

Friday, 16 February 2024

1

2 (10.00 am)

3

(Proceedings delayed)

4 (10.05 am)

5 LADY SMITH: Good morning to the last day this week in

6 Chapter 3 of Phase 8 of our hearings.

7 Now, Mr Sheldon, we start this morning with some

8 read-ins, I think, don't we?

9 MR SHELDON: That's right, my Lady. It's a morning of

10 read-ins and I will kick off with a statement, the

11 statement of 'Derek'.

12 'Derek' (read)

13 MR SHELDON: 'Derek', his statement reference is

14 WIT-1-000005555.

15 My Lady, 'Derek's' statement insofar as it relates

16 to SPS establishments, was read in on 6 December last

17 year. The transcript number is TRN-12-000000026.

18 My Lady, today's reading from 'Derek's' statement

19 relates to his time at Larchgrove and Balgowan, in the

20 1970s.

21 My Lady may recall, but just to recap, 'Derek' grew

22 up in the Yoker area of Glasgow. He said it was a happy

23 childhood and he wasn't in any way a troublemaker.

24 I should have said he was born in 1963.

25 LADY SMITH: Can I just check that reference, Mr Sheldon?

1 It may be the statement has acquired -- no, sorry, I was
2 listening to the transcript number. The statement
3 number has four fives at the end of it and the
4 transcript number has 026 at the end of it.

5 MR SHELDON: Correct.

6 LADY SMITH: Forgive me. That is my confusion. Thank you.

7 MR SHELDON: Just looking at the first two pages, really, of
8 the statement, which summarises his early life. He says
9 that his father died in [REDACTED] 1974, and he thinks that he
10 was probably taken into care because his mother was
11 finding difficulty coping with a large family in the
12 wake of his father's death.

13 It's not entirely clear precisely when he was taken
14 into care, my Lady, but likely [REDACTED] 1974 or 1975.

15 Just looking at paragraph 6, page 2, he says:

16 'Social services were never involved until my dad
17 died. Before I knew it I was at Wellington Street
18 Children's Panel, then me and [REDACTED] [his brother] were
19 gone. I don't know the names of any of the
20 social workers involved. I remember being picked up in
21 a car or a taxi and my mum took us to the Panel.
22 I remember sitting round a big table and my mum crying,
23 me crying and [REDACTED] trying to run out. I just
24 remember the upset. I didn't really know what was
25 happening. No one had sat us down beforehand and

1 explained what was going to happen. We weren't prepared
2 for it. I wasn't given a chance to speak at the Panel.
3 My mum was talking a lot and crying a lot, so that was
4 upsetting me. I was only ten. It was too much for me.
5 I felt like I was in custody then.'

6 As I say, my Lady, the dates are perhaps not quite
7 right, or at least the age that he's talking about may
8 not be quite right.

9 LADY SMITH: If it was 1974/1975, he may have been 11.

10 MR SHELDON: Yes, my Lady, slightly older. It's very clear
11 this was a pretty traumatic experience, whatever his
12 precise age at that time.

13 He says, at paragraph 7:

14 'I was taken away by a social worker in a car. My
15 mum didn't come with us. I was terrified. I didn't
16 know anything about children's homes. I didn't even
17 know anyone who was involved with a social worker.'

18 He says towards the end of that paragraph:

19 'That's the most upsetting thing for me, being
20 ripped away from my mum, particularly when my dad had
21 just died. That affected me quite a lot. I didn't
22 sleep, just cried all the time.'

23 Paragraph 8, he's taken to Larchgrove, my Lady, and
24 he describes his first impressions. He says it was
25 military clean, spotless, but old and miserable, bleak.

1 He imagines it was run by Glasgow City Council.

2 At paragraph 9, he talks a little about staff at
3 Larchgrove. He says that the person in charge, who he
4 says was a Mr KDX, was a nice man:

5 'He reminded me of Jock Stein the football manager.'

6 He says that Mr KDX told him to relax because he
7 could see that I was upset. There were other staff
8 members there, but I didn't really pay attention to them
9 because I had to just focus on one person at a time. He
10 must have given me the rules of the place, but I can't
11 really remember that.'

12 He says that very quickly his brother escaped, or
13 tried to escape, so one of his first experiences was
14 being asked where his brother had gone.

15 He says, at paragraph 10:

16 'Larchgrove was on Edinburgh Road in Barlanark,
17 I think. It was a brown, dark horrible building from
18 what I remember. A big stone Victorian building. It
19 was in its own grounds. They had their own football
20 pitches round the back. There were housing estates
21 round about it. There was no gate at the front or the
22 back; there was access through both sides. You could
23 run away if you wanted to.'

24 He says, at paragraph 11, there were two
25 dormitories, and he describes that in a little detail.

1 Halfway down the paragraph, he says:

2 'There were quite a lot of staff in Larchgrove. You
3 would see them flying about the place. I didn't really
4 get to know any of them, just one guy in particular.
5 His name was [REDACTED] or [REDACTED]. I don't know if that was short
6 for [REDACTED]. I only knew him as [REDACTED]. I don't
7 know his surname. I know he lived in Clydebank.
8 I don't know if all the staff stayed outwith Larchgrove.
9 He was the only member of staff that took me out of the
10 place and to his house.'

11 At paragraph 12, he talks again a little bit about
12 the accommodation at Larchgrove and about Mr [REDACTED] and
13 Mr [REDACTED] moving him to a different dormitory because:

14 'I had told him about [REDACTED].'

15 We come to that evidence later in the statement. He
16 says:

17 'Mr [REDACTED] was the only member of staff I knew and
18 I could try to talk to. He wasn't intimidating. He
19 didn't frighten me and was approachable.'

20 He talks, at paragraph 13, about his weekends at
21 another children's home in Glasgow. As I say, that
22 seems to have been a weekend arrangement and,
23 presumably, 'Derek' was at that stage a care and
24 protection child, as it were. It was obviously thought
25 that was a reasonable, acceptable way to deal with him.

1 'Derek' then goes on to describe the daily routine.
2 Worth noting in paragraph 14 that they are wakened up at
3 6.00 am. Halfway down paragraph 14, he says:

4 'If you had peed your bed you'd be screamed at to
5 get the sheets off the bed. There were staff members in
6 there that would raise their voices quite a lot and
7 scare a lot of people. [He says] I can't remember
8 names. I didn't wet the bed.'

9 The rest of that page of the statement is mostly
10 about routine. But, at paragraph 16, he says:

11 'I think after a while I thought: if I can keep
12 doing this ...'

13 In short, really trying to keep his head down,
14 my Lady:

15 'I will be all right. Then [REDACTED] turned up and
16 everything changed for me.'

17 Paragraph 17, he says:

18 'We were early to bed. There weren't any late
19 nights in Larchgrove. I remember that because you could
20 always hear the staff leaving. In the morning, you
21 could hear them coming. I was always awake when they
22 came and went. They had a couple of people that would
23 stay over at night-time. They would get me up at
24 5.00 am to help with the laundry. I would fold all the
25 sheets, making sort of bed blocks. That's how I learned

1 to make one.'

2 Again, my Lady, he goes on to talk about routine.
3 Although, at paragraph 19, he says that he never saw
4 anyone being force fed:

5 'But I saw some of the boys actually getting hit
6 with the food by the people who were putting it out.
7 There was a lady there who gave the food out and, if you
8 abused the food, she would literally throw it at you and
9 you would go on report. I don't know her name. There
10 was a lot of bullying by the staff.'

11 At paragraph 20, he says:

12 'We were given clothes by Larchgrove. They were
13 like prison clothes. It was corduroys or jeans,
14 a jumper, and maybe a T-shirt or something like that.
15 I can't really remember the clothes I wore there, but,
16 when I went out with [REDACTED] to different places, he would
17 buy me clothes. Every single time I went out he bought
18 me new clothes. I didn't keep them at Larchgrove.
19 I had to change into my old clothes when he returned me
20 to the home. When I went to Balgowan, I got all my
21 clothes that he had bought me.'

22 He says at paragraph 21:

23 'I didn't have any schooling throughout my time in
24 Larchgrove. I think others got some education, but
25 I can't even remember seeing the classrooms. I don't

1 know where they were located. There were some little
2 portacabins at the back of the main building and I think
3 that's where the school might have been.'

4 Paragraph 22, my Lady, 'Derek' starts off talking
5 about the football pitches at the back. He says, about
6 halfway down the paragraph:

7 'My nickname in Larchgrove was [LH] which meant [REDACTED]
8 [REDACTED]. Most of the guys in there weren't for
9 care and protection; they were in for burglaries and
10 other crimes. [LI] branded me with that nickname.
11 Little things like that I remember. And that was the
12 beginning of it, him getting all the other kids to
13 intimidate me.

14 'I can't remember seeing a TV in Larchgrove. There
15 wasn't any pool tables or a recreation room, absolutely
16 nothing. There were maybe some books there. I might
17 have picked up a couple of books, but I wasn't the best
18 reader.'

19 He says at paragraph 24, he was helping out with the
20 laundry and doing a bit of cleaning.

21 Paragraph 25, they didn't go on any trips and he
22 can't remember having his birthday in there or anything
23 special happening at Christmas. He says he didn't have
24 any visitors, although he thought there were a lot of
25 inspections, official-looking people walking around, all

1 suited and booted, taking notes, going into the
2 dormitories and things. What they were about, I don't
3 know. Some would speak to me, asking why I was there
4 and stuff like that. I told them what I've said here
5 today, that I've no idea. I stick up for myself, nobody
6 else. I didn't attend any further panels while I was in
7 Larchgrove, so I don't know if there were any reviews
8 done.'

9 At paragraph 28, he says:

10 'Some boys ran away every day. There was always
11 a hive of activity, always police in and out of there.
12 It was like a prison. Those that ran away would get
13 abused by the staff. They would be terrified. I heard
14 this happening. You heard it more than you saw it. You
15 could hear them getting slapped and punched. Mr. KDX
16 wouldn't do this. I never saw him angry while I was
17 there and I'd see him every day.'

18 At paragraph 29, he talks a little more about bed
19 wetting and that kids who did bed wet were dragged away
20 and humiliated. And they were made to stand and would
21 get kicked and pushed and prodded by the staff:

22 'I can't remember the names of the boys or the
23 staff, but everybody got that at some point. If you
24 stepped out of line, there was a quick tempered person
25 there to put you right in their own way, not the right

1 way. This could be any member of staff. They were all
2 the same when I was there.'

3 He says:

4 'The harder boys [paragraph 30] in there, not me,
5 were often lined up outside the offices next to the
6 dining hall completely naked, with their hands behind
7 their backs. I don't know what that was about. There
8 was a lot of boys getting into trouble at Larchgrove,
9 but I don't know what trouble they had got into to be
10 punished like that. There was a shower unit there and
11 they would all be taken in there and come out with
12 different clothes on.'

13 The next few paragraphs, he talks about the
14 children's home which was his weekend place of residence
15 or accommodation.

16 At paragraph 34, he goes on to talk about abuse at
17 Larchgrove. He says he was picked on a lot by the other
18 boys:

19 'Mainly because of my size and the way I looked.
20 I never got a haircut. In 1973, my hair was longer than
21 my sister's. When I was at home I was the youngest boy,
22 so my sisters pushed me around in a little buggy and
23 made me look like a girl. So, when I went into
24 Larchgrove, my hair was really long.'

25 He says:

1 'LI [REDACTED] wasn't there when I first arrived at
2 Larchgrove. He was tall, a big bubbly guy, maybe
3 overweight, a fat guy, blonde or ginger hair with big
4 sideburns, like a musician. He gave you that
5 impression. He was always laughing and joking. I think
6 he would be late 20s to early 30s. I'd met him in the
7 place for a few weeks. He wasn't just chatting to me,
8 he was chatting to all the other kids. He came to me
9 maybe a couple of weeks later and asked me if I fancied
10 going out for the day. I said I would, so he told me he
11 would take me out on a little trip, but I wasn't to tell
12 anyone.

13 'When LI [REDACTED] first started coming to Larchgrove he
14 would come in and make everybody laugh. He would be
15 like Santa Claus at Christmas. He would speak to
16 everyone, asking what they were up to that day, then
17 whisper to me, "I've got a wee secret for you". I'd ask
18 him what it was and he would tell me we were going here
19 or there. That's how he would get to me. I never saw
20 anyone else going outside Larchgrove with another member
21 of staff or with anybody. I don't know what LI [REDACTED]'s role
22 was there. He didn't have the jangly set of keys on
23 him. He had his own civvy clothes on, very casual. The
24 staff didn't wear a uniform, but some of them would be
25 suited and booted, but he wasn't. He wore jeans and

1 stuff. He was like a social worker. He might have been
2 one, I'm not too sure. He would say things to me, like,
3 "I wish you could have been my son". He would talk
4 a lot like that to me.

5 'When I got involved with [LI] my life was really
6 messed up. He was the reason I stayed at Larchgrove at
7 weekends. He was the reason I didn't get to go home.
8 He took me to Glasgow Green. I know it was there
9 because I have been to Glasgow High Court and the Green
10 is right across from it, and I remember [LI] and I went
11 past the High Court going to this big park. Inside the
12 park was the Botanic Gardens. We went there.
13 I remember going to big car parks and other parks with
14 him.

15 'The abuse started after the second outing. When he
16 came to pick me up, he had this bag of clothes for me,
17 new jeans, shoes or trainers, a top and a jacket. He
18 gave me all this stuff and a big bag of sweets. I got
19 this every time he came for me, but when I went back to
20 Larchgrove I didn't go back with the clothes. I had to
21 give him them back. So if I went out with [LI] I would
22 be getting dressed up, and when I went back I'd be in my
23 old clothes. Right at the very end, he gave me all the
24 clothes, so when I went to Balgowan I had ten sets of
25 clothes, all brand new. They'd only been worn once.

1 Ten pairs of shoes, ten of everything. Even all the
2 staff at Balgowan were saying: where did you get all the
3 clothes, are you a shoplifter?

4 'So [REDACTED] would buy me all the clothes and during the
5 second outing he asked me to masturbate him in his car,
6 in a car park. I didn't want to do it, but he ended up
7 talking me into doing it. I think there was someone
8 else in the car that day. I'm sure there was another
9 guy there. In fact, male or female, I'm not too sure.

10 'A couple of weeks later he asked me if I wanted to
11 go to a concert. I said yes, but I was thinking I was
12 going to run away when I got there ...'

13 Taking that short:

14 'He took me back to his house with a female. I took
15 it that it might have been his girlfriend or his wife.
16 The house was in Clydebank. I know it was there because
17 we passed by Yoker, which was where I lived. The lady
18 disappeared when we went in. I was shown a bedroom
19 where I was to sleep that night. I got my head down and
20 in the early hours of the morning he came in with his
21 boxers or underpants on. He got in the bed and tried to
22 kiss me and tried to have sex with me. He tried to do
23 other things that an abuser would do to a kid, I would
24 imagine. He tried to have anal sex with me, but it
25 didn't work out for him because he was drunk by this

1 time. He must have been drinking in the house because
2 he wasn't drinking when we were out. He left the room
3 I was in and I heard him snoring about an hour later.
4 I followed the snores and found him in the living room
5 unconscious. I jumped out the window and went home to
6 my mum's.

7 'I told my mum, but I didn't tell her everything. I
8 didn't say he was sexually abusing me. I said he was
9 doing stuff to me and that I didn't want to be there
10 anymore. I asked if she would sort it out for me, but
11 I don't know if I was believed. Before I knew it, I had
12 the police at the door saying I'd escaped from
13 Larchgrove. I told them I hadn't escaped from there,
14 I'd run away from [REDACTED]'s house because he was abusing me.
15 I didn't get a statement taken from me, but I had
16 a conversation with them in the car on the way back to
17 Larchgrove and told them what had happened. They didn't
18 write anything down.

19 'When I got back to Larchgrove, I was asked why
20 I had run away by Mr [REDACTED]. He added that I'd never run
21 away before. I told him I didn't run away from here.
22 I ran away from [REDACTED]'s house. Mr [REDACTED] told me that [REDACTED]
23 had said I had run away from Larchgrove. I told him
24 I had been at a concert with [REDACTED] and what he had done to
25 me, that he had sexually abused me. I never saw [REDACTED]

1 much at all after that. I was also moved from Bute to
2 Arran dormitory.'

3 Secondary Institutions - to be published later
4
5
6
7

8 Paragraph 43, 'Derek's' really summarising some of
9 what he's said before. He says over the page, page 13,
10 at the top:

11 'The abuse continued for most of my time in
12 Larchgrove, apart from the time I was moved to Arran.
13 He tortured me because I eventually told him that
14 I'd told my brother about him abusing me and he thought
15 [REDACTED] was a psychopath. He became a different guy
16 then. He became more intimidating. I thought he would
17 maybe try to kill me. Mr [REDACTED] didn't speak to me about
18 it again after I told him. He said he would deal with
19 it. The police never came back and spoke to me about
20 it, so I gather he didn't report it to them. Looking
21 back now, he gave me the impression that he knew what
22 [REDACTED] was up to. I can see now that I was groomed by [REDACTED],
23 for sure.'

24 He says he didn't have any pals at Larchgrove,
25 couldn't trust anybody and couldn't turn to anybody:

1 'The only person I felt I could turn to was
2 Mr **KDX** . He seemed to have a lot of sympathy for
3 younger kids.'

4 At paragraph 47, he talks a bit more about
5 reporting.

6 At page 14, he says there was a further
7 Children's Panel. He says, at paragraph 48, this was at
8 Red House, which he says was near Edinburgh. That would
9 seem a slightly odd venue for someone based in Glasgow,
10 my Lady, but it seems to be quite a specific
11 recollection.

12 At all events, he says, at paragraph 49:

13 'I went to my mum's, but I was only there for
14 a day.'

15 I think he's talking there again about the incident
16 with Ged.

17 At paragraph 51, he talks about writing to the
18 Scottish Government to ask them about his time in care.

19 At page 15, he comes to his time at Balgowan. It's
20 slightly out of order. But, at paragraph 58, he says
21 that he went to Balgowan straight from Larchgrove. It
22 was social workers that took me. There doesn't seem to
23 have been any particular preparation for the move,
24 aside, possibly, from the Panel, which we don't know
25 very much about.

1 Back at paragraph 52, page 15, he talks about
2 Balgowan. He describes it and says it's a huge
3 Victorian building, and I think we have seen photographs
4 of that. He talks about the head, who he thinks was a
5 military man and a lot of the staff were military types.

6 He says, at paragraph 53:

7 'There were over 100 boys in Balgowan. It was
8 pretty open there.'

9 He says that he thinks he was in Balgowan from 1975
10 until maybe [REDACTED] 1979. In fact, my Lady, the
11 records suggest that his date of admission to Balgowan
12 was [REDACTED] 1977.

13 LADY SMITH: Thank you.

14 MR SHELDON: But he was there until 1979, my Lady.

15 LADY SMITH: By then he would be about 14?

16 MR SHELDON: Yes.

17 At paragraph 54, he says he slept in the annex at
18 Balgowan and said that was a brand new, modern-type
19 building. There were small rooms with maybe only two
20 boys. He says he thought he was in the annex because he
21 was behaving and he goes on, in the next paragraph, to
22 describe the couple that ran the annex, who he says were
23 really nice:

24 'They were lovely people and it felt like home
25 there.'

1 At page 16, he says a bit more about the
2 accommodation.

3 Then, at paragraph 57, notes that there was bullying
4 in Balgowan by the older guys on the younger kids:

5 'I was bullied by one of the older guys for cracking
6 a Polo mint when they were watching TV and, because of
7 it, he punched me. I wasn't shy by then and told him
8 I was going to get him back. We organised a fight for
9 the next day. I battered him and it was resolved.
10 I wouldn't have done that before; I'd have been
11 terrified. I can't remember the boy's name.'

12 Paragraph 58 is when he talks about going to
13 Balgowan from Larchgrove.

14 He says, at paragraph 59, that he thinks perhaps
15 that he was in the main building as an assessment period
16 and that he was moved to the annex because he was so
17 loud:

18 'I got a couple of beltings from the headmaster just
19 for being loud, and I was cheeky. These happened in his
20 office and he belted me across my hands, backside and my
21 back. Out of all the ex-military guys at Balgowan, he
22 was the main man. He was a big six-foot bald-headed
23 guy. He would punish everybody in there.'

24 Then he talks about moving to the annex. He goes on
25 to talk about the daily routine, washing and dressing

1 and so on, including, it seems, going to church on
2 Sunday.

3 Paragraph 63 is a paragraph really about what
4 I think certainly the applicant regards as emotional
5 abuse:

6 'The school was in Balgowan. There were portacabins
7 all the way round the back of the main building.
8 I didn't get any education. In one of the classes
9 I went to, the guy would record you. He would ask me
10 questions and record it like an interview. He was the
11 only one that was a bit abusive because he had a list of
12 all of us and he would say things like, "ILH [REDACTED],
13 your dad is dead. Don't worry about it". He would do
14 this to everybody in the class all the time. If one of
15 your relatives were dead, he had a list of them all and
16 would continue to say things like that. I can't
17 remember his name. He was a tiny man, about five foot
18 tall, with a massive moustache. I don't know what
19 subject he taught, all he done was record us. It was
20 all about us talking about our lives before getting
21 there. I had enough and walked out of his class a few
22 times, but he would just say, "Oh, there's wee ILH [REDACTED]
23 walking away again in a big bad mood". There was no
24 sitting down doing maths or English. He just done this
25 thing with his little recorder and microphone. I don't

1 know what it was for.'

2 He talks then about art classes.

3 He says that food was better in the annex. But, at
4 paragraph 66, says he helped with cleaning there, but
5 that seems to actually have been quite a good memory,
6 rather than a bad one.

7 He goes on, at paragraph 68, to talk about, perhaps,
8 more of the good things he remembers. He says they used
9 to go on holiday to places like Isla, Arran, Glen Head,
10 and Glen Markie they were beautiful places and you could
11 smell pine everywhere. 'I absolutely loved it.'

12 He goes on to talk about a particular member of
13 staff who he seems to have got on well with.

14 Paragraph 69:

15 'We went on lots of walks in the Highlands.
16 I absolutely loved it.'

