

Friday 10 November 2023

1

2 (10.00 am)

3 LADY SMITH: Good morning. Welcome to the last day this
4 week in which we will be hearing evidence in relation to
5 Phase 8 of our case studies, the abuse of children in
6 residential accommodation for young offenders and
7 children and young persons in need of care and
8 protection.

9 The plan today is we are going to hear from one
10 witness who is here to give oral evidence, then we'll go
11 on to other written statements, parts of which will be
12 read in.

13 Some of you may realise that in some public
14 buildings in Scotland today a two-minute silence for
15 remembrance will be marked at 11 o'clock. I've decided
16 I'm not going to pause at 11 o'clock in our hearing
17 because I don't want to interrupt the witness's
18 evidence, but I will be breaking as usual at about 11.30
19 for the morning break. I hope that those who want to
20 observe silence today will take the opportunity to make
21 some use of the time available then, but don't think
22 that we're not aware of it. It will, I'm sure, be very
23 much in our thoughts.

24 Ms Forbes.

25 MS FORBES: Good morning, my Lady.

1 The witness this morning is anonymous and wants to
2 be known as 'Jimmy'.

3 LADY SMITH: Thank you.

4 'Jimmy' (affirmed)

5 LADY SMITH: 'Jimmy', thank you for coming along this
6 morning to give evidence in person. That will be in
7 addition to what we already have from you in your
8 written statement, which of itself has been really
9 helpful to enable me to prepare for today.

10 If at any time you have any questions or any
11 concerns, please don't hesitate to speak up. Do let us
12 know if there's anything we can do to make you more
13 comfortable as you're giving your evidence.

14 If you want a break at any time, that's absolutely
15 fine by me. If it works for you, it will work for me.

16 You can bear in mind that I normally stop at 11.30
17 anyway for a morning break, so everyone can get
18 a breather. But it's quite all right if you need
19 a break before then, just say.

20 A. Okay.

21 LADY SMITH: That red folder has your written statement in
22 it. You'll recognise what's there, I think. You will
23 also see your statement coming up on the screen. You
24 might find it helpful to use the screen or your written
25 statement, or you don't have to look at either, but

1 they're there for you, if it would be useful.

2 If you're ready, 'Jimmy', I'll hand over to
3 Ms Forbes and she'll take it from there; is that okay?
4 She is just over here. Thank you.

5 Questions from Ms Forbes

6 MS FORBES: Thank you, my Lady.

7 Good morning, 'Jimmy'. You have your red folder in
8 front of you with your statement. That statement that
9 you've given us has a number that we use. I'm just
10 going to read that out for the transcript, for our
11 records. It's WIT-1-000000254.

12 The written statement that you have in front of you,
13 'Jimmy', if you could just turn to the last page of
14 that, which is page 23, you should see at the bottom
15 there is a paragraph there, at 110, that says:

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 Then you've signed it and it's dated
21 23 January 2020; is that right?

22 A. That's correct, yeah.

23 Q. If you just go back then to the front of your statement,
24 the first page.

25 What I'm going to do is, I'll ask you some questions

1 now about your early life and if there's anything that
2 isn't clear you can just let me know, okay.

3 I think you tell us you were born in 1957; is that
4 right?

5 A. Yeah.

6 Q. And that your mum and dad both had relationships with
7 different people before they met each other; is that
8 right?

9 A. Yes.

10 Q. As a result of that, they had children to those previous
11 relationships?

12 A. That's correct.

13 Q. I think you say that your father had two children to
14 another woman, and your mum had two sons and two
15 daughters to someone in her first marriage; is that
16 right?

17 A. That's correct.

18 Q. I think you tell us, at paragraph 3, that you didn't
19 meet them, because they're all older than you; is that
20 right?

21 A. Yeah.

22 Q. Was that your mother's other children or both sets, your
23 father's and your mother's, that you didn't meet?

24 A. Both sets were older than me.

25 Q. You didn't meet them?

1 A. Yes. I met my sister before she passed away, when she
2 was 16. She was unfortunately gassed at a friend's
3 house.

4 I went to meet my father's oldest son, which he
5 named after himself, [REDACTED]. I heard I had a half
6 brother who stayed in Gibraltar and went there to live
7 after he came out of the Army. Then he went to Spain to
8 live, and then eventually -- him and his wife had split
9 up, so then he deserted his life to alcohol, which
10 eventually killed him, so he passed away. So I didn't
11 really meet him. He died six weeks before I got to
12 Gibraltar to meet him for the first time, so I didn't
13 get the privilege to meet the man.

14 Q. With your mum and your father, you also had a younger
15 brother to them and an older sister; is that right?

16 A. Yeah.

17 Q. Was your sister a couple of years older and your brother
18 was four years younger?

19 A. Yeah.

20 Q. I think you tell us, at paragraph 4, that you were
21 living in a small village in Fife --

22 A. Yes.

23 Q. -- when you were younger?

24 A. Yes, just a small street with a couple of hundred people
25 in it.

1 Q. Your dad had been an ex-gunner in the Navy?

2 A. Yeah.

3 Q. You tell us that he was a heavy drinker though?

4 A. Yes.

5 Q. You also say that there was violence from him?

6 A. Yeah, he was pretty hard, strict person.

7 Q. Strict towards you?

8 A. Yeah.

9 Q. I think you say you weren't allowed to do some things

10 that --

11 A. Certain things, and he was -- to be honest, he was never

12 there half the time. When I moved -- when I was

13 13-years old, my father wasn't there because he became

14 a member of an ex-servicemen's club in this town, when I

15 moved from the village to this town. Him and his

16 friends thought more about alcohol and talking rubbish,

17 rather than giving me some fatherly attention and some

18 kind of care. I never got that from my father. His

19 friends were more important.

20 Q. So you were in the smaller village in Fife until you

21 were about 13 and then you moved?

22 A. I moved to a bigger town in Fife after that.

23 Q. I think, at paragraph 6 of your statement, you talked to

24 us about an incident that happened when you were quite

25 young, about five or six years old, when you were

1 outside; can you tell us about that?

2 A. I was outside playing. The girls were playing skipping
3 with a skipping rope, and all the girls were standing in
4 a row and skipping, like. And we were making girders
5 out of old wheels and things like that in the streets
6 and I came across this [REDACTED], the women used
7 to [REDACTED]. I was digging a stone out
8 the ground with this [REDACTED] and this older guy
9 came up and started pulling it off me. And I pulled it
10 with such force that I tripped over a broken curb at the
11 side of the road and the way I fell, awkward, I fell
12 sideways and the force of the [REDACTED] penetrated in my
13 right cheek, entered my right cheek. It passed through
14 the inside of my face and destroyed all the nerves
15 behind my right eye, vital nerves, so I lost the sight
16 in my right eye and it destroyed all the nerves before
17 it penetrated my frontal lobe, part of my brain.

18 And I got up and I walked 100 metres and I walked
19 past all the girls that were skipping and playing paldy
20 on the pavements, and they were screaming. I walked and
21 this [REDACTED] -- but the [REDACTED] was sticking out my cheek;
22 the rest of the [REDACTED] was inside my face.

23 And then I went home and there was no phones at that
24 time, but my father had jumped over the wall and ran to
25 this hotel and phoned for an ambulance.

1 The ambulance came. I always remember my mother
2 holding the [REDACTED] and she was told not to pull it out
3 or I would die, so she was just holding it. So she was
4 thinking it was going to go in further. She was
5 panicking.

6 The Forth Road Bridge wasn't opened at the time. I
7 did a police escort ambulance into the Royal Infirmary,
8 where a neurologist saved my life. They had to open my
9 head up from ear to ear, cut my head open. I was in
10 hospital for quite some time.

11 When I came out, I wasn't a normal person after all
12 this. I was left with learning difficulties, behaviour
13 problems. I wasn't the same person.

14 But, where I lived, when I came out of hospital
15 I was accepted with -- my friends knew me. They were
16 good people in the village. Their parents were school
17 teachers and doctors and lawyers; they were good quality
18 jobs. They were good people, decent people, and I felt
19 safe. They knew me. They knew what I had been through.
20 They knew about my accident.

21 And a Mrs Donaldson at the primary school that I
22 went to, she helped me. I will always remember her.
23 She is not here now, but she was the only teacher -- I
24 could always remember -- that gave me some kind of time.

25 Q. Did she give you some special teaching?

1 A. Yes. She was a brilliant teacher. She was the only one
2 that really helped me, and I think it was her that
3 taught me to read and write.

4 Q. I think you kept in touch with her when you were a
5 little bit older as well; is that right?

6 A. Yes, when I came out of borstal, I was out for a walk in
7 the countryside and there is this woman struggling in
8 the garden, an old woman, and I recognised her face and
9 she recognised me and she said, "'Jimmy'" and I said,
10 "Mrs Donaldson". So I helped her with her garden, she
11 made me a cup of tea and we became good friends.

12 When I was helping her do the hard work in her
13 garden, she was making me food, she was giving me cups
14 of tea, she was telling me stories. She was learning me
15 about plants, horticultural stuff, and then she started
16 teaching me mathematics, like I never ever learnt before
17 at school. Like long division sums and subtract and
18 take away and things like that. Because I never really
19 got an education, apart from the first year at
20 Queen Anne high school. I was getting help there, I
21 know.

22 My education finished after that. I was 13.

23 Q. I think you said, when you were 13, you moved to this
24 larger town in Fife?

25 A. Yeah. I was okay in the village. I was okay after my

1 accident, I felt safe. My schooling, I was getting
2 help. But, then when I left at the age of 13 -- that
3 village -- to go to a larger town, everything changed.
4 Nobody knew I was disabled. Nobody knew anything about
5 me.

6 Q. I think you tell us, at paragraph 8 of your statement,
7 that there were issues because of your older sister
8 being picked on and you were sticking up for her?

9 A. Yes, I was always defending my sister because she had
10 polio when she was young and she had to get her legs
11 stretched and things like that. [REDACTED]
12 [REDACTED], so my mother's attention was always
13 given to my sister and my little brother. I was kind of
14 in the middle.

15 And when I arrived in this town, I didn't know
16 anybody. I didn't know -- it was just a different
17 planet.

18 Q. By this time, I think you tell us you were blind in your
19 right eye as a result of the accident; is that right?

20 A. Yeah, totally blind in my right eye.

21 Q. You were at a new high school; is that correct?

22 A. I went on a bus with strangers to a new school.

23 Q. You tell us that there were issues with bullies at the
24 school and in the larger town as well?

25 A. Yeah.

1 Q. You were having difficulties concentrating at school?

2 A. Yes. I was scared because when I entered this new
3 place, these people were like -- I wouldn't say gypsies.
4 They weren't all gypsies, but there were a lot of large
5 families. A lot of brothers and sisters. I didn't have
6 that. I was out -- when I went out -- I went out in the
7 streets, I was on my own and I was trying to make
8 friends, thinking that people were the same as the
9 village that I was used to. I just thought people were
10 just like that, like good. But it was too late, I found
11 myself in -- sucked in with these local guys and all
12 they were doing was stealing and getting into trouble,
13 and fighting and stuff like that.

14 And then, when I went to this new school, I was
15 getting bullied and then they put me in this class
16 called a remedial class, and then you were stigmatised
17 right away for being in a remedial class. That didn't
18 help. I got no education at all at the school and all I
19 got at the school was -- I learnt how to do bad things.
20 Smoking cigarettes, they were stealing out of shops.

21 For me to feel part of being a human being, being
22 friends, was do what they were doing. I went along with
23 what they were doing. And when they were getting
24 caught, I was the fall guy. I didn't realise what was
25 happening back then, but looking back -- when you get

1 older and look back on things, you think: my God.

2 And it was all because of my brain injury.

3 It's all related to that or I would never have been
4 a Mr Pleaser. I was wanting everybody to be happy all
5 the time. It didn't matter what. They were doing
6 things and I was happy to go along, and when they were
7 caught, they'd say it was me. And if I was in the
8 police station, I couldn't say it was them, because they
9 had lots of brothers. There was -- I was stuck in
10 a situation between the ages of 14 and 18.

11 I was in a situation where I was trying to make
12 friends in a new town that I didn't know. It was
13 horrendous.

14 Not just me. Their parents -- the pits all shut
15 down, the poverty, unemployment. Everybody, the parents
16 were just -- whatever money they had, they'd go down to
17 the local clubs or boozers and get drunk every weekend.
18 This is what a lot of boys -- not just me -- was going
19 through because it was a deprived, horrible, horrible
20 place.

21 Q. I think because of that association with those other
22 boys, you ended up getting expelled from school; is that
23 right?

24 A. Yeah, yeah. I was getting the belt because there were
25 people stealing bits of wood out of the woodwork class

1 and making javelins. They did stupid things because --
2 I was just going along with what they were doing, you
3 know? And was a time it come 6 o'clock at night and the
4 school was out, and these boys broke into the school and
5 I was with them.

6 We started diving in the swimming pool and things
7 like that. Just stupid, crazy things that I should
8 never have ever did.

9 Q. I think that ended up with you going before a children's
10 panel when you were 15; is that right?

11 A. Yeah.

12 Q. I think you talk about that at paragraph 12 of your
13 statement.

14 You were sent then to Stratheden hospital in Cupar
15 for an assessment?

16 A. I was getting into trouble with these boys and I was
17 scared to give names because I was trapped. The
18 police -- there were two horrible police officers
19 telling me to sign for things and say that I did this
20 and I did that. And if I didn't do this or if I didn't
21 say this, I was going to spend years in jail and stuff,
22 and I believed this.

23 I was frightened. But the thing is, I was more
24 frightened of consequences if I'd give names to the
25 police of who actually was responsible for doing this.

1 I couldn't do it because I was trapped between my
2 father, who wasn't nice; I was trapped with young
3 criminals that weren't nice, and I was -- the police,
4 I had to keep them happy by giving them the information
5 they wanted. And the only information I did was harm
6 myself by saying to the police that it was me when it
7 wasn't, just to get out. Because I was scared. I was
8 scared and I wanted out the police station, because the
9 walls were coming in on me. They locked the cell door.

10 LADY SMITH: 'Jimmy', do you remember going to Stratheden
11 hospital after you had been to the children's panel?

12 A. I remember when I came out -- I remember when I was 16,
13 they sent me away to this place called the short, sharp
14 shock and when I came out of there I wasn't well.

15 LADY SMITH: I think we'll be coming back to that. I just
16 wondered if you had any memory of going to the panel --

17 A. Yes.

18 LADY SMITH: -- and the panel sending you to Stratheden?

19 A. Yes, I was there and I went to Stratheden and I was
20 there for weeks, I don't know how long, but they were
21 giving me medication and I was pretending to take the
22 medication. I was putting the medication behind my
23 tongue and spitting it out, and things like that. And
24 they would give me stuff to drink, and stuff like that,
25 and I was pretending I was taking all of the stuff and I

1 wasn't.

2 MS FORBES: I think there were two times that you went to

3 Stratheden; is that right?

4 A. Yes.

5 Q. This first time, that I'm talking about just now, is

6 when you went there after being at the children's panel;

7 I think you've told us in your statement that was just

8 for a couple of weeks?

9 A. Aye.

10 Q. So does that seem right?

11 A. Yeah.

12 Q. But then after that, I think you went back home --

13 A. I went back.

14 Q. You went back to your home after that; is that right?

15 A. Yeah, yeah.

16 Q. I think you tell us that you actually went to college

17 for a short period of time --

18 A. Yeah.

19 Q. -- then dropped out?

20 A. I couldn't get the -- I had no answers. When the

21 teacher put the mathematics, at that time, on the board,

22 I didn't know. I got into the college because a boy

23 gave me the answers.

24 I cheated to get into the college to become a joiner

25 or a bricklayer, to learn a trade. I was okay at laying

1 the bricks and I was okay at shaving the wood and sawing
2 the wood and stuff. But, when it come to the theory
3 stuff -- side of it, I couldn't function in my head and
4 I was sitting looking at something on the blackboard
5 that I couldn't understand, and I found myself just
6 looking at clouds going past. I couldn't concentrate.
7 To do with the brain injury.

8 Q. I think after that you then got a job working a big
9 loom, but because of your eye --

10 A. My first job was apprentice -- I got caught out at the
11 college because I couldn't do the work. So I left the
12 college early and I took a job that was offered to me as
13 apprentice mechanic. Tenter, they called it, apprentice
14 tenter. It was jumping on the looms and fixing -- you
15 know the big looms out in the weaving factory?

16 And because of my blindness, I got hurt a couple of
17 times, and it was dangerous and the noise was -- I
18 couldn't see myself standing doing that for the rest of
19 my life. I wouldn't have lasted, so --

20 Q. So that didn't last and --

21 A. That didn't last. So I had to -- I left there and then
22 I went to work in mines, illegally. I wasn't supposed
23 to, but I just had to do it to get money to buy clothes
24 and stuff.

25 Q. You tell us, at paragraph 13, that you ended up getting

1 in trouble with the police and involved with other
2 people. I think you say, in paragraph 13, that back
3 then you would have fought Mike Tyson; that's how you
4 put it?

5 A. Yes, because I wasn't well at the time. I mean, people,
6 when I was getting bullied by -- I would stick up for
7 people who were getting bullied, but I wasn't a tough
8 man or nothing. I was just stupid. I would say to
9 a bully, "Stop hitting that person, you're just a bully.
10 That's what you are". I would point and say, "You're
11 a bully", then I'd get knocked out.

12 This is what was happening to me. I was getting
13 battered for sticking up for other people, so I was
14 never out of the situation. I was always in trouble.

15 Q. I think that you ended up being told by your dad to
16 leave when you were about 15 or 16?

17 A. Yeah.

18 Q. You had to then stay with other people?

19 A. Yeah. I was staying in people's houses when I fell out
20 with my father because of the way he was treating my
21 mother. I was defending my mother, so I didn't get on
22 with my father. When I was 16, I went to the brickyard
23 and I slept outside the kiln houses at the brickyard.

24 And then there was one night I slept in an old car
25 that was sitting at the side of the road, and I didn't

1 know nothing about driving, never had a clue about cars.
2 But the hand brake, when I was leaning over to fall
3 asleep, my hand hit the hand brake on the car -- then
4 the car went down the road and stopped about 20 yards
5 from this man's house.

6 Then, in the morning, I got woken up and this man
7 was battering me and he said I stole his car, but I
8 didn't steal his car. At the same time, I shouldn't
9 have been -- it was cold. I shouldn't have went -- I
10 shouldn't have went in the car, so that was another
11 offence I got.

12 Q. Were you staying at one time with a boy who -- or
13 a young man who was breaking into places, breaking into
14 houses?

15 A. Yes, there were boys breaking into places, like sheds,
16 and there were a few houses got broken into. A man's
17 stuff got stolen from a house, joiner's tools, working
18 tools, like mechanic stuff, and I got into trouble
19 because -- I got battered because I didn't like what was
20 happening, so I took the stolen stuff back to the owner.
21 I got -- you know, I couldn't win.

22 Q. You tell us about that a bit later, between Glenochil
23 and Polmont. But, if we just stick just now for this
24 age, I think you say you were about 16, at paragraph 15,
25 you tell us that you were trying to get into the Navy;

1 is that right?

2 A. Yeah. There was a friend in the same situation as me,
3 he was frightened of the gangs of boys getting involved
4 with trouble, and he was getting the blame for stuff and
5 it wasn't him. So he spoke to me about this and I said,
6 "What are we going do? We have to get away from this".

7 He said, "Let's go and join the Navy". I said,
8 "You're right, let's get away from this situation we're
9 in".

10 So we went to Leith Nautical College and went for
11 an interview. He was accepted, I wasn't.

12 They said: you can't get in because you're disabled.
13 You are blind out your right eye and you're wanting
14 a job as a purser in the Royal Navy -- in Merchant Navy.
15 I said, "Yes". I couldn't get one. They said I wasn't
16 fit.

17 Then, three weeks later, I get told I'm fit as a
18 fiddle, "You've to be punished". I didn't understand.

19 Q. So this is -- I think you are talking about when you get
20 in trouble and you are sent to Glenochil; is that right?

21 A. Yes.

22 Q. You talk about that in paragraph 16?

23 A. Yeah.

24 Q. You go to court for stealing?

25 A. Yeah.

1 Q. Is that in relation to a lighter that --

2 A. It was -- we were sitting in a park, and I was with
3 a boy and we were sitting talking for a while and this
4 guy come up to us and started talking to us about --
5 when they left, we turned round and our cigarettes went
6 missing and our cigarette lighter. Our stuff went
7 missing that was on the grass.

8 And it was a couple of hours later, we see these
9 people walking past, and there was one girl in
10 particular who was -- I don't really know who she was.
11 But the boy I was with thought she had stolen her
12 cigarettes, so he ran up to her and grabbed her jacket.
13 She got a fright.

14 Ten minutes later, the police come down in a van and
15 arrest us. We're in the cells and then we go home, and
16 then the boy's mother says, "'Jimmy' what's happened?
17 Could you not just say it was you? Say you grabbed the
18 girl's jacket".

19 I didn't think, because she was -- they were
20 petrified because his father was going to beat him up
21 and all this. So his mum says, "Could you not just say
22 to the police you grabbed the woman's jacket and tried
23 to grab stuff off her?" I said, "Okay".

24 I wasn't well. I didn't have the mentality, the
25 capacity to get somebody to help me, "Somebody help me

1 here". I just -- everybody just walked all over me.

2 Q. I think at that time you went to court; is that right?

3 A. Aye. I went to court and they says I attempted to rob
4 somebody.

5 Q. I think you got three months in a detention centre?

6 A. Aye. I got a bus to the court in Dunfermline and I
7 was -- I always remember this man in a tweed suit with
8 wee round glasses on. And I think he was from Austria
9 or Germany or something. His name was Mark Steiner. I
10 always remember him. He had a big smirky grin on his
11 face. He said, "You'll be all right son. You should
12 write a book about this stuff. You'll be okay when you
13 get in there. You'll be well looked after", and I
14 didn't understand what this man was saying to me.

15 When I went into the court, they said, "Right, send
16 him to the short, sharp shock" or something. I stood up
17 to speak and they said, "Right, take him away", and I
18 didn't get to speak.

19 Q. I know that you've told us already that you've been to
20 the children's panel before, but was this the first time
21 you'd actually appeared in court?

22 A. Yeah.

23 Q. I think you say you were taken from court to Glenochil
24 detention centre?

25 A. Yes, I got a return bus ticket thinking there was

1 something trivial, nothing serious. Because nobody was
2 hurt, nobody was injured, nothing like that. That's why
3 I thought it was nothing to worry about.

4 But I bought a return ticket. I went to this court
5 in Dunfermline High Street, and they're passing pieces
6 of paper about the court and whispering. And the judge
7 says, "Right", then I'm away. I went downstairs and
8 they handcuffed me, like this and everything, my hands
9 up my back. And I had to cross the street in front of
10 the public, and everybody is shopping, everybody looking
11 at me, all handcuffed like a murderer, like -- something
12 like that. And everybody was staring at me.

13 I went in a police van. The next thing I know,
14 these big, iron gates opened up, with barbed wire fences
15 and electric fences and everything opened up. The
16 policeman said, "Do as you're told in here and you'll be
17 okay".

18 The gates opened and I went in, and that's when it
19 all started.

20 Q. I think you tell us, at paragraph 17, that when you get
21 to Glenochil detention centre you go into the reception
22 area, first of all; is that right?

23 A. Yeah.

24 Q. And you tell us about the prison officers that were
25 there.

1 Can you just describe what happened when you arrived
2 in the reception area?

3 A. They shut the door and we went into this room and there
4 was a desk. Two officers with white shirt sleeves
5 rolled up with hats on, peaked-type hats, like two
6 officers. She's told me to sit down. I sat down. And
7 she said, "Right, what's your name?" I said, "'Jimmy'.
8 The two of them -- these two men got up, these two
9 officers got up each side of me and grabbed me by my
10 shoulders, up like that, and they went like this: boosh!
11 Each side of my head with the palm of their hands.
12 Crushed me, both the slaps, and I fell to the floor.
13 The place was spinning. I thought I was going to die,
14 to be honest. I was scared stiff.

15 Then they shouted, "Listen you, you little b. When
16 we ask you your name, you say "'Jimmy', sir'. So start
17 again".

