

Friday, 19 January 2024

1

2 (10.00 am)

3 LADY SMITH: Good morning and welcome to the last day this
4 week of evidence in relation to Chapter 2 of the case
5 study. We have a witness ready, I think, Mr MacAulay.
6 Is that right?

7 MR MACAULAY: We do, my Lady.

8 This witness is an applicant. He wants to remain
9 anonymous and use the pseudonym 'John' in giving
10 evidence.

11 LADY SMITH: Thank you.

12 'John' (sworn)

13 LADY SMITH: 'John', the folder you've just picked up there,
14 you'll see, has your statement in it and you may be
15 referred to that in a moment.

16 It could be helpful to you as you're giving your
17 evidence to use it, you don't have to. You'll also see
18 we'll bring the statement up on the screen in front of
19 you. Again, you might find it helpful to have that
20 there.

21 Other than those practicalities, 'John', I want you
22 to understand that I would like to do anything I can to
23 make the whole process of you giving evidence as
24 comfortable as possible and I know that the starting
25 point is you've come to do something that's not

1 comfortable at all, because you're going to speak in
2 public about your own life and your own life as a child
3 when things that were very upsetting happened.

4 I do understand that can be stressful and it can be
5 distressing. And if there's anything I can do to help,
6 you must let me know. For example, if you want a break
7 at any time, I can do that. I'll break anyway at
8 11.30 am if your evidence is still going then -- we'll
9 probably have finished it by that point -- but if you
10 want to stop before at any point just say, or if we're
11 not making sense in the questions we're asking it's our
12 fault not yours. So just speak up and ask us anything
13 you're not sure about.

14 If there's anything else, just tell me. If it works
15 for you, it will work for me. Does that make sense?

16 A. Yes, thank you.

17 LADY SMITH: Thank you and thank you for being here.

18 I'll hand over to Mr MacAulay now and he'll take it
19 from there.

20 Questions from Mr MacAulay

21 MR MACAULAY: Good morning, 'John'.

22 A. Good morning.

23 Q. As Lady Smith has said you have in front of you your
24 statement. The first thing I want you to do is to turn
25 to the last page of your statement. Can you confirm

1 you've signed the statement?

2 A. Yes.

3 Q. In the final paragraph do you say:

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

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

8 A. Yes.

9 Q. For the benefit of the transcript I'm going to provide
10 the reference of the statement. That is

11 WIT-1-000005551.

12 'John', I don't require to ask you for your date of
13 birth, but can you confirm the year of your birth is
14 1965?

15 A. Yes.

16 Q. You begin in your statement telling us a little bit
17 about your life before you went into care and there was
18 some confusion, I think, early on for you in your family
19 life, is that correct?

20 A. Yes.

21 Q. Can you explain that?

22 A. Well, I thought my grandmother was my mother and I grew
23 up with five cousins and an aunty and an uncle. I spent
24 most of my time in their house, you know, and then when
25 I was nine they went to Canada, they emigrated to Canada

1 and I was left with my grandmother and her husband and
2 things went pearshaped from there.

3 Q. When you say it went pearshaped, can you just give me
4 some idea --

5 A. Oh, abuse, you know. Beatings and told I was no good
6 and I'd never be no good, you know. As I say, it went
7 pearshaped.

8 Q. Who was telling you this?

9 A. My grandmother and her husband and they had a younger
10 son, her younger son was nine years older than me but he
11 was a coward and a bully, you know.

12 Q. Were you also led to believe that your own father had
13 been involved in the Great Train Robbery?

14 A. Well, this is ... my grandmother used to bounce me on
15 her knee and tell me my father was one of the great
16 train robbers, so I wasn't going to be a plumber or
17 a lawyer, you know.

18 Q. When you went to school did that cause --

19 A. That affected me in school as well. I used to get
20 called 'IGS [REDACTED]' and 'IGS [REDACTED]' and I ended up
21 fighting with everybody and that was where the violence
22 came in with me.

23 Q. You were being teased about that?

24 A. Yes, yes, constantly, and it was just all lies.

25 Q. You say you were very close though to your aunt and

1 uncle and your cousins when you were growing up?

2 A. Yeah.

3 Q. Did you spend time with them?

4 A. All the time, as much as I could.

5 Q. Did you start to play truant from school?

6 A. Yeah, when they went to Canada.

7 Q. Were you also involved in criminality?

8 A. Yeah, I got involved with older boys.

9 Q. Was that then what led to you appearing before

10 a Children's Panel?

