

Thursday, 18 January 2024

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(10.00 am)
LADY SMITH: Good morning and welcome to the third day this week of evidence in this chapter of the case study looking into the provision of various types of care for children and young persons in secure and similar forms of residence.

Mr MacAulay.

MR MACAULAY: Good morning, my Lady. The witness today is an applicant. He wants to remain anonymous and to use the pseudonym 'Brian' in giving his evidence.

LADY SMITH: Thank you.

'Brian' (sworn)

LADY SMITH: 'Brian', I'll hand over to Mr MacAulay in a moment and he'll explain to you what happens next in the taking of your evidence.

Could I just assure you at the beginning that I want to do anything I can to make the whole process of giving evidence as comfortable for you as possible. I do know that what we're asking you to do isn't easy. You're speaking in public about personal matters that happened to you many years ago, that of itself is difficult, and then the subject matter that we're going to address could be quite distressing at times.

If you want a break at any point, please let me

1 know. I can accommodate that. If there's anything else
2 we can do to help, you must speak up. If you don't
3 understand what we're asking, that's our fault not
4 yours, so you tell us. Here, unlike when you were
5 a child, you are allowed to speak up and ask questions
6 if it would help you.

7 If you're ready I'll hand over to Mr MacAulay and
8 he'll take it from there.

9 A. Yes, I'm ready, thank you.

10 LADY SMITH: Mr MacAulay.

11 Questions from Mr MacAulay

12 MR MACAULAY: My Lady.

13 Hello, 'Brian'. The first thing I would like you to
14 do is to confirm that you have signed the statement that
15 you have in front of you. It's on the last page. Can
16 you confirm you've signed it?

17 A. Yes.

18 Q. Do you say, and I'll just read this to you:

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

21 Is that correct?

22 A. That's correct, yeah.

23 Q. Do you also say:

24 'I believe the facts stated in this witness
25 statement are true.'

1 A. That's correct, yeah.

2 Q. Because you are anonymous, 'Brian', I don't want your
3 date of birth, just the year of your birth. Can you
4 confirm that you were born in 1962?

5 A. 1962, yes.

6 Q. In your statement you begin by telling us a little bit
7 about your life before you went into care. For example,
8 I think you have quite a number of siblings, is that
9 right?

10 A. Yeah, uh-huh. Two older brothers and a younger sister.

11 Q. You also tell us a little bit about your family
12 background and the domestic situation; is that right?

13 A. Yes.

14 Q. Can you just tell me a little bit about that?

15 A. My mum was married three times.

16 The first time was to my father.

17 The second time she had a daughter to her a second
18 man.

19 And then the third time she had a daughter to the
20 man I call my father today, because I was two years old
21 when I got to that stage to -- where my mum was moving
22 in with my dad and getting married for the third time.

23 Q. Was there some trouble at home?

24 A. Yes, there was, aye, there was. We were kind of three
25 boys were kind of unruly and I don't know, we were

1 just -- it seemed like we were moved from one home to
2 another home to another home and, yes, we were unruly,
3 uh-huh, and my mum and dad seemed to be arguing a lot of
4 the time as well.

5 Q. You tell us in your statement that you, along with two
6 of your brothers, were attending a primary school?

7 A. Yes.

8 Q. But you were taking days off school, is that right?

9 A. Taking days off school, yeah.

10 Q. What happened eventually because of that?

11 A. We got took to a Children's Panel in Motherwell, it's in
12 the centre of Motherwell and the three of us got put
13 into List D schools.

14 Q. One of the problems I think was that apart from being
15 put into List D schools you were separated from your
16 brothers?

17 A. We were separated. [REDACTED] was put into St Andrew's.
18 [REDACTED] was put into St Charles's and I was put into
19 St Ninian's in Stirling.

20 Q. Were you upset because you were separated from your
21 brothers?

22 A. Yes, very.

23 Q. Were you given any reason as to why you were being
24 separated?

25 A. None at all.

1 Q. Let's then look at you going to St Ninian's in Gartmore.
2 I think the records that the Inquiry has seen, that
3 you may have gone there in [REDACTED] 1971. Does that fit in
4 with your own recollection, when you are aged about
5 eight?
6 A. Probably, yeah. Probably, aye. I know I was very young
7 at the time. I thought I was younger than that
8 actually, but, aye.
9 Q. Did you think you were younger than eight?
10 A. I thought I was about six or seven.
11 Q. You tell us that when you went in the front door of the
12 establishment, that the first Brother you came across
13 was Brother MJJ [REDACTED] ?
14 A. Brother MJJ [REDACTED], yes.
15 Q. What was his role at the time?
16 A. He was SNR [REDACTED].
17 Q. Did he have a conversation with you?
18 A. Yes.
19 Q. What did he say to you?
20 A. He just told us I was at St Ninian's for being bad
21 basically and that if I done all right and done what
22 I was told then I would be allowed home at weekends.
23 Q. As time went on, did you come across other Brothers?
24 A. Yes.
25 Q. Can you tell me who they were, if you can remember?

1 A. Brother MJO, I can't -- that's the only one I can
2 remember, Brother MJO.

3 Q. As far as Brother MJO is concerned, was he somebody
4 who sometimes took you horse riding?

5 A. Yes.

6 Q. Insofar as the dormitory set-up was concerned, was the
7 dormitory that you were allocated to in that main
8 building?

9 A. Yes.

10 Q. How many boys were in the dormitory?

11 A. Well, in the dormitory I was in there were six.

12 Q. But there were other dormitories as well?

13 A. There were other dormitories all the way along, yeah.

14 Q. As far as the Brothers' accommodation was concerned,
15 were you able to work out where they were accommodated?

16 A. No, I wasn't, no. I'm not too sure where they stayed.

17 Q. They were in the main building?

18 A. They were in the building, yeah.

19 Q. As far as lay staff is concerned, can you remember the
20 names of any of the lay civilian staff?

21 A. Yes, Charles McKenna.

22 Q. You also mention a Mr GXC as one of your teachers, do
23 you remember him?

24 A. Yes, aye, GXC.

25 Q. The age range of the boys -- and it was all boys at

1 St Ninian's. You were very young, were there boys
2 younger than you so far as you can remember?

3 A. Yeah, uh-huh.

4 Q. What age range do you think you had at St Ninian's at
5 that time?

6 A. From about 5 to 12.

7 Q. And many boys?

8 A. Oh, there were at least 100, I think, aye.

9 Q. Can I just look at some aspects of the routine with you.
10 Let's look at the mornings first of all. What
11 happened in the mornings?

12 A. You were up in the morning and you were told to go and
13 brush your teeth and then you went down -- right down
14 the bottom, down the stairs like a kind of basement
15 thing, but that was your dining hall and you went in
16 there and that's where you got your breakfast and stuff.

17 Q. When you are woken up, was there somebody who did that?

18 A. Yes, there was a nightshift member of staff who was on
19 at night. They took it in turns, it wasn't the same
20 member of staff all the time, but they would -- all the
21 lights would go and they would shout at everybody to get
22 up.

23 Q. Was that person a lay person or a Brother?

24 A. Both, sometimes it was a lay person, sometimes it was
25 the Brother.

1 Q. If we look at the bedtime arrangements then, when you
2 were going to bed, how was that organised?

3 A. Everybody had to go to bed at the same time, so you were
4 in separate houses, like St George's House, St Patrick's
5 House, Leslie House and St Andrew's House and there was
6 a member of staff allocated to each house and they would
7 just tell you, 'Right, it's bedtime' and everybody had
8 to go up and get into bed.

9 Q. Insofar as your house was concerned, what house were you
10 in, can you remember?

11 A. St George's.

12 Q. Who was in charge of that?

13 A. Brother MJJ .

14 Q. In relation to supervising you when you were going to
15 bed, who would be involved in that?

16 A. It would all depend what members of staff were on at
17 night, but it could be anybody. It could be
18 Brother MJJ , it could be Brother MJO , it could
19 be Charles McKenna, GXC or Mr GXC , what do
20 you call it.

21 Q. You do say in relation to the food at St Ninian's, that
22 the food was good?

23 A. Mm hmm, yes, it was.

24 Q. Insofar as washing and bathing was concerned, I think
25 you tended to have showers?

1 A. Showers, yeah.

2 Q. Can you tell me a little bit about that.

3 First of all, where was the shower area?

4 A. The shower was -- again it was down the stair, right
5 down the bottom. At the opposite end from the kitchen,
6 where you went for your food and it was just showers
7 that was in there and it was also used as a tack room
8 for all the stuff for the horses.

9 Q. In relation to any supervision or arranging for showers,
10 how was that managed?

11 A. It was done by house. It was done by whatever house you
12 were in. If it was George's House you were told
13 George's House had to go down and get the showers.

14 Q. And who would supervise that?

15 A. Whoever was in charge of St George's House at that
16 particular night or time.

17 Q. We're going to come and look at things that happened in
18 relation for example to Mr McKenna, who you talk about
19 in your statement, but one thing you tell us in your
20 statement is that you went on a trip, you would go on
21 trips to Ayr, is that right?

22 A. Yes.

23 Q. You would stay in the church?

24 A. Stayed in the church hall, yeah.

25 Q. Would that be all the boys or just a selection of the

1 boy?

2 A. No, it would be all the boys.

3 Q. Who tended to go on these trips with you?

4 A. Charles McKenna, Brother MJO, Brother MJJ

5 would come down, but he wouldn't stay, you know, he'd

6 come down to visit, and some of the other staff that

7 were there, I can't remember their names.

8 LADY SMITH: Can you remember, was the church in Ayr itself

9 or was it in a village outside Ayr?

10 A. No, it was in Ayr itself.

11 LADY SMITH: In the town?

12 A. Yeah.

13 MR MACAULAY: What you say in your statement, and the reason

14 I wanted to ask you about that, is that being on such

15 a trip did not stop Mr McKenna from abusing you?

16 A. No.

17 Q. Is that right? I'll look at the abuse in a moment, but

18 how was he able to, as it were, get you to a situation

19 whereby he could abuse you?

20 A. He would wake you up and tell you to come through and he

21 would take you through to the back.

22 Q. Did he have his own room?

23 A. He had his own room, yeah.

24 Q. Did that happen on a regular basis, even when you were

25 on this trip?

1 A. Yes.

2 Q. What was Mr McKenna's role at the school, apart --

3 A. He was a woodworker -- a woodworking teacher.

4 Q. Again, I'm going to look at that in a little while, but

5 can I ask you first of all about visits and inspections.

6 Were you visited by anybody when you were at

7 St Ninian's?

8 A. Yes, my social workers.

9 Q. Did your social worker come on a regular basis to see

10 you?

11 A. Every couple of months, aye, two or three on average,

12 maybe three months.

13 Q. That was lady, wasn't it?

14 A. At first it was a man called Mr Henry and then it was

15 a lady called Maureen Brankin.

16 Q. When the social workers came to see you and after a time

17 when you were being abused, did you ever disclose the

18 abuse to either of them?

19 A. I tried, but I was told that I was in there for being

20 bad, basically a bad boy and if I said anything they

21 wouldn't have believed me. They wouldn't believe me.

22 I was told they wouldn't believe me. I did try and

23 speak to Mr Henry, but he was -- when you tried to talk

24 to him he was like dismissive of you. He didn't really

25 want to listen, you know what I mean.

1 Maureen Brankin I thought was a bit better, but
2 I tried to speak to her about the abuse, but again it
3 was like -- nobody listened, do you know what I mean.
4 Basically didn't listen.

5 Q. Can you help me with this, 'Brian', what sort of things
6 did you say to them about what was happening to you?

7 A. When I was speaking to them and they asked why I was
8 unhappy and asked why I tried to run away, I tried to
9 run away, and I said that I didn't like what was
10 happening to me and there were things happening to me
11 and I wasn't sure, you know, who to approach or who to
12 see, because we had a lady nurse and she had an office
13 in St Ninian's and I went down to see her one day and my
14 underwear was covered in blood and she just says,
15 'Right, there's clean underwear' and took the other ones
16 away and she never asked me why I was bleeding, how
17 I was bleeding.

18 Q. You tell us you were bleeding from your back passage
19 because you had been penetrated?

20 A. Yes.

21 Q. Did you say she didn't raise that with you at all?

22 A. No, she didn't, no.

23 Q. Did you try and give her any explanation as to why you
24 were bleeding?

25 A. I did, aye. I did. But she didn't want -- well, in my

1 opinion nobody wanted to listen. Nobody believed what
2 I was saying, despite it. Nobody believed anything.
3 And I became withdrawn into myself, I used to sit away
4 back -- at night you had like TV and stuff like that and
5 it was quite a big room and I used to sit away at the
6 back of that myself. I didn't want to make friends with
7 anybody. I didn't want to speak to anybody, I was
8 just -- I was disgusted with what was happening and
9 I blamed myself. I blamed myself for years and years.

10 Q. Do you tell us that you did run away?

11 A. Yeah, I did, yeah.

12 Q. Did you run away once or more than once?

13 A. More than once.

14 Q. Why were you running away?

15 A. I wanted it to stop. I wanted to get away and I wanted
16 it to stop, I wanted the abuse to stop.

17 LADY SMITH: 'Brian' why did you blame yourself?

18 A. I just -- this happened at two List D schools that I was
19 in. It happened at St Ninian's and then it happened at
20 St Mary's and I couldn't figure out how St Ninian's was
21 in Stirling and St Mary's was in Bishopbriggs, how
22 these -- how do they know to approach me or to know to
23 abuse me and it was only when this Inquiry was coming up
24 and I was sitting round the table giving my statement
25 that one of the staff says to me, 'Because it's

1 a paedophile ring', she says, they changed schools, they
2 used staff at St Ninian's would go to St Mary's and
3 staff from St Mary's would go to St Ninian's. Now, when
4 I went to St Mary's I never seen any St Ninian's staff
5 there. So I didn't know that at the time.

6 So I thought it was something that I was doing and
7 this is why it was happening to me.

8 LADY SMITH: But you were a little boy, how could it be your
9 fault?

10 A. You see, people keep asking me that and saying, but you
11 were small and you were -- and I was little, but at the
12 time when people were telling me, no, you're bad, this
13 is why you're here, this is why -- and you start to
14 think that these things are happening because of what
15 you done, because of why you are there.

16 LADY SMITH: Can you see it differently now, 'Brian'?

17 A. Yes, I can, aye. I can see it -- it got explained to
18 me. For many, many years, I mean this is over 50 years
19 ago, and for many, many years I just had my head that it
20 was my fault.

21 LADY SMITH: Thank you.

22 MR MACAULAY: The time you ran away then, did you run home
23 or did you go somewhere else?

24 A. I ran away with another boy and we cut across these
25 fields and we got to a road and we tried to hitch a lift

1 and it was a minibus that pulled up and it was
2 GXC and two other members of staff, so we
3 didn't get far at all. It seemed like miles and miles
4 away to us.

5 Q. You were caught and brought back?

6 A. Caught and brought back, yeah.

7 Q. Did anything happen to you at that time?

8 A. Yeah. We got put in cold showers down the stair and we
9 got whipped with the horses' whips by Brother MJO.
10 Then the next day we were sitting in the dining hall and
11 Mr GXC, who was the head man on duty that day, came
12 round to the table we were sitting at and he slapped me
13 across the face and there were a tea trolley and he just
14 poured tea over me.

15 Q. I'm sorry, I missed that bit.

16 A. There was a tea trolley sitting there, with a pot of tea
17 on it and he poured the pot of tea over me, but luckily
18 enough in there -- it was milk that was in the teapot
19 along with the tea, so it wouldn't be as bad as it would
20 have been, but to me it was bad, do you know what
21 I mean.

22 Q. Was this witnessed by other people?

23 A. Everybody that was there, yeah.

24 Q. What about the kitchen staff for example, were they --

25 A. No, see, the kitchen staff could see up that end of the

1 dining hall, but it was in an L-shape and I was sitting
2 in the bit of the L-shape, so the kitchen staff couldn't
3 see it, I wouldn't think.

4 Q. That is what you say happened with regard to

5 **GXC** Did anything else happen to you when you
6 were brought back?

7 A. Aye, I -- I never got allowed home for six weeks.

8 Q. That is the downside of running away?

9 A. The downside was you get that taken away from your
10 weekend.

11 Q. Would that mean that although other boys would be
12 leaving St Ninian's --

13 A. Yes.

14 Q. -- you and anyone else who had lost that privilege would
15 have to stay behind?

16 A. Yeah.

17 Q. Did that make you more vulnerable?

18 A. Yes, it did, aye.

19 Q. How was that?

20 A. Because we were at the -- the dormitories were all empty
21 and the other boy that run away with me, he was in
22 another dormitory and I was my own dormitory myself.

23 So the night -- at that particular time it was
24 Charles McKenna that was on nights, so he got free rein
25 to do what he wants.

1 Q. I will look at that shortly, but can I ask you more
2 generally about discipline at St Ninian's. In class,
3 for example, how would you be disciplined?

4 A. Well, you got the belt in class or you got made to stay
5 back and do lines and woodworking class, you just got
6 hit with a bit of wood.

7 Q. Was that Mr McKenna?

8 A. Yeah.

9 Q. When you got the belt in class, was that on your hands?

10 A. Hands.

11 Q. How many strokes would you normally get?

12 A. Six.

13 Q. Was that from whoever was teaching you at the time?

14 A. Yes, with whatever teacher it was. They were
15 actually -- at the time I was in St Ninian's there were
16 a married couple, both teachers, one taught music and
17 the other one taught English, but they were very nice,
18 they didn't -- they didn't give you the belt. They
19 didn't give you any kind of discipline like that. They
20 were really nice.

21 Q. What about **GXC**, was he one of your teachers?

22 A. He wasn't, no.

23 Q. You do tell us that you did have an issue with bed
24 wetting at St Ninian's?

25 A. Yeah.

1 Q. Can you just tell me a little bit about that?

2 A. Well, it was because of what was going on and I was
3 wetting the bed. I was feared to go to the toilet
4 during the night, especially when it was Charles McKenna
5 that was on, I was feared to go. You wet the bed and
6 you get -- they would come in and they would strip your
7 bed and put on rubber sheets and all that, and that was
8 you, it was in front of everybody, standing there naked,
9 because your pyjamas and everything were taken off you.

10 Q. This happened to you?

11 A. Yes, on a number of times.

12 Q. Did this happen to other boys?

13 A. Not that I know, no.

14 Q. Would you be hit in any way when this happened?

15 A. Oh, aye, you would be hit, aye. You would be slapped.

16 Q. Can I then look at some aspects of what you tell us in
17 your statement, 'Brian', about the abuse that you say
18 you suffered at St Ninian's.

19 Can I first of all focus on Brother MJO, who you
20 have mentioned. How did he behave towards you?

21 A. Brother MJO was a bully. He was a very angry man
22 for some reason, and if you stepped out of line at all
23 it was cold showers, battered and even hit with the
24 horses' whips.

25 Q. When you say you were battered, would you be battered in

1 the showers?

2 A. Yes.

3 Q. Can you just elaborate upon that. What would he do to
4 you?

5 A. He would punch you, he would kick you, he would slap
6 you, he would whip you. You would be put in a freezing
7 cold shower, taken out, put back in.

8 Q. When he was inflicting what you have described on you,
9 would you be naked?

10 A. Yes.

11 Q. Would these blows cause injury?

12 A. Bruising, yeah.

13 Q. How often did this happen to you?

14 A. It happened a few times. It didn't matter if -- if you
15 made a mistake, when you were with Brother MJO, that
16 was it, you were in trouble right away. You knew you
17 were in trouble, but you were in that much fear of being
18 in trouble you actually made more mistakes, you know
19 what I mean. So you couldn't win.

20 Q. Did this happen to other boys?

21 A. Yes.

22 Q. Would you witness it, or would that just be something
23 you would hear?

24 A. Sometimes it was two or three boys at the same time. He
25 was just -- I don't know, he was a very, very angry man.

1 Q. Were you ever beaten in that way in the presence of
2 other boys or was it just yourself?

3 A. No, there would be two or three others who would be
4 beaten in front of you.

5 Q. What sort of mistakes prompted this reaction?

6 A. Just anything. If he asked you to do something and you
7 didn't do it right he was the one that would take you
8 out horse riding and I don't know, if you didn't sit on
9 the saddle right or something like that, because if he
10 was the one that was teaching you, so if you weren't
11 listening to what he was teaching you, then that was
12 you, you know, making mistakes that way.

13 Q. Apart from the shower beatings, did Brother MJO hit
14 you on any other occasion, in any other situations?

15 A. He probably did, but I am not 100 -- no, I can't
16 remember when, but he probably did, aye.

17 Q. Can you then look at Mr McKenna. Did you do woodwork in
18 his class?

19 A. Yes.

20 Q. You have already told us if he wanted to punish you, he
21 would use a piece of wood, is that right?

22 A. Yeah.

23 Q. Where would he hit you?

24 A. On the head.

25 Q. Did this happen to you?

1 A. Yes.

2 Q. Did you see this happen to other boys?

3 A. Yes.

4 Q. What would prompt that sort of reaction?

5 A. Just if the boys were maybe carrying on or joking or
6 laughing about something, not paying attention to what
7 he was saying in class or whatever.

8 Q. As far as you're concerned, when it happened to you, was
9 it painful?

10 A. Yes.

11 Q. Did it cause any injury or bumps or lumps?

12 A. Aye, bumps on the head, but nothing visible.

13 Q. You also tell us that another way that Mr McKenna would
14 punish you would be to lock you in a cupboard?

15 A. If I refused what he wanted me to do --

16 Q. I am sorry?

17 A. If I refused what he wanted me to do he locked me in
18 a cupboard for three days. No food. No drink. No
19 toilet. Nothing. Just locked in a cupboard for three
20 days. Wet myself, dirtied myself. Just pure darkness
21 for three days.

22 Q. Were the Brothers aware of this?

23 A. Well, they must have been. If they weren't aware of it,
24 where was I? Where was I? If nobody was aware what
25 happened, where was I? That's the way I look at it. So

1 the people knew. I'm definite that people knew.