18 So I had to call them "sir". "My name's 'Jimmy',
19 sir".

20 Everything was strict and serious and horrendous,
21 frightening. And then I was in a cold bath.

22 Q. I think you tell us about that, at paragraph 18. You
23 say that you had to -- was it a cold shower that you had
24 to have?

25 A. Yeah.

1 Q. Then you were given some blankets, pyjamas and
2 a uniform?

3 A. They gave me kits, like PT kits, working kits and
4 a dress battle kit, different kind of uniforms and all
5 this stuff. And I was in and out of this cold bath. I
6 was only in a minute and back out. Get a towel, get
7 dried. And I wasn't proper dried and one guy threw
8 powder over me. It was pink stuff. I said, "What
9 is ..." "Shut up". I couldn't speak. I couldn't say
10 nothing.

11 I had this pile of stuff, the towel fell off me.
12 I was in the nude, running along this corridor, "Move
13 yourself, move yourself, move, move, hurry up".
14 I've never been stripped naked in front of anybody in my
15 life before. I was humiliated, embarrassed, and words
16 can't explain how humiliated and degraded and
17 dehumanised a person can be.

18 Q. I think you tell us that you went from the place where
19 you had the shower to -- where they took you to the
20 dormitory?

21 A. They took me to a dormitory, and the door opened. I
22 went in. There was a chair at the side of the bed, a
23 row of beds and a chair. And you weren't allowed to sit
24 on your bed.

25 They got this boy to show me how to make a bed block

1 thing. It had to be perfect, square, and your shirts
2 had to be all placed neatly on the bed, exactly spaced
3 out, perfect, so that -- this inspect -- every morning
4 inspections.

5 But, anyway, when I got into this dorm when I first
6 arrived, I seen these boys sitting, half a dozen guys,
7 and they were from the west coast and everything, and
8 I was from this village. I didn't know anybody. I
9 couldn't understand the way they were speaking. They
10 had their own sort of -- they call it jail talk or
11 something. Their banter, or whatever it was back then
12 in Glaswegian, and I couldn't understand what they were
13 saying. And they were frightening because, say, six out
14 of eight of them had massive scars on their faces, right
15 down their faces like that.

16 I didn't know they had been slashed with razors.
17 They were in razor gangs in the city in the 1970s. You
18 know, they were part of -- these gang members. And I
19 didn't know anything about gang members. I was just
20 sitting and looking at their faces and I was scared
21 stiff.

22 You weren't allowed to talk. When the doors shut at
23 nighttime, the officers were away, that's when they'd
24 start talking. They'd sit in their seats and shout
25 across to me: where are you from? Eh, you, what's your

1 name?

2 And I was getting bullied and they were picking on
3 me and that. And I would be answering them back because
4 I didn't have the mental ... to know who he was talking
5 to. I didn't know. I was just being myself and I'd
6 answer back, and they didn't like me answering them
7 back.

8 Q. This was on the first night you were in Glenochil?

9 A. The first night I was in there, and I got punched,
10 kicked.

11 The bottom of my bed -- they did something to the
12 bed, so I fell through the bed on to the floor, and
13 things like that. They were just taking the Mickey out
14 of me all the time and assaulting me, hitting me,
15 slapping me, things like that, because these guys were
16 a lot older than me.

17 I was only 16. These guys were 19, 20, 21. I was
18 only 16 --

19 LADY SMITH: 'Jimmy', sorry to interrupt you. Do you
20 remember how many boys there were in the same dorm?

21 A. Yeah, I think there was about six.

22 LADY SMITH: Six of you?

23 A. Eight. Could be eight.

24 LADY SMITH: Okay. Just to get a general picture.

25 A. Yes, and they had scars on their faces that were

1 horrific.

2 LADY SMITH: Thank you.

3 A. It was just not good.

4 MS FORBES: I think you tell us, at paragraph 19, that there
5 was an issue with one of the boys, or the young men in
6 the dorm, because you told them about your accident; is
7 that right?

8 A. Yes, I had no choice. The next morning, I got up, they
9 said, "Right, quick march, haircut", I had to run along
10 this corridor. They shaved my hair right short. When
11 it's like this, now, you don't notice it. But when my
12 hair is cut short, you will see a scar from there to
13 there, where my head was opened up.

14 The start of the scar starts there. Because my hair
15 was cut that short these guys noticed it. One guy said,
16 "Oh my God; what happened to you?"

17 But I was vulnerable. I wasn't streetwise. I
18 didn't know what was going on, so I was truthful. I
19 said I had an accident. I was just being myself.

20 Q. You told them what had happened?

21 A. I told them what happened and I shouldn't of. I didn't
22 know. But then it was later on that day, after tea
23 time, we were marched back to the dormitory and on the
24 dormitory bed was a photograph, a drawing, of a hangman
25 being hung, and with a speech bubble on the side of it

1 that said, "Please, somebody help me."
2 Things like that, you know? Mental torture.
3 Q. As a result of that; did you end up getting involved in
4 a fight?
5 A. Yeah. One of the boys from Glasgow come up and says,
6 "It was me. What are you going to do about it?" With
7 his friends, you know? So I punched him.
8 Q. As a result of that; did you end up in a cell on your
9 own?
10 A. Yeah. I ended up -- his pal joined in and the two of
11 them were battering me, and I managed to get to the
12 panic button on the wall and punched the panic button on
13 the wall to get help. And the doors opened, officers
14 came in and stuff, and grabbed me round the neck, pulled
15 me into the cell. I was in the cell there most of the
16 time until the day before I was released.
17 Q. You were in that single cell for the rest of the time?
18 A. Aye.
19 Q. I think you describe that cell, at paragraph 19. You
20 say that there was just a bed, a desk and a chair,
21 a Bible and a rulebook?
22 A. Yeah.
23 Q. So that was in the normal cell?
24 A. Yeah.
25 Q. I think you have already told us that you were shown how

1 to fold -- to make the bed block?

2 A. You had to make it all a special way, aye.

3 Q. You tell us about the regime, at paragraph 20. That you
4 were made to stand to attention and that bed block would
5 be inspected in the morning?

6 A. Every morning, early. I can't remember if it was 6.00
7 or 7 o'clock in the morning. Every morning the doors
8 opened, you had to have your floor polished, your bed
9 blocks, your bed and kit and everything made, and then
10 you had a slop-out pan and you would stand to attention
11 and march to the toilets. And then you were given
12 a razor blade to shave, and I didn't need to shave.
13 I had a face like a billiard ball. I had a face like
14 a baby. I didn't have any growth or stubble and these
15 other guys were shaving.

16 You had to do this every morning, and you had
17 a mirror at the sink and everybody started shaving.

18 I said to an officer, "Excuse me, sir, I don't need
19 to shave". He grabbed me like that and he said, "Get in
20 there and I'll give you a shave". Putting stuff on my
21 face and that. Just bullying, sadistic people. But
22 I had to be made to shave every morning, and that was
23 the routine every morning I was there. You had to
24 shave. Whether you had nothing to shave, you had to do
25 it. It was a regime. It was every morning.

1 Q. You say that you were given something to write a letter
2 home?

3 A. Yeah, yeah.

4 Q. I think you tell us about that at paragraph 21. You did
5 write a letter that first time?

6 A. I wrote letters asking for help. I said: please, I'm at
7 Glenochil in a detention centre; can you please get me
8 out of here? They're trying to kill me and I'm scared
9 stiff. Please somebody. This is an emergency. I need
10 to get out of here. Please somebody help.

11 Q. Did you give that to someone?

12 A. I licked the envelope and I stuck it and gave it to
13 them. I was oblivious to what goes on in these places.
14 I didn't know what goes on. I didn't know that they
15 read your letters. I didn't know anything about what
16 went on in these places, so they came back half an hour
17 later with the letter and they threw it down and said,
18 "What is this?" I said, "It's a letter I'm writing to
19 my mother. I need help".

20 They went like that with the letter, ripped it up
21 and threw it in the bin in front of me. And they said,
22 "Right, start again. There's a pen, there's a letter.
23 You're doing well. You're going to be fit when you get
24 out of here and you've made friends, and it's okay in
25 here".

1 I was forced to write this, to tell this lie to the
2 people outside this building, the real people had to
3 know what was happening and it wasn't -- I couldn't get
4 there. I got beat up. They threw my kit up there, the
5 bed block that I'd just -- it took me to learn how to do
6 this. Then they threw powder on the floor. They --
7 start clearing it all up again. Just because I was
8 asking for help in a letter.

9 Q. I think you tell us that they said that your bed block
10 wasn't right and you had to do it all again?

11 A. Yeah.

12 Q. They took it all apart?

13 A. Yeah.

14 Q. I think you go on to tell us about the routine and what
15 the food was like, at paragraph 23. In particular, you
16 tell us you weren't allowed to speak to anyone?

17 A. No, I had to be quiet all the time.

18 Q. There was no chatting with other men in there?

19 A. No, you were allowed to do half an hour at night-time.
20 There is a pool table. But you couldn't get a game of
21 pool. It was all the elites that got it. I used to
22 just stand there and look. I didn't really speak to
23 anybody in there. I couldn't really conversate, I never
24 really spoke much.

25 Q. You say although you can't remember the name of the wing

1 you were on, there was probably about 40 or 50 in your
2 wing; is that right?

3 A. Mm hmm, yeah.

4 Q. If we go further down to paragraph 25, I think you tell
5 us what you were allowed to do in your cell, and you
6 tell us about the fact that you would just sit and read
7 the Bible at night?

8 A. There was nothing else to do.

9 Q. You weren't allowed to lie on your bed?

10 A. No, you couldn't lie on the bed. You had to sit on your
11 seat. You weren't allowed to smoke cigarettes. They
12 were taken from me the first day I went and they threw
13 them in the bin.

14 Q. There is no smoking in Glenochil?

15 A. No, when I was there, there was strictly no smoking.
16 That was the rule. I went in and they searched me and
17 battered me and they took my cigarettes and threw them
18 in the bin.

19 Q. That was at the reception area when you first arrived at
20 Glenochil?

21 A. Yeah.

22 And another thing I meant to say about when I first
23 arrived was -- that I didn't like was -- my mother's
24 name, when they asked me what my mother's name was. My
25 mother is called [REDACTED] and they says, "Oh, we

1 have a Russian boy here". Started calling me a Russian
2 boy because of my mother's first name, but my mother was
3 actually born in Sunderland.

4 And then also I remember in reception -- which I
5 really hated to this day and I'll never forget it --
6 they asked me to look at a board on the wall and they
7 said, "Can you read out them letters on the wall? Put
8 your hand over your eye". So I had to put my hand over
9 my eye like this and I had to read the board on the
10 wall.

11 They said, "Right, do it with your other", I said,
12 "I can't see out of this eye". They says, "Read the
13 board. Don't be so bloody stupid. Read the bloody
14 thing". I was scared. I had to read -- even though
15 I was blind in my right eye, I had to read this. I had
16 no option.

17 I had to peep through a space in my fingers on my
18 left hand, so I could read it out to them, because they
19 wouldn't believe that I was blind in my right eye.

20 Q. I think you tell us at one point in your statement that
21 was a problem that you had, because you looked able,
22 people didn't believe that there was -- that you had
23 a disability?

24 A. Yeah. That's what happened at the -- a man from
25 Pakistan -- I have to watch what I say, because I

1 sometimes get afraid to speak these days because you get
2 told you are saying the wrong thing, you are racist or
3 something.

4 A man from India. I went and sat at a desk, and
5 I was there with my mother, and he asked my mother,
6 "Does 'Jimmy' play football?" and she said, "Yes". He
7 looks fit and that, and my mum said, "Yes", but she
8 never mentioned my eye. She says she never mentioned it
9 because I looked normal.

10 Q. Was this a social worker that you tell us about that you
11 saw once before you went into Glenochil?

12 A. Yeah. He put a report in saying I was fit to actually
13 go through this.

14 Q. When you tell us about this was supposed to be the
15 short, sharp shock, you were supposed to be fit to be
16 able to undergo that, and this social worker, in your
17 mind, didn't know that you actually couldn't see out of
18 your right eye?

19 A. No, he didn't know anything about me. He said I looked
20 fit and healthy, and he gave this note to the judge.
21 The judge didn't know me. The judge is just doing his
22 job. He just said -- just read it. Sitting with
23 his wig on and read it, and that was it.

24 Q. Your view is that you weren't fit to be doing --

25 A. I wasn't well. I was trying to get over a brain injury

1 for years. I was needing help. I never got help.
2 I was getting the opposite. I was getting punishment
3 rather than help.

4 And what annoys me is, I've never hurt anybody or
5 harmed anybody in my life. The only person I've ever
6 harmed in my life is myself, only me. I've punished
7 myself. I've never hurt anybody.

8 Q. You tell us more about Glenochil and that you were
9 marched about the place; is that what would happen?

10 A. Yeah, everything was --

11 Q. You were moving from one place to another --

12 A. You couldn't walk. It was always, "Left, right, left,
13 right", all the time, and then you had to stand on
14 parade, especially on a Sunday. You had to wear your
15 dress and stand at attention and wait for the governor
16 to come in. Sometimes you would be waiting a couple of
17 hours, standing at attention, stand at ease, you know?
18 Waiting for the governor to look at your shoes or see --
19 because you had to bully your shoes up every day, so you
20 could see your face in your boots.

21 Q. When you say "bully your shoes up"; is that shining them
22 up?

23 A. Yes, spit and polish. Had to do that all the time.

24 Q. Did you know how to do that before you went into
25 Glenochil?

1 A. No, I didn't know.

2 Q. By the time you left; were you able to do it?

3 A. Yeah.

4 Q. You tell us, at paragraph 8, about the situation with
5 washing and bathing, and you talk about there being
6 a row of showers?

7 A. Yeah.

8 Q. And that you sometimes would be in the middle of
9 showering and have soap in your hair and the water would
10 be turned off?

11 A. Yes, they had control of that. They would say: right,
12 the next ten.

13 You had to march, go in the shower, and would be
14 like this for two seconds and the water would go off.
15 So I learnt not to use much soap in my hair. I learnt
16 that fast, not to use too much soap because you would be
17 there and you would have to get out, covered in soap.

18 Q. You tell us, going further forward in your statement to
19 paragraph 32, that you got Bible classes on a Sunday.

20 At 33, that you didn't have much social time. But
21 I think you have mentioned the pool table, but that was
22 for other people who --

23 A. I couldn't get a game of pool, so I put my hands up when
24 they asked anybody for Bible lessons. And the way
25 things were going and the way I was getting treated and

1 that, I was actually wanting to not be there another
2 day. I didn't want to wake up in the morning. I was
3 crying myself to sleep every night. I was scared to
4 wake up for the bell going and what was going to happen
5 to me. It was constant fear.

6 Q. I think you say that you went to those Bible classes?

7 A. I went, yeah.

8 Q. What you tell us in your statement is you asked God for
9 help?

10 A. Yeah. I've never -- I've never ever been to church or
11 anything in my life. I've never did anything like that.
12 The only thing that was going to help me was God. I
13 thought: if there's anybody going to save my life here,
14 it's going to be God.

15 So there was -- they asked if you wanted to see
16 a minister, so I had to confess to a minister how you
17 felt through this thing. I couldn't see his face.
18 I had to talk to this man through a screen. He asked me
19 how I felt about the situation and how was I yesterday
20 and how am I today. And I told him I felt like just
21 killing myself. I don't see the point of me breathing
22 in this place again. I can't handle it. I'm getting
23 assaulted everyday by officers. I told the Minister
24 that.

25 The Minister was telling me that God was telling me

1 to be strong and this and that, and I'm going to go
2 through this and I'm going to survive this. He gave me
3 some kind of hope, the Minister, whoever he was. I
4 didn't know his name. He gave me some hope and I
5 listened to what he said. He said there is a God.
6 There is a power out there that's going to -- that will
7 help certain people.

8 He says you'll get through this. And I believed
9 that. You know, I got through it, but I don't know how.

10 Q. You have talked there about being assaulted; who was
11 assaulting you?

12 A. The officers were assaulting me in there. They gave us
13 jobs. The first job I got allocated was -- it was in
14 the dormitory -- was sewing mail bags, and they gave you
15 a big needle. I was frightened of needles, you know?
16 It was a nightmare to go and get a flu jag. I'm
17 frightened of needles. They gave me this job and I said
18 to the officer, "I'm frightened of needles". He said,
19 "What do you mean?" I said, "I had an accident". He
20 said, "Get a move on. Get it done". They wouldn't
21 listen to me.

22 It wasn't until the governor called to see me
23 because of what happened to me in the dormitory, and
24 because I didn't like doing mail bags, the governor
25 says, "I want to know what this drawing, the hangman,

1 what does this mean?" So I had to explain to the
2 governor and then, I think it was about two hours later,
3 an officer came into the cell and said, "Right, you're
4 on the cleaning department, scrubbing floors. They gave
5 me -- I got a rubber mat, put on the floor. It was like
6 tiles like this. And you had to be down on your hands
7 and knees scrubbing from -- all the hallway all the way
8 down. Your hands and knees and a big bit of soap like
9 this, and a big scrubbing brush and a cloth. And you
10 had to do this all day, every single day, every morning,
11 scrubbing floors. And then they gave me a job polishing
12 a big metal bin outside the office on the wing.

13 I used to tell people this is what I was supposed to
14 do. Then it wasn't until I read -- because of
15 technology, I read a story of a man that was in there,
16 who was looking back on his life and he was writing
17 a story about it, and he became a multimillionaire, this
18 man. And he was reading a story, and he mentioned me in
19 the story that he felt sorry for the young 16-year-old
20 boy who was made to polish the bin outside the wing. He
21 was talking about me.

22 Q. This is something that you read later on, after you came
23 out?

24 A. I just found that out recently.

25 Q. Instead of doing the mail bags, you were then scrubbing

1 floors; that was your work that you had to carry out?

2 A. Yeah, every day.

3 Q. I think you tell us also that there was PT outside; is
4 that right?

5 A. Yes.

6 Q. You had to run about.

7 A. I would like to mention, though, when we were scrubbing
8 the floors, you weren't allowed to speak. But one boy
9 spoke to a boy who was at the back, turned round and
10 said something, and the officer seen this. So they ran
11 over to the boy and grabbed him by the back of his neck
12 and pushed his head in the bucket of water and the pail
13 fell and the water -- they told him to wipe up all the
14 water.

15 Because I turned my head -- I heard the noise, and
16 because turned round, like that, and looked, the same
17 happened to me. They grabbed me by the hair and put my
18 head in the pail of water and told me to wipe up the
19 mess.

20 There was always somebody hitting you or assaulting
21 you in that place.

22 Q. You tell us a little more about that at paragraph 41.

23 Then, in paragraph 42, you start saying that you
24 were hit almost every second day?

25 A. Mm hmm.

1 Q. Who was that by?

2 A. Male officers. There were a couple of inmates hit me
3 a couple of times, but the officers intervened in that.
4 I'm not saying every single officer, because I
5 didn't see every single -- but I'm saying the officers
6 on my wing.
7 I mean, I'm not saying every single one was maybe
8 like that, but the ones I encountered were like that.
9 They were vicious, horrendous human beings. They were
10 battering me and then probably going home to their wife
11 and kids and watching the football with their sons and
12 things, after battering me to death like this and going
13 home.
14 These people weren't human beings to me. They were
15 just sent here by some kind of power, evil power to do
16 evil and harm people on this planet.

17 Q. You talk about getting dead legs sometimes?

18 A. Yeah, things like that. Standing and they'd come up the
19 side of you when you're standing at attention or
20 something and they'd knee you in the side of the leg.
21 And then it'd be that sore, but they still scream at you
22 to stand at attention after kneeling your legs.

23 Q. I think you also say there were a few times you got your
24 ear pulled?

25 A. That was the day when they put the boy's head in the

1 pail, the same happened to me. That was the same day.
2 Because I think I said something under my breath to the
3 officer, you know? And he came up, he said, "What did
4 you say there, you little ..." They're always swearing,
5 little b. "Because I told you in the reception when you
6 first arrived that you're not important, you are just
7 a number in here. You are nobody, you're just
8 a number".

9 And when -- that time I looked round at the boy
10 getting assaulted and his head put in the pail, the same
11 happened to me. But -- except this man that grabbed me,
12 grabbed me by the ear, with his hands like this, like he
13 was cork screwing a bottle and screwing my ear that hard
14 that this ear sticks out more than that one. This one
15 here. It sticks out a wee bit more than this one.

16 Q. You're indicating your head here.

17 A. That is because he pulled it that hard that it cracked
18 something in my ear. Then that night I went to bed and
19 woke up in the morning and there was blood trickling out
20 my ear.

21 Q. Did you get any medical attention for that?

22 A. Nothing.

23 Q. You say in your statement that you felt like it nearly
24 burst your ear socket?

25 A. Aye, aye.

1 Q. You also tell us that you had to say this, "Excuse me,
2 sir", any time that you saw an officer or they passed
3 you?

4 A. Yes, if an officer walked passed you, you had to jump up
5 to attention and say, "Excuse me, sir".

6 Q. Did you have any problem with that, because of the
7 difficulty with your right eye?

8 A. Yeah, yeah. Sometimes I wouldn't see it happening.
9 Sometimes they'd come and slap you if you were standing
10 there. There were times I didn't see the slaps -- where
11 other boys would see the slap coming, they'd go like
12 that with their head and they had a second to react, to
13 lessen the blow. But, if somebody comes at this side of
14 me, I couldn't see out of my right eye and, the slap, I
15 couldn't see it coming. So it was a million times worse
16 for me, the slap, because I couldn't see -- I didn't get
17 time to react.

18 Q. There's two issues there. One, you couldn't see the
19 officer sometimes, if they're on your right-hand side --

20 A. Aye.

21 Q. -- to say, "Excuse me, sir", and that would get you into
22 bother?

23 A. Yeah.

24 Q. Then, also, if a slap was coming your way on that side,
25 you weren't ready for it and you couldn't take it?

1 A. No, I wasn't ready for that. I couldn't see the slaps
2 coming.

3 I was the same in the playing fields. You had to do
4 running and stuff, hurdles and stuff like that. You had
5 to beat your time with a stop watch and you had to beat
6 your time every time you went. But I didn't know to run
7 slow in the beginning and then gradually -- I didn't
8 know. I was running as fast as I could. And then you
9 had to pass the relay baton thing. You had to run with
10 this baton round the track and pass the baton to the
11 other guy. But, when the other guy was on my right-hand
12 side, I couldn't see him coming. So there was
13 a confusion there for a second, I dropped the baton and
14 then that was it, hell broke loose.

15 Then the officer would pull me to the side for
16 dropping the baton. Then he'd say, "Right, two bars of
17 toffee deducted from your wages", because I got paid
18 wages, five bars of toffee a week.

19 Q. So that caused you an issue were you having to do --

20 A. Then they made me do bunny hops all the way from the
21 playing fields to the gym. And then put me through
22 a strict PT in the gym for dropping my baton. The least
23 infraction, the least thing, that was it, you got --
24 something would happen to you.

25 Q. You tell us that apart from slaps there were other

1 things that would happen. At paragraph 43, you are
2 talking about being punched by officers?

3 A. Yeah.

4 Q. Where would they punch you?

5 A. In the stomach.

6 Q. Anywhere else?

7 A. Shoulders and things like that. A lot of it was slaps
8 on the back of the head, too. Hard slaps on the back of
9 the head from men with uniforms.

10 Q. You mention being punched in the privates --

11 A. Aye, I've been punched there, too.

12 Q. Was that by officers?

13 A. Yeah, yeah.

14 Q. Any officer in particular?

15 A. I did mention an officer, but they said it would be too
16 much money and too much time to look into the past to
17 deal with your situation. I said, "I'm telling you the
18 names of these people. That's what happened". I told
19 them when I first come out and the police just laughed
20 at me and said, "That's what went on. Get over it".

21 Q. Is this somebody that you remember the name of?

22 A. Yeah, there was an officer called KFL. I remember
23 there was a man called KFL, with ginger hair, who was
24 nasty. The other two men with him were nasty, but I
25 didn't know their names.

1 Q. Is he the person that you are saying was involved in
2 punching you in the privates?

3 A. Yeah, KFL

4 Q. You tell us as well that this would happen when you were
5 either in the cell on your own or when you were on your
6 own somewhere else --

7 A. Mm hmm.

8 Q. -- but not so much when there were other officers
9 around?

10 A. Mm hmm.

11 Q. Did you know why that was?

12 A. Because he was sick. The man was nasty. The man --
13 none of the -- a lot of these men shouldn't have been in
14 that job. They shouldn't have been allowed to get away
15 with what they did.