11 A. Well, what happened then my grandmother and her husband

12 went to visit my family in Canada and they left me with

13 what I would call strangers and I don't -- I'm not sure

14 if I -- yeah, I did say, you know, I ended up getting

15 put in a bath and scrubbed with carbolic soap and

16 a scrubbing brush and told I was no good, do you know,

17 and 'I'll show you', and just bad language basically.

18 And I bolted, you know, I run, and that was me ten-year

19 old I was on the streets of Paisley. Homeless, you

20 know, and I ended up getting involved with older boys

21 who were criminals and basically being corrupted.

22 Q. Were you frightened and upset by the way you had been

23 treated?

24 A. Yeah, yeah.

25 Q. Looking at that background, you did end up appearing

1 before the Children's Panel?

2 A. Yeah, yeah.

3 Q. Was the decision at that time one to send you to

4 Cardross Park Assessment Centre?

5 A. Yeah.

6 Q. What age were you at that time?

7 A. Ten.

8 Q. As far as the Cardross Assessment Centre was concerned,

9 what were your feelings when you knew you were being

10 sent?

11 A. Scared, scared.

12 Q. Did you have a social worker who was attached?

13 A. Yeah, Ms Ross.

14 Q. Did she provide you with an explanation as to why you

15 were being sent there and what would happen?

16 A. Not to my knowledge, you know.

17 Q. Let's look then at the set-up at the Cardross

18 Assessment Centre.

19 What sort of establishment was it, was it a large

20 building?

21 A. Yes, it was a mansion, it was a mansion building.

22 That's what I remember going down the driveway and my

23 initial, you know, it was a mansion, you know.

24 Q. You spent about three weeks there before you moved on,

25 we will look at that in a moment.

1 A. Yeah, and I ran away from there.

2 Q. Again, we'll --

3 A. Sorry.

4 Q. That's fine. Just some sense for the numbers there,
5 what can you tell me about?

6 A. I'd say there was probably about 25/30 there.

7 Q. Was there a mixture of boys and girls?

8 A. Yeah, yeah.

9 Q. You do provide us with some information about the
10 routine. This is in your statement. I just want to
11 pick up what you say about bed wetting.

12 What can you tell me about bed wetting at Cardross?

13 A. Yeah, they would shame you, you know, you would get
14 shamed.

15 Q. Did you wet the bed?

16 A. Yeah. I'm sure I did. And the other thing was there
17 was like a pants inspection, you know. You had to line
18 up with your underwear and if they were soiled they made
19 you go and wash them.

20 Q. You have just told us a few moments ago that you did run
21 away from Cardross?

22 A. Yeah.

23 Q. Why did you run away?

24 A. Because I was scared.

25 Q. Were you still aged ten at this time?

1 A. Yes, I was still aged ten.

2 Q. Where did you go?

3 A. The first time I took a knife out the dining hall and
4 I took the blocks off the window and I took everybody in
5 the dormitory with me and we went across the tracks. We
6 headed towards Clydebank, you know, along the railway
7 tracks. I was ten-year old, you know.

8 Q. But eventually --

9 A. I got to Paisley.

10 Q. But you got caught?

11 A. Yeah, I got caught.

12 Q. You were taken back to Cardross?

13 A. Yeah.

14 Q. Can you tell me what happened when you were taken back?

15 A. I was stripped naked and put in a room. It was the room
16 between the dining hall and the hallway and I was just
17 stripped and put in there. There was no light in there
18 and then -- I'm trying my best to remember, you know,
19 and it's -- it was quite traumatising, you know, if
20 I sit and think about it. I think of my children and
21 when they were ten and I think, you know, I wouldn't put
22 them through that, you know.

23 Q. Who --

24 A. Staff. I can't remember the staff.

25 Q. When you ran away again, you didn't go back in fact to

1 Cardross?

2 A. No, no.

3 Q. I think thereafter you were sent to Bellfield?

4 A. Bellfield, yeah. That was horrific.

5 Q. Can you tell me what happened --

6 A. It was the worst ten minutes of my life, I can say that.

7 I remember being in there and Ms Ross leaving and then

8 I remember seeing front door open and a member of staff

9 asking me my name, this, that and the other and he asked

10 me if I masturbated. I remember going pure cold, you

11 know, remember I've been on the streets, I was ten and

12 I knew, I wasn't stupid and I just run for my life and

13 I was out that front door and I was gone.

14 It's all I've done is think about this and there was

15 an area behind it called Brucehill and there was kids,

16 it was the summer and there were kids camping in a big

17 tent and I ended up in the tent with them. But then

18 I ended up back in Paisley and getting caught again and

19 Children's Panel. And then being sent to St Ninian's.

20 Q. I take it from what you've described, 'John', that so

21 far as Bellfield was concerned, you were only there for

22 minutes?