2 Q. Where was the cupboard?

3 A. The cupboard was between St George's and St Pat's House,
4 it was only a narrow cupboard, it wasn't that deep, but
5 I was only a wee boy ... I couldn't stand up in it.

6 LADY SMITH: 'Brian', how did you know that it was three
7 days that you were?

8 A. Well, it seemed like three weeks, actually. When I came
9 out -- he put me in say on a Monday and when I came out
10 it was Thursday, you know what I mean -- I can't
11 remember what day he put me in, but when I came out
12 I knew ...

13 LADY SMITH: When you were in the cupboard, you say it was
14 dark. Does that mean you didn't know when it was
15 daytime and you didn't know when it was nighttime.

16 A. I didn't know when it was daytime, no.

17 MR MACAULAY: Obviously if you are in that situation, time
18 will no doubt seem longer than it might otherwise be?

19 A. Yes.

20 Q. Did this happen once or more than once?

21 A. That happened twice, but after the second time I just
22 done what he wanted me to do.

23 Q. I think you tell us that so far as Mr McKenna was
24 concerned, matters started when you would be sitting in
25 the TV room?

1 A. Correct.

2 Q. Can you just tell me how that developed from the TV
3 room?

4 A. We used to wear shorts and he would tell me to come up
5 to the back of the TV room and I would go up to the back
6 of the TV room and he would ask me to sit on his knee
7 and then he would start putting his hand up my shorts
8 and progress from there.

9 Q. Would he be making contact with your private parts?

10 A. Yes.

11 Q. Did you try and keep out of his way?

12 A. Yes.

13 Q. But these TV room events, did that happen more than
14 once?

15 A. Yes. Because Mr McKenna stayed above the woodworking
16 shop, which was separate from the main building, but he
17 would come over to watch TV.

18 Q. From what you said, in any event he had access to the
19 boys because he would sometimes be on duty?

20 A. Yes.

21 Q. How did this then develop?

22 A. It developed from there -- that went on for a wee while
23 and then I was in the woodworking class one day and the
24 class was over I was told to stay behind and he pulled
25 my shorts and that down and he forced my head on to the

1 woodworking bench and then he raped me.

2 Q. Was this an occasion that you were bleeding quite

3 heavily?

4 A. Yes.

5 Q. Was this the occasion that you took your pants to the

6 matron?

7 A. Had to go to the nurse, aye.

8 Q. Were they blood stained?

9 A. Yes.

10 Q. Badly?

11 A. Badly blood stained, yeah.

12 Q. This is how matters progressed. Did this happen again

13 in the woodwork room?

14 A. Again and again, repeatedly.

15 Q. Would he keep you back after class?

16 A. Uh-huh.

17 Q. Was it the same each time, did he rape you?

18 A. He raped me and then he ...

19 Q. Clearly, when this happened and you were injured in the

20 way you've described and bleeding, was it painful?

21 A. Very painful, yeah.

22 Q. I think what you tell us in the statement is that this

23 was a regular matter that happened several times each

24 week for the period that you were at St Ninian's?

25 A. Yeah.

1 Q. Was this always in the woodwork classroom or did this
2 happen anywhere else?

3 A. No, it happened when he was nightshift. He used to come
4 up and take me out of the bed and do what he wanted to
5 do.

6 Q. Where would he do it?

7 A. In one of the rooms down the stairs, where everybody is
8 in bed so they were not in the activity rooms.

9 Q. What about the occasions when you were kept back,
10 because you weren't getting your weekend leave and you
11 may be on your own in the dormitory, did anything happen
12 on those occasions?

13 A. Aye. Every weekend for six weeks he had free rein to do
14 what he want, he could do anything to me.

15 Q. What was happening?

16 A. He was raping me. He was forcing his penis in my mouth
17 until I was choking and the tears were running down my
18 eyes and he just kept forcing it. It just kept getting
19 worse and worse.

20 Q. Where did this happen?

21 A. Sometimes in the woodworking class, sometimes up in the
22 dorm if I was the only one that was in the dorm. He had
23 his own flat as well, he stayed on the premises, so it
24 could have been there.

25 Q. Did he take you to his own flat?

1 A. Yeah.

2 Q. Did you, apart from what you have already told us,
3 report the abuse you were suffering from Mr McKenna to
4 any of the Brothers at St Ninian's?

5 A. No.

6 Q. Did you think about it?

7 A. I did think about it, but in my mind, as I say,
8 I thought it was my fault and I thought nobody would
9 believe me anyway, because that's what I was told. That
10 is what I was led to believe by Mr McKenna, that nobody
11 would believe me.

12 Q. Did you at any point approach Brother MJJ [REDACTED] about
13 Brother MJO [REDACTED], for example?

14 A. I did, yes, I did, about the physical abuse from
15 Brother MJO [REDACTED]. Brother MJJ [REDACTED] wasn't interested in
16 us as people that were in a children's home for doing
17 what we do. I mean physical abuse was quite ...
18 throughout the home. If you done something wrong you
19 would get a slap. Simple as that.

20 They were very strict with their punishment.

21 Q. You have told us about your own experience and being
22 locked in a cupboard, do you know if other boys had this
23 experience?

24 A. I don't know, I honestly don't know.

25 Q. There comes a point in time, 'Brian', when you leave

1 St Ninian's?

2 A. Yes.

3 Q. As far as the records go to show, that may have been
4 about [REDACTED] 1974, which would --

5 A. That would be correct, aye.

6 Q. -- mean you had been there for three years or so?

7 A. Aye.

8 Q. Throughout that whole period, were you being regularly
9 abused in the way you have described by Mr McKenna?

10 A. Yes, yes.

11 Q. If you were eight when you went in, did the abuse start
12 at the age of eight?

13 A. It started, yeah.

14 Q. And continued until --

15 A. Continued.

16 Q. -- you left.

17 When you left did you go to your grandparents to
18 stay?

19 A. Yes.

20 Q. I think you got into a little trouble after that at
21 school; is that correct?

22 A. Yeah.

23 Q. Because of that, were you sent back into care and you
24 went to a place called Calder House, is that right?

25 A. Calder House in Blantyre, yeah.

1 Q. That was for a short period of time; is that right?

2 A. Three weeks.

3 Q. Thereafter, were you transferred to St Mary's in

4 Bishopbriggs?

5 A. St Mary's in Bishopbriggs, yes.

6 Q. When you went to St Mary's, I think it's right to say

7 that it was being run by civilian staff?

8 A. Yeah, uh-huh.

9 Q. The day you arrived, were you spoken to by the person in

10 charge?

11 A. Yes, Mr Shields, I think it was, an ex-police officer.

12 Q. What did he say to you?

13 A. He just told me, 'Behave, do what you're told'. Again,

14 you'll get your weekends home and the more you can be

15 trusted the more you would get home.

16 Q. As far as the records go to show, the Inquiry has seen,

17 'Brian', you seem to have been admitted to St Mary's on

18 [REDACTED] 1976, so you would be about 15 when you went

19 there?

20 A. I thought I was younger than that.

21 Q. You thought you were younger?

22 A. Mm hmm.

23 Q. It's a long time ago?

24 A. It is, aye.

25 Q. I wouldn't worry about that.

1 At St Mary's, was there a secure unit?

2 A. There was a secure unit, yeah.

3 Q. Perhaps you could just help me with regard to the layout
4 of the premises.

5 A. You had a main building. Then you had kitchen, joiners'
6 shop, a school and attached to the school was a secure
7 unit and then there was a bungalow which was part of the
8 school as well, that pupils went to this bungalow. You
9 were given more freedom -- when you earned more freedom
10 and got ... I ended up in the bungalow before I left
11 St Mary's and I was allowed home every night and had to
12 get a bus, I'm sure it was 4 am back to Buchanan Street
13 and then one from Buchanan Street to St Mary's in
14 Bishopbriggs.

15 So basically that's where I went to school,
16 eventually.

17 Q. It was all boys there, was it?

18 A. All boys, yes.

19 Q. Numbers wise, can you give me a sense as to how many
20 boys you thought were there?

21 A. 50 to 70.

22 Q. It was quite a large establishment?

23 A. It was, yes.

24 Q. The age range, can you tell me a little bit about the
25 age range?

1 A. From about 12 up to about 16. I think everybody by the
2 time they reached 16 they were free to go.

3 Q. You have mentioned the headmaster. Were there other
4 members of staff that you had some involvement with?

5 A. Yes, Bill Franks, who sexually abused me, he was the
6 chef.

7 Q. I'll look into that.

8 You then tell us in your statement and I'll just
9 deal with this quickly, about the routine and for
10 example there was a gym and you were taught boxing?

11 A. Yes.

12 Q. Can I then just look at the abuse that you say you
13 suffered there. Can you just help me about that? How
14 did it come about that you were abused?

15 A. I was -- you got a choice what to do, go to school or go
16 and work in the woodworking shop or go and work in the
17 kitchens and stuff like that. I ended up in the
18 kitchens and just one day Bill Franks says to me, 'Go
19 into the cupboard and get me butter'.

20 Q. Was Bill Franks the cook that worked in the kitchen?

21 A. He was the cook, aye. And I went in and the next minute
22 the door shut and he raped me.

23 Q. Did this take you by surprise when this happened?

24 A. Yes.

25 Q. Did he remove your clothing?

1 A. My trousers, aye, and my underwear.

2 Q. Did this become a regular thing?

3 A. It did, yeah. Until I got moved into the bungalow, then
4 he had nothing to do with me. I begged them to get me
5 out the kitchen, I didn't want to be in the kitchen.

6 Q. Were there other boys attached to the kitchen?

7 A. Yes, aye. There were about ten of us all working in the
8 kitchen.

9 Q. How would he get the opportunity then to abuse you?

10 A. In the storeroom.

11 Q. Would that be in private, so to speak?

12 A. Aye, uh-huh.

13 Q. What about the other boys, would they be in the kitchen
14 area?

15 A. They would have been, aye, they would have been baking
16 cakes and stuff like that. The people that worked in
17 the kitchen were the people that made the meals for the
18 other boys at night.

19 Q. You talked about being raped by Bill Franks in the
20 storeroom, did he make you do anything else to him in
21 that situation?

22 A. Yeah. Yes, he did, aye. He made me play with his
23 penis. He ejaculated over me. He forced it into my
24 mouth. Just everything like that. It was just
25 a recurring nightmare.

1 Q. Did Bill Franks have access to your room, your bedroom?
2 A. Yes, everybody did, yeah.
3 Q. As far as your bedroom was concerned, was that shared
4 with other boys or not?
5 A. I had a private bit. You had single bits, it was just
6 like a big long dormitory either side of the hallway and
7 there were so many single ones and there were so many
8 four-bedroom ones and I was in a single one.
9 Q. Did Bill Franks come to your room?
10 A. Yes, on a number of occasions.
11 Q. What happened?
12 A. The same again, raped me.
13 Q. Did he force you to carry out other sexual acts on him?
14 A. He did, yeah.
15 Q. In the bedroom?
16 A. Yeah.
17 Q. Would other boys be aware of this behaviour?
18 A. Nobody ever said to me, so I don't know, but I reckon
19 they would, because I was crying most of the time
20 anyway. So they must have heard that.
21 Q. Although you say the bedrooms were partitioned in the
22 way you've described, could you hear what was happening?
23 A. Definitely, because the top of it was not -- you could
24 look over the top of the partition, it wasn't up to the
25 ceiling.

1 Q. I'm getting this picture of there being partitions but
2 no tops?

3 A. Yeah, aye.

4 Q. Apart from the storeroom that you've mentioned and the
5 bedroom, was there anywhere else that he sought to abuse
6 you?

7 A. Anywhere he could get you, in the TV room, anywhere.

8 Q. In the TV room, would there be other people there?

9 A. Well, he wouldn't do it if there were other people
10 there.

11 Q. I am sorry?

12 A. He wouldn't -- no, he would only do it if it was only me
13 that was there.

14 Q. On these occasions, what did he do?

15 A. He just molested you. He didn't rape you or anything,
16 he molested you.

17 Q. In what way?

18 A. He would just put his hand down your trousers and stuff
19 like that.

20 Q. I think you may have been in St Mary's from about [REDACTED]
21 1976, did you leave in 1978 when you were about
22 15 [REDACTED] or so?

23 A. Aye. That's what I was thinking, if it was 1976 I went
24 there and --

25 LADY SMITH: I think you would have been 14 in 1976.

1 A. 13/14, something like that. I wasn't 15.

2 LADY SMITH: [REDACTED] 1976 you would have been 14
3 and then if it was into 1978 --

4 A. I would be 15.

5 LADY SMITH: You would be 15 [REDACTED].

6 A. I left when I was 15 [REDACTED].

7 MR MACAULAY: Throughout your period then at St Mary's, were
8 you abused in the way you've described by Mr Franks?

9 A. Yes.

10 Q. Did you ever consider telling anybody, like Mr Shields
11 for example?

12 A. No. I didn't have the guts to tell anybody. My mum
13 died when she was 58 and I couldn't tell her. My dad's
14 still alive now and I still can't tell him.

15 I got divorced from my first wife and when I met my
16 second wife I told her and we went to the police station
17 in East Kilbride and reported it.

18 Q. That was many, many years down the line?

19 A. Oh, aye, that was 1990s.

20 Q. When you came to leave St Mary's, again did you go to
21 stay with your grandparents?

22 A. Yes, they adopted me.

23 Q. I think you went to a local school and you tried to
24 catch up on your mainstream --

25 A. St John Ogilvie, yes.

1 Q. Did you manage to do that?

2 A. Not really, in some classes I did, in others I didn't.

3 But I tried my best. That was the thing, I tried my

4 best.

5 Q. Did you turn to alcohol at some point?

6 A. I did, at school, at John Ogilvie.

7 Q. I think you tell us that you consider that you were

8 an alcoholic; is that correct?

9 A. Yes. I was an alcoholic by the time I was 19.

10 Q. But there came a point when you stopped drinking?

11 A. Yes.

12 Q. That's been some time ago now, hasn't it?

13 A. When I was 19 I stopped drinking. My second daughter

14 was born and I decided that I was there to protect them

15 from any abuse or anything that happened to me, I was

16 there to protect them, so I gave up drinking alcohol.

17 Q. You tell us in your statement, 'Brian', that you began

18 working as a window cleaner but then you went to work

19 with Network Rail for some 20 years and I think you are

20 now in a similar sort of job, is that right?

21 A. I went to work for Network Rail. I worked there for

22 30 years actually in total. It was quite good because

23 there were big, long shifts so you didn't have much time

24 to think. I left -- I retired from Network Rail when

25 I was 50. After three months of retirement I couldn't

1 cope, so I got another job with ScotRail and I was there
2 for ten years.

3 I took not well, I was in a coma for five weeks
4 during COVID on a life-support machine and everything.
5 I had kidney failure, cirrhosis of the liver, cirrhosis
6 of the bile duct and acute pancreatitis. I'm still
7 suffering now with some of them.

8 I have got a thing called psoriasis --

9 Q. I was going to ask you about that. It's a skin
10 condition, isn't it?

11 A. Yes.

12 Q. Are you being treated for that?

13 A. I'm being treated for it. I'm on a thing called UVB,
14 it's light therapy. Like a sunbed-type thing. It's
15 a box you get in. I'm in that now three times a week.

16 Q. Have you been given any advice as to why this condition
17 may have developed?

18 A. The specialist says it's caused by trauma.

19 Q. Do you link the development of the psoriasis to your
20 time in care?

21 A. Yes, definitely, uh-huh.

22 Q. The experience you had about being locked in the
23 cupboard, how has that impacted upon how you go about
24 your daily life?

25 A. I'm claustrophobic. I can't get in a lift. When I was

1 at work and we had a store and I had went into the store
2 and one of the boys locked the store and I just went
3 into a panic. Anything like that and in enclosed
4 spaces, anything, I just panic.

5 Q. I think one thing you do tell us in your statement,
6 'Brian', is that you have good family support?

7 A. I do, yeah.

8 Q. That's clearly important to you?

9 A. Yes.

10 Q. Do you think back to your time in care?

11 A. All the time. I have night tremors. You can watch
12 programmes on the telly and all of a sudden something
13 pops in about child abuse or whatever and you think
14 about it and you think about your time in care and you
15 think about the time that if you were strong enough and
16 if you came forward that all the children that were
17 abused after you might have been saved that torture.

18 Q. If we look at that part of your statement, 'Brian',
19 where you talk about lessons to be learned and I'll just
20 read bits of that to you, just to remind you as to what
21 you said. At paragraph 111, you say:

22 'One of the things I think the authorities should
23 learn is that they should have spoken to us and found
24 out why we were not going to school.'

25 A. Yes.

1 Q. You feel quite strongly about that?

2 A. Very strongly about it.

3 Q. Because you weren't asked?

4 A. No. We were taken to a Children's Panel, went into
5 a room, we were all taken away separately, so the
6 decision was already made before we got to the
7 Children's Panel. The three of us were taken away and
8 it was three separate social workers that took us away,
9 we hadn't a clue who were going where or whatever. And
10 you were close, very close to your siblings and to be
11 taken away from my two brothers at that age and taken
12 away from my mum, you just didn't know what was
13 happening. You didn't understand what was happening.
14 You were given no explanation.

15 Q. Have you been, over the years, in contact with the
16 brothers that you were separated with?

17 A. Yes. Once I was 16 we -- I could go to my mum's house
18 and my two brothers were there and we had a great
19 relationship after that, but you missed all the years up
20 to there, then [REDACTED] died when he was 55, so that was --
21 but you did miss, you missed the right to be a family.

22 Q. You also go on to say, 'Brian':

23 'More checks need to be done on people looking after
24 kids in care. The current checks on Disclosure Scotland
25 only show convictions. They do not show people who have

1 not been caught or reported.'

2 You are making a point there about a problem you see
3 with Disclosure Scotland?

4 A. Yeah. I mean, it's like -- other people know what these
5 people are doing. There's no way they can't know.
6 Right, other people know what these people are doing.
7 Why are they not reporting that? Why is there not some
8 sort of list that says -- now they've got Disclosure
9 Scotland, I don't know, did they have it at that time?
10 I don't know. Way back years ago, but now they've got
11 Disclosure Scotland, but in my opinion when a kid
12 becomes withdrawn and no pals and drawn away from
13 society and just doesn't want to know, then there's
14 something wrong and somebody needs to find out what's
15 wrong.

16 It's too easy just to leave it like that. It's too
17 easy for people to, 'Och, he's all right, that's just
18 the way he is, he's shy, he's that ...' Kids want to
19 have pals. Kids want to play and if they're not doing
20 that, in my opinion, there's something wrong that this
21 is happening.

22 You can see putting them into the care home, take
23 him away from his family but eventually in that care
24 home the kid would make friends and would take part in
25 all the activities that were on, but if he doesn't do

1 that, then there's something wrong.

2 Q. That of course was your position, you withdrew yourself

3 from what was happening at St Ninian's?

4 A. Mm hmm.

5 Q. Do you say that should have been obvious to those in

6 charge?

7 A. I think so, aye. Definitely, aye. If I go to the nurse

8 and say, 'I'm bleeding from my back passage', you would

9 expect, 'How did that happen? How did do you that?

10 What's wrong?' Even if you were bleeding from your back

11 passage through some illness you would expect the

12 nurse -- but she just took the underpants and gave me

13 a clean pair of underpants and says, 'Go away, you'll be

14 all right'. She never done anything? Why? I don't

15 know why, do you know what I mean.

16 Q. We have discussed this already. I should have asked you

17 before: did she carry out any sort of examination?

18 A. No.

19 Q. You also tell us, 'Brian', in your statement that when

20 in care kids need to have someone they can go to and

21 talk to in safety?

22 A. Yes.

23 Q. Although you tried to talk to Brother MJJ [REDACTED], it

24 didn't get anywhere and there was no one else really for

25 you to talk to, is that why you make that point?

1 A. Yes, aye. Your social worker should be there to support
2 you. Your social worker should be there to help you.
3 Now, I don't know what kind of reports were given to the
4 social worker when they came to see me. I don't know,
5 I wasn't privileged to what the staff were saying to the
6 social worker, but if they weren't saying that I was
7 withdrawn and sitting on my own and all that, then
8 there's something wrong there as well. And if that --
9 if they had said that to the social worker, then you
10 would expect the social worker to react to that.

11 Q. You go on to say, and we've touched upon this as we have
12 been going along:

13 'Siblings being placed in care should not be
14 separated.'

15 A. They shouldn't, no.

16 Q. Again, you feel strongly about that?

17 A. Yes. If I had been placed in St Ninian's with my two
18 brothers I would have turned to go and say, 'Look, this
19 is what is happening' and maybe they would have been
20 stronger to go and do something about that than I was.
21 Then I've got somebody to talk to. Plus the fact you're
22 losing the right to have a family.

23 Q. The final point I want to take from you, 'Brian' is what
24 you say towards the end of your statement at 115, and
25 I'll read this out to you:

1 'I saw an advert on television about the Child Abuse
2 Inquiry and decided I needed to tell my story. I hope
3 by coming forward to the Inquiry that they acknowledge
4 something has happened to me and someone believes it
5 happened to me. I hope they can put things in place to
6 help kids in the future being placed in care.'

7 That is your hope for the Inquiry?

8 A. That is my hope, yeah. That they can give
9 recommendations on the future, so that this doesn't
10 happen again to any other kid.

11 MR MACAULAY: These are all the questions I have for you
12 today, 'Brian'. Is there anything that you would like
13 this opportunity to say to the Inquiry?

14 A. This has destroyed my life for over 50 years. I have
15 night tremors. I wake up screaming. I wake up in
16 a sweat. I wake up fighting. It's very hard to come to
17 terms with it and I wanted my opportunity to come here
18 and tell people what it was like to get somebody to
19 believe me and what happened and what I went through.

20 I lost a lot of time when I left. I became --
21 I rebelled against society and I got into trouble for
22 breaching the peace ... through alcohol actually,
23 through drink. I've tried to do the right thing.
24 I've tried to make sure that my kids, and I've got seven
25 grandkids now and I try to make sure that they're all

1 right so that they never ever go through what I went
2 through.