16 Q. They weren't hitting you sometimes in front of other
17 officers; is that right?

18 A. That's right, aye. Some officers, in the reception,
19 those two officers assaulted me at the same time.

20 Q. I think if we go to paragraph 45, you have told us about
21 the gangs from Glasgow. I think you also say in that
22 paragraph, there were some gangs from Edinburgh as well?

23 A. There were a couple of boys from Niddrie in there, too.

24 Q. You weren't from there; you were from Fife?

25 A. I didn't know the situations really. I just knew these

1 people were all slashing each other with razors in the
2 faces in Glasgow and places. That's what was happening
3 back then.

4 Q. Not inside Glenochil, but outside?

5 A. Yeah. But, in Glenochil, one day, during the showers,
6 we all got told to get out and when I looked there was
7 all blood, like somebody had slashed themselves.

8 Q. That was one occasion you remember; blood in the
9 showers?

10 A. Aye, blood in the showers instead of water because some
11 young boy managed to get hold of a razor or something.

12 Because when you had a shave in the morning, you
13 always left your razors on the sink and the officers
14 would collect the razors. I don't know how he got this,
15 but he did something to himself.

16 Q. Harmed himself?

17 A. Mm hmm.

18 Q. Did you see that happen or is that something --

19 A. I just saw the blood coming out the cubicle. And we all
20 got told to move out, and I think the ambulance or
21 whatever happened. I don't know what happened to the
22 boy.

23 I also seen -- I've seen a boy committing suicide
24 later on, in a different place.

25 Q. In paragraph 45, you talked there about that officer,

1 Mr [REDACTED], and about an occasion when he said something
2 to you or whispered something; can you tell us about
3 that?

4 A. I can't really remember. People come and say things to
5 you. Like that officer would come up and say, "You're
6 never going to get out of here", and things like that.
7 And, "Your mother's this and your mother's this and
8 that". You know, just things that you didn't need to
9 say to people. Just like -- you're in a place where
10 there is devils there. Evil, there's evil in that
11 place. There is wicked, evil -- I didn't think human
12 beings were like that, to be honest. I never knew that
13 existed.

14 Where I -- up to the age of 13, although -- up to
15 13-year-old, I thought life was fantastic. I thought,
16 "This is fantastic, this world. Man, I love it", up
17 until the age of 13. And then from then on, just
18 everything went downhill.

19 Q. I think you say they weren't all bad, though, because I
20 think you tell us in that paragraph there was another
21 prison officer who told you not to worry about it, that
22 you would get out?

23 A. Yeah. There -- this was near the end of my sentence.
24 This is when something weird happened. It was the day
25 before I was getting released. I was in the cell in the

1 bottom flat all the time and then they moved me. The
2 day before I was getting released they moved me to
3 a second floor at the back, where there is no view and
4 nobody could see in.

5 I was wondering why they put me there. Then, at tea
6 time the day before I was getting released, this man
7 came in who had a suit on, and he reminded me of the boy
8 out that group, Noddy Holder out of Slade. Do you
9 remember that song, Merry Christmas Everybody, and he
10 shouts and screams, "Merry Christmas everyone!" I hate
11 it, because it reminds me of the man that came in my
12 cell, that I was moved to at the back, the day before
13 I was released.

14 I was sitting on the chair, and he says, "Come sit
15 on the bed". I sat on the bed and I was scared, because
16 you couldn't trust anybody. And this guy, I'd seen him
17 before, put his arm around me, like this. He says,
18 "You're getting out tomorrow, aren't you?" I said,
19 "Yeah". He said, "That's great. What are you going to
20 do?" I said, "It will be nice." He said, "What are you
21 going to do when you get home?", things like this he was
22 saying, speaking all nice. I thought nothing of it.
23 But then he turned round and said, "But you've got to do
24 something before you get out of here".

25 I didn't know what he meant. Then he says, "You

1 have to ..." He took his privates out, he pulled his
2 trousers down and said I had to do a sexual act on him
3 and I --

4 Q. This was the day before you were released?

5 A. Yeah. He said I wouldn't be released unless I do this.
6 And I had -- I've never -- I never knew about things
7 like that. I just got the fright of my life.

8 And what I did was, I screamed. I says, "I'm not
9 doing that", you know, and I screamed and I fought him
10 off. Because I screamed that loud people in Inverness
11 would have heard me from Alloa. I lost it. I lost
12 control. I went hyper-crazy, screaming for my life
13 because it was something I was never ever going to do.

14 Q. He sat on your bed beside you?

15 A. Mm hmm.

16 Q. He told you there was something you had to do to be able
17 to get out?

18 A. Threatened me.

19 Q. Did he say what that was or did he just take his
20 trousers off?

21 A. He said I had to commit a sexual act on him. He took
22 down his trousers and showed off his plonker and said,
23 "Right, you have to do this". Rub it and do this, and
24 gobble it or whatever. And he was serious, this guy.
25 He was dead serious, and I was dead serious. I was

1 fighting for my life. I got -- nothing happened. He
2 didn't get what he wanted.

3 But, having said that, looking back on these things,
4 I'm thinking: how many boys gave in?

5 I don't know. But I didn't give in. It was
6 something I was never going to give into, and I never.

7 Q. This was someone who was wearing, not an officer's
8 uniform, but a suit?

9 A. He was wearing a suit. He could have been a social
10 worker or something. I don't know who he was, this guy,
11 this man.

12 Q. Had you seen him before?

13 A. No.

14 Q. Did you see him again, after?

15 A. No. But, looking back at this, I'm thinking this guy,
16 whoever he was, he must have arranged something with the
17 prison staff to get me in a back cell, away at the back,
18 away from everybody, so nobody could peer in to see
19 anything. He preplanned for something to happen there
20 and it never happened.

21 I screamed and scared him. He went out the cell,
22 shut the door and went away.

23 Q. After he did that, he went away and you didn't see him
24 again?

25 A. Then, about ten minutes later, two officers come in and

1 was wondering what all the screaming was. They heard
2 a lot of screaming, you see. I took a seizure. I
3 couldn't breathe. I couldn't sleep that night. I
4 wasn't well. I lost my breath. I thought I was going
5 to die because of the sheer fright and panic that this
6 man springing this on me that -- I've never had
7 experience of anything like that before. I didn't know.

8 I just thought men were for men and -- men were for
9 girls and girls were, you know? Man and woman. That's
10 what I thought. I always thought that was my belief.
11 No disrespect to what society is now because they are
12 all getting married, men to each other. But, at that
13 time, I didn't know about things like that. I was
14 innocent to that. I'd never had sexual relationships,
15 until -- I just knew that I was not to go with a man. I
16 just knew I was made to go with a woman.

17 Q. Did you tell the officers who came to the cell what had
18 happened?

19 A. Yeah, yeah, yeah. I told the officers. I said,
20 "Listen, that man wanted me to do a sexual act on him
21 and I'm not well". I was crying, I was screaming.
22 I was in a state. They said, "Look, get all the room
23 fixed. Get all your stuff together, put it all
24 together. Clean up the cell. You're going home
25 tomorrow morning", they said. Then they closed the

1 door.

2 I couldn't sleep that night, but I did get home the
3 next morning.

4 Q. That different cell that you were put in; was that only
5 for that one night?

6 A. Yeah, yeah.

7 Q. The next day you were released from Glenochil?

8 A. Aye. I couldn't believe that I was -- I actually got
9 out of there alive.

10 Q. You talk a little more about Officer KFL, at
11 paragraph 46. You say that he gave you a punch in the
12 guts --

13 A. That's the man that screwed my ear, too. He done that.
14 He had red hair, ginger hair, that man.

15 Q. You say he did that a few times?

16 A. Yes, he just bullied me all the time.

17 Q. Once he did that to you in the shower, he punched you?

18 A. Mm hmm.

19 Q. And on other occasions when you were scrubbing the
20 floor?

21 A. Mm hmm.

22 Q. Is this the occasion that you told us about, when you
23 were scrubbing the floor -- you tell us at paragraph 46,
24 that you once spoke to someone and he must have heard
25 and:

1 "He grabbed me and started laying into me and
2 kneeling me and punching me."

3 You already told us about a time you were scrubbing
4 the floor and you looked back; is that the same time you
5 are talking about, about there?

6 A. Mm hmm.

7 Q. That is the same incident?

8 A. Mm hmm.

9 Q. You comment in that paragraph that he made sure he never
10 hit your face?

11 A. Mm hmm.

12 Q. Do you know why that was?

13 A. Because it would have been shown to the -- to somebody
14 else and they would have questioned him about it. He
15 made sure it was either in the stomach or in the back or
16 the legs or something.

17 Q. You tell us, out of all the prison officers, there were
18 maybe four that war really bad?

19 A. Mm hmm.

20 Q. But Mr **KFL** the only one you remember the name of?

21 A. Aye, aye.

22 Q. You say that you told that minister, I think once, that
23 you weren't happy there and you were feeling suicidal?

24 A. Yeah.

25 Q. If we go to paragraph 47, you tell us that you also told

1 him that you were getting beaten up --

2 A. Mm hmm.

3 Q. -- in Glenochil?

4 A. Mm hmm.

5 Q. But you say that you can't remember what his response to

6 that was?

7 A. No, the Minister never really helped regarding that.

8 I think -- I don't know what it was, like. He just says

9 I was going to get through it and to be strong; that

10 I was going to get through this and God was going to

11 help me.

12 I told him what was happening, but I don't know

13 whether he related back to the officers or whatever.

14 I don't know.

15 Q. After you told him; did anything change for you?

16 A. Not really.

17 Q. It didn't stop?

18 A. No.

19 Q. The beatings?

20 A. No.

21 Q. I think you say, at paragraph 48, that you also told

22 your lawyer, who you have mentioned, when you came out

23 what had happened to you in Glenochil, but he said just

24 to forget about it.

25 A. Can't prove anything in there. You've got these people

1 with uniforms and I'm just a 16-year-old boy. Nobody is
2 going to listen to me, so it's pointless.

3 I had to live my life with these thoughts: these
4 people have got away with this and I'm getting on with
5 my life, and I've been trying to get on with my life.
6 It's stopped me from getting good jobs and things like
7 that because of my brain damage, the things that have
8 happened to me before I was 18 and it spoilt my life.

9 I just couldn't get anything. So, I mean, I had to
10 resort to going to working in fields and farms and
11 labouring jobs, in and out of so many horrible jobs.
12 And I've injured myself because I'm disabled. I didn't
13 get any guidance regarding claiming benefits when I was
14 young. I didn't know how to do things like that. I
15 never got any help.

16 So what I did, I followed other people and I saw
17 other people going to the employment exchange and
18 signing their name to get what they call dole money
19 before you can get a job. So I had to go and sign my
20 name.

21 But because I signed my name, the job centres were
22 offering me these vacancies to go and get a job, and
23 Margaret Thatcher said, "If you can't get a job, go and
24 move somewhere else and get a job".

25 I always wanted to work.

1 Q. You do tell us about that. You've had a lot of jobs
2 over the years, but they've not been jobs that you've
3 enjoyed?

4 A. No, horrible, horrible jobs.

5 Q. They've been -- they've not --

6 A. Hard labour jobs.

7 Q. -- been jobs that paid much either?

8 A. Just hard labour.

9 I used to do this to get money to pay for music
10 lessons, to get away from the trouble and criminality
11 things that these people were doing, and I was getting
12 involved with them. I wasn't wanting that. I knew it
13 was wrong and I wasn't wanting that. I wanted something
14 better in my life.

15 Q. Before we get to -- you are going to tell us later -- we
16 will talk about the fact you ended up, later in life,
17 being involved in playing music and in bands. But,
18 before that, after you left Glenochil, you tell us about
19 that, at paragraph 49. You only did ten weeks and then
20 you were out, and you were 17 at some point after you
21 got out; is that right?

22 A. Mm hmm.

23 Q. We have already talked about this, but if we go forward
24 to the next page, you say, with the Navy, you wanted to
25 join it, but they said you were disabled. But, at

1 court, you were able to go to Glenochil for the short,
2 sharp shock.

3 A. That's what I'm saying, the Government is saying -- on
4 the one hand, the government is saying: look you are
5 disabled, you can't get in the forces or join the Navy.

6 And on the other hand, they're saying: this boy is
7 fit enough to be tortured in a way like this.

8 I'm in the middle thinking: well, there's -- I can't
9 do anything.

10 Q. After you left Glenochil, you go back to your parents
11 for a few months; is that right?

12 A. Yeah.

13 Q. You were able to go back, but you still didn't get on
14 with your dad; is that right?

15 A. That's right. I didn't get on with my father.

16 Q. You ended up staying with a friend and then you got into
17 drinking; is that fair to say?

18 A. We used to buy illegal drink off a shop. A woman used
19 to make this wine. If you took in a bottle, they would
20 fill it up for you, if you paid money.

21 Q. You were getting charged for things again and hanging
22 around with the wrong people?

23 A. Yeah.

24 Q. Then you were back in court again. That was about nine
25 months after you got out of Glenochil. You say then, at

1 paragraph 51, that you were involved -- you were charged
2 with stealing cars?

3 A. I never drove a car in my life at that age. This is all
4 nonsense this. But, people reading that, like if I was
5 going for jobs: oh, this boy stole a car before.

6 This is all -- I'm not deluded. I'm not
7 a delusional person about my past. I've nothing to lose
8 here. A lot of this is rubbish.

9 This was put on to me by two police officers who
10 were wanting promotion. So they charge -- sign there,
11 do this, you did this, you did that, you did this. I
12 said: no, because I did this and I'm involved with this
13 doesn't mean to say I've done all this stuff.

14 I'm not innocent. I broke into a place and stole
15 cigarettes. I stole Mars bars. I was involved with
16 these boys who stole big bottles of whisky.

17 The reason -- they stole a car. And it was a house
18 that was stored with whisky. They called it house
19 breaking, the officers. Then these bottles of whisky
20 were the giant bottles of whisky. We went back to this
21 town, dispersed, and we all got two big bottles of
22 stolen whisky.

23 When they parked the stolen car at the back of the
24 pub, they'd distribute the whisky, and I got two
25 bottles. So I put mine in this long grass out the road

1 because I didn't want to walk about with two big massive
2 bottles of whisky.

3 So, later on, I think it was the next day, I went
4 back and the whisky was still there. I don't know what
5 made me obsessed by this. But, as people said in the
6 council estate, it was my mental state when I was
7 growing up and causing me to be like this.

8 So I unscrewed the big bottle, and I'm standing
9 there with a big massive bottle of whisky and drinking
10 it.

11 I don't know what made me do it. I was drinking it
12 and I got drunk, and it was one of the big massive
13 bottles and I got drunk. There was a big bottle left,
14 it wasn't opened, and I went round to the boozer where
15 the stolen car was and I sold them a bottle of whisky,
16 so he phoned the police.

17 Q. You were selling a stolen bottle of whisky to the pub?

18 A. Yes. The stolen car was out in the pub car park.

19 There's me selling a stolen -- I wasn't well. I wasn't
20 right in the head at that time, and I never got guidance
21 and I was doing stupid things.

22 Q. You ended up going to Stratheden again because of
23 a referral. You spent about four weeks there that time;
24 is that right?

25 A. Aye.

1 Q. That was the time that you first saw a young girl
2 playing a piano and that was something that you were
3 interested in, music?

4 A. Yeah. I went into Stratheden, I went along this lobby
5 and I heard this music and there was a gym hall. And in
6 the corner was a piano and there was this tiny girl.
7 She was like a skeleton, she was really small, and she
8 was playing this piano, like -- I never heard anything
9 like this before. It was amazing. It blew me away.

10 Q. That is something that stayed with you, isn't it?

11 A. She had a seat and she put it beside her, and she got
12 the notes on that side of the piano and she told me to
13 do this, and she was playing this part of the piano.

14 That was the best thing that ever happened in my
15 life, this girl showed me. I thought, "This is
16 fantastic", because it's something that really gripped
17 the head of me, the music, the notes on this piano.

18 After that happened, I never seen the girl again. I
19 knew her name. She was from Glenrothes. I've always
20 wanted to see her again, but I never ever saw the girl
21 again, but she has always been in my brain, if you ken
22 what I mean, in my life.

23 So when I came out of borstal, I started going to
24 music lessons, paying for my own music lessons to keep
25 away from things.

1 Q. After you left Stratheden, I think you tell us, at
2 paragraph 52, you got in trouble again and you were
3 sentenced to about a year to 18 months?

4 A. Yes, I took the blame for stealing the car, the whisky
5 and everything, just to get off my head and plus I
6 wasn't wanting to say who was involved.

7 Q. Just to be clear: was the referral to Stratheden; did
8 that happen just before you were sentenced to Polmont?

9 A. Yeah.

10 Q. It was a referral to Stratheden to be assessed by the
11 court for that incident with the whisky and the car?

12 A. Aye. But at Stratheden I was telling all the doctors
13 I was okay. I didn't take the medicine, but I didn't
14 tell them I wasn't taking the medicine, though.

15 Q. You said they were giving you tablets and you weren't
16 taking them.

17 When you went to Glenochil, you tell us about that.
18 I think we can go down to paragraph 53, where you say
19 you were sentenced there at Dunfermline Sheriff Court.

20 At 54, you say you went to Polmont and ended up
21 being there for three months, as it turned out?

22 A. I was in there for three months.

23 Q. You think you were 17 when that happened?

24 A. Yeah.

25 Q. At 55, you tell us a little about Polmont and you say

1 you think you did okay in Polmont?

2 A. Well, because I was in the short, sharp shock, Polmont

3 was similar, but it wasn't as bad. It was bad, but

4 Glenochil was worse.

5 Q. It was bad, but not as bad as Glenochil?

6 A. Yeah.

7 Q. You tell us, at 55, that there was still this training,

8 running and working?

9 A. Yeah. I had to do that stuff.

10 Q. But you were able to smoke there. That was one of the

11 things --

12 A. You got a half ounce of tobacco.

13 Q. At paragraph 56, you say that in the first few weeks

14 there you saw horrific things?

15 A. Yeah.

16 Q. You say you saw a young -- a guy harm himself?

17 A. Yeah.

18 Q. There was [REDACTED]?

19 A. Yeah, yeah, yeah.

20 Q. Where was that?

21 A. That was in the second floor, in Polmont. It was called

22 the allocation centre. That's where you go when you

23 start the borstal training. You go there for the first

24 few months to see if you're going to get sent to another

25 open borstal.

1 Q. So they could decide if you were going to stay there or
2 go to an open --

3 A. See if you are trusted to be sent to an open place.

4 Q. You tell us there that you saw a lot of bad things in
5 there?

6 A. Oh, it was bad. It was bad. I mean, myself, I couldn't
7 see for six weeks. I was blinded for six weeks because
8 a boy headbutted me right in the face.

9 Q. Was that another young man?

10 A. An inmate. He said I was looking at him funny because
11 I've got a squint in this eye sometimes. Some days it's
12 worse, some days it goes worse. And because I've got
13 a slight squint in that eye he accused me of staring.
14 These people would assault you for the least thing.

15 Some people in there deserved to be in there, and
16 some people deserved to be locked up for the rest of
17 their life and never get any freedom. I believe that,
18 because I've been beside people that I'd never trust
19 with people, if you get what I mean? They're just too
20 far gone.

21 They're not normal like us people. These people are
22 dangerous. Some people in there were dangerous, and
23 later on in life I learnt that when I read about them,
24 about this certain person and what they'd done, and
25 I think to myself, "Good God, I knew that", you know?

1 Q. This regime at Polmont, you say it was quite similar to
2 Glenochil, in that you were given your number, your
3 name, your kit, and you're marched upstairs and things
4 like that. You would keep your bed and your cell nice
5 and tidy?

6 A. Similar, yes.

7 Q. The bed block again?

8 A. Mm hmm.

9 Q. There was a uniform that you tell us about. That is the
10 same -- similar to what happened at Glenochil?

11 A. Aye.

12 Q. In Polmont, you didn't get put in a dormitory, it was
13 a single bed in a cell; is that right?

14 A. Yeah.

15 Q. The same sort of layout as Glenochil?

16 A. Mm hmm.

17 Q. You tell us a lot about the routine, at paragraph 58.
18 You comment that it was harsh, but not as bad.
19 Glenochil was a lot worse?

20 A. Mm hmm.

21 Q. Is that how you saw it because you'd been in
22 Glenochil --

23 A. I think it was because I'd been in Glenochil and had
24 survived, and you couldn't get any worse than that.
25 When I was sent to that Polmont place, it was a similar

1 thing, but it wasn't as tense as what Glenochil was.

2 Q. There was still this routine that you had to get up at a
3 certain time?

4 A. Yeah.

5 Q. Stand to attention?

6 A. Mm hmm.

7 Q. Things like that?

8 A. Yeah. I got a job polishing floors in the hallways and
9 stuff.

10 Q. You tell us that you were locked up in your cell quite
11 a lot. At paragraph 60, you say you were locked up in
12 your cell quite a lot?

13 A. Yeah.

14 Q. Particularly over the weekend?

15 A. Yes. Most weekends. You were locked up all the time,
16 nearly every weekend. Maybe got out for an hour or
17 something for a bit of exercise to walk round the
18 landing and that was it. You were just locked up all
19 the time.

20 Q. If you were out, you would be either running, doing PT
21 or scrubbing?

22 A. Scrubbing and running, aye.

23 Q. There you got given tobacco, paid in tobacco for work?

24 A. Aye.

25 Q. But there were still parades, like there were in

1 Glenochil; is that right?

2 A. Yeah.

3 Q. But they weren't as long, you tell us?

4 A. No. Glenochil wages were worse. You got five bars of
5 toffee.

6 Q. A week?

7 A. Yeah. The wages weren't very good in Glenochil, to be
8 honest.

9 Q. I think you say, at Polmont, it was half an ounce of
10 tobacco and a packet of cigarettes papers?

11 A. Aye, that calmed my nerves a bit. I shouldn't have been
12 smoking anyway.

13 LADY SMITH: The toffee would have been terrible for your
14 teeth.

15 A. Terrible.

16 I'm still here. I don't know how.

17 MS FORBES: I'm about to move on to a part of your statement
18 where you tell us about some things that happened to you
19 at Polmont.

20 LADY SMITH: Maybe we should take a break just now,
21 Ms Forbes. We'll do that 'Jimmy'. We'll break now for
22 about 15 minutes and return to your evidence after that;
23 is that okay?

24 A. Yes, okay.

25 LADY SMITH: Very well.

1 (11.30 am)

2 (A short break)

3 (11.45 pm)

4 LADY SMITH: 'Jimmy', I hope you had a decent breather. Are
5 you ready for us to carry on with your evidence?

6 A. Yes.

7 LADY SMITH: Thank you. Ms Forbes, when you're ready.

8 MS FORBES: My Lady.

9 'Jimmy', just before we had the break we were
10 talking about Polmont. We were about to go to a part of
11 your statement where you tell us about things that
12 happened to you when you were in Polmont.

13 It's at paragraph 62. You comment that there were
14 more fights in Castle Huntly than Polmont, more
15 assaults, but you still tell us about some things that
16 happened to you when you were in Polmont.

17 Are you able to tell us about that?

18 A. When I was in Polmont, the first three months, I found
19 it was violent regarding inmates for the least thing.

20 There was once I was standing, waiting at the
21 canteen bit where you got your wages. So I was standing
22 there and this boy turned round and looked at me and he
23 headbutted me.

24 He said that I looked at him funny. This was the
25 reason for it. It wasn't until next day my eyes had

1 closed, and because I'm blind out of that eye, this eye
2 had closed too and I couldn't see. My nose was
3 flattened, like broken there.

4 I didn't know it was broken at the time. It wasn't
5 until I got released, I went to the doctors and I went
6 to hospital and they fixed it.

7 He headbutted me with a big massive head and he had
8 buck teeth, and he went like that to me. I wasn't
9 expected it. Just sore. I never seen a doctor or
10 anything like that. The wardens come up to me next day
11 and told me to go to the toilet and get cold water and
12 rinse my face out and stuff.