17 At 70:

18 'We used to go to all the care homes and sing to the
19 grannies. I was in the choir and I would sing,
20 "I've Got a House in Glory Land", it was like
21 church-type songs. We also sang "Tootsie Tootsie
22 Goodbye". It was all old songs. We had loads of fun.
23 I really loved doing that. I can't remember who took us
24 to these places. It would have been the music person
25 from Balgowan, but I can't remember who that was. It

1 was always an occasion. Everybody in the place was
2 waiting on us arriving.'

3 He then talks about religious instruction. He says,
4 at paragraph 72, that there were no visitors and he
5 doesn't remember any inspections. He says that he ran
6 away from Balgowan once, but this seems to have been
7 rather by way of almost an accident than a deliberate
8 decision. There was, as it were, a mass breakout and he
9 was pulled in by the rush of the guys.

10 He says, at paragraph 74, although there were a lot
11 of bed wetters he doesn't remember there being any
12 punishment for it. He says, at paragraph 75:

13 'Discipline at Balgowan consisted of getting
14 beltings from the headmaster. There didn't seem to be
15 anything [I presume he means punishment] at the annex.
16 It appeared the naughty boys were in the main building
17 and the good boys in the annex.'

18 So he says before he left Balgowan the couple who
19 ran the annex helped get him into Dundee College of
20 Further Education, doing painting and decorating:

21 'So that I would have something. I was 14 or 15,
22 just coming up to school leaving age. I went for the
23 whole course, which I think was about a year. I don't
24 know if I enjoyed it, but I learned from it.'

25 He got a City & Guilds qualification. I think the

1 implication, my Lady, must be that he was doing the
2 course whilst still staying at Balgowan, going out for
3 the day to do that.

4 LADY SMITH: It sounds like it, doesn't it?

5 MR SHELDON: He then talks about leaving and coming back to
6 Glasgow and, unfortunately, then getting into some
7 rather minor trouble and ending up in the prison system.
8 My Lady's heard that chapter and, indeed, I think the
9 material about the long-term impact was also read to
10 my Lady at that stage.

11 I think, perhaps unsurprisingly, this was someone
12 who developed real trust issues and never really felt
13 safe in any of the places that he stayed.

14 It does seem as if Balgowan might have been
15 something of an exception to that. He does seem to
16 have -- albeit that there was some abuse and his
17 description of the beltings might be regarded as
18 abusive, and possible emotional abuse. But, other than
19 that, the memories, many of them seem to be quite good.

20 LADY SMITH: As he looks back, he seems to regard himself as
21 having grown up quite a bit by the time he got to
22 Balgowan, being a tougher guy. He quotes from his
23 records something to that effect, doesn't he? The way
24 he's assessed when he goes into Balgowan. He got his
25 records about 20 years ago.

1 MR SHELDON: Yes. It is paragraph 51, when he talks -- I
2 skipped that, my Lady. It is perhaps worth going back
3 to it.
4 He says he decided to write to the Scottish
5 Government about 20 years ago:
6 'They said they had found some paperwork from
7 Balgowan. They sent it to me. It was a letter and
8 at one part it had in brackets, "(Mr [REDACTED] thought
9 himself as a hard man)". I looked at that and thought:
10 from 1974, when I was ten, to the time I got to Balgowan
11 I wasn't a kid anymore. They had changed me that much.
12 People's accents in Balgowan were different. They
13 weren't Glaswegian. There wasn't anyone from
14 Glasgow ...'
15 LADY SMITH: That is a different point.
16 MR SHELDON: Indeed.
17 LADY SMITH: But his perception of himself, by the time he
18 arrived there, perhaps was he could cope more and the
19 incident where he was challenged by another boy, he
20 dealt with pretty quickly himself.
21 MR SHELDON: That is 'Derek's' statement, my Lady.
22 LADY SMITH: Thank you very much.
23 MR SHELDON: I'll hand over to Ms Forbes.
24 LADY SMITH: Thank you. While Ms Forbes is getting
25 organised, a couple of names there to be aware of. [REDACTED]

1 who was possibly a staff member or fulfilled some other
2 role at Larchgrove, Mr KDX , and the applicant's own
3 name has been used. None of these people are to be
4 identified outside this room because they're all
5 protected by my General Restriction Order.

6 MS FORBES: Good morning, my Lady.

7 The next statement is from an applicant who is
8 anonymous and is known at 'Carol'. The reference for
9 her witness statement is WIT-1-000000931.

10 'Carol' (read)

11 LADY SMITH: 'Carol' was born in 1965 and she talks about
12 her life before going into care, between paragraphs 2
13 and 4.

14 She lived with her parents in Newarthill. Her dad
15 was a lorry driver and her mum did cleaning jobs. She
16 had three sisters and two brothers, and she was the
17 second oldest.

18 Her dad was a heavy drinker and her mum had a lot of
19 health problems. 'Carol' says she can remember lots of
20 happy times, but sad times, too, because of poverty.

21 Grandparents helped out a lot, but her gran died at
22 48 years old and then her grandfather met someone else
23 and moved away. So that family support was lost.

24 She was placed into foster care for a period while
25 her mother was in hospital having twins, and she and her

1 sister went into foster care. She talks about that from
2 paragraph 5. She was five at the time and her sister
3 was nine.

4 Then, when she was ten, the family moved to
5 Bellshill and she had to move primary school at that
6 time. Her parents weren't working. Things went
7 downhill, and she had to look after her brothers and
8 sisters a lot.

9 She remembers being hungry a lot of the time. Most
10 of the time her dad spent all the money on drink. There
11 was a lot of bullying in that area at the time and
12 'Carol' remembers having to stay away from certain
13 streets because people were trying to assault them,
14 because they weren't originally from there.

15 She was picked on at school for not having the right
16 clothes or uniform. There was social work involvement,
17 but, to 'Carol's' mind, that didn't seem to be of much
18 help. Her mother then took them to Perth to her
19 grandad's and they ended up squatting in a flat above
20 her grandad's. She would come back to see her dad and
21 stay with her mum's sister.

22 But that aunty used to hit her, so she went back to
23 Perth. All the family seemed to be split up at that
24 time. Younger brothers and sisters were put into homes
25 and they were all living in different places. She was

1 supposed to be going to school in Perth, but she didn't
2 go. She only went for a few weeks and the social work
3 decided that she would go into care, so that she would
4 start attending school regularly.

5 She ran away and the police caught her in Glasgow.
6 She was then put into Larchgrove Remand Home, and she
7 talks about that at paragraphs 13 and 14. She spent two
8 nights there. She talks about having to strip naked.
9 It was a couple who said they were the night watchmen
10 told her to do this. She was then told to get into
11 a bath.

12 She felt as though she had to do it or she would be
13 assaulted. After that, she went back to her grandad's
14 in Perth, but she was told eventually she couldn't stay
15 with him and was put into a residential house. She was
16 12 years old when that happened and she talks about that
17 between paragraphs 15 and 30.

18 Secondary Institutions - to be published later
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1 She was taken to a Children's Panel and
2 the decision was that she would go to Burnside. She
3 talks about that from paragraph 31 of her statement.

4 If I can go to paragraph 31:

5 'The decision was made at the Panel to send me to
6 Burnside Assessment Centre.'

7 She then says she had to go back to the residential
8 home for a couple of nights before waiting on the
9 social worker, Jessie Young, to come to take her to
10 Dundee:

11 'Jessie Young drove me to Dundee. She took my shoes
12 off me and locked the car doors, so that I couldn't run
13 away. I can remember her stopping at a garage in
14 Dundee. I felt scared going to Burnside
15 Assessment Centre. It was boys and girls. It was kids
16 who had got into trouble for things like stealing and
17 assaulting people. It was like going into prison.
18 I was terrified.'

19 She then says that compared to the residential house
20 she'd been in it was a big building, maybe two or three
21 times as big. At paragraph 33 she says:

22 'It had a big white wall around it with barbed wire.
23 The barbed wire went all the way around the wall and on
24 top of the gates. It was almost impossible to get out
25 of the place.

1 'When I arrived, I was taken to a room and told that
2 I would have to wear their clothes. They were old
3 jeans, a navy sweat shirt and black Adidas trainers.
4 Everyone wore the same outfit, so it was like a uniform.
5 I was taken upstairs and shown the dorm. I was lucky
6 enough to get a single room. There were kids doubled up
7 as well. They took my cigarettes off me and put them in
8 a box.

9 'At the time, I was under the impression that
10 Burnside was run by the Local Authority. I think it was
11 a place where you went while they looked for somewhere
12 else for me. There with about 30 children who were aged
13 12 to 16. There was a woman called LEM who I thought
14 was the boss. There were two units and they were mixed,
15 but the sleeping arrangements were separate. I think
16 there were five or six members of staff in each unit.
17 There was a member of staff called EIF.

18 'The daily routine was getting up and getting ready.
19 We had to get up at a set time and go to the room, which
20 was known as the "smoke room". I used to get dressed as
21 quickly as possible, so that no one could see me because
22 there was no privacy. After that, we went to the
23 classrooms. The school consisted of sitting in
24 classrooms and doing what you wanted. There wasn't any
25 formal education because it was an assessment centre.

1 You were only in there to be assessed. It was as if
2 your education wasn't important. I think the staff
3 observed us in the classrooms.

4 'I can remember being made to go into the gym.
5 I hated gymnastics. The gym teacher was horrible. She
6 used to make me take part. I think her name was
7 **HYC**. She had long, grey hair, like a perm.
8 I couldn't run and jump on the horse, but she would make
9 me do it. I used to be in tears. She threatened me
10 with not getting cigarettes or with being put in "the
11 box".

12 'There was a TV room which was locked. I remember
13 looking out the window one day and feeling so fed up.
14 I can't remember any of the staff talking to me, asking
15 me what I wanted to do or telling me how I should be
16 behaving.

17 'I think I only had a few visits from Jessie Young
18 when I was there. I went to a Children's Panel every
19 21 days. I seemed to be kept there on 21-day orders at
20 each Panel. I can't remember having any visits from my
21 family.

22 'My mum used to send me pound notes. There was
23 a metal box which they put cigarettes in. They allowed
24 you to buy them, even though you were under age. We got
25 pocket money which was enough to buy ten cigarettes.

1 They were used as a punishment, too.

2 'We ate in a dining area. I can't remember any
3 problems with the standard of food in Burnside. Once
4 you had finished your meal, each table had to take
5 a turn of scrubbing the floors. This happened after
6 every meal. There were daily chores of scrubbing the
7 toilets, bath, shower area, the rooms and the dining
8 room. I can remember having to scrub the baths
9 throughout the day, so it could be 12 noon when you were
10 still having to do it.

11 'One time, I was made to scrub all the toilets and
12 baths with a scrubbing brush and powder by the woman
13 **LEM**. She was a bully.

14 'I have memories of having baths at night. There
15 wasn't a lot of privacy. The doors weren't high, so you
16 could see over the top and at the bottom. The woman,
17 **LEM**, was usually supervising, so it wasn't nice.
18 I still hate not having privacy when I'm getting
19 changed.

20 'It's ruined my life, being put in all of these
21 places. I sometimes wonder if it was my mum's fault,
22 but I think if the social work had helped her more with
23 trying to get a house for us things might have been
24 different. I think if she had been supported more,
25 things would have been better.

1 'We used to have to wear black donkey jackets.
2 Everybody knew where you were from because it was like
3 a uniform. One day a group of us were taken out by the
4 gym teacher. I held back until I saw my chance and ran
5 away. I just ran and hid in a close for hours. I
6 eventually got to Dundee Train Station and jumped
7 through the turnstiles. I managed to get on the train
8 to Perth. I ran away several times.

9 'Another time, my daughter's dad came to see me.
10 I had been going out with him for a while. The doors in
11 the unit were opened for some reason and I was able to
12 speak to him from the door. I managed to run out.
13 I didn't even have any shoes on and jumped in the car
14 and he drove off. The police always caught me
15 eventually and I was kept in the police station until
16 the social worker came to get me to take me back to
17 Dundee.

18 'There was a room like a cell called "the box". It
19 was used as a punishment. It was just like a police
20 cell. There was a bit for putting your mattress down to
21 sleep, a toilet bit and a bath. It was a square room
22 with no window. You would be put in there if you had
23 misbehaved. You would normally be put in there for
24 a few hours.

25 'One time, some boys had managed to get out the unit

1 and they were at the fence trying to get over the wire.
2 The police were there with dogs and I was watching from
3 my window. The night watchman found me at the window
4 and started battering me over the head with his torch
5 and I was screaming.'

6 I think that's supposed to say 'this was just the
7 norm':

8 'One time I was put in "the box" for four nights.
9 It was because one of the staff used to get away with
10 sitting with the girls and putting his arm round them
11 and feeling their chests, and I had made a comment to
12 him about it. I can't remember his name.

13 'He used to take us out in the van during the week
14 and do the same. He was short, fat, starting to go bald
15 and stunk of cigarette smoke. He was between 50 and 60.
16 I can remember one time we were out with him in the
17 minibus and one of the girls said he was aroused. You
18 could see that he was aroused because he had just been
19 touching a girl ... [and then she names the girl] chest.
20 The girls were just laughing it off.

21 'One day, he tried to do the same with me. He told
22 me that he would give me cigarettes and was trying to
23 feel my breasts. I managed to get away from him on the
24 couch. I said to him, "You're just trying to feel the
25 girls' chests". He got up and dragged me out of the

1 room by my hair and along the corridor to the box room.
2 I was screaming. He put me into the room and told me
3 I was being kept in there for a couple of days. Some of
4 the other kids would come to the pipes and put some
5 roll-up cigarettes through them for me.

6 'Another time, this man came into my room and said
7 that I could have some fags if I did something for him.
8 There was a lot of sexual abuse in Burnside, but I don't
9 want to even think about it.

10 'I was told that I was to wait to be taken to
11 an emergency Panel. I was taken out with no shoes on
12 and put into the car and taken to York Place in Perth,
13 to an emergency hearing.

14 'Around this time I was having to go to court for
15 numerous offences I had committed while I was there, it
16 seemed to be anything that the police could charge me
17 with. I can remember having a pile of Panel papers. It
18 was shoplifting charges.

19 'When I went to court I was sentenced to 18 months.
20 I was sent back to Burnside while they found a place for
21 me to serve my sentence. I think Jessie Young was
22 looking for a placement for me. I think it was
23 difficult for her to find places because my mum didn't
24 want us to be put in a Catholic home.

25 'I think I was only in Burnside for a few months.

1 It could have been up to nine months. I can remember
2 hoping that I was going to get home, but it wasn't going
3 to happen. I was sentenced to 18 months' residential
4 training because I was under the age of 16. I think
5 I kept running away from Burnside, so I was put under
6 an "unruly certificate".

7 'They sent me to Cornton Vale Prison while they
8 found me a place in Tynepark. I wasn't allowed to speak
9 to any of the other prisoners because I was under 16. I
10 was completely kept away from everyone else. It was
11 terrible because none of the others knew why I was being
12 treated that way. I was the only young person there on
13 remand. They had to keep me separated from everyone
14 else, so I was kept in my cell.

15 'I was locked up all the time. I would be taken out
16 of my cell when all the other prisoners were in their
17 cells and I would have to scrub the floors. There
18 wasn't any electricity in the cell. So, in the winter
19 when it got dark early there, there were no lights.
20 I was in a cell beside the office. I wasn't allowed
21 recreation. I used to be taken out into the yard, by
22 myself with a guard, to walk around for an hour. The
23 schoolteacher used to come into my cell.

24 'There were a couple of women who had serious mental
25 health problems in the cells next to me. I couldn't

1 sleep because I could hear them screaming and crying
2 every night. It was difficult to hear and see things
3 like that. I can remember one of them was carried out
4 by four prison officers and I heard her screaming for
5 her mum.

6 'I was there for four or five months.'

7 She says that was in 1981. Eventually, the
8 social worker came to tell her that they had found
9 a place at Tynepark.

10 She then talks about being in Tynepark from
11 paragraph 61. She says that she was bullied there for
12 the first few weeks by some other girls, but the
13 headmaster became aware of it and they were eventually
14 moved to a different school.

15 'Carol' comments that Tynepark was the best of all
16 the places she was in, although she does say that abuse
17 still happened there.

18 She remembers having to go to the dentist and was
19 given gas and air. She woke up crying and a member of
20 staff who had taken her there was shoving her down and
21 telling her to calm down.

22 She has been terrified of the dentist for the rest
23 of her life. She was 15 at that time. She also says
24 there was a male member of staff who had a thing for all
25 the girls and he sexually abused her.

1 She was then sent to St Mary's, Kenmure. That seems
2 to happen because she absconded from Tynepark and ran
3 away to London, and this was with the boy that she
4 mentioned earlier, who was also in care and later became
5 the father of her child.

6 She was found in London and flown home and taken
7 straight to St Mary's.

8 From the records we have, my Lady, she seems to have
9 been put into St Mary's in [REDACTED] 1982.

10 LADY SMITH: Thank you.

11 MS FORBES: She says that when she was in St Mary's she was
12 locked in a room at first, like a cell. There was
13 a meeting with her parents, the headmaster and the
14 social workers, and a member of staff came into the room
15 and said that the doctor had confirmed she was pregnant.

16 She was 16 by this point. She was angry about this,
17 because she wasn't even given the chance to speak to the
18 doctor. She was taken to hospital for scans by staff
19 and 'Carol' says she felt like she was treated like
20 a prisoner.

21 The boys in St Mary's didn't know she was pregnant
22 and one boy there kept trying to touch her. She says
23 she reported it to staff, but they didn't do anything.

24 She talks about there being some peer abuse there.
25 She was assaulted by another girl and given a black eye.

1 She ran away a lot and slept in cellars and people's
2 cars. She also says she was sexually assaulted there by
3 two different members of staff.

4 She was sent home -- from the records we have,
5 my Lady -- on extended leave in [REDACTED] 1982 and released
6 officially in [REDACTED] 1982 from St Mary's.

7 She talks about life after care from paragraph 89.
8 She says that after she left St Mary's she had her
9 daughter and she eventually got a house. However, her
10 daughter's dad was taking drugs and she ended up taking
11 heroin. She was 17 at that time.

12 He ended up in prison and she managed to end the
13 relationship with him. She did some work in a bingo
14 hall and had cleaning jobs, but went on to drugs.
15 'Carol' says she has been unemployed for years. She was
16 put on methadone in 1983 and she's still on it.

17 She says she can't seem to get off it, but she wants
18 to reduce it.

19 'Carol' says that her mother and father both passed
20 away whilst she was serving different prison sentences.
21 But, since the last death, she has never been in trouble
22 since then and those offences, 'Carol' says, were all
23 drug related.

24 She talks about being in a rehab centre in
25 Liverpool, in 2020, for six weeks, but that some of the

1 other patients were bullying her and it felt like she
2 was back in a home, so she left.

3 Nowadays, she says he works in a local charity shop
4 for six hours twice a week and loves that. Her daughter
5 and her daughter's partner and her granddaughter have
6 moved in with her, but she has been diagnosed with
7 breast cancer. She has had surgery and radiotherapy
8 treatment and she's worried it will come back.

9 She talks about impact from paragraph 96, and she
10 talks about the impact on her siblings as well, who were
11 abused in care. She talks about one of them having
12 committed suicide. She says her education was affected
13 by her time in care and she didn't sit any exams. She
14 was always embarrassed by her CV when she tried to apply
15 for jobs.

16 My Lady, from the records that we have that detail
17 her ability while she was in care, she seems to have
18 been quite gifted, particularly in language.

19 She was in a relationship after her daughter's dad
20 and she says he was a great man. But, sadly, he became
21 depressed after losing his younger brother and took his
22 own life. She indicates she misses him a lot and she
23 hasn't been in a relationship since.

24 If I can go to lessons to be learned. At
25 paragraph 104, she says:

1 'Abuse still goes on today. The children in care
2 should be watched more carefully and there should be
3 better communication between them and the
4 social workers. I would like to think that things will
5 change and that it will never happen to anyone again.
6 I hope that lessons are learned. I should never have
7 been treated the way I was treated.'

8 Then she makes a declaration:

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

13 She has signed that. It's dated 9 March 2022.

14 LADY SMITH: Thank you very much.

15 MS FORBES: I'll now pass back to Mr Sheldon. My Lady, this
16 is a statement by an applicant who wishes to be known at
17 'Mac'.

18 His witness statement is WIT-1-000001059.

19 'Mac' (read)

20 MR SHELDON: 'Mac' has signed his statement and has made the
21 usual declaration that he's no objection to the
22 statement being published and that the facts stated are
23 true.

24 'Mac' was born in 1965. He was in a number of
25 children's establishments, but I think we are

1 particularly interested in his time in Burnside, where
2 he thinks he was on three occasions, in the period 1979
3 to 1980.

4 'Mac' was born in Dundee. He had a large family and
5 they grew up near the city centre and moved to an area
6 of Dundee a little further out of town. He says that he
7 hated his school and staff at his school, an ordinary
8 secondary school, who were violent to him.

9 He started simply refusing to go to school. He had
10 his first Children's Panel when he was 14. At
11 paragraph 11, he has some good things to say about the
12 social worker who was assigned to him. But he had only
13 been a social worker for six months and seems to have
14 been moved on.

15 At all events, 'Mac' ended up in a children's home
16 in the east of Scotland and was supposed to attend
17 school nearby. Secondary Institutions - to be published later

18 Secondary Institutions - to be published later

19 Secondary Institutions - to be published later

20 He was
21 then sent to Burnside, and seems to have been in and out
22 of Burnside on a number of occasions.

23 If I can take up the statement at paragraph 93, that
24 is page 19. He notes:

25 'I went to Burnside to see where I was going next
basically.'

1 I suppose reflecting Burnside --

2 LADY SMITH: It's because it's an assessment centre, yes.

3 MR SHELDON: -- (overspeaking) assessment centre:

4 'You couldn't go outside after a certain time at
5 Burnside. Everything was to do with staff. I think
6 some people on work experience got more freedom. They
7 were going to be leaving soon anyway. If you were new
8 you weren't getting to wander about.

9 'Burnside was on a main street and had double iron
10 gates, sometimes they were open but most times closed.'

11 He goes on to describe some of the layout of
12 Burnside. He says that doors were locked at night and
13 the windows had wire through them, so there was no way
14 you could get out.

15 At paragraph 95, he says that across from the dorms
16 were toilets, and next door to that was what he
17 describes as the 'cooling room' or 'punishment room':

18 'That's where they threw you in to cool off.'

19 He says he is sure he was in Burnside three times.
20 Burnside definitely the last, but in between that it's
21 a bit of a muddle. He says there were no classes in
22 Burnside the first time, but there were classes the
23 second time, and:

24 'Maybe that's because I was going to be in longer
25 term the second time.'