3 It's taken all these years and I was glad when
4 I seen that about the Inquiry, because when I went to
5 the police in the 1990s they promised me anonymity and
6 the case went to Stirling Sheriff Court and I went to
7 Stirling Sheriff Court and outside the Sheriff Court in
8 Stirling was a big posse of photographers and newspaper
9 reporters and I turned away and I walked away, because
10 I was working. I had my family. I hadn't told anybody.
11 This was me just going to give my evidence.

12 I didn't get the opportunity to do that and that's
13 why I wanted the opportunity today.

14 MR MACAULAY: Thank you very much indeed for taking the
15 opportunity and giving your evidence in answer to my
16 questions today.

17 My Lady, there are no applications for questions to
18 be put to 'Brian'.

19 LADY SMITH: Thank you very much.

20 'Brian', let me add my thanks to you for coming here
21 today to give oral evidence, in addition to the very
22 helpful written statement that you've already provided
23 to this Inquiry. I'm really grateful to you for that.

24 I said at the beginning that I appreciated how
25 difficult the whole task of giving evidence would be,

1 particularly bearing in mind the distressing nature of
2 some of your evidence. Thank you for coping as you have
3 done and thank you for being so clear and
4 straightforward in your evidence.

5 A. Thank you.

6 LADY SMITH: I'm really grateful to you for that.

7 I can now let you go and I hope you go with
8 a slightly less heavy heart than when you came in here
9 this morning.

10 A. That's what I'm hoping for too. Thank you very much for
11 listening.

12 LADY SMITH: Safe journey home.

13 A. Thank you.

14 LADY SMITH: 'Brian', so that you can take your time

15 I'll rise just now for five or ten minutes, don't feel
16 you have to rush.

17 We can take the morning break just now.

18 (11.11 am)

19 (A short break)

20 (11.32 am)

21 LADY SMITH: Ms MacLeod.

22 MS MACLEOD: My Lady, I'll now read in the statement of
23 an applicant who wishes to remain anonymous and will use
24 the pseudonym 'Jimmy'.
25

1 'Jimmy' (read)

2 MS MACLEOD: The statement is at WIT-1-000000703:

3 'My name is 'Jimmy'. I was born in 1954. I went to
4 school from the age of five and I suppose I had a fairly
5 normal childhood. Unfortunately, I started getting
6 bullied at school and because of that, I started
7 truanting. I was too embarrassed to tell anyone that
8 I was getting bullied. There was someone from the
9 school board came to the house because I wasn't going to
10 school, but I was never asked why I wasn't going to
11 school. I ended up walking the streets rather than
12 going to school.

13 One day when I was ...'

14 LADY SMITH: Sorry, I think there is a problem with the
15 sound.

16 (Pause)

17 MS MACLEOD: I will start again, this is the witness
18 statement of a witness who wants to remain anonymous and
19 to use the pseudonym, 'Jimmy'.

20 The statement can be found at WIT-1-000000703:

21 'My name is 'Jimmy'. I was born in 1954. My
22 contact details are known to the Inquiry. I went to
23 school from the age of five and I suppose I had a fairly
24 normal childhood. Unfortunately, I started getting
25 bullied at school and because of that, I started

1 truanting. I was too embarrassed to tell anyone that
2 I was getting bullied. There was someone from the
3 school board came to the house because I wasn't going to
4 school, but I was never asked why I wasn't going to
5 school. I ended up walking the streets rather than
6 going to school.

7 One day, when I was nine, I was really hungry so
8 I went into a shop in Argyle Street in Glasgow and stole
9 a bar of chocolate. I was caught and the police were
10 called and I was taken to a police station. My dad had
11 to come and collect me. I was reported and ended up at
12 a juvenile court.

13 My dad came with me to the juvenile court. I'm not
14 sure if there was anyone there from Social Services.
15 The magistrate was called Longmuir and he asked me why
16 I wasn't going to school. I told him that I was getting
17 bullied and that I stole a bar of chocolate because
18 I was hungry. He said that wasn't a good enough reason
19 and if I went to school I would have my lunch there. He
20 decided that I should go to an Approved School for
21 a minimum of three years.

22 When I heard this I was upset and started shouting
23 and screaming. It was a horrible experience. A big
24 burly policeman dragged me away and put me in a cell.
25 From there I was taken Larchgrove Remand Home. I was

1 told I would be there until a place became available at
2 a List D school. I was only nine-years old.'

3 My Lady, this witness talks of his experiences in
4 a number of care placements. I propose to focus on his
5 time at St Ninian's and St Joseph's.

6 From paragraphs 7 to 11 of the statement this
7 witness speaks of his time at Larchgrove.

8 From paragraphs 12 to 45 he speaks of his time at
9 St John Bosco's School in Aberdour in Fife.

10 I'll now turn to paragraph 46 of the statement:

11 'Around [REDACTED] 1965, I was taken out of the
12 class and told that I was moving from St John Bosco's to
13 another school. When I was asked where I was being
14 taken to, I was told that I was being taken to another
15 school where they would be able to bring me under
16 control. They had said that I was out of their control
17 because I wasn't doing any of the school work. I was
18 taken in a car to St Ninian's in Gartmore by two
19 Brothers or priests from St John Bosco.

20 I asked why I was getting moved and I was told it
21 was because St John Bosco's was a junior school and
22 St Ninian's was an intermediate school. Because I was
23 between 10 and 11 it was time for me to move to a school
24 for older boys. I was told that I would like it better
25 at St Ninian's.

1 St Ninian's was in the countryside and the nearest
2 village was called Gartmore. The main building was
3 a massive house. You can approach St Ninian's from
4 different ways. I'm not sure which way we came in on
5 the first day. You go through a big arch then there is
6 a long driveway. On both sides of the driveway are
7 wooded areas. As you get near the main building the
8 driveway splits. You pass the school on the right-hand
9 side, which was a new building. There was a big
10 circular lawn with a sundial.

11 There were roughly 100 boys who were aged between 10
12 to 13, although there were a few who were 14. My
13 dormitory had six single beds. There were three beds
14 either side of a partition wall in the room. I can
15 remember some of the boys' names in that dorm. I never
16 discussed with any of the other boys why they were
17 there.

18 Brother MCA was SNR. We were never
19 really allowed to go near SNR and I never
20 really saw him. The only other Brothers' names that
21 I remember are Brother MBU, Brother MBZ, Brother
22 HED and Brother Benedict. The Brothers wore robes,
23 although Brother HED sometimes wore a suit. I don't
24 know the name of their religious order. There was
25 a civilian teacher in the school, called Mr MCK. And

1 he also looked after the ponies. Another civilian
2 teacher ...'

3 LADY SMITH: I wonder if that is meant to be 'Mr MCK'.

4 MS MACLEOD: I think it probably is, my Lady, the witness
5 does refer to him as 'Mr MCK' throughout the
6 statement, and the same with Brother MBU, the
7 witness calls him 'Brother MBU', but I think it can
8 be assumed that's Brother MBU:

9 'Another civilian teacher was Mr GZM. He
10 lived in a house at one of the entrances to the grounds.
11 There was a night watchman, whose name I think was Jim.
12 He was a civilian and his room was next to my dorm. His
13 own house was in Aberfoyle. He died in 1966, there may
14 have been a woman who did the laundry, I'm not sure who
15 did the cooking.

16 When I arrived at St Ninian's, Brother HED and
17 Brother Benedict met us at the front door. They said
18 something about me being the boy that St John Bosco's
19 couldn't control. They gestured for me to go in the
20 front door and when I walked between them one of them,
21 not sure which, slapped me on the back of the head.

22 I was taken to the headmaster's room and asked a few
23 questions about why I had been moved there. A couple of
24 times I answered with "aye" and "naw". They corrected
25 me by telling me it was either "yes" or "no". They

1 asked and I told them that I was a bed wetter. They
2 told me that if I was a good boy then no harm would come
3 to me, but they did say that they would keep me under
4 control.

5 I was taken to one of the two dorms on the top
6 floor, where I was told I would be. This was one of the
7 dorms for bed wetters. The dorm was right next to the
8 night watchman's room, Jim. I was told that he would
9 wake me up through the night to go to the toilet to stop
10 me from wetting the bed. I was told that if I wet the
11 bed I would be in trouble. Jim died in 1966 and all the
12 boys who were bed wetters were made to go to his funeral
13 and then to the wake at his home in Bishopbriggs.
14 Looking back, I don't think that was right.

15 Staff woke us first thing in the morning and we
16 would get up, dressed and then go for breakfast. After
17 breakfast, we went to our classes until lunchtime.
18 After lunch we played football at the back of the house
19 then back for more classes. Bedtime was between 8.30pm
20 and 9.00pm

21 There was no choice of food. You either ate it or
22 you didn't and if you didn't you went hungry. Our
23 evening meal was about 5 o'clock.

24 We only ever had showers. I had a shower nearly
25 every day because I wet the bed. Normally it would have

1 been once or twice a week. Each dormitory had
2 a different shower night. They were open plan showers
3 and there were no curtains. Basically it was six or ten
4 boys in a row. The showers were supervised by whoever
5 was on duty.'

6 In paragraph 57 the witness provides evidence about
7 the clothing and uniform at the school. I'll move to
8 paragraph 58:

9 'There were a lot of things to do. We got taken out
10 swimming and there were ponies at St Ninian's. In 1966
11 when the World Cup football finals were on, we got to
12 watch the England games on the television. We were
13 allowed to watch but we were not allowed to make
14 a noise. If anyone made a noise or spoke they were hit
15 over the head. This was by any of the Brothers. All
16 the Brothers did this. I don't remember watching
17 anything else on the television. I can't remember if
18 there were any books, comics or boardgames to play with.

19 After our evening meal, we were told what activities
20 were going to be on and who we were to go with. A lot
21 of this depended on the time of year and the weather.
22 Sometimes we might go out rambling and picking wild
23 berries. Just before I left, Mr GZM took us out
24 bike riding and taught us to cycle. I did it with him
25 for a couple of weeks, anything was better than going

1 swimming or with Brother Benedict to his supposed arts
2 and crafts class. When we went to that he just gave us
3 electric shocks. In summer, Brother MBU arranged
4 football competitions with some local teams.'

5 For the remainder of that page, my Lady,
6 paragraphs 60 to 63, the witness provides some evidence
7 about some trips, schooling, healthcare and religious
8 instruction.

9 At paragraph 64 the witness says:

10 'We had to keep the dormitory clean. Any rubbish
11 had to be taken to the bins in the main hall and the
12 corridors had to be kept clear.'

13 In paragraphs 65 and 66 he discusses his
14 recollections of birthdays and Christmas and personal
15 possessions.

16 I'll pick the statement up at paragraph 67:

17 'Despite getting woken up by Jim to go to the toilet
18 through the night my bed was still wet four or five
19 nights every week. Sometimes Jim got angry and called
20 us "pishy so and so's". If he found the bed wet through
21 the night he would take me down to the basement to the
22 showers, where I got washed and he gave me a dry
23 nightshirt. Sometimes he was quite pleasant but at
24 other times he was a nasty piece of work.

25 After Jim died, Brother HED took over the night

1 watchman duties. He more or less did the same thing
2 that Jim did. He didn't check on the boys through the
3 night as often as Jim did and he never woke the boys up
4 to go to the toilet. I am not aware of him ever
5 checking my sheets.

6 Family visitors were allowed in and were always
7 treated civilly by the staff. This made the family
8 think it was a nice place and that the staff cared about
9 the children. I can say that not all the staff were
10 bad. I never saw a social worker or welfare officer in
11 all my time at St Ninian's. My family including my
12 siblings came and visited me.

13 We were allowed home leave one weekend a month.
14 Home leave had to be earned by conforming to their
15 rules. If I did something wrong, at the drop of a hat
16 they would withdraw the privilege and refuse to allow me
17 to go home. When I fell off the horse and when I had
18 a gash in my leg after they hit me, my home leave was
19 withdrawn because they didn't want my parents to see the
20 injuries.

21 I'm not aware of anyone ever coming in and
22 inspecting the place.

23 I tried to run away from St Ninian's.
24 Brother **HED** caught me at the back of the house and he
25 knew what I was planning to do. I said that I wasn't

1 going to run away and he asked me if in that case I was
2 a liar. I told him he was.

3 Brother MBZ was my teacher at school. If he had
4 taught us something and you didn't understand or got
5 something wrong he would make you go down to the front
6 of the class and stand in front of his desk. He then
7 struck you with an open hand to the side of the head
8 across your face. This happened to me and just about
9 everyone else in the class at some point. It seemed
10 like every day he hit me. He said I was the only person
11 in the class who wasn't paying attention. I tried to
12 tell him that I was just being honest saying that
13 I didn't understand, but it didn't make a difference.
14 I don't recall him ever belting or caning anyone.

15 There were classes in the evening which we had to go
16 to. These classes took place between 6 pm and 8 pm in
17 the evening. Brother Benedict had an arts and craft
18 class in a work room in the basement near to the
19 showers. He decided who went to this class and you had
20 to go. When you were there he would make six to ten
21 boys stand in a circle holding hands. The first and
22 last boy would have to hold a wire attached to
23 a machine. Brother Benedict would wind up this machine
24 and we would all get an electric shock going through us.
25 If you let go, he slapped you to the back of the head or

1 punched you.

2 I had to go to his class just about every second
3 day. I was there roughly four nights every week. We
4 ended up holding this wire in the circle for half
5 an hour to an hour. All the staff and all the other
6 boys knew about Brother Benedict doing this. He
7 obviously enjoyed doing it to us and used to laugh when
8 we were getting the electric shock. He always made sure
9 that we wore rubber-soled plimsoll shoes, otherwise it
10 might not have worked.

11 Some other times we were picked to go swimming.
12 Usually this was in the summer time and about ten boys
13 were taken to the River Forth by Brother HDR .
14 I told him I couldn't swim and he threw me into the
15 water like a rat. I was struggling and one of the other
16 boys had to pull me out. I was about 11 when this
17 happened. I always tried to avoid swimming if I could
18 and I dreaded it if I was picked. I was never given any
19 kind of swimming lessons.

20 One time in the morning, when I was in the dining
21 room, Mr MCK was there and he was obviously playing
22 with his private parts with his hands in his pocket.
23 I said to him that Brother MBZ had warned me about
24 people like him because he was playing with himself.
25 Mr MCK lifted up my shorts above my thighs and slapped

1 my thighs. I broke away from him and he chased me.
2 I got to the front of the hall and got into the
3 headmaster's room and he told me to get out.
4 Brother Benedict and Brother HED came in and escorted
5 me into his room. Both of them beat me up.

6 Later that evening, I was in the basement and
7 Brother Benedict was deciding who went to what class.
8 Mr MCK said that he only needed two boys to do the
9 ponies that night and pointed out another boy, then me.
10 I told him that I had never been on a pony before.
11 Mr MCK said that after tonight I would never want to
12 be on one again. I didn't know what he meant, but
13 I knew it wasn't going to be good. I said I didn't want
14 to go. Brother Benedict kicked me really hard on my
15 backside. It was sore.

16 Brother Benedict always used to wear big steel
17 toe-capped boots and for that got the nickname
18 "Bootsie". If he ever heard anyone calling him that
19 they got a slap across the ear or hit with his walking
20 stick. This didn't happen to me.

21 There were four ponies and the biggest one was
22 called "Dawn". Mr MCK told me to get on it.
23 I climbed on and he told me to hold on. After a few
24 minutes, Mr MCK took a whip out and made it crack.
25 The horse reared up and I fell off. I landed on the

1 back of my head and hurt my hand. I can't really
2 remember what happened after that and how I ended up
3 back at the house. I must have blacked out. I had
4 a cut on the back of my head and it was cleaned up.
5 I have no doubt that Mr MCK did this deliberately so
6 I would get thrown off and hurt myself.

7 When I was planning on running away and
8 Brother HED caught me and I called him a liar,
9 Brother HED beat me up. So did Brother Benedict.
10 They both beat me about the body with their hands and
11 their feet. Brother MCA came out and I was lying
12 on the ground. I got up and he asked what was going on.
13 I told him I was going for a walk around the building
14 and Brother HED thought I was running away. I again
15 said that Brother HED was lying. He turned away
16 after he told Brother HED and Brother Benedict to
17 deal with it.

18 That afternoon, back in the class, I told
19 Brother MBZ that Brother HED had beaten me.
20 Brother MBZ said that since I spoke to him about
21 Mr MCK touching himself he had noticed that I had
22 itchy feet and thought I was going to run away.
23 I cheekily said back to him that if I had itchy feet
24 I would be scratching them. Brother MBZ didn't like
25 that and he slapped me across the face with an open

1 hand. With the force I nearly ended up on the other
2 side of the classroom. I had trusted him up until that
3 point.

4 Another boy who was in St Ninian's told me in 1966
5 that he had been sexually abused by Mr MCK. He was
6 about two years younger than me and was small for his
7 age. I never saw him being abused, but I had no reason
8 to doubt what he said. Brother MBZ spoke to him in
9 front of me but he was too embarrassed and denied it.

10 Mr MCK never did anything to me.

11 Brother MBU used to look after the football team
12 and used to take us out to play other local teams. For
13 some reason when we were in the showers after the match
14 Brother HED and Mr MCK used to appear and be there
15 watching us. There was no reason for them to be there
16 and looking back they were there for their own
17 gratification. They shouldn't have been there. Because
18 of what the boy had told me I was always on my guard
19 from Mr MCK.

20 One night, after Jim the night watchman died, and
21 Brother HED took over doing nightshift, there was
22 an incident through the night. Brother HED
23 occasionally came in and checked, especially on the
24 slightly younger boys. On this night, he had his hands
25 under the covers of one of the younger boys and he

1 shouted at Brother HED for touching his bum instead
2 of checking the sheets. This only ever happened the
3 once. We never discussed that incident again among the
4 boys.

5 As far as I am concerned, they broke me at
6 St Ninian's. All the staff knew what was going on in
7 there. They knew about the physical, emotional and
8 sexual abuse but no one ever tried to stop it. They are
9 just as guilty in my eyes because they should have done
10 something about it. Instead, they let it continue.
11 I wouldn't wish what happened to me to happen to anyone
12 else.

13 Brother MBZ at first seemed to be a decent guy.
14 He told the whole class early on that if any member of
15 staff makes any suggestion or there is any improper
16 behaviour to let him know and he would deal with it.
17 I asked him what he meant and he explained that if
18 anyone tried to touch my private parts or tried to make
19 me touch theirs or if they were doing anything
20 inappropriate to themselves I was to tell him.

21 After the time I saw Mr MCK playing with himself
22 and got beaten up by Brother HED and
23 Brother Benedict, I went to see Brother MBZ. He said
24 he was fed up hearing about Mr MCK 's name and that he
25 would deal with it. That night, Mr MCK made a horse

1 I was on rear up and I fell off. The next morning in
2 class Brother MBZ asked how I'd got on with the
3 ponies. I became upset and started crying. I told him
4 what had happened. Brother MBZ said that this was
5 Mr MCK getting his own back at me for reporting him.
6 I told him my head was sore. He had a look and saw the
7 cuts on the back of my head.

8 When I was home some weekends, I told my dad what
9 was going on at St Ninian's, but just like when I was at
10 St John Bosco's he didn't believe the men of the cloth
11 would do such things. I told him about banging my head
12 when I fell off the horse. Dad never did anything about
13 what I told him. I wasn't getting believed and there
14 was no one I could turn to.

15 I left St Ninian's in 1967 when I was 12, nearly 13.
16 I'm not sure why I was allowed to leave. They never
17 told me. When I was leaving, Brother Benedict told me
18 that I should stick in at school or would end up back in
19 a place like that. I told him I didn't want to go back
20 because it wasn't a nice place and I had no respect for
21 anyone there because of the way I had been treated.
22 I told him that I wasn't there to be punched and
23 kicked.'

24 In paragraphs 91, 92 and 93 the witness speaks about
25 being back at home after St Ninian's.

1 From paragraphs 94 to 98 the witness speaks about
2 his experiences at Larchgrove Remand Home on a second
3 visit there.

4 I'll turn to paragraph 99, which is where the
5 witness talks about being transferred from Larchgrove to
6 St Joseph's in Tranent, when he was aged 13.

7 LADY SMITH: I think he was nearly 14, wasn't he, but he was
8 still 13 when he went there?

9 MS MACLEOD: Almost 14, yes:

10 'St Joseph's was about three miles outside Tranent
11 in the middle of nowhere. It was isolated and
12 surrounded by fields. It was a massive building and had
13 what was like four big pyramids outside it. The
14 building was shaped like the letter U. The dorms were
15 upstairs facing out the front of the building, outside
16 the dorms was a corridor which led to a closed door
17 which took you to the school classes which were
18 upstairs. Downstairs were the shower rooms, shoe room,
19 dining room and the woodwork and metalwork rooms. There
20 was a playground outside in the middle of the U and
21 there were massive playing fields.

22 It was all boys in there and the age range was
23 around my age, although some were a bit younger. Most
24 were teenagers. There were about 70 boys in total at
25 St Joseph's.

1 It was run by Brothers, but I don't know what the
2 religious order was. Brother MDC was SNR .
3 Other staff were Brother Benedict, Brother MBU , and
4 Brother HED , who had all been at St Ninian's when
5 I was there. They wore long robes with something at
6 their neck.

7 There was a lady who would have been in her 40s
8 worked on the education side in the classrooms. I can't
9 remember her name. There were civilian teachers who
10 came to teach us. Mr MJK was a metalwork teacher,
11 Mr GVX was a woodwork teacher. They came from
12 outside the school. MJM was the gardener and he
13 was a really decent man, he was involved in a lot of
14 sport and tried to get all the boys involved.

