dorms or single rooms.

22 'We would get up about 7.30/8.00 am, though I don't
23 recall how we were woken up. I think we then got washed
24 or showered, then got dressed, made our bed, then went
25 downstairs for breakfast. We all ate in the dining

1 room, maybe four to a table.

2 'After breakfast, we went to classes until about
3 3.00 pm when we had recreation time. We would then have
4 a wash before tea, followed by more recreation time,
5 before being sent to bed at about 9.00 pm. I don't
6 recall if staff supervised us at night, but they would
7 have been in the general vicinity.

8 'I have no special or fond memories of the food in
9 Burnside. We all ate the same thing. I don't recall
10 feeling I was underfed. If you didn't eat something you
11 simply went hungry, until you got a biscuit or a bit of
12 cake at night. There was no forced feeding or anything
13 like that. There was no punishment if you didn't eat
14 something.

15 'I recall a line of basins and I think there were
16 a couple of showers. Staff would be on hand, but only
17 to make sure there was no trouble or anybody stepping
18 out of line. I wouldn't say they were watching, just
19 for the sake of watching us.

20 'We had a big room which had a pool table and
21 a table tennis table and I think we had a TV.

22 'I have no recollection of us ever being taken out
23 on a day trip.

24 'I recall having to do English and maths and/or
25 arithmetic, but I don't remember if teachers came in to

1 Burnside from the council or if they were part of the
2 staff.

3 'There was a nurse in the home, but I think we went
4 outside the home if we needed a dentist. I don't think
5 I was there long enough to get regular checkups.
6 I think I got home from Burnside for Christmas, which
7 makes me think I was there more than once, and I think
8 for your birthday you got to see your family, but the
9 home itself didn't celebrate your birthday.

10 'I think my mum and dad visited me a couple of
11 times, but I can't be sure about that. I couldn't phone
12 home because I think you could get a member of staff to
13 phone home for you to see if you were getting a visit
14 from them. I don't recall writing many letters when
15 I was in residential homes.

16 'I know some people came in to inspect the place,
17 but if memory serves me right, it was only staff that
18 they ever spoke to.

19 'There must have been a wardrobe or small cupboard
20 in our rooms for keeping things in, but I don't remember
21 having much in the way of possessions.

22 'I think I did run away a couple of times and it was
23 the police who brought me back. I always went on my
24 own, but I don't think I ever went too far and, when the
25 police asked me why I had run away, I just told them

1 that I didn't like the place. I would never have gone
2 into any great detail, as I have never liked the place
3 and they would never have believed me anyway.

4 'Now and again some kids would be fighting and they
5 would get a clout over the head. I got the odd clout
6 for doing things I shouldn't have been doing. But
7 I don't have any issue with that. I never suffered any
8 injuries as a result of it.

9 'This was common practice: a smack over the back of
10 the head if you did something wrong. I couldn't tell
11 you the names of those who dished out the smacks.

12 'There was a lot of bullying among the kids
13 themselves, including boys and girls. And it was
14 typical of the sort of things that went on in most
15 schools in those days. If you didn't stick up for
16 yourself, then it got worse, but I have never been
17 a person who got involved in violence.

18 'GTV [REDACTED] was a cook in Burnside and a member of
19 staff. I don't recall his surname, but it was something
20 like GTV [REDACTED]. In 2017, he was sentenced to two years
21 for child abuse. I know this because I traced somebody
22 on Facebook, who said that not only had her husband been
23 in Burnside, but that he had also been abused by the
24 cook and it was she who told me he had been sentenced.'

25 Then he states a name that he thinks she went by:

1 'GTV [REDACTED] is 85 years old now.'

2 And he mentions the name of the person from
3 Facebook:

4 'She sent me a picture of him and he certainly looks
5 like the GTV [REDACTED] that worked in the kitchen at Burnside,
6 though I would really have to see younger photos of him
7 to confirm his identity.

8 'GTV [REDACTED] was a heavy set man, who used his weight to
9 push me about in the kitchen and grope me on my private
10 parts. I can't say how often he did this, but it was
11 several times. I clearly remember his sweat and bad
12 breath. There was nothing I could do to stop him and
13 nobody I could go to tell. You were always told to keep
14 your mouth shut. The abuse always happened in the
15 kitchen, where I think I was allocated to work.

16 'I didn't see him abuse others, but I've recently
17 heard from the woman ... [he says her name again] via
18 Facebook that her husband was abused by him. Another
19 woman ... [again he names her] recently told me that she
20 was also in Burnside and was abused there, though she
21 didn't say who by.'

22 He says:

23 'This was a woman whose daughter I had
24 a relationship with and who I got into a conversation
25 with one day and it turned out she had also been in

1 Burnside.

2 'I didn't hear others at the time talking about
3 being abused by him, but that would never have been sort
4 of thing we would have spoken about. A lot of the staff
5 in Burnside were good, strict but fair. But others were
6 heavy handed. [REDACTED] was the only one who abused me
7 sexually.

8 'I left Burnside after a few months and went home.
9 However, the bullying at school continued, so I started
10 skipping school again. My recollection is that because
11 of this I got sent back to the Children's Panel, who, if
12 my memory is correct, gave me a choice of going back to
13 school or going to a List D school. Because of the
14 bullying, I chose to go to a List D school. This would
15 have been in 1977.'

16 He then talks about being sent to St John's at
17 Springboig and tells us about that from paragraphs 30 to
18 54. Whilst there, he says that he suffered physical
19 abuse from staff. There was also sexual abuse from the
20 other boys, and he says they worked in packs together
21 and he was forced to perform sex acts on them. He talks
22 about being held down and serious sexual abuse taking
23 place.

24 If you shouted out or you didn't comply, you got
25 a kicking. This abuse, 'Alec' says, happened throughout

1 his time there. It was too often to put a number to it.

2 He also says that an electrical engineer there
3 threatened to put electrodes on his testicles.

4 There was regular bullying from boys there, in the
5 form of emotional or physical abuse as well. He doesn't
6 have one good memory about his time there.

7 He left St John's after 18 months. Then he talks
8 about his life after care from paragraph 55. He said he
9 moved back to Dundee and then went down to London for
10 a couple of years. He spent most of his life doing
11 driving jobs, ran a couple of taxis, had stints as
12 a delivery driver and drove lorries.

13 He was married at 30, but was divorced in 2005. He
14 didn't have any children. He talks about the impact of
15 his time in care from paragraph 56. He says that he
16 coped through drinking. He started having flashbacks
17 when he was a lorry driver and was being bullied by his
18 boss, and he tells us that he sought legal advice about
19 him time in residential homes.

20 'Alec' said he saw a psychiatrist for a while and
21 was diagnosed with PTSD, and he's got himself a dog
22 which he hopes will help him to get out and about.

23 He talks about lessons to be learned from
24 paragraph 66. He says that stricter investigation into
25 the background of staff in these places should happen.

1 In relation to hopes for the Inquiry, at
2 paragraph 67, he says that he hopes that those found
3 guilty of abusing children will be brought to account
4 regardless of their age and how long ago it happened.

5 Then, if we go to the final paragraph of his
6 statement, paragraph 68:

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

11 He signed that and it's dated 16 October 2020.

12 LADY SMITH: Thank you very much.

13 MS FORBES: My Lady, I'll now hand over to Mr Sheldon.

14 LADY SMITH: Thank you.

15 MR SHELDON: My Lady, the next statement is the statement of
16 an applicant who wishes to be known as 'Philip'.

17 His statement is at WIT-1-000000739.

18 'Philip' (read)

19 MR SHELDON: 'Philip' has signed his statement and dated it,
20 and has made the usual statement that he's no objection
21 to the statement being published and believes the facts
22 stated are true.