23 A. Minutes, yes, literally minutes, yeah.

24 Q. Was that then the background to you going to

25 St Ninian's?

1 A. Yeah.

2 Q. I think my impression is you went to St Ninian's in
3 about 1975, does that fit in your recollection?

4 A. Yeah.

5 Q. How old were you then?

6 A. Ten.

7 Q. What was your first impression of St Ninian's?

8 A. Just fear. It was a very imposing building.

9 Q. Who did you meet when you got there, can you remember?

10 A. Yeah, the Catholic Brothers.

11 Q. Any particular Brothers that you can remember?

12 A. One in particular is Brother **GZO**, he was a teacher.

13 Q. We'll look at him in a moment.

14 Do you know who the headmaster was, who was in
15 charge?

16 A. I can't remember, you know.

17 Q. Can I then look at some aspects of the routine and the
18 set-up. I think you tell us that you were in
19 dormitories?

20 A. Yeah.

21 Q. Were the dormitories in the main building?

22 A. Yes.

23 Q. What about the Brothers, because we know it was run by
24 Brothers, were they in the main building as well?

25 A. Yes.

1 Q. How many were in your dormitory?

2 A. There was about eight or nine, just off the top of my
3 head, you know, eight or nine, yeah.

4 Q. Were you all the same age roughly?

5 A. Yeah, yeah.

6 Q. Let's look at the mornings, what happened in the morning
7 when you had to get up, who woke you up?

8 A. Brothers woke you up.

9 Q. Any particular Brothers?

10 A. No.

11 Q. When you were woken up, what was the drill, what did you
12 have to do?

13 A. You had to get washed and dressed and go down for
14 breakfast.

15 Q. The evenings then, how were the evenings organised, when
16 you had to go to bed?

17 A. Wash, brush your teeth and get your pyjamas on and go to
18 bed.

19 Q. Who organised that?

20 A. The Brothers.

21 Q. You do tell us in your statement, 'John', at
22 paragraph 31, that you consider you got a good education
23 at St Ninian's?

24 A. Yeah.

25 Q. Can you just tell me a little bit -- who were the

1 teachers?

2 A. The one that sticks in my mind the most is Brother GZQ.

3 Q. Were there civilian staff who were teaching?

4 A. Yes, there were civilian staff.

5 Q. Looking at the routine, did you have work to do, chores

6 to do?

7 A. No, not really.

8 Q. Insofar as bed wetting, were there boys at St Ninian's

9 who wet the bed?

10 A. Yeah.

11 Q. Were you a bed wetter?

12 A. No.

13 Q. Can you remember how it was dealt with at St Ninian's?

14 A. No.

15 Q. Looking at visitors, you say in your statement that your

16 social worker, who you have told us was Ms Ross, she

17 visited you once in the two years you spent there?

18 A. Yeah.

19 Q. But there was no family visits because you were getting

20 regular weekend leave; is that right?

21 A. Yeah.

22 Q. Were you ever aware of there being any external

23 inspectors coming to inspect the premises?

24 A. No.

25 Q. Looking at the classrooms, what happened in the

1 classroom, how was discipline maintained in the
2 classroom?

3 A. Very harsh. I mean, I know that we had the belt and
4 that, which was normal, but they were harsh.

5 Q. Can you just describe --

6 A. No, they were physical. They would grab you and throw
7 you against walls and slap you and, you know, you'll do
8 what you're told and you're no good and you'll never be
9 no good. I do remember it, you know.

10 Q. Was the belt given?

11 A. Yeah, frequently.

12 Q. How would you be belted?

13 A. Across the hand.

14 Q. I want to look at that section in your statement, where
15 you talk about abuse more generally.

16 What you say at paragraph 41 is:

17 'There were several Brothers at St Ninian's who made
18 my life hell.'