1 He says that there was classes in the morning or in
2 the afternoon. He tried to learn something, and he said
3 they had a lovely old teacher.

4 At paragraph 97:

5 'On arriving at Burnside I remember seeing this big
6 guy called MYD. He was from the north-east of England.
7 That was my first experience, him shouting at some
8 bairn. I got shown where I was sleeping and that was
9 it. To be honest, I just more or less followed everyone
10 else. They didn't have a smoke room, they had a smoke
11 box. I think I smoked Embassy Regal at the time. They
12 would have your name on the packet. I was allowed up to
13 six fags a day, that was what they allowed and they
14 decided when you were having a smoke.

15 'There were boys and girls at Burnside, but no
16 sharing.'

17 He says there wouldn't have been anyone younger than
18 13 or 14 there and no one over 16. He names two members
19 of staff and I think rather distinguishes them from two
20 good guys, also members of staff, and a female member of
21 staff, who he also said was good.

22 He says he doesn't remember who was in charge:

23 'A wee guy, but I don't remember him name.'

24 He says MYD was the assistant manager.

25 At paragraph 101, he says every door was locked at

1 bedtime:

2 'It may not have been like that the first time I was
3 there. Certainly by the time I left it was like that.
4 I can't remember much about the first time I was at
5 Burnside, to be honest, because I was there three times,
6 it all overlaps. I certainly never got out of my bed at
7 night time after one time when I was hit by the night
8 watchman.'

9 He says he doesn't remember much about meal times.
10 He talks, at paragraph 103, about a particular -- seems
11 to have been a particular member of staff who would do
12 magic tricks to cheer you up, and says everyone knew and
13 liked this individual.

14 He says, at paragraph 105:

15 'There was a shower at Burnside and if you wanted
16 a shower you could have one. Anybody could walk in.
17 I found that strange. If someone opened the door, the
18 shower was right there. I'm not saying people showered
19 during the day, but, say someone did, people were going
20 to the smoke box and young lassies were walking past
21 that door. The door wasn't open unless someone came in
22 to use the toilet, but that's what could happen.
23 Showering wasn't supervised, as far as I can remember.'

24 He says Burnside didn't have a uniform, and he took
25 his own clothes with him to Burnside.

1 At paragraph 107:

2 'There was a TV room at Burnside and they had
3 a place downstairs where you could play football. That
4 was like a recreation area. There wasn't much, no books
5 or toys, although it got better after the hunger strike.
6 We got a pool table.'

7 At paragraph 108:

8 'The hunger strike was to get better equipment. It
9 was also because of the way staff were dealing with some
10 people. Some had their own agendas, but, as
11 I understood it, it was for a pool table or a snooker
12 table, something we could use. The hunger strike lasted
13 for more than one day. I wouldn't go as far as to say
14 a week. They threatened us with the police and their
15 police dogs. That was their usual. Nobody I'm aware of
16 broke the strike. I'm not sure what happened. I'm not
17 sure if a member of staff acted as a go-between and told
18 us we were going to get a pool table.

19 'There was trouble after I left. It was way out of
20 control. At that point, there were lockers going
21 through the windows. I don't know what kicked that one
22 off, something must have been promised and not
23 delivered. The police were involved in that one.
24 Leisure time was supposed to be fun. I don't think
25 I could call it that. You were either lying on your bed

1 or in the communal area, or having a smoke.
2 Occasionally, maybe, the assault course. And if you got
3 really fed up, you ran away.'

4 He talks a little about trips and holidays, but
5 doesn't really remember much in the way of that. He
6 says at Burnside they were in the classroom either in
7 the morning or the afternoon. He didn't spend the whole
8 day there. He says among the classes they taught was
9 Gaelic, 'which was the only class I took an interest
10 in'.

11 He talks about a member of staff who taught that,
12 that he liked.

13 He talks a bit about healthcare and religious
14 instruction. He notes that a minister came to see him
15 while he was at Burnside, although doesn't give much
16 detail about that.

17 He says he did work experience, at Camperdown Zoo,
18 but didn't enjoy that.

19 At paragraph 120, he says:

20 'I don't remember my birthday or any Christmas at
21 Burnside. I don't remember them ever celebrating
22 a birthday or celebrating a Christmas.'

23 He talks a bit about his social worker, who he says
24 was hopeless. She did come to Burnside to take him to
25 a Children's Panel.

1 He says, at paragraph 122, that Burnside would
2 sometimes give day or weekend passes and the home was in
3 walking distance to his family home and he says it was
4 great to go home at weekends.

5 At paragraph 124, he says he did run away from
6 Burnside. He said:

7 'Sometimes the gate was open, sometimes closed.
8 I never understood their logic. It may have had
9 something to do with the binmen.'

10 He says there was an occasion where he just took
11 an opportunity and went off. At 128, he didn't always
12 return from weekend passes:

13 'If I didn't, they would contact the police.'

14 He doesn't remember being punished when he didn't
15 return on time.

16 At paragraph 131, he goes on to talk about abuse at
17 Burnside. He says:

18 'The night watchman battered me with a torch.'

19 He names him:

20 'At Burnside the rooms were locked at night. He
21 [the night watchman] was on patrol. I was needing to go
22 to the toilet. I don't know what time it was during the
23 night. I saw him heading up. We had those windows with
24 the wire through them.'

25 LADY SMITH: That must be the glass that's got wires through

1 it that he's talking about.

2 MR SHELDON: My Lady, yes:

3 'There would be four in a room on that side of the
4 building, so he seen that I was out of my bed. He
5 opened the door and asked me what I was doing. I told
6 him I wanted to go to the toilet. He told me to get
7 back into bed. I was just about to put my knee on the
8 bed, the next minute, wallop, right on the back of my
9 neck. He flung me forward. I was a bit sore when I
10 woke up the next day. I never did get to go to the
11 toilet that night. I didn't wet myself or anything.
12 Him hitting me with the torch was a bit scary.'

13 He describes the toilets with the shower cubicles,
14 and says:

15 'I was there the following day. I could sense this
16 man behind me. [reading short] I can't remember exactly
17 what the night watchman said. It was a warning not to
18 open my mouth, not to say things I shouldn't be saying.
19 He punched me right below the left shoulder and I went
20 flying against the wall. I always seemed to land
21 against something like a door or the corner of a wall.
22 That was pretty painful. Only for a wee while, nothing
23 was broken. He told me in no uncertain terms to keep my
24 mouth shut. That was within 24 hours of him hitting me
25 with the torch. It was rapid. This particular

1 individual had a reputation for behaving like that.'

2 He notes:

3 'When they liked the 'mister' title they came from
4 the 1950s homes style, with the stand to attention
5 capers. He was one of them, along with that GNK .
6 You worked it out for yourself, if they wanted to be
7 called Mister you didn't call them by their first name.'

8 He says GNK wasn't the same in terms of violence:

9 'If you were on a weekend pass he would want to know
10 what you'd been up to with your bird. There was a
11 lassie I was quite close to. We used to sit in the same
12 room and watch TV. GNK thought it would be a good
13 idea for me to take her into the toilets and not to
14 worry about it because he would make sure no one
15 disturbed me. I'll not go into detail, but we know what
16 he was talking about. He was a weirdo. This wasn't
17 just me. It was other people as well. If I had
18 a weekend pass, he would want to know if I'd been to
19 a party, ask if I got a bird and what happened. He
20 would ask if certain things happened and was looking for
21 detail. There's a difference between guys telling each
22 other stories, but him wanting to know in detail, that
23 was different.'

24 He describes GNK, and he says:

25 'I think this individual must have been in the care

1 system for a while. I think I shut everything off
2 because I'm scared of what I would remember. There's
3 too much in my head already.'

4 Paragraph 136:

5 'There was a female member of staff.'

6 He describes her:

7 'The reason I remember this is because my uncle had
8 come to see me at Burnside.'

9 His brother must have suggested to him to come:

10 'The time he came, some people had been planning an
11 escape, but they were caught. I think the bit that
12 shocked him was when this female member of staff had
13 this young lassie by the back of the hair, and was
14 shouting at her, saying if she was hers she would
15 fucking kill her.

16 'The bairn was greeting. This shocked my uncle.
17 Bear in mind he had served in the war and been to Africa
18 and this shocked him. He said the family needed to get
19 me out of there. He seen it for himself.

20 'If you were too much of a handful for them you
21 would get dragged to the cooling room. If you can
22 imagine the bottom part of a divan bed, no mattress,
23 just a wooden block, chipboard or something, no glass, a
24 plastic window and no heating. That was all you had.
25 You would be put in there for anything at all. If you

1 looked at them the wrong way, spoke out of turn, if
2 a fight broke out and they had to break it up, if they
3 thought you were responsible they would throw you in.
4 Any reason really, to be honest. It depended which
5 staff member was on at the time.

6 'If there was a fight, the staff would get right in
7 about it and separate you. I'm not saying they were
8 laying out punches, but it wouldn't be "excuse me", they
9 would be just right in there, probably like the police
10 would do nowadays.'

11 He talks about the particular members of staff that
12 he liked, and doesn't remember them ever taking anyone
13 to the cooling room, and says they had their own way of
14 dealing with things, it's called talking. I was once
15 put in the cooling room. Things got a wee bit out of
16 control. I think that was on my third visit. I don't
17 recall being in there very long. I think this was
18 during the hunger strike. I think they thought I had
19 something to do with the hunger strike. I had nothing
20 to do with it, absolutely nothing. They were trying to
21 force people to eat their meals. Then they would
22 threaten you with the police and say the police dogs
23 would be arriving. I think they seen me as some kind of
24 troublemaker.'

25 He says that one of the good guys took him to the

1 cooling room, and just says:

2 'I think things were pretty much out of control.
3 Apart from that, I never had a problem with him.
4 I'm not trying to stick up for him or say he did
5 anything bad, nothing like that. I wasn't left in the
6 cooling room long. They would keep people in there
7 until they cooled down, hours not days, until they
8 thought it was safe to open it. I don't remember anyone
9 ever getting a blanket. Maybe that's why they didn't
10 get kept in there all night.'

11 He says:

12 'As well as the cooling room there was the assault
13 course.'

14 But says they weren't forced to go on it. He's not
15 aware of anyone being forced to do it:

16 'Maybe there were some stories about that, but it
17 didn't happen when I was there.

18 'If things were starting to heat up you could be
19 sent to the assault course just to tire you out.'

20 It's not clear whether he's saying that from his own
21 recollection or whether that was the story he'd heard.

22 But, at all events, that seems to have been the
23 reputation, as it were.

24 LADY SMITH: Interesting this is the only place he
25 experienced an assault course. I don't think I've heard

1 about there being one anywhere else. I think he's right
2 about that.

3 MR SHELDON: No, my Lady. There may be equivalent evidence
4 about very early -- well, 1950s and 1960s at Wellington.

5 LADY SMITH: We haven't heard that.

6 MR SHELDON: That is yet to come, my Lady, yes.

7 It's perhaps not a direct equivalent, in any event.
8 It's sort of physical punishment, but not an assault
9 course as such.

10 Paragraph 144:

11 'There were staff members at Burnside who would have
12 slapped you or punched you. I'm only going on my
13 experience, but I don't think there were many homes
14 where you didn't have a staff member like that.

15 Depending on the size of the place, there would be more
16 than one. I can only go on experience. It just wasn't
17 happening to me. People were being dragged to the
18 cooling room. They weren't being nice to them.

19 I appreciate some were out of control and they were
20 trying to grab hold of them, but it was just however
21 they managed to grab them. None of these people were
22 trained in how to deal with it.'

23 At paragraph 146:

24 'I couldn't say if girls were ever put in the
25 cooling room. They did have punch-ups occasionally.'

1 He doesn't recall ever seeing any girls being put in
2 there:

3 'Burnside was the only place I had ever been that
4 had a cooling room. It was the only room at the back of
5 the building that was used. Whether it was a store
6 room, I don't know. Certainly not a bedroom.'

7 Paragraph 148, he talks about reporting of abuse.
8 He says that he told a member of staff, one of the staff
9 that he liked, and the member of staff told him to
10 pretend that he wasn't well because he wanted to give
11 the night watchman a fright. So:

12 'He came along -- I think came along to me with this
13 individual, the night watchman. I didn't know he had
14 already said to him that he had done serious damage to
15 me and that I was going to end up in hospital. So the
16 night watchman asked me what the matter was. He said
17 there was nothing the matter with me. I was holding my
18 neck. Little did I realise this was going to come back
19 to haunt me. He wasn't happy. I think this other
20 member of staff was thinking he would teach the night
21 watchman a lesson because that wasn't the first time he
22 had done that. It obviously didn't teach him a lesson.
23 Other people must have heard about what had happened.
24 I never said anything to anybody.'

25 And although the nicer member of staff may have

1 raised it with the management, no one ever came to speak
2 to him about it. That seems to be the only time that he
3 directly experienced that sort of violence.

4 My Lady, 'Mac' then left Burnside and went to the
5 Children's Panel, went back to the Children's Panel and
6 went to another children's home or hostel in the east of
7 Scotland. **Secondary Institutions - to be published later**

8 **Secondary Institutions - to be published later**

9 If we can then go to paragraph 186 -- 178, first of
10 all. He talks about life after care. He says that he
11 left Burnside and went to stay with his daughter and her
12 mother in the Craigie. That was February 1980. He says
13 he went to stay there and things were good.

14 He talks about trying to obtain work and,
15 ultimately, my Lady, he became a taxi driver and did
16 that for 30 years. He now has a granddaughter and has
17 had, it seems, a relatively settled life in that
18 respect.

19 Paragraph 186, he talks about the impact of care on
20 him, and he says:

21 'When I first passed my driving test I went back to
22 the children's home I was at.'

23 He noted it's an old folks' home now:

24 'Years ago, I read something about the Inquiry into
25 people that had been in care and that they wanted people

1 to come forward. I thought about it and thought: I'm
2 not going there.

3 'It then came up in one of these government emails
4 and I realised they were still doing it. I thought:
5 maybe someone needs me to corroborate what they were
6 saying. Someone may be needed as a witness to go to
7 court and I was sitting back not doing anything.

8 'I persuaded myself it wouldn't have an effect on
9 me. It was only when I started talking about it, the
10 first time in 40 years -- I tried to put it to the back
11 of my mind, but it wasn't going back. That's when
12 I spoke to my doctor about it. He gave me tablets and
13 said I had to go to see a psychologist because I had
14 Post Traumatic Stress Disorder.'

15 He said he had to wait and had three appointments
16 over the phone. But he has since attended every
17 fortnight and is finding it helpful.

18 He says:

19 'I think it was the second time I went to see her
20 she said we were going to try something. I didn't
21 believe she could turn me around from how I was feeling
22 to how I was feeling when I left. That feeling only
23 lasted a day or two, but it got me thinking if I
24 persevered with it there would be a good ending. It's
25 learning to live with what is at the front of my head

1 and not at the back.'

2 He says he would pass some of these care homes and
3 knows what the place represented. He says he would shut
4 it off by swearing and notes they've bulldozed Burnside.
5 It's gone, never to be seen again.

6 He's been given some breathing exercises. Everybody
7 has nightmares now and again:

8 'I knew what mine were about, and they got worse and
9 worse and were coming closer to me. The person was at
10 my front door. As I was looking through the peephole
11 I would see them as I remembered them then. That freaks
12 me out. It got to the stage where I moved a set of
13 drawers, so I was blocking the front door. I knew that
14 no one was going to come through the door, but
15 I couldn't get to sleep knowing there was nothing
16 stopping it. The stage I'm at now, I have to wait until
17 the daylight arrives because there is protection with
18 daylight. Although I have the curtains drawn I have the
19 TV and the lamp on, so if I do fall asleep I'm not
20 waking in the darkness. When I see the light coming in,
21 in the morning, I open the curtains and that's when
22 I get my best sleep.'

23 He has a good relationship with his family, but
24 blames himself for so many things, even though his
25 doctor has told him he shouldn't play the blame game.

1 He just notes:

2 'It all started with those teachers and their bits
3 of leather hitting me. Violence, violence, violence and
4 it just went from there. I was beat by the time I went
5 into care.'

6 He says:

7 'I have never spoken to the police about what
8 happened to me when I was in care.'

9 Under 'Lessons to be learned', he says, at
10 paragraph 197:

11 'I think if you put the whole thing together, put
12 a circle here and a circle there, they would all meet in
13 the middle and be mostly the same.'

14 At 198:

15 'They've not learned because it's the same kind of
16 things that happened all these years ago. I don't know,
17 there's always going to be a certain amount of people
18 who slip through the net. If the good people would come
19 forward and stop the bad people, because they all stick
20 by each other, because that's the way they see
21 themselves winning. If you said something about another
22 member of staff they wouldn't call you a whistleblower
23 they would call you a grass. If the good stand against
24 the bad, everybody's got a chance.

25 'I'll continue to sing the praises of the good

1 members of staff, but those people knew something was
2 going on. They probably witnessed it themselves. For
3 whatever reason, it could be they were frightened of
4 losing their job, maybe scared of these people. If they
5 had got together and spoke up, maybe not in the 1970s,
6 but talking about the 1990s and 2000s, there's no excuse
7 because society has changed. If people thought they
8 better not do something because they would get reported.
9 2022 and I'm still hearing things on the news, it's not
10 on. It really isn't.

11 'If the Inquiry makes it easier for members of staff
12 who witnessed something to come forward and proper
13 investigations and people knew there was going to be
14 consequences. There is going to be bad people out
15 there. It's up to the good people to say "Enough is
16 enough".'

17 In the last paragraph there, 202, he says:

18 'Training is a big thing. If asked what your
19 experience was in care with the social work I think some
20 would be quite shocked and maybe deal with things
21 differently. We give them all these pieces of paper,
22 but I think they need that wee bit more. If you hear
23 people's stories, it doesn't matter what they are,
24 hearing them from someone who has been through it is
25 quite shocking.'

1 the meals. There was a social work report that she's
2 seen that says that they had a chaotic life, but she
3 only remembers one argument when she was about
4 four-years old.

5 'Heather' says she and her brother were in
6 a children's home for a year when she was about
7 two-and-a-half, but she had no memory of that. When she
8 was aged five, she went to Smyllum.

9 The police and the social work came to the flat and
10 took them away.

11 She talks about Smyllum from paragraph 6 to 83 of
12 her statement. It forms a large part of her statement
13 to the Inquiry. She was taken there, along with her
14 brother and sister, and this was in, she thinks, 1968.
15 She was there for a year-and-a-half, until 1970.

16 Whilst there, 'Heather' says she suffered abuse from
17 the sisters, physical abuse, emotional abuse. There was
18 ridicule for wetting the bed from the sisters. There
19 was caning for not eating food.

20 She also says she didn't receive the usual childhood
21 vaccinations she should have whilst there and she found
22 out about that later in life.

23 There was also some sibling separation. She kept on
24 being told that her other brother wasn't there when he
25 actually was. Children's mouths were washed out with

1 carbolic soap for swearing. There was force feeding and
2 'Heather' saw her sister being force fed custard, which
3 made her sick and children were chanting, 'Eat it, eat
4 it', and it seemed like the chanting was something that
5 they had done before and one of the sisters then force
6 fed 'Heather's' sister the vomit. Then her sister was
7 caned.

8 'Heather' says her sister was about nine or ten when
9 this happened. The force feeding and the chanting
10 happened regularly, and she saw other children being
11 force fed and the children chanting. She was caned for
12 wetting the bed and locked in a laundry cupboard.

13 On one occasion she saw a boy being hit on the head
14 with a golf club by one of the Sisters. He was
15 bleeding. He would have been about ten or 11 years old
16 at the time. An ambulance then came and took him away.
17 They never saw the boy again after that and then they
18 were told he had died of pneumonia a month or two later.

19 One of the Sisters put a pillow over her face one
20 day and was pushing down with pressure. This made her
21 sick. She was made to clean up the vomit with a mop.

22 Another time after wetting the bed, that Sister put
23 a pillow over her head again because she was crying that
24 much.

25 On one occasion she was stripped naked, caned and

1 put into a cupboard, and she was caned on her back and
2 the back of her legs more than six times. Abuse was
3 shouted at her as well.

4 'Heather' said that priests would film from part of
5 the building, film children outside with cameras.
6 Somebody would ask the children to take their pants off
7 and to do a handstand against the wall or somersault.
8 She didn't do it, but she saw others doing it and when
9 they did it, the priests cheered.

10 She threatened to tell her dad about being caned
11 and, consequently, her dad didn't come for a visit and
12 she and her siblings were then told that their dad had
13 died. The Sister told her that she had caused this
14 because she was going to tell about the caning. But,
15 a month or two later, their dad came to visit and she
16 was hysterical and all of her siblings were crying.

17 She told her dad that a Sister had said he was dead,
18 but the Sister denied this. But then after, she was
19 caned for telling her dad that.

20 One day she was held down and her long hair was cut
21 short, and that happened to her sister, too, and she was
22 devastated. She also says that sailors would come to
23 the place and take children away, and her brother later
24 told her that these children were sexually abused.

25 She left Smyllum at six years old. Her dad at that

1 time had another house and they went back to stay with
2 her dad. There was then an occasion where she spent
3 some time at Nazareth House, and she talks about that
4 between paragraphs 84 and 105.

5 She was nine-years old at that time. Her dad had
6 a stomach problem and he was taken into hospital
7 suddenly, and they were there for respite care. They
8 were there for only about two weeks. But, again, the
9 Sisters there force fed her sister custard again and,
10 again, she says that she vomited and was made to eat it.

11 If she wet the bed, the bed would be stripped and
12 she would be belted twice on the back of the legs,
13 thrown into a cold shower, and often made to sleep in
14 the wet bedsheets and pyjamas.

15 'Heather' says that some children had a wet pillow
16 case put on their head like a hat for wetting the bed.
17 Whilst she was there she and her other siblings ran away
18 and they took a two-year-old boy with them. They went
19 to the hospital where their dad was and told their dad
20 what had been going on.

21 Social work and police arrived. They were taken
22 back to Nazareth House, but not longer after that they
23 went home.

24 She talks about life back at home from
25 paragraph 106. She went to a Catholic primary school

1 and then a Catholic secondary school. In class one day,
2 one of the Sisters was talking about abuse and asked if
3 anyone had ever been abused, they should stay back. She
4 didn't stay back, but she went to speak to the Sister
5 later and she tried to tell her about the abuse at
6 Smyllum, but she slapped her across the face and told
7 her not to repeat it.