23 LADY SMITH: Thank you.

24 MR SHELDON: My Lady, 'Philip' is perhaps an example of
25 a young person who suffered badly from there being

1 a lack of proper provision for the needs that he had.
2 It seems clear that neither Balgowan nor Burnside, where
3 he stayed for periods, were able to help him or address
4 the issues from which he was suffering. In turn,
5 'Philip' suffered as a result.

6 'Philip' grew up in Dundee. He says that he had
7 a very dysfunctional family, and that while out of the
8 home he was sexually abused as a very young boy. He
9 says this was by sailors from Dundee docks.

10 He says that when he was seven, he tried to get the
11 police to help him, but the police assaulted him and he
12 was put to a Children's Panel.

13 He says that he had been on the streets on his own.
14 The panel put me to Balgowan school:

15 'At that time, if you said anything, they thought
16 you were telling lies. They didn't believe me at the
17 panel. It was three people sitting there. They said
18 there had been problems at school. I had never been to
19 school and they sent me to Balgowan.'

20 My Lady, in fact records suggest that 'Philip' went
21 to Balgowan in 1971, so he would be eight.

22 He says the panel didn't tell him he was going to
23 Balgowan and remembers a social worker taking him there.
24 He says the first day at Balgowan was hard. This is
25 paragraph 7:

1 'All the other boys were making a fool of me, but it
2 died down and they ended up helping me out. That first
3 night I was put in a bed in the dorm and as I slept I
4 was hit on the head by one of the teachers. I woke up
5 and didn't know who it was.'

6 He then goes on to describe some aspects of the
7 routine at Balgowan and some details of the
8 accommodation. He talks about the dorms, which we heard
9 a little about this morning.

10 He says, at paragraph 14, that the food was rotten:

11 'We got porridge every morning. If you didn't eat
12 the food, they would take it away from you and you
13 wouldn't get anything else.'

14 He says he didn't have his own clothes, he had a
15 school uniform and Balgowan clothes, but nothing else.
16 He says this was his first time at school and found that
17 weird:

18 'I was way behind everybody else because I had never
19 been before.'

20 He says:

21 'The teachers hated me and started shouting at me.
22 I ran off all the time because I couldn't cope with it.'

23 My Lady, the records certainly support that, that he
24 was someone that ran off a lot and clearly did struggle
25 with the confines of the school and the requirements of

1 lessons.

2 Page 4, paragraph 18, he says:

3 'We went up to Glenhead and we went to Glenshee.
4 The teachers threatened me at Glenshee and they said
5 they would leave me there and nobody would hear me
6 scream. I can't remember who said it. I found a big
7 sheath knife and I told them if any of them came near me
8 I would stick it in their throat. The teachers told me
9 that if I kept getting angry with them they would throw
10 me in a mental hospital with all the "spastics". That
11 was what they said about the people in there.

12 'I took the knife back to Balgowan with me for
13 protection from the teachers. This is where they told
14 me about sending me to Strathmartine and my anger
15 started building up from there.'

16 He says he saw a Dr GNI from Strathmartine
17 Hospital. He's dead now:

18 'He didn't like me and wasn't wanting to talk to me.
19 He told me he could put me in the hospital. I said he
20 couldn't, but he said he could, for threatening the
21 staff with a sheath knife. I told him it was for
22 protection for what they were doing to me. He just
23 said, "Don't be stupid, lad, don't be stupid". I was
24 also threatened with being sent to Rossie Farm closed
25 ward.'

1 Again, my Lady, the records certainly support that
2 'Philip' did see a Dr GNI , the records suggest at
3 a rather later stage, but he certainly did see him.

4 Page 5, paragraph 20, he says he never had
5 a birthday at Balgowan. He didn't know how old he was.
6 He said he didn't get anything at Christmas:

7 'They said they would let me home at Christmas to my
8 mum and dad's, but I wasn't allowed in the house. I sat
9 outside. I was homeless for a long time after being in
10 all the children's homes. I needed money, so I sold my
11 body to all the men down the docks. I still had a knife
12 on me for protection, in case something happened. Every
13 Christmas and New Year I didn't see anybody or speak to
14 anyone. I saw people having parties and kids enjoying
15 themselves. The staff at Balgowan let me go home
16 myself. They let me out to go and I would go to my
17 parents and try to get in. I saw kids getting presents
18 and I got nothing. I went back to Balgowan and they
19 asked what I was doing back and I told them nobody
20 wanted me there and they just said, "Okay". Nobody
21 cared about me.'

22 Paragraph 23:

23 'The social work didn't see me when I was in
24 Balgowan. They didn't come near me. My brother
25 found out I was in a home and he came to see me, but

1 they wouldn't let him in.'

2 At paragraph 24, he says:

3 'Most of the boys ran away a lot. Once I climbed on
4 a roof, climbed down, made sure nobody could see me and
5 ran off. I was on the run. That's what we called it.
6 My nose was sore. This young girl gave me a hanky
7 because I was bleeding. I didn't know what was wrong
8 with my nose. I was hiding in old houses and I started
9 doing stupid things like stealing apples. One time
10 I was hiding in the loft of a house and the police came
11 and they couldn't find me. I couldn't move about during
12 the day. I went about at night. I was breaking into
13 shops and stealing money and food.

14 'I stayed away for over a month once, then got
15 caught when I was on a train going to Glasgow.'

16 Taking that short:

17 'The police took me back to Balgowan. I was 12.
18 They didn't ask why I ran away.'

19 He says, paragraph 26:

20 'I wet the bed in Balgowan. The boys would call me
21 names like "pishy bed". When I got to 11 or 12 I told
22 the boy in my room about my abuse and he took it
23 seriously and told the other boys that was why I was
24 peeing the bed. We had a meeting together and he told
25 them and that's when they had a big rammy and I got

1 moved to Burnside.

2 'I can't remember the boy's name, but he was from
3 Glasgow.'

4 He just says:

5 'The staff didn't help me with the bed wetting.
6 They threw me in a room with no covers and said I could
7 piss all over the floor all I want. They abused you,
8 but still hated you.'

9 Over the page, page 7, he talks about abuse at
10 Balgowan, starting at paragraph 30:

11 'On that first night, when I got hit over the head
12 while I was sleeping, the person had a torch. I don't
13 know what happened or who it was, but the person hit me
14 over the head.

15 'I was put in a room with another boy. One night he
16 was catching television. I'd had a wash that night, but
17 this nightshift member of staff, Mr HLG, came in and
18 said, "You haven't washed yourself you dirty bastard,
19 you're going to get showered", and he took me down to
20 the showers. I told him I had a sore back, to try to
21 get out of it, but he took me to the showers and told me
22 to wash myself. I started to wash myself and he told me
23 to turn around and wash my backside. It turned him on
24 and he got more soap and put it on my backside. He then
25 stuck his penis inside me and raped me. He told me

1 every time I saw him I would have to do that.

2 'Mr HLG [REDACTED] wasn't a teacher. He was mainly night
3 shift staff. I can't remember what he looked like. It
4 was a long time ago. He raped me every night when he
5 was on. It was always the same. He would take me to
6 the showers. I didn't see him doing it with anyone
7 else. This happened until I was ten or 11. Then I was
8 moved to Burnside and it all started again. When
9 I first went to Balgowan everything was okay. HLG [REDACTED]
10 was friendly at first. He would give you sweets and
11 cakes.