19 A. Yeah.

20 Q. I just would like you to develop that for me, can you
21 explain that?

22 A. In what way?

23 Q. How did Brothers make your life hell?

24 A. They just needed to look at you, you know, and they
25 would grab you by the ear, you know, and things they

1 said to you. Just made you feel bad. I felt as if
2 I was walking on eggshells all the time, you know. You
3 were scared to put a foot wrong.

4 Q. You have already mentioned Brother GZQ . Can we just
5 focus on Brother GZQ then. How did you get on with
6 him?

7 A. Black and white, you know, good and bad.

8 Q. What did he do to you?

9 A. Just basically the way they treated, the way they
10 grabbed you by the ear and slapped you, you know, and
11 throw you against walls and even if you were playing
12 football, you know, they would play football and kick
13 you up in the air, you know. All I've done is think
14 about this for the last 11 months since I gave my
15 statement and things just keep coming back and I'm like
16 woah, you know. I wouldn't want my children to be
17 brought up that way, put it that way.

18 LADY SMITH: 'John', you said so far as Brother GZQ was
19 concerned he was black and white, good and bad.

20 A. Yeah.

21 LADY SMITH: What was good?

22 A. The education.

23 LADY SMITH: But then you're saying what was bad was his
24 attitude, his physical treatment?

25 A. Yeah.

1 LADY SMITH: Was it just you or was it other boys as well?

2 A. No, everybody got the same.

3 LADY SMITH: Thank you.

4 A. I say 'everybody', but I mean I suppose in life itself
5 there's going to be people who are goody two shoes, and
6 I wasn't a goody two shoes. I was traumatised. And
7 I'm only beginning to realise that now at this age that
8 what happened to me was wrong, you know, and is it --
9 when I start to look at it I think: how did it go on?
10 How was it allowed to go on?

11 LADY SMITH: These are excellent questions.

12 A. You said yourself about inspectors coming in. When they
13 come to that school they'll see everything is
14 hunky-dory, it looks great, you know to the outside --
15 I had a terrible time there, the truth is, you know.
16 I came here to help other people. It's the truth.

17 MR MACAULAY: You do say that very clearly, 'John', towards
18 the latter part of your statement and I will come to
19 that.
20 Feel free to say what you want to say at any point
21 in time.
22 Coming back to Brother **GZQ**, one thing you do say in
23 your statement at paragraph 43 is that he regularly beat
24 you?

25 A. Yeah. It wasn't just me. He was just handy, you know,

1 handy. Liked giving it out.

2 Q. You do describe one incident and you even give a date.

3 A. Yeah, [REDACTED] 77, when I was leaving.

4 Q. That was when you were about to leave?

5 A. Yeah.

6 Q. What happened?

7 A. Dragged me out the class and threw me against the wall

8 and I'll do this, I'll do -- I can't remember off the

9 top of my head, but it wasn't very nice.

10 Q. You were aged 12 at that time?

11 A. Yeah.

12 Q. He threw you against the wall, was he beating you, was

13 he hitting you?

14 A. Yeah, slapping me and throwing me against the wall.

15 Q. Was there a reason for this, any reason for this?

16 A. Because I was a little -- I wasn't, you know, I wasn't

17 the nicest kid on the planet, because I was confused,

18 you know. My family were on the other side of the

19 world, you know, and I didn't want to be there and the

20 only reason I never run away from there was because

21 I didn't know how to get home.

22 Q. That's Brother [REDACTED] GZQ .

23 You also mention Brother [REDACTED] MJO .

24 A. Brother [REDACTED] MJO , yeah, with the riding crop. He was

25 with the donkeys, you know, and you used to go out with

1 him and he would slap you with that riding crop as fast
2 as look as you, you know, if you had done something
3 wrong.

4 Q. Where would he slap you?

5 A. Anywhere, anywhere.

6 Q. In those days you would be wearing short trousers?

7 A. Yeah.

8 Q. Would he slap you on the legs with the crop?

9 A. Anywhere, anywhere. I mean, I've been doing a lot of
10 thinking about that as well, you know,
11 Brother MJO -- and Brother MJO had favourites.
12 I remember that. He had favourites. And it's
13 frightening stuff. Scary stuff, you know.

14 Q. When you remember he had favourites, can you just help
15 me with that, how did he treat the favourites?

16 A. Like favourites, you know, like having them under their
17 arm and all that and walking with them and me I was
18 a little, you know. I was a tough kid from Paisley who
19 weren't putting up with anything.