8 She was about 12 at that time. That Sister then
9 singled her out and picked on her after that, and she
10 started skipping school because she didn't want to see
11 her. She was sent to the Children's Panel when she was
12 14, and they said if she didn't go to school then she
13 couldn't stay with her dad.

14 So she went back to school, but the Sister was still
15 picking on her and so she started to skip school again.

16 She had been put back a year by this point. She
17 tried to tell a guidance teacher at school about the
18 Sister, but she said she was telling lies. Back at the
19 Children's Panel, with her dad, her dad was trying to
20 tell them what the situation was, but his English wasn't
21 great and they weren't taking it in or picking up on
22 what he was saying to them.

23 Her dad had been taking her to school and watching
24 her go in, but she'd been going out the other side. The
25 Panel put her skipping school down to her dad having no

1 control over her and so she was sent to Howdenhall.

2 She talks about Howdenhall from paragraph 115
3 onwards. She was about 13 or 14 when she went there.
4 It was a closed unit. She was there for about six
5 months before she ran away. She says there was no abuse
6 from staff and they were good people.

7 One of the times she ran away she stayed with
8 a woman that she knew and the woman was dealing drugs
9 and getting her go to take cigarettes to places, and
10 there were drugs inside the packet. Then the house was
11 raided by police and she was taken back to Howdenhall.

12 There was a detention room at Howdenhall with a
13 metal door, with nothing in it apart from a built in bed
14 that couldn't come away from the wall. She was kept in
15 there for two days for running away.

16 A girl she knew there told her that she'd been
17 sexually abused by another girl, and that other girl was
18 put into the detention room for three or four days
19 before being moved to another unit. But she was sent
20 from Howdenhall to Balgay.

21 She talks about Balgay from paragraph 130 of her
22 statement. I'll just read from there:

23 'I went to Balgay when I was 14 years old and was
24 kept in until I was 15-and-a-half years old. Balgay was
25 split into two units, A and B. There were about 22

1 girls in each unit. It was all girls. They also had
2 a place called Duncan House. It was a more privileged
3 place to stay. The girls in there got out more and it
4 was more relaxed. The girls were moving on to different
5 things from there. I was never in Duncan House.
6 I wouldn't have been let in there because I would have
7 run away.

8 'The girls that were in with me were aged 14 to 16.
9 Some girls said they were there because they battered
10 people. Others said their mothers didn't want them or
11 they were running away from school. There was a girl
12 who was 15 and pregnant. There were girls in Balgay who
13 had been in there until they were 18 years old. I was
14 the only girl from Edinburgh. The others had Glaswegian
15 accents.

16 'SNR [REDACTED] was Mr GIS [REDACTED]. There were no priests
17 or nuns. There were a lot of staff and there were four
18 on at one time in the unit. There was a staff member
19 called Shona. She was my housemaster and was about
20 26 years old. There was one called Carol.

21 'The woman, who was with the two guys who took me to
22 Dundee, I think was the same social worker I'd seen
23 before. We drove over the Forth Road Bridge and I asked
24 where I was going. We were driving past places like
25 Perth. I was wondering where I was going. I was

1 worried I was being taken back to Smyllum. I knew I was
2 going to a List D school, but not where it was.
3 I didn't know how long I was going for. All I knew was
4 that it was an all girls' school.

5 'When we arrived, the school was all closed doors.
6 I was met by Mr GIS and a woman called Bernadette.
7 They were really nice at that point. I was really
8 upset. I was screaming and they were trying to pull me
9 out of the car. Everyone that went into Balgay got
10 their photos taken and got a file made up. They had
11 a photo of you, so they had one if you ran away. It was
12 a bit regimented.

13 'There were four girls in a room.'

14 Then she names the girls she was put into a room
15 with:

16 'You were locked in the bedroom at night. At the
17 weekend, you got to lie in longer.

18 'The food was fine. A girl would make a choice of
19 what they were going to make that week and there would
20 be cooking lessons. You'd make macaroni cheese or
21 something. On a Saturday night, you got Chinese food or
22 pizza. If you behaved you got privileges, like pocket
23 money to go down to the local shop.

24 'We went to the swimming baths with members of
25 staff. We went out of Balgay to play badminton and

1 played hockey with another approved school. The staff
2 talked about keeping fit and healthy.

3 'We never went on holiday, but we had trips out to
4 the cinema.

5 'You were allowed to bring your own personal
6 possessions with you. You got a grant from the social
7 work. When you first went in, you got a bigger grant to
8 get all the essentials you needed. Every two months you
9 were taken down the town centre and you got to pick your
10 own clothes.

11 'You did your laundry yourself. There were two
12 washing machines. You didn't have to be asked. You
13 just washed, dried and ironed your clothes. You were
14 old enough to look after yourself.

15 'School was in Balgay. A teacher came in and you
16 got subjects, but you didn't get any exams or
17 qualifications. There was a classroom and school was in
18 normal school hours.

19 'One of the girls [she names her] said to me not to
20 say I was Catholic. She said people had had their head
21 washed in the toilet by other girls for saying they were
22 Catholic. The staff knew I was Catholic and they did
23 ask if you wanted to go to church. They believed in
24 letting you follow your beliefs. I could have gone to
25 church with a member of staff, but I didn't.

1 'They made a big thing of your birthday. You would
2 get a card and everybody got a Valentine's Day card and
3 a box of chocolates. Christmas was a big thing.
4 Everybody got to go home at Christmas weekend. I never
5 because I had run away a few times.

6 'My dad came up once a month. After two or three
7 months, I got home visits. If I had a home visit,
8 Balgay had a bus that would take me to Edinburgh and
9 drop me off at Corstorphine. School finished early on
10 Friday and I'd get picked up on Sunday. If you didn't
11 turn up to be taken back, then you didn't get your visit
12 for the next few months. That didn't happen to me.
13 I knew by the time I got home visits not to do that. My
14 brother had moved to Wellington Farm. I never saw much
15 of him. No one initiated a joint visit or kept up any
16 relationship. I'd see my older sister at my dad's.

17 'You had six weekly reviews with your housemaster.
18 You could go to your housemaster at any time and say
19 what was happening. The purpose of the reviews was to
20 talk about where you saw yourself, where you wanted to
21 get to and how you were coping.

22 'At first, I never said anything. I started talking
23 after the staff told me I'd be sent down south if
24 I didn't stop running away. I said what I wanted to do
25 with my life and what I wanted to achieve. I wanted to

1 go back to school.

2 'After six or nine months, I went back to Edinburgh
3 for a Children's Panel and they said I wasn't getting to
4 go back home. I went back to Balgay and wanted to kill
5 myself. I thought I was never going to get out of
6 there. After that, I buckled down and stopped
7 rebelling. I thought I better show I wanted to get out.
8 Before that, my attitude had been that I didn't care and
9 I wasn't interested. I was never cheeky to the staff.

10 'I didn't want to be at Balgay and I ran away a few
11 times. I just wanted to be at home. I'd been in for
12 six months when I ran away and made it to Edinburgh. My
13 dad kept me. He didn't tell the police I was there.
14 I stayed with him for a couple of weeks. The police
15 came and my brother was in, as he had got out of the
16 secure unit. My brother let the police in and said
17 I'd just got there. I didn't want to get my dad in
18 trouble. The police took me to the assessment centre
19 and someone came from Dundee to take me back.

20 'One time I hadn't got home for my birthday.
21 I can't remember what I'd done. My dad came up and gave
22 me £20. I never told the staff I'd got it. I jumped on
23 the train back to Edinburgh. I was scared to buy
24 a ticket because I was quite young and small. I got
25 taken back to Balgay.

1 'Other times I ran away with the girls from Balgay.
2 We'd hide in a tenement stair. We'd all get cold and
3 someone would say: phone the police and say there's
4 lassies in a stair. The police would come out, find us,
5 and take us back to Balgay. I think they knew it was us
6 phoning.

7 'At first I thought the girls in my room were all
8 right. One was from Perth, one from Blairgowrie and one
9 from Glasgow. They were actually the bullies in Balgay.
10 They would get other girls involved because the other
11 girls were frightened of them. The other girls probably
12 didn't want to go along with it, but felt they had to.
13 On the first night, the three girls were all talking and
14 laughing. We went to our bed. I must have been tossing
15 and turning and they said to me, what was I doing,
16 playing with myself? They started getting nasty.
17 I told them I couldn't get to sleep. The three of them
18 got up and battered me and they pulled me by the hair.

19 'The three girls all had tattoos. Three days later
20 ... [she names them] they held me down and tattooed me.
21 They put a cross, like a religious cross, with three
22 dots within it on my arm. Using a needle and blue
23 Indian ink. It happened at night when we were getting
24 locked in the room. I was screaming and shouting. It
25 was painful. A needle was getting stabbed into me. One

1 of the them put a pillow over me so the staff couldn't
2 hear me. They said I'd better not say anything or
3 they'd cut my hair.

4 'When the girls tattooed me I thought my dad was
5 going to kill me. My dad had been tattooed by the Nazis
6 during the war. He had gone mad when my brother got a
7 tattoo. I was told by the three girls to say I had come
8 in with the cross. First of all, I told Shona. She
9 asked if I'd come in with the tattoo. I said I hadn't
10 and she should look at my file. Shona said she'd speak
11 to Mr GIS . Mr GIS knew I hadn't come in with it and
12 I told him the three girls had tattooed me. The girls
13 said I'd come in with the tattoo and I said I never.
14 The scar started weeping. I was trying to scratch it
15 off, thinking that if I picked at it then it would come
16 off. That wasn't going to happen. A nurse examined you
17 after you went in to check your heart, your ears and
18 whatever. The nurse knew I never had it. Quite a lot
19 of the girls had this cross. I don't know if you were
20 part of their gang if you got it or whatever. I still
21 have the mark now. I got it lasered off when I was 16
22 or 17.

23 'The three girls bullied me for most of the rest of
24 the time I was at Balgay. At first they battered me,
25 kicked and punched me quite a lot because I told on them

1 about the tattoo. Then it was on a weekly basis. They
2 called me "Bugs Bunny" and things like that. I was well
3 spoken when I went to Balgay, compared to some of the
4 girls. They called me "snob". I wasn't conforming to
5 how the three girls wanted me to be.

6 'They picked on other girls as well. Everyone was
7 frightened of them. If you had shampoo, they would take
8 it off you. They took a coat from me. I didn't feel
9 I could say anything to the staff. The three girls
10 would have it in for you and batter you if you did. If
11 I was asked about the bullying, I would say I wasn't
12 telling. I wasn't a grass.

13 'One of them broke my nose when she punched me. The
14 septum went into the other part of my nose. We were
15 left alone a lot in the communal room. They'd kick you
16 and trip you up. They made your life a misery. I'd cry
17 a lot and I wouldn't let them see.

18 'We'd sit down for a communal meal of pizza and the
19 three girls would make sarcastic remarks. They would be
20 told to stop it by the staff.

21 'The three girls would pick on Shona, the
22 housemaster, as well. She was young, but her hair had
23 gone grey. I wouldn't pick on Shona and the girls would
24 bully me because I wouldn't call her names. My time at
25 Balgay was frightening and stressful. It was organised

1 chaos. I didn't know what was coming next. I didn't
2 know what would happen if I didn't conform to what the
3 girls wanted me to do or say.

4 'When the girls had tattooed me, I was in Mr GIS 's
5 office to speak to him about it. Mr GIS was saying
6 that the tattoo hadn't happened in Balgay. I told him
7 it had and he should check my file. The reason I knew
8 the tattoo wasn't mentioned in my file was that the
9 office had been open one day and another girl and I had
10 gone in and looked at our files. I knew my file said
11 "no tattoos". It had a section for any distinctive
12 marks or scars. It had in the file "prominent teeth".
13 I told Mr GIS the truth, that I'd seen my file.

14 'Mr GIS said I'd been bad and smacked me over the
15 bum. He said that because I'd looked at the file I
16 would have to be sent to a school down south. I was
17 crying and saying I wanted to go home. Mr GIS said if
18 I did a sexual act he wouldn't tell my dad and I could
19 stay at Balgay. I had to perform oral sex on him.
20 I went back to my room and I wanted to die. I couldn't
21 do it because I was thinking about my dad.

22 'After that, Mr GIS would make excuses for me to go
23 to his office whenever he could. Each time I would have
24 to perform oral sex on him. Sometimes I would be
25 physically sick before I went to the office. Sometimes

1 Shona would tell me he wanted to see me and I would make
2 an excuse. I'd say I didn't want to go to the office.
3 Shona would say I had to go. He was blackmailing me.
4 I was frightened, thinking he had the power to send me
5 down south. Mr GIS said I could tell who I wanted, but
6 who would believe me. This went on for two or three
7 months until I left Balgay. It made the situation worse
8 with the three girls bullying me. They started calling
9 me a grass and saying that I was Mr GIS's pet. They'd
10 pull my hair and trip me up.

11 'Once, four of us girls had run away. We were
12 between 14 and 16 years old. We were stupid and we
13 hitched a lift to Edinburgh. I'd said to go to
14 Edinburgh and my dad would keep us. The car we got into
15 was an old, petrol blue Ford Cortina. The driver gave
16 everybody a cigarette and took us to a forest. He took
17 his manhood out and told us to take our clothes off.
18 I was in front of the car and I jumped out.

19 'The other three were in the back of the car. You
20 had to put the front seat down to get out of the back.
21 I was screaming and the man was shouting. He drove away
22 and left me in the middle of the nowhere. The man came
23 back and let the other girls out. One of the girls said
24 she'd had to perform oral sex on him. I had started
25 trying to get to the road. We stopped a woman and told

1 her what had happened. She got the police.

2 'After the incident with the man in the car when we
3 ran away, we were taken back to Balgay and then to the
4 police station. I gave a statement and we were
5 medically checked. We went through photos. I couldn't
6 identify the man, but someone else could. We never went
7 to court. Our stories were conflicting. One of the
8 girls said he'd pulled us into the car because they
9 didn't want to get in trouble for getting into a man's
10 car. Mr GIS told us later that the man had been
11 jailed.

12 'That was an opportunity for me to tell the police
13 what Mr GIS was doing to me, but I was too frightened.
14 What if they didn't believe me? I have never told
15 anyone about the abuse by Mr GIS until now.

16 'I told Shona about the abuse at Smyllum, but
17 nothing came of that.

18 'I told Shona and Mr GIS that the three girls had
19 tattooed me. Nothing was ever done about the incident.
20 Mr GIS used it to abuse me. I'd have thought the staff
21 would have got the police involved. I got moved out of
22 that room, but the girls continued to batter me all the
23 time.

24 'You had an opportunity to speak to the staff, but
25 I never told them about the bullying. I think the staff

1 knew it was going on. How could they contain it?

2 I'm not saying they turned a blind eye, but what could
3 they do?

4 'I conformed, stopped running away and discussed why
5 I didn't go to school with the psychologist. I was
6 frightened of the consequences of running away and what
7 Mr GIS might do. Why I didn't want to go to school was
8 never taken on board. I said I was being bullied at
9 school, but I never wanted to discuss exactly everything
10 about ... [she names the Sister], such as her slapping
11 me. I said I wanted to be a nurse and to help people.

12 'I was on home leave and I went to a second
13 Children's Panel. My dad didn't want me to go back to
14 Balgay. They allowed me to go back home. I was
15 15-and-a-half years old.'

16 Then she talks about her life after being in care
17 from paragraph 169. She went back to stay with her dad.
18 She refused to go back to a Catholic secondary school
19 and she was put into a mainstream school. She had to
20 resit fourth year, but she got on well there and sat
21 exams.

22 'Heather' tells us that she did quite well and got
23 three or four qualifications and left school at 17. She
24 got a job in an ice-cream factory and met someone at 18,
25 got married, and had her first son at 19. She has two

1 sons. She was married for about eight or nine years.
2 Her husband was controlling. He, too, had been in care
3 and had been abused.

4 They got divorced. She met someone else, but she
5 didn't marry him. Then she worked for the Social Work
6 Department as a support worker for the homeless.

7 She bought a council house and brought her sons up.
8 She went to college and she did an HNC in social care
9 and working in the community, and she's currently
10 working as a drug support worker.

11 She talks about the impact from paragraph 173. She
12 says when she was younger she didn't think about the
13 treatment in Smyllum as abuse, but she now knows it was
14 abuse.

15 If I go to paragraph 178:

16 'When I was 15 years old and at Balgay, I wanted to
17 kill myself and made preparations to do that. I did
18 feel suicidal a lot, but this particular time I was at
19 my lowest. I didn't see any way out. I kept thinking
20 that no one was listening or interested in me.
21 I thought I was never going to get out of Balgay.'

22 She names one of the girls, and says:

23 'You could be kept there until you were 21 years
24 old. I couldn't kill myself because I was thinking of
25 my dad and how he would have felt. I told Shona, my

1 housemaster. She asked me why and it was documented,
2 but nothing else happened.'

3 She states that she could have had a better
4 education and talks about her resentment towards the
5 Catholic Church because of what happened to her as
6 a child.

7 She always had a fear that her sons would be abused
8 and never let them go to Catholic school or go away to
9 any school camps.

10 She talks about some painful dealings she's had with
11 the Social Work Department in relation to trying to get
12 kinship over her grandchild. She didn't tell them when
13 speaking to them that she'd been in care, and when they
14 found out they told her that she had lied and, because
15 of that, she wouldn't be able to get kinship of her
16 grandchild. 'Heather' says:

17 'They used that fact that she hadn't told them
18 against her.'

19 LADY SMITH: Yet she had brought up her own sons.

20 MS FORBES: She brought up her own sons, yes.

21 She has reported the abuse in Smyllum to the police,
22 and she talks about lessons to be learned. If I go to
23 paragraph 199:

24 'Every child should have control of their life.
25 Children in care need to be listened to. Too much is

1 brushed under the carpet and children have not got
2 a voice. Family contact should be encouraged.'

3 Then she talks about the time that the nuns never
4 said: let's write a letter to your dad.

5 And she says they should have allowed them to have
6 time alone with their dad.

7 There is a section called 'Other information', and
8 if I go to paragraph 201, she states:

9 'I hope the Inquiry findings are published and
10 people listen to what is said about the treatment of
11 children in care. People who have been in care have
12 taken their own lives and have suffered a lot of mental
13 health problems. I'm not interested in money. It's not
14 about money.

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

19 She has signed that and it's dated 9 March 2020,
20 which was after, I think, the case study for Smyllum.

21 LADY SMITH: Long after, yes.

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

23 LADY SMITH: Thank you very much.

24 Can you just remind me, at this stage -- because it
25 might be helpful to put it in the transcript -- the date

1 of the documentaries that we showed the other day? It
2 was?

3 MR SHELDON: 1967, my Lady. I don't have the exact date to
4 hand, but I can find the first airing dates of each.
5 They're about a week apart.

6 LADY SMITH: That was my recollection. That was about
7 a decade before --

8 MR SHELDON: I think it's August 1967.

9 LADY SMITH: -- before this witness went into Balgay.

10 MR SHELDON: Yes.

11
12
13
14

15 LADY SMITH: Thank you.

16 MR SHELDON: This is another applicant who wishes to remain
17 anonymous, and he is known at 'Robert'.

18 His witness statement is WIT-1-000001137.

19 His evidence in relation to Polmont and another SPS
20 establishment was read in on 13 December last year and
21 that is at TRN-12-000000030.

22 'Robert' (read)

23 MR SHELDON: My Lady, 'Robert' was born in 1969. He entered
24 the care system at a very young age, it seems. He says
25 at the start of his statement that his father was

1 mentally ill and institutionalised. Indeed, he says
2 both parents were hospitalised with nervous disorders
3 when he was a baby.

4 He was originally in a children's shelter. Then,
5 from about 1971, fostered with a couple in Dundee. That
6 seems to have been a very difficult experience and he
7 suffered marked physical and sexual abuse while in
8 foster care, at the hands of his foster father.

9 Indeed, he spent time in a psychiatric unit while he
10 was at primary school, apparently at the instigation of
11 his foster father, who had told social workers that he
12 was mentally ill.

13 I think 'Robert' might concede that he was acting up
14 because of the way he was being treated, but the
15 statement certainly indicates, having spent time at the
16 psychiatric unit, he was discharged, the staff having
17 concluded there was nothing wrong with him, certainly
18 not mental illness.

19 The foster placement broke down when 'Robert' was 11
20 or 12. He then was in children's homes in the east of
21 Scotland, **Secondary Institutions - to be published later**

22 **Secondary Institutions - to be published later**

23 He was then in a variety of placements. He was in
24 Burnside at least three times between 1981 and late 1984
25 or very early 1985. There was also foster placement in

1 1984/1985, which then seems to have broken down, but he
2 was in Burnside intermittently during that period.

3 If I can take up the statement from page 25,
4 paragraph 114.

5 He said that Burnside was on the outskirts in
6 Dundee, in an area called Kirkton, and he said it looked
7 more like a detention centre:

8 'There was a big concrete fence all the way round
9 and it had graffiti on it saying "Belsen" on the gates.
10 At the time, I didn't know what Belsen was and I thought
11 it was a gang member. It was a forbidden place and
12 nobody liked to go there.

13 'The whole grounds were surrounded by the concrete
14 fence, so we couldn't see in or out. The main building
15 looked a bit like a school.'

16 He describes the layout.

17 At paragraph 116:

18 'On the top level, there was a secure locked door
19 that you couldn't get in or out without a key and that
20 was the assessment unit. The windows were barred on
21 that unit. Post-assessment 1 was next to it, that was
22 open. The same as post-assessment 2, downstairs, which
23 was also open.'

24 He says, at 117, that he was initially sent there as
25 an emergency, not by a panel:

1 'You can be admitted as an emergency assessment and
2 then you go to a Panel later and they then decide. My
3 records say I was initially admitted to Burnside in
4 1981.'

5 That appears to be correct, my Lady. He says he was
6 backwards and forwards between Burnside and another
7 children's unit. He says he was one of the longest at
8 Burnside:

9 'It's a place where [I think he means "normally"]
10 you're sent for a three-week assessment and then you are
11 moved on or moved out of the assessment unit.

12 'They had three different units, the assessment
13 unit, and post-assessment 1 and 2. There were maybe
14 six, seven or eight people in each of the
15 post-assessment units long term and two or three members
16 of staff, one senior staff member and two staff.