12 'Mr HLG [REDACTED] took me out when he was on day shift to
13 a house. I don't know where it was. There were other
14 men there and they all abused me. I got taken back and
15 one of my pals asked me what the matter was and I didn't
16 say. I had [REDACTED] in my hand and I wanted to stab
17 myself. My pals found out and that's when there was
18 a big fight with the staff. I was in Balgowan for
19 a long time.'

20 At paragraph 34, he says:

21 'When HLG [REDACTED] took me to the house there were other
22 people there. They told me to do things like pee in
23 a bucket and it turned them on. They made me do things,
24 play with their penises and they would stick their
25 penises in my mouth. It was terrible. They were giving

1 me booze and stuff to do things to them. There were two
2 girls there from another home who were being abused,
3 too. I managed to get out of the house and I was
4 staggering around the street. I was trying to find
5 someone to tell and I was found by the police. They
6 battered me in a close and took me back to Balgowan. In
7 the 1970s, the police could do what they wanted. When
8 you were in your teens they would beat you up and get an
9 admission out of you. I think I was 11 when this
10 happened.

11 'They took me back to Balgowan and I was locked in
12 a little room for a while. They then said they'd had
13 enough of me and sent me to Burnside and it all happened
14 again. I tried to tell the police about what was
15 happening to me, but they didn't believe me. They
16 wouldn't listen because I was on alcohol. I had bruises
17 on my face, chest and side, but nobody said anything.

18 'In the morning, all the boys were in the hall and
19 we would normally get a lecture, then go round to all
20 the different parts of the school. After all this had
21 been going on, we got a lecture about being bad to the
22 staff, and one of the boys jumped up and said, "One of
23 you dirty bastards is abusing and raping GNH [REDACTED]."
24 This was to the headmaster, Mr Smith. He asked what
25 abuse the boy was talking about, and he told him. The

1 headmaster asked where I was, and he was told I was
2 sitting outside because I couldn't cope. He came out
3 and spoke to me. He asked me what really happened and
4 I told him. He said the best thing to happen to me
5 would be to go to a different place.'

6 He describes a visit to the headmaster's home at
7 which the headmaster was apparently quite kind to him.
8 But, over the page, he was then taken to Glenhead and
9 abused again. Paragraph 38:

10 'I can't believe why they do this to young boys.
11 That's when all the trouble started at Balgowan. I was
12 thrown out when I was 10 or 11 and I got moved to
13 Burnside and it all happened again.

14 'There was a coloured guy at the school and the
15 other boys made a fool of him. I can't remember his
16 name. He went mad and battered a guy. He was a boxer.
17 I thought, "I'm going to tell him what's going on here",
18 but then that's when I spoke to the other guy about it.

19 'We had to do cleaning and all that stuff. Me and
20 another boy were sent to the boiler house to shovel
21 coal. We were just young boys. I refused to go in
22 because I thought something was going to happen to me in
23 there and the staff started shouting at me. I got angry
24 and was going to pick up the shovel and hit the teacher
25 with it. He left, and the other boy I was with asked me

1 what was wrong, and I told him what had happened to me.'

2 On reporting, 'Philip' again says:

3 'Every time I was taken back to Balgowan by the
4 police, I told them what was happening to me, but they
5 never believed me. I told Dr GNI from Strathmartine
6 Hospital, but he didn't believe me either. I also told
7 the headmaster, but all he said was that I would be
8 better going to another place.

9 'The other boys at Balgowan found out what was
10 happening to me, but then the headmaster found out and
11 he took me to his house and I got fed with nice food.
12 His wife said I couldn't stay there. He told her
13 I'd been through a hard time. I went back to Balgowan.
14 HLG retired that day. I was there for another year
15 or so after the head took me to his house.

16 'When you get to 11 or 12 you leave Balgowan anyway.
17 They decided they would let me go and I was on the
18 streets again where I had problems. I was selling my
19 body to all these dirty men and the police found out.
20 I was 12 at the time. I went to the Panel again and
21 I was done for male prostitution. I didn't know that
22 male prostitution was a thing. As a result of the Panel
23 they didn't put me back to Balgowan. I was sent to
24 Burnside Assessment Centre. The staff there were told
25 why I was there.'

1 'Philip' then goes on to describe Burnside and the
2 routine. He said Burnside had two blocks, one for males
3 and females. On his first day -- paragraph 46 -- he
4 says he thinks a social worker took him to Burnside
5 straight from the Children's Panel:

6 'The abuse all started again right away. We were
7 all sitting watching the television there and I fell off
8 a chair. A member of staff, Mr GNJ, shouted at me,
9 saying, "Get up you dirty bastard". I looked at him and
10 he said, "Don't look at me". I thought he was going to
11 hit me and it built up from there again.

12 'There was a member of staff there called
13 EIF they called him EIF. He was
14 an ex-soldier. He said, "Why are you shouting at him?
15 He's only a young laddie", I got bad tempered and threw
16 chairs about and I got put in detention.'

17 Over the page, he goes into a bit more detail about
18 the routine. He says, at paragraph 48, there were
19 always big fights and arguments. He goes on to talk
20 about the food, which he says was good:

21 'But I didn't trust the cook. I can't remember his
22 name. He asked if I wanted to work with him and I said
23 no, because I thought he was a beast, like the rest of
24 them. If you didn't eat the food they would take it
25 from you. They would try to make you eat it, but

1 I'd pick it up and throw it at them, so I'd get into
2 a lot of trouble.

3 'I never went near the bathroom or the shower room.
4 As soon as I went near them, I knew something was going
5 to happen. I thought something would happen to me.
6 I got a female member of staff to come with me.
7 I couldn't go in myself because I was scared because
8 that's when Mr GNK, a member of staff, came in. He
9 would take his clothes off and come in the shower with
10 me. So I went for a shower and a female member of staff
11 would stand outside, so that no male member of staff
12 could come in. There were two showers and one bath. My
13 pal said he would go with me to make sure I was okay.'

14 He says, at 51:

15 'I didn't do classes at Burnside. I went to
16 Fairmuir School. The teachers there said everyone was
17 scared of me. EIF asked them why and they said"
18 "GNH's trouble". Nobody helped me at school. Two
19 teachers didn't like me. They said I was trouble and
20 they threw me out of the school for no reason. That's
21 how I ended up on the streets again and selling my body.
22 Fairmuir was a normal school and the teachers said
23 I shouldn't be there. I ran away, but the police caught
24 me and charged me with male prostitution.

25 'One of the teachers, Mr HLH, battered me in

1 front of the other boys. He slapped me and punched me.
2 He had this ring with a green stone and he punched me.
3 All the boys thought it was funny. It wasn't funny. He
4 taught sums and maths at Fairmuir. He battered me lots
5 of times in the classroom.'

6 He says he walked out of the school and never went
7 back. He says, at paragraph 53:

8 'Burnside didn't have any books. They gave me these
9 stupid army books. I'm not interested in soldiers or in
10 how to join up in the army.'

11 At paragraph 54:

12 'There were no holidays or trips, except on
13 a Saturday when you went on a bus trip.'

14 He said they went to Glenshee and looked at nature:

15 'That's what I loved, the waterfall and looking at
16 the salmon. I loved animals. In the winter, we didn't
17 go anywhere.'

18 Paragraph 57, he says:

19 'Social workers didn't come to see me. Nobody came
20 to see me. In those days, no social worker came to see
21 you and asked what was going on. There was no
22 inspection in those days. There weren't inspectors.
23 I was getting sexually abused and I was getting angry
24 with the police.'