13 It wasn't until about a couple of weeks I was able
14 to see better.

15 Q. That was in Polmont, you think, not Castle Huntly?

16 A. That wasn't Castle Huntly. That was in Polmont.

17 Q. You tell us, when you were going to the gym hall people
18 would hit you, but only when the prison officers turned
19 their back?

20 A. Aye. Because I wasn't part of their gang. I wasn't
21 part of their clique or whatever they wanted to call
22 these boys. I was on my own.

23 Q. You weren't one of the Glasgow --

24 A. No, I wasn't part of any gangs or anything. I didn't
25 understand their language. I didn't understand what

1 they were doing and saying half the time, and it was all
2 violent talk.

3 Q. You tell us that there were a couple of bad experiences
4 with prison officers in Polmont. You say that related
5 to how they were speaking to you and what they were
6 doing. You tell us that they spoke to you like you were
7 rubbish and they would call you names?

8 A. Name calling and stuff like that.

9 I remember one officer, he didn't have a uniform on,
10 his chain and his keys and a tie and that , he was at
11 the top of the stairs and he threw a cigarette butt down
12 and he said, "Pick it up, you could have a few puffs of
13 it if you want". So I did. And then he come down and
14 started talking to me, but he was smelling of booze,
15 drink, smell of drink, but I didn't say anything to
16 anybody.

17 Q. You also say that they would pull your hair and kick
18 you?

19 A. Yeah.

20 Q. Give you a fly punch for no reason?

21 A. There were a couple of officers like that in Polmont.
22 They would hit you in the back or something: what you
23 looking at? Or: get your head down, move yourself.

24 Just rotten. Horrible, nasty.

25 Q. You say that you think you were assaulted about half

1 a dozen times when you were there?

2 A. Yeah, within three months, I must have been assaulted

3 three times by different inmates.

4 Q. You say two or three from prison officers and two or

5 three from inmates?

6 A. Inmates, yeah, in Polmont.

7 Q. I think at paragraph 63 you again talk about names that

8 you would get called as well as your mother?

9 A. Mm hmm.

10 Q. You say they were just trying to bring you down, to

11 break your spirit?

12 A. Yeah, all the time.

13 Q. Sometimes they would slag you off and then, if you swore

14 back or said something back, they would hit you?

15 A. Yeah.

16 Q. You talk about being headbutted a few times and punched?

17 A. Things like that.

18 Q. You describe them at paragraph 63, you say they were

19 violent, horrible people?

20 A. Yeah.

21 Q. Are you talking about the other people in there with

22 you?

23 A. Yeah, the people were just nasty.

24 Q. After the three months assessment that you've told us

25 about, you must have been assessed as okay to go to the

1 open prison, so you went to Castle Huntly from Polmont?

2 A. Yeah.

3 Q. At that time, you were happy, you say, to be getting
4 away from Polmont and the situation?

5 A. Yeah.

6 Q. When you got to Castle Huntly, I think you say you were
7 there for about eight months in total before you were
8 released?

9 A. Yeah.

10 Q. But you didn't tell them you had a disability until
11 about four months in?

12 A. Mm hmm.

13 Q. Did that come about as a result of an incident where
14 there was a fight and you were hit by someone?

15 A. Mm hmm.

16 Q. Is that right? Can you tell us about that?

17 A. Yeah. Everybody was always out to prove they were
18 tough. This is what was going on in these places. And
19 I wasn't part of all that stuff.

20 There were a few times, you know, I was assaulted.
21 There was one particular time that I remember that I was
22 getting pestered, harassed by a sexual predator, and
23 this was another inmate, just a couple of years older
24 than me. He kept harassing me.

25 I got a job in the cooks, in the kitchen, in

1 Castle Huntly. We got put on a section, and there was
2 this other boy in this section who wouldn't leave me
3 alone. He wasn't right. He would not leave me alone.

4 It was getting too much, and there was one day he
5 assaulted me in the kitchen and punched my nose. It was
6 all bleeding and that, and officers asked what happened.
7 I never told them. I said, "I couldn't tell you", but
8 actually he did it again, about a week later. Did the
9 same, came up and hit me again, and the officers saw him
10 doing that.

11 So he got put on a report thing, and he had lost,
12 I think, about four days' remission -- spend more time.
13 And he got shifted out to another job, away from me.
14 I was in the kitchen. I was doing okay. I was working
15 away to pass the time.

16 He got shifted to a garden part or something, so
17 that was that. That was sorted. The officers helped me
18 there.

19 Then there was this other one time, where the
20 officers stopped a boy because they seen what he was
21 doing. He kept coming up behind me and pretending to do
22 sexual acts all the time and touching me and kissing the
23 back of my neck. He was a creep. He was just a creep,
24 horrible.

25 I looked into his eyes and he was miles away. He

1 was dangerous and he was nasty and he was horrible, and
2 the officers actually caught him in the act, coming up
3 behind me, you know, grabbing his arm -- coming from
4 behind and grabbing me like this and going (indicated)
5 and kissing the back of my head and my neck and feeling
6 me and touching me and things like that.

7 I ended up fighting him once, but the officers knew
8 what he was about and he got himself into trouble. He
9 got remission -- I was getting bullied by him in a bad
10 way for about three months and they eventually found out
11 and they moved me to this other section, and things were
12 all right after that.

13 The officers were okay. The cook teacher and other
14 officers were -- in Castle Huntly, used to come up to me
15 and ask if I was okay and stuff like that. And they
16 said that I needed to get help when I get out. They
17 said, "You are not part of this. You are not one of
18 them people. You have to get help when you go out".

19 They kind of -- to be honest, I'm not going to say
20 anything bad about the officers at Castle Huntly because
21 I can't remember any officer assaulting me or doing
22 anything really nasty in Castle Huntly. The officers in
23 Castle Huntly, to me, were just normal people. They
24 weren't like what they were in Polmont or in Glenochil
25 detention centre.

1 These men were doing a job. They weren't

2 brutalising me.

3 Q. When you compare it to your experience at Glenochil and
4 at Polmont, Castle Huntly was different in that respect;
5 the prison officers there, you felt, were human and were
6 asking if you were okay?

7 A. Yeah, they were concerned about me in Glenochil, a few
8 times watched out for me and looked after me and they
9 were okay. They were normal human beings.

10 Q. At Castle Huntly?

11 A. At Castle Huntly. The men that worked there were normal
12 men.

13 Q. Was there a time, though, when there was an incident
14 that you tell us about where you ended up being put into
15 solitary confinement? Was that as a result of
16 an incident that happened with another inmate?

17 A. Another inmate. What happens -- if you get assaulted,
18 it doesn't matter who assaults you or whatever, if
19 there's somebody -- assaults you, you automatically get
20 put in segregation, confinement, solitary. Whether
21 you're innocent or not, you get put there and you've got
22 to wait until the governor comes back, so he could
23 collect the information regarding the assault and what
24 happened.

25 So I got -- I got put in front of the governor and I

1 told the governor what had happened, and because it
2 happened before, I never got into trouble. Because the
3 governor knew that I was defending myself. I wasn't
4 assaulting anybody. I was defending myself against this
5 boy that hit me with -- it's a big metal hook for mixing
6 potatoes.

7 Q. If we go to paragraph 82, I think you tell us that this
8 was somebody you said was called [REDACTED], from
9 Aberdeen?

10 A. That was him, aye.

11 Q. You say that there was a hook for mixing potatoes; what
12 did he do with that?

13 A. He came up to me and he pushed me against the cupboard
14 and he held it round my neck, like that, and squeezed it
15 against my neck like that and pushed it like that and
16 then he went boosh, like a karate thing, and it hit the
17 side of my head. There was blood coming out my head and
18 my nose.

19 He got put on report. I got put on report because
20 I was fighting back, I was trying to protect myself.
21 But I never got loss of remission because by the time
22 the officers come and see what was going on, they knew
23 what he was doing was wrong, it wasn't me.

24 Q. That's not the occasion that you ended up in solitary
25 confinement, is it?

1 A. I ended up in solitary confinement because of another
2 boy from Paisley.

3 Q. If we go to paragraph 81, you tell us about this. A guy
4 from Paisley called [REDACTED]?

5 A. Aye, that's it. Yeah. I always remember him, because
6 he was trying to hit me so hard. He was trying to kill
7 me because I wouldn't move off a chair, at the
8 television room.

9 Q. I think in that paragraph you describe that guy being
10 a big guy with buck teeth.

11 You know how you told us earlier there was
12 an incident with a guy with buck teeth before; is that
13 this guy or is that a different incident altogether?

14 A. Different incident. [REDACTED] was a different one, and
15 Paisley was later on.

16 I think I went under -- I had about half a dozen
17 assaults since I was in Castle Huntly, but none of the
18 officers assaulted me.

19 Q. I think at that paragraph that we have there, 81, you
20 say that [REDACTED] hit you a few times and kicked you in
21 your private area, and he came up behind you while you
22 were watching TV and tried to strangle you?

23 A. Tried to strangle me from behind. I was watching
24 television like this, and I didn't notice him at the
25 time, but he came up behind with these other boys and he

1 put his arms round my neck, like this. And he was
2 squeezing the living daylights. He was trying to
3 strangle me.

4 Q. You say that happened -- he did it so hard that you
5 passed out?

6 A. Aye. I thought he was trying to kill me. I couldn't
7 get away, off his grip because he was a big guy.

8 Q. After that, you tell us that you think he was sent
9 somewhere else, to another place?

10 A. Aye. Eventually, I think he was sent somewhere else
11 because he had assaulted somebody else.

12 Q. The incident with [REDACTED] that you tell us about, you
13 say that there was more than one incident with him.

14 There was the incident with the hook, for mixing the
15 potatoes, but there was also an incident in your cell?

16 A. When you are in Castle Huntly, an open prison, you are
17 allowed to lie on your bed. It wasn't strict.

18 So I was lying on my bed reading a book and the
19 doors weren't locked. You are allowed to keep your
20 doors open, there was a corridor and he walked past and
21 he come running, like that, and he went boosh, and
22 punched me right in between the legs. Things like that.
23 And run away and laugh.

24 It's just insane.

25 Q. The issues you had with him, assaulting you, you tell us

1 had been going on for quite a while before you
2 retaliated or hit back?

3 A. Mm hmm.

4 Q. If we go down to paragraph 84, you say that when you
5 were in the kitchen working, doing your job, your cook
6 job, that you got into confrontations with some of the
7 other inmates and you described them as being cruel,
8 wicked and violent. You say you had a hard time there?

9 A. I had to fight for my life sometimes with other inmates.

10 I'm not a violent person, but I was always on the
11 defence. I learnt wrestling. When I came out of
12 Glenochil, I went to wrestling for about six months to
13 learn how to defend myself. So when these people were
14 attacking me, I was defending myself. I wasn't
15 violently hurting them, but I was managing to protect
16 myself by putting them in a lock or something, or on the
17 ground, and things like that, just protecting my face.

18 I think I fought -- defending myself a lot harder
19 than anybody else, the reason was because I was
20 protecting my eyesight. I knew I only had my one eye,
21 so the panic and anger set in and I was on a defence
22 mode, not to harm anybody. I was just total in defence
23 mode, to protect myself.

24 Q. You say there that you couldn't just stand there and be
25 a target, you had to defend yourself?

1 A. Yeah.

2 Q. You tell us, when you did, that's when you ended up in
3 the solitary confinement?

4 A. Yeah, defending myself.

5 Q. You got two weeks there?

6 A. Yeah. No, I think it was a week I was in solitary,
7 because the governor was on holiday and he didn't come
8 back until the Monday and I was in there for about
9 a week.

10 Q. You describe solitary a little bit in that paragraph.
11 You tell us that there was no window, just a wee
12 skylight?

13 A. Yeah, just a wee light in the roof. There were no
14 windows. Just a square room. That was it. Nothing
15 else. A couple of blankets. Nothing else.

16 Q. Was the door open like it was in your cell normally?

17 A. No, it was locked all the time.

18 Q. Did you get to go out of there for your meals or did you
19 have to have them in the cell?

20 A. Had to have them in the cell.

21 Q. What about if you needed the toilet?

22 A. I had to press the button.

23 Q. There was a button?

24 A. Yeah.

25 Q. Did that ring a bell or something?

1 A. Yeah.

2 Q. I think there was no toilet in the cell, obviously?

3 A. No.

4 Q. Were you ever given anything to --

5 A. A chamber pot, I think. You had a chamber pot in
6 Glenochil detention centre, too, but I never used it.

7 Q. Sometimes you were given a chamber pot at Castle Huntly;
8 when would you be using that?

9 A. When I was locked in the cell, just in solitary maybe.
10 But I never had that in the cell, because you were
11 allowed to go to the toilet. There was a toilet in each
12 wing.

13 Q. You mentioned there something about Glenochil and
14 Polmont; what was the situation there with the chamber
15 pot? Did you have to use it then?

16 A. You had to use that in Glenochil detention centre.

17 Q. Just Glenochil?

18 A. Yeah. You had to use that every morning.

19 Q. Was that something at night-time, if you were in your
20 cell --

21 A. If you needed the toilet you had to use it.

22 Q. Would you have to empty that in the morning?

23 A. Every morning, yeah.

24 Q. That wasn't the position at Polmont? Was it different?

25 A. No.

1 Q. There were some toilets to use in Polmont?

2 A. Yeah.

3 Q. Were they in the cell or did you have to leave the cell
4 to get them?

5 In Polmont, there were no toilets in the cell; is
6 that right?

7 A. There weren't toilets in the cell. You got a chamber
8 pot in the first three months.

9 Q. That was the same at Glenochil?

10 A. Aye, I think so.

11 Q. I think you tell us, when you're in solitary confinement
12 for that week in Castle Huntly, your mum came to visit,
13 but she couldn't see you because you were in solitary;
14 is that right?

15 A. Mm hmm.

16 Q. You will tell us a bit about the routine in Castle
17 Huntly. We've got that there. We can read it, so
18 I'm not going to go through that with you. But you do
19 say there were things you could do at night, like night
20 classes; is that right? You learnt how to make bread?

21 A. Yeah. I went to the cookery classes at night-time.
22 Although I worked seven days a week washing trays and
23 peeling spuds and stuff like that, making bread and
24 stuff. And I used to do that seven days a week. But
25 then, at night-time, I used to go, just to get away from

1 the wing and get away from the guy and stuff. So I used
2 to go away and work overtime.

3 Q. This was a night class, was it, teaching you cookery
4 skills?

5 A. Aye.

6 Q. You say, at 86, there weren't any incidents with prison
7 officers in Castle Huntly and in fact one or two of
8 them were concerned about you and asked you if you were
9 all right quite regularly?

10 A. There was a couple of officers who noticed -- who I
11 found out later they weren't just there to lock people
12 up and be rotten. There were officers in Castle Huntly
13 who cared, who had feelings. They would come up to me
14 and ask if I was okay and: what is he saying to you?
15 What is he doing to you? We're watching this boy. He's
16 at you all the time.

17 They were wanting information off me regarding the
18 way I was getting treated by certain people. Because I
19 wasn't scared to answer back, but it wasn't because I
20 wasn't scared. It was because I didn't have the brain,
21 the mentality to -- how to answer to these type of
22 people. I was answering them in a way that they didn't
23 like and make them violent towards me.

24 If I told them the truth, they would be violent.

25 Q. I think when you left Castle Huntly they actually bought

1 you some clothes, you tell us, because the clothes that
2 you had when you came in didn't fit?

3 A. Mm hmm.

4 Q. And they gave you your bus fares?

5 A. Yeah.

6 Q. I think, at paragraph 88, you give us some dates that
7 you might have got from your previous conviction about
8 when you went in. We'll not worry too much about that.

9 You think you went into Glenochil when you were 16;
10 17 when you came out. And then into Polmont when you
11 were 17 and then to Castle Huntly; that is what you
12 remember?

13 A. Yeah.

14 Q. You tell us then about your life after you were in these
15 places, from paragraph 89.

16 I'm not going through everything with you, but there
17 are some things that I'll go through with you just now
18 and ask you about.

19 I think you say that you were involved in folk music
20 after you left Castle Huntly; is that right?

21 A. When I come out of Castle Huntly, that was when I met my
22 old schoolteacher, when I was a child, my first primary
23 teacher after my accident, when I was young. I met her
24 when I came out of Castle Huntly.

25 I told her what had happened to me and where

1 I'd been, because I was working in her garden and I was
2 helping her. She was retired, she was a nice old woman
3 and we got on great. I told her everything about my
4 life because I could relate to this woman. She was
5 normal.

6 Then, after I spoke to her, she advised me what to
7 do. Because I told her I liked music and told her about
8 the girl and the mental hospital. She advised me: get
9 yourself a fiddle and see what you can do and that.

10 So I took her advice and instead of getting into
11 trouble and drinking and getting into trouble I wanted
12 to better myself, to escape what was happening. So I
13 started working in farms and places to get money and
14 then the money I was getting I was buying clothes,
15 giving my mum dig money and paying the rest of the
16 money, instead of drinking alcohol and getting into
17 trouble I was paying for music lessons so I could learn
18 something in life and just be a normal human being.

19 Q. You say at 91 that you started learning to play a few
20 different instruments, fiddle, boxes and guitars and
21 then you were actually playing gigs with others across
22 the country?

23 A. Yeah. Well, I met my friend -- a man who became my
24 friend and he actually became a famous folk star and I
25 went about with him for years and he learnt me quite

1 a lot of things and he wrote a lot of famous songs like
2 the [REDACTED] things like that, and he did the
3 shows, [REDACTED].

4 I started to come to Edinburgh and he was playing at
5 folk venues in the 1970s and stuff like that. I used to
6 carry his guitar. I was his roadie-type thing. And my
7 friend played the accordion and he was a friend of Jimmy
8 Shand and I got to meet all these people and I liked
9 music so I just started learning stuff, so I started
10 learning and I started my own ceilidh band.

11 Q. I think there were some problems along the way, you tell
12 us there were problems with alcohol and some gambling
13 and because of that you sometimes fell out with people
14 and that led you later to getting involved with some of
15 the old friends that you knew?

16 A. I fell back into trouble. I went about with people.

17 Q. We won't go into any detail about it and we have the
18 information here, but you ended up for a short spell
19 back in prison again. I think it was ten months in your
20 20s?

21 A. Yeah. I got sent way to prison because I was -- I
22 got -- for being honest. You maybe think it's
23 unbelievable but it's a true fact.

24 Q. You tell us about that at paragraph 92. There is
25 an incident with house breaking, jewellery was taken?

1 A. I was with a man and I was working with a man doing
2 jobs. I thought he was okay, but it turned out he was
3 going to his relatives and I was going with him to some
4 uncle's house. I never knew the details about it but
5 I was there. When I was there, there was nobody at the
6 door when he tapped on the door, so the window was open.
7 We went in the window and said to me, come in.

8 I went in and sat down. I said: this is not right.
9 Something's not right here. I'm getting out. But then
10 his uncle appeared and then he grabbed hold of him and
11 assaulted him, but nobody was hurt. The man and the
12 woman who owned the house weren't hurt or harmed or
13 anything like that, but the person I was with stole
14 property belonging to these people.

15 I didn't realise the extent of the damage until I
16 ran away and it was the next day when we went into this
17 boy's house when we met up, he had a bag. I knew he
18 stole stuff. I knew he was stealing stuff. I was
19 scared of this guy. He had a bag of jewellery. I think
20 the jewellery was maybe a family heirloom, do you call
21 it? It was all gold. A lot of money's worth of
22 Victorian gold stuff. I don't know much about
23 jewellery, but this was hereditary stuff.

24 I looked at it and I felt rotten. The next day I
25 felt rotten so -- the reason I felt like this is because

1 I seen my mother's reaction when a sneak thief came in
2 our back door one day in the summer and stole stuff out
3 my mother's house and how it affected her. It was
4 something belonging to her mother. I knew this was
5 wrong. I knew I was in a bad situation here. I knew
6 I was involved with something here. I didn't know what
7 to do.

8 The boy went to the shop, the jewellery he had put
9 under his bed upstairs in another boy's house, a friend
10 of ours at the time, I didn't know what to do. I
11 panicked. I don't know what made me do this. I think
12 I had done it because it was the right thing to do.

13 I got the bag of stuff when he was at the shop and I
14 travelled or walked all the way through the fields, I
15 walked all the miles to Cowdenbeath. I tapped on the
16 woman's door and I put all the jewellery at the doorstep
17 and I put a message saying "very sorry for this".

18 Then I ran away. Because I did that, somebody seen
19 me taking -- going to the door, somebody that knew he
20 saw me putting stuff on the doorstep.

21 Q. You got charged with --

22 A. They said that -- I got charged with it because I was
23 scared to tell who it was.

24 Q. You got ten months for that, you tell us, but that was
25 the last time you say that you got into trouble?

1 A. That was it. I thought I've got to leave this place.
2 I've got to get away from this. I wasn't well. I
3 got -- I thought I can't take this any more. I've got
4 to get away.

5 When I came out I seen my mother. I said: I've got
6 to get away from here. I said I'm 25 years/26 years. I
7 says: this is hell, this place. And plus I got attacked
8 in the street. One of the police officers' brothers --
9 I was coming back from a music lesson and in the high
10 street talking to somebody and this man come running out
11 the pub and started stabbing me with a knife. Didn't
12 know -- I just thought he was punching me. But all the
13 time he had this big knife in his hands and he was
14 stabbing -- I didn't know that he had a knife.

15 He ran away -- dropped the knife because he fell on
16 the ground and ran away and two friends said: phone the
17 police, phone an ambulance, GCN [REDACTED] been stabbed. So
18 the ambulance came and took me to hospital and I lost
19 pints of blood and had to have a transfusion.

20 This is the reason why I think "justice" is only
21 a word to me, because that boy got charged for attempted
22 murder. He went to court and walked out the court and
23 that's why I don't see justice, because I was only 16
24 and I got all that done to me and I never did things
25 like that. Nothing like that. I never harmed anybody

1 in my life.

2 I'm an innocent person. I've got previous
3 convictions for breaking entries because I had no choice
4 but to accept it because I was in a situation, I was
5 trapped between the police, my father, these young
6 criminals that were planning things, not me, and I was
7 going along with everybody and then I was pleasing
8 everybody. I was -- I was a "yes" man to things that
9 were -- I shouldn't have been saying "yes".

10 Q. Later then you met a woman and you got married in 1985,
11 so not too long after that?

12 A. Yeah.

13 Q. And then -- I know that you're not together any more, is
14 that right, but I think you were in touch for quite
15 a long time after you got divorced, is that right, and
16 she was caring for you for a little while as well?

17 A. Well, it breaks my heart. I was with the woman 36 years
18 and she has got a -- she works 40 hours a week. She is
19 a manager of a job and she's worked for years and she's
20 addicted to her work and stuff like that and I was
21 needing help and she is that busy she couldn't give me
22 the help so I feel like she put the public before me.
23 They were more important. And we weren't getting on and
24 I wasn't a man that kept her in all the time. She was
25 allowed to go abroad and do what she wants. She was

1 a free woman, do what she likes.

2 Q. I think she had a son as well that you were --

3 A. When I first met her, when I came out the prison, I left
4 the area and went to Inverness in Scotland and bought
5 myself a guitar and I went into a club and these boys
6 wanted me to play in between the band for half an hour
7 to sing songs. So I did that and then I started earning
8 money and I met this woman who had a child. He was only
9 nine months old, I think, a wee boy and she was
10 a beautiful woman and she came from Liverpool.

11 That was the first time in my life that any woman
12 has ever given me attention and love and care, like she
13 did, because I never knew much in my life. She learnt
14 me everything about care and about goodness and badness
15 and this, that -- and this woman taught me --a really
16 brilliant woman.

17 She had a son and we got together because she was
18 getting harassed by her ex-boyfriend, bullying her and
19 stuff so she wanted to go with me and I protected her
20 from this guy and got her to move in with me because my
21 friend -- I met this guy who worked on an oil rig and he
22 a house and he asked me if I could stay in to look after
23 it while he was away.

24 I said, yeah, so I did that. I asked him is it all
25 right if this woman comes to stay because she is getting

1 harassed. He said, yes. We ended up getting married.
2 I brought the boy up all my life and he ended up top of
3 the Ministry of Defence working with the Navy as
4 a technician in submarines and winning a trophy and --
5 pretty clever this boy, the way he was brought up.
6 Never in trouble with the police.