15 Brother MBU was the first Brother I met. He
16 showed me to my dorm which was called Killiecrankie.
17 This was the pee-the-bed dorm because I wet the bed. We
18 were woken at 7.30 am in the morning by someone putting
19 the lights on and clapping their hands and shouting
20 "Rise and shine". There were about ten single beds in
21 my dorm. There was nothing else. We would get up and
22 then washed/dressed and go for breakfast.'

23 In paragraphs 106 to 108 the witness speaks of
24 mealtimes, washing and clothing.

25 Between paragraphs 109 and 117 he speaks about

1 various aspects of the routine at St Joseph's, including
2 leisure time, trips, home leave, schooling, healthcare,
3 religious instruction, work, birthdays and Christmases
4 and personal possessions.

5 I'll read the statement from paragraph 118, page 27:

6 'Although I was in a dorm for bed wetters I think
7 I had stopped wetting the bed by that time and I never
8 wet my bed at St Joseph's. In this dorm we didn't wear
9 pyjamas like the other boys. We wore nightshirts. This
10 made us different and stood out from the rest. It was
11 degrading. When any of other boys wet their beds they
12 were given a change of clothing and bedding and allowed
13 to shower. I always tried to reassure those boys and
14 tell them not to worry about it and it was just one of
15 those things.

16 Brother HED was always on duty through the night.
17 He often came in and put his hands under the covers to
18 check if any bedsheets were wet. He wasn't happy if he
19 found wet sheets and he put the lights on in the dorm so
20 that woke most of us up. He did this so everyone knew
21 who had wet the bed. If I heard him coming into the
22 room I would sit up with my back against the wall and
23 tell him he didn't need to check me because my bed was
24 dry. One night Brother HED was going round the dorm
25 checking the beds and I heard one of the boys shouting

1 at him that he peed out the front and not the back.
2 I assumed from that Brother HED had touched his bum.
3 My mum and dad never visited me when I was at
4 St Joseph's. I saw them when I was home on my weekend
5 leave. I'm not aware of anyone else or anyone high up
6 in the church visiting.
7 One time I told Mr GVX that he wasn't much of
8 a joiner. He sent me to see Brother MDC, SNR
9 SNR. He told me that I shouldn't speak to
10 members of staff like that. I told him about
11 Mr GVX throwing his mallet about and he said that
12 he would speak to him about it. After that I was sent
13 out to pick up litter, but I just went away and sat in
14 a corner.
15 After I had been there for about three months I ran
16 away because of the way Brother Benedict treated me.
17 I got fed up with him constantly having a dig at me and
18 because I never got to go home at Christmas time.
19 Another boy from Glasgow ran away with me. This would
20 have been in January 1969. We managed to thumb a lift
21 to Edinburgh, then a bus inspector let us on a bus going
22 to Glasgow for nothing. We had taken some peoples'
23 washing off lines to change our clothes so we wouldn't
24 be recognised. When I got to Glasgow I waited until my
25 dad was away to work before I went into the house. My

1 mum wasn't happy that I'd run away. I was away about
2 four or five days and decided to give myself up and
3 handed myself into the police station. Brother MBU
4 picked me up and took me back to St Joseph's.

5 There was a cross-country race in Callander one
6 weekend a few months later. I was supposed to be on
7 weekend leave. Mr MJM arranged it so that after the
8 race on Friday he dropped me at Stirling Bus Station for
9 me to go home. Instead of returning on the Sunday I was
10 to go back on the Monday. Before we left in the
11 minibus, Brother Benedict said to me that I had better
12 win the race otherwise I should keep running. I told
13 him he was off his head. He tried to grab me but
14 Mr MJM intervened and told him to leave me. I didn't
15 win the race but I took Brother Benedict to his word and
16 I didn't go back when I was supposed to. I went to
17 Glasgow and stayed with friends all over the place.
18 I knew the police were looking for me. I did this for
19 around two months, all the time avoiding the police.
20 I went home at some point and my dad phoned the police.
21 Brother MBU came to my house and picked me up and
22 took me back to St Joseph's.

23 For my last two months I was moved into one of the
24 houses on the grounds of the school. This would have
25 been in [REDACTED] 1969. It was far better in there.

1 I had my own room and my own space and there was always
2 plenty of food. It had its own dining room too. It
3 almost felt like being in a bed and breakfast, you could
4 shower or bath every day if you wanted and you had
5 privacy. There were civilian staff in there that looked
6 after us. It was a man and his wife, whose names
7 I can't remember. They always made the boys feel very
8 welcome. The Brothers didn't have anything to do with
9 us in there but still went to school classes. We didn't
10 get taught to cook or anything like that in the house.

11 Brother Benedict, when I saw him on my first or
12 second day at St Joseph's, asked me if I hadn't learned
13 my lessons because I was back in care. After that, he
14 kept having digs at me. Brother Benedict was still
15 doing the electric shock treatment that he did at
16 St Ninian's. I avoided his classes so it never happened
17 to me, but I know he was doing it to the younger boys.

18 If Mr MJK, the metalwork teacher, caught you
19 talking in his class he threw small bits of metal at
20 you. I'm not sure if they ever hit anyone.

21 Mr GVX was the woodwork teacher and if he was
22 annoyed at you he would throw his wooden mallet.
23 Because of this he got the nickname 'GVX'. He
24 threw the mallet at me once but missed. I told him that
25 it nearly hit me and he said that if he wanted to he

1 would have hit me. When I ran away from St Joseph's
2 Brother MBU picked me up and took me back. On the
3 way back I told him I didn't like the way
4 Brother Benedict kept having digs at me.

5 After I got back, I had a shower and got dressed.
6 When I was still in the shower room Brother Benedict
7 came in and obviously Brother MBU had told him what
8 I said. He said something about having a dig at me then
9 punched me on the back. He said that the next time he
10 would dig me on the chin. I told him he wouldn't and
11 called him pathetic and not right in the head. I told
12 him that was the last time he would put his hands on me,
13 because I would sort him out and end up in the secure
14 unit.

15 One time I was speaking to Mr MJM, the gardener.
16 He said that he had noticed that Brother Benedict didn't
17 like me. I told him that we had a history because he
18 used to give me electric shocks when I was at
19 St Ninian's. I said to Mr MJM that Brother Benedict
20 was a horrible man. Mr MJM said he had two sons of
21 his own and would hate to see them in anywhere like
22 this. I told him once that a lot of the boys were
23 damaged goods and beyond repair, but he said it was
24 never too late. He tried his best to put the boys on
25 straight and narrow.

1 After Brother Benedict punched me in the back in the
2 showers I saw Mr [MJM] . I told him about
3 Brother Benedict digging me in the back. He made
4 comment about Brother Benedict being a bully and
5 Mr [MJM] knew I had been at St Ninian's at the same
6 time as Brother Benedict, Brother [MBU] and
7 Brother [HED] . Mr [MJM] just told me to keep my head
8 down. I told him about Brother [MBZ] and that he knew
9 what was going on at St Ninian's and Mr [MJM] agreed
10 that Brother [MBZ] should have done something about it.
11 I don't know what Mr [MJM] did with the information
12 I passed to him. I never told anyone else about what
13 was going on at St Joseph's.

14 I left St Joseph's on [REDACTED] 1969. I remember
15 that date because it was the day I turned 15. I was
16 taken back to Glasgow with some other boys who were
17 going home for weekend leaves [REDACTED]. I went
18 to my mum and dad's. I knew for quite a while before
19 that day that I would be leaving on that day when I was
20 15.'

21 In paragraphs 132 and 133 the witness speaks of his
22 life after St Joseph's.

23 In paragraphs 134 to 154 the witness discusses his
24 time at Glenochil and that has already been read in,
25 my Lady, in Chapter 1. That was read in on

1 9 November 2023, Day 387.

2 LADY SMITH: Thank you.

3 MS MACLEOD: I'll go to paragraph 155.

4 In paragraphs 155 and 156 the witness speaks of his
5 time being back at home after Glenochil. I don't
6 propose to read that.

7 In paragraphs 157 to 159 he speaks of his time in
8 Longriggend. That has already been read in as well in
9 Chapter 1, on the same day.

10 Paragraphs 160 to 163 were also read in and that
11 relates to the witness's time in Barlinnie. That was
12 read in on the same day.

13 Paragraphs 164 and 165, relating to the witness's
14 time in HMP Saughton, were also read in on the same day,
15 9 November 2023.

16 Between paragraphs 166 and 173 the witness provides
17 some information about his life after being in care.

18 I propose to move to paragraph 174, where the
19 witness begins to speak about the impact he considers
20 his time in care has had on his life. I'll read out
21 just some of the paragraphs in relation to that section.

22 Starting with 176, my Lady:

23 'I was never given any training in any of the places
24 I was put to on how to survive in life. Nobody sat down
25 with me and showed me how to get a job or taught me how

1 to get a house, pay bills or anything like that. There
2 was no form of rehabilitation and I don't even think the
3 staff would know how to spell it. Because of my
4 previous convictions, I found it impossible to get
5 a job. When I did manage to get a job, the police told
6 my employers on several occasions and my employment was
7 finished. No one ever tried to rehabilitate me or
8 offered to give me training to help me get a job.

9 I was the only one from my family that was put in
10 care. All my brothers and sisters got on well in life
11 and got good jobs. I have always maintained a good
12 relationship with my siblings. We have always stood by
13 one another. I was put in care because I was bullied at
14 school and because I didn't get school lunch I was
15 hungry and stole a bar of chocolate. It doesn't seem
16 fair that I was punished and it affected the rest of my
17 life.

18 I buried a lot of what happened to me as a child in
19 care out of my mind and never really thought about it
20 very often. I have never told my family about my
21 childhood, as it wasn't something I really wanted to
22 share. Since I heard about the Scottish Child Abuse
23 Inquiry in 2019, I have been thinking about it quite
24 a lot.

25 I apologise to society for the road I went down, but

1 if I hadn't been treated the way I was when in care
2 I wouldn't have ended up in prison. Nobody would
3 believe me, so I basically put my fingers up to society.

4 I have never told anyone in authority about what
5 happened to me in any of the places I was in care.
6 I never thought anyone was interested or would even
7 believe me.

8 I have never applied for any of my records, either
9 from the Social Work Department or from the Prison
10 Service. The police told me that my records from
11 St Ninian's had all been destroyed.

12 When I was in prison and the social workers were
13 doing social inquiry reports they said they couldn't
14 find any records from my childhood.

15 I wouldn't like any child in care today to go
16 through what I have. There must be a way to stop the
17 police from going into a courtroom and telling lies like
18 they did with me. I think children should be kept out
19 of the care system as much as possible. There were no
20 Children's Panels in my day, so hopefully they will do
21 their best to stop it. The social workers and the
22 police need to work together and share information to
23 try and prevent children from reoffending and to
24 rehabilitate them.

25 I have never sought any form of compensation as

1 a result of my treatment and what I suffered when I was
2 in care. I am not a member of any survivor or support
3 group.

4 I have no objection to my witness statement being
5 published as part of the evidence to the Inquiry.

6 I believe the facts stated in this witness statement are
7 true.'

8 'Jimmy' signed the statement on 25 May 2021.

9 LADY SMITH: Thank you.

10 MS MACLEOD: I think we now have time for another read-in.

11 MR MACAULAY: My Lady, this witness is also an applicant.

12 He also wants to remain anonymous and to use the
13 pseudonym 'Pat' when his evidence is being looked at.

14 I should mention, the reference is WIT-1-000001183.

15 'Pat' (read)

16 MR MACAULAY: He was born in the year 1956, and he begins by

17 telling us a little bit about his life before he went
18 into care and we come across a familiar story. He gets
19 into trouble by playing truant. He appears at Glasgow
20 Sheriff Court and he's remanded to Larchgrove for four
21 to six weeks.

22 He tells us at paragraph 6 that he thought that was
23 some point in [REDACTED] 1969, when he would be aged 12 or
24 13. Then he's sent to St Joseph's, Tranent and if I can
25 pick up the narrative at paragraph 13:

1 'St Joseph's was a kind of middle Approved School
2 run by Brothers from an order. Younger boys would be
3 sent to St Ninian's before starting there. Older boys
4 would go to St John's when they turned about 15 years
5 old. I arrived at St Joseph's when I was either 12 or
6 13 years old. I think I was just turning 13 when
7 I arrived and left just before I turned 15. I stayed
8 there for nearly two years. That means I was there at
9 some point between 1969 and 1971.

10 Everybody who arrived at St Joseph's was initially
11 placed in the main building. If you behaved or the
12 staff thought you might do better in that environment
13 you were moved after a certain period of time into
14 either north or south cottage. I was placed in south
15 cottage after a few months. I couldn't say exactly how
16 long after I was moved to St Joseph's that I was sent
17 there. I was in the cottage for a period before being
18 moved back to the main house again. I couldn't say
19 exactly how long I was in the cottage, but it would have
20 been weeks or months. I think there was somewhere
21 between 18 and 20 boys in south cottage at any one time.
22 It felt like an upgrade being moved into the cottages.
23 There were less staff members watching you. The food
24 was much better and there were areas where you could
25 have more quiet time.'

1 He then gives evidence about the aspect of the
2 routine.

3 Moving on to paragraph 40, he talks about the
4 schooling:

5 'School was attended in the main house. I am not
6 too sure how we were all divided up between classes, we
7 were all separated though and stayed in the same group
8 throughout the day. I found the education in general
9 great. I remember that before I went to St Joseph's
10 I was always second last in the class, because I was
11 playing truant all the time. I remember at the school
12 I attended I would sit at the back of the classes.
13 I couldn't see anything because I needed glasses. Once
14 I got to St Joseph's that was all different. I started
15 reading books and things like that. The classes were
16 a lot smaller than at the other school and I found that
17 the teachers picked up on a lot more. If you needed
18 more help they would be across talking to you. The
19 schooling was good like that.'

20 Again, he goes on to talk about leisure time,
21 religious instruction, trips and holidays and getting
22 leave home. Then, in paragraph 48, he says:

23 'Nobody visited me at all whilst I was at
24 St Joseph's. You got home leave so you would see your
25 family regularly, if you behaved anyway. I can't

1 remember ever being visited by social workers. I think
2 we all viewed the staff who worked at St Joseph's as
3 sort of social workers, even though they weren't.
4 I never saw anyone inspecting St Joseph's or checking up
5 on my welfare.

6 Nobody kept me updated about what was going on
7 whilst I was at St Joseph's. One of the things I didn't
8 really like about my time there was that nobody told me
9 how long I was going to be there. I knew that boys were
10 only there for months but others were there for years.
11 Beyond that, I didn't know when I was leaving. It would
12 have been a lot more bearable if somebody had given me
13 a release date.'

14 Then at paragraph 53 he talks about running away:

15 'I ran away from St Joseph's on a number of
16 occasions. I can't exactly remember how many times
17 I absconded. I ran away the very first day I got there.
18 I absconded with a boy who had arrived the day before
19 me. I haven't a clue where I was. The staff caught me
20 within 20 minutes. I think they expected that to happen
21 with me and didn't hold it against me on that occasion.
22 There was only one time when I made it to Glasgow.
23 I walked to Edinburgh then skipped the train to Glasgow.
24 You wouldn't get any home leave for six weeks if you ran
25 away or absconded. You may also be given the belt by

1 Brother PAF, but that wasn't always the case.

2 Bed wetting was never an issue for me, but it was
3 for other boys. They had a dorm in the main house
4 called "Killiecrankie", where they would place all the
5 boys who wet their beds. I have since found out
6 Killiecrankie is a place next to a river, so that makes
7 sense. There were about eight boys in that dorm. They
8 had special beds with plastic sheets. I don't know what
9 else the staff did with the boys in that dorm because
10 I was never in there.

11 I don't remember there being any punishments for
12 those boys who wet their beds. However, placing them in
13 a separate dorm didn't particularly help them because
14 everybody else would know why they were placed there.
15 That would lead to them getting some stick from the
16 other boys. That wasn't a constant thing, but now and
17 again it would be mentioned.

18 You were supervised everywhere you went. The only
19 place where there was less supervision was in the
20 cottages, where they weren't really Brothers around.
21 You felt as if you weren't under supervision all the
22 time when you were there, that was unlike other areas
23 within St Joseph's.'

24 He then talks about the marks system.

25 Moving on to paragraph 58:

1 'The only time they gave you the belt was if you
2 absconded. I don't remember it being used in the
3 classrooms or as part of your schooling. It was used
4 purely for when boys ran away. In my experience, the
5 belt wasn't always used when you ran away. I think it
6 only happened once to me. I don't know whether that was
7 because, in my case, I still ran away after they gave me
8 it. Brother PAF, SNR, was the person who
9 administered the belt. When you received that
10 punishment, it was given in his office and there was no
11 one else there. He would hit you six times over your
12 clothes on your backside.'

13 He then talks about abuse in the following
14 paragraphs, and I'll start looking at that at
15 paragraph 59:

16 'Ms MCR was the housemother attached to south
17 cottage. She and Brother MJJ were the only staff
18 members who were in the cottage. Ms MCR stayed at
19 one end of the cottage and Brother MJJ stayed at
20 the other end. They had their own rooms or apartments.
21 It was very seldom that Brother MJJ was around in
22 the cottage. He was quite busy all the time because he
23 was SNR at St Joseph's. He was always away
24 doing his business. I remember that he was ultimately
25 replaced by Brother zGTQ as a housefather during my

1 time in the cottage. I don't know where
2 Brother MJJ went after that. Ms MCR was the
3 staff member who did all the work looking after the boys
4 in the cottage.

5 I was eventually moved to south cottage. I'm not
6 sure exactly when that happened. It would have been
7 months rather than weeks after I arrived. It all began
8 in the dining hall in south cottage. There were about
9 four or five tables there. I remember that during meal
10 times Ms MCR was the only adult who would be present.
11 Brother MJJ ate all his meals elsewhere. I used
12 to have a bad habit of leaning back on my chair and one
13 breakfast Ms MCR told me off for doing that. I later
14 finished my meal, asked to leave the table and Ms MCR
15 refused. I might have been a bit abrupt in asking her
16 that because she had told me off earlier. I ignored
17 her, stood up and walked out anyway. Ms MCR followed
18 me out and got me in the hall outside. She had me up
19 against the wall and gave me a talking to. She was
20 close to me and I couldn't move. I can't remember
21 exactly what she said, but it was along the lines of
22 "You don't behave like this". She then made me stay in
23 the corridor for a good 20 or 30 minutes whilst everyone
24 was getting ready to go up to the main house for the
25 day. At the time I thought she was just pressurising me

1 and had been a bit too close to me when she told me off.

2 After that incident, it was as if she was
3 concentrating on me all the time. It wasn't anything
4 bad, she just paid me a lot of attention. At nighttime
5 in the dorm she would come in, sit on my bed and talk to
6 me for ages. It could have been 20 minutes to half
7 an hour each time. Other boys would be there trying to
8 sleep in their beds. Eventually a single room became
9 available and I was moved into that room. I can't
10 remember whether I was due to go into a single room or
11 not. Ms MCR continued to come in and sit on my bed
12 and talk to me after I was moved into the single room.
13 We would talk for ages.

14 It was all gradual and didn't all start happening in
15 one night. It all could have happened over a period of
16 weeks or a month, after some time she started touching
17 me. It quickly escalated to her touching me in a sexual
18 manner. Things snowballed from there. She would come
19 into my room every night. She would stay between half
20 an hour and an hour. After a while she got me to touch
21 her in a sexual manner. I don't think I was sexually
22 active by that time, so everything was new to me. It
23 didn't progress to anything further, that was basically
24 it.

25 I don't think Ms MCR was doing the things she was

1 doing to me to other boys. I remember her being
2 particularly friendly with a boy who arrived at the
3 cottage before I arrived, but I never saw anything
4 happen. I don't know whether she progressed things with
5 him in the same way as she did with me.

6 After some time, I went away on home leave and
7 failed to return. The cottage was a place for those
8 boys who behaved so when I was caught and brought back,
9 I thought I would be moved back to the main building.
10 However, that didn't happen to me. I was moved back
11 into south cottage. Looking back, I think Ms MCR
12 made sure I was returned to the cottage. A few weeks
13 later I absconded again, I was away for about eight
14 hours with another boy before being caught. When I was
15 returned to St Joseph's I was told I was getting
16 returned to the cottage. It could have been Mr MJL
17 MJL who told me that, but I can't be sure. When I was
18 told that by the staff member concerned, I told him
19 I didn't want to be returned there. When I said that he
20 asked me why I didn't want to go back to the cottage.
21 I made up that I was getting too much stick from the
22 other boys in the cottage. It was all an excuse to try
23 and get out of the cottage. That night I stayed in the
24 main house. During breakfast the following day Mr MJL
25 MJL told me I was wanted over in the cottage by

1 Ms MCR .

2 When I went over to the cottage, Ms MCR spoke
3 with me and tried to persuade me to return to the
4 cottage. I just told her that I couldn't handle the
5 pressure and hassle I was getting from the other boys.
6 I was only in the cottage for about 30 and 40 minutes
7 before I got back to the main building. That was the
8 end of things after that. I ended up staying in the
9 main house until I left St Joseph's for good.

10 I didn't report what was happening to the police on
11 the occasions they brought me back after running away.
12 They didn't ask me why I had run away. I didn't tell
13 anybody at all about what was happening. I didn't feel
14 that anyone was wanting to listen or would understand
15 what was going on. There was nobody I felt I could have
16 reported what was going on to. I don't think there was
17 anyway that I could have reported what I experienced
18 during my time at St Joseph's.

19 Looking back, I can't think of what they could have
20 put in place to have allowed me to comfortably report
21 what was happening. Whatever would have been in place
22 would have resulted in everybody watching everybody else
23 constantly. There was nobody available to tell what was
24 happening. There was no way I could have spoken to
25 a member of staff about what was happening. Even if

1 there was someone independent available to speak to,
2 I don't think I would have spoken to them. It wasn't
3 even as if there was an anonymous box where I could have
4 reported the abuse I was suffering. The problem was
5 that whoever I reported what was happening to or however
6 I would have reported what was happening, I still had to
7 stay in the institution. I think that stopped me from
8 saying anything.