25 At paragraph 59, he said:

1 'There was a nurse in Burnside and she was a bampot.
2 She was only interested in all the male staff there.
3 I can't remember her name. I told her about GNJ
4 kicking me in the face and she just told me to live with
5 it. I was running way from Burnside every day.
6 I stayed away for a while. I would hide in warehouses
7 and things like that and the police would grab me.
8 I tried to tell them about what was happening to me, but
9 they never listened. Nobody asked why I ran away.'

10 He talks about an encounter with one of his teachers
11 in London and says that he wandered about in London,
12 then aged 15, and eventually picked up by the police and
13 put on a train back to Dundee.

14 He then describes an incident where some children,
15 in essence, abandoned him in the countryside and he was
16 fed by a local farmer who took him to the police
17 station, who in turn took him back to Burnside. He
18 says:

19 'I thought they would handcuff me, but they bought
20 me dinner.'

21 Paragraph 65:

22 'I got back up to Burnside and a staff member we
23 called GNJ asked me where a particular boy was.
24 I told him I didn't know and that this boy was his pet
25 and GNJ then kicked me in the face. I asked why he

1 had done that and he said, "I better tell him where they
2 are". I told him I didn't know and he kicked me again.
3 I had been on the bed and he pulled me off and kicked me
4 in the face. I went even more loopy. There was a steel
5 bucket on the floor and he ordered me to scrub the
6 floor. I was going to empty it and use it as a weapon
7 and hit him with it. I told one of the staff and they
8 spoke to him, and he said he hadn't done anything to me.
9 After that, two guys from Strathmartine Hospital came up
10 and took me there.'

11 At page 15, he talks about, in more detail, the
12 abuse at Burnside. At paragraph 68, he says:

13 'I ran away from Burnside and came back and one of
14 the staff there, Mr GNK, started being a bit funny.
15 He started touching me, interfering with me in
16 detention, then up in my room. He was standing there
17 with a fag and he was touching me and feeling my penis,
18 trying to interfere with me. He abused me. Him and
19 that dirty Mr GNJ. They had two boys holding me down
20 and they interfered me. I'm still disgusted with all of
21 that. I went into the showers and scrubbed myself.'

22 This was in 1977. He says he was 14 years old:

23 'I was at Burnside for a long time, until I was 16.
24 GNK and GNJ were abusing me all the time. They
25 thought what they were doing to me was funny. It wasn't

1 funny. It ruined my life. I wanted to kill somebody
2 because of it. They were laughing and they said no one
3 can hear me scream.

4 'All the boys and girls thought they could bully me
5 and I got angrier. I kept running away and the police
6 would take me back and it would happen again. They
7 decided I could leave. They said, "You're 16 now", so
8 when I was 16 I left and I was on my own again.'

9 He says:

10 'GNJ and GNK were teachers, staff and carers.
11 They were supposed to look after you. They were
12 supposed to [I think] take care of you. Supposed to
13 help you and they never did that. They worked day shift
14 and nightshift, I think. I can't remember. GNJ was
15 fat and bald and had a moustache. GNK was skinny,
16 with greyish hair. He wore a ring. I don't know where
17 they both are now. They gave me sweeties to keep my
18 mouth shut. On one occasion, they abused me together
19 while two boys held me down.'

20 He says that one of the other boys in the home tried
21 to abuse him, and indeed tried to abuse another boy
22 while they'd -- on an occasion when they'd both
23 absconded.

24 At paragraph 74:

25 'GNJ and GNK abused me every night they were on

1 duty. It happened in my room or in the day room, but
2 then, after all this happened, I had a pal in the home.
3 They tried to wind him up and tried to be smart with
4 him. We ran away together and I told him that GNK ,
5 GNJ and one of the boys in the home were abusing me.
6 We were caught by the police and they took us back and
7 we were put in separate rooms. I was abused again and
8 they battered me after it. They never went near my
9 friend. When we came out of detention he saw the
10 bruises on my face. My friend had a glass bottle of
11 juice and finished it. He got up and walked over to
12 GNJ . He was told to sit down and he said, "No, what's
13 this about you abusing my pal?", and he hit GNJ over
14 the head with the bottle and it smashed over his face.
15 All the girls were screaming. He got pulled up by the
16 other staff and the head asked what was going on.
17 I can't remember his name. He asked me and I told him
18 I was being sexually abused by two of his staff and he
19 was doing nothing about it. He said I was trouble and
20 threatened to send me to a farm in Aberdeen at first.
21 I told him he wasn't sending me to a farm: what happens
22 if I get abused there?'
23 He then describes trying to tell a girl -- this is
24 page 17 -- about what was happening while in
25 a nightclub, and indeed tried to tell a number of

1 people, but no one really listened to him.

2 At paragraph 78, he says:

3 'There were boys and girls in Burnside. They were
4 all around my age. I think some of the staff were
5 abusing some of the girls there. They were getting new
6 underwear and tights from the male staff to keep their
7 mouths shut. There was another boy who was getting
8 abused, too. I tried to help things and explain things
9 to him, but he went off his head at me. I don't know
10 who was abusing him.

11 'One of the boys from Perth found out what was
12 happening to me and we had a riot and started wrecking
13 things and were barricading ourselves in protest. The
14 police came and battered us and the staff said they
15 couldn't control me. I was put in a detention room. It
16 was a little room and there was a wooden bed and
17 a mattress, as well as a little toilet and a big steel
18 door. It was like a cell. When I was there, GNK came
19 in and abused me again and again and nobody could hear
20 us. He came in every night he was on nightshift.
21 I wanted to kill him.'

22 Paragraph 81:

23 'Every time I ran away and was caught by the police,
24 I told them what had happened, but they never listened.
25 They just battered me and took me back to Burnside.

1 I tried to explain thing when I bumped into my grandad,
2 but he didn't want to listen either. Nobody believed
3 me. Nobody cared.'

4 He was then sent to Strathmartine **Secondary Institutions - to be p**
5 **Secondary Institutions - to be published later**

6 I'm now jumping to page 23. He then ended up in the
7 prison system and was at a number of different
8 establishments, and describes violence and solitary
9 confinement there.

10 He later ended up in a secure hospital and,

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

12 **Secondary Institutions - to be published later** He says that.

13 This is at page 27:

14 'I'm still destroyed inside. I thought I was gay
15 and wanted men all the time. That's all I thought about
16 when I was younger, sex with men. What happened to me
17 as a child still affects me now. I'm glad I've got
18 someone to listen to me this time.'

19 I should perhaps have said that he's now been
20 released, has his own flat and has been there for
21 11 years. He says it's going well, with staff on site
22 if he needs them. But he says, at paragraph 133:

23 'I think about my time in care every night and I sit
24 and cry. I cried last night. I always cry about this.
25 I can't stop thinking about it. I get flashbacks, can't

1 sleep and have bad dreams. It has affected my mental
2 health.

3 'I am coping now, as I have people listening to me.
4 My sister comes and listens to me. She's there for me
5 now. It affected my relationships with my brothers and
6 sister. I don't talk to my younger brother. It
7 affected me with my partner. I was crabbit and angry
8 with her. We are doing well together now. We are
9 taking it slowly.

10 'Every time my parents see me on the street they
11 would say, "No, it's not him", and walked away. I could
12 have had a normal life and a job, but my life was
13 ruined. I could have been living in Canada where my
14 uncles are, except my life was ruined. My uncles don't
15 know about all this.