7 [REDACTED] fell pregnant and we had our own son, so we
8 brought him up and he is successful, and never been in
9 trouble with the law, nothing like that. The two of
10 them are very successful. They've never been in trouble
11 with the police. Nothing like that. They had a very
12 good education and I think the reason for that is
13 because -- people used to ask me: how did your sons end
14 up like that and you're crazy? And I'd say the reason
15 they ended up like that is maybe because I was there for
16 them. I took them places. I didn't have money, but
17 I had love, empathy, care and a looked after their
18 safety and made sure that they were going on
19 a straight -- I was doing the opposite of what happened
20 to me, if you know what I mean.

21 I was giving my time to them. I wasn't giving time
22 to boozers and sitting around the table with a bunch of
23 drunks talking nonsense. My time went on the two boys,
24 taking them fishing or taking them camping, learning
25 them things about plants, about life and things and

1 that, trying to do what I thought was what I was wanting
2 when I was wee, the kind of care.

3 Q. If we go to paragraph 100, you want to tell us about the
4 fact that you've lived most of your life with this brain
5 injury as a result of what happened to you in that
6 accident, is that right?

7 A. Yeah.

8 Q. And that it took you years, like you've said there, to
9 know what was wrong and what was right and I think you
10 have said that your wife was somebody who was involved
11 in helping you come to that.

12 You wanted to say that you're not a bad person but
13 it is when you moved to that larger town in Fife that
14 things changed for you?

15 A. Changed, definitely.

16 Q. And that you've seen doctors through the course of your
17 life, spoken to psychologists and ended up on medication
18 and have quite a few health problems?

19 A. Mm hmm.

20 Q. If we go to paragraph 102, this is where you talk about
21 impact. You say that you think your time in the
22 detention centre stigmatised you?

23 A. Definitely.

24 Q. And the ringing of the bell in the morning that's never
25 left your mind?

1 A. No, it's not.

2 Q. You say especially when you were 16 and in Glenochil?

3 A. Yeah. People talk about what were you doing in the
4 early 1970s and things like that and people -- people
5 come up to you in conversation and I've got to back away
6 and go to the toilet or something like that.

7 Christmas time comes and I hear that daft song,
8 Merry Christmas Everybody, that Noddy Holder shouting,
9 because he reminds me of the person that wanted me to do
10 something the day before I was released. Every time
11 I'm in the supermarket and I hear that crazy tune I
12 go -- you know, I'm wanting this tune to go away. It
13 doesn't go away.

14 Q. We have talked about the fact that you've had struggles
15 trying to get work because of the disability?

16 A. Definitely. I had to go from job to job. I worked saw
17 mills and got the top of my thumb sawn off and stuck
18 back on. I've had that many injures because I can't
19 see -- the eye -- and I was going to jobs and working in
20 saw mills next to big saws and oblivious to my
21 disabilities.

22 Then I was working in bake houses. I've worked in
23 building sites, different jobs where I was getting
24 injured quite a lot and I just didn't know how to claim
25 certain benefits and stuff. I wasn't wanting to be on

1 unemployment stuff. I wasn't one of them. I was always
2 wanting to work so I couldn't get any work so what I did
3 was I spent years making money for a lady, Sue Ryder.

4 Q. Was this you were buying toys --

5 A. That was another thing that I had going. I start --
6 because I didn't get much toys as a child I always
7 remember the wee Match Box cars so I started saving up
8 the cars and wee trains and running wee trains and
9 because I liked reminiscing in 1960s in my childhood. I
10 like to reminisce up to the age I was 13 because to me
11 that was fantastic.

12 LADY SMITH: Sue Ryder, 'Jimmy', I think founded a charity.

13 A. Yes.

14 LADY SMITH: Is that correct?

15 A. Yes. I did it all for free. I was giving them my time
16 rather than sitting in the house moaning and I just
17 thought there's other people needing help so why am I
18 sitting here? I think I'll go and give my time to pass
19 my time and give my time to Sue Ryder Care, where they
20 were raising money for neurological brain disease and
21 different things like that.

22 I just thought I'd do that.

23 MS FORBES: You tell us about that in paragraph 96. You say
24 you raised money for cancer research and for Sue Ryder
25 to keep yourself busy and we have the different jobs

1 that you've had over the years and you say that they
2 were hopeless jobs, that's what you describe them as.

3 A. Yeah. There was one job where I got recognition. That
4 was from the head of the Union of Farmers in Scotland,
5 agricultural, where I landed in a position working with
6 sheep. A lot of problems with Chernobyl and the sheep
7 and all the farmers were bringing the sheep into the
8 Angus estate agents at this auctioneer market selling
9 sheep to butchers and factories and stuff.

10 I got a job grading sheep, Suffolk Crosses, and
11 stuff for the farmers and meat buyers. But whilst I was
12 there I caused a big scene because I didn't like the
13 cruelty to animals. So I kicked up about the cruelty
14 that I had seen that was happening right next to me.

15 I got on well with the head of -- Rabb Lawson -- the
16 Union of Farmers in Scotland. He gave me a reference
17 because I was defending animals because there were evil
18 human beings hitting sheep with sticks over the nose and
19 kicking them and trying to get them into this ring to
20 get them sold. I didn't like what was going on, so I
21 got -- not into trouble, but I couldn't stay with the
22 job because of them reasons.

23 Q. I think you tell us a little more about impact that this
24 has had on you at 104 where you say you think about your
25 time at Glenochil every day. And that it's never really

1 left you?

2 A. It hasn't. I've tried to get on with my life. I was
3 okay. I was putting it all behind me. I wasn't wanting
4 to be one of these people harping on at the past all the
5 time because it was horrid. I tried to move forward.
6 I've been trying to do that and put this behind me.

7 I think I was doing all right until I got a letter
8 from John Swinney, the Head of the Education, through
9 Jim Brennan, councillor, who worked for the arts and
10 crafts in Dunfermline and he was a friend of mine
11 because he played in the music and he got speaking to
12 people and then John Swinney and my local MP wrote me
13 a letter saying this redress thing was starting and I
14 should apply for this, because some people knew what
15 happened to me.

16 LADY SMITH: I think that was probably your local Scottish
17 MP, a member of the Scottish Parliament, is that right,
18 Shirley Anne Somerville?

19 A. Yes.

20 LADY SMITH: This was to do with the Redress Scheme.

21 A. That's right. I spoke to her. That's right.

22 MS FORBES: You tell us about that at paragraph 105. You
23 say as well that you have reported what happened to you
24 to the police. You did that and you went to the police
25 station and told them all about it.

1 Looking forward then, you wanted to move forward.
2 You talk about lessons that you think should be learned.
3 If we go to paragraph 109. You tell us what your views
4 are and you say there that you think there should be
5 more -- should have been more grownups that specialised
6 in a person's background that knew more about that
7 person's illness.

8 You think it should be more about the person's
9 individual needs and issues?

10 A. The person you are talking to, you don't know that
11 person. If it comes to justice, you've got to know who
12 is in front of you and who's not in front of you, but
13 sometimes it's difficult because people -- judges and
14 that, they have to listen to -- so I don't know -- there
15 is nobody really to blame. It was just all wrong.

16 I don't know. I'm just a young boy. I couldn't get
17 to speak. I never had the mental capacity. I didn't
18 have the intelligence. I didn't know the words. I just
19 accepted what was happening to me, because there was
20 nothing else I could do at the time. I didn't have the
21 mentality. I didn't have a brother who was a QC or
22 anything like that. I didn't have any help. I was just
23 a young boy on my own and all these papers, pieces of
24 paper and passing the buck and this and that and nobody
25 really knew me. Nobody really knew me. I wasn't

1 a criminal. I wasn't a person who planned.

2 I was a person who tagged along and was a Mr Pleaser
3 and was trying to make friends and I was making friends
4 with the wrong people and doing the wrong things to make
5 friends.

6 Q. Have you ever heard the phrase, if you fly with the
7 crows you get shot with them?

8 A. That is what I have been told. That is what has
9 happened.

10 Q. You say to us in that paragraph that there should be
11 some special treatment for people that aren't right.
12 Some sort of social work help from the children's panel
13 would have been better for you?

14 A. Yeah. A genuine social worker there at the time at the
15 courts or something, back then which wasn't. It could
16 have been different. My life could have been different.
17 No help.

18 MS FORBES: 'Jimmy', those are all the questions that I have
19 to ask you today. I just want to thank you very much
20 for speaking to me.

21 LADY SMITH: 'Jimmy', my thanks as well. It's been really
22 helpful to hear from you in person, in addition to the
23 written statement we have.

24 I hope it's not been too tiring for you. I'm now
25 delighted to say you're free for the rest of the day.

1 You go with my thanks.

2 A. Okay. Thank you very much.

3 LADY SMITH: Thank you.

4 (The witness withdrew)

5 LADY SMITH: Just before we move on from 'Jimmy's' evidence,
6 people may have noticed he used a couple of family
7 names, his mother's own name and one of his names. They
8 are names that are to remain anonymous outside this
9 room. They're not to be identified there. He also used
10 the name of a prison officer that we have heard before,
11 KFL, and that name is also protected and that man
12 can't be identified outside this room.

13 MS FORBES: My Lady, I think the plan now is to have
14 a read-in from my learned senior, Mr Peoples.

15 LADY SMITH: Thank you.

16 Wherever you're ready, Mr Peoples.

17 'Simon' (read)

18 MR PEOPLES: Thank you, my Lady.

19 This is a statement provided by 'Simon' and the
20 reference for that statement is WIT-1-000000802.

21 'Simon' was born in 1954 in Glasgow. In his
22 statement, he does tell us a bit about his life before
23 going into care, at paragraphs 2 to 11. He had two
24 brothers and two stepbrothers.

25 His father was a heavy drinker. The family lived at

1 various addresses, when he was younger. His mother also
2 started drinking and, essentially, 'Simon' says that he
3 and one of his brothers, his full brother, I think it
4 was, brought themselves up, largely.

5 They also spent a fair amount of time at their
6 granny's home, where another younger brother stayed most
7 of the time.

8 'Simon' tells us that his father and mother
9 separated when he was around eight or nine years of age.
10 After that he and one of his brothers lived with their
11 father and his mother took up with another man, he tells
12 us, whom she eventually married and that produced two
13 more children.

14 By the age of 11 or 12, 'Simon' tells us that he was
15 out and about a lot and sleeping rough at times.

16 He attended more than one primary, because of the
17 various changes of address and he says he started
18 skipping school because of bullying.

19 He refers in particular to one individual called
20 [REDACTED] and he says, at paragraph 7, he was
21 someone who "tormented the life out of him". He
22 describes, at paragraph 9, bullying from [REDACTED] and his
23 friends.

24 He remembers being sent to child guidance and he
25 says that when he was attending the child guidance he

1 just kept his head down and said very little when asked
2 any questions, and tells us that a decision was taken at
3 that time to send him to an Approved School.

4 He appeared before a juvenile court, though he had
5 not been in any trouble at that stage, and tells us,
6 aged about 13, which would be around 1967, he was sent
7 to Larchgrove remand home for three or four weeks.

8 At paragraph 11, he does say:

9 "When you go into these places nobody takes you
10 aside and explains how things work. You're just thrown
11 in there. There was nobody to talk to."

12 He tells us a little about Larchgrove, at paragraphs
13 12 to 13 of his signed statement. While he tells us he
14 was scared and frightened, he doesn't remember anything
15 happening to him there; that's at paragraph 12.

16 He recalls being taken to St John Bosco's in Fife by
17 Glasgow Corporation and Social Services and being told,
18 when he arrived there, he was too old to go there and he
19 was then driven back to Glasgow and taken to St Mary's
20 Kenmure.

21 He tells us about St Mary's Kenmure between
22 paragraphs 14 and 57. I'll just pick out one or two
23 things from that section of his statement.

24 Perhaps it's important to just perhaps quote
25 directly from paragraph 14, where he tells us -- and

1 this was his first experience of Approved School:

2 "You just arrived and knew nothing about it. There
3 was a kind of class system, which was like a pecking
4 order among the boys. Everybody seemed to be in there
5 for serious offences, like breaking into lots of houses
6 or serious assault. A lot of them had been in
7 an Approved School before, so they knew the way it
8 worked. I was only there for missing school, so I
9 wasn't very interesting to the other boys. I was right
10 at the bottom of the pecking order, as far as the guys
11 were concerned. I had no credibility. Unfortunately
12 for me, the bully, [REDACTED] was in there, too. It
13 was the worst thing that could have happened to me. I
14 couldn't believe when I saw him."

15 'Simon' goes on to tell us that he was taken to
16 a large dormitory with around 20 beds and, on his first
17 morning, he was told to scrub a long corridor; that is
18 paragraph 16.

19 He recalls staff shouting and bawling at him; that
20 is paragraph 23. Then he describes the layout of the
21 place.

22 He mentions that there was a big building as part of
23 the buildings at St Mary's, which was called the "play
24 barn", which he tells us, at paragraph 17, was supposed
25 to have classrooms in it, but he says nobody learned

1 anything and:

2 "Once you went in there your education was
3 finished."

4 I think he tells us who SNR [REDACTED] was,
5 LNI [REDACTED], so I think we're now in a period when the
6 school was being run by other than the De La Salle
7 order, because it is a school that did change. I think
8 the order had left by then.

9 LADY SMITH: If he was 13, that would take us to the late
10 1960s, 1967 or so, wouldn't it?

11 MR PEOPLES: We know from other information that it was no
12 longer a school that De La Salle was heavily involved
13 in. I don't think they were involved at all, in fact.

14 He does remember a member of staff called
15 LYT [REDACTED], who was nicknamed LYT [REDACTED]. He tells us
16 about that individual and what he remembers, at
17 paragraph 18 -- he remembers him carrying a big set of
18 keys around with him and that he would hit boys on the
19 head with the keys several times. He describes him as
20 just a horrible person.

21 He does tell us, I think around paragraph 20, that
22 there was a matron, who he tells us was called Beatrice,
23 by the boys at least. He says she was a person, he
24 thinks, who the boys were meant to be able to speak to
25 or go to if they had a problem, but he says that if

1 a boy tried to do so the other boys would laugh at him
2 and make comments. He adds, at 20, she was an old
3 battle axe-type, so there was nobody who you could talk
4 to in that school.

5 Then, at 21, he does say that things happened in the
6 dormitory with the other guys, and one of the people in
7 the dormitory was [REDACTED]. He says that the nasty
8 boys, like [REDACTED], were up at the back of the
9 dormitory. You would be lying in bed and things would
10 come flying at you. They would piss on your bed. You
11 would have to explain and then you would get a hard time
12 from the people who ran the school.

13 He says, at 22, [REDACTED] belittled him at every
14 opportunity and turned the others against him, and that
15 as a result he had a lot of problems from the other
16 boys.

17 He also speaks about sexual abuse involving other
18 boys and, at paragraph 48, he says that [REDACTED] wanted to
19 touch him when they were in the assembly room and there
20 was another occasion when [REDACTED] and two other boys
21 found the applicant in the play barn and made him strip
22 off all his clothes; that is paragraph 49.

23 In relation to the belittling by other boys, I
24 should perhaps should say, at 36, he did say the
25 teachers saw this happening, but he says they just

1 turned a blind eye to this.

2 He describes what would happen at bedtime, or after
3 lights being out.

4 At 32, he says that he can remember there was one
5 time a member of staff called KDM and the night
6 watchman came in and told the boys to get out. Half of
7 them were sleeping. He says:

8 "They took us out to the corridor and lined us up.
9 We had to kneel down, put our arms out, up, put two
10 books in each hand and we had to keep our arms out and
11 hold the books. If we dropped them ..."

12 They were shouted at.

13 At 34, he says bed wetters would be humiliated by
14 the staff and the other boys and that they might be
15 given a slap, because the staff were quite good at
16 giving a slap.

17 He says, at paragraph 43, that there were always
18 beatings.

19 Then he does go on to deal with sexual abuse by
20 staff as well. He speaks about that at paragraph 44 and
21 following. He says there was an English guy, as he puts
22 it, who wanted to take 'Simon' places and would tell
23 'Simon' to go with him, and that sometimes he took
24 'Simon' to the play barn.

25 He remembers one occasion -- this is at

1 paragraph 44 -- when 'Simon' was carrying on with him
2 and as if he was wrestling with him. He says, the next
3 thing he grabbed him, put him down on the ground, was
4 holding him in a grip and put his hand down the back of
5 his trousers and was stroking his backside, but he says
6 he didn't do anything more than that on that occasion.

7 He says in the following paragraph, at 45, he saw
8 the same person acting in the same way towards other
9 boys. He says:

10 "I thought at first he wanted to be my friend. When
11 you're in there and you don't have a friend, you
12 appreciate someone showing you a bit of kindness."

13 He goes on, at 46:

14 "I couldn't talk to anyone in there. If you spoke
15 to anyone about anything, it would get you into more
16 trouble and your life could be worse. In fact, if you
17 said anything, you would be more than likely to be
18 humiliated. It was so easy for people to humiliate you.
19 It wouldn't just be a passing comment, the treatment
20 would last for days."

21 Then he goes on, at 47, to say:

22 "There was a lot of suggestive behaviour, but there
23 were no other sex incidents."

24 That he can tell us about. He says he did hear
25 stories from some of the other boys. He gives examples,

1 that some of the boys would be saying that SNR
2 SNR was someone who would take you and do things,
3 do this and that to you. So that was what he was being
4 told. He says it was a common thing for people to say
5 that.

6 There were people, he says, who had a name for
7 messing about with people:

8 "You knew you had to keep way from certain people."

9 He says, at paragraph 50, in relation to physical
10 abuse:

11 "I was physically abused a lot of the time."

12 He says it's easy for people like that, the staff in
13 other words, to take their temper out on you:

14 "There were a few that were okay, but there were
15 a few that gave me a really hard time."

16 He mentioned LYT as being a horrible man and
17 adds that a lot of staff hit boys on the head with a set
18 of keys.

19 He said he received a lot of different punishments,
20 at paragraph 51. He gives examples of the belt over the
21 backside or he had to take his trousers down to receive
22 the belt. He mentioned a teacher who gave him a slap,
23 and he adds:

24 "You didn't have to do much to get a belt, a punch
25 or a slap from the staff in St Mary's. There were a few

1 who were quite handy with their hands."

2 He gives examples of such individuals.

3 He just says, at the end of that:

4 "I became used to living in fear."

5 He says, at 52:

6 "I witnessed lots of abuse to different people on
7 a daily basis. The staff took out their anger and spite
8 on you or somebody roundabout you. Most of it was
9 physical abuse, like battering people and verbal abuse.
10 You kind of knew it was coming and it was almost
11 accepted back then. I can't remember anybody sitting
12 down and speaking to me. The staff knew a lot of what
13 went on and didn't do anything about it. They seemed to
14 have a good rapport with some of the boys who were
15 carrying out the abuse."

16 He tells us that he ran way frequently. Indeed, he
17 says the staff came to the point they were fed up with
18 him running away, at 54. He describes an occasion which
19 seems to have been a form of humiliation; when he went
20 to the office SNR [REDACTED], who wanted to
21 administer six of the belt, on that occasion he had to
22 take his trousers down. He tried to run out of the
23 door, squealing, and SNR [REDACTED] finished off the
24 punishment with his hand.

25 He tells us that SNR [REDACTED] got a big pair of

1 boots, which were a size 14 with no laces, a pair of
2 shorts and an old T-shirt and made 'Simon' wear them.
3 He then had to go and stand on the stank in the yard, so
4 they could see him all of the time and he describes it
5 as looking like a "circus clown".

6 He said he'd had enough and he decided to get out of
7 there.

8 He tells us, at 55, that he did run away at that
9 point and was on the run for about nine months. Then,
10 when he returned, he was a different person. He says he
11 wasn't a quiet, meek and mild person anymore. When he
12 returned most of the guys were gone, so he fitted in
13 better.

14 He tells us he left St Mary's in [REDACTED] 1970, which
15 would be just before he turned 16; that is paragraph 58.
16 But was given no preparation for life on the outside.

17 He tells us that his granny died in [REDACTED] 1970
18 and that he got involved in, as he put, it "something
19 stupid", which resulted in him ending up in court, where
20 he was remanded to Longriggend for a period of three
21 weeks for reports before sentencing. He says the
22 recommendation was two years of borstal training. So he
23 was sent, age 16, to Polmont.

24 He tells us, at paragraph 60, that before he went to
25 Polmont he did spend about a week in C hall at Barlinnie

1 in a holding cell, that he describes as an absolute pig
2 sty, with older prisoners. He says he was there for
3 about a full week, because the bus to Polmont only came
4 once a week.

5 In Polmont, he was put in an allocation centre.
6 Perhaps I could just read from 61, page 13:

7 "When you first went into Polmont, you were put in
8 an allocation centre. It was run like an army training
9 camp. There was lots of physical exercise. You would
10 be in there for eight weeks. I had only been in there
11 for a few days when another inmate attacked me with
12 a handful of teapots in the dining room. The next thing
13 I was bundled out and put in solitary confinement for
14 a few days.

15 "The staff used to beat me for anything at all.
16 They just did it whenever they felt like it. The only
17 specific thing there was the beatings from the staff.
18 I had quite a few of them. It could be for anything at
19 all. It was a horrible experience. The staff got away
20 with all sorts in there. If I said anything out of turn
21 they would come into your cell and set about you. In
22 borstal, it was like the television programme Time. It
23 brought back so many memories. Anything could happen.
24 The first period of time was very violent. Fights and
25 violence could start over anything. The officers were

1 ready to just jump in with fists flying. You could be
2 minding your own business and be dragged straight into
3 it. It was a terrible place. If you got punched about
4 before, you certainly got punched in there. Again, it
5 could happen for anything at all.

6 "They allocated you to a wing, either east or west
7 wing. I was sent to west wing. It wasn't as violent
8 there. When I walked in, [REDACTED] was there in the
9 same wing. By that time, I was a bit different. I had
10 changed. He didn't really bother with me.

11 "It was just like prison. It wasn't an open place.
12 It was cells. We were allowed out for recreation for
13 an hour or two. You could go into a room and listen to
14 records. There was a snooker table and there might have
15 been newspapers.

16 "There was a general workshop. I had to polish
17 metal bins. It was soul destroying. Sometimes they
18 moved me through to another part to make pallets. We
19 were allowed to walk around the yard at lunchtime and
20 then be taken back to your cell. At the weekend,
21 everyone was in their cell from 4 o'clock in the
22 afternoon. You would have a couple of sandwiches to
23 eat. I just thought it was part of life.

24 "Towards the end of my sentence, I was working on
25 building Cornton Vale prison. We got a bus there every

1 day. One day I decided I'd had enough, so I tried to
2 run away. I was caught within a couple of hours and
3 taken back to Polmont. One of the staff, a [REDACTED]
4 instructor called GIH, jumped on my back. I didn't
5 think about running away again. It added another two or
6 three months on to my sentence."

7 He says, at paragraph 67, that he spent about
8 11 months in Polmont and got out when he was 17.

9 He then describes his situation under "Life after
10 care". He does describe that after he left Polmont his
11 life did, for a time, spiral out of control and indeed
12 he spent periods of imprisonment in both Barlinnie and
13 Low Moss, he tells us at paragraph 69.

14 But then he says, when he was about 18 years of age,
15 he got involved with an older woman who fell pregnant
16 and he married her. The marriage didn't last very long.
17 They were then divorced. He tells us that his father
18 died in 1979 and he had some contact with him at that
19 stage.

20 He seemed to get his life together better and indeed
21 he says, at paragraph 74, that he used to volunteer
22 doing the AA phone line to try to help people. He then
23 got a job in a hospital in Glasgow.

24 He says, at paragraph 75, he learned how to work and
25 get on with people in a normal work environment and

1 ended up spending around five years in that employment.

2 From there, he went on to work in a self-employed
3 capacity. Then he started up a business, a rental
4 business of his own.

5 He tells us that he has children, in addition to the
6 children from his younger days, though he says he
7 doesn't have a relationship with the two older ones.

8 He tells us that the first time he spoke about any
9 abuse was to a psychologist, about two or three years
10 before giving this statement, because he had found it
11 embarrassing. But he says that he realised at an early
12 age he just had to get on with life; that is
13 paragraph 77.

14 He tells us he hasn't reported the abuse to police
15 and indeed says he doesn't know what could be done now,
16 because if any of these people were still alive they'd
17 be very old.