17 'The numbers in the assessment unit changed on
18 a daily basis, as there was always people coming in and
19 out, and I'd say 15, at a guess. After your initial
20 assessment, you either moved back to your home situation
21 or you went to a post-assessment unit. Some people
22 stayed there for quite a long time, but nobody stayed in
23 the assessment unit for more than three weeks. But
24 I was there, on the actual assessment unit, for years.
25 The other two units didn't want me after a while.'

1 If I can just interject, it's quite clear that there
2 are placements at Burnside throughout that three-year
3 period, but there is a period where he's at a List G
4 school in Scotland and that's in 1984.

5 LADY SMITH: Right. Thank you. List G was? Remind me.

6 MR SHELDON: Essentially, special needs, my Lady.

7 LADY SMITH: Of course.

8 MR SHELDON: That was the idea.

9 As he says himself, he also seems to have been,
10 periodically, in a children's home or hostel during that
11 period, and also at a foster placement, which seems to
12 have been turbulent.

13 He says, at paragraph 120:

14 'There were boys and girls at Burnside. They were
15 mostly from Tayside. They stayed in dormitories. There
16 were more boys than girls. They were mixed. They
17 weren't segregated. There was easy access from the
18 lads' dormitory to get to the girls' dormitory. There
19 were more people in there than in the other places.'

20 He then talks about the owner of Burnside and says,
21 at paragraph 122:

22 'I was scared when I got to Burnside because
23 I'd heard a lot about it before I went there. I knew
24 a lot of people by that time and heard a lot of stories.
25 I'd heard about the staff and violence. I can't

1 remember how it was worded back then, when I was only
2 young. I was scared when I got there and everybody was
3 a lot older than me and, again, a different class of
4 people. There were people there who were close to
5 becoming criminals and would be in prison a year on from
6 Burnside.

7 'After I arrived, I was kept locked in the
8 assessment unit all the time. I was there just under
9 three years altogether, but had been moved to the
10 post-assessment units sometimes and tried out in there,
11 but failed and I was sent back for assessment. I was in
12 the assessment unit for a long time at the start before
13 I was moved out.

14 'When I was in the assessment unit I was locked in
15 all the time. The dormitory door wasn't locked, but the
16 entry door to the assessment unit was locked all the
17 time and you couldn't get out. The only way to get out
18 would be to smash a window and jump from the second
19 floor. I did it many times. A lot of people did.

20 'The assessment wing had no facilities. There was
21 a TV room.'

22 He goes on to describe the layout in a little
23 detail.

24 He talks about clothing, food and meal times and
25 thinks there was nothing particularly remarkable about

1 either of those issues.

2 In relation to school, he says, at paragraph 127:

3 'There was an Education Department on the bottom
4 floor and a gym. At the start, I got schooled inside
5 Burnside before I got shipped off. The schooling was
6 basic and far too basic for me. I'm going by the
7 reports that I've read that said my academic needs were
8 much higher than they could provide.

9 'At some time in Burnside I had private tutors for
10 English, physics and arithmetic when I was 14. I assume
11 the council paid for these teachers to come in.'

12 Reading short to paragraph 129:

13 'I was also going to Balgowan, in Dundee, as a day
14 pupil, but I wasn't spending all day there. I was
15 sometimes just going there for a single class for maybe
16 an hour or two and then going back to Burnside. Having
17 private tutors was to put me through my O grades. I got
18 O grades in prison, ten years later, but not at this
19 time.'

20 My Lady may recall, pausing there, that in the
21 latter years of Balgowan it was being used much less for
22 residential children, but was being used by Dundee as
23 an educational resource, it seems.

24 LADY SMITH: Yes, of course. Thank you.

25 MR SHELDON: It was quite striking that, I think, right at

1 the end, there were only nine boys in residence at
2 Balgowan, in spite of what had been a very large
3 establishment.

4 LADY SMITH: Of course, we're getting very close to when
5 Balgowan was closed down.

6 MR SHELDON: Yes. It closed down in -- the certificate was
7 withdrawn in 1983. The main building demolished,
8 I think, early 1983.

9 LADY SMITH: Thank you.

10 MR SHELDON: At paragraph 131:

11 'It wasn't until I moved on to Burnside Children's
12 Home that I had a different social worker. She was
13 called ...'

14 And he names her. He says she was a nice lady, and
15 she was one that helped and he liked. If I may say, the
16 records certainly bear that out, my Lady, that she was
17 quite a -- perhaps the only constant presence during
18 that period in 'Robert's' life. Clearly, she did her
19 best.

20 'Robert' then goes on to talk about leisure trips
21 and holidays, and says that there were sometimes trips
22 to the Sidlaw Hills and Glenshee and Glen Isla.

23 He says, in particular 133, it was a great trip and
24 he loved it.

25 But he says, at 134:

1 'In the van, coming back, was a staff member called
2 GSH . He was one of the staff who I fought
3 with many times and I'd fought with them all. He had
4 a hat on which he wore all the time because he had long
5 hair, like a hippy. He was in his 30s and physically
6 strong. In hijinks I grabbed his hat off his head. He
7 thought I'd spat on his hat, so he grabbed me and pulled
8 me on the floor in the middle of the van and got on top
9 of me, so I couldn't move. He got hold of me by the
10 throat. He spat in my face. I couldn't speak about
11 this before. It's disgraceful and disgusting. He spat
12 all his phlegm all over me. It's one of the worst
13 things that's ever happened to me, and I've had
14 spankings and doings. He did it two or three times and
15 rubbed it all over my face. I couldn't move. I was
16 going to be sick.

17 'The driver stopped the van and we were by a river
18 and I ran out and I jumped in the river because I felt
19 filthy. The van went away and drove off. I was in
20 shock. I was stranded in Glenshee and thought they'd
21 gone and left me. I was wandering away and walking up
22 the hills, not knowing what I was doing. After about
23 15 minutes, the van came back.

24 'I'd been in Burnside for some time by then and had
25 many fights with GSH . It might have happened

1 in 1982 or 1983, so I was maybe 14 by then.'

2 He talks about some personal details about
3 GSH . At 138, he says that he'd spoken to
4 someone about GSH , who had mentioned
5 an accusation which had been made and an allegation that
6 GSH had been arrested over an incident with
7 a girl in Burnside. He says he didn't know about that,
8 but it wouldn't surprise him; he was a nasty piece of
9 work.

10 Page 30 he talks a little about religion and
11 personal possessions. He notes, in paragraph 140, that
12 people's personal stuff was kept in a locked room that
13 you couldn't have in your room. It was for you to
14 collect when you got out of the home.

15 He says he had some visits. His aunt visited him
16 and his social worker visited him as well. He says, at
17 paragraph 142:

18 'She knew how I was being treated, but she didn't
19 see it, as they weren't going to restrain someone when
20 their social worker was there. I don't think there was
21 a lot she could do about it.'

22 He says, at paragraph 143, that unexpectedly, when
23 he was 14, he was visited by his birth mother and says
24 that was a very mixed experience, putting it short.

25 At paragraph 144:

1 'It's only now, when I look back, and think the
2 social worker should have come and had a look and seen
3 where I was going.'

4 Because, clearly, he went to live with his birth
5 mother for a little, and that evidently wasn't a happy
6 experience.

7 At paragraph 145, he talks about running away and,
8 on one occasion, running away all the way to London and
9 making his own way back to Dundee. But he says he ran
10 away numerous times.

11 At paragraph 146, under the heading, 'Abuse at
12 Burnside' -- although he's clearly talked about that
13 already to some extent -- he says:

14 'On a typical day, I'd be fighting someone.
15 I'd fight with staff without fail, either defending
16 myself or provoking it myself. In my records, it says
17 it happened daily, and it did happen daily for years.
18 It says in my records that I was angry from the moment
19 I woke up. I'm not surprised, because the night before
20 something would have occurred and I'd been restrained or
21 battered or something like that and I was still raging
22 from the night before. It would start again the next
23 day and keep ongoing and never ending.

24 'My social worker faced up to the biggest bully in
25 there, **MYD**. He was the worst of them all, apart

1 from the guy who spat in my face. MYD was a huge man
2 and he hurt everybody. We called him MYD and I don't
3 know why. My social worker told him not to speak to me
4 in the way that he did and he shouldn't treat me in the
5 way that he did. I can't remember what MYD said
6 in response. What was she going to do? She couldn't
7 rock the boat. She couldn't phone the police. What are
8 the police going to say or do? She'd probably lose her
9 job if she kicked up too much of a fuss.

10 MYD was a huge man of about 18-stone.
11 A bully. He didn't have to do much to squash you. If
12 he sat on top of you, you couldn't move. In Burnside,
13 the staff put you in "the box", that's the strong room,
14 and you got locked up for it. He bundled me into the
15 box. It was just like a solitary confinement cell in
16 a prison and it's a concrete cell. They call it the
17 Digger in Scotland. I've done quite a lot of solitary
18 confinement in prison. In the box at Burnside it was
19 worse than that. There was no toilet facility. There
20 was two small rooms and two doors. The first one had
21 a locked door and there was a toilet in the first room
22 and the second room had its own door. That was the cell
23 with the concrete floor. There was a bulletproof window
24 in the cell that you can't see out of. You were lying
25 on a concrete base and it was freezing cold. There was

1 no bed. If you wanted to use the toilet you'd have to
2 get through the door first. I used to kick hell out of
3 the door every time they put me in. I made so much
4 noise they wouldn't leave that first door open, so I had
5 no access to the toilet at all. I had to piss and
6 defecate in the cell. Then they made me clean it myself
7 the next day and they'd throw in towels and cleaning
8 gear.

9 'I wouldn't be in there for a week or anything like
10 that. You'd be put in there until you calmed down, and
11 you would calm down after a while. I was in there
12 overnight many times. I hardly ever saw it being used
13 by other people. Occasionally, I did see it for severe
14 fighting.

15 'There were some tough nuts coming in sometimes and
16 they'd be put in there, but not for long. I was in and
17 out of there so much I probably spent more time in there
18 than in my own room, depending on how I behaved. If I
19 calmed down they let me out. I can't remember if I got
20 meals brought to me in there. I can't remember how
21 I got fed. I must have done.

22 'With MYD every conflict I had with him was
23 a bad occasion. There wasn't one that stood out from
24 others. There was one time during a struggle he did
25 punch me completely in the face. I'd get elbowed,

1 I'd get kicked, I'd get kneed, but never normally
2 punched in the face. MYD didn't use his knuckles on
3 my head Secondary Institutions - to be publi. He would squash me and
4 I couldn't breathe. He did that to everybody. He'd
5 start the trouble as well and he'd want it to happen.
6 He'd be antagonistic. He was the senior officer and not
7 just a member of staff. He was called an 'S.O.'. He
8 could make decisions that other officers couldn't. He'd
9 come on shift, saying to me, "All right, piss the bed?
10 How are you?" What reaction was he expected to get from
11 a kid who was emotionally messed up?

12 'There was another member of staff in Burnside
13 called IXO. He never assaulted me, but I heard he
14 was arrested later on. I read it in the newspaper
15 online that he'd been arrested over a sexual
16 relationship with a girl in Burnside. I knew nothing
17 about this.

18 'I'm still friends on Facebook with a couple of
19 staff from Burnside. Some of them are okay. They would
20 have been aware of how GSH and MYD
21 were treating me. Why would any of them try to do
22 anything about it? It was a different time. Back then
23 it was normal.

24 'I went to some other places, but I kept going back
25 to Burnside House and I was the longest ever resident

1 there.'

2 He talks a little about Balgowan, albeit that he's
3 not resident there, my Lady. I think it's worth going
4 to paragraph 156 because the individual concerned, there
5 may be a degree of cross-over.

6 He says that while at Balgowan for schooling, he
7 says that [LID] was [SNR]
8 at Balgowan:

9 '... [LID] [SNR] at the time.
10 I saw him playing football in the yard one time, in
11 break time. I said something to him and he replied,
12 "Who the fuck are you? Talking to me like that".
13 Somebody kicked the ball and pushed me and I went flying
14 into the wall. I was knocked out and unconscious and
15 had two big black eyes and split my lip. I had to go to
16 the Dundee Royal Infirmary and had stitches in my lip
17 and concussion. I was in hospital for a while and then
18 they took me back to Burnside. They said I'd injured
19 myself playing football or something like that. I was
20 smashed into the wall and knocked unconscious.

21 [LID] was an old man who had been in the
22 army. He used to wear the military suits and had a big
23 long moustache and looked like military man from the
24 1960s. He was about 60-odd. He had a son, [REDACTED]
25 [REDACTED]

1



2

He then goes on to talk about another children's home and the List G school, which I mentioned earlier on. He also says that he spent time in Howdenhall, in Edinburgh, but doesn't describe any abuse there.

6

He talks about leaving Burnside on his 16th birthday. He'd be living with foster parents and about having some sort of therapy, certainly an attempt to support his needs. This was the Mars Project, in Dundee.

10

11

He talks about the foster placement a little, but this broke down, really, [REDACTED] in 1995. After that, my Lady, he really was, I suppose, condemned to a fairly itinerant lifestyle:

12

13

14

15

'I got into further trouble.'

16

And by that time he was drinking and he was homeless. My Lady has heard, I think, the read-in in relation to his time in various SPS establishments.

17

18

19

For completeness, my Lady, at paragraph 198, he talks a little about his life after care and, indeed, after his release from prison in 1992.

20

21

22

But it's paragraph 203 where he starts talking about the impact of his childhood experiences:

23

24

'It was written in my records that I didn't trust anyone when I was in care, but I don't think I have any

25

1 issues with trust anymore. I was moved around between
2 various institutions over a short period of time and
3 that's had an impact on my ability to settle in one
4 place. If I hadn't been involved in fighting in
5 Burnside **Secondary Institutions - to be published later** I wouldn't have
6 become an aggressive person later on. If I'd never been
7 beaten up or been fighting I wouldn't have got into
8 fights later on.

9 'I've spoken to psychiatrists in the past and told
10 them about what has happened to me and how it's affected
11 me years later and I've been diagnosed with complex
12 PTSD.'

13 That was 2010. He had been referred by his GP. He
14 was referred for counselling, but was so busy at work
15 that he never followed it through. He's been on
16 medication to manage his mood:

17 'It's not so bad now and I don't think about it at
18 all.'

19 He talks about having instructed a solicitor about
20 a civil claim and a little about his family.

21 He indicates, at paragraph 207, that he's reported
22 the assaults to an organisation, not the Inquiry, and
23 they passed on information to the police, who then got
24 in touch.

25 At paragraph 209, he talks about records and, at

1 paragraph 212, he starts talking about lessons to be
2 learned. Going to paragraph 213, my Lady, he says:

3 'I think a lot of changes have been made in the care
4 system from my time in care, and that was a long time
5 ago. I've no idea what children's homes are like now.
6 I'm sure they're nothing like how they were in the
7 1980s. Looking back, it wasn't right that I had so many
8 moves when I was in the care system.'

9 His hopes for the Inquiry are that these two
10 individuals from Burnside, staff members, get arrested
11 and questioned by the police.

12 As I've said, he signed and dated his statement with
13 the usual declarations.

14 LADY SMITH: Yes.

15 Thank you very much. That of course, as you rightly
16 say, adds to what I heard of his evidence in the SPS
17 section.

18 MR SHELDON: Ms Forbes' next read-in would probably be about
19 25 minutes, she thinks. I have a read-in, a shorter
20 one, but one which might last 20 or 25. I wouldn't be
21 entirely confident of finishing it.

22 LADY SMITH: I think we've made good progress this morning
23 and generally made good progress with all the read-ins.
24 There's actually quite a lot to think about in what
25 we've done already today, so we'll put a pause on them

1 part of your evidence. It's in that red folder beside
2 you. You can refer to it if you'd find that helpful,
3 but you don't have to.

4 We'll also bring your statement up on the screen,
5 when we're looking at the parts of it that we'd like to
6 discuss with you this afternoon, so you'll have that
7 available to you as well.

8 But, most importantly, 'Dexter', I want to do
9 anything I can to make the process of giving evidence as
10 comfortable for you as possible. I know it's not easy.
11 I know it can be productive of much anxiety. You may
12 think you're fine and you're prepared, and can you
13 suddenly get taken by surprise as you go back into
14 memories of what happened decades ago, when you were so
15 young.

16 So, if you want a break sitting where you are, or
17 leaving the room, that's fine. Or if there's anything
18 else we can do to help, you must let me know.

19 A. Aye.

20 LADY SMITH: If you're ready, I'll hand over to Mr Sheldon
21 and he'll take it from there.

22 Mr Sheldon.

23 Questions by MR SHELDON

24 MR SHELDON: My Lady.

25 'Dexter', I don't need your date of birth, but

1 I think you were born in 1964; is that right?

2 A. That's correct, aye.

3 Q. I'm just going to read the reference number of your
4 statement into the record. You don't need to worry
5 about it. It's just for our own purposes. 'Dexter's'
6 statement is WIT-1-000001188.

7 'Dexter', if I can just ask you to look at the last
8 page of your statement. That's the red folder in front
9 of you there.

10 Can you just confirm that you've signed the
11 statement?

12 A. Aye, I have.

13 Q. That was back in early February this year?

14 A. Aye, last year.

15 Q. You say there:

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

20 Is that correct?

21 A. That's correct, aye.

22 Q. Thank you very much.

23 Can we just go back, really, to the first page of
24 statement, if you can.

25 On the first page of your statement, you tell us

1 a little bit about your early life, and you talk about
2 your siblings and your mother and father. You say you
3 can't remember much about life before you went to
4 primary school. I'm sure we're all in that particular
5 boat as well, probably.

6 I think what you're saying, in paragraph 3 there, is
7 you had quite a difficult father, quite a difficult
8 upbringing in that respect?

9 A. Aye, he was a bastard. (indistinguishable), aye.

10 Q. Are you able to tell us about him and what happened?

11 A. He was just a tyrant. I don't know if it was down to
12 what he would just do when he was a wean, what happened
13 to him, but I don't know. But you couldn't do nothing.
14 You couldn't move, he was on top of you.

15 Q. What did he do?

16 A. He would slap you, beat you with a belt, the buckle of
17 the belt. My full back was black and blue with the
18 buckle of his belt. I was nine/ten-year old at the
19 time.

20 Q. Why was he doing that?

21 A. I wasn't an angel. I would runaway from him because I
22 wasn't happy there. I would be sniffing glue. I'd be
23 going into shops, clubs and that, with my cousin, aye.

24 Aye, he was good with his hands and his belt.

25 Q. What effect did that have on you?

1 A. I hated the sight of him. I hated being there.

2 Q. Did you want to run away?

3 A. I ran away all the time. All the time I ran away. I
4 was sleeping in old toilets and everything, on the
5 rafters, up the stairs, up the toilets in the public
6 park. The police would get me all the time, take me
7 back. I'd just run away again.

8 Q. Your father was beating you and, unsurprisingly, you
9 wanted to get away from that, so you ran away?

10 A. Aye. I ran away, aye.

11 Q. Is the volume level on 'Dexter's' microphone all right?

12 LADY SMITH: I wonder whether we need you to be a little bit
13 closer, 'Dexter'.

14 A. Can I take my top off?

15 LADY SMITH: Absolutely. Whatever makes you comfortable.

16 MR SHELDON: You told us about your father and what he was
17 doing to you. Were you getting any help? Were you able
18 to tell anyone? Did you get any support from anyone?

19 A. I didn't get support back then. There was no support.
20 There are duty of care duties. There was never a duty
21 of care then. There was no support (indistinguishable).
22 I think at that point in time everybody was in the
23 same boat, more or less. My pals were getting beat up
24 by their dad, same thing. To me, that is what they done
25 then. That is what they done. It happened everywhere.

1 It wasn't just my dad. It was the police. It was --
2 sorry, it was the police. When I went to Approved
3 School, List D school, as we called them, it happened
4 there and all.

5 LADY SMITH: When you say it was happening everywhere; are
6 you telling me what you were hearing from other children
7 of your age?

8 A. I seen -- I seen -- I used to sniff glue in the public
9 park, I saw my pals in there.

10 LADY SMITH: You used to sniff?

11 A. Glue.

12 LADY SMITH: Where?

13 A. In the public park.

14 LADY SMITH: In the park, right.

15 A. Right? And my pal, [REDACTED], his dad come down and
16 kicked him up and down the place. I mean, booted him up
17 and down the place. You are talking a ten-year old, and
18 he booted him up and down the place.

19 LADY SMITH: Ten-year old?

20 A. Aye, aye.

21 So, to me, it was the thing that happened back then.
22 If you didn't behave, you got a beating. Simple as
23 that.

24 MR SHELDON: I'm jumping a head a wee bit in your statement
25 and looking at paragraph 9, which is on page 2. You say

1 the police were often at your mother's house and they
2 were the same, and they were beating you as well?

3 A. The police didn't care back then. The police just gave
4 you a slap and a boot, like that. The police had no
5 time for you. I think it's still the same nowadays.
6 There's nothing's changed there. It's not just the
7 police, man. It's the full system back then. The full
8 system, top to bottom.

9 Q. That was certainly your experience then, that if the
10 police caught you they would --

11 A. Oh, aye.

12 Q. You say they would give you a slap or a kick; is that
13 right?

14 A. That's right, aye.

15 Q. At some point, I think you say a social worker did
16 become involved, a person called IEA [REDACTED]; did he
17 make any difference to what was happening to you?

18 A. He made me worse.

19 Q. In what way?

20 A. I wouldn't talk to him. I wouldn't speak to him. I was
21 at a point -- my age -- at that time in my life, where
22 I wouldn't open up to anybody, really. And I couldn't
23 open up to him because he was just -- he was a nasty
24 person. He wasn't a nice person.