16 'It happened and you can't rub it out. What
17 happened to me is still affecting me. I can't cope with
18 it. I'm getting a lot of help now. Is it too late?
19 Why didn't I get this when I was a child? I'm getting
20 really good support from my welfare guardian and Turning
21 Point staff.'

22 He says again, he told the police what was happening
23 when he was at these places and running away:

24 'But they didn't believe me. They never listened,
25 and I've not spoken to them as an adult, as I don't

1 trust the police.'

2 He says he hasn't seen any records and in 'Lessons
3 to be learned', paragraph 140, he says:

4 'I want people to know what really happened to me.
5 I want justice and I want people to stop abusing
6 children in care. I want children to be safe. I care
7 for children who are in the same situation that I was,
8 children or vulnerable adults. I want it stopped now.
9 If people do it to children, I want to see them in jail.

10 'Nobody ever came to speak to me. I want
11 professionals, the social work and in education to learn
12 from my experiences. I want the police to learn, too.
13 This is such a bad thing that happened and I want it
14 stopped.'

15 LADY SMITH: Mr Sheldon, thank you very much. What is the
16 plan? Take a brief afternoon break now and then move on
17 to the next one after that? I think that would make
18 sense.

19 First of all, some names. People who are not to be
20 identified outside this room, but have been mentioned in
21 the course of the read-ins, GTV [REDACTED], Mr HLG [REDACTED],
22 this applicant's own name, which is evident from some
23 parts of the statement, Mr GNK [REDACTED], EIF [REDACTED],
24 Mr HLH [REDACTED] and Mr GNJ [REDACTED] or GNJ [REDACTED]. I think that's it.
25 Thank you.

1 (2.55 pm)

2 (A short break)

3 (3.03 pm)

4 LADY SMITH: Ms Forbes.

5 MS FORBES: Good afternoon, my Lady.

6 The next statement to be read out is a statement
7 from an applicant who is anonymous and is known as
8 'Bill'. The reference is WIT.001.001.7373.

9 'Bill' (read)

10 MS FORBES: 'Bill' was born in 1951. His mother was from
11 Dundee. He tells us about his life before care between
12 paragraphs 2 and 4. When she got pregnant she went to
13 London and gave birth to him there. When he was a few
14 months old, he was brought back to Dundee by her. They
15 stayed with his grandparents. After about six months,
16 she left him with his grandparents and went back to
17 London.

18 He stayed with his grandparents until he was about
19 four-years old. Sadly, his grandmother died and his
20 grandfather couldn't really cope. His mother, by that
21 time, had married, and his stepfather and her had two
22 other children.

23 He talks more about his life -- paragraphs 5 and
24 23 -- between the ages of 6 and 15. In summary, what he
25 says is, from the age of about four, he spent his entire

1 childhood in and out of care.

2 In between those times, he would be at the so-called
3 family home. 'Bill' says he never had any problems in
4 care during that time and he felt that being in care was
5 better than being at home.

6 He describes his stepfather as being a cruel,
7 sadistic animal and he was subjected to regular
8 beatings. He would have to stand in the corner of the
9 room all night whilst they were sleeping and he was made
10 to drink urine.

11 If he was found lying sleeping his stepfather would
12 come and pour water in his ear. He felt that his mother
13 hated him and never wanted him. He was in care in lots
14 of different places and back and forward between the
15 family home.

16 At one time, the care order that was in place was
17 revoked and he was able to go back to the family home,
18 but he was accused of stealing on various occasions by
19 his mother and stepfather and he said there was no basis
20 for this.

21 He asked the social work to place him somewhere and
22 he was in a hostel at one point and he stayed there
23 until March 1967, at which time he started visiting his
24 parents again. He was working at that time, paint
25 spraying and panel beating as an apprentice and he was a

1 butcher's apprentice as well. In [REDACTED] 1967, his
2 mother accused him of not paying his board one week and,
3 as a consequence, his stepfather gave him another
4 beating.

5 He had been told that if he ever had problems at
6 home he should get in touch with social work and that if
7 the office was closed he should go to the local police
8 station. So that's what he did.

9 The police contacted social work and they asked the
10 police to find him a bed for the night. It was
11 11 o'clock at night and he was taken to a place that he
12 knows as Harestane Remand Centre, but he believes it was
13 actually called Burnside House Assessment Centre and was
14 on Harestane Road, in Dundee.

15 'Bill' comments it would have been better if they'd
16 just put him in a cell for the night. He talks about
17 Burnside from paragraph 24. If I can go to paragraph 24
18 and read from there:

19 'The front door of Harestane was locked all the
20 time. When you went inside there was a reception and
21 office areas. Inside, on the ground floor, were two
22 recreation areas and a dining room where all meals were
23 served. I don't remember much about the food. In the
24 recreation area there was a pool table and other things.
25 Upstairs were the bedrooms, which were all locked up at

1 night. Outside there was a garden, which we all had to
2 help plant up and weed.

3 'There was about 20 boys there at the time. No
4 girls. I think everyone only went there for a short
5 time. I would hazard a guess that there were about ten
6 staff.

7 'I was taken to Harestane in a police van and left
8 there with the staff. They showed me up to a small room
9 that had a bed and a wardrobe in it. That was it.
10 I put my head down and fell asleep.

11 'Everyone had their own bedroom, which were all
12 pretty much the same with a bed and a small wardrobe.
13 Each room was locked up at night and we were all woken
14 by the warders banging on the door, about 6.30.

15 'We all wore the same clothes, which were like
16 a uniform and consisted of a blue shirt, brown trousers
17 and a brown jerkin. It was almost like army stuff. Our
18 own clothes were kept in locked cupboards in the
19 reception. We were easily identifiable as being from
20 Harestane because of our clothing.

21 'There was a technical area in the place where we
22 did some woodwork. There was no school, as such. We
23 would also spend some time in the gardens, planting
24 vegetables and weeding. There were walls to keep us in
25 the gardens and there were always warders there watching

1 over us as well.

2 'Neither the social work nor anyone else came to
3 visit me while I was at Harestane. Every day I had been
4 waiting for someone from the social work to get in
5 touch, but they never did. I couldn't contact my
6 parents because I didn't want to. I was on my own.

7 'I never had a problem with bed wetting and I wasn't
8 aware of anyone else having a problem nor how it might
9 have been dealt with.'

10 He then talks about abuse at Burnside, from
11 paragraph 32:

12 'About 6.30 in the morning after I arrived, I was
13 woken by banging at my bedroom door and was dragged out
14 of bed by two of the warders. I was asked what I was in
15 for and I told them I was only in for the night. They
16 thought I was being cheeky and gave me a beating. It
17 was a proper beating all over my head and body with
18 their hands and fists, and it took me totally by
19 surprise. Secondary Institutions - to be published later

20 Secondary Institutions - to be published later

21 'I went down for breakfast and then the same two
22 warders pulled me out and gave me another hiding and
23 a slap about. It hadn't registered with me that this
24 was a remand home and that this was my introduction.

25 'There is a hierarchy among the inmates in places

1 like Harestane and normally the warders befriend the
2 ones at the top and get them to do their dirty work.
3 One of the other boys came up to me one time and, for no
4 reason whatsoever, stuck the head on me and burst my
5 nose. I knew he was directed by the two warders that
6 assaulted me on my first day. They had taken an instant
7 dislike to me.

8 'When I was working in the garden another time, one
9 of the two warders that didn't like me came up to me and
10 started pushing and shoving me for some reason.
11 I pushed him back and, unfortunately, he fell over
12 a wheelbarrow. I was put on a charge of assault for
13 that and got another beating.