9 I wasn't really told when I would be leaving
10 St Joseph's. I was aware that there was a court date
11 and that might result in me being moved out of
12 St Joseph's, but I didn't know when. I don't think they
13 told me when it was, because I may have absconded before
14 that if I'd known. I'm not too sure how my time
15 ultimately came to an end in St Joseph's. I think
16 I might have failed to return after a home visit and was
17 arrested by the police. That would have been before
18 I turned 15 in 1971. After that, there was a court
19 hearing at Glasgow Sheriff Court.

20 The decision at that hearing was that I would be
21 moved to a senior Approved School.'

22 We see from what he tells us that he was moved to
23 St John's Boys' School, which at this time was in the
24 post De La Salle era. He was there, he tells us,
25 between about 1971 and 1972. He goes on to say he had

1 no issues with his time at St John's.

2 Moving on to paragraph 76:

3 'My main issue [this is in leaving St John's] was
4 the same as the one I had at St Joseph's. Nobody told
5 me when I was going to leave and it was all open ended.
6 That resulted in me failing to return from home leaves
7 or running away. That in turn resulted in me committing
8 offences on the outside.'

9 He tells us at 71 that he was released from
10 St John's and moved to borstal when he turned 16 in
11 1972.

12 He goes on to say that he was in Longriggend on
13 multiple occasions between the ages of 15 and 17 and he
14 says that Longriggend was a nasty place:

15 'I think most of the prison staff were ex-army. The
16 staff there wouldn't hesitate to beat someone up if they
17 wanted to. I was okay though because I think my
18 experience of the places I had been before taught me how
19 to keep a low profile and to keep out of trouble.'

20 He also says that he was in Barlinnie for a short
21 period and he was then sent to Polmont.

22 At paragraph 80 he talks about Polmont:

23 'I went to Polmont just after I turned 16 in 1972.
24 I was there for about 11 months. I think by that time
25 everything was finished when it came to my turn in

1 Approved Schools and borstals. That really was the
2 start of my experience of the prison system into
3 adulthood. Everything was more secure from then
4 onwards. Polmont was a bit rough at first, but it was
5 okay. I was released from Polmont just before I turned
6 17 in 1973.'

7 He goes on to talk about life after care, that he
8 was sent to various prisons, Barlinnie is mentioned,
9 Saughton and he mentions the length of sentences. He
10 goes on to say at the end that he has stayed out of
11 prisons for the last 15 years.

12 Moving on to paragraph 83, he talks about the impact
13 and I'll read that:

14 'My time in the Approved Schools and borstals left
15 me institutionalised. I never actually left anywhere
16 from the age of 13 onwards. I just went from one place
17 to the next. I would see the same people in all the
18 places all the way through. The prison system was
19 a continuation and upgrade of my time in
20 Approved Schools and borstals. During the time when
21 I was most in and out of prison, I was happy to be sent
22 away. The way I was treated in the Approved Schools and
23 borstals prepared me for that. I would definitely say
24 there was a connection between my continued time in
25 prison from my time in care.

1 The only positive thing that came out of St Joseph's
2 was the schooling they provided. That affected my
3 attitude towards further education. It left me wanting
4 to be involved in further education later in life during
5 my time at certain prisons. Whenever further education
6 was available, I would do it. I have learnt things like
7 computing and so on. St Joseph's put my mind towards
8 being able to continue with all of that.'

9 At paragraph 86:

10 'I've not told anyone about what happened when I was
11 in St Joseph's. The first time I told anyone was when
12 I provided this statement. I decided to speak to the
13 Inquiry because I had seen reports on the news
14 surrounding abuse. It was always men who were being
15 discussed as the abusers. I felt that it was important
16 to show that it wasn't always men who were the abusers.
17 I wanted in some way through speaking about my
18 experiences to provide a bit of balance surrounding what
19 is being investigated and reported.'

20 Moving on to the final paragraphs, under the heading
21 'Lessons to be learned and hopes for the Inquiry', at
22 paragraph 88:

23 'A lot of places I was in during my childhood were
24 just holding places. You were tossed in and given your
25 meals, education and recreation. Looking back, there

1 was never any help provided to get me out of the system.
2 There was no training to prepare me for adult life.
3 There was nothing available at all during my time in
4 Approved Schools. That continued throughout my time in
5 borstal and the Prison Service. There wasn't enough
6 education to make you understand that you needed to get
7 out of the institutions you were in. There was nothing
8 available to help to break the cycle of ending up in the
9 system. I know that prisoners who are serving life
10 sentences are put on training for freedom courses to
11 teach them skills to understand how to live on the
12 outside. I think that sort of training should be
13 widened a bit to other prisoners and those in care. It
14 shouldn't feel as if you are landing on the moon when
15 you leave an institution.

16 No one explained things to me when I was in the
17 Approved Schools. What was happening should have been
18 explained to me when I went to Larchgrove. I was given
19 no explanation as to why I was there or what was
20 happening next. That continued during my time at
21 St Joseph's and St John's. I didn't really know what
22 was going on. The open-ended nature of it all was part
23 of the issue. Nobody sat me down and said, "You'll be
24 leaving here on such a date" or, "After you leave here,
25 this is what you will be doing". Nobody told me what

1 I needed to do to make sure that those things would
2 happen. That led to me just surviving on a day-to-day
3 existence.

4 If I had been given some sort of an idea about
5 a release date during my time in Approved Schools, it
6 would have helped. That would have meant that I didn't
7 have to arrange release myself through absconding or
8 running away. I definitely would have run away less if
9 I was given an end date at the Approved Schools I was
10 in. I know that because there were times when I was in
11 borstal when I was trusted delivering things outside of
12 the institution and I never ran away. That was because
13 I knew there was an end date to me leaving. That's the
14 same when I have been on the outside work parties when
15 I have been serving sentences in prison. Running away
16 just didn't even enter my mind. I hope that children
17 entering the care system now have things explained to
18 them when they enter the care system. I hope that
19 children are given a date when they are going to be
20 released or sent back home.

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

25 He has signed the statement on 30 January 2023.

1 LADY SMITH: Thank you very much, Mr MacAulay.
2 Have we time for another one before the break?
3 Thank you.
4 The lack of explanation about what is happening when
5 the release is going to be is particularly striking in
6 circumstances where we know that there were occasions
7 that the Order apparently had no idea whether the
8 child's family was still in the place that the family
9 had been when the child first went into their care.
10 MR MACAULAY: There has certainly been evidence to that
11 effect, my Lady.
12 LADY SMITH: That must have made things even worse for
13 children who were just tossed out onto the moon, as this
14 witness put it, and perhaps it could be said elevated
15 the responsibility of the Order to explain things
16 carefully to the children as to what was happening and
17 what was going to happen next.
18 MR MACAULAY: That certainly seems to be one of this
19 witness's major criticisms of the system.
20 LADY SMITH: Thank you.
21 Ms MacLeod.
22 MS MACLEOD: My Lady, this is the witness statement of
23 an applicant who wishes to remain anonymous and to use
24 the pseudonym 'Ray'. His statement is WIT.001.003.0771.
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'Ray' (read)

MS MACLEOD: 'My name is 'Ray'. I was born in 1960. My contact details are known to the Inquiry.'

'Ray' tells us he had four siblings and that they lived with their mum and dad:

'I don't remember much about my dad, I don't remember my dad being at home. He might have worked. In 1966 my mum died of a brain haemorrhage and my dad couldn't cope. The next thing I knew I was in Smyllum Orphanage with my brothers and sister.

The first institution I was in was Smyllum Orphanage, from 1966 to 1968. Then Calder House Remand Centre in 1969 and St Ninian's School, Gartmore from 1970 to 1973. In 1974, I was in St Philip's School, St Joseph's School, Longriggend Remand Centre and Rossie School, all in the space of less than a year. I left Rossie School in 1975.'

In paragraph 5 to 42 of his statement the witness speaks of his experience at Smyllum.

In paragraphs 43 and 44 he speaks of being back with his family for a period of time.

In paragraphs 47 to 66 he speaks of his experiences at Calder House Remand Centre.

I will go now to paragraph 67 of the statement, where the witness speaks about leaving Calder House

1 Remand Centre:

2 'I don't remember how the decision was made that
3 I was to go to St Ninian's School. SNR of
4 Calder House came to see me and said I was being sent to
5 an Approved School. He said if I behaved eventually
6 I would get home at weekends. He said, "All the best,
7 on you go". I moved the same week that SNR spoke
8 to me.

9 A man came to Calder House in a big sports car.
10 I'd never met him before. I don't know if he was
11 a social worker or just a driver. I put my clothes on.
12 The man gave me a Crunchie chocolate bar and it was put
13 in my top pocket. The man took me to St Ninian's out by
14 Aberfoyle, Gartmore. We didn't talk about where I was
15 going, who it was run by or how many people were in it.
16 The man just asked if I liked sports cars and Crunchies.

17 St Ninian's was run by the De La Salle Brothers.
18 The Brothers wore black robes with a collar that came
19 down in two pieces at the front. St Ninian's was
20 another big mansion, like Smyllum. It was in its own
21 grounds and there appeared to be loads of land about it.
22 It was all boys at St Ninian's. There was one big
23 building. The boys were split into four houses. I was
24 in St George's, our colour was red. We had our own
25 playroom and TV room. The house next to ours was

1 yellow. St Patrick's was down the corridor. There was
2 St Peter's and I can't remember the last one. The
3 houses were all run by civilian staff.

4 There were about 15 boys in St George's. We all
5 slept in the same dormitory. They were a good bunch of
6 lads. The oldest lad was about 13 years old.

7 As you walked in the door of the main building there
8 were steps that went down. That was the lower level.
9 When you went to the back of the building there was
10 a verandah at that lower level. The dining hall was
11 down there to the left.

12 I didn't trust the Brothers. It was a religious
13 place again. I had every right not to trust the
14 Brothers, they weren't to be trusted. Most of the
15 Brothers were Irish. I'd never heard of the
16 De La Salle Brothers before. I thought they were
17 priests.

18 There were loads of Brothers, about 20 or 25
19 altogether. Most of the Brothers were Irish, some of
20 them were all right. SNR [REDACTED] changed while I was at
21 St Ninian's. I can't remember SNR [REDACTED] name.
22 [REDACTED] Brother MJJ [REDACTED] was SNR [REDACTED].
23 Brother HFT [REDACTED] was SNR [REDACTED], he was a decent
24 bloke and I liked him. You could trust him. Nine times
25 out of ten anything to do with school would go through

1 Brother HFT . Our dorm was run by Brother MJO .
2 He was a good bloke. He was an old guy and a secret
3 alcoholic. He kept a bottle under his bed.
4 Brother MJO was as good as gold. He wouldn't harm
5 a fly.

6 Other Brothers were Brother MBZ and
7 Brother Damian. Brother GYV was the youngest brother
8 at St Ninian's, he was Irish. Brother GYV was dodgy.
9 He got me on my own in the dormitory and put his hands
10 up my shorts. He came to St Ninian's from another
11 house. He didn't last long. They soon got rid of
12 Brother GYV .

13 Brother HJS was all right. He was a nice man.
14 Brother MJO couldn't look after us at nighttime
15 because he was an alcoholic, so Brother HJS used to
16 come round. Brother HJS taught me to play the
17 guitar. Brother MBZ had farm animals, goats and
18 chickens, in a walled garden.

19 There were two women who worked as chefs in the
20 kitchen, two women who were seamstresses and a matron
21 who looked after medical stuff and took us to medical
22 appointments.

23 There were lay staff, they were all men. Mr GXC
24 ran the dorm in the next door to ours. He was okay.
25 Some of the lads liked him. There was also a Mr MCK .

1 GZI ran St Patrick's, he was in his 20s. He
2 was a dirty bastard. He was a civilian member of staff
3 who molested boys, he was a sicko. GZI tried it
4 on with me and I told him where to go. He got chucked
5 out of St Ninian's.

6 Mr GZM was a bully. You didn't cross him
7 because he would strike you down. He was a civilian who
8 came in to teach. I don't know if he was a qualified
9 teacher, he taught English and physical education, we
10 called it PT.

11 Mr McTaggart drove me to St Ninian's, it was my
12 tenth birthday. I remember arriving there and it was
13 a sunny day. Everybody was out running about and
14 playing football on the grass. There were blokes with
15 black robes on. I got introduced to the Brothers and
16 civilian staff. I thought there would be no running
17 away from there, because I didn't know where I was. It
18 was in the middle of nowhere. The man who had driven me
19 there spoke to someone, I don't know if it was the head
20 Brother.

21 I went down the seamstress. She got me all kitted
22 out with clothes. I was given a Sunday best outfit,
23 play boots and shorts, boots and shorts for school and
24 sandals. I had a shower and got changed into my kit.
25 In the boot room where we all lined up and got counted

1 I was shown which box was mine. You kept your play
2 boots in the box.

3 I was ten years old and I got a number. It was the
4 first time I had a number. The number was on your
5 clothes, on everything you had. I went to the
6 playground and shared my Crunchie with another lad. He
7 became my pal because I had the Crunchie. I felt I had
8 been chucked in at the deep end.

9 We slept in dormitories. The night watchman came
10 round St Ninian's as well. He was a little bloke from
11 Gartmore village. I didn't know his name. The night
12 watchman came around every night. He came into the
13 dormitory and checked who was in bed. If lads wet the
14 bed, the night watchman would get them up and take them
15 to the toilet. One or two lads got up during the night
16 to go to the toilet.

17 Brother MJO got you up in the morning. You got
18 washed, changed for school and went down for breakfast.
19 After breakfast, we went to school. Most of the
20 teachers were okay, except for Mr GZM. School was
21 in a different complex in the grounds, but away from the
22 main building.

23 We went back to the main building for lunch. After
24 lunch we had play time in the field at the side of the
25 building. We got plenty of fresh air at St Ninian's.

1 After play time, we went back to school. At school
2 I did art, music, English, maths and PT. When I was
3 12 years old, I won the yearly prize for art and music.

4 After school, you came back, got your tea, got
5 changed into your play clothes and boots. Sometimes the
6 Brothers would say they had an activity and we would go
7 out of St Ninian's for a couple of hours to different
8 places.

9 Bedtime was around 8.30 pm or 9 pm. You went
10 upstairs and got into your pyjamas. You brushed your
11 teeth and did the toilet. You had half an hour or 20
12 minutes to talk, read or mess about until lights off.

13 You ate in a massive dining hall and sat at the same
14 table for every meal. The food was all right. There
15 were no issues with the food. No one forced you to eat.
16 If you didn't want the food, you just left it.

17 There was a little church in St Ninian's and we went
18 to church on Wednesdays and Sundays.

19 When other lads went home at the weekend the lads
20 left at St Ninian's would help out with chores in the
21 dormitories, other people would do the chores during the
22 week. There was a row of communal showers, the showers
23 were open, there were no cubicles, the water was
24 adjusted from outside. The Brothers or staff would turn
25 the water on. We had showers twice a week, various

1 people supervised the showers, Brothers and other staff.
2 There was always someone watching to see that you
3 weren't messing about. Then you got dried, changed back
4 up stairs. There was a row about 15 or 20 sinks.'

5 In paragraphs 94 and 95 the witness speaks about
6 leisure time and various outings while at St Ninian's.

7 In 96 to 98 he speaks about some trips way from the
8 school.

9 I'll read from paragraph 99:

10 'I had been at St Ninian's for about three months
11 when I tried to take my own life. I had it in my head
12 that when you died your spirit was free. I wanted to
13 see my mum and thought that way I could see her. I was
14 ten years old.

15 I went to matron a few times when I didn't feel
16 well. Matron was okay. She was a stern woman. You
17 wouldn't mess with her. Matron had a sick bay where she
18 would have all her medicines. The sick bay was on the
19 left-hand side on the main hall as you walked through
20 the door. Matron would tell you to come in and sit
21 down. She would ask what was wrong with you and might
22 take you to see the doctor. If you'd hurt your knee she
23 would put a plaster on it. Matron took you to Stirling
24 for the dentist, I got a tooth out.

25 I always went to my grandmother's at Christmas.

1 Everyone went home. The whole place shut down. The
2 Brothers went back to their families in Ireland, the
3 Brothers gave you a selection box before you left.

4 My dad came up to visit me with my uncle. The visit
5 shocked me. It was out of the blue. I was at school
6 and got taken out of the classroom. The staff said
7 there was somebody to see me. My dad and uncle took me
8 into Gartmore village for a few hours. My dad must have
9 felt a bit guilty about me and thought he'd go and see
10 me. I never saw my siblings at St Ninian's.

11 We wrote one letter a week. I wrote my letter to my
12 uncle. I didn't have any social work visits.

13 The staff would drop everybody off at
14 Buchanan Street in Glasgow at tea time on a Friday. The
15 school bus was full. I would go to Queen Street and get
16 the train. I would go and see my grandmother and to see
17 my dad and my siblings, then I'd find my pals and
18 I wouldn't see my family again.

19 You were supposed to be at Buchanan Street on Sunday
20 at tea time to get the bus back to St Ninian's. If you
21 weren't there the Brothers or staff would phone the
22 police and say you hadn't returned. I would get caught
23 eventually stealing something. I was stealing cars when
24 I was 10 or 11. My uncle taught me to drive. The
25 police would take me to the police station, phone up

1 social services and drive me back to St Ninian's. When
2 I got back, whoever was on duty would go mad. They'd
3 take me downstairs, strip me off and put me in the
4 shower. That wasn't a punishment. It was to make sure
5 I was clean. Whoever was on would put you in the
6 shower. Normally it was Brother MJO because he was
7 in charge of St George's. Every now and again it would
8 be GZI.

9 If you had done anything wrong it was written in
10 a book next to your number. This was done by the
11 brothers and staff member. They carried a little book
12 around with them and wrote down everything that
13 happened. The Brothers were bastards. They were strict
14 about everything. Some of the Brothers were predators.
15 The Brothers would give you a backhand. They would
16 hit you for anything. They hit you on the back of the
17 legs with their hands. I saw a lad's legs getting swept
18 from under him and he fell on his back. You have
19 a bloke who becomes a monk and for some reason they seem
20 to take it out on the kids. Brothers would pick on
21 certain individuals. Not necessarily me. Other lads
22 got bullied by the Brothers.

23 You knew which Brothers and civilian staff you could
24 trust and who you couldn't trust in St Ninian's. You
25 couldn't trust GZI, Brother GYV and

1 Brother GZQ . You stayed well clear of them. I knew
2 I couldn't trust them through my own experience with
3 GZI and Brother GYV and through other lads.
4 Other lads told me these men were touching them up and
5 things like that. I just heard things about
6 Brother GZQ , I didn't have any dealings with him.

7 Once, after I'd been returned to St Ninian's by the
8 police, Mr GZI washed me in the sink. I was 11 years
9 old. I said to him that I wanted to get in the shower
10 but he said I had to stand in the sink and he would wash
11 me. I was stripped off, as I stood in the sink
12 Mr GZI touched me all over. I was pushing him off,
13 telling him to get off me. He shouldn't have been
14 touching me and I knew it. I had been warned about
15 Mr GZI by the other lads. He picked me out of the
16 sink. I got dressed and he took me back to my
17 dormitory.

18 Brother GYV had only just come to St Ninian's when
19 he said to me that he'd heard I played the guitar. He
20 asked me if I wanted to come up to the dormitory and
21 have a little practice. Straightaway alarm bells were
22 ringing, but I wanted to see what his guitar was like.
23 Brother GYV said to go to the dormitory because his
24 guitar was in the room. Brother GYV 's room was off
25 the dormitory, up a spiral staircase in the staff

1 quarters. All the other lads were in the common room.
2 He went up and got his guitar and came back to the
3 dormitory.

4 I was wearing short trousers and Brother GYV put
5 his hand up my shorts. I pushed him off, picked up my
6 guitar and walked away. I never saw Brother GYV for
7 a couple of days after that. A few weeks later
8 Brother GYV was gone from St Ninian's.

9 Brother MJJ battered you all the time. He was
10 a sicko. When I was 10 or 11 years old,
11 Brother MJJ came into the class one day and called
12 me down to his office. He sat me on his knee. I jumped
13 off and asked him what he was doing. Brother MJJ
14 said he just wanted to talk to me. I knew straightaway,
15 I had a sixth sense. I ran out of the room and he
16 didn't come after me. Other boys had been called into
17 his office and told me Brother MJJ was dodgy. He
18 touched boys up. His office was in the education block.
19 Brother MJJ would call boys over to his office
20 when no one was in the education block. The boys would
21 be out having play time or outdoor activities.

22 We were in PT and Mr GZM told us not to jump
23 on the trampoline. I jumped on it. Everyone was going
24 back to their classes after PT. He called me back.

25 Mr GZM said that when he told me to do something,

1 I did it. Then he punched me on the head with a closed
2 fist.

3 Mr MCK beat lads with a cane on the back of their
4 legs. He never hit me with a cane, but I saw him
5 battering lads with it in the play yard. I don't know
6 what the battering was for.

7 I wrote to my uncle and told him about Mr GZM
8 punching me. My uncle was only 18 years old at the
9 time. I looked up to him. When I went home for the
10 weekend, he said what was all that about? I told my
11 uncle I had been punched and smacked, he told me to
12 fight back, but when you're a small kid you can't
13 overpower an adult.

14 I went to the Children's Panel after my 13th
15 birthday. No one warned me about going to the panel.
16 The staff just said to put these clothes on. I was
17 dressed all nice with a tie and long trousers, which was
18 a rarity. I was put in a car and I asked where I was
19 going. They said I was going to Coatbridge. I asked if
20 I was going to see my grandmother and they said I was
21 going to the panel. The staff said I was going home to
22 my grandmother. I was a teenager now.

23 At the panel a few people spoke and looked through
24 forms. My grandmother was there. The social worker was
25 Mr McTaggart. The panel said I could go with my

1 grandmother. I went straight from the panel to my
2 grandmother's, my dad's mum.'