18 As regards impact, he says his time in care screwed
19 up a lot of his life and for a long period of time -- at
20 paragraph 79, on page 17 -- he used to put the memories
21 out of his head.

22 He tells us, at paragraph 81, that he couldn't trust
23 anyone and he says St Mary's was what did that to him.
24 He still finds it difficult to trust people. Indeed, he
25 tells us that about three years before giving his

1 statement, at paragraph 82, he had a breakdown
2 and wanted to die, but has managed to come through it
3 and started seeing a psychologist, who managed to get
4 him to speak about his experiences.

5 So far as lessons to be learned, can I just mention
6 two parts, paragraph 84, on page 18, final page. He
7 says:

8 "I think there should be someone for each child to
9 speak to. If the child doesn't speak up, they have to
10 find a way of getting to the bottom of the problem."

11 At paragraph 85, he says he should have been treated
12 differently for truanting from school, which of
13 course --

14 LADY SMITH: This is a theme we're hearing on an almost
15 daily basis.

16 MR PEOPLES: That is how he got there. It started off
17 a journey that we have heard quite a lot about over the
18 last week or so, or longer.

19 He says, at paragraph 87:

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

24 He signed his statement on 9 August 2021.

25 LADY SMITH: Thank you very much, Mr Peoples.

1 MR PEOPLES: I'm conscious of the time. I think this is
2 a good a time as any to break.
3 LADY SMITH: We'll return to read-ins this afternoon.
4 MR PEOPLES: Yes. More read-ins this afternoon.
5 LADY SMITH: I'll stop now for the lunch break. But, before
6 I do that, the usual reminder, the name of at least one
7 other child was mentioned in that read-in and there were
8 references to staff members in St Mary's, at least one
9 was named. There may not be anyone named in Polmont,
10 but these people would all be protected by my General
11 Restriction Order. Thank you.

12 (1.00 pm)

13 (The luncheon adjournment)

14 (2.00 pm)

15 LADY SMITH: Mr Peoples.

16 MR PEOPLES: My Lady, can I now move to another statement
17 from 'Thomas'.

18 His statement is at WIT.001.001.6492.

19 LADY SMITH: Yes.

20 'Thomas' (read)

21 MR PEOPLES: So 'Thomas' was born in 1958, in Glasgow, and
22 he tells us a bit about his life before going to care,
23 at paragraphs 2 to 6. I will just perhaps summarise
24 a little bit of that.

25 He was born in the Gorbals area of Glasgow and he

1 was the eldest of eight children. As he puts it himself
2 at paragraph 3, the early years were horrible.

3 'Thomas' tells us that his family moved from place
4 to place. He tells us that when he was in primary
5 school he witnessed his father, when drunk, smashing
6 a plate and running one of the broken pieces down his
7 mother's face, causing a huge wound on her face.

8 'Thomas' says he was a witness against his father in
9 the High Court. On his release, his father continued to
10 beat his mother, 'Thomas' and siblings. He tells us
11 that his father died as a result of an accident at work
12 in 1969.

13 Until then, 'Thomas' says he was doing well at
14 school.

15 He tells us, at paragraph 5, that after his father
16 died and his mum was left with eight children to raise,
17 as he puts it, she just went to pieces. She drank.
18 'Thomas' and one of his brothers became, to use his
19 expression "feral". They skipped school. Social
20 Services became involved with the family and 'Thomas'
21 was sent to St Joseph's, Tranent, on care and protection
22 grounds.

23 He tells us about his time at St Joseph's between
24 paragraph 7 and 31. I'll just perhaps pick out some of
25 the things he tells us about that List D school.

1 He says he was about 12 years old. So he's putting
2 his admission around 1970. Brother MJG was [REDACTED]
3 [REDACTED]. He tells us that there were lots of familiar
4 faces from the Blackhill area, where his family lived.

5 He says that he was put in a dormitory with six or
6 eight boys. He tells us that there was a night watchman
7 who patrolled at night with a torch. At paragraph 12,
8 he says there was always talk about him, but 'Thomas'
9 says he never saw anything.

10 At paragraph 13, he does say, in relation to
11 washing, that was always supervised by the Brothers.
12 But, again, he says:

13 "I never saw anything untoward happen in the
14 showers, but I heard things from other boys."

15 He mentioned some of the staff. The classes, the
16 teaching classes, were taken by the Brothers, but there
17 were other civilian instructors, including one who did
18 [REDACTED] which -- he tells us at paragraph 16 -- he
19 was a person who would throw bits of metal at the boys
20 if they did something wrong.

21 He's complementary of Brother MJG, at
22 paragraph 21. He said he seemed a gentle man,
23 everything you could imagine would be nice in
24 a religious person and seemed caring and talked to you
25 in a nice way. He leaves it on the basis:

1 "I don't know if he was aware of what was going on,
2 but I suspect he was."

3 He tells us, at paragraph 23, that social workers
4 never came to the school. They just handed you over and
5 their involvement ended there. He does have a vague
6 memory of someone inspecting the place, at paragraph 23.

7 He says:

8 "Obviously, I told him the place was great because
9 there was always a Brother hovering about."

10 LADY SMITH: Well, that's nothing new to us, Mr Peoples.

11 MR PEOPLES: No, it's a familiar phrase.

12 He then tells us a little bit about one particular
13 Brother, Brother GTQ, paragraph 26. He tells us
14 that Brother GTQ would come up to 'Thomas' and say,
15 "Give us a cuddle, give us a kiss", to which 'Thomas'
16 recoiled. He says that was something that happened with
17 other boys as well.

18 He describes him as particularly creepy. He
19 mentioned him as an extremely handsome guy, but
20 particularly creepy. He says:

21 "It didn't progress any further with me, but I did
22 hear more about him from other boys. I heard about
23 sexual abuse, but I never saw it happen."

24 He tells us that the school regime was very strict,
25 at paragraph 27:

1 "You got the belt and [as he put it] the usual
2 punches. That was second nature to us."

3 He says there was a lot of bet wetting. That he,
4 'Thomas', wet the bed and was beaten by the Brothers and
5 sometimes had his face rubbed in his sheets. He said
6 violence and beatings were just part of the daily
7 routine and that beatings would leave marks and black
8 eyes. He mentions another brother, Brother Benedict,
9 whom he describes as handy with his boots and fists, and
10 someone who would fly off the handle for the slightest
11 thing.

12 Indeed, he mentions an occasion in paragraph 27,
13 where he says that he remembers Brother Benedict leaving
14 his nose in such a state that he may have broken his
15 nose.

16 He also says there was a lot of violence, at
17 paragraph 28, and bullying amongst the boys, which
18 wasn't surprising given their backgrounds. He says boys
19 tended to group with their own areas. There were boys
20 from Dundee, boys from Paisley, boys from Edinburgh.
21 There were lots of boys from Blackhill, where he was
22 from. So, as he says, they stuck together and looked
23 out for each other.

24 At paragraph 29, he talks about sexual abuse among
25 the boys and says he remembers older boys subjecting

1 younger boys to that. He says one of the older boys
2 tried it on with him once, but he said no in no
3 uncertain terms.

4 He mentions the fact that he thinks his brother was
5 also there around the same time, at paragraph 30. He
6 was younger. He says he remembers him telling 'Thomas'
7 that he was terribly beaten by the Bothers. He thinks
8 he may have told him that he was sexually assaulted as
9 well, but he's not certain on that one.

10 He says, at paragraph 31, he left St Joseph's when
11 he was 14, which would be about 1972, without much
12 advance warning. Then, when he returned home, he was
13 under the supervision of social workers. He carried on
14 truancy from school. He was appearing regularly
15 before children's hearings and, at one point, he was
16 charged with a minor offence involving stealing from
17 a shop.

18 He says, at paragraph 32, that at that stage in his
19 life:

20 "I was a bit of a tearaway. There was no structure
21 in my life."

22 He ended up in Larchgrove assessment centre. He
23 tells us a bit about his time there, just in a couple of
24 paragraphs, paragraph 33 to 34, on page 8.

25 'Thomas' says he was there for about a week. He was

1 terrified there. He says, at paragraph 33, there was
2 a lot of violence:

3 "There was at atmosphere of violence throughout the
4 whole place."

5 Indeed, he mentions there that he recalls a huge
6 investigation taking into the place in the 1970s.

7 LADY SMITH: What is he referring to?

8 MR PEOPLES: I think it's probably the Bennett and Wrighton
9 report of 1973 into allegations of abuse, and that
10 produced a report. I think the report was more about
11 physical abuse than sexual abuse, but we'll hear a bit
12 more about that.

13 LADY SMITH: He does say there was a lot of violence.

14 MR PEOPLES: Yes, yes. I think it was just because the
15 matters that the report was concerned with were more
16 specifically to do with physical abuse, so he seems to
17 be in the place around that time.

18 LADY SMITH: Thank you.

19 MR PEOPLES: Indeed, he says, at paragraph 34, that abuse
20 was pervasive among the staff:

21 "I've never been so scared in an institution as
22 I was there. I just sensed things weren't right. I
23 kept my head down and didn't look anybody in the eye.
24 There were fights every day. I saw violence all the
25 time. I was never so relieved as when I got out of

1 there."

2 He goes on to tell us about Longriggend, and was
3 transferred there when he was about 14 years of age. He
4 deals with that at paragraphs 35 to 39. I'll just read
5 some of that, if I may.

6 LADY SMITH: Thank you.

7 MR PEOPLES: Paragraph 35 starts on page 8:

8 "I was transferred to Longriggend when I was about
9 14. I was there for quite a long time. It was
10 horrendous. I was in a single cell. Occasionally you
11 would share a cell, if it was overcrowded. It was
12 a pigsty of a place.

13 "There was no education system, but there was at
14 least a library there. We were taken to a classroom
15 during the day. We were given spelling competitions. I
16 remember the prison officer would sit at a desk in front
17 of us. He had the Daily Express. There was a thing
18 called Target which gave you six or seven letters and
19 you had to make up as many words as you could out of
20 those letters. There was a prize of a Mars bar for the
21 person who got the most. I always won it and the other
22 boys were going crazy. I started deliberately losing
23 because they were getting angry.

24 "The food was horrible. You were given a piece of
25 bacon and a sausage for your breakfast. You were always

1 hungry.

2 "One of the prison officers touched me
3 inappropriately. His name was Mr GVG
4 He was pretty creepy. I was cleaning a corridor and
5 there was a small room where all the cleaning materials
6 were kept. He came in and started rubbing himself
7 against me and touching my genitals. I resisted. For
8 whatever reason he stopped. It freaked me out and I
9 didn't know what to do.

10 "Naively, I wrote to my mum on prison paper to tell
11 her what had happened. They censored my letters and I
12 got into a lot of trouble. I suffered a lot of
13 beatings. I was beaten by prison officers. I remember
14 one of them was called GVH. They told me it was
15 because of the letter and said, 'What are you writing
16 this fucking shit for?' I said, 'Well, that's what's
17 happened'. They said, 'You're not fucking writing that
18 shit in here'. I remember telling the other boys what
19 had happened, but there was no opportunity to report it
20 further up."

21 He then tells us that after Longriggend he went to
22 another List D school, St Andrew's, in Shandon, in
23 Helensburgh. I'll just pick out a little bit from that.

24 He says he was in that school for about two years.
25 It was run by civilians and was wonderful, he tells us.

1 There was education. He says:

2 "They taught me so much".

3 This is at paragraph 41:

4 "There were dormitories, but as the boys became more
5 senior they had their own room. They treated me like
6 a human being."

7 He obviously had a positive experience at the
8 school.

9 LADY SMITH: Yes.

10 MR PEOPLES: He tells us about life after care. Initially
11 when he left St Andrew's, he says, at paragraph 44, on
12 page 10, that he just drifted and had no structure.
13 There was still no structure in the home and that life
14 was chaotic.

15 He did odd jobs and eventually drifted back into
16 trouble. He tells us that in the late 1970s he was
17 involved in a robbery, which involved him getting
18 a sentence of 18 months for house breaking and he served
19 one year in Glenochil. He was released from there in
20 ██████████ 1980, when he was aged 21.

21 As he tells us, that was last time that he spent any
22 time in prison.

23 He tells us, at page 11 -- and I'm not going to go
24 into detail, but you can see that he started applying
25 for jobs. He responded to an advert. He was concerned

1 that because he had a criminal record he would not get
2 the job, but he ended up getting a job from the person
3 running the department, who took a chance on him, as he
4 said, and indeed had had some experience of spending
5 time in Barlinnie prison during the war for the reason
6 of being a conscientious objector.

7 He tells us that he was trained up and held down
8 a job for the next 37 years and was due to retire in the
9 year that he signed his statement.

10 On impact, at page 11, he says that he thinks being
11 in care has had a negative and positive effect on him.
12 He tells us it's made him look at the world in
13 a different way. He hates violence and war and cares
14 more for his fellow human beings.

15 'Thomas' says, at 49, that being in care has
16 impacted upon his relationships. He can't trust people.
17 He's always suspicious of people. He can't make
18 friends. He says he doesn't have a single close friend
19 and finds it hard to relate to people.

20 He says that some people that he worked with called
21 him a sociopath who internalised everything. He says,
22 on reflection:

23 "Sometimes I think: why me? Why was I so lucky? So
24 many of my contemporaries in care are dead through drugs
25 or crime or whatever. I feel guilty."

1 On page 12, at paragraph 54, he tells us that he's
2 never had any counselling about his time in care. He
3 says a few years before signing his statement he thought
4 he was on the verge of a breakdown and sought
5 psychiatric help. But it appears that because of
6 funding issues in the health service he was only
7 permitted a certain number of sessions which then
8 stopped. But he tells us that at the time of the
9 statement he was on anti-depressants.

10 In terms of hopes for the Inquiry, in paragraph 56,
11 on page 12, he says:

12 "There has to be more supervision of institutions.
13 The state has a responsibility to take care of children.
14 These places were left at arm's length when I was there.
15 The staff had free rein to do whatever they wanted.
16 It's astonishing to think the state allowed people to do
17 that just a generation ago. The state washed its hands
18 of us, as if we didn't matter."

19 He says on his final page, page 13:

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

24 He has signed that statement on 14 November 2017.

25 LADY SMITH: Thank you.

1 MR PEOPLES: I perhaps move to the final read-in I plan do
2 this afternoon.

3 LADY SMITH: Thank you, Mr Peoples. Which one is that going
4 to be?

5 MR PEOPLES: 'John'.

6 LADY SMITH: Thank you. 'John's' signed statement is
7 WIT-1-000000880.

8 'John' (read)

9 MR PEOPLES: 'John' was born in 1956 in Glasgow. In his
10 signed statement he gives us some information about his
11 life before going into care, at paragraphs 2 to 9. I
12 have just picked out some things from that.

13 He was one of nine children. The family were living
14 initially in the Gorbals in a one-bedroom house. They
15 moved to a number of areas in Glasgow. 'John' went to
16 a number of schools, and when he was about eight, which
17 would be in 1964 or thereabouts, he tells us that his
18 family moved to Shettleston.

19 'John' says he started breaking into shops to steal
20 food to take home to his family and, aged about ten,
21 which would be around 1966, I think, he appeared in the
22 Sheriff Court and was given 14 days' detention in
23 Larchgrove.

24 I'll perhaps read what he says at paragraph 9 about
25 that:

1 "It was the first time that I'd been in any trouble.
2 I remember being in the court, but I don't remember
3 having a lawyer or pleading guilty or not guilty. I was
4 given 14 days' detention in Larchgrove. It was the
5 first time that I was taken away from my parents. I can
6 remember my mother and father being at the court. I was
7 grabbing on to my mother and I wouldn't let go. I can
8 remember screaming my head off. I didn't want to leave
9 my mum. I was taken into the cells. The cell was like
10 the cells you get nowadays. There was a stone thing
11 that you sat on and steel doors. They put me in with
12 an older boy of about 12/13. He'd already been in
13 Larchgrove and he was trying to calm me down. I was
14 really terrified."

15 He tells us a bit about Larchgrove remand home
16 between paragraphs 10 and 26 of his statement. As he
17 says, he was ten when he went there for the first time,
18 for the 14 days' detention. He tells us that he had
19 a second spell of around five or six weeks when he was
20 11, which would be around 1967. He says the oldest boys
21 were about 14 or 15 years of age. He estimated there
22 were as many as 200 boys.

23 He tells us that the dormitories had about eight to
24 ten beds down each side and, once the doors were locked
25 at night, he says boys were locked in the dorm all

1 night. There were no staff around and no one came in
2 until the next morning. That is paragraph 12.

3 He says, at paragraph 17, that 'John' can't remember
4 doing any school lessons, only kicking a ball in the
5 yard. He says that he wasn't a boy who ran away from
6 Larchgrove, at paragraph 20, but he says boys who did
7 when caught were put into a holding cell.

8 At paragraph 22, he says:

9 "We just did what we were told. If the staff told
10 us to do something, we did it."

11 He recounts an experience of physical abuse from
12 a member of staff, at paragraph 23, when he was in the
13 gym hall waiting for showers. He says an older boy kept
14 giving him a wee kick. He turned round to tell the boy
15 to stop doing so, a teacher saw him talking to the older
16 boy and 'John' says he got a couple of slaps on the back
17 of the head.

18 He says he told the teacher the boy was kicking him
19 and that he was telling him to stop doing so. He says,
20 as he was trying to explain himself, he got another slap
21 on the head. He says five or ten minutes later, the
22 same boy, "the pest" as he calls him, behind him, did
23 the same again and that 'John' told him to stop. On
24 this occasion, or at least at this time, the teacher:

25 "Booted me in the side of my leg."

1 And he says he didn't expect that from a teacher,
2 but it appears that was the response after being warned
3 to stop talking.

4 He says, at paragraph 24 -- perhaps this is
5 a reflection of the times:

6 "A kick or a slap didn't bother me. I saw it happen
7 to other boys. They would also get a kick, a slap or
8 a kick. It tended to happen to the younger boys."

9 He says he never saw any boys injured as a result of
10 the kicks and slaps, and the second time he went to
11 Larchgrove he didn't have any problems. But perhaps we
12 realise why, because he says:

13 "I knew that talking was not allowed and I knew to
14 keep way from the older boys. I had wised up a bit."

15 Then, after his second stay at Larchgrove for
16 assessment, he was sent to Dr Guthrie's Approved School.
17 He tells us he was never in Edinburgh before then.

18 So far as Dr Guthrie's is concerned, he deals with
19 his time there between paragraphs 27 and 59, or
20 thereabouts. He says he was 11 years of age when he
21 went to Dr Guthrie's, around 1967.

22 He thinks he was one of the youngest boys when he
23 went there and he estimates that the boys were ranging
24 in age between about ten and 15, and that most came from
25 Edinburgh. Apart from one female, the staff were all

1 male.

2 He says boys called the staff teacher or sir. Staff
3 called boys by their second names. He estimates that
4 there were least 40 boys in his dorm and this, at
5 paragraph 30:

6 "There wasn't much space between the beds and boys
7 were locked in after lights were out."

8 Then, in the morning, staff would come to wake them
9 up. He says that boys who wet the bed had to wash their
10 sheets, at 32. He says, at the dining table, staff
11 would try to force 'John' to eat porridge and soup with
12 barley. He speaks about that at 33 to 34. I think he
13 picks up the same theme later on in his statement, at
14 paragraphs 51 to 52, where he describes the attempt to
15 force feed him in more detail.

16 He says there, at 51, that when he said he couldn't
17 eat porridge, sometimes two or three staff would grab
18 him, hold his mouth open and try to force the porridge
19 in. He would try and bite them and be sick, and then he
20 would be taken out of the dining room and locked in a
21 room and didn't receive any breakfast. He would be in
22 that room for perhaps an hour or hour and a half and be
23 taken to school. He would then do his school work and
24 be taken back to the dining hall at dinner time.
25 I think he had a similar problem with soup with barley

1 in it.

2 Of course, he says that when he refused to take it
3 and it was being forced down his throat, that a lot of
4 boys were laughing on these occasions.

5 He says that he did learn to read and write at the
6 school and, generally, I think he says the teachers were
7 okay. There appears, from his description, to be a lot
8 of activities at the school, which he tells us about in
9 this section of his statement.

10 He didn't see a social worker, he says, at 46.

11 'John' remembers only one home leave when he was
12 aged 11, when he travelled back to Glasgow and back to
13 Dr Guthrie's unaccompanied.

14 He tells us about what happened to boys who ran
15 away, and he says boys who ran away were belted on the
16 backside. But what he also says about that is, at 48,
17 that they had big welts on their backside. He saw these
18 welts in the showers.

19 At paragraph 50, on subject of bullying, he says
20 that he doesn't remember bullying, but there were fights
21 at Dr Guthrie's and he says if boys were fighting they
22 would be taken away and locked up for hours and hours.

23 Then, at 53 to 54, 'John' recalls being taken from
24 his dorm at night by a male teacher to the private
25 bedroom of a female teacher and his recollection is that

1 he lay on her bed for a few hours, watching television
2 and was given crisps and sweets. Then he says he was
3 taken back to his dorm by another teacher and what he
4 says about that memory is that:

5 "I don't know whether anything untoward happened,
6 but if it did I can't remember it."

7 However, he does mention another occasion which he
8 can remember something happening, at paragraph 55, which
9 involved sexual abuse by an older boy.

10 He says when he was first in Dr Guthrie's a teacher
11 pushed his bunk against another bunk at night-time and
12 he says that the boy in the other bunk was about a year
13 older than he was and that the other boy put his hand
14 under 'John's' covers and touched 'John's' private
15 parts.

16 'John' told him to stop doing that and 'John' said
17 he would tell the teacher when he came in, in the
18 morning. He tells us that this happened, or continued
19 to happen, about once a week and that 'John' was made to
20 touch the boy as well and then he just says for some
21 reason it stopped.

22 He goes on to tell us, at 56, that there was
23 an occasion when he was late getting back to
24 Dr Guthrie's after a weekend leave and he tells us that
25 two teachers gave him a doing for being late. He was

1 slapped on the face and got a few punches to his
2 stomach.

3 Then, at 56 -- and I'll just summarise what he's
4 telling us there, he recalls that a day or two later he
5 wrote a letter to his father, and the reason he recalls
6 that is he says he found the letter that he wrote after
7 his father died and what it describes there is how well
8 things were at Dr Guthrie's and what he was doing and
9 that he arrived safely and he'd seen a film and so forth
10 and been swimming and how the weather was.

11 Then he goes on to say that when he found the
12 letter, years later, after his father's death, he
13 wondered what he'd told all those lies for. He said we
14 didn't, as he had described in his letter, play
15 football.

16 He hadn't told his father about the slapping that he
17 received for being late. He does say that he's not sure
18 he would have said it anyway because his father was
19 a hot head. But he also said that there were commas and
20 apostrophes, and that he didn't know how to use them and
21 he says he wrote the letter, he accepts he wrote the
22 letter, but:

23 "A teacher told me what to write and how to do it."

24 He can't remember if he wrote it precisely the same
25 night, but thinks he wrote it shortly afterwards.

1 He talks, at 57, about other instances where he was
2 getting a slap here and there, and he saw other boys
3 getting slapped for various reasons, including being
4 cheeky. Sometimes he says staff would give them a punch
5 in the stomach, and boys who ran away were belted on
6 their back sides.

7 It was like a teacher's belt, but he would see the
8 welts in the shower, which I mentioned earlier.

9 He says he never told anyone what had happened to
10 him at Dr Guthrie's and, at paragraph 58, he says:

11 "At the time I just thought that is what happened.
12 I didn't know any different. We were bad and when we
13 were bad we got punished. When there was a carry on
14 with the porridge, I told staff I was going to tell my
15 dad. The staff told me not to say anything. They said
16 I wouldn't be able to do this and that or get into the
17 football team."

18 He says he was in Dr Guthrie's for around ten or 11
19 months, at paragraph 59. He said he didn't get any
20 support from the social work or anyone else after he
21 left Dr Guthrie's. He said he went back home and
22 attended a local secondary school near his parents' new
23 house. He started drinking when he was 15, which was
24 about 1971, I think.