14 'I was in Harestane for approximately six weeks, by
15 which time I had become what was known as a trusted
16 person because I wasn't in for committing some crime and
17 because I had been there the longest. Most people only
18 went in there for one or two weeks at the most.
19 Eventually, I decided I didn't need to be in there.
20 I could be working and I could find myself a place to
21 stay, so I decided to leave.

22 'As a trusted person, I had access to the keys, so
23 I just let myself out. I went down to the reception
24 area, got my own clothes and just left.

25 'I went to the Job Centre, or the "Dole Office", as

1 it was known, and said I would take any job. They made
2 an appointment at a local factory and I went along for
3 an interview. When I arrived, the police were waiting
4 and I got marched out in handcuffs. I was, of course,
5 an escaped prisoner and so they took me back to
6 Harestane.

7 'Unbeknown to me, I was supposed to be at the
8 juvenile court that day to decide whether I was to be in
9 the care of a Local Authority or not. Nobody had told
10 me I was supposed to be at court. I was taken to court
11 the following week instead and my mother was there,
12 crying, and saying I was out of control. The judge took
13 her word for it and told me he was going to send me
14 somewhere I could be kept under control. As it
15 transpired, that was to Rossie Farm school, in Montrose.

16 'The term that was used was that I was "in need of
17 care and protection". This effectively gave the Local
18 Authority the rights to send a child to an Approved
19 School.'

20 He then talks about Rossie Farm School in Montrose
21 from paragraph 41. Bill says he remembers being quite
22 happy to go there because anything would be better than
23 staying at the so-called family home. He didn't realise
24 what Rossie Farm was all about.

25 At that time, he says, he was 16 years old and

1 whatever he was given it was one year to three years.
2 He says he wasn't unduly worried at first because at
3 that age he only thought a few weeks ahead. It was only
4 when he became aware of the regime at Rossie that he
5 started to worry.

6 He talks about the grades that you had to work
7 through, from grade four to grade one and after that you
8 got out. If you were punished for anything you didn't
9 get to move through the grades. 'Bill' says Rossie was
10 full of hoodlums and criminals and it was a hard regime
11 at Rossie. They would go on parade after breakfast and
12 then out into work teams and, in winter, you were hired
13 out to various farms to pick potatoes. If you refused
14 to do it you were disciplined.

15 He talks about abuse at Rossie from paragraph 77,
16 and states:

17 'If you absconded or did something seriously wrong
18 you were put on report, sent to a board room to get what
19 was known as jump-ups, and that was you had to drop your
20 trousers and bend over the boardroom table, then get six
21 of the belt on the bare backside from SNR [REDACTED],
22 with SNR [REDACTED] there.'

23 That happened five or six times whilst he was there.

24 You could also be put on a thing called
25 a 'defaulter' where you were given a toothbrush when

1 everyone else was in bed, to clean the tiled floor or
2 the toilets or showers.

3 Bill says there were three other boys there who were
4 also under care and protection orders and they were
5 a lot weaker. There was bullying from the other boys
6 and he would try to stick up for them. But staff would
7 also revel in taking the mickey out of the weaker ones.
8 There was also a member of staff who used to steal
9 things from parcels that came in for the boys.

10 He left Rossie just before he turned 18 years. He
11 got a flat in Dundee and was given social security, he
12 says, for about a month. He then went to London and,
13 the way he describes it, he became a non-person. He
14 begged, stole and borrowed.

15 He talks about life after being in care from
16 paragraph 83. He says he became a bit of a
17 "Jack-the-lad", worked on building sites, but met some
18 people who had property and ended up running hostels and
19 a couple of nightclubs. He then met his partner and
20 they decided to move from London and buy a guest house
21 in Scotland. They had a son, and he talks about the
22 fact that his son had unfortunately been unwell and was
23 receiving treatment.

24 He talks about the impact from paragraph 87 and says
25 that he used to resent authority and he resented life in

1 general. He has been carrying this baggage on his back,
2 not just the abuse at home or in the care system, but
3 the streets of London were not a nice place to be.

4 He talks in relation to impact about the lack of
5 education and said he went to 13 schools. He had no
6 education and left with nothing. 'Bill' says he did
7 report the abuse by his stepfather and he says there was
8 a prosecution and a conviction.

9 In relation to lessons to be learned, he comments
10 that the care system is a different world now and has
11 vastly improved. It's crucial that children are
12 listened to. He said he tracked down his natural father
13 and they met, and although that didn't come to much, he
14 found he had a sister and they now have a bit of
15 a relationship.

16 'Bill' says he wants the Social Work Department to
17 be held to account for being incarcerated for 18 months
18 beside hardened criminals. If I go to paragraph 105 of
19 his statement:

20 'I have not forgiven the social work for my
21 incarceration. I want the Social Work Department to be
22 held to account for my getting incarcerated for 18
23 months beside hardened criminals, even though they were
24 only 15 or 16. Their classification of me as being in
25 need of care and protection meant to me that I was

1 locked up for no just cause. I could understand if
2 I was a bad guy, but I was not.'.

3 Then he says:

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

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

8 He signed that and it's dated 7 March 2018.

9 LADY SMITH: Ms Forbes, can you tell me whether that
10 quotation 'in need of care and protection' is in
11 a record that we have? He's plainly clear in his memory
12 that that was the reason he was being sent away, but do
13 we have it?

14 MS FORBES: I'm not sure at this moment, my Lady. But I can
15 check and let you know about that before the end of
16 today.

17 LADY SMITH: Thank you.

18 MS FORBES: I'll now pass over to Mr Sheldon.

19 LADY SMITH: Thank you.

20 MR SHELDON: My Lady, I have another Burnside statement.

21 This is from an individual who wishes to be known by the
22 pseudonym 'Sarah'.

23 'Sarah' (read)

24 MR SHELDON: Her statement is WIT.001.002.8682.

25 As before, I can confirm that 'Sarah' has signed

1 statement and made the usual declaration that she's no
2 objection to the statement being published and believes
3 the facts stated are true.

4 The statement is signed in 2019.

5 My Lady, in truth, the focus of 'Sarah's' statement
6 is really on Quarriers. She was taken into care at
7 a very young age. She was about two. She thought it
8 was because her mother had died of cancer, but she later
9 found out that wasn't true and she had never been told
10 by, apparently, anyone until she was about 12.

11 This was when she came to be -- well, there was
12 a placement with foster parents at that stage, which
13 didn't really take, and the placement failed. But
14 I'll come back to that later, my Lady.

15 Just to note, 'Sarah' was first taken into what she
16 describes as the Campbell Snowden Baby Home in Quarriers
17 Village and then passed through four different cottages
18 in the village and describes sexual, physical and
19 emotional abuse at three of them.

20 She was also briefly in a children's home in the
21 west of Scotland. By the time she left Quarriers, in
22 her early teens, and indeed had left the foster
23 placement which was the immediate successor, as it were,
24 to the Quarriers placement, unsurprisingly her behaviour
25 had deteriorated. She was extremely anxious and

1 disturbed. She ran away from placements frequently.

2 Indeed, she describes being physically and
3 borderline sexually abused by a police officer on one of
4 the occasions when she ran away.

5 The culmination of all this, my Lady was a placement
6 in Burnside, when she was nearly 15.

7 If I start reading her statement from page 22,
8 paragraph 100, she says she went to Burnside when she
9 was nearly 15. It was an assessment centre:

10 'You were to be there for only six weeks. I was
11 there for about a year. It was a locked home. It had
12 barbed wire around the entrance. Burnside was a regime.
13 It was for bad boys and girls. From when I was a wee
14 girl, I felt bad, Burnside reinforced that feeling. The
15 staff member who I remember is Jean Pirie, she was okay.