3 In paragraphs 123 and 124 the witness speaks about
4 his time with his grandmother.

5 In paragraphs 125 to 134 he speaks about his time at
6 St Philip's School.

7 I'll move to paragraph 135, where he speaks about
8 leaving St Philip's School:

9 'Me and another lad from Glasgow ran away together.
10 I was sleeping rough and stealing to survive. I got
11 caught by the police doing something stupid. The police
12 contacted Social Services. St Philip's said they didn't
13 want me and I didn't go back to St Philip's.

14 I went to the panel again. There was no discussion
15 about why I was running away. There was no one from the
16 family to represent me. I didn't understand the words
17 the panel were coming out with. They were whispering.
18 I didn't take any notice of what they were saying. The
19 panel must have thought St Philip's was too close to
20 home and that they would have to send me somewhere
21 further away. The same day they sent me as far away as
22 possible, to St Joseph's in Tranent just outside
23 Edinburgh.'

24 My Lady, I have a little bit to go with this
25 statement, I don't know if I should continue with it or

1 helpful to refer to that. You don't have to. But it's
2 there for you if you want it. We'll also bring the
3 statement up on screen as we look at different parts of
4 it, so you'll have it there as well, in a larger font
5 than in the hard copy.

6 Again, feel free to use that if you want to.

7 Otherwise, do help me do anything I can to make the
8 whole process of giving evidence as comfortable as
9 possible. I say that knowing that this isn't easy.
10 We're asking you to come into public and talk about your
11 own personal life, private matters, dating back to when
12 you were a little boy and that's not easy at all.

13 If at any time, for example, you would like a break,
14 just say, whether it's just sitting where you are or
15 leaving the room for a break. If you want us to explain
16 something better than we're doing, just say. If it
17 doesn't make sense, it's our fault, not yours, all
18 right.

19 You can bear in mind that I normally take a break at
20 around 3 o'clock in the afternoon in any event for five
21 or ten minutes, so you will get that breather if you are
22 still giving evidence at that stage.

23 Any time you have any questions about anything, just
24 say.

25 A. Thank you.

1 LADY SMITH: Mr MacAulay.

2 Questions from Mr MacAulay

3 MR MACAULAY: My Lady.

4 Good afternoon, 'Neil'.

5 A. Good afternoon.

6 Q. Could I ask you first to turn to the final page of your
7 statement. Can you confirm for me that you have signed
8 the statement?

9 A. Yeah.

10 Q. Do you say in the final paragraph:

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

15 A. Yes.

16 Q. For the benefit of the transcript. I'll provide the
17 reference to the statement, that's at WIT-1-000000684.

18 Because you want to remain anonymous, 'Neil',
19 I don't want your date of birth but I do want to put to
20 you the year of your birth and can you confirm that you
21 were born in 1956?

22 A. Yes, I was.

23 Q. You begin in your statement by telling us a little bit
24 about your life before you went into care and I think
25 what you say there is that you're from a large family,

1 is that right?

2 A. Yes.

3 Q. How large was your family?

4 A. There was 11 of us.

5 LADY SMITH: That is 11 children and your parents?

6 A. Yeah.

7 LADY SMITH: Thank you.

8 MR MACAULAY: What you say in your statement is that your

9 family life, as you put it, was amazing.

10 A. It was amazing, yes, it was great.

11 Q. Can you tell me about that?

12 A. There was a lot of fun. I played football in the

13 streets with my older brothers, stuff like that.

14 Playing with other children in the streets as well.

15 Always staying out until all hours. Never in the house,

16 playing all sorts of games like rounders, kick the can,

17 chases, things like that.

18 Q. One thing you do mention in your statement actually is

19 that in your home you actually had a grand piano?

20 A. Yeah, we had a grand piano in the living room.

21 Q. Was your family quite musical?

22 A. No, not really, no, no, they weren't, but my aunty

23 ██████ she used to come and visit every Sunday and

24 because they were -- my father was Catholic and my

25 mother was Protestant, but my aunty ██████ she was

1 Protestant so she was, and she played the piano and she
2 would always play -- an Orange song on the piano and
3 that sort of got my father upset, so it did, but it was
4 a laugh. We all laughed at it.

5 Q. You also give us some background about your primary
6 school situation. I don't want the name of the primary
7 school, but I just want you to tell me what happened to
8 you at primary school?

9 A. At the age of five, there were two nuns, a Sister --

10 Q. We don't need to know their names, but tell us what
11 happened.

12 A. Okay. There were these two nuns SNR school.
13 They were SNR the school. You know like
14 SNR or SNR they had SNR
15 SNR the school, so they did. And they were -- they
16 used to -- they went around all the children and they
17 would have a look at them and as far as I was concerned
18 in the dining hall I didn't like cabbage, cabbage made
19 me sick and the nun -- one of the nuns in particular she
20 got right on this, so she did, and she used to stand
21 behind my chair and I wouldn't eat the cabbage and
22 I would put it aside and she would force me to eat the
23 cabbage, which would make me sick, violently sick, into
24 the plate and then she would make me eat my sick and if
25 I didn't eat it, if I refused, she would drag me up to

1 her office and leather me with a belt.

2 Q. You tell us in your statement that this behaviour went
3 on really throughout your time at primary school?

4 A. I was only five years of age.

5 Q. Was the impact of this then that you started playing
6 truant?

7 A. Yes, I did.

8 Q. But there came a point in time when you went to the
9 secondary school?

10 A. Yes.

11 Q. What you say in your statement is because you were off
12 school so much before you were behind where you should
13 have been.

14 A. I was behind and I was trying, I was attempting to try
15 and -- trying to move forward, trying to catch up with
16 what I had lost when I went to the other school, because
17 the nuns weren't there, it was mostly teachers, men,
18 male teachers that was there.

19 There was a couple of ladies, but they were okay.

20 Q. Was the impact of having lost so much schooling and
21 trying to catch up, did that mean that you were once
22 again playing truant from the secondary school?

23 A. Yeah, yeah.

24 Q. Did you get involved with some older boys --

25 A. Yes.

1 Q. -- who led you astray effectively?

2 A. Maybe not led me astray, but you were quite agreeable to

3 things back in the day when you were a child and the

4 temptation was always there.

5 Q. Was the upshot then that you were taken to the Justice

6 of the Peace Court, I think you give us a date for that,

7 on [REDACTED] 1969, is that correct?

8 A. Yeah.

9 Q. As at that time, you would be 13?

10 A. Yeah. Yeah.

11 Q. Your mother was also present?

12 A. Yes, she was, yeah.

13 Q. At that time were you sentenced to Larchgrove --

14 A. Yeah.

15 Q. -- Remand Home for 14 days?

16 A. That's right, yes.

17 Q. What was your mother's reaction to that?

18 A. When I looked round to see her, she was crying and that

19 made me feel bad.

20 Q. Was there another occasion really not long after that

21 when you were sent back to Larchgrove again?

22 A. Yeah, for 28 days.

23 Q. There are these two fairly close together?

24 A. They were very close.

25 Q. When you went to Larchgrove then, how did you feel?

1 A. It was quite strange to be in an institution for the
2 first time, like that. But when I looked around about
3 me, all the other inmates, they were -- they knew what
4 was happening. They knew the run of the place and you
5 sort of got involved with the running of the place and
6 that sort of settled you in a way.

7 Q. In relation to the accommodation, what can you tell me
8 about the building or buildings that made up Larchgrove?

9 A. The dormitories were -- the dormitory that I was in,
10 they had maybe eight beds along one wall and maybe some
11 along the other, but there was also a new wing in
12 Larchgrove as well that had been built and I ended up in
13 the new wing as well, but that was about maybe eight
14 beds on each side of each dormitory. There was only
15 three dormitories in the new wing, but they were quite
16 big, bigger than the ones in the old part.

17 Q. Was there a central building where you would congregate,
18 for example for meals and so on?

19 A. Yeah, yeah.

20 Q. Was it a large establishment?

21 A. It was quite big. Well, as a child you would think it
22 would be big, but if you were -- if I was to go back to
23 it just now and the same environment it probably
24 wouldn't look that big. But as a child everything's
25 big.

1 Q. Was it all boys who were being accommodated?

2 A. Yeah.

3 Q. Did you form any impression as to how many boys may have
4 been there when you were there?

5 A. Well over 100.

6 Q. It had to accommodate that sort of number of boys?

7 A. Yeah, because there was three or four wings full of
8 dormitories.

9 Q. Can I just ask you about the staff. These were civilian
10 staff?

11 A. Yeah.

12 Q. Who was SNR [REDACTED], who was SNR [REDACTED]?

13 A. There was a Mr LQT [REDACTED] who was the SNR [REDACTED].
14 I remember him very well. There was a few other men in
15 charge as well.

16 Q. You mention in your statement a Mr GIA [REDACTED]
17 a Mr MKI [REDACTED] --

18 A. Mr GIA [REDACTED]. Mr MKI [REDACTED] was a schoolteacher, so he was.

19 Q. You also mention a Mr Docherty.

20 A. Mr Docherty was another schoolteacher.

21 Q. Was the same staff the same the two times you were
22 there?

23 A. Sorry?

24 Q. Was it the same staff who were there?

25 A. All the same, yes.

1 Q. Did you wet the bed?

2 A. Yes.

3 Q. Was the dormitory that you were placed in specifically

4 for boys who wet the bed?

5 A. There was a few. Not in Larchgrove. There was not

6 a specific dormitory for that in Larchgrove that

7 I remember, but other places there was, yes.

8 Q. You go on in your statement to tell us about the

9 routine, for example, older children went to work in

10 work parties?

11 A. Yeah. There was a garden party, there was schooling.

12 There was other classes like -- maybe toy making or

13 something like that, woodwork.

14 Q. You at the age of 13, did you go to school?

15 A. Yeah.

16 Q. You tell us about bedtime and sometimes there would be

17 fights between gangs of boys?

18 A. Yeah.

19 Q. Was there a gang culture there?

20 A. There was a gang culture, yeah.

21 Q. Would these fights take place in the evening?

22 A. Yes.

23 Q. Was Mr MKI your teacher?

24 A. Mr MKI -- Mr MKI and Mr Docherty, they had two

25 different classes running at the same time. Maybe one

1 was for maths and one was for maybe geography or history
2 or whatever the case may be. So if you were going for
3 history, say, you would go to Mr Docherty's, if you were
4 going for maths, maybe go to Mr MKI 's. It would
5 change through the week, every day of the week.

6 Q. You have indicated the periods that you spent there
7 which are relatively short periods, but were you ever
8 visited by a social worker during either of these
9 periods?

10 A. To be honest with you, I can't remember being in front
11 of a social worker. There was one social worker who
12 was -- I think maybe I've seen him a couple of times
13 before I went to the Larchgrove establishment, but
14 I never ever seen him after that.

15 Q. You have talked about bed wetting and --

16 A. My bed wetting didn't start until that happened in my
17 primary school, because of what the nuns did to me.
18 That's when my bed wetting started.

19 Q. How did you find bed wetting was being treated when you
20 were in Larchgrove?

21 A. It was quite embarrassing, yeah.

22 Q. In what way?

23 A. Maybe with other inmates recognising what had happened
24 to you and maybe saying this or that in regards to
25 wetting the bed, just calling out to you and just names.

1 Q. You were being ridiculed by other boys?

2 A. Yeah, yeah.

3 Q. Can I just ask you what you mean by this in paragraph 48
4 of the statement, this is when you are looking at
5 discipline:

6 'I think the staff in there tried to be
7 preventative. They would smack you if you were out of
8 line. That happened to me a few times.'

9 When you use the word 'preventative', what do you
10 mean?

11 A. Maybe they were trying to be -- prevent you from getting
12 into trouble, you know, things like that.

13 Q. I do want to ask you about other things that happened to
14 you when you were in Larchgrove and you tell us about
15 that in your statement.

16 In particular, you begin by saying Mr MKI was
17 a bad man?

18 A. Yeah.

19 Q. Can you just develop that for me?

20 A. On a couple of occasions Mr MKI -- I've seen him
21 doing it before with other children, before he came
22 across me, recognised me as being in his class.

23 They seemed to be all small children. He would
24 leave the taller ones -- he wouldn't mess about with the
25 taller children. It was all small children that he

1 would keep back, while all the other children were gone.
2 He would tell them to stay back, because -- and he would
3 make up an excuse like your schooling has to be looked
4 at, maybe you've made mistakes here and there and he
5 would go through your jotters with you, but he would be
6 sitting next to you. He would tell you to come to his
7 desk and he'd sit you down next to him, like that
8 closeness and he'd go through -- you're not doing this
9 right. Then he would touch you and things like that.

10 Q. What did he do to you, are you able to tell us?

11 A. He would force -- he forced me to touch him on several
12 occasions.

13 Q. Are you able to describe that in any more detail?

14 A. He forced me to touch his penis on several occasions.
15 That's really about it.

16 Q. You say this happened on several occasions?

17 A. Yes, yes.

18 Q. Was he erect when this happened?

19 A. Yes, he was.

20 Q. You've told us that you saw him keep other boys back?

21 A. Yes.

22 Q. Would it always be just a single boy that was kept back?

23 A. Yes.

24 Q. In your dormitory, were there a range of ages of boys?

25 A. Yes.

1 Q. Was there an occasion when an older boy tried do
2 something to you?
3 A. Yes.
4 Q. What happened?
5 A. He started touching me, started touching my penis,
6 grabbing my hand to touch his, you know, in a sexual way
7 and that went on for a while until, you know, I would
8 really make a move to stop him from doing it and then
9 there would be violence after that.
10 Q. Would you fight with him?
11 A. Yeah.
12 Q. To stop him?
13 A. Obviously, he was a bigger boy, do you know what I mean,
14 he was quite well -- I was only, I don't know how you
15 would describe me, but I was quite a small kid, a small
16 structural kid.
17 Q. This was a bigger and older boy that was trying do this?
18 A. Yeah, yeah, yeah.
19 Q. In relation to how staff behaved towards boys,
20 particularly if boys were fighting and so on, how did
21 staff behave towards such boys?
22 A. On one occasion I seen -- no, on a couple of occasions
23 I've seen boys fighting with staff, big boys, bigger
24 boys obviously and they were quite serious, the fights
25 that I've seen with these guys, these boys, with the

1 staff and then the other staff would come up and grab
2 the boy and take them -- there was a cell. There was
3 a cell in Larchgrove that they put these people into,
4 you know, a separate cell, just for one person, whatever
5 the case may be.

6 They kept them there until they were going to
7 transfer them. These kind of guys got transferred to
8 another institution right away, like Longriggend or --
9 you know, another closed unit that could handle
10 a certain person better.

11 Q. Were these violent occasions when you saw these events?

12 A. Yeah.

13 Q. Did you witness --

14 A. Yes.

15 Q. You tell us that you were never violent, you kept
16 yourself to yourself?

17 A. Yes.

18 Q. After you had been out of Larchgrove, did you then get
19 back into trouble and were you remanded to Howdenhall
20 Assessment Centre?

21 A. Yes.

22 Q. You ended up in Howdenhall for about 17 weeks or so?

23 A. Yes.

24 Q. Although essentially it was a place where it ought to be
25 a shorter period of assessment?

1 A. Yeah.

2 Q. Do you know why it took so long for you to --

3 A. They were waiting on a space at an Approved School,
4 which took so long. That's the reason why it took so
5 long. They were waiting on a space for me.

6 Q. What sort of establishment was it?

7 A. Howdenhall?

8 Q. Was it a more modern-type building than Larchgrove?

9 A. I would say it was very similar to Larchgrove, the
10 building, as far as the building was concerned. It was
11 quite similar. It looked more relaxed to me than
12 Larchgrove. It was more open. Some of the staff were
13 really good.

14 Q. Can you tell me numbers wise how many -- I think it was
15 all boys again --

16 A. No, no, no there were girls as well.

17 Q. How many were then, boys and girls?

18 A. There wasn't many. There was quite a reduced number of
19 boys and girls at Howdenhall at that time.

20 Q. You mention in your statement at paragraph 67 you
21 thought there might have been about 20 to 30 boys?

22 A. Yes.

23 Q. A fewer number of girls, was it?

24 A. Yeah, yeah.

25 Q. When you went there first of all, who was in charge?

1 A. There was a Mr HCK , who was in charge. He was quite
2 a regimental type of guy.

3 Q. [REDACTED] during your time?

4 A. [REDACTED] Mr Larson.

5 Q. I'll come to see why [REDACTED].
6 Are you still wetting the bed when you are at
7 Howdenhall?

8 A. Yes.

9 Q. Was the regime different there to what it had been at
10 Larchgrove?

11 A. Yeah, it was a totally different regime. It was more
12 relaxed. You had a good classroom and the teacher
13 there, an old Mr Moyes, he was brilliant, so he was. He
14 was really good.

15 Q. You go on to tell us in your statement, the way you put
16 it is, 'Things were okay to begin with, then they
17 started to go wrong'.

18 A. Yes.

19 Q. What started to go wrong?

20 A. Me and two other children -- I was always musically
21 minded as a child, because I used to listen to the radio
22 when me and my mother were in the house ourselves and
23 I used to watch the television. I used to watch The
24 Beatles at the London Palladium back in 1963 and so
25 I had all this music in my head and I always liked to --

1 to cut a long story short, me and these other two boys,
2 it was only three of us in the dorm and these two boys,
3 if I can remember right, I'm sure they came from another
4 home, you know, like Quarriers, I'm sure they were
5 transferred from Quarriers Homes to Howdenhall.
6 I'm sure -- I definitely met two boys that was there
7 anyway from Quarriers.

8 The two boys anyway that were in my dormitory, we
9 were singing one night and it was about 12 o'clock at
10 night but we were singing very -- I don't think we were
11 singing loud. We were singing quite low, because we
12 knew all the other children in the dormitories, they
13 would be sleeping and the door opened and this Mr HCK
14 came in and he says, 'Come on, out, the three of you'.
15 We had these thin worn out striped pyjamas on, you know,
16 cotton, all washed out and very thin. You could put
17 your fingers through them.

18 He has told us to come out in the corridor and all
19 the lights were out, except for maybe one light or
20 something like that, like a bulb or something. So it
21 was quite dark and he told us to -- there were tiles on
22 the floor and he's told us to line up on this line, the
23 three of us, and then they told us to touch our toes and
24 he had a school strap, you know, the leather ones?

25 Q. It was known as the 'tawse'?

1 A. Yes, with the tongs, and he leathered our buttocks with
2 them a few times, which created black and blue welts.

3 Q. Was he coming down with some force?

4 A. Yes.

5 Q. Can you describe, was he --

6 A. He was a very tall man. If you can imagine a tall man
7 coming down on a young child who was very small and his
8 buttocks are there and he's leathering one after the
9 other, just unstoppable force coming down from his
10 shoulders and I remember looking round at the same time
11 as if to say, when is he going to stop, you know what
12 I mean and he'd go to the other boy and I would be lying
13 on the floor in agony.

14 Q. Were you crying?

15 A. Yeah, I was screaming.

16 Q. And the other boys?

17 A. They were the same. They were the same. And he told us
18 to get into dormitory and I remember him saying, 'You
19 could have woke up all the other children by singing',
20 and I'm saying, well if he's saying we could have woken
21 up, what has he just done? You know what I mean? It
22 was like as if he is contradicting himself against us,
23 do you know, by saying that.

24 Q. Did you tell me a moment ago that you had marks of
25 injury, particularly on your --

1 A. Welts, black and blue welts across my buttocks and
2 I think the two boys -- something happened anyway and
3 the police got involved.

4 Q. Can you tell me what happened then when the police got
5 involved?

6 A. The police came in. They took the three of us to,
7 I think it was either -- I don't know if it was maybe
8 Edinburgh High Court building or something to do with
9 photography, a police photography building and they took
10 photographs of us and a couple of days later Mr HCK
11 was sacked on the spot, so he was. He was told to leave
12 the job. I don't know, still to this day, if he was
13 charged with anything or ... I've tried to archive, but
14 I've never been able to find anything.

15 Q. Was this then when Mr Larson [REDACTED]?

16 A. Yes.

17 Q. Did Mr Larson ask you to go to his office?

18 A. Yes.

19 Q. What was his reasoning behind that?

20 A. He had told me it when he took me to his office, he says
21 because I was the only child from Glasgow in this place.
22 All the rest were from East Lothian or other -- and
23 Edinburgh or other places outwith and he sat me down and
24 he says, listen, he says, 'What happened to you is --
25 nothing like that is ever going to happen to you again

1 as long as I'm here'.

2 He says, 'You'll be looked after'. He said so
3 I don't want you to worry about anything like that
4 again. You know, words to that effect.

5 Q. Did he apologise?

6 A. He apologised to me for what happened, yes.

7 Q. Thereafter, did you have a sense that he was looking out
8 for you?

9 A. Definitely. Every day for 17 weeks after that and he
10 used to come into -- there was a common room where we
11 all sat and played draughts or chess, there was
12 a snooker table, there was a pool table. It was called
13 the common room, where all the children would all
14 congregate and there would be a number of staff there
15 looking after the children as well in this common room.

16 He would come in every day, because he did a round.
17 He always walked about the place just to make sure -- he
18 would always come up to me and say, 'How are you? Are
19 you okay?' You know, every day he would, without --
20 never a day went by without him asking if I was okay,
21 you know what I mean. He was quite caring that way and
22 I got on great with him, you know, he was a good guy.

23 Q. In the early period when you were at Howdenhall, you
24 mention another civilian, Mr LWI ?

25 A. Mr LWI .

1 Q. What happened in connection with Mr LWI ?

2 A. Mr LWI , to me when I look back on it, I felt as if --

3 Mr LWI was a sort of a guy that was maybe ex-military

4 as well, it was as if something had went wrong in his

5 life and he was maybe taking it out on children. That's

6 the only way I can describe this guy.