25 He broke into places and, shortly after he turned

1 16, which would be again about 1972, he was given three
2 months' detention. But, before sentence, he was
3 remanded at Longriggend and he was there for three
4 weeks. Perhaps I can just pick that up. He tells us
5 about Longriggend at paragraph --

6 LADY SMITH: Three weeks he was there.

7 MR PEOPLES: -- 64 and 74:

8 "I was remanded to Longriggend [page 17] for three
9 weeks before being sentenced. It was out towards
10 Airdrie and there were fields all around it. There were
11 houses nearby, the type of houses you get out in the
12 countryside. There were massive barbed wire fences all
13 around the place. It was quite intimidating. I was
14 sent for reports to be prepared. I didn't like it.
15 I had been out of Approved School for five years."

16 That may or may not be quite right, but that is a
17 pretty short time according to his recollections:

18 "Going into Longriggend was a different kettle of
19 fish. It was more like a prison, but it was for young
20 offenders.

21 "There were hundreds of boys on remand in
22 Longriggend. There were boys of 15, but they were kept
23 in a separate part from us. They had runaway from
24 Approved Schools and places like that. I was in
25 Longriggend for a second three-week period when I was

1 still 16. The first time I was there it was for borstal
2 and detention reports. The second time, I was remanded
3 for reports again. I just had to get on with it.
4 I made more friends in there than I did on the outside.
5 It was all the same sort of faces that I knew. I got on
6 all right with the staff. I didn't have any trouble in
7 Longriggend."

8 He then goes on to tell us about the routine, and
9 I'll maybe take you through that:

10 "When I arrived, my clothes were taken off me and I
11 was sent in for a shower. I was checked over by
12 a doctor. You would take your clothes off and the
13 doctor would search you in case you had crabs or
14 anything like that. The first time I went to
15 Longriggend I had scabies. I was locked up in isolation
16 for three or four days. They painted me with white
17 stuff. After a few days, I got out of isolation and was
18 placed on the normal wing.

19 "I was terrified the first night I was there. I was
20 crying. I thought I was a hard man and I could fight
21 anybody, but being locked in that room was terrifying.
22 I was on my own and there was a single bed. I didn't
23 know what was going to happen. You were held in a block
24 the first night and then put on to a wing the next day.

25 "We didn't get out of our cells to go toilet. We

1 had to slop out in a plastic container. Sometimes I was
2 in a cell with another guy. There were two single beds.
3 That was quite good because I had someone to talk to.

4 "The food was all right. We ate in a dining hall.
5 I wasn't used to good food at home, so it was probably
6 better food than I had on the outside. There were a lot
7 of fights in the dining hall, but I didn't get into
8 fights.

9 "I got a job with the cooks. I was out with them
10 from early morning and stayed with them all day.
11 I would serve the meals to the other prisoners. They
12 would come up with their tray and I would put their food
13 on their trays. Each boy would move along and then go
14 and sit in their seats. I'd move on to the next tray.
15 I got to know everybody doing that. Other boys used to
16 brush and mop the landings and corridors.

17 "We were locked up most of the time. We didn't go
18 to school or classes or anything like that. We got out
19 for recreation. We could play basketball, but there was
20 no football. It was quite strict.

21 "My door was allowed to stay open because I worked
22 with the cooks. I could go into the cells of other boys
23 who worked with the cooks. The coppers didn't care.
24 They would be playing cards. The rest of the boys would
25 be locked up.

1 "The second time I was remanded in Longriggend, my
2 sister and my girlfriend at the time came to visit me.
3 There were a visits hall. Everybody sat at tables.
4 There were a couple of prison officers walking around
5 and a couple of officers sitting watching you in case
6 you were passed contraband. I was also able to write
7 letters home.

8 "A couple of days after you arrived you saw the
9 governor. He would ask you questions and then he
10 prepared a report for court. I can't remember what sort
11 of questions he asked me. The sheriff would read the
12 governor's report before deciding what to do with you.
13 My first report couldn't have been very good because I
14 got sent to Glenochil."

15 So can I move on to Glenochil? He deals with his
16 time there at paragraph 75 to about 87. If I can just
17 read on:

18 "I was given three months' detention, which was the
19 short, sharp shock treatment. I was 16 years old.
20 I was taken straight to Glenochil from court. Five or
21 six us were taken in a van. When we got out of the van
22 we were told that we had to run. We had to run 40 or
23 50 yards. I had already heard all about detention from
24 other people, so I knew it was rough. It was army-style
25 treatment. When we arrived, there were people that

1 looked like doctors wearing white coats and caps.
2 Inside Glenochil, the officers wore denims, trainers and
3 normal clothes.

4 "I had a cell to myself at Glenochil. First thing
5 in the morning we had to go out and run around the
6 football pitch. We did that at around 6.00 am. After
7 that, they made us shave. I was 16 and I didn't have
8 anything to shave. They gave us a razor with our cell
9 number on it. The officer would come and check that you
10 had done it. He would take the razor off me and shave
11 my sideburns.

12 "I can't remember much about the food at Glenochil.
13 We ate our meals in the dining hall.

14 "There was no education at Glenochil. I can't
15 remember much about what we did during the day. I
16 remember we had to parade during the day. After
17 I'd been in for six or seven weeks I was lucky and got
18 a job. I worked in the reception area. That was good.
19 I did that every day. When new boys came in I would
20 take their old clothes off them and give them their
21 detention centre clothes. I would find the right size
22 for them in the storeroom. Then they would go and see
23 the doctor.

24 "We got to watch TV at night. There were no other
25 leisure activities that I can remember. We did circuit

1 training and running every day. We had to run a mile
2 outside. When you first went in, they took you to the
3 gym the next day. You had to do so many press-ups,
4 step-ups and weights in a minute. You had to better
5 that the following week and keep bettering it. If you
6 improved, you got a yellow grade, which got you some
7 privileges. If you worked through that you got a red
8 grade, which got you even more privileges. I was lucky
9 enough to get the red grade, which meant that I only did
10 two months, eight days. If I hadn't got my red grade,
11 I would have done my three months.

12 "We wore blue stripped shirts and denim trousers.
13 We also had best dress, which we had to wear for
14 parades. We had to learn how to press our trousers and
15 shirt and polish our boots. It was like an army camp.

16 "I didn't get any visits at Glenochil.

17 "Boys were fighting all the time in Glenochil. I
18 got into a fight once. If it was Top of the Pops night
19 and if you were fighting, you would miss Top of the
20 Pops. There was a big corridor and we'd be given
21 a bucket and bar of soap. We'd be on our knees
22 scrubbing the big corridor. That was the punishment for
23 fighting. There would be five or six of us going along
24 the one corridor. We would be so fed up that we would
25 start writing things in the soap. When the officers

1 weren't watching we would write: fuck them, bastards.

2 "Some of the boys were at 17/18. Some of them
3 didn't care and some of them weren't right in the head.
4 There were plenty of boys who couldn't handle it in
5 Glenochil. They would fight the officers and not do
6 what they were told. The officers would shout at them.
7 I heard a lot of boys being pulled out of their cells at
8 night, screaming. They were taken down to what was
9 called the digger. It was down the stairs, but I never
10 saw it. I was never in it. There was a boy two cells
11 way from me who kicked off and wrecked his cell. I
12 heard him getting dragged out and taken to the digger.

13 "We had to march everywhere. When we were marching
14 along the big, long corridors the guys at the front and
15 the back of the queue had to say, "Excuse me, sir". If
16 someone didn't say it, he got slapped. He would be hit
17 anywhere but the face or get a punch in the belly. Some
18 of the boys got a good kicking in Glenochil, but I never
19 got a doing.

20 "When I first went in, I had long hair. I did get
21 a bit of abuse when I had long hair. It meant that the
22 officers knew I was new and just in. They would say,
23 "You, with the long hair, you march right. You say
24 excuse me, sir". Sometimes I forgot to say "excuse me"
25 and I would get pulled out. They said things like, "Do

1 you think you're fucking smart because you're from
2 Glasgow?" I didn't get slapped because I was new. I
3 loved my hair at the time, but I couldn't wait to get
4 a haircut. The barber only came once a week. I wanted
5 it all cut off, so I didn't stand out. We called all
6 the prison officers "sir", so I don't know any of their
7 names.

8 "I was never in the digger, but I knew I didn't want
9 to go there. Boys got battered in there. They would be
10 there for two or three days and come back with black
11 eyes. Some boys were there for a week or two weeks. It
12 just depended how mad they were. They would say that it
13 was murder down there. I often saw boys going about
14 with black eyes and things like that. It was just part
15 of the regime."

16 He says, at 87, on page 23:

17 "Glenochil was a tough place. If you didn't screw
18 the nut, you took the consequences. Nine out of ten
19 guys screwed the nut to get out of there as quickly as
20 possible. I stayed out of trouble, so I only had to do
21 two months and eight days of my sentence. Nothing was
22 done to prepare me for getting out. I was dropped off
23 at the train station and given money for a train ticket.
24 I got the train back to Glasgow."

25 He then says when he'd committed the offence that he

1 was sent to Glenochil for, he was out on bail for
2 a different charge. He tells us that when he was
3 released he had to go up to court for the old charge.
4 He was on bail, so he went to court himself from the
5 streets. He tells us that a couple of mates came with
6 him and were waiting for him to come back out again, but
7 he was found guilty and remanded back to Longriggend.

8 He says that the second time he was remanded to
9 Longriggend he saw the governor again for borstal
10 reports. He says:

11 "You could only do detention once and you could only
12 do borstal twice."

13 He says got in touch with the governor of the
14 detention centre and got a good report from him:

15 "I got a great report and he recommended me for
16 a deferred sentence. Usually, the sheriff goes with the
17 governor's report, but the sheriff gave me borstal."

18 Then he goes on to tell us about a brief period at
19 HMP Barlinnie, at paragraphs 90 to 91, page 23:

20 "They only did a drop to Polmont once a week. After
21 getting sentenced to Polmont, I had to spend a few days
22 in Barlinnie until the weekly drop to Polmont. I was
23 examined by a doctor and checked for crabs. I was held
24 in the top flat, which was for borstal boys. We were
25 kept separate from the adult prisoners. My cell was

1 horrible and I had to slop out.

2 "We went down a lot of stairs to get our food. We
3 passed the older prisoners, but we were taken for our
4 food separately. We would get a tray, collect our food
5 and take it upstairs to our cells. The food in
6 Barlinnie was rotten. We got an hour a day exercise.
7 We would just walk about or go outside. Apart from
8 that, we were in our cells for 23 hours a day. There
9 were no TVs or radios or anything like that."

10 He goes on to deal with Polmont borstal between
11 paragraphs 92 and 97. I'll read on:

12 "I think I was only 16 when I was sentenced to
13 borstal. I was there for four to six weeks. While
14 I was there, there they were assessing me to see where I
15 would go next. The staff didn't wear uniforms. We
16 called them 'sir'.

17 "We had to get another medical when we arrived at
18 Polmont. None of us had crabs when we arrived at
19 Barlinnie, but by the time we got to Polmont one or two
20 of the boys had caught them. They had to get their hair
21 shaved off everywhere. Thank goodness I didn't have
22 them or I would have been given the same treatment.

23 "At first I was in a single cell. You did a few
24 weeks in a cell so the officers could find out what you
25 were like. If they thought you would be okay, you were

1 moved to a dormitory. I then went into a dormitory with
2 about ten boys in it. It was okay in the dormitory. I
3 already knew people from detention, so that helped.

4 "When I first arrived at Polmont I went into what
5 was called allocation. We didn't get out for football
6 or anything like that. I can't remember leisure time
7 and I didn't get any visits. It was mainly classes. I
8 went to school there, even though I was 16. We were
9 tested on our reading and writing in a classroom. They
10 would then decide whether to keep you there or send you
11 to an open borstal. Castle Huntly was an open borstal
12 near Dundee. It was supposed to be for people who
13 weren't very clever. We said it was for dafties.
14 Noranside was supposed to be for the clever people. I
15 was sent there, even though I wasn't very clever.

16 "I didn't see the officers being rough at Polmont.
17 I think maybe by that time people were too scared.
18 There would have been a digger, but I can't remember
19 people being taken there. I didn't see any abuse at
20 Polmont."

21 He then says he was taken to Noranside in
22 a mini-van. This is paragraph 97:

23 "It was like a minibus, but it had bars on the
24 windows. That is how I got transported to Glenochil and
25 Longriggend as well. There were others going on the

1 same day. We dropped some people off at Castle Huntly
2 on the way."

3 He then tells us about his time at Noranside open
4 borstal, between 98 and 105. I'll just continue:

5 "I can't remember arriving at Noranside, but I was
6 16 or 17. Noranside was near Forfar. I had never been
7 anywhere like that before. It was for boys under the
8 age of 21. I was there for 12 or 13 months. You could
9 be there for anywhere from 12 months to two years. It
10 just depended on your behaviour. It was an open borstal
11 and it was all right there.

12 "I got a job on the farm, which was one of the worst
13 jobs going. Some people worked on sewing machines or
14 painting and decorating, but they told us where we had
15 to work. I worked on the farm for the whole time that
16 I was there. The farm was about two minutes down the
17 road from the borstal building.

18 "It was owned by the farmer, but two boys from the
19 borstal worked for him. I got to know the farmer
20 because I worked with him every day. I got to drive the
21 digger and the tractor. I picked tatties, cleaned out
22 the barn and did everything you do on a farm.

23 "I delivered a calf. It was hard work. We were the
24 smelly ones at the end of the day. We used to take some
25 abuse from the other boys. I had a single cell at

1 Noranside. It was basic, but it was all right.
2 Everybody had a job at Noranside, so everybody got
3 a wage. We had a canteen, so we could buy shampoo and
4 sweeties.

5 "We had shampoo and aftershave in our cells. It was
6 all right. Nobody ran away when I was there. The other
7 boy who worked on the farm and I went grouse beating on
8 12 August. We went with outsiders. We went away up the
9 mountains and the men had shotguns. We got paid for it
10 and it was good. It got us away from the borstal and
11 the farm all day. It was completely different.

12 "There was a big football pitch and we played a lot
13 of football. We didn't play against other teams, just
14 among ourselves. We watched television and played
15 snooker, darts, table tennis and drafts. There was a big
16 hall which had a lot of games in it.

17 "I got one visit from my mum and dad. There were
18 other people in the visiting room as well, but it wasn't
19 like a visiting room where all the officers were
20 watching you. It was more relaxed and there was a boy
21 going round serving tea and biscuits. My parents gave
22 me a fiver. It was an open borstal and you could walk
23 out. Some of the boys got to go out for the day into
24 Forfar. They could buy stuff and bring it back in for
25 you.

1 "I asked a boy to get me things in Forfar. I was
2 allowed to go into Forfar for a day. I had a suit and
3 tie, so I wore that into Forfar. I was taken in
4 a minibus and dropped off in Forfar town centre. I met
5 my sister and brother-in-law there. They took me for a
6 Chinese curry and then we walked about Forfar for hours
7 and hours. I had one pint with my curry. Any more than
8 that the prison officers would have noticed.

9 "We weren't supposed to drink or bring back any
10 contraband. They picked me back up in the minibus. I
11 didn't get any home leave."

12 He says he remembers a boy from Dundee whom he
13 names:

14 "He had a reputation for being a hard man. He could
15 have been released, but he was in so many fights that
16 he'd been there for at least two years. Not long after
17 I arrived I was with a couple of boys Anderston waiting
18 to play table tennis. When it was my turn I went to get
19 the bat and the boy from Dundee told me to give it to
20 him. I refused because I had waited my turn and my
21 friends were with me. I wasn't afraid of him. We
22 started fighting.

23 "I got two weeks in the digger and he got four
24 weeks. You were there 24 hours a day. Other prisoners
25 would bring you your dinner. You got a Readers Digest

1 to read and that was it."

2 When the boy from Dundee got out of the digger he
3 and 'John' were the best of pals, because 'John' hadn't
4 been afraid of him.

5 He --

6 LADY SMITH: Some measure of comparative justice in the two
7 periods to which they were sentenced for the digger
8 treatment, I suppose.

9 MR PEOPLES: He says at 105, on page 28:

10 "I don't remember much trouble at Noranside. There
11 was nothing that I would describe as abusive there. It
12 was hard, hard work. I had never worked a day in my
13 life and it was a year that put me in my place."

14 He then says that after he left Noranside he kicked
15 an office door and two police officers saw him. He was
16 steaming drunk at the time and he ran off and the
17 officers chased him. One of them caught his friend and
18 the other one hit 'John' with a baton on the back of the
19 head. 'John' fell and was knocked unconscious for a few
20 seconds and by the time he came to was handcuffed.

21 'John' says that the officer had handcuffed him
22 really tight and he asked the officer to loosen the
23 cuffs. The officer was on his radio and the more that
24 'John' asked him to loosen the handcuffs the more he
25 would pull on them. 'John' says he gave him a left hook

1 and he had to get five stitches on the chin.

2 'John' says he had to get more stitches in his head
3 than the police officer, so he was kept in hospital
4 overnight and then taken to court the following day. He
5 pled not guilty, was remanded to Longriggend for another
6 three weeks, then he went back to court for trial, was
7 acquitted of a house breaking charge, but convicted of
8 police assault.

9 He was then remanded for another three weeks at
10 Longriggend for reports before going back to court and
11 was sentenced to three months in a young offenders
12 institution. He says that this was his last sentence
13 and it was served at Barlinnie. He tells us about
14 Barlinnie at 108 to 110:

15 "I was sent to the young offenders hall in Barlinnie
16 in 1973. I was 17. I didn't serve the full three
17 months. I did about two-and-a-half months in Barlinnie.
18 I got a wee job sewing mail bags. I was working with
19 young offenders convicted of murder and attempted
20 murder. I was going about with a guy who was serving
21 a life sentence for a double murder and a guy from
22 Paisley who was serving eight years. They were my mates
23 because we worked together in the sewing room. Our pay
24 depended on how many mail bags we made. I didn't know
25 how to use a sewing machine, but they showed me and it

1 was quite easy.

2 "I didn't have any problems in Barlinnie. I made
3 good pals there. I went to work every day, did my
4 sewing, went for my dinner and then back to do my
5 sewing. At night-time, we got a bit of TV and then we
6 were locked up. We had to slop out at night-time.
7 There was a big dining hall which was used by young
8 offenders and adult prisoners. I always seemed to be in
9 institutions for Christmas and I was in Barlinnie over
10 Christmas. It was all right. We got a bit of chicken
11 and a half decent Christmas dinner. The tranny was
12 blaring the Christmas songs out.

13 "I didn't have any issues with the prison officers
14 or see anything that I considered to be abusive."

15 He tells us, when he left Barlinnie, I think the
16 first thing he did was to go to a pub and get steaming
17 drunk, he says at 111.

18 He also says that after leaving Barlinnie he never
19 went back to prison and that he met his girlfriend when
20 he got out of Barlinnie. They got married and she fell
21 pregnant. He tells us on page 30 and following, that he
22 had various jobs over the years.

23 He got into a couple of minor pieces of bother. On
24 one occasion, he was fined for opening a locked fast
25 place which resulted in the loss of a job; that's at

1 114. His last conviction was for a breach of the peace.

2 He said he and his wife fell out, at 116, and they
3 got divorced. He said he's never stopped drinking and
4 he's been drinking all his days since he left prison.
5 At the time of the statement, he hadn't worked for the
6 previous 20 years for health reasons, and he tells us
7 about that at 117.

8 Going on to page 31, reporting of abuse. At
9 paragraph 119, he says he didn't tell anyone what
10 happened to him for years and years, but he says that he
11 hadn't seen mention of Dr Guthrie's anywhere until he
12 saw it the year before he signed his statement, in the
13 Daily Record newspaper. He says there was a spread
14 about people who had been there in the early 1960s. He
15 said this caused him to come forward and contact the
16 Inquiry.

17 He says he also went to the police and reported what
18 happened to him at Dr Guthrie's, and he went to a police
19 station and gave information. He was told by the desk
20 sergeant to leave the matter with him.

21 At the time of signing his statement, he said he
22 hadn't heard anything further on that, after doing so.

23 On page 32, he says, at 123:

24 "I didn't know who to talk to about the things that
25 happened to me. I thought that nobody had ever reported

1 what happened at Dr Guthrie's, so it must have been all
2 right. If I hadn't read that article in the
3 Daily Record I still wouldn't have said anything.
4 I'm glad I've spoken to somebody about what happened."

5 He says -- and this is familiar -- that he doesn't
6 have records, at 126:

7 "I would like to get them. I don't have any
8 photographs of myself when I was younger. I know they
9 took a lot of photographs of us playing football in
10 Dr Guthrie's."

11 That's something I think we have heard from others;
12 that they don't have any photographic record or other
13 record.

14 Just finally, on page 33, at paragraph 127 he says
15 clearly children shouldn't be force fed, but he says:

16 "Nobody should be allowed to batter a child. That
17 shouldn't happen to any child. I never got any support
18 when I was in care. It might have helped me if I had."

19 He ends by stating:

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

24 He signed his statement on 15 December -- 2021.
25 I think there is a slight mistake in the year, it says

1 2001.

2 LADY SMITH: Yes, it says 2001, but I don't think that's
3 right.

4 MR PEOPLES: I think it's 2021.

5 LADY SMITH: It must be.

6 MR PEOPLES: That completes this particular read-in and
7 I think I can see the time and --

8 LADY SMITH: Shall we have a break?

9 (3.05 pm)

10 (A short break)

11 (3.15 pm)

12 LADY SMITH: Ms Forbes.

13 MS FORBES: My Lady, we now have some read-ins to do,
14 hopefully. I'm not sure how many we'll get through
15 before the end of the day, but we can see how we go.

16 LADY SMITH: Let's see what we can do between now and
17 4 o'clock.

18 MS FORBES: The next applicant is anonymous and he has also
19 the pseudonym 'John'.

20 The reference for his witness statement is
21 WIT-1-000001035.

22 'John' (read)

23 MS FORBES: 'John' tells us he was born in 1955 and he talks
24 about his life before going into care, between
25 paragraphs 2 and 8.

1 He was born in Glasgow and lived with his parents
2 and older sister, who was three years older. His mother
3 was a nurse and his father was a labouring engineer.

4 He grew up in the north of Glasgow, in Springburn.
5 He went to Hyde Park school in Springburn. He describes
6 that as a great wee school. He was clever and he took
7 it all in.

8 He was hanging about with 12 and 13-year-olds,
9 though, when he was in primary school and that's where
10 he thinks it all went wrong.

11 He climbed into a funnel at the back of a laundrette
12 and got stuck there and the police had to come and get
13 him out. He ended up in juvenile court in Glasgow and
14 he was charged with breaking into the laundrette. He
15 was ten years old at the time, he thinks, and he was
16 sentenced to an Approved School.

17 He had to go for an assessment first. This was
18 a complete surprise to him and he was taken to
19 Larchgrove assessment centre straight from court. He
20 talks about his time at Larchgrove, between paragraphs 9
21 and 29 of his statement. He states, in summary, he was
22 ten years old, he spent two months there, and there was
23 no schooling at the time, which he resented.

24 The place was regimented, but in a bad way. He
25 describes there being free use of violence by staff.

1 He was whacked, hand over the head, and there were
2 whacks and kicks by staff.

3 One of the members of staff carried a belt over his
4 shoulder. He was told the day before that he would be
5 leaving and going to Dr Guthrie's and he tells us about
6 Dr Guthrie's between paragraphs 30 and 114.

7 He was still ten years old when he went to
8 Dr Guthrie's and talks about having to play murder ball
9 and says that staff treated the boys there as subhuman.
10 There was corporal punishment on the hand and backside
11 with the tawse, and a member of staff used to assault
12 boys with a big bunch of keys.

13 He remembers an incident in the toilets where he was
14 being checked as to whether he'd been smoking and he was
15 hit by a member of staff and he went through the cubicle
16 doors and injured his knee against the toilet pan. He
17 was physically sick with the pain from that. By then he
18 was 11 years old.

19 He saw boys get their head burst open -- he
20 describes it -- by assaults from staff with keys, and
21 a member of staff used to use judo classes as an excuse
22 to throw boys around.

23 There was an issue about a boy who was -- what he
24 describes as "coloured", who was the same age as him and
25 that this boy had a terrible time and was battered and

1 bullied by staff and other boys.

2 They would all be threatened that they would be sent
3 to the farm, and that was Rossie Farm. They went to
4 a summer camp where he would see members of staff
5 walking late on the beach at night with boys when
6 everyone should have been in bed. It didn't look right.