16 'Burnside had a school inside. The inside school
17 was a complete joke. I went there at first, it was like
18 baby lessons. I was articulate. I had a good primary
19 education. I think Burnside recognised that. I was
20 allowed out to go to school. I went to my fourth
21 secondary school Kirkton High.

22 'I was a persistent runaway. I ran away again,
23 again and again. I got up to no good. I had a break
24 from glue sniffing. Later my behaviour got better and
25 I was more settled. Then it was decided to move me to

1 Glasgow again.'

2 She said she had contact with her sister for a bit,
3 but her adoptive father died when she was in Burnside.
4 He didn't come to Dundee, but she went to visit him.

5 She speaks about her social worker from Glasgow and
6 says that he did try: 'He was very good to me, but his
7 hands were tied. He did not come to visit me when I was
8 in the cell at Burnside. I don't know if he had been
9 told I was in there'.

10 'I would run away. I would be caught. I would go
11 to the Children's Panel, then I'd be taken back to
12 Burnside. Nobody asked me why I was running away.
13 Throughout my life, nobody has given a damn.

14 'The Children's Panel made the decision to send me
15 to an assessment centre for assessment. Assessment is
16 not being locked in a cell all the time.'

17 She says:

18 'Every time I ran away and was brought back, I was
19 put in a locked cell for days. It could be two or more
20 nights at a time. I didn't get out of the cell at all
21 over the days I was in it. That was my punishment, to
22 stop me run away. In the cell, there was hard wooden
23 bed built into the floor. There was no other furniture.
24 There was a thin blanket. The window had bars on it.
25 It didn't open for any air to get in. There was a tiny

1 toilet in a separate cubicle with a sink. When I was in
2 the cell I didn't wash. I didn't get out of the cell to
3 get a shower.

4 'Food would be brought in. There was a hole in the
5 wall between the cell and the boys' toilets. The boys
6 would put cigarettes through the hole for me. The staff
7 would keep me in my pyjamas inside and outside the cell,
8 so that I couldn't run away. There was no one to talk
9 to, except through the hole to the boys' toilets.

10 'Being in the cell was not nice. I think someone
11 realised I had a phobia about the dark. They would put
12 the lights off at night. I always felt the staff were
13 trying to break me. They didn't break me. I would get
14 a reprieve. I would be put in the cell for a few days,
15 then the staff would take me out. Two child murderers
16 were admitted to Burnside. They were to be in the cell
17 for quite a while before they could be taken to court.
18 I was free for a wee while.

19 'A staff member gave me a black eye. I think it was
20 Mr GNJ, but I'm not sure. It was and wasn't my fault.
21 I wasn't very nice. I said something really bad and he
22 punched me. You got used to a lot of different things.

23 'The staff would tell me lies to stop me running
24 away. My brother [REDACTED] was in the Royal Air Force living
25 down in England. The staff would say my brother was

1 coming to visit that night, so I needed to say. My
2 brother never came.

3 'I settled down a bit at Burnside. John Donaldson
4 said there was a vacancy at a care home in Glasgow and
5 would I like to go back to Glasgow. I agreed to go
6 back.'

7 She moved from Burnside to a children's home in
8 Glasgow. Secondary Institutions - to be published later

9 Secondary Institutions - to be published later

10

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12

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14

She says that she was able to go to her
15 social worker's office. The two social workers, to whom
16 she was assigned, I suppose:

17

'... were the only two people who ever listened to
18 me, but I never told them anything about what had
19 happened to me. I didn't know how to. How does a child
20 say that all these things have happened to them?

21

'I got to 16 years old and I decided I was an adult
22 now. I behaved. I made my own plans for the future.
23 I'd flunked school. I was taken out of school early
24 when I was 15-and-a-half. I did a community volunteer
25 course at an adult training centre for adults with

1 learning difficulties. I got a place at college to do
2 a nursing course.'

3 Her social worker helped her with that and:

4 'Took me to the college.'

5 The social worker had also held some money that
6 'Sarah's' adopted dad had left her when he died and,
7 rather than holding the money until I was 18, her
8 social worker agreed to give her the money when she was
9 16-and-a-half and that helped her to get a flat.

10 She says that her social worker was a good man:

11 'I'm not saying a word against him. I don't think
12 he took proper pathway for me, but he tried. He
13 listened to me. When I moved into a flat, Mr Donaldson
14 and his wife presented me with dish towels, an alarm
15 clock and really special wee things that you needed in
16 a home. I never met his wife, but he said the things
17 were from both of them.'

18 She goes on to talk about life after being in care,
19 at page 26. She says life was hard:

20 'No one tells you about life when you're in care.
21 When I had made the bursary application I was seen as
22 living at home. I was awarded the bursary rate for
23 living at home. I left care and I was going to college.
24 I realised the bursary was not going to cover all my
25 costs. There was nowhere to go back to in the education

1 system to say I needed more money. The application had
2 been processed. I had to drop out of college. I had no
3 money whatsoever.'

4 She had to moved from a shared bedsit to a smaller
5 one. She later got a boyfriend who lived with his
6 mother. Her boyfriend's mum 'sent food for me until
7 I can claim benefit money'.

8 She didn't have any support then from her siblings.
9 Everyone had their own lives. When she was 18, she fell
10 pregnant. She wasn't sure if she wanted a kid. She
11 went back to social work and asked for help and they
12 moved her into a young, unmarried mother's flat and,
13 later, into what she describes as a 'lovely house'.

14 She, at that stage, was still in a relationship and
15 looking after her son, but she broke off her
16 relationship. She says she was still not happy when she
17 met a man who was 22. He was a recovering heroin addict
18 and she became a drug addict. She says she got clean
19 five or six years later, when her daughter was
20 four-years old.

21 She moved to Johnstone and went to college and
22 worked her way up to a managerial position, and lived
23 and worked abroad for a while. She says she did very
24 well in her career, but still has a lot to do.

25 In relation to impact, she says:

1 'I know there are people who have gone through
2 a hell of a lot more than I've gone through. Is what
3 I've gone through not enough? What I went through
4 tipped me over for many years. It wasn't until I was in
5 my 40s that I could see there was a correlation between
6 things that happened in my life. That took a lot of
7 doing. I had to go back in time and look at the dates
8 that events happened on.

9 'A lot of children were sexualised at Quarriers.
10 When you're a child going through all that, it is
11 difficult to see that there are reasons why certain
12 things happen and how one thing follows another. You're
13 thinking about how to survive. All I tried to do in
14 care was to survive. It would not have been easy not to
15 be there. If I wasn't strong I'd be dead. I know a lot
16 of people who are no longer here. It's a very easy
17 option.

18 'I never realised how unsettling it all was, what
19 the care system did to me, even without sexual abuse.
20 The impact on me has been horrific. It is the regime,
21 the way you have to do things. The regime was barbaric.
22 My social worker was nice, but he had constraints.
23 I was not his child; I was a child of care. How do you
24 ever feel loved and cared for?

25 'It is a big thing for me finding out when I was 12

1 that I had been adopted. That caused me a lot of
2 distress. How dare they, Social Services, allow me to
3 be brought up with a lie? When I got to 12-years old
4 the accumulation of that and my foster home breaking up,
5 alongside everything else that had happened wasn't good
6 for my behaviour.