7 Q. What would happen?

8 A. I mean, children are children at the end of the day. If

9 he heard a child swearing, like he did with me,

10 I would -- I got into an argument over maybe a chess

11 game or a draughts or whatever the case may be and

12 I would swear, you know, saying a swear word and Mr LWI

13 would hear it and he would just lash out at you and --

14 Q. How would he lash out at you?

15 A. With his hand.

16 Q. Which part of your body?

17 A. Here. (Indicated)

18 Q. The side of your face?

19 A. Yeah.

20 Q. The side of your head?

21 A. Yes. And it would be a full force, but if you're

22 a child thinking you're on a chair, you're going on the

23 floor, which I did.

24 Q. Did this happen to you on more than one occasion?

25 A. I think maybe two or three times.

1 Q. Did you see if he did this to other boys?

2 A. He did it to other children as well. I'm sure he did,
3 yes. He was quite strict that way, so he was.

4 Q. Then coming back to Mr Larson, the way you describe him
5 in paragraph 106 is:

6 'He was the perfect kind of person to be working in
7 a care institution, because he cared for the children.'

8 A. Yes. Can I just say something?

9 Q. Of course.

10 A. The scenario with Mr LWI happened ██████████ Mr Larson
11 ██████████.

12 Q. I understand that. That's why I was going to take you
13 to paragraph 108, because you say there that --

14 A. I didn't mention to Mr Larson about Mr LWI's carry on.

15 Q. Nevertheless what you tell us at 108 is that Mr LWI
16 never hit you again after Mr Larson --

17 A. That's right.

18 Q. -- was in harness?

19 A. That's right. Because it was if he seen that Mr Larson
20 was coming to me every day and asking me if everything
21 was all right, so that's probably why Mr LWI -- plus
22 the fact I had sort of calmed down after it as well,
23 because of what had happened to me with Mr HCK. So
24 I wasn't a sweary child anymore. It was if as if I was
25 thanking Mr Larson for maybe understanding and --

1 because -- I mean, I put my hands up to the type of
2 person that I was, the child I was and I was quite
3 unruly as a child.

4 I'd run away from home, from Glasgow to Edinburgh
5 and that's the reason why I ended up in Howdenhall.

6 LADY SMITH: Is it possible also, 'Neil', that the Larson
7 regime, if I can call it that, was just a better regime?
8 Everybody behaved better, including the other staff.

9 A. Definitely. It was if Mr Larson had got the staff
10 together and told them, 'This is the way this place is
11 going to be run'.

12 LADY SMITH: And set a better example himself?

13 A. Oh, definitely.

14 LADY SMITH: Possibly?

15 A. Yes.

16 MR MACAULAY: Then, after Howdenhall and the lengthy period
17 you spent there as it turned out, you were sent to
18 St Joseph's?

19 A. Yes.

20 Q. You have a date for that, where you tell us you arrived
21 at St Joseph's on [REDACTED] 1970?

22 A. Yeah.

23 Q. You were still 13 at that time?

24 A. Yes.

25 Q. As we know, St Joseph's at that time was being run by

1 the De La Salle Brothers?

2 A. It was known as an intermediate residential
3 establishment.

4 Q. Insofar as the accommodation is concerned, it was
5 a large establishment?

6 A. Yes, to me it was, as a child, yes.

7 Q. When you went there, were the dormitories in the main
8 building?

9 A. Yes. There was actually a main building and there were
10 two cottages, north and south, which also had
11 dormitories in them.

12 Q. When you went there, did you go into a dormitory in the
13 main building?

14 A. I went into a dormitory in the main building to start
15 with.

16 Q. Was the establishment, if I can call it that, divided
17 into four separate houses?

18 A. Yes.

19 Q. You would be housed in one of these?

20 A. I was -- I was in the De La Salle House.

21 Q. How many boys were in each house?

22 A. So I would say 20-odd.

23 Q. There were quite a number of boys there altogether?

24 A. Definitely.

25 Q. It was all boys were you were there?

1 A. All boys.

2 Q. The age range, can you remember?

3 A. From 12 to 14.

4 Q. Were you still wetting the bed --

5 A. Yes, I was.

6 Q. Was there a particular dormitory that accommodated those

7 who wet the bed?

8 A. Yes, the first dormitory that I was put into wasn't

9 a wet-the-bed, but as soon as they found out that I wet

10 the bed I was transferred into this other dormitory

11 which was just for wet-the-beds.

12 Q. Did that dormitory have a name?

13 A. Yes.

14 Q. What was that?

15 A. Killiecrankie.

16 Q. How were bed wetters treated at St Joseph's?

17 A. They weren't treated in a bad way, with other children,

18 if that's what you mean?

19 Q. Yes.

20 A. It was quite an accepted thing, because some of the

21 people who were in the wet-the-bed dorm were children

22 that were well got and who had -- they could -- they

23 were well known in the establishment and they were also

24 well known on the streets.

25 Q. Why did that make a difference?

1 A. From the families that they came from, they were
2 respected by other criminals, but maybe, you know, in
3 that regard.

4 Q. Let's look at the staff for a moment or two, 'Neil'.
5 You say in your statement that SNR [REDACTED], when
6 you were there, was Brother MDC ?

7 A. Yes.

8 Q. You describe him as a very strict, but fair man?
9 A. Yes.

10 Q. Did each house that we talked about, have a housemaster?
11 A. Yes.

12 Q. Who was your housemaster?
13 A. Mr GVW [REDACTED].

14 Q. That was a civilian?
15 A. Yes.

16 Q. Did any houses have a Brother as the housemaster?
17 A. Yes, there was a Brother MJF [REDACTED] who had St Andrew's
18 House.
19 I think Brother Benedict had Columba's or
20 St Ninian's House.
21 I was in the De La Salle House, who was Mr GVW [REDACTED]'s.
22 He was the head of that. There was four houses.

23 Q. You have mentioned a couple of Brothers there,
24 Brother Benedict and you have talked about Brother MDC [REDACTED].
25 In your statement you mention another Brother,

1 Brother HED ?

2 A. Brother HED .

3 Q. Brother zMBZ ?

4 A. Brother zMBZ , Brother LUU , Brother MJJ .

5 There was a Brother zGTQ who nobody ever saw. He

6 was kept away from everybody in the top of the main

7 building somewhere. He was looked after by the Brothers

8 for some reason or another, he was old and --

9 Q. He had nothing to do with the running of the

10 establishment?

11 A. He had nothing to do with the running.

12 Q. Can I ask you a little bit about the daily routine,

13 'Neil'. Let's look at the mornings.

14 How are you managed in the mornings when you had to

15 get up?

16 A. You got up, you made your bed, you went down to the main

17 hall. Obviously they probably did a count of each hall

18 ... each house.

19 Q. Would somebody come to wake you up in the morning?

20 A. Yeah.

21 Q. Who would do that?

22 A. Either one of the Brothers or one of the housemasters.

23 Q. In the evening then, when it was bedtime, how was that

24 managed?

25 A. Everybody was sent to their dorms at a certain time.

1 Q. Who would be involved in the management of boys going to
2 bed?

3 A. Either one of the housemasters or one of the Brothers.

4 Q. You tell us about schooling and in particular you
5 identify a Ms Reynolds, who you say was a great class
6 teacher?

7 A. Yeah. She was good. She played the piano. She was
8 good with the piano, so she was. She used to have
9 singing lessons.

10 Q. That appealed to you because of your interest in music?

11 A. Yeah, yeah.

12 Q. You may have covered this already and I want to be
13 clear, did you get any visits at all while at
14 St Joseph's from any social worker?

15 A. I can't remember.

16 Q. But you would get home leave to go and see your family?

17 A. Yeah, yeah.

18 Q. You go on to talk about abuse at St Joseph's. You begin
19 by telling us about Brother Benedict and that he used to
20 run an electronics class?

21 A. Yes.

22 Q. Can you just describe that for me?

23 A. Brother Benedict was more of a joker than I would say
24 an abuser, because he looked upon his abuse as a joke.
25 He thought he was joking all the time and he used to

1 laugh at it, the way he laughed at it. I don't know if
2 this guy was insane or whatever.

3 But whenever I used to look at him and how --
4 I always go -- I don't even know what the saying meant
5 at the time, but when I look back on it from today the
6 way he used to -- he would pull tricks on you, so he
7 would. He would make you touch things that give you
8 an electric shock or he would grab you by the sides of
9 the hair and lift you right off the ground and just drop
10 you.

11 He was very strict, Brother Benedict, in certain
12 ways and other ways he was -- there was definitely
13 something wrong with the guy.

14 Q. If we look at the electrical side. What did he do as
15 far as you are concerned?

16 A. He had these contraptions. He gave them nicknames, so
17 he did, these contraptions that he used to build. And
18 he would tell you how to do it and he'd make you touch
19 this or something like that, that gave you an electric
20 shock. I can't remember the exact details of it, but it
21 was all a game. It was a big game to Brother Benedict.

22 It was as if he was just pulling some sort of
23 a score over you, you know what I mean, just to teach
24 you a lesson or something like that.

25 Q. When these electric shocks were delivered, would other

1 boys be there with you?

2 A. Yeah.

3 Q. What would the set-up be, how would you have set up?

4 A. It was like a bench. There were benches, so there was.

5 Woodwork benches. It was a classroom, so it was.

6 Q. Would there be times when you were asked to hold hands

7 with each other?

8 A. Yeah.

9 Q. Why was that? What was the purpose behind that?

10 A. It was just to create the shock treatment. So that the

11 transfer of the electricity would transfer from each

12 person.

13 Q. Would there be a boy at each end who had --

14 A. That did happen on one occasion that I can remember,

15 with the classroom, with the holding the hands, but

16 again, as I says at the start, he was more of a joker to

17 me than an abuser.

18 Q. Were the shocks painful?

19 A. I wouldn't say they were painful. I'd say they were

20 like just a -- just like maybe if you've touched a live

21 wire then you get a shock off it. It's like that.

22 Q. How long would this --

23 A. You would pull away quite rapidly from something like

24 that, you wouldn't prolong it.

25 LADY SMITH: Were you able to pull away easily?

1 A. Yes.

2 LADY SMITH: Thank you.

3 MR MACAULAY: Did Brother Benedict have a nickname?

4 A. Yes, he did.

5 Q. What was that?

6 A. Bootsie.

7 Q. You do mention in your statement that he was a very
8 violent man in the way he manhandled and punched boys?

9 A. I've seen him being violent, yes.

10 Q. Can you describe that for me?

11 A. That was -- on certain occasions, I didn't see a lot of
12 it coming from him, but what I did see was quite
13 violent.

14 Q. What did you see?

15 A. I've seen him punching, grabbing children with the hair
16 and swinging them about and stuff like that.

17 Q. You mentioned the lifting up off the ground?

18 A. Yeah.

19 Q. Did that happen to you?

20 A. Yes.

21 Q. Was it painful?

22 A. Yes.

23 Q. How would you describe the regime?

24 A. I thought it was quite a tough regime and after it I was
25 like that, I was wondering how -- I mean to survive --

1 you are only a child remember and to survive such
2 a regime like that is -- I used to think that it was
3 something else, that it was ... you were lucky to
4 survive, because of -- because of what happened. If you
5 come out of it a stronger person.

6 Q. We'll come on to some other aspects of what happened to
7 you in a moment. If I leave Brother Benedict aside and
8 look at something that happened to you on the bus.

9 Can you tell me what happened on that occasion?

10 A. Children again all carrying on on the bus -- St Joseph's
11 had the old bus they used to transport you from East
12 Lothian to the old Buchanan Street Bus Station, back in
13 the day.

14 LADY SMITH: Buchanan Street, Glasgow?

15 A. Yes.

16 It's not like the new one, ma'am. It was more like
17 a taxi rank, so it was. And they used to transport you
18 there. Drop you off. You would go down Buchanan Street
19 and get the subway home and then come back at the end of
20 the weekend and they would take you back and sometimes
21 they would take you here or there, take you runs, maybe
22 out to Port Seton, Berwick-upon-Tweed, Gullane Sands,
23 out for the day, a day's run here. Take you to some
24 establishments like -- there is a monastery somewhere,
25 in Edinburgh somewhere, I can't remember the name of it,

1 it was where all the nuns were.

2 Q. Was there one particular occasion when the boys were
3 being noisy?

4 A. Yeah, they were all carrying on and there was this guy,
5 Mr MJN [REDACTED], he was a teacher, he taught there, and he
6 just lashed out at me. I was just sitting there
7 quietly. I wasn't carrying on or anything like that.
8 I ended up in there with a perforated eardrum because of
9 the violence of the slap that he gave me.

10 Q. Were you in pain for quite a period of time?

11 A. Yeah.

12 Q. Can I ask you about another Brother, Brother zMBZ [REDACTED]. Did
13 anything happen in connection with Brother zMBZ [REDACTED] ?

14 A. Yes, we were carrying on -- I was in one of the new
15 wings, one of the ... south cottages or something, north
16 or south cottage at the time, I had left the main
17 building and we were carrying on, we were having a carry
18 on in the dormitory and he came in and give me a few
19 punches here and there.

20 Q. Did that happen once or more than once?

21 A. To be honest, I can't really remember about how many
22 times Brother zMBZ [REDACTED] would be like that, so it could only
23 have been the once.

24 Q. Did you see him striking other boys?

25 A. Not that I can remember.

1 Q. Would he be saying anything to you when he did this?
2 Was he saying anything?

3 A. I can't remember what he actually said. He did say
4 something, but it was too long ago to remember what it
5 was.

6 Q. Another Brother I want to ask you about is
7 Brother [REDACTED], did you come across Brother [REDACTED]?

8 A. Yes, I did. He was like Brother Benedict, so he was, in
9 his attitude towards the children.

10 Q. Can you explain?

11 A. This guy was totally insane, definitely.
12 Brother [REDACTED] had been transferred from St Ninian's
13 Approved School for being totally violent to children in
14 that school. This is what I'm hearing. This is what
15 all the children heard about Brother [REDACTED], so I don't
16 know if there's any truth in this.

17 Q. How did he behave towards boys at St Joseph's?

18 A. Very violently.

19 Q. Can you just describe what happened?

20 A. He would be -- he was another brother who would grab you
21 by the side of the hair and lift you just like one side.
22 He was very strong man, so he was, Brother [REDACTED], but
23 he would look at you with these mad eyes, so he would,
24 and he was quite frightening. He was quite
25 a frightening-looking man. They had these cassocks on,

1 these black cassocks that went right down -- you
2 couldn't see their shoes, you know what I mean, but
3 there was a swing to them as well. There was -- and
4 with the white collar here. So it was like --
5 reassembled a nun's habit, but obviously not that, just
6 the collar, with the black smock.

7 Q. You have mentioned the lifting then with the sideburns.
8 Did you see him do any other --

9 A. Yes, he was violent with his fists as well.

10 Q. Did he hit you?

11 A. I think Brother LUU hit me a couple of times.

12 Q. Did you see him hit other boys?

13 A. And other boys.

14 Q. With fists?

15 A. Yes.

16 Q. If a boy misbehaved or there was fighting could you be
17 sent to SNR ?

18 A. Yes.

19 Q. Did that happen to you?

20 A. On a couple of occasions.

21 Q. Were you being sent there to be punished?

22 A. Yes, you got the strap.

23 Q. Where would you get the strap?

24 A. Depending on Brother MDC whatever mood he was in, and
25 I still say to this day that I liked Brother MDC.

1 I thought he was an okay Brother, because he was fair in
2 the way -- if you were fighting, then you deserve some
3 sort of a punishment I would say, you know what I mean,
4 but if you pulled away your hands then he would strike
5 you across the legs or -- because you wore shorts in the
6 Approved School. All the children had shorts on, so
7 they did. So your legs were bare and he would hit you
8 across the legs with the strap if he couldn't get you
9 elsewhere.

10 Q. Did that happen to you?

11 A. Yes.

12 MR MACAULAY: My Lady, that's coming up to 3 o'clock.

13 LADY SMITH: Would that be a good place to break?

14 You will remember, 'Neil', I said earlier I normally
15 take a break at this time, if that would work okay for
16 you we'll do that just now.

17 Five or ten minutes.

18 (3.00 pm)

19 (A short break)

20 (3.10 pm)

21 LADY SMITH: 'Neil', I hope the break was of some help to
22 you.

23 A. I had a cup of tea, ma'am.

24 LADY SMITH: Good. I hoped you would. Are you ready for us
25 to carry on?

1 A. Yes.

2 LADY SMITH: Mr MacAulay.

3 MR MACAULAY: My Lady.

4 When you were in the Killiecrankie dormitory, was it
5 gowns you wore in bed?

6 A. Yes, they were -- we used to call them 'Willie Winkie
7 gowns'.

8 Q. Was there a particular Brother who would come into the
9 dormitory to check the beds?

10 A. Yes.

11 Q. Who was that?

12 A. Brother HED.

13 Q. Was HED short for --

14 A. HED

15 Q. What would he do?

16 A. He would check every child's bed to see if they were
17 wet.

18 Q. Can I just ask you to describe, look into your own
19 experience, what he did?

20 A. He would always -- he would give you a little -- he
21 would touch the bed to see if you were wet, then he
22 would wake you up and he would tell you to be quiet, so
23 that you didn't waken up any of the other children. He
24 would tell you to get out of bed, take your wet sheets
25 and he would take you to a shower room where there was

1 a linen cupboard and he would make you shower and he
2 would be standing there while you're showering.

3 And he would watch you and he would eventually take
4 you to the linen cupboard to get you a new gown, and new
5 sheets, clean sheets to make up your bed again.

6 Q. When he felt the bed would he touch you?

7 A. Yes, he did.

8 Q. What part of the body would he make contact with?

9 A. Your penis and --

10 Q. Was there any reason why he would have to touch your
11 penis?

12 A. No.

13 Q. Once you had your new nightgown, would you then go back
14 to the dormitory?

15 A. To start with, yes.

16 Q. Did that change?

17 A. Yes.

18 Q. What happened?

19 A. On several occasions he would make you touch him, the
20 touching went on for over a year.

21 Q. When you say he would make you touch him?

22 A. Yes.

23 Q. Where would you have to touch him?

24 A. His penis.

25 Q. Carry on.

1 A. I mean, this went on for a year, although the touching
2 of him didn't go on for that amount of time, but him
3 touching you went on for over -- nearly over a year,
4 every night. He would touch you between your legs.

5 Q. Was that in the bed?

6 A. Yes.

7 Q. What about out of the bed when you were -- had had your
8 shower, would there be any touching then?

9 A. Yes, he would touch you then, when you came out the
10 shower.

11 Q. Where would he touch you?

12 A. Everywhere below, your penis, your backside.

13 Q. When you had to touch his penis, did he have
14 an erection?

15 A. Yes, he did.

16 Q. Did he ejaculate?

17 A. I can't remember.

18 Q. The touching of you went on I think you said for a year
19 or so, whereas the touching of you of him --

20 A. That was irregular.

21 Q. What was your reaction to this behaviour?

22 A. As a child, I knew that it was wrong. I knew that it --
23 to me it was something that was never going to come out
24 in the open. It was never going to be known about. It
25 was going to be forgotten about. But that's not the

1 case. That was never the case, because the other
2 children that it happened to in that dormitory with
3 Brother HED they were going through the same as me,
4 because as soon as I went back to sleep he would go on
5 to the next bed. I fell asleep very quickly, as far as
6 I can remember.

7 Q. Did you see him take other children --

8 A. On several -- on several occasions I did see him taking
9 other children, so I can't say that I witnessed what
10 happened. I can only witness what I have seen, because
11 I knew that he would be touching the children again, the
12 same as what he did with me and if they were wet, he was
13 taking that child with him to go through the same
14 procedure as what I went through with the shower, the
15 changing of the bedding, whatever happened there I can't
16 say, because we never ever -- the children never ever
17 discussed it between each other what actually happened.
18 It was kept -- you didn't want to. You were embarrassed
19 to say things that something had -- somebody had done to
20 you or made you do or, you know, coerced you into doing
21 something that you didn't want to do.

22 Q. Did you, so far as these episodes with Brother HED
23 are concerned, mention these to anybody during your time
24 at St Joseph's?

25 A. No.

1 Q. Can I also ask you about Brother MJJ ?

2 A. Yes.

3 Q. What can you tell me about Brother MJJ ?

4 A. Brother MJJ was -- he had to do with some of the

5 records of some of the children. He used to stand

6 outside his office when the children were all playing in

7 the playground at football, because there were hundreds

8 of footballs there and there was always a race to get to

9 the football basket to get a ball to play with.

10 Sometimes that ended up in a scrummage with all the

11 kids, but Brother MJJ would -- obviously if you

12 were new to the establishment then he would know which

13 child was new and what children were new and he would

14 have a list of them. He would call you in, these -- he

15 would call you in to go through some records, like

16 whatever the case may be.

17 Q. Did that happen to you?

18 A. Yes, it did.

19 Q. Can you tell me what happened once you were in his

20 office?

21 A. Brother MJJ was a touchy-feely Brother, so he was.

22 He was always putting his arms around you, even in the

23 yard, he would put his arms as if he was just carrying

24 on with you, but he was a touchy-feely sort of

25 a Brother.

1 When he got you into the office he would sit you on
2 his knee. He was like that. And he was -- the exact
3 same as what happened with Brother HED happened with
4 Brother MJJ .

5 Q. What did happen?

6 A. He made me touch him.

7 Q. Did he have an erection?

8 A. Yes.

9 Q. Do you know if he ejaculated?

10 A. I can't remember.

11 Q. What about you, did he touch you?

12 A. He would put his hands round, up between my legs.

13 Q. As far as this happening to you would be concerned, did
14 this happen once or more than once?

15 A. With Brother MJJ , I think it only happened the
16 once with Brother MJJ . I'm sure it only happened
17 the once. I can't remember.

18 Q. Was that early on in your time at St Joseph's?

19 A. Yes.

20 Q. Did you see him summon other boys to his office?

21 A. Yes.

22 Q. Would these be boys who were perhaps just newly there?

23 A. Yes.

24 I knew it was going on in the whole establishment.

25 I knew that Brother MDC knew what was going on in the

1 establishment.