7 There was peer abuse, older boys hitting younger
8 boys, and there were issues in the swimming pool when
9 they would be swimming there naked in the morning. Some
10 boys would be running around with erections. Younger
11 boys would be holding on to the side whilst older boys
12 were pressing up against them. His friend there told
13 him he was raped by two boys at Dr Guthrie's.

14 He was there for two-and-a-half years and was coming
15 up for 13-years-old when he went back home. He went to
16 Colston high school. He liked it there. He was home
17 for about a year and got into a fight at school and that
18 meant that he was back in court and he was sent to
19 Larchgrove.

20 He was 13-and-a-half at this point. He got a black
21 eye from another boy there, whilst he was at Larchgrove,
22 but he says that was his own fault and he was there for
23 six to eight weeks.

24 He then went to Geilsland, and he tells us about
25 that between paragraph 119 and 166. Again, he was about

1 13-and-a-half when he went there. He describes that
2 being manual labour all day. It was a collective
3 responsibility thing, where everyone was punished if one
4 boy didn't have their kit laid out correctly or an area
5 wasn't cleaned properly.

6 There was hits on the body by staff, particularly in
7 the ribs, and you were made to run around the football
8 pitch with your hands in the air if you'd done something
9 wrong.

10 His view was they were trying to break you. He was
11 made to play what he calls murder ball, which he
12 describes as a bullying session where tougher boys could
13 do what they wanted to younger boys.

14 He talks about an incident where he was made to
15 climb a cargo net which was 30-foot high and he banged
16 his head on a concrete beam at the top. He thought he
17 was going to fall and die. He was 14 years old at that
18 time.

19 He ended up with a lump on his head and with a dent.
20 He didn't receive any medical attention for that. He
21 remembers being struck really hard with the belt when he
22 received six and had welts and was black and blue for
23 weeks afterwards.

24 That was as a result of taking the blame for smoking
25 and older boys had forced him and a friend to take the

1 blame.

2 He describes SNR as battering the boys
3 and states that they were made to paint their faces
4 black and tour Ayrshire as the Geilsland minstrels. He
5 was 14 at the time and he didn't want do that. He got
6 a lot of beatings during rehearsals for not doing it
7 right.

8 He left Geilsland as he was coming up for 16. He
9 left home, got a job at a knitwear company and started
10 hanging out with older boys and left his job. He then
11 got in trouble in Dundee and appeared in court just
12 before his 16th birthday.

13 He then goes on to tell us what happened on that
14 occasion, from paragraph 169, page 28. He states:

15 "I appeared before the judge in Dundee and he
16 ordered borstal reports for me and sent me to Perth
17 prison for three weeks while he waited for reports.

18 "Perth prison was an adult prison. There were
19 a couple of guys in there from Springburn who had just
20 been jailed for murdering a guy by throwing him off
21 high-rise flats and throwing slabs on him. Luckily,
22 I made myself known to them, so I didn't get any bother.
23 Even they were surprised that I was in there because of
24 my age. I shouldn't have been in there. There was
25 a young offenders institution just outside Perth called

1 Friarton and I should have been put there instead.

2 "After my reports came back, I was sentenced to go
3 to Polmont borstal. I was given my own clothes to put
4 on again and then the screws put me in a van to take me
5 to Polmont. On the way, they stopped at Friarton and
6 picked up some boys from there to drive us all to
7 Polmont."

8 He then talks about his time at Polmont young
9 offenders institution, from paragraph 172:

10 "I was 16 when I went to Polmont. The screws drove
11 me and five other boys there, took us inside, then left.
12 There were a couple of boys from Dundee, a couple from
13 Aberdeen and I was the only one from Glasgow. We lined
14 up outside a door. A wee screw with civilian gear came
15 out, shouted each of our names with a four digit number.
16 He was snarling at us and the other boys were terrified.

17 "Then when they called you in, you were supposed to
18 shout your name and your number. I think because of my
19 experiences I took the information in straightaway
20 because I knew I would be in trouble otherwise. So I
21 marched in and shouted my name and number. I still
22 remember that mine was number [REDACTED]. The other boys
23 couldn't remember their numbers, which was fair enough
24 because they had just come in, had the numbers shouted
25 at them and they were scared.

1 "I was told to get in this box, which they called
2 a dog box, and to get changed. I got into this box that
3 had the borstal clothes in it, which was a red suit, and
4 got changed into it. I was all changed while the other
5 boys were still trying to remember their numbers. They
6 got whacked for not remembering. I could hear the
7 whacks and their screams from inside the dog box.

8 We got through into the main hall and waited there
9 to be allocated a cell. There were all these floors.
10 This big guy came out who was beautifully dressed, with
11 a check jacket, lovely slacks, and beautiful leather
12 shoes. He was called GIL [REDACTED]. The place was dead and
13 he shouted, "Outside, face your doors", and all these
14 wee guys came flying out their cells at the one time,
15 did an about turn and faced their doors. It was dead
16 funny to me and looked like something out of
17 Oliver Twist, with him being Fagan, so I burst out
18 laughing. GIL [REDACTED] cracked me with his fist on my
19 back. That was him setting the standard of what to
20 expect in there. You would even get hit for laughing.

21 "I found out later that when GIL [REDACTED] came and
22 shouted that, everyone jumped out their rooms and faced
23 the doors so he could go in and inspect everyone's
24 cells. I was allocated a wee cell to myself.

25 "You had to strip your bedsheets and fold them into

1 perfect squares to make bed blocks in the morning.

2 A wee screw called GIB [REDACTED] could come into the cells
3 in the morning and put his stick against the bed block
4 to measure it. If it was even a wee bit out, he would
5 use his stick to throw the bed block in the air and give
6 you a lot of verbal abuse, and you had to do it again.

7 "You were allowed down into the big room to watch
8 the telly. We were also allowed to go swimming in the
9 pool within Polmont. The [REDACTED] teacher, Mr GIB [REDACTED] was
10 a nasty piece of work. We weren't allowed to play
11 football or anything.

12 "There were books available in a cabinet if you
13 wanted to read them, but not a library. They were just
14 stupid wee books that wouldn't do much for you. The
15 first six weeks were spent doing what they called
16 allocation, where they assessed everybody's education
17 levels. Boys who couldn't read, write or do sums were
18 put into one section and then the ones like me who could
19 were put in another section. In my section, we were
20 then tested to see if we could measure, multiply and
21 then made to do tests. They basically wanted to find
22 out if they could give us a job.

23 "Boys who they thought could do jobs were offered
24 vocational courses, like bricklaying and plastering.
25 I was offered the bricklaying and I said yes. I did the

1 vocational course in bricklaying with Mr Henderson and
2 did well in it. The reason for this was so that they
3 could send boys up to build the new women's prison,
4 Cornton Vale, that was being built in Stirling in 1971.

5 "After my course, they decided to send some of us up
6 to work on Cornton Vale. I got a blue suit to wear
7 then. That gave you a bit more status because it showed
8 you had some promise.

9 "I was at Cornton Vale for six months doing
10 plastering and brickwork and helping to build that
11 prison. We got paid about 30 bob a week or something,
12 which was like 1.50 or 1.60, which we could buy ten fags
13 with."

14 He then talks about abuse in Polmont, at
15 paragraph 186:

16 "Life was hard in there and very regimented. The
17 staff were nasty. GIL [REDACTED] hit me on the back with his
18 fist on my first day for laughing. I knew then what to
19 expect from that place.

20 "I then got whacked across the chest with a stick by
21 GIB [REDACTED] when the measurements of my bed block were
22 a bit out. He hit me with the measuring stick he used
23 to measure the bed blocks.

24 "Mr GIH [REDACTED] the [REDACTED] teacher, would line the boys
25 up to inspect their toenails. He would be carrying

1 a big scoop that he used to get water out of the pool,
2 which was a long stick with a scoop on the end. If
3 a boy had dirty toenails he would put the stick end of
4 the scoop on the offending dirty toenail and say, "Thy
5 toenail offends me", and put his whole weight on the
6 stick.

7 "He would do that to make sure that when boys came
8 to [REDACTED] pool their feet were clean. Mr GIH [REDACTED] was another
9 ex-army guy. He was a wee stocky powerhouse of a man,
10 with short [REDACTED] hair.

11 "After the initial six weeks in Polmont, I spent six
12 months at Cornton Vale. My sentence was reduced because
13 I had been working to help build Cornton Vale prison.

14 "I was still 16 when I left Polmont."

15 He then talks about his life after care from
16 paragraph 192 to 197. He states that he went back home
17 and it was nice to spend some time with his family
18 again, and he got a job in the construction industry
19 when he came out.

20 He then talks about the things that he did
21 thereafter.

22 In paragraph 198 onwards, he talks about the impact
23 and he states that he still resents not getting any
24 schooling when he went to these places, because he was
25 clever and good at school. That is paragraph 198.

1 At paragraph 200, he states that he saw
2 an orthopaedic surgeon later in life, as an adult, to
3 get his knee checked and he asked him if he'd had any
4 bad childhood accidents, because he had a hairline
5 fracture the full length of his knee. The incident with
6 the toilet pan at Dr Guthrie's was the only thing he
7 could think of.

8 At 205, he comments all this happened to him because
9 he climbed into a funnel to get some heat from dry
10 cleaners as a child.

11 At paragraph 206, he states that as a parent he
12 placed a lot of emphasis on education to make sure his
13 son got the opportunities that he never had.

14 Then, at the end of his statement, he has stated, at
15 213:

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 He signed that and dated 11 July 2022.

21 LADY SMITH: Thank you very much.

22 MS FORBES: My Lady, the next statement is from
23 an applicant, again who is anonymous, and his pseudonym
24 is 'Bobby-Joe'.

25 The reference for his witness statement is

1 WIT-1-000000976.

2 'Bobby-Joe' (read)

3 MS FORBES: 'Bobby-Joe' states that he was born in 1957 and
4 he talks about his background and life before going into
5 care between paragraphs 2 and 20. In summary, he states
6 he was born in Glasgow and he grew up on the border with
7 Clydebank, with his parents and seven brothers and
8 sisters.

9 He loved living there and he had lots of friends.
10 His dad worked shovelling coal at the power station and
11 his mother worked in Weirs pumps. He talks about a girl
12 who lived in the same close as him, sexually abusing him
13 when he was young. She was about four or five years
14 older than him and had down syndrome and this happened
15 on a daily basis.

16 In 1969, he then moved to a different street in the
17 same area, only 400 metres away, but to him it was like
18 a different world. Every other street at that time had
19 a gang and the boys that were there wanted to fight him.
20 He got into fights. He took up boxing and he went to
21 secondary school at St Thomas of Aquinas. He started
22 getting into bother and was seeing a psychologist.

23 There was not much involvement with social work, but
24 they were in the background. His mother then had
25 a mental breakdown and was put into a psychiatric

1 hospital and she received electric shock treatment and
2 didn't recognise anyone. He'd been to the children's
3 panel as he'd be involved with a couple of older guys
4 and, at 13, he ran away.

5 He says that not one thing made him run away, he
6 just wanted to get away. It might have been to do with
7 financial difficulties at home. His dad worked hard,
8 but he was a drinker and they never got on. He was away
9 for a week working down in Ayr on the shows. His mother
10 reported him missing -- and this was in [REDACTED] 1971 -- and
11 he was way for just over a week.

12 When he came back, he was taken to Larchgrove remand
13 centre.

14 He describes his experience at Larchgrove between
15 paragraphs 21 and 57. In summary, he states there were
16 gangs, there was fighting among the boys. Staff would
17 give you a doing if they caught you fighting in front of
18 them. Punishment would be cleaning a two-foot tile for
19 an hour with a toothbrush. He was running way because
20 staff were slapping him and he didn't want to share
21 a cell with five guys he didn't know.

22 There was one member of staff he describes as
23 a cruel man who would slap boys every single day. In
24 [REDACTED] 1972, 13 of them escaped on the coldest night of
25 the year and six ended up with frostbite. He was sent

1 to an Approved School, he thinks as a result of that.

2 He was in and out of Larchgrove and Longriggend in
3 between two spells at Larchgrove. He was doing milk and
4 paper rounds, he went to numerous courts because he was
5 stealing and he was done for theft, breach of the peace
6 and police assault.

7 After that escape, in [REDACTED] 1972, he was given
8 12 months and sent to St Mary's and that was in
9 [REDACTED] 1972.

10 He talks about his time at St Mary's Kenmure between
11 paragraph 58 and 108.

12 LADY SMITH: He's 14, going on 15 years old by this stage?

13 MS FORBES: Yes.

14 LADY SMITH: Thank you.

15 MS FORBES: He states that he ran way from St Mary's because
16 he was getting bullied by peers. He describes the strap
17 being used by staff. He states that he knows boys were
18 being sexually abused by the chef. The chef was having
19 sex with them in the kitchen and tried it on with him,
20 too.

21 He says that he wasn't the only abuser, but he was
22 the one that later ended up in prison.

23 There was a shower room attendant who used to wrap
24 his knuckles over his head if you talked because you
25 weren't allowed to talk in the shower room and he hit

1 boys every day.

2 One of the staff members there would take them out
3 stealing. It ended up that he was president of his
4 house there and boys reported things to him. Despite
5 all the things that he says about St Mary's, he said
6 that he loved St Mary's as a school.

7 He was released from there in about [REDACTED] 1973 and
8 he went back to St Thomas of Aquinas, but he didn't go
9 regularly because anything that happened there he got
10 the blame for. The school was set on fire and he got
11 the blame, but it wasn't him. He ended up getting 18 of
12 the strap from his form teacher, [REDACTED]
13 [REDACTED], six from each of them. His wrists
14 were all swollen.

15 At times when he was remanded to Longriggend, he
16 would have to spend a night at Barlinnie prison and his
17 view was that was wrong. 14 and 15-year-old boys
18 shouldn't be held on a wing like that with hardened
19 criminals.

20 He was going to children's panels and juvenile
21 courts for numerous charges of breach of the peace.
22 There were other boys at the school who had been to
23 different remand schools and, on one occasion, he was
24 bunking off with a large group, 14 in total, and the
25 police arrived and charged them with a breach of the

1 peace.

2 He pled guilty and practically begged them to send
3 him back to St Mary's and they did. He was then listed
4 as a witness against the other 13 and one of his pals
5 thought he was a grass and still doesn't speak to him to
6 this day. The case against the other 13 was dropped.

7 He was released from St Mary's for the second time
8 in on his birthday in [REDACTED] 1973. The school had
9 organised jobs for the boys when they were released and
10 he got a job at a hotel. He started out as a chef, but
11 didn't last very long and he was back staying with his
12 parents. But then he was back in jail by -- as he
13 describes it jail -- by [REDACTED] 1974.

14 Then he tells us about his experiences in
15 Longriggend and Glenochil, and starts at paragraph 118:

16 "I was in Longriggend in 1974 and it was just for
17 two short spells before I got let out on bail.

18 "I'd been a bad boy again and got sent to
19 Longriggend, which was a remand centre. Nobody did
20 a sentence in Longriggend. You were there whilst you
21 waited for trial, or for three weeks for reports or so
22 whilst you were waiting on sentence. Once you were
23 sentenced as a young offender you went to Glenochil or
24 Polmont young offenders institutions.

25 "I was already doing a three-month sentence at

1 Glenochil when I got convicted of another offence at
2 court. Instead of sending me back to Glenochil, I got
3 sent to Longriggend to await reports and sentencing.

4 "Most of the people in there were locked up for
5 basically 22 hours a day. You would get out for
6 breakfast, dinner and tea and an hour's recreation.
7 Sometimes you might get to watch TV for an hour or two
8 at night, but most just stayed in their cell and read or
9 listened to a transistor radio.

10 "I was an avid reader and would sit in my cell just
11 reading. There were a lot of prisoners from the same
12 families. I remember there were a lot of [REDACTED] and
13 a lot of [REDACTED]. As I had left school, I worked when I
14 was in Longriggend. There were schoolboys in there who
15 were under 16, who weren't convicted and on remand in B
16 hall, which was the boys' wing. They used to smash the
17 windows every night, just for the sake of it. I got
18 a job working with one of the prison officers going
19 round replacing all the windows and then got another job
20 outside."

21 When asked about abuse at Longriggend he talks about
22 that from paragraph 124 onwards:

23 "I don't really have anything to say about
24 Longriggend, other than I once got held for 27 hours
25 over a two-day period in what we called the dog boxes.

1 These were tiny wee cubicles with a small bench where
2 you sat before you went to your cell or to court. You
3 were mainly in there on your own, but they sometimes
4 squeezed two of us in. You went in at 6.30 in the
5 morning, if you were going to court, and then after
6 an hour they would process us and put us on the van to
7 go to court.

8 On this occasion I was meant to be going to court,
9 but it must have been cancelled at the last minute and I
10 didn't go. Instead of putting me back in the hall like
11 they were meant to, they ended up just leaving me in the
12 dog box until everybody came back from court, so it
13 didn't mess up their signing in and out routine. I just
14 had to sit there and wait in the tiny wee box. I
15 sometimes got out to the toilet, but sometimes they just
16 brought me a pot like we had in our cells.

17 When I was in C hall in Longriggend in 1974, a guy
18 set his cell on fire and died from the smoke inhalation.
19 The screws that went in and dragged him out were kicking
20 and punching him as they did so. One of the officers
21 was one of the [REDACTED] family."

22 He then talks about his time in Glenochil young
23 offenders institution, from paragraph 127:

24 "I went to Glenochil in [REDACTED] 1974. It was
25 a hell hole where the staff were totally abusive. This

1 was the place that was meant to remedy you. They made
2 out that this was the place where they will kick it out
3 of you and told you: if you're a bad boy, when you leave
4 here you'll be a good boy.

5 "It was just an awful place.

6 "I was lucky because I was up there with a boy who
7 had already been there before. That was unusual because
8 when you got sent to the detention centre once it was
9 meant to be your short, sharp shock, 12 weeks of intense
10 training.

11 "You got out your bed in the morning and you had to
12 march everywhere. You had to march to your breakfast
13 and to your ablutions. When you were halfway through
14 they would shout "Nip it" and that meant you had stop
15 doing the toilet and get out. If you didn't, that was
16 you put on the square, for tile scrubbing for
17 two-and-a-half hours. Marching on the square you could
18 hear staff getting referred to as a colour, which was
19 reference to colour sergeants in the army. A lot of the
20 officers were ex-army.

21 "Most of the screws were all right. There were
22 a few that weren't, but you get that in every walk in
23 life. I don't like bullies at all and I'd really had
24 enough of dealing with these people, as I'd been doing
25 it for four years, since I was 13. You just had to

1 follow the rules.

2 "We weren't locked up all day. We were out working
3 doing the mail bags or sewing army bags. We would also
4 be separating the copper from the aluminium in the
5 electronics department, so it could do to scrap. A lot
6 of our time was just spent marching for no reason.

7 "I never got any education at Glenochil because by
8 then I'd left school and had been working. Cleaning
9 punishment at Glenochil was for two-and-a-half hours at
10 a time with a scrubbing brush. Glenochil had a grade
11 system where you got a yellow grade or a red grade. The
12 red grade was if you didn't do anything wrong and that
13 was usually guys that were there for the first time.
14 Anybody that had been in the system before didn't try to
15 get a red, as it meant you were sucking up and you'd get
16 called names."

17 He then talks about abuse at Glenochil, from
18 paragraph 134:

19 "There wasn't anything good about detention centres.
20 That short, sharp shock treatment doesn't work. They
21 just try and bully you into not doing certain things.
22 It was like institutionalised bullying.

23 "There was an officer that had failed in the army
24 and became a prison officer and he beat the boys up. He
25 was just a bully. When I had been away on remand at

1 Longriggend and went to court I was admonished. But
2 I had to go back to Glenochil because I still had one
3 day and one night to do of my sentence there. When I
4 got back, this wee bully was there and he tried
5 everything to break me and stop me getting out the next
6 day. He threw me down the stairs, tried to get
7 a reaction out of me, and was shouting that I had missed
8 three weeks' training whilst I'd been away at
9 Longriggend. He made me run the mile. He made me run
10 the 800 metres and do the full gym circuit in the same
11 day and night, but I didn't mind doing that. Despite
12 his efforts to get me to slip up, I still got out next
13 morning. He was just a nasty wee piece of work.

14 "I saw him getting a doing from another officer,
15 which pleased me. He was just a bully. I know I could
16 beat him in a square go, but he had all the power over
17 me. I did nothing with the guy apart from saying, "Yes,
18 sir".

19 "I met him a few years later in another jail, when
20 I was a bit older, and he grabbed me by the throat, put
21 me up against a wall and asked me to go back to work.
22 When I looked down at him I could see the tears in his
23 eyes. I decided then that I wasn't working under this
24 guy ever again. I'd been doing my sentence quietly
25 alongside all the other boys, but I got done for

1 inciting a riot in Glenochil and lost seven days'
2 remission."

3 He then talks about his life after being in care,
4 between paragraphs 138 and 154.

5 He got out of prison in [REDACTED] 1974. I think that
6 means he was still only 16 years old.

7 He went to stay with his aunt and uncle, got a job
8 with a removal firm and then as an aerial rigger. He
9 then ended up in prison a few times.

10 He then met his wife in 1980, and they got married
11 in 1982. They were together until she passed away.
12 They had three children together. He only spent one
13 more spell in jail after meeting his wife, in 1983.

14 He talks about the impact at paragraphs 155 to 168.
15 If I could just read a couple of paragraphs.

16 At paragraph 155, he states:

17 "I understand why I was put away. I was out of
18 order at times. Going to Larchgrove, I knew it was
19 inevitable I was going to end up in one of these places.
20 I just knew it and once I'd been in one, the rest didn't
21 seem that bad. It's a horrible, scary feeling walking
22 into a prison, but that was when I was a kid. After
23 I was 21, nothing like that would bother me."

24 If I go to paragraph 158:

25 "The impact of being locked in a cell for so long at

1 a time is still with me. I still like to be in my room
2 and have my own space, even just watching TV. I also
3 still sleep with my headphones in. That started when
4 I was in St Mary's when I slept with my radio under my
5 pillow."

6 He then talks about lessons to be learned, between
7 paragraphs 174 and 184. If I can go to paragraph 178:

8 "There's too much happened in prisons that needs to
9 change. The screws shouldn't be attacking prisoners and
10 things like what happened in D hall in Longriggend in
11 1974, where the guy set his cell on fire and died from
12 the smoke inhalation, should never happen."

13 Then:

14 "Why bring boys down from Dundee to Glasgow to
15 punish them, when they could put them somewhere in
16 Dundee. There was a boy called [REDACTED], who was
17 from Dundee, but was in St Mary's and when he was 14, he
18 ran away. He got caught and ended up being put in Perth
19 prison, where he hung himself. Boys that age should
20 never haven been sent into a prison.

21 "I ended up staying in Dundee for a while and whilst
22 I was there I found out that after [REDACTED] had taken his
23 own life, his sister turned to prostitution and ended up
24 being murdered."

25 Then at paragraph 180:

1 "Young ██████ was allowed to go into a cell and
2 hang himself. That's haunting. There are another
3 couple of boys that took their own lives, but I can't
4 remember their names. I'd love to say I'm doing this
5 for ██████, but I'm doing it for everybody. It's not easy
6 to talk about, but I'm just glad to get it off my chest.

7 "The staff have to be vetted and nowadays it is
8 easier to do that. The staff should also be qualified
9 to work there. Don't just stick somebody in and say:
10 we'll see how they get on after a month."

11 Paragraph 185, he states:

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

16 He signed that and it's dated 4 May 2022.

17 LADY SMITH: I think we can just declare eight minutes to
18 four to be 4 o'clock for today's purposes. I think
19 we've worked hard. A final reminder to anybody thinking
20 about identifications, quite a number of staff have been
21 mentioned in the course of the read-ins this afternoon
22 and their identities are all protected by my General
23 Restriction Order, so they can't be disclosed outside
24 this room.

25 Next week, just thinking about Tuesday, can you help

1 me with the plan?

2 MS FORBES: Yes, my Lady. My understanding is we have two
3 oral witnesses on Tuesday, one in the morning and one in
4 the afternoon. If there's time in between, we'll try to
5 do some read-ins as well.

6 LADY SMITH: Thank you very much indeed. Thank you.

7 I hope you all have a good weekend and I'll see you
8 on Tuesday.

9 (3.53 pm)

10 (The Inquiry adjourned until 10.00 am
11 on Tuesday, 14 November 2023)

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