20 Q. Was Brother MJO a teacher or not?

21 A. I don't think he was a teacher, no.

22 Q. Do you know what his role was at St Ninian's?

23 A. MJO. That's what we -- you know.

24 Q. Was he in charge --

25 A. He was with the donkeys.

1 Q. You also mention a teacher at paragraph 44 who, as you
2 say, whacked you?
3 A. Yeah.
4 Q. Can --
5 A. Mr IGR .
6 Q. What happened?
7 A. I remember him. We were in the dining hall and I turned
8 round his name was IGR and we used to tease him,
9 the nursery rhyme, you know, '
10 ...' And next minute I got a whack,
11 you know. He wasn't very kind to people -- the boys in
12 there either.
13 Q. When you say you got whacked --
14 A. Slapped, an open slap.
15 LADY SMITH: Were you referring to the song about
16
17 A. , yeah.
18 LADY SMITH:
19
20 A. That's the one.
21 MR MACAULAY: You also describe something that would happen
22 when you were having showers?
23 A. Yeah, cold water, cold buckets of water over us.
24 Q. Who did that?
25 A. The Brothers, they thought it was hilarious.

1 Q. Can I then look at the situation that you witnessed in
2 the dormitory.

3 A. Yeah.

4 Q. You talk about that in your statement as well. What did
5 you see happening?

6 A. Seen boys being taken out the dormitory, whimpering and
7 crying and being brought back in.

8 Q. Who did that?

9 A. Brothers.

10 Q. How regular an occurrence was this?

11 A. Regular, regular.

12 Q. Was it a Brother or more than one Brother?

13 A. I couldn't tell you, it was pitch black.

14 Q. Did you see --

15 A. Yeah, we knew it was a Brother, because you could see by
16 the moonlight, you know, the light coming in, you could
17 see them. It was like a shadow and you heard the boys
18 whimpering and I did see -- I'm just trying to recollect
19 the boy's name.

20 Q. We don't need the name --

21 A. But I remember one of them in particular and he got
22 picked on quite a lot, you know, in this dormitory.
23 When I think back ... I mean I used to go home at
24 weekends and I used to feel sorry for the boys that had
25 to stay, I really did.

1 Q. There were boys who had to stay?

2 A. There were boys -- care and protection. They had no
3 families and they were the boys that got picked on, you
4 know.

5 Q. When the particular boy that you mentioned was taken
6 from his bed, would you see him when he came back on
7 occasions?

8 A. Yeah. You would waken up, you would hear them coming
9 in, whimpering and crying.

10 Q. Was there ever any talk among the boys --

11 A. Yeah, yeah.

12 Q. -- about these events?

13 A. Yeah.

14 Q. What was the talk?

15 A. Abuse, sexual abuse.

16 Q. Was that actually mentioned?

17 A. Yeah. I mean I done a little bit of research as well on
18 this recently and I've been reading other boys'
19 statements and online bits and pieces and there are some
20 boys that went there and they never had an ounce of
21 trouble. Nothing ever happened to them and what I said
22 earlier, goody two shoes. They do anything, but there
23 was abuse going on in there and we seen it with our own
24 eyes and the boys wouldn't talk about it. The boy that
25 I'm telling you about, he would talk about -- we knew it

1 was going on and we weren't very nice to him either, you
2 know, and I've nightmares about that, you know.

3 Q. Can you explain that for me, because you do mention that
4 in your statement. In what way were you not nice to
5 that sort of boy?

6 A. We know what's happening to you, you know, and I don't
7 want to speak in public about it, you know, but it was
8 disgusting.

9 LADY SMITH: If you look at paragraph 46 that's on the
10 screen at moment, is that the part of your evidence you
11 are talking about?

12 A. Yeah, yeah.

13 LADY SMITH: Yes. I understand what you mean.

14 So the boys were saying something that indicated
15 they were being abused sexually in some way during
16 night?

17 A. Yeah, yeah.

18 LADY SMITH: And then they also got a hard time from other
19 boys?

20 A. Yeah.

21 LADY SMITH: Because children can be cruel to each other.

22 A. Yeah, that's what -- I mean it's vicious and nasty.

23 MR MACAULAY: I think you tell us in that very paragraph,
24 'John', that you're ashamed.

25 A. Yeah, I'm very ashamed.

1 Q. Of the way you teased boys who were in this position.

2 How did they react --

3 A. They were scared. They were scared kids. I was a kid
4 myself, you know. Kids can be cruel.

5 Q. One thing you say in that paragraph is that it was
6 obvious that the boys that were picked were boys that
7 didn't have a family?