2 Q. How did you know that?

3 A. It was if they were running the establishment the way
4 they wanted. Brother MDC was the type of guy who
5 would -- you would see him at his office window all the
6 time, every day, looking down on the playground, looking
7 what was going on. If someone was running away, trying
8 to escape from the establishment, there was certain
9 prefects who were established by the Brothers, because
10 they were tall, big and strong.

11 Q. Were they older boys?

12 A. Older, maybe by a year or so, but tall and big and
13 structured. More like the bullying type of boy, as far
14 as -- most of the establishment were kids that were
15 small, smaller than them, much smaller than them.

16 Q. Did you experience anything then from the prefects?

17 A. Yes.

18 Q. What happened to you?

19 A. The exact same thing that would happen with
20 Brother HED and Brother MJJ .

21 Q. Did that involve sexual acts?

22 A. Yes.

23 Q. Were these sexual acts that you had to perform on them?

24 A. Yes.

25 Q. Where did this happen?

1 A. What they would do -- I mean, personally, I tried to
2 escape a few times. I made it to Glasgow on a couple of
3 occasions to escape from all the abuse that was going on
4 in the school.

5 They would chase you. If you were seen to be
6 escaping by the Brothers, they would automatically --
7 the Brothers, who were always in the yard, there was
8 always a few Brothers or civilian teachers there as well
9 in the yard and they would send the prefects out to run
10 after you and bring you back.

11 Q. Did that happen to you?

12 A. Yes.

13 Q. What happened when that --

14 A. Before they would bring you back they would force you to
15 have a -- to perform sexual acts on them.

16 Q. Are you able to describe what happened?

17 A. They would get you to masturbate for them.

18 Q. When you say 'they', would there be more than one?

19 A. More than one prefect?

20 Q. Yes.

21 A. Yes.

22 Q. Engaged in this activity at the same time?

23 A. Yes.

24 Q. How often did that happen to you?

25 A. Just a few times, a couple of times.

1 Q. Do you know if this happened to other boys?

2 A. Yes, on a daily event, more, yeah, definitely, maybe
3 a couple of times, several times a week, maybe three or
4 four times a week.

5 Q. Was this well known within the school?

6 A. It was well known and I know that for a fact that
7 Brother MDC knew what was going on.

8 Q. How can you say that? How do you know that?

9 A. It's just the feelings I had. When I look back on it
10 and I can see the way the regime was being run and
11 Brother MDC knew the prefects were there to run. He
12 didn't need to use his staff. He knew. It was if -- he
13 knew that the brothers knew that these prefects were
14 breaking down the hearts of these young kids, so that
15 they could be abused by them as well.

16 That's just my personal feelings on it. That's the
17 way I seen the outlook on it.

18 Q. When you ran away on occasions did you, as it were, get
19 away?

20 A. Yes, I did.

21 Q. Is it the occasions that you didn't get very far that
22 this behaviour would occur, because the prefects would
23 catch up with you?

24 A. Yes.

25 Q. Was that the same with other boys?

1 A. Yes, yes.

2 Q. When you did get away, would you then be eventually
3 caught by the police?

4 A. Yes, yes.

5 Q. Did the police ever ask you why you had run away?

6 A. Never.

7 Q. Did you ever offer to tell them why you'd run away?

8 A. Do you know, I can't remember ever offering to tell them
9 and, to be honest with you, I don't think they would
10 have listened to you.

11 Q. Were you punished then on your return?

12 A. Yes.

13 Q. Who punished you?

14 A. Brother MDC.

15 Q. What was the nature of the punishment?

16 A. The strap.

17 Q. Was that on the hands or the bottom?

18 A. Both.

19 Q. Was that over trousers, if it was the bottom?

20 A. Yes, trousers, the shorts, on the legs.

21 Q. You say at paragraph 168:

22 'The Brothers there were bad people, except
23 Brother MDC who didn't do anything sexual and was
24 strict but fair.'

25 You say that you believe that Brother MDC knew that

1 improper behaviour was going on?

2 A. I know it sounds contradictory to what I'm saying, as
3 far as he was being a fair person, a fair -- there were
4 two sides to the guy. He was fair in some aspects and
5 I can see where you're coming from there and I know it
6 sounds as if he was cruel, he was cruel to be unfair in
7 other aspects with the sexual side of things that was
8 going on and I do -- it's me personally, I feel -- me
9 personally I feel as if he knew.

10 Q. You tell us that you were in St Joseph's for about
11 a year and you were released in ██████████ 1971, just before
12 you were 14?

13 A. Yeah.

14 Q. I think when you went home you were out of care, but you
15 go back into Larchgrove, is that right?

16 A. I went back into Larchgrove for a period of time,
17 I can't remember how long.

18 Q. Was that essentially so social work reports could be
19 obtained?

20 A. For an another Approved School report.

21 Q. You have told us about what happened previously with
22 Mr ██████████. Was he still there when you went back?

23 A. He was still there, but I don't -- I can't remember
24 anything happening on the second occasion, sexually or
25 anything like that. I don't think anything happened

1 then.

2 Q. In any event, you ended up in St John's Residential
3 School in Glasgow, is that right?

4 A. Yes, it was right next door to Larchgrove.

5 Q. You would be about 14 by then?

6 A. Yeah.

7 Q. Although I think we do know it was run by the
8 De La Salle Order?

9 A. It was prior to civilian --

10 Q. But it was civilian run when you went there?

11 A. Yes. But it was Brother **MDC** actually was at St John's.

12 Q. Before St Joseph's.

13 A. Before he went to St Joseph's.

14 Q. Then you tell us that you were running away and caught
15 and you were reprimanded in Perth Prison for a few
16 weeks?

17 A. Yes.

18 Q. How old were you then when you were in Perth Prison?

19 A. I was 15.

20 Q. That was a new experience for you, because now you were
21 with adults?

22 A. I was still a juvenile, but St John's refused to take me
23 back. I appeared at Dundee Sheriff Court because I had
24 run away. When I ran away from St John's I went to
25 Dundee, with another boy from Dundee and he got caught

1 first and then I got caught and we ended up in
2 Perth Prison in the untried wing. We were only 15 years
3 of age, in amongst adults, adult prisoners, because
4 there was nowhere else they could put us seemingly.
5 I don't know. But I was there for several weeks, until
6 I turned 16.

7 Q. Were you then sent to Polmont?

8 A. I was sent to Polmont Borstal, yeah.

9 Q. I can tell you that Polmont has already been looked at,
10 because it was part of the previous chapter in this case
11 study.

12 My Lady, that was on 15 November last year.

13 LADY SMITH: Thank you.

14 MR MACAULAY: You also spent time in Barlinnie I think; is
15 that correct?

16 A. Yes.

17 Q. What age were you then?

18 A. I was a young offender. So that would be maybe
19 1973/1974. I was still under the age of 18. I was
20 a young offender.

21 Q. You also, I think, ended up in Glenochil?

22 A. Yes.

23 Q. Again, that part of your statement has been looked at
24 and read into the evidence.

25 A. Yeah.

1 Q. Did you start to use heroin?

2 A. Yes, I did.

3 Q. Were you for a while in and out of prison?

4 A. Yes.

5 Q. You tell us in your statement that you stopped getting
6 involved in crime over 20 years ago; is that right?

7 A. Yes.

8 Q. You have been off drugs for something like 20 years as
9 well?

10 A. Yes.

11 Q. In fact, what you do tell us, at paragraph 234, is that
12 around 2011/2012 you were working for the US army in
13 Kuwait?

14 A. Yes.

15 Q. What sort of employment did you have there?

16 A. I was doing class 1 driving with armour-plated trucks.
17 They were like -- they called them 'HETS', it was like
18 short for 'Heavy Equipment Transporter Trucks'. What we
19 were doing was going to the Iraqi border, picking up
20 tanks that had been IEDed, or any other kind of vehicle,
21 maybe an MRAP personnel carrier, other forms, maybe
22 a Humvee that had been bombed or IEDed and we would
23 transport them to another military camp, Camp Virginia
24 or Camp Arifjan, which was in Kuwait, and we would take
25 them back and they would be transported -- we'd

1 transport them to a cargo airport in Kuwait and they
2 would go back to the States in one of those big
3 transporter planes.

4 As far as I was led to believe with the other
5 Americans that I worked with, civilian Americans, who
6 were ex-military, they were all good lads, they were all
7 broken down again and put back together again and all
8 the vehicles would be sent back out, whether it be
9 a tank or whatever the case may be.

10 Q. If you can pardon my ignorance, IED?

11 A. IED is a bomb, I think it's short for 'incendiary
12 device'.

13 Q. Looking at that section of your statement where you talk
14 about the impact being in care has had on you and the
15 abuse you have suffered, what you say at 236 is:

16 'I think about the abuse I suffered in care nearly
17 every day of my life.'

18 A. Yes.

19 Q. Is that the case?

20 A. Yes.

21 Q. You go on to say:

22 'The abuse and what happened to me in care tore away
23 my identity completely.'

24 A. Yes.

25 Q. 'I lost any idea of who I was or what my life was all

1 about. I don't know if I was coming or going or what
2 was right or wrong.'

3 A. Yes.

4 Q. Is that your own feeling about that?

5 A. Yes.

6 Q. You tell us at 242 that you never reported anything to
7 the police or anyone:

8 'I only started speaking about the abuse in the last
9 year.'

10 A. Not in the last year --

11 Q. When you gave the statement, which was in 2021?

12 A. Yes. I spoke to someone called [REDACTED], the first phone
13 call that I made, and --

14 Q. Phone call to whom?

15 A. Sorry?

16 Q. Phone call to whom?

17 A. The -- not Redress, the Child Abuse Inquiry team.

18 Q. Ah, to us.

19 A. Sorry. Her name was [REDACTED] and she was really good and
20 when I was explaining -- talking to her and explaining
21 to her what had happened to me and I was saying that
22 I was sorry and she was saying, 'It's not you that
23 should be sorry, it's the people that abused you that
24 should be saying sorry'. But she was really kind, so
25 she was, and understanding.

1 Q. Was that the first time you spoke about the abuse?

2 A. Yeah, yeah, and it had been probably in the back of my
3 head for all those years, and it was quite difficult to
4 talk about it, you know, when I was talking to [REDACTED],
5 but I'm glad that I spoke to her, you know, and
6 I've managed to get a lot of things off my chest and out
7 of the back of my head that had been buried there for
8 years.

9 Some of the things that I never wanted to remember
10 about -- I didn't want them to come out, do you know
11 what I mean, and there's still stuff there that I've not
12 spoke about.

13 Q. If we look at your final thoughts in your statement,
14 'Neil', at 246 and 247, you say:

15 'The supervision of people who look after children
16 should be very detailed. Their records and history
17 should be looked at in detail so that there is no room
18 for paedophiles to work with children and escape
19 justice.'

20 You end up by saying:

21 'I would hate to see what happened to me happen to
22 any other child, because it is soul destroying.'

23 That is your message, I think, to us, isn't it?

24 A. It's soul destroying every day when you see it, whether
25 it be on the news or even to this day and you see kids

1 being abused and kids dying and all the rest of it and
2 it's -- it is totally soul destroying. It's a shame
3 that people are left in these -- are allowed to be in
4 these establishments and it's still going on today.
5 I mean, let's be honest about this. This is still
6 happening in one way or another, you'll always get them.
7 You'll always find your paedophiles somewhere and
8 they'll always abuse children.

9 They're all over the world, so they are. You'll
10 always get them. It is heartbreaking. I've got seven
11 grandchildren and I know what I would probably --
12 I would probably end up doing a life sentence if
13 anything happened to them. That is the way I feel about
14 it.

15 Q. Thank you for that, 'Neil'. Is there anything else you
16 would like to say to the Inquiry?

17 A. I would just like to say a big thank you to the Inquiry,
18 everybody that's involved in it, Lady Smith, and
19 everybody else, all roundabout, who are working hard to
20 bring this to the attention of everybody.

21 I could have went on about other abuse that
22 happened, but I've just not got it in me to talk about
23 it, but I'm sure you can all imagine what it would be.

24 But I would just like to say thanks.

25 MR MACAULAY: Thank you, 'Neil', for coming here and

1 MR MACAULAY: I think there is time, my Lady, for that to be
2 done.

3 LADY SMITH: Thank you.

4 We left off just as we were approaching
5 paragraph 137.

6 MS MACLEOD: We did, my Lady.

7 'Ray' (read) (continued)

8 MS MACLEOD: Just for the transcript, this is the statement
9 of 'Ray' at WIT.001.003.0771 and I will begin from
10 paragraph 137, page 27, when the witness was being moved
11 from St Philip's School to St Joseph's School in
12 Tranent:

13 'It wasn't that far from Coatbridge to Edinburgh but
14 to a kid it seemed like miles. I went to St Joseph's
15 when I was just 14 years old. I stayed there for a few
16 months in 1974.

17 St Joseph's was another big, old conversion of
18 a mansion. There were three storeys. There were a lot
19 of grounds. It was all boys in St Joseph's. There were
20 about 60 to 80, so it was a big place. There were a lot
21 of younger lads and some older. There was a lot of
22 civilian staff. I never really got to know the place.

23 GZI [REDACTED] was at St Joseph's and, because of that,
24 I ran away.

25 I was taken to St Joseph's in a car by Mr McTaggart.

1 Mr McTaggart said to me I'd have a hard time getting
2 home from this place. We were met at St Joseph's by one
3 of the Brothers. He might have been the head. I felt
4 all right going to St Joseph's until I realised it was
5 run by the De La Salle Brothers again. I realised
6 straightaway when I saw the robes and the collar.

7 I didn't get any explanation about the routine or
8 discipline at St Joseph's. I had to find out about it
9 for myself. I couldn't believe it when I got to
10 St Joseph's and GZI [REDACTED] was there. He had been
11 transferred out of St Ninian's. I don't know why.
12 GZI [REDACTED] told me where I'd be sleeping. My clothes
13 were taken off me and I was given school clothes.

14 We slept in dormitories. There were five or six
15 boys in my dormitory. We were the same age, 13 or
16 14 years old. There were rooms all the way along a big
17 corridor. I don't know who was in charge of what. One
18 day a Brother would come up in the morning. He would
19 tell us to get up, get washed and dressed. The next day
20 it would be civilian staff. There were individual
21 showers.

22 We got up and went down for breakfast on the bottom
23 floor. It was the holidays so there was no school. You
24 could play in the grounds. The food was okay. You
25 weren't forced to eat it. GZI [REDACTED] picked a few lads

1 to go in his car to the beach. One time, he picked me.
2 There were six of us lads in the car. I was in the
3 back. We had a couple of hours out of St Joseph's to
4 where the Rangers footballers trained at Gullane. There
5 were no days out or big coach trips. One of the monks,
6 an old boy, had a dog. He let me take the dog out to
7 the grounds and to Prestonpans.

8 It seemed to me that there was less discipline than
9 there was at St Ninian's. You got pocket money at the
10 weekends, you could buy sweets with it in the tuck shop
11 at St Joseph's or spend it if you were out. If you did
12 something wrong you didn't get didn't any pocket money.
13 I didn't see any smacking of boys by the staff or
14 Brothers.

15 The Brothers didn't force religion on you. I didn't
16 do any chores at St Joseph's.

17 I didn't have any visits from family or Mr McTaggart
18 at St Joseph's. We didn't write letters to family.
19 Social work got you out of the way and washed their
20 hands of you. Mr McTaggart saw me once in over a year.

21 The Brothers let me out for the weekend, one of the
22 Brothers drove me down to my aunty and uncle in
23 Coatbridge, I can't remember his name. The Brothers
24 made me promise to come back. That time I did go back.
25 The Brother who drove me was decent. He was the only

1 one who gave me any advice. The Brother said to come
2 back, keep my nose clean and a few months down the line
3 I could be released from St Joseph's. He said I could
4 be my own man again.

5 I ran away twice from St Joseph's. The reason I ran
6 away was because GZI was at St Joseph's,
7 I didn't want to be near GZI or among Brothers
8 again. The first time four or five of us absconded from
9 St Joseph's. The staff chased us over fields. The
10 Brothers got farmers to get tractors to catch us. We
11 got into Edinburgh and split up.

12 I stole a car and I got caught by the police and
13 taken back to St Joseph's. The police didn't bother
14 asking why I'd run away. The police didn't have a word
15 with the people at St Joseph's. They should have done.
16 The police should have been finding out what was going
17 on and why so many lads were running away. The police
18 took you back and that was you out of their hands.

19 When I got back, the Brothers were scowling at me
20 and not talking. No one sat me down and asked why I had
21 run away. I stayed for a few weeks, then I got home
22 leave for the weekend. I went back to St Joseph's after
23 home leave that time.

24 The second time I ran away I stole a car and drove
25 back to Coatbridge. The police caught me, a message

1 came from the police station and I ended up in
2 Longriggend Remand Centre. If I had been asked then why
3 I was running away, I would have told somebody. I would
4 have told them I was being ill treated at St Joseph's.

5 Nothing abusive happened to me at St Joseph's.
6 GZI stayed away from me at St Joseph's, I was
7 older and wiser and not a ten-year old little boy.
8 I knew what that was about. GZI avoided me, he
9 tried to make friends with me. I think GZI was
10 a bit wary in case I said anything about St Ninian's, he
11 tried to give me his 12-string guitar, I said I didn't
12 want it. He was always sniffing about the boys.
13 GZI was a sexual predator, I knew that from
14 St Ninian's.

15 I think abuse did go on at St Joseph's. There was
16 a little guy from Fife who ran away with me, I can't
17 remember his name. He wanted to run away because of
18 something to do with GZI, he didn't say anything
19 specific but I knew what he meant. GZI was
20 always around him, shouting at him, telling him to come
21 over. There was obviously something sexual going on.
22 The little guy was properly traumatised. I felt very
23 sorry for him. I said I'd get him back to his folks in
24 Fife and we ran away.

25 Me and the wee guy from Fife ran away. I had just

1 turned 14 years old. We stole a car in Prestonpans.
2 I ended up back in Coatbridge stealing cars, hanging
3 about with mates, staying in their houses and drinking.
4 I got caught by the police.'

5 Between paragraphs 155 and 159 the witness speaks of
6 his time in Longriggend.

7 Between paragraph 160 and 205 he speaks of his time
8 at Rossie Farm.

9 Between paragraphs 206 and 209 he speaks of his life
10 after care.

11 I will move to paragraph 210, where he looks at the
12 impact his time in care has had on his life:

13 'My time in care has shaped and defined my life.
14 The abuse has obviously really affected my life.
15 I'd never really thought about it until recently. Now
16 I'm thinking about it all the time. My life's been
17 hell. Being in and out of borstal and prison was my
18 life. Being locked up was all I'd ever known until
19 I met my wife and had three kids. I still get into
20 trouble with the police for silly things.
21 Subconsciously you are institutionalised by being in
22 care, you have always been told what to do and when to
23 do it. You get used to that. Nobody sat me down once
24 to ask me why I was running away. If somebody had sat
25 me down and gained my trust I probably would have told

1 them about the abuse and they could have acted on it.
2 They could stopped the abuse and resolved the issues.
3 When I was a lad, if anyone showed an interest in me
4 I would wonder why they were doing that. Deep down
5 I needed a role model, someone to model my life on.
6 I was taken out of normal society and put into
7 a different world. I had to adjust to that world as
8 best I could.

9 The way I was treated in care, beginning at Smyllum,
10 made me anti-authority. I hated anyone in positions of
11 authority. Even though I knew I was going to end up in
12 prison or a police station, I've always hated prison
13 officers and police.

14 All the education I've had has been in places of
15 care. My education has been basic stuff, it's not been
16 fantastic. The jobs I've had have all been manual
17 labouring jobs. I've no skills.

18 I've never had any counselling. I tried talking to
19 a counsellor in prison and it made me worse. I was in
20 tears and the counsellor said she had someone else to
21 see in five minutes. I had to put on a stiff upper lip
22 and walk out. I'm not seeing a counsellor again.

23 I've started civil action for compensation. My
24 solicitors are Drummond Miller in Glasgow and they're
25 getting my social work records.

1 The police contacted me while I was in prison about
2 a year ago and asked if I would speak to them about
3 Smyllum. I was curious. The police came to the prison
4 to talk to me. The police only want hard, cold facts
5 that they can act on. There was no sympathy or anything
6 like that. I told the police about Smyllum.
7 I mentioned St Ninian's and they said they had closed
8 that inquiry.

9 At the time I didn't understand how speaking to the
10 police was going to affect me. The police probably
11 didn't understand either. The police left me in a mess.
12 The police said to the prison staff that I might need
13 a bit of counselling. The prison staff said they would
14 sort that out. I was sent back to my cell and there was
15 no help. I didn't come out of my cell for four or five
16 days. I didn't collect any meals. Not one person came
17 to ask if I was all right. Speaking to the police
18 opened up a can of worms.

19 No adult should hit a small child, especially when
20 you are a small and vulnerable child in care. Social
21 Services should look at the reasons a child has ended up
22 in care. The family should have helped too.

23 The system should be more structured in the way
24 children are placed, especially small children. Staff
25 should all be properly vetted. Things should be put in

1 place to assess the child, their mental state and
2 intelligence.

3 When a child does something wrong, the staff should
4 explain to them what they've done wrong and the
5 consequences of that. Staff should be looking for ways
6 to help the child not punish them. I was just a number.
7 Children should be involved in reviews about their care.
8 I wasn't involved in any reviews.

9 Whenever problems start for children who are in care
10 systems should be put in place to address the problems.
11 There should be unannounced spot checks by officials to
12 make sure nothing untoward is going on.

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

17 'Ray' signed the statement on 27 November 2019.

18 LADY SMITH: Thank you very much.

19 I think that's enough for today. We have a witness
20 in person at 10 o'clock tomorrow morning, do we?

21 MS MACLEOD: We do, yes. We have three witnesses in total
22 tomorrow.

23 LADY SMITH: Three witnesses in person tomorrow. Thank you
24 very much.

25 I'll rise now until 10 o'clock tomorrow morning.

1 (3.56 pm)

2 (The Inquiry adjourned until 10.00 am on

3 Friday, 19 January 2024)

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