25 Q. In what way? What did he do?

1 A. His attitude and everything. He used to slap me and
2 all. I wouldn't talk to him. I mean, never.
3 I wouldn't talk to him. I refused to talk to him.
4 LADY SMITH: Your social worker was also hitting you?
5 A. Aye.
6 LADY SMITH: Thank you.
7 MR SHELDON: You say, in paragraph 6, when you are talking
8 about your social worker, you weren't an angel, but all
9 the same, he was slapping you about.
10 A. Everybody was slapping me about. I wasn't an angel.
11 Maybe I did deserve to get put to Balgowan and
12 Thornly Park, but I didn't deserve to get beat up all
13 the time.
14 Q. You say you deserved to get put away, but you were ten
15 at the time.
16 A. Aye.
17 Q. I mean ... anyway.
18 A. I say 'maybe'. I wasn't an angel. I broke into places,
19 sniffed glue and things like that, run away. I --
20 they've got to be (indistinguishable) with you, I
21 suppose. But, there's trying to talk to you, get
22 through to you, in the head, instead of just beating you
23 up and sending you away to other places.
24 Q. They didn't try to talk to you at all?
25 A. No, nobody tried to talk to you. One person did when

1 I was in Thornly Park. They made a difference to my
2 life.

3 Q. You say -- and this is looking at paragraph 10 of your
4 statement -- that in 1976, you were about 12, you went
5 to your first Children's Panel and that's when you were
6 sent to Balgowan; can you tell us a bit about the Panel
7 and what was said, and what you saw at the Panel?

8 A. Can't remember too much of what was said. But there was
9 a big desk, long desk, there was four folk that side.
10 I'm here, my mum and my social worker were here, or vice
11 versa on this side, and there was a person sat up there.
12 He just came in and then (indistinguishable) social
13 worker (indistinguishable) said. As far as I'm
14 concerned, the nut job, the old boy, the four people
15 sitting at the other side of the table, I'd never seen
16 the four of them in my life. They didn't care about me,
17 they didn't care about what was going on in my head.
18 They can decide what -- where I've got to go.

19 LADY SMITH: 'Dexter', help me a little bit more with this
20 memory you have of the Children's Hearing.

21 You tell me on one side of the table there were four
22 people from the Panel; is that right?

23 A. That's right, aye.

24 LADY SMITH: You were on the other side of the table; and
25 this wasn't a round table?

1 A. No, no, no.

2 LADY SMITH: Was there somebody sitting with you?

3 A. Aye, I had my mam at this side and social worker at this
4 side.

5 LADY SMITH: Your mum and your social worker?

6 A. Aye.

7 LADY SMITH: Was that this man you have been talking about?

8 A. IEA, aye.

9 LADY SMITH: Thank you.

10 MR SHELDON: The person that had been also beating you up,
11 your social worker, was at the Panel; was he speaking at
12 the Panel?

13 A. He's in, but he's got to put his -- whatever you call it
14 in, his report in. So his report with me wouldn't be
15 a good report because I hadn't talked to him.

16 Q. Did anyone speak to you? Did anyone ask you what you
17 thought about all this?

18 A. No. Not that I can think of, no.

19 Q. You say that's when you got sent to Balgowan. At the
20 end of paragraph 10, page 3 of your statement now, you
21 say:
22 'It turned out that I got sent away for a year to
23 Balgowan.'

24 But you say later that you didn't realise at the
25 time that's where you were going?

1 A. I didn't ken where I was going. I didn't have a clue
2 where I was going.

3 Q. Nobody told you?

4 A. No, I just got drove up there and got there. Sure it
5 was the social worker that took me up, and I think my
6 mam was there. I got there and it's just a big
7 building. I'll never forget that big building.

8 Q. Did anyone tell you how long you were going to be there?

9 A. Not at that time, no. I found out later on, aye.

10 Q. Who told you or how did you find out later?

11 A. I was probably told by the social worker. I can't mind.

12 Q. You just said now that a social worker probably took you
13 to Balgowan and you'll never forget seeing the building.
14 We have seen photographs, so -- I think it's demolished
15 now, but we have seen the photographs, so we know what
16 you mean by this huge --

17 A. Aye, it was daunting. If you look at that building, it
18 was just scary. For a 12-year-old lad, you know, it was
19 scary.

20 Q. It doesn't look particularly welcoming, does it?

21 A. No, it doesn't. Definitely not.

22 Q. You talk about the staffing at Balgowan and that most of
23 the dealings you had were with a guy called **HPK**.
24 You thought he was the main person at Balgowan. Did you
25 have any understanding or did anyone tell you what his

1 position was, what his job was at Balgowan?

2 A. This has always went through my head. Position, knew
3 it. Say they see me at Balgowan and Thornly Park,
4 I don't know what their qualifications were. I didn't
5 ken what qualifications you had to have to be there, to
6 look after unruly children at that age.

7 The rumour was, back then, that he used to be
8 a screw in Peterhead Prison. Don't know if that's true
9 or not. But how can he come from there to there and
10 treat us the way he did? And instead he -- try to sit
11 down and talk to people, and get in their heads and try
12 and get them to come out and be more talkative, more --
13 get on side with them, get to the bottom of what's wrong
14 with them instead of just abusing them, mentally and
15 physically.

16 Q. Yes.

17 We'll come back to Mr **HPK**, because you talk more
18 about him later in your statement. I will ask you more
19 about him later on.

20 I think you say you can't really remember many of
21 the other staff names. There was one called **HPM**
22 that you remember?

23 A. **HPM**, aye.

24 Q. Do you remember any other staff names from that time?

25 A. No, not really, no. **LAQ**, **LAQ**. We called him

1 LAQ because he had a crooked nose, but I don't --
2 can't remember his name.

3 Q. We'll come back to LAQ later as well.

4 You say, paragraph 15, Balgowan was a big place;
5 what was your best estimate of the number of boys that
6 were there?

7 A. I don't know. 50/70. I mean, the dorm I was in, it was
8 like four sections. Four in each section, so 16 in that
9 dorm alone. So quite a few. A lot of boys. I couldn't
10 tell you exactly. But 50/70, if not more.

11 Q. I should have asked you this earlier: I think we have
12 heard that at Balgowan there was the main building, the
13 big, imposing building that you've described and there
14 is also an annex, or a cottage, it might have been
15 called, but were you in the main building then?

16 A. I was in the main building, aye, aye.

17 Q. In a dormitory of 15 or 16 boys?

18 A. 16, aye.

19 Q. What were the dormitories like? Were there any
20 partitions? Was there any privacy?

21 A. Aye, there was partitions. You walked up and you had
22 your dorm there, that was your bedding. Four in that
23 bit. It was open there, but it was shut. I was
24 (indistinguishable) open for getting in. Same further
25 up and the same at the top.

1 Q. Just thinking about the dormitories; were the boys in
2 your dormitory all about the same age or were they
3 different?

4 A. All different ages. Different ages, aye.

5 Q. You said you were about 12 at this time?

6 A. I was 12 when I went there, aye. There's boys there at
7 13, 14, 15.

8 Q. Right, so much bigger boys than you?

9 A. Oh, aye.

10 Q. They were in your dormitory?

11 A. Aye.

12 Q. Still thinking about that, you go on to talk about your
13 first day at Balgowan. This is paragraph 17. It sounds
14 as though you had a pretty rough welcome to Balgowan?

15 A. First night I was there I got beat up. I was in my bed
16 and they attacked me. That was my welcome to Balgowan.

17 Q. This was other boys?

18 A. Other boys in the dormitory, aye.

19 Q. Were they boys from your dormitory or from other parts
20 of the building?

21 A. I didn't ken. I don't know. I was 12-year-old at that
22 time. That was really frightening.

23 Q. I think we can certainly appreciate that. That's your
24 welcome to Balgowan. You say that you can't remember
25 anything else about your first day, other than being

1 petrified.

2 You go on to talk about the routine at Balgowan, and
3 mornings and bed times, and bed wetting and so on.

4 Can you just tell us in your own words what it was
5 like day-to-day at Balgowan? What was the routine like?

6 A. Routine was like a regime. It was like a regime. Yes,
7 sir; no, sir. You stepped out of line, you got slapped.
8 Simple as that.

9 I was quite mouthy when I was younger. Matter of
10 fact, still am now, but not as bad as then. I spoke my
11 mind. So I would chat back, aye.

12 You'd get slapped, punched. You got hit with
13 a belt.

14 Q. Was that just by one member of staff?

15 A. Yeah, HPK, aye. HPK. And LAQ, he hit
16 me with a cane.

17 Q. I'll come back to LAQ. But just to ask you a bit
18 more about that. You say that -- you say in your
19 statement quite clearly that HPK was maybe the
20 worst of the people --

21 A. He was the main protagonist, aye.

22 Q. Were there others who beat you as well, other members of
23 staff who gave you a slap and so on?

24 A. The odd time you'd get a slap and a punch, but not the
25 severity of what he would do to you.

1 Q. When HPK [REDACTED] was beating you; would he just give you
2 a single slap or single punch, or was it more than that?
3 A. He'd give you a single slap or single punch, but when he
4 gave you the belt, he gave it several times, aye.
5 Q. Tell us about that.
6 A. He used to call me Squeak. That's what he called me,
7 Squeak. Because every time they fucking beat me I
8 squealed like a pig. That's why he called me Squeak.
9 Q. He called you Squeak?
10 LADY SMITH: Was that upsetting?
11 A. It is aye.
12 LADY SMITH: Thinking back to then, when you say you were
13 about 12 years old; can you tell me a bit more about why
14 it was upsetting to be called Squeak?
15 A. It wasn't upsetting to be called Squeak. It was
16 upsetting that he was beating me up. The reason he
17 called me Squeak was because I used to squeal when they
18 beat me up.
19 LADY SMITH: That was all part of the beating experience?
20 A. Aye, and the mind games, and the mental torture and
21 whatnot.
22 LADY SMITH: Thank you.
23 MR SHELDON: We'll maybe come back to some of that in
24 a minute, 'Dexter'. I just want to ask you a couple of
25 things that arise from page 6 of your statement, just to

1 get some idea from you about schooling at Balgowan.

2 You talk about that at page 6, paragraph 25, at the
3 top there. You remember there was a classroom, and
4 I think you were saying there were some classes, but
5 what were the classes like?

6 A. They weren't up to much, as far as I'm concerned. I
7 haven't got an education. All my life I never had an
8 education. Not just at Balgowan or Thornly Park, but
9 Falkirk High School and all. Never had an education.
10 At Falkirk High School I was miles behind, and they were
11 not interested in me.

12 The education was shocking. I can remember the
13 classroom at the side of the building in there. We got
14 a spelling test. I come top of the class at spelling.
15 I couldn't spell. I wasn't a good speller, so what does
16 that say about everybody else that was there?

17 Q. You say at the end of paragraph 26, when you came out
18 of -- was it when you came out of Balgowan or when you
19 came out of Thornly Park that you were way behind when
20 you went back to Falkirk High?

21 A. Aye.

22 Q. Was that after Thornly Park?

23 A. That was after -- Balgowan, when I was -- went to
24 Balgowan I was at Falkirk High School at the time. When
25 I come back from Balgowan I went to Falkirk High because

1 my mum had moved from Camelon up to Tamfourhill
2 Falkirk High. I went there. I was only there a year
3 and went away again. I didn't have a clue what I was
4 doing there. My education was nothing, nothing at all.
5 They didn't want me at the school. They didn't want
6 me at Falkirk High School.

7 Q. Did you have any knowledge of why that was?

8 A. Because I'd been in Balgowan, List D school. Then, when
9 I went away again and went to Thornly Park, to avoid
10 Falkirk High School for (indistinguishable) in the back
11 one teacher (indistinguishable). Then when I did go
12 back, I was there three month. And --

13 Q. Take your time, 'Dexter'. It's fine.

14 A. The Rector called me into his office and says to me
15 'you're not taking exams, are you?'. I said 'no'. He
16 said, 'you leave the school at eight o'clock', and told
17 me 'don't come back'.

18 That was my education. They weren't interested in
19 me at all because of my reputation because of being in
20 List D schools.

21 Q. The other thing, just briefly, paragraph 27, you say
22 that there were some activities at Balgowan and you say
23 you liked running, so you did a lot of that?

24 A. I did, aye, and played football, aye.

25 Q. Was this cross-country running or running on a track?

1 A. Running on the track. I didn't mind that when I was
2 younger, too. But the reason I could run was because I
3 run from the police quite a lot.

4 Q. The other thing I want to ask you about, on page 6, is
5 something that you say -- it's under a heading of
6 'Healthcare'. You say, at paragraph 28, that you
7 remember being locked in a room for a week by the guy,
8 **HPM**, that you have described earlier on and you were
9 only allowed out for the toilet:
10 'I got my food brought to me.'

11 You didn't know if you were there because you were
12 ill or if there was something wrong with you or not; do
13 you remember feeling ill at that time? Do remember
14 being ill?

15 A. No, I never ever felt ill at all. I still, to this day,
16 didn't ken the reason why I was locked up in that room.
17 I was not feeling ill or anything like that. I just
18 haven't got a clue why I was locked up in that room.

19 Q. Was anyone else in the room with you? What sort of room
20 was it, first of all? Big? Small?

21 A. It was a small room. They put a bed in it. It was
22 maybe -- I don't know, from that door up to there. It
23 wasn't a big room at all.

24 Q. Did it have a window?

25 A. Not that I can think of, no.

1 Q. You were allowed out for the toilet --

2 A. Nothing else for a week. So, in my head, I think there
3 was something wrong with me. I hoped there was
4 something wrong with me because that's what I'm putting
5 it down to, being locked in that room.

6 LADY SMITH: When you say, 'Dexter', you think there was
7 something wrong with you; are you saying you think you
8 must have been ill in some way?

9 A. That's what I'm thinking, Lady Smith, to myself.
10 Whether it's true or not, I don't know. I just believed
11 that, as in myself, that's the reason.

12 LADY SMITH: I suppose if you had an infection of some sort
13 they might want to keep you away from other children.

14 A. That's what I've been thinking, but I didn't ken.
15 I don't know. I could never think of being ill.

16 MR SHELTON: Did anyone tell you anything about being ill?

17 A. Nobody tell me nothing. To this day, I don't ken.
18 I haven't got a clue.

19 Q. You say, at paragraph 33, that birthdays weren't
20 acknowledged at Balgowan and that you probably stayed
21 there at Christmas, but you can't remember getting
22 a present; were birthdays and Christmas just ignored
23 effectively?

24 A. Aye, more or less. I mean, you could say the same about
25 your own house and all.

1 Q. Did people go home for Christmas or anything like that?

2 A. Aye, probably would be. People would be home for

3 Christmas, but that all depends. If you weren't home at

4 Christmas, you probably done something wrong.

5 Q. Did you get any visits when you were at Balgowan?

6 A. Nothing at all.

7 Q. Whether it's family or social worker, or anyone?

8 A. None whatsoever. That was the same at Thornly Park,

9 too.

10 Q. You explain that for obvious reasons you didn't want to

11 go back to your dad's house.

12 A. No. You go back then, and it was like a rock and a hard

13 place. You were in Balgowan and getting beat up, and

14 you got home and getting beat up, so where do you go?

15 Q. I just wanted to ask you about paragraph 31 on the same

16 page as that. This is page 7. You talk about a trip to

17 Montrose Baths and meeting your cousin there; can you

18 tell us a bit about that?

19 A. Aye. Well, that was my cousin, he was at Oakbank. We

20 went up there swimming, and we were walking and he

21 was -- they were going out. And me and [REDACTED] were

22 cousins, but like brothers.

23 Q. You were close to him?

24 A. Aye, we were like brothers. And neither of us ever

25 spoke about it to each other. My cousin hung himself

1 about a year ago. I don't know if it's got anything to
2 do with it.

3 Q. You never managed to -- felt able to speak about it?

4 A. No, not till today, and we were very close. I've never
5 spoke to anyone until the Inquiry and I've never spoken
6 to anybody. I only spoke to the Inquiry about this and
7 nobody else.

8 Q. Page 8, you say you never had any Children's Panel
9 hearings while you were there and that no one -- you
10 have told us this before, that nobody had told you
11 anything about how long you were going to be there or
12 what the likelihood of getting out was; is that right?

13 A. That's right, aye.

14 Q. Do you remember any inspectors or social work visits,
15 anything like that?

16 A. Nothing like that. None at all.

17 Q. At the foot of the page -- and I think you have told us
18 about this already -- paragraph 40, you had to call the
19 staff 'sir', and if you didn't you got slapped:

20 'They had no qualms about hitting you. Other than
21 being slapped or hit, the other form of discipline would
22 be to stop you going home for the weekend.'

23 You have talked about HPK using a belt on
24 you; is that right?

25 A. That's right.

1 Q. Did anyone else use a belt on you?

2 A. No, not at Balgowan. No.

3 Q. I'll come on to ask about LAQ in a minute and you
4 tell us he used a cane, but I'll ask you about that in
5 a minute or two.

6 To look at page 9 of your statement and
7 paragraph 41, you have told us about that incident
8 already, the first night at Balgowan, where you got
9 beaten up. You say that you were in your bed and the
10 covers got put up over your head?

11 A. Aye.

12 Q. Perhaps you can tell us how that happened.

13 A. Well, you would be lying in your bed, they'd put the
14 covers over the top, so you couldn't see who it was.

15 Q. Someone pulled the covers up?

16 A. Aye, and punching and kneeing you and getting you like
17 that, and then they all bugged off.

18 Q. Why do you think they pulled the covers up like that?

19 A. Maybe so you didn't get so much bruising. I don't know.

20 Q. Perhaps so you wouldn't be able to see who it was?

21 A. It would be that and all, aye. Definitely, aye. But
22 when (indistinguishable) I wasn't going to say anything
23 to anybody because you'd just get it again.

24 Q. At paragraph 42, you say:

25 'That happened once more, but that was down to the

1 people that ran the place because I had run away.'

2 A. Aye.

3 Q. Tell us about that, please?

4 A. There were five of us that ran away. Got on a train.

5 They caught us in Perth, taken us back. Taken to the

6 head office, one at a time. Got slapped there.

7 I thought that was the end of it. I said: that's not

8 too bad.

9 That night I got beat up again with the other boys

10 in the unit. They were put up to it. As far as I am

11 concerned, they were put up to it by the hierarchy.

12 Q. What makes you think that?

13 A. Because we had run away.

14 Q. Did it seem like a bit of a coincidence you got beaten

15 up again that night?

16 A. Aye. Why would they come and beat me up? They beat me

17 up the first day I was there, but this is how they left

18 it. Why did they come up and beat me? I'm just putting

19 the two and two together. I may be wrong, but I don't

20 think so, no.

21 Q. You have already told us a lot about the rest of the

22 things that you say on this page. So, unless there is

23 anything you want to add to that, I'm going to move on

24 to ask you about LAQ .

25 This is page 10.

1 You say, at paragraph 53, there was a gym teacher
2 who was bad as well.

3 Can you tell us what LAQ [REDACTED] did to you?

4 A. He locked me in the cupboard. He never just did it
5 once. Because it would happen (indistinguishable) could
6 be longer. Then he would hit me with a cane.

7 Q. Can you describe the cane?

8 A. A long, thin cane.

9 Q. What sort of thickness was it?

10 A. It was quite thin.

11 Q. What did he do with it?

12 A. He hit me with it.

13 Q. Where did he hit you?

14 A. On my bum.

15 Q. Anywhere else?

16 A. Not really, no, because I can't remember if I wore
17 shorts or trousers, but you never got it bare. You
18 never had it on your bare skin, never ever.

19 Q. It was always when you had clothes on?

20 A. Aye.

21 Q. You say at paragraph 54, this is page 11, that you were
22 putting your hands up to try to defend yourself; do you
23 remember that?

24 A. Aye. I would (indistinguishable) for everything when he
25 was hitting me. It didn't bother me. I was squealing,

1 but I was still calling him all the bastards of the day,
2 simple as that.

3 Q. You say in paragraph 54:
4 'He could batter me and batter me, but I wouldn't
5 give in to him.'

6 Do you mean he did batter you and batter you?

7 A. Aye, he used to beat me up all the time.

8 Q. This was still --

9 A. I'm quite a stubborn person. You can hit me and hit me
10 and hit me. I'll take it. I'll greet and I'll squeal,
11 but ...

12 Q. Did you ever see him do that to anyone else?

13 A. You never seen him doing it to anybody because he got
14 you in your cell.

15 Q. He got you on your own before he did that?

16 A. Aye.

17 Q. Do you need a minute, 'Dexter'?

18 A. (Pause)
19 I'm fine. On you go.

20 Q. Take your time.

21 LADY SMITH: Don't feel you're under any pressure, 'Dexter'.
22 You tell us whatever you want to tell us in your own
23 time. If you want a break, just tell me.

24 A. You just feel like you could have done something, but
25 you can't. You're a 12-year-old laddie.

1 LADY SMITH: You were only 12, 'Dexter'.

2 A. But why did he do that to me? I haven't done nothing to
3 anybody; right?

4 LADY SMITH: Yes. I can't answer that.

5 A. I had a boy. When I was in Thornly Park. Malcolm, his
6 name was. He used to be in the special unit at
7 Barlinnie. He was a six-month transfer from there to
8 Thornly Park. A busman's holiday kind of thing. Then
9 this guy looked after Jimmy Boyle. Not many people in
10 here will ken what Jimmy Boyle was back then. He was
11 a hard man, Glasgow. Absolute nutter.

12 Now, I can understand why Jimmy Boyle went and done
13 all his (indistinguishable) out there, because that
14 Malcolm -- I'll never forget this man. He used to sit
15 and talk to me, build my confidence. Gave me a
16 entertainment holiday, the lot. This is a guy that's
17 one of the hardened criminals and he had time for me.
18 Whereas these boys in there, when I'm a 12-year-old lad,
19 they're beating us about the place. How can they not be
20 the way that Malcolm is with me?

21 I could have been a better person back then.
22 I could have -- I could have done a lot more if I'd been
23 treated better, but I wasn't.

24 LADY SMITH: You are telling me you could see that it was
25 possible for an adult responsible for you to treat you

1 differently, even when you were being difficult?

2 A. Aye.

3 LADY SMITH: Thank you.

4 Mr Sheldon.

5 MR SHELDON: My Lady.

6 'Dexter', you say in paragraph 55, just about the

7 middle of that paragraph:

8 'They wouldn't have done that to me if I was 18.'

9 Really they were picking on you because you couldn't

10 fight back?

11 A. Because you couldn't -- aye. I was 12-year-old. I was

12 that size. They were grown men. Grown men.

13 Q. You say at paragraph 57:

14 'They were just bullies.'

15 Is that how you feel?

16 A. That's how I feel about the full system back then. They

17 just bullied right down.

18 Q. You say:

19 'It was the same with the boys in there that beat me

20 up, they were older and bigger than me and I was quite

21 wee for my age. It was physical and verbal bullying

22 from them as well.'

23 A. Aye. I mean, you fought back, but you didn't win. You

24 only fought back because then that way, if you fought

25 back, they wouldn't come back near you again for

1 a while.