8 A. Yeah.

9 Q. Did you become aware of that at the time?

10 A. Over a period of time. Because they wouldn't -- you
11 know what I mean, I know a couple of survivors from
12 Gartmore and the friends of mine and we were tough kids.
13 We went on to do things that -- I'm not proud of my
14 history. I'm not proud of it at all and I believe that
15 had I had a better start in life I would have been
16 completely different, you know, and I am. I just feel
17 terrible sometimes -- I actually went back to
18 St Ninian's ten years ago with my cousin and I planted
19 a shrub and I spoke to the people and I went into the
20 dormitory and seen where it happened and it just brought
21 back so much for me.

22 I think I spoke to you yesterday and I said to you
23 I went to the toughest borstal in England, the toughest
24 borstal, they said it was the toughest and it was easy
25 compared to St Ninian's. It was easy.

1 There was discipline, but not discipline in the way
2 you were disciplined in St Ninian's. It was cruel.

3 Q. That's what you say, at paragraph 47:

4 'When I was 15 I served nine months in Portland
5 Borstal in Dorset, England and it was apparently the
6 toughest borstal in England at the time. It was easier
7 in there than it was at St Ninian's.'

8 A. Yeah, yeah. 100 per cent.

9 Q. You go on to say:

10 'At St Ninian's it felt like you were constantly
11 walking on eggshells.'

12 A. Yeah.

13 Q. Did you, at any stage, report to anybody what was
14 happening at St Ninian's?

15 A. Yeah, yeah.

16 Q. Who did --

17 A. My grandmother. I talked to my grandmother and she gave
18 me a slap and told me they were Catholics, don't be so
19 daft. That's what I was told and I didn't know who else
20 to report it to.

21 Q. Was that in one of your home leaves?

22 A. Yeah. I used to think to myself, why is the Social Work
23 Department sending me back here, when I slept in
24 an alcove. That's where I slept, I slept in an alcove
25 and they knew where I was sleeping.

1 Q. That is with your grandmother?

2 A. With my grandmother, yeah. And she wasn't what I would
3 call poor, you know. They weren't poor. I was just --
4 and it's only recently now in the last few months that
5 I'm beginning to realise how badly I was treated by my
6 family, you know. You couldn't write it, you know.
7 I talked to -- I got one of my closest friends and
8 30-odd years she's been my friend and she's quite well
9 to do and I'm good friends with her and her husband and
10 I let her read the report and she couldn't get her
11 breath. She said you shouldn't, you know -- it was her
12 that to said to me, 'If you had a different upbringing,
13 how clever you are, your life would have been completely
14 different.'

15 So if I can tell my story and try and get across to
16 a youngster or even the staff in these places, you know.
17 These kids, they need a little bit of love and care and
18 attention. They don't need to be abused, you know.
19 They really don't.

20 Q. What did you say to your grandmother about what was
21 happening at St Ninian's?

22 A. I said to her, I said, 'The boys are being abused in
23 there', and I remember her saying, 'Don't be so daft',
24 she said, 'They're Catholic Brothers, they wouldn't do
25 anything like that'.

1 Q. At this time, when you went on leave, were you still
2 badly treated at home?

3 A. Yeah, yeah.

4 Q. Did you tell your social worker about that?

5 A. No. No. She -- I think Ms Ross was -- I don't know how
6 to describe it, you know. I don't think she was --
7 I mean, the whole social work department, when I sit and
8 think about how I was getting treated at home, they
9 should have seen that. It's not now until I look back
10 and I think that wasn't normal, you know.

11 Q. You came to leave St Ninian's and indeed you have told
12 us that was on [REDACTED] 1977 and you would be aged 12 at that
13 time?

14 A. Yeah.

15 Q. Did you go back home then?

16 A. Yeah.

17 Q. Did you then attend some other schools --

18 A. Yeah, I was expelled from school for violence.

19 Q. Were you violent?

20 A. Yeah, extremely violent.

21 Q. How would that manifest itself? What would you do?

22 A. Just fight. I would fight with anybody and everybody.

23 Q. I think what you say in your statement is that you were
24 constantly angry?

25 A. Yeah, yeah. I mean, I told you before, I'm in recovery.

1 I'm 14 months clean and sober and they say more will be
2 revealed and more is being revealed to me every single
3 day. More is being revealed to me about my family in
4 Canada. I just found out recently that my family didn't
5 want to take me to Canada, and it was like getting
6 stabbed through the heart. I thought -- my aunty turned
7 round and said, 'No, we've got too many mouths to feed',
8 when she was blaming my grandmother so you can
9 understand how angry I was just recently, but when I was
10 a kid I was pining to get to Canada.