7 'When I got to 13, I was a runaway. I never
8 realised what I was running away from. Now that I'm
9 older and I've done training I know I was running away
10 from something. The answer the authorities gave was
11 that I was a persistent absconder. The authorities
12 would move me on. That never helped me. I never had
13 much of a childhood.'

14 She talks a little bit about her relationship with
15 her family and refers to problems in her family or some
16 of them to their time in Quarriers.

17 She says, at paragraph 134, she was registered at
18 five secondary schools, but hardly went to school:

19 'I would go to one, then to another. The next
20 school would be at a different bit in the curriculum and
21 I couldn't grasp it. It was easier not to go to school.
22 I have flashbacks [she says] about the cell at Burnside
23 every day. I can't forgive Burnside for that. Out of
24 everything I've been through in life, being in that cell
25 was horrible. It was torture.

1 'Glue sniffing and drug addiction take away
2 memories. When I was using drugs there was an image
3 that came to me that meant I could prove everything that
4 happened to me. Things that happened in Cottage 12 led
5 to everything. My life after care was hellish. I don't
6 blame anyone, but I think I could have been treated
7 better in care. I feel shoddy. I became a drug addict
8 and could have stayed an addict. I stopped taking drugs
9 not because of my boy, because he had his dad and his
10 gran, but for my daughter who I'd taken away from her
11 father. I couldn't be like her father.

12 'I have had terrible relationships. I have a lack
13 of trust. I'm hypervigilant. If someone walks behind
14 me, I want to go the other way. I had low self-worth
15 and self-esteem in the past. It shouldn't be that
16 I have to get to the age that I am to have all these
17 things.

18 'Now I know that I'm articulate. I know what my
19 strengths are. I know what my worth is. It's not been
20 easy. I think if a person is vulnerable it's like
21 they're giving out signals and people take advantage of
22 that.

23 'I've tried to be open with my own children. In the
24 early days I was a shouter. I went to college and
25 realised that you can't shout at kids. It was like that

1 from all the years in Quarriers. It was learned
2 behaviour. I have a loving relationship with my
3 children. I'm not saying our relationship hasn't been
4 fraught with difficulties years ago.'

5 She says she now has poor health and has taken time
6 off to recuperate:

7 'There is a lot in my life I'm not proud of, but
8 there's a lot in my life that I am proud of. It's a
9 pity that when I was growing up the authorities didn't
10 take my strengths and my resilience and make them into
11 something, like I did with my own children.'

12 Over the page, she talks a little about seeking and
13 receiving treatment and support, and says in relation to
14 records that although she's seen some, they are sparse
15 and some records which appear to be missing or
16 uninformative.

17 Page 31, in relation to lessons to be learned:

18 'At Quarriers there was no disclosure, no Protecting
19 Vulnerable Groups scheme. They let anyone in to care
20 for children. In some cottages, people had really nice
21 lives. They've come out, married and everything's okay.
22 For some people, it wasn't like that.

23 'When making decisions about children, instead of
24 discussing the child, people should ask the child what
25 the child thinks is right for them.

1 'Young kids growing up in care are not getting a lot
2 of tactile touch. I never had a hug at all. If a kid
3 grows up like that how are they going to go on and form
4 a proper, loving relationship? Children who have been
5 in care grow up feeling unloved. This has a big impact
6 on children's self-esteem.

7 'I think a psychotherapist should be brought in to
8 talk to children in care in a therapeutic manner, to
9 make sure they are aware of how they've been brought up.
10 There should not be secrets. Social work, the Local
11 Authority, Quarriers and my foster parents were all
12 guilty of keeping secrets. We have to be open and
13 honest with children. We have to explain as we go
14 along. It doesn't matter how young they are.'

15 My Lady, that statement is signed and 'Sarah'
16 believes the facts stated are true.

17 LADY SMITH: Thank you very much.

18 Do we have a statement that will fit into the time
19 available now or not? Maybe not.

20 MR SHELDON: Probably not a short one, my Lady. There are
21 more statements that could be done, but they would,
22 I think, take longer than --

23 LADY SMITH: We did sit late yesterday, so let's ...

24 MR SHELDON: Ms Forbes tells me she has tracked down the
25 care and protection record.

1 LADY SMITH: Thank you very much. It would be helpful to
2 get that into the transcript, if we have it in our
3 documents.

4 MS FORBES: Yes, my Lady.

5 I do have a petition within the records that we have
6 obtained. It's a petition from the Children's Officer
7 and it gives the history of his journey, if you like,
8 and, indeed, at the beginning of the journey there was
9 an order in place and that did specifically refer to him
10 being in need of care and protection. However, at
11 various times, that changed and was revoked at one time.

12 I think your Ladyship -- I do have the details of
13 that if your Ladyship wanted the kind of history.

14 But, ultimately, when he ended up in Burnside, by
15 that time it was a petition under section 88.8 of the
16 Children and Young Persons (Scotland) Act 1937, and that
17 section was where the education authority were of the
18 opinion that any child or young person required to be
19 sent to an Approved School. They could give a petition
20 in the court setting out the reasons why they thought it
21 was desirable and in the child's interests to do so.

22 In that, they do refer to the fact that he had been
23 in trouble and been convicted of an offence with another
24 boy and received a fine. So, by the time he ended up in
25 Burnside, it was a petition for an order to send him to

1 an Approved School.

2 LADY SMITH: Right.

3 MS FORBES: It was no longer under care and protection.

4 LADY SMITH: That's helpful. You can understand from what

5 he has seen that he will have in his mind that it was

6 for care and protection. Certainly looking at his

7 history, he did need care and protection.

8 MS FORBES: Yes. Certainly, in the petition it sets out the

9 circumstances as to how he presented himself to the

10 police station the evening that he was taken to

11 Burnside. It doesn't appear that -- unless that had

12 happened, it doesn't appear that any such order would

13 have been requested. So that seems to be the thing that

14 precipitated the petition.

15 LADY SMITH: It's another example of, perhaps, the

16 unintended consequences of legislating to allow

17 an Approved School to be used as a place to send a child

18 who wasn't really an offender, even if they had been in

19 and out of trouble a bit; that the root problem was not

20 their offending, but somebody needed to take care of

21 them.

22 MS FORBES: The offence indeed was a minor one for which he

23 had received a fine and it had been dealt with.

24 LADY SMITH: Yes, thank you very much.

25 One name that I haven't mentioned was Mr **GNJ**.

1 I don't know if that is Mr GNJ that we have also heard
2 about.

3 MR SHELDON: I strongly suspect so, my Lady, given the
4 dialect.

5 LADY SMITH: It might well be. Whether it is GNJ, GNJ or
6 GNJ, he's not to be identified outside this room.

7 Tomorrow we have one witness in person; am
8 I remembering correctly?

9 MS FORBES: Yes, my Lady, there is a witness at 2 o'clock
10 tomorrow because of things changing with the programme.
11 But, in the morning, we'll have some read-ins.

12 LADY SMITH: Thank you very much for the progress we have
13 made today and I'll rise now until 10 o'clock tomorrow
14 morning.

15 (3.43 pm)

16 (The Inquiry adjourned in the 10.00 am
17 on Friday, 16 February 2024)

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24
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1		INDEX	
2			PAGE
3	'Allan' (sworn)	1	
4	Questions by MR SHELDON	3	
5	'Callum' (read)	75	
6	'Trevor' (read)	91	
7	'Alec' (read)	100	
8	'Philip' (read)	108	
9	'Bill' (read)	130	
10	'Sarah' (read)	140	
11			
12			
13			
14			
15			
16			
17			
18			
19			
20			
21			
22			
23			
24			
25			