2 Q. You say, at the foot of page 11:

3 'Six of us ran away.'

4 You were with a pal --

5 A. [REDACTED]

6 Q. -- you got to Perth:

7 'But the police got us and took us back.

8 [REDACTED] HPL, who was one of the head guys, took us into

9 the office one by one and gave us a couple of slaps.'

10 Was that slaps with an open hand?

11 A. Aye, slaps with an open hand.

12 Q. Whereabouts did he slap you?

13 A. In the face. But when I come out after that, out of his

14 office, I was like -- I was happy, because I'm like:

15 I've only got two slaps here.

16 Q. You thought you'd got away lightly?

17 A. Aye, until that night, when they all come in and beat us

18 up.

19 Q. Page 12, you talk a bit about reporting abuse and you

20 say you knew back then:

21 'Nothing would have been done if I'd tried to report

22 it.'

23 Is that still how you feel?

24 A. I met him one day and I was all bruised. I showed my

25 mum and dad: whatever happened to you?

1 That was the situation. 'You must have deserved
2 it.'

3 So that's the scenario --

4 Q. That's what your mum and dad said to you?

5 A. Aye. So that's the scenario you would get from anybody.
6 If I had reported that to the police, the police would
7 look at me and go: you having a laugh?

8 The police had no time for me because I got into
9 trouble and all the rest of it. They wouldn't believe
10 me. Oh, the police are just as bad as the rest of them
11 anyway, as far as I was concerned.

12 Q. How about your social worker; would you have felt able
13 to say --

14 A. IEA ? IEA , I never spoke to him. I wouldn't give him
15 the time of day.

16 Bill Driscoll, he was a different social worker. I
17 got him --

18 Q. This is a social worker you had later?

19 A. Later, aye.

20 Q. I'll ask you about Bill Driscoll in a minute or two.

21 You say later on you can't remember leaving
22 Balgowan.

23 You've told us already that by the time you got back
24 from Balgowan your family had moved to a different part
25 of Falkirk. Although you had been at Camelon High, you

1 then had to go to Falkirk High; is that right?

2 A. Aye.

3 Q. You said there that -- you have already told us -- they

4 viewed you as a troublemaker, so didn't bother with you.

5 A. They didn't bother with me. They suspended me for

6 (indistinguishable) for a month, two-month, whatever it

7 was. I can't mind. They said (indistinguishable).

8 I wasn't even at the school that day. I wasn't there at

9 the school that day.

10 Q. So you got blamed for something you hadn't done?

11 A. I never done, aye.

12 Q. You go on to talk about your new social worker,

13 Bill Driscoll; can you tell us about him, please?

14 A. He was a nice fella. He had more time for you. He

15 spoke to you. Always sound. He was my social worker

16 when I got put away to Thornly Park. Aye, Bill would

17 sit and talk to you and treat you like a person, a human

18 being.

19 And I could only speak to him and Malcolm, the

20 special unit, the two people that did take time to talk

21 to you and treat you like a person, a human being.

22 The rest of them just didn't give a damn.

23 Q. Were you able to tell Bill Driscoll anything about what

24 had happened to you in your family or at Balgowan?

25 A. No. I never says nothing to Bill Driscoll what happened

1 there. I never says nothing to anybody what happened
2 there. It's not something I speak about. If you tell
3 anybody, nothing would have been done about it. Nothing
4 would have got done about it.

5 Q. Shortly after this, you were sent to Thornly Park
6 School; do you recall how that came about?

7 A. Well, I was still pugging(?) school. I was still
8 pugging school when I come out of Thornly -- Balgowan
9 and went to Falkirk High, because Falkirk High didn't
10 interest me.

11 I wasn't sniffing glue. I stopped sniffing glue
12 then. I did break into the Barr's Factory with somebody
13 else, so I think that's the reason why.

14 Q. Do you remember anything about the -- you think there
15 was a Children's Panel before you went to Thornly Park?

16 A. Oh, aye, I had to be at the Children's Panel before I
17 went to Thornly Park. They sent me to Thornly Park.

18 Q. Do you remember anything about that Panel?

19 A. No, not really, no. At that time, when I went to go to
20 the Children's Panel, I accepted that I was going away
21 again because of my previous and whatnot.

22 Q. Did you feel that's what you deserved?

23 A. No. I mean, I didn't see I deserved going to Balgowan.
24 But you say you deserved going to Balgowan, but you
25 didn't because people dealt with people different then,

1 especially young people that were going to the Board and
2 that. Talk to them, try to get through to them, make
3 sense. I don't know. I just feel, back then, there was
4 no -- there was none of that. It was just: get them out
5 the way. Get them out the way.

6 Simple as that.

7 Q. You tell us a bit about Thornly Park; how did
8 Thornly Park compare to Balgowan?

9 A. Thornly Park was night and day compared to Balgowan.

10 I started smoking at Thornly Park. You were allowed
11 to smoke there. You were allowed to swear then. Ended
12 up sniffing glue there. Thornly Park was like -- it was
13 totally different. There was no 'sir' and that. We
14 called them by their names.

15 More or less it was like an open List D school kind
16 of thing.

17 Q. How did it compare in size? Was it --

18 A. Oh no, it was tiny in size. There was maybe only about
19 20 boys altogether that was there. 20, if you were
20 lucky.

21 Q. You say that the guy SNR [REDACTED] at Thornly Park was a man
22 called GNG [REDACTED] ?

23 A. Aye.

24 Q. What was GNG [REDACTED] like?

25 A. You never really see much of him. Didn't really bother

1 you, but if you -- well, twice I got on his wrong side
2 for sniffing glue, then doing what I done to the other
3 boy. So I got a beating from him, aye.

4 Q. I might come back to that in a minute. You describe
5 GNG [REDACTED] at page 14, and you say that there was
6 another member of staff, a guy called IDB [REDACTED]. This is
7 page 15, paragraph 78, and you say that IDB [REDACTED] used to pick
8 on you?

9 A. Aye.

10 Q. What did he used to do?

11 A. Just used to verbally abuse you, call you a clown,
12 idiot, and everything. All that carry on.

13 Q. Did he abuse physically or verbally?

14 A. Verbal.

15 Q. What sort of stuff did he call you?

16 A. Being a wee dick, wanker, useless.

17 Aye, it would hurt. It would hurt mentally.

18 Q. Was he a teacher?

19 A. No, he wasn't a teacher. He was just like a ... I don't
20 know.

21 That's what I tried to fathom all along between
22 Balgowan and Thornly Park. What were these people's
23 qualifications there? How were they in that position to
24 be doing that? Because, to me, they never had a clue.

25 Q. You say that some of the staff at Thornly Park were

1 nice. This is paragraph 79. You talk about a teacher
2 who you quite liked and a social worker that I think you
3 thought was okay; were they good to you or at least
4 better to you?

5 A. They were good to me. They were better to me than they
6 were at Balgowan.

7 I mean, we went to Germany with Thornly Park for
8 four days, or whatever it was. I had some good times in
9 Thornly Park School. I'm not going to deny that. I did
10 have some good times in Thornly Park, oh aye.

11 Q. What do you remember as being good times?

12 A. We went to Germany. Stayed there.

13 Q. Do you remember what part of Germany?

14 A. Cologne. I can mind the cigarette machines in the
15 street. One was broken and we took all the fags out of
16 it. That is where I had my first pint and all. I was
17 steaming after that. They come across and there was
18 like a youth club further down. They come to us, first,
19 then we went to them and I stayed at one of the lassie's
20 mum and dad's.

21 Q. An exchange programme?

22 A. Aye, kind of like that. It was all right, aye. I liked
23 that.

24 Then I liked going away on holiday with Malcolm,
25 when he come from the special unit. He had a big

1 influence on my life back then. Because I left not long
2 after that, Thornly Park. Malcolm, the guy is dead now,
3 but. He spent a lot of time with me, and he spoke to
4 me, gave me a lot of confidence.

5 Q. This was a member of staff at Thornly Park?

6 A. No, this was a member of staff at the special unit in
7 Barlinnie. He was at Thornly Park only four months or
8 six months, a busman's holiday to see -- and this is
9 what I didn't understand. If he could talk to me and
10 treat me the way he did --

11 LADY SMITH: So this was the member of staff from the
12 special unit at Barlinnie you were talking about
13 earlier, who was spending six months at Thornly Park?

14 A. Aye.

15 LADY SMITH: Do I have that right?

16 A. Aye.

17 LADY SMITH: Thank you.

18 MR SHELDON: Thank you, my Lady.

19 You do talk a little more about GNG. This is
20 paragraph 82 in your statement. You say that the only
21 issue you had with Thornly Park was actually being
22 there. You say GNG was like a hippy:

23 'The place reminded me of how a hippy commune was
24 run.'

25 Can you tell us what you mean by that?

1 A. It was just laid back, you just smoked and swore and did
2 what you want, kind of thing, to a certain extent.
3 GNG, I hardly seen him. He was
4
5
6 Q.
7 A. Aye, he was on that. I couldn't believe it when I seen
8 him on it.
9 Q. You think Thornly Park was just much freer than
10 Balgowan?
11 A. A hell of a lot freer, aye.
12 Q. Although you say that GNG was like a hippy, you
13 told us before that he did beat you at least once; is
14 that right?
15 A. He beat me twice, aye.
16 Q. What was that about?
17 A. I had been sniffing glue.
18 Q. Okay.
19 A. Then the other time was -- there was another inmate,
20, his name was. He was always trying to come on
21 to me, always trying to touch me up. I complained about
22 it all the time, and they just thought it was funny.
23 I didn't think it was funny. I didn't think it was
24 funny at all. Then, one day, he done it and I hit him
25 over the head with a brush.

1 Q. What was the beating like?

2 A. It was a belt.

3 Q. On the backside? On the hand?

4 A. On the backside.

5 Q. Did you have your trousers on then?

6 A. Trousers on, aye.

7 Q. Do you remember how many strokes there were?

8 A. There were five, anyway.

9 Q. On page 17, paragraph 93, you talk about Malcolm there.

10 You say, when he took a shine to you, that was the best

11 time you had at a List D school?

12 A. It was, aye.

13 Q. 'He took an interest in me and treated me like a human

14 being.'

15 A. Aye. He took me on a wee trip with his son to the

16 Cairngorms, up the Cairngorms. Now, he done this every

17 year with his lad.

18 The first night we were there, put the tents up. We

19 couldn't camp in the bothy because somebody had shut it.

20 So we camped beside it. It was a wild night, it was.

21 It almost blew the tents away. He wanted to come back.

22 I refused to go back. He said, 'We're finished now'.

23 Q. You wanted to stick it out?

24 A. I wanted to stick it out for one reason, because if

25 I went back to Thornly Park and not done it, I would

1 just have got mentally slaughtered. So we did finish
2 it. Aye, we did finish it.

3 But that man -- I think about that man all the time
4 because I think he was a big influence on me. For the
5 short period of time he was in my life he was a big
6 influence because he was the only person that really
7 treated me right.

8 By that time, I'm 14-and-a-half.

9 Q. You talked about GNG [REDACTED] belting you because, on one
10 occasion, you had been sniffing glue; did you get any
11 support about that? Did anyone give you any help to
12 stop doing that?

13 A. None at all. None at all. I was sniffing glue from
14 when I was eight or nine-year-old. I was
15 (indistinguishable) to sniff glue. Nobody gave me any
16 support there. Nobody could do nothing there. It was
17 just him (indistinguishable), back to school, you'll run
18 away and do the same.

19 That's all it was. Nobody gave you anything. There
20 was no kind of support at all back then.

21 Q. Can you remember any social workers coming to see you at
22 Thornly Park or any inspections, or anything like that?

23 A. No.

24 Q. What about Bill Driscoll; did he come and visit?

25 A. Bill Driscoll took me up there with my dad. Actually,

1 John Glen, who is one of -- my dad was in the navy with
2 him. That was the only time Bill Driscoll was up there,
3 was when he was taking me up there.

4 Q. You mention Jonny Glen, at paragraph 86 in your
5 statement. You said he was a nice fella?

6 A. Aye, Jonny Glen was a nice -- good fella.

7 Q. At paragraph 19, you talk about abuse at Thornly Park.
8 You have told us quite a bit about that, 'Dexter'. You
9 say you still got beatings from the staff, but nothing
10 on the level of Balgowan?

11 A. No, no. Definitely not.

12 Q. When you say 'beatings'; what do you mean by that?

13 A. The only two beatings I got at Thornly Park was from
14 **GNG** with the belt. That was it.

15 Q. None of the other staff were slapping you about like at
16 Balgowan?

17 A. No, the other staff was fine.

18 Q. You mentioned this individual, **IDB** who gave you the
19 verbals a bit?

20 A. He just mentally abused you, aye.

21 Q. Page 20, paragraph 111. That is where you talk about
22 this boy who was always try to touch you up. You say
23 you reported that; did anything happen once you reported
24 it?

25 A. No, they just thought it was funny. I told them all the

1 time. I'd be sitting on the minibus and he would jump
2 across and put a jacket over me and try to touch me up.
3 I would say it to the staff that was there. It went on
4 all the time. The only thing that stopped it is when
5 I hit him with the brush.

6 Q. You say you reported it to a staff member called Steph,
7 and they didn't do anything about it at all; is that
8 right?

9 A. No, they just thought it was funny.

10 Q. You say that was a big deal to you?

11 A. Aye. It was, aye.

12 Q. How did you feel about it?

13 A. I felt absolutely disgusted, terrible, because this
14 boy's -- he's a year older than me and he's tried to
15 force himself on me. And not just sitting yourself,
16 other people would be there. You would say, 'Get away.
17 Leave me alone', and that and you'd report it to them,
18 and nothing done. He's still doing it.

19 Q. You say, at paragraph 114, that the only person that
20 beat you was GNG and that was belting.

21 Over the page, page 21, you talk again about IDB .
22 Again, I think you talk about reporting and you say you
23 didn't feel there was any point in reporting anything.

24 A. Nothing would ever get done. I mean, that IDB --
25 was a year older than me, he was my half-in. That's what

1 we called them, half-ins, any word we have -- He set
2 about -- the two of them ended up fighting. It got
3 broken up. After that day, that IDB was totally
4 different towards me. Changed completely. He was
5 nicey-nicey.

6 [REDACTED], for his age, he would be 15, he was a big,
7 well-built laddie and could handle himself.

8 Q. He gave you some protection, I suppose, from IDB ?

9 A. Aye. I think he just looked at him and thought:
10 enough's enough.

11 Q. He could see that it was unacceptable as well?

12 A. Aye.

13 Q. You talk about leaving Thornly Park, and saying there
14 really was no preparation for leaving and going back out
15 into the world; is that right?

16 A. You just left and went back to your mam's, dad's, and
17 then started Falkirk High School. There was nothing.

18 Q. Still nothing from Bill Driscoll?

19 A. No. After that -- I can't mind even seeing
20 Bill Driscoll after Thornly Park School.

21 Q. You say the day you left you got the train home, went
22 back to your parents' and that was just the same?

23 A. Nothing changed. Nothing changed.

24 Q. You went back to Falkirk High, and you have told us
25 already that they weren't interested in you at that

1 stage, or didn't seem to be?

2 A. I had a reputation then because I'd been in two List D
3 schools. I never had any education, so I never -- when
4 I went back to Falkirk High the second time, I never had
5 any (indistinguishable) about. I couldn't keep up with
6 their work. I never had a clue. They weren't
7 interested. They really weren't interested in me.

8 Q. It came to the point -- you tell us about this at
9 page 22 in your statement -- that really it was made
10 clear to that you weren't welcome and you just walked
11 out; is that right?

12 A. Well, I was in one of the classes one day -- I think it
13 was history, I'm not sure -- there were a few of us who
14 were lined up at the thingmy-board, and I started
15 laughing for some reason. The teacher walked up and
16 slapped me right in the face. I told them to fuck off,
17 walked out the school and walked up the road. Went back
18 to school the next day for assembly and there was
19 nothing said about it. Not a thing was said about it,
20 because she was in the wrong. She shouldn't have
21 slapped me in the face.

22 Then not long after that (indistinguishable) take me
23 in his office and asked me if I wasn't taking exams,
24 just to -- not to come back to school. Which didn't
25 bother me because I wasn't learning nothing at school

1 anyway.

2 Q. At that point, you didn't go back to stay with your mum
3 or dad, but stayed with a couple of other guys who were
4 close by?

5 A. Aye, two pals mind, just round the corner. As soon as I
6 hit 16 I walked out my mother's house. I never looked
7 back.

8 Q. You had a job for a while and then you were in York?

9 A. That's right. The job at ██████████ Foundry.

10 Q. You say that the best thing that happened to you was
11 getting married, and that's when you were 21?

12 A. 21, aye. Aye, I got married when I was 21.

13 Q. Can you tell us about that?

14 A. Aye. She was the love of my life. She died, 2010. My
15 oldest daughter, who is 37, that was her mam. Really
16 nice woman. Great woman. She had four weans when I met
17 her. Married her. I had a good -- I say good, the
18 marriage was all right, but I did do a bit of drinking.
19 So that's what caused the breakdown of the marriage.

20 To this day I regret it, because the other
21 relationships I've had, she was the most important to
22 me. But, aye, when I come out of my marriage I was
23 about 28, so I was a lot more older and sensible.

24 Q. You say that you don't drink or smoke now?

25 A. I stopped drinking 15-year ago. I stopped smoking

1 three-year ago. I vape, but I stopped smoking
2 three-year ago. Stopping drinking is the best thing
3 I done in my life, definitely by far.

4 Q. It takes a great deal of strength to do that.

5 A. Aye. There's been a few times -- I did have a drink
6 there last June, my nephew's funeral, just one half,
7 a toast to him. That was it. Then I had to leave
8 because I felt like -- so I said, no, I need to go.

9 Q. Good for you.

10 A. But no. Aye, I've stopped drinking like that, and
11 I've saved a lot of money and I've had a better life, so
12 to speak, and I feel a lot healthier.

13 Q. You say that you haven't reported what happened to you
14 and, really, the Inquiry is the first people that you
15 have spoken to about this?

16 A. Aye.

17 Q. Is that right?

18 What do you think the impact's been on you, as
19 a person? You have talked about that a little bit
20 already, but I just want to ask you that directly.

21 How do you think it's affected you?

22 A. I always have demons in my head. I've got to try and
23 bury them. When it comes into my head, I've got to try
24 to -- I try to go to happy places, because if I don't go
25 to happy places, it would just fester and fester and

1 fester, and I'll get angrier and more depressed and
2 whatnot. So I try my best to wipe it out.

3 But, in the last couple of years, for the Inquiry
4 and whatnot, it has all been going on. It's been there
5 quite a lot.

6 The rest of the time you just blank it altogether.
7 But there are times if you're watching the telly and
8 something comes up on the telly, it brings back in your
9 head. And somebody might say something and it comes
10 back in your head.

11 Personally, I just try to get it out my head as
12 quickly as possible because I don't want to be in that
13 place.

14 Q. You have talked a bit about how it's affected your
15 education; do you think it affected your relationships,
16 too?

17 A. Subconsciously, probably, aye. Every chance it has.
18 I couldn't say 100 per cent, but probably aye.

19 Q. Page 25 -- if you don't want to talk about this, that's
20 completely fine.

21 But you say, at paragraph 140, you have suffered
22 with depression for years; do you think that's getting
23 better? Are you getting any help or support with that?

24 A. I went for counselling once. I went three times. When
25 I was at my counselling it broke my heart and

1 everything, but it didn't help me because when I come
2 home it was still there in my head.

3 So (indistinguishable) I try to deal with it myself
4 and get through it. The last, maybe five years, maybe
5 have been the best years of my life.

6 Apart from the last six months. We'll not go into
7 that, that's a different situation. But I'm through
8 that now.

9 Aye, maybe the last four or five years have been the
10 happiest in my life that I've been for a long time.

11 Q. Do you know why that is?

12 A. I think it's because I'm settled with work. Don't
13 drink, so I've not got that on top of things and all,
14 and I just keep myself to myself.

15 Q. At page 26, you talk a little about lessons to be
16 learned from all this and, again, can I just ask you:
17 what do you think are the lessons that we can learn from
18 your experiences and other experiences that we have
19 heard about?

20 A. Well, you've got people in positions -- you see,
21 Thornly Park and Balgowan, and I don't know about these
22 people's qualifications when they were there. I mean
23 the rumour was at Balgowan that HPK had come
24 from Peterhead, so he was an ex-screw. Well, what is he
25 doing with young laddies? I didn't ken.

1 Have they got experience to be -- the only laddies
2 (indistinguishable) controlling their head instead of
3 just beating them up. Should it not be people in their
4 positions who have been there, seen it, done it, and can
5 ken and react and understand the people that they're
6 dealing with.

7 I think that would go a long way because they ken
8 themselves what they've been through, so they can help
9 other people and not abuse them.

10 Q. You say that another lesson is you have to listen to
11 people, and I think you talked about this person,
12 Malcolm, that you felt listened to you?

13 A. He did listen to me, aye, and in that -- people didn't
14 listen, and still to this day people don't listen
15 because they're still making mistakes.

16 Somebody in the position that I was in, all it needs
17 is one person to reach out and they could help that
18 person. That person could be a better person, mind they
19 go through the shit that I went through.

20 Q. What do you hope that we might do as an inquiry? What
21 do you hope for the Inquiry going forward?

22 A. Me giving my evidence, if it helps one person I'll have
23 done something right. Going forward with the Inquiry,
24 I don't know, because I think the system is still not up
25 to scratch.

1 But the lessons have to be learned somewhere along
2 the line because I don't ken what you call these places
3 now. We called them List D schools. I don't ken what
4 you call them now.

5 You've got to have the right people in positions,
6 people that care what they're doing. You are talking
7 to -- young laddies or lassies, at 12-year-old, 13,
8 14-year-old, whose heads are fucked up anyway as it is,
9 with their age and what they've gone through, and if
10 they've been in bother and trouble, they need help; they
11 don't need abuse.

12 They need people to help them, talk to them, reach
13 out to them. Not slap them about the place and dictate
14 to them and abuse them mentally and physically. It's
15 all wrong. They need somebody there that knows what
16 been done and how to talk to them and how to treat them.

17 Q. Earlier in your statement you say that you'd been quite
18 nervous about coming here to talk about all of this, and
19 I think we all understand why that would be.