11 I think the worst thing for a child is having
12 a family not wanting them. I used to think that. But
13 it's finding out that your family don't want you. That
14 is the hardest thing, that is the toughest thing,
15 because it happened to me recently.

16 I think woah, I've got three beautiful children, you
17 know, and they're my life and I had to sit down and tell
18 them about my past and it wasn't very nice.

19 Q. What happened, just going back in time, was that you
20 were sent to another Approved School, St Philip's?

21 A. Yeah, fantastic.

22 Q. You were there for two years?

23 A. Yeah, fantastic.

24 Q. Let's look at that and see why it was fantastic for you.

25 At paragraph 51 you focus on the headmaster, whose

1 name you couldn't remember, but he was a diamond?

2 A. Yeah.

3 Q. How did he behave?

4 A. Because he treated you like a human being. He was

5 always there for you and always giving you -- 'Come on,

6 wee man, you can do it', and one of them. And

7 I remember he had a big Peugeot car and he was

8 changing -- did something to the car and he'd get you

9 involved, he drag you off ... but if you crossed him he

10 would do you, he would do you with the belt. There was

11 discipline. But it was deserved.

12 Q. The rest of the staff, how were they?

13 A. Yeah, fantastic. Couldn't fault them in any way.

14 Q. What you tell us in fact is that it was a fantastic

15 place and you probably had one of the best times of your

16 life there?

17 A. Yeah, yeah.

18 Q. Does that give us an example of how it could be done?

19 A. Yeah, yeah, 100 per cent, I said that at the time as

20 well, when I was interviewed.

21 Q. At what age do you think you were when you left

22 St Philip's?

23 A. 14.

24 Q. Your life is back at home, what was life like back at

25 home?

1 A. Horrendous.

2 Q. Can you explain?

3 A. I was no good, I'd never be no good, you know.

4 I worked on the milk. I worked delivering milk,

5 I worked delivering papers to get money together and

6 I didn't want to do anything criminal and I got involved

7 with crime. I got involved in crime from a young age.

8 I grew up in [REDACTED] in Paisley, where there weren't

9 much love there. And I've wrote two manuscripts and

10 ripped them up and I started writing again and --

11 Q. What were the manuscripts about?

12 A. About my life, you know.

13 Q. Why did you rip them up?

14 A. Drunk. I had problems with drink and drugs my whole

15 life.

16 Q. You tell us, 'John', at paragraph 57 that you stole

17 a car and you drove down to England?

18 A. Yeah.

19 Q. What happened down there?

20 A. I ended up in borstal. I was trying to find my father,

21 which I've been trying to find my whole life.

22 Q. You tell us that you also ended up in Exeter Prison?

23 A. Yeah.

24 Q. What age were you then?

25 A. 15.

1 Q. One thing you say, I do want to ask you about this:
2 'If they had let me walk straight through that
3 prison hall and out the other side ...'
4 A. I would never have got in trouble again.
5 Q. Can you explain that?
6 A. It was a short, sharp shock. That's the only way I can
7 describe it. I was taken in this prison, and it was
8 a big hallway to get to the young offenders at the other
9 end, and every prisoner was opened up and they were all
10 screaming and shouting ... and I was absolutely
11 petrified by the time I got to the other end and
12 honestly if they'd said, 'Right, on you go', I'd never
13 have got into trouble again as long as I lived. I was
14 petrified. But two weeks later I was shouting back at
15 them.
16 Q. Because you --
17 A. Yes, because I was used to it.
18 Q. Because you were detained there?
19 A. Yeah.
20 Q. Was it during this period that you ended up in the
21 Portland Borstal that you mentioned earlier?
22 A. No.
23 Q. Was that later?
24 A. It's all coming back to me. It will be in my records as
25 well. I got taken back from Exeter Crown Court, I was

1 given a probation order and they took me back to Paisley
2 on -- I never put that in there, it came back. It was
3 the first time I was ever on a plane, I went from Exeter
4 Airport to Glasgow Airport, and I went to my
5 grandmother's house and I went to the shop and never
6 came back, you know. I was meant to go to an Approved