20 How do you feel now you've been able to talk to us
21 about it?

22 A. I actually feel all right. I feel -- I was apprehensive
23 coming here because when I gave my statement in the
24 first place, to [REDACTED], I broke down quite a few times
25 and I thought I was going to do the same today. That's

1 why I was a wee bit nervous and apprehensive, but it's
2 been a lot better than I thought it was going to be.

3 It has been, aye. You've been really -- that's
4 3.10. I've been here over an hour and it's just flown.

5 Aye, it's been -- I'm glad I gave the statement and
6 come here and given my account to Lady Smith.

7 Q. We are very grateful. You told us earlier on that
8 sometimes when you think about all of this you have to
9 go to your happy place, so I hope you can do that after
10 this.

11 A. That's why I've got nobody here with me because nobody
12 else kens my situation. It's not that I'm embarrassed
13 about it. Because I've nothing to be embarrassed about
14 because I never done nothing wrong here.

15 It's just -- it's stuff that just doesn't need to
16 come out to other people, like, and I don't want people
17 to feel sorry for me because this is not what I'm here
18 for.

19 What happened in life has happened. That can't be
20 changed, what happened to me. As far as I'm concerned,
21 aye, maybe I did deserve to go to Balgowan School. Then
22 again, maybe if somebody got a grip on me earlier and
23 spoke to me and treated me like a human, and maybe
24 I wouldn't have ended up in any of them places.

25 Then, if you go back, I didn't know if there was

1 something wrong with me. I could have been hyperactive,
2 ADHD, they didn't know back then about that stuff. So I
3 know that's the way it was. Aye, I hate my father.

4 MR SHELDON: 'Dexter', I've not got anything else to ask
5 you. My Lady, there are no questions. Is there
6 anything you would like to add to what you've already
7 said to us?

8 A. The lessons have got to be learned. Coming to this
9 Inquiry, the lessons have got to be learned because if
10 they're not learned and it will just keep on carrying on
11 and it will just get worse and worse.

12 And I do think that if you've got Approved Schools,
13 List D schools, whatever schools you want to call them,
14 you have to have the right people in the place there.
15 People that can sympathise with the youngsters that are
16 there, because they need the help and the support. They
17 don't need abuse.

18 They need the help and support to get them through
19 because it's a daunting place. Balgowan was a horrible
20 place. I don't think there are places like that now.

21 If you'd go to a place, I don't think it's as bad as
22 what it was, to look at.

23 But I think people in their positions should be
24 qualified to be in that position. You can't just put
25 anybody in there and deal with an unruly 12-year-old or

1 try to get -- you have to have people who know and that
2 way, Lady Smith, as far as I'm concerned
3 (indistinguishable) it should be prisoners, people who
4 have been there and done it, talk to people about it and
5 they would get the best out of that person. It could
6 help them.

7 Not going into some strange place and getting
8 slapped about and mentally tortured. No, it's not
9 right.

10 LADY SMITH: 'Dexter', thank you for everything you've given
11 us this afternoon. I said at the beginning that I do
12 know how hard it is to go back decades in your memories
13 to difficult times. I fully appreciate what that means
14 for you in processing memories that you've brought to
15 life for the benefit of this Inquiry.

16 Let me tell you, I know you're now trusting me, or
17 trusting the rest of the team, to put what you have
18 shared with us to good use. We will do that, because it
19 will have taken a lot out of you to give it to us and
20 add to the learning that we're engaging in every day
21 here.

22 So thank you for having the guts to do that. Thank
23 you for sharing with us. You will no doubt be exhausted
24 now and tired for the rest of the day. Don't rush away
25 if you don't want to. You can stay in the witness

1 accommodation here as long as you need to settle
2 yourself again.

3 You go very much with my thanks.

4 A. Thanks very much, Lady Smith.

5 (The witness withdrew)

6 LADY SMITH: Before I take a brief afternoon break, some
7 names, identities that are not to be shared outside this
8 room of IEA [REDACTED], HPK [REDACTED], LAQ [REDACTED], HPM [REDACTED],
9 GNG [REDACTED] and IDB [REDACTED] and a boy called [REDACTED]. So, please,
10 be aware that their identities are protected and not for
11 sharing.

12 If I take a short break now and remembering I was
13 told before the lunch break that you may have
14 a statement that would take 25 or 30 minutes, perhaps
15 a little longer than that, we could maybe get one of
16 those in afterwards.

17 Thank you.

18 (3.18 pm)

19 (A short break)

20 (3.27 pm)

21 LADY SMITH: Ms Forbes.

22 MS FORBES: My Lady, good afternoon.

23 The next statement is from an applicant who
24 anonymous and known at 'Frank'.

25 The reference for his witness statement is

1 WIT.001.002.1957.

2 'Frank' (read)

3 MS FORBES: My Lady, 'Frank' says that he was born in 1966
4 or 1967. He didn't know which one is correct because
5 both have been used on documentation that he's seen.

6 He talks about his life before going into care from
7 paragraph 2 and states that his mother was only 16 when
8 she had him. He was a twin and Social Services were
9 involved from the minute that they were born. He's
10 never met his twin, who was a girl.

11 Later though his mother had two other sons, so he
12 has two younger brothers. His mother ran away from home
13 when she was in Dundee and ended up in Manchester.
14 That's where she met his dad, who was from Jamaica.
15 When she found out she was pregnant she came back to
16 Scotland. So he was mixed race.

17 He was taken from his mother at 12 weeks old. His
18 twin sister was adopted. He says his mother had to sign
19 papers which she thought was for treatment for
20 tuberculosis, but this turned out to be papers to have
21 his twin sister adopted.

22 'Frank' comments that his mother was only 17 at that
23 time and didn't understand the law. From what he says
24 later, with his contact with his mother, I think this is
25 information he has been given from his mother.

1 He was put into Craigiebank in Perth and so young he
2 doesn't remember anything about being there. When he
3 was three he was put into a children's home and he talks
4 about that between paragraphs 6 and 15.

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9 He was moved to foster care when he was five and he
10 talks about that from paragraph 16. His foster parents
11 had adopted a son two years older than him, who was also
12 mixed race. However, he felt as though his foster
13 mother saw him as an income. When he was seven or eight
14 he ran away. His foster mother had hit him and he
15 didn't realise at the time that his birth mother stayed
16 just round the corner.

17 'Frank' says when he was older he found out there
18 was no need for him ever to have been in care and it
19 seems this information came from his birth mother.

20 'Frank' suffered bullying at school and was called
21 names because of his hair and his looks. He would hit
22 out because of that and then be punished by the
23 teachers. He would retaliate when he was given the belt
24 by the teachers and take the belt from them and hit them
25 back.

1 One day one of the kids at school called him 'Sambo'
2 and when he got home he told his foster mother and she
3 leathered him for that.

4 He battered the boy who had called him that and
5 split his head on a bollard and was expelled from
6 school. 'Frank' thinks he would have been about six at
7 that time.

8 He was then sent to an assessment centre for
9 children with problems and sent to see a psychiatrist.
10 He told that doctor how he felt and he was being
11 targeted. He also told him that his foster mother was
12 hitting him with a stick. 'Frank' says that once she
13 hit him with it and it split his head and he needed
14 stitches.

15 'Frank' says that psychiatrist took him away on
16 holiday with his own family for ten weeks to France once
17 and the doctor and his wife became sort of a foster aunt
18 and uncle to him. He was at the assessment centre for
19 about a year and he says it was that doctor who finally
20 got him away from his foster parents.

21 He talks about abuse with his foster parents from
22 paragraph 42 and says that his foster mother hit him
23 with a big mahogany stick and hit him on the face and
24 body with it. He says he still has scars.

25 When he was about nine, 'Frank' says he started

1 hitting back. This was happening almost daily. He says
2 he told social workers about being hit but they didn't
3 do anything about it. He was then sent to a boarding
4 school for a period of time. He talks about that at
5 paragraph 49.

6 They used the cane there as punishment and he
7 remembers being assaulted by a dog chain on the back of
8 the head by a member of staff once. He thinks he was
9 there from seven to 11 and he says he loved it there.

10 He went back to his foster parents part-time at the
11 weekends. But he describes finding out that, in his
12 view, they were just using him for money and he smashed
13 the house up one day.

14 Things broke down at the boarding school and near
15 the end he refused to answer questions, he says, from
16 the English teacher and refused instructions. He was
17 given the choice by SNR [REDACTED] to stay and behave or
18 give up and go home. He chose to go home.

19 He then stayed with his foster parents' relatives
20 for a few weeks before he was sent to
21 an assessment centre. He talks about the
22 assessment centre from paragraphs 70 onwards. 'Frank'
23 says he was told he was there for three weeks for
24 assessment but in actual fact he was there for almost
25 two years.

1 Whilst there, 'Frank' says he was locked in a room
2 after running away. He used to wet the bed and would be
3 locked in a room after that. The room had nothing but
4 a radiator and a raised box for a bed and a toilet. He
5 would be left there for days. That room would be used
6 for other things as well. He would be put in there for
7 other things as a punishment.

8 There were physical assaults there by staff. He was
9 dragged out of bed one night and hit his mouth and lost
10 his two front teeth. He was taken to a dentist and told
11 to just say he'd fallen.

12 'Frank' says one of the staff members would go into
13 the girls' rooms at nights and he would hear them
14 shouting and he says that some of the girls tried to
15 commit suicide after that.

16 He says he smashed up the office there. He was fed
17 up being told he was bad. He hit a female teacher with
18 Secondary Institute There was then a case conference and it was
19 decided he was going to Burnside Assessment Centre.

20 He talks about that from paragraph 103 of his
21 statement. I'll read from there:

22 'It was then decided that I would go to Burnside
23 Assessment Centre, Harestane Road, Dundee. Ken [his
24 social worker] took me to Burnside Assessment Centre.
25 He dropped me off at the foyer and left me there without

1 saying anything. One of the staff, Jean Pirrie came and
2 took me to the senior assessment room. I knew then
3 I was in trouble.

4 'There were about 50 people in the
5 assessment centre. 30 of these were in the senior
6 assessment centre. I was only supposed to be there for
7 three weeks and ended up staying for 18 months.
8 Mr MYD was in charge of senior assessment.

9 'There were boys and girls in the assessment centre.
10 Most of them were between 14 and 16 years old. I was
11 only 13 at the time and the youngest in the centre. You
12 had to wear a yellow shirt, yellow jumper and a pair of
13 joggers. They took my clothes from me when I arrived
14 whilst I was having a shower.

15 'That night I smashed a window and ran away to
16 Perth. The police found me at the train station and
17 took me back to Burnside.

18 'In the morning, I would get up and dress myself.
19 I then went for breakfast and after that I would go to
20 school.

21 'I was picked on because I was the youngest. The
22 other kids would put chewing gum in my shoes and things
23 like that. When I took the bait they would just laugh.
24 This went on for a couple of weeks. The third week
25 I ran away again.

1 'The food was rubbish. There were too many people
2 to cook for.

3 'There were never any issues when you were having
4 a shower. Staff would only check if you were taking too
5 long.

6 'There were chores to do in the centre but I refused
7 to do them.

8 'I went to Kirkton High School. I liked it there.
9 One of the teachers, Ms Budge, was blind. Everyone
10 liked her. She was very good and looked after the kids.
11 She took a genuine interest in me and what I was doing.

12 'I didn't get any qualifications at Kirkton. I was
13 told that I wasn't able to sit exams there.

14 'I went to the army cadets. I liked it there
15 because of the discipline and everyone looked the same.

16 'As long as you were doing your schoolwork there
17 were no issues getting to go back out. I loved doing
18 homework so it wasn't a problem for me. When you were
19 out at night you didn't have to be back to the unit
20 until quarter to ten.

21 'Once you were back in the unit at night, the door
22 was locked behind you.

23 'There were a lot of trips at Burnside. We went to
24 Butlins at Filey, the Backwater Dam and the West
25 Highland Way.

1 'Ken was still my social worker, although Norma
2 Fairbrother took over halfway through my time at
3 Burnside. I was still having my 30-day reviews. It was
4 the same people at these reviews, Dr [REDACTED], the social
5 work, a psychiatrist and a notetaker. I was given the
6 chance to speak. I told them that if they kept me in
7 care I would become institutionalised and forget what
8 families were. There were great plans but nothing
9 happened. I thought they were trying to get me to the
10 orphanage ...'

11 He names it:

12 '[REDACTED] would take me swimming at Dundee
13 University. [REDACTED] would tell me they didn't want me
14 back at my mother's. They said I was too
15 institutionalised for this to happen and I wouldn't cope
16 in a home environment.

17 'I didn't have any other visit when I was at
18 Burnside.

19 'There wasn't a doctor at Burnside, although I did
20 have to go and see the dentist. One day Mr EIF [REDACTED], who
21 was in charge of the assessment centre downstairs, tried
22 it on [and he names a girl]. She was one of the girls
23 at the centre. Because of this the whole unit ran away.
24 When went back we told them why we did it. Nothing was
25 done. Everyone was away for a different amount of time.

1 I was away for about three months staying with a friend.

2 'After we were all caught, everyone was scattered to
3 different care homes. You didn't know what was
4 happening. It just happened and you were away.

5 This is when he was put into an orphanage:

6 'The furthest I ever ran away was to London. The
7 police from Scotland came and took me back on a plane.
8 I ran away from Burnside a total of four times.'

9 He then talks about punishments at paragraph 127:

10 'There was a small room in the home that you could
11 be locked in as a punishment. It was a small room with
12 a big window. There were two radiators and it was
13 boiling hot. The only thing in the room was a pillow.
14 I was in there a few times. It didn't bother me. You
15 were given liquids and sandwiches at meal times.

16 'The longest time I was in there was for seven days.
17 You were taken out at night and put to bed. I was
18 hardly able to walk because of the heat. On one
19 occasion when I was being taken to the room, Mr MYD
20 banged my head off the walls.

21 'Other punishments would be stopping your pocket
22 money, not being allowed out on excursions or banned
23 from the playroom.

24 'There was a book at Burnside where every incident
25 was recorded. This detailed who was involved and what

1 had happened.

2 'I started sniffing glue when I was at Burnside.
3 There was an old mansion called Bentleys. That's where
4 we went to sniff glue. I would have been about 13 years
5 old.

6 'I slept in a room with three other boys. The
7 girls' rooms were on the other side of the corridor.
8 One of the staff, GNO, would check on you at four in
9 the morning. If you were awake, he would give you
10 a doing with a big rubber torch. He would then go to
11 the girls' side. He was a pest. I would hear the girls
12 throwing things at him. I saw GNO with his hands
13 under the bed covers of the girls. He eventually went
14 to court and was given five years in jail for what he
15 did to one of the girls.

16 'Mr MYD would be the main person to dish out any
17 punishments. He would bite me to try and get me to
18 remove my clothing. I still have the scars from when he
19 did this.

20 'I told one of the staff, Mick, about GNO hitting
21 me after I was given a black eye. He said that I was
22 big enough to deal with that.

23 'It was decided I would leave Burnside. Whilst it
24 was being discussed about where I would go, I went and
25 stayed [and he mentions an uncle]. I then had to go

1 back to Burnside for a Children's Panel. I was told
2 I would be going to [and he mentioned an orphanage].
3 I went straight there from Burnside. There was no input
4 from me and no discussion. It was just decided.
5 I didn't want to go because I was settled at school.'

6 He states he shouldn't have been sent to the
7 orphanage because he wasn't an orphan. He had parents.

8 He then talks about his time at the orphanage from
9 paragraph 137 onwards. **Secondary Institutions - to be published later**

10 **Secondary Institutions - to be published later**

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5 'Frank' says the police told them that there was no
6 legal requirement for him to be in care. So he was then
7 staying at his mum's. He didn't get on with his
8 step-dad so he would run away and live on street.

9 It was decided then he would go to a residential
10 house during the week and come back to his mum's at the
11 weekend. He talks about that from paragraphs 189
12 onwards.

13 Secondary Institutions - to be published later
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16 He says he was there for about five or six months when
17 he was 15.

18 He left when he was 16.

19 He then talks about life after care from
20 paragraph 211. He was arrested for assault. He was
21 sent to Perth Prison and after that he went into
22 a homeless hostel in Perth where he stayed for about
23 a year.

24 In 1986 he moved to London. 'Frank' says that 30 of
25 them all moved down together and went on a bus. He

1 stayed in London for about eight months in a squat. He
2 was then in Brighton, Newcastle, travelled around Europe
3 and Asia.

4 At 31 he married his wife who he had been in care
5 with at one of the residential homes. He was with her
6 for about 14 or 15 years, but they split up and he says
7 that sadly she died.

8 'Frank' says when he was 36 his foster brother was
9 shot and killed and he binged drugs for about four or
10 five weeks after that.

11 He talks about the impact of his time in care from
12 paragraph 217 and he says he always wanted to move
13 around. He had been in so many places it was hard to
14 settle. He also comment on the fact that he's been in
15 prison now for a long time. And he's a life prisoner.

16 If I can go to paragraph 218 of his statement.

17 'Frank' says that:

18 'My time in care affected my relationship with my
19 parents. I used to detest my mother until I found out
20 the truth about why I was in care. I met my father in
21 Manchester but I never forgot that he had hit my mother.

22 'Even though I have been in prison a long time it
23 doesn't bother me. After you have been in care for the
24 time that I have, there is nothing can be done that will
25 affect me. If I was to be released tomorrow and get

1 a life sentence the next day, this would have no impact
2 on me at.

3 'Being in care was an education for me. I learnt
4 a lot about myself and how to take care of myself.
5 After I was in care, I learned to educate myself. I see
6 myself as well educated now.

7 'I do think about my time in care a lot. I have
8 panic attacks and sometimes night terrors. There are
9 triggers like bullying. If I see things happening,
10 I will act first and think about consequences later.'

11 In relation to lessons to be learned he talks about
12 that from paragraph 223 and says:

13 'Children in care have to be listened to so that you
14 can hear what they have to say.

15 'There is a group meeting that I have been to. This
16 is called the 1000 Voices. It's people who are in
17 prison and who have previously been in care. They were
18 all saying that the same things were still happening.

19 'Children should be treated better. When they are
20 in care it shouldn't be a sterile environment.'

21 He then goes on to say that he's been attending
22 counselling sessions in prison which have been helping
23 and diagnosed with multiple personality disorders.

24 Paragraph 229 he states:

25 'I know now that I should never have been in care.

1 There was no legal reason for it. I think it was to
2 punish my mum for having mixed race children.'

3 In relation to hopes for the Inquiry he says at
4 paragraph 230:

5 'I hope that the people who have hurt children in
6 care are found and locked up.'

7 'Frank' says:

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

12 He has signed that and it's dated 4 October 2018.

13 LADY SMITH: Thank you very much indeed, Ms Forbes.

14 MR SHELDON: My Lady, there is a statement, which I think
15 I can deal with very briefly. I think that would
16 conclude all the read-ins.

17 'CC' (read)

18 MR SHELDON: As I was saying, this is an applicant who has
19 given evidence already in the QAB case study. She was
20 at Aberlour.

21 She is known as 'CC' her witness statement is
22 WIT.001.001.1250.

23 'CC' was born in 1959. And her statement is signed
24 and carries the usual declarations. Signed back in
25 2017.

1 Putting matters short, 'CC' went into care at a very
2 early age. Her mother was very, even grotesquely
3 violent to her as a young child and she was in Aberlour
4 for several years and foster care and experienced
5 physical abuse in those placements and has given quite
6 powerful evidence about that.

7 She was in a children's home for a short time in
8 about 1971 and then in Calder House Remand Home. We can
9 come back to read that in because we will be dealing
10 with Calder House at a later stage.

11 Putting matters very short, she says that she did
12 suffer further physical abuse there from one of the
13 members of staff. Quite marked physical abuse.

14 She was then moved to Balnacraig, in about 1972. So
15 she would be aged about 13 or 14 again says she was
16 physically abused by the headmaster there, Mr Cowling,
17 who we hear evidence about in that chapter.

18 She says she also experienced bullying from other
19 children there and she then went to Balgay which she
20 thinks she was about 14 and it is really quite a short
21 passage about Balgay and I'll just read that:

22 'I think I was about 14 when I went to Balgay.

23 I spent about a year there. A man named Mr GIS SNR

24 SNR . He was superb. He was an old man who was

25 totally child friendly. It was an all-girls' place.

1 There were two houses ..." --

2 LADY SMITH: Which paragraph are you at?

3 MR SHELDON: It's page 16, paragraph 79:

4 'Kinloch and Wishaw. It was better than anywhere
5 else I had been. We had a good cook too, who was called
6 Ms zMSM . The other staff were mostly men.'

7 She names two other male members of staff:

8 'I remember my first day there. The Social Work
9 Department had taken me out and bought me new clothes.
10 A girl called [she names her] threatened to beat me up
11 if I didn't give her my clothes. I didn't sleep all
12 night but it was me who ended up giving her the beating
13 the next day.

14 I was totally out of control in Balgay. I was
15 beating everybody up. I battered Mr zHGZ and a girl
16 called [redacted] who had tried to attack me. She was
17 massive and everybody was frightened of her. I think
18 I was angry and screwed up by that point. I had got
19 thrown out of the place at 12 o'clock one night and
20 Isabel Steves from the Social Work Department in Elgin
21 had to come and pick me up. She lived in Alves and she
22 took me to her house to stay the night with her.'

23 She moves on to other children's homes. She has
24 a very brief stay in Brimmond and then at Gateside and
25 Cornton Vale Prison for a time and ultimately in

1 Cornhill Hospital.

2 I think my Lady 'CC' has spoken already about some
3 of the impacts, very serious and severe impacts, that
4 she suffered as a result of what seems to have been
5 a childhood marked by violence pretty constantly.

6 That is perhaps a sombre note to end on.

7 LADY SMITH: Thank you very much for fitting that in.

8 As you say, we now don't have any read-ins left.

9 MR SHELDON: I think that's right, my Lady. We'll double
10 check, but that's right.

11 LADY SMITH: That will leave us with oral evidence next
12 week, starting at 10 o'clock on Tuesday.

13 MR SHELDON: Indeed.

14 LADY SMITH: Very well.

15 Before I rise, the last list of names for the day of
16 people not to be identified outside this room, Mr MYD ,
17 Mr EIF , GNO , Mr Cowling, Ms zMSM and
18 . Thank you for that. I hope everyone has
19 a good weekend. Until Tuesday.

20 (3.55 pm)

21 (The Inquiry adjourned until 10.00 am
22 on Tuesday, 20 February 2024)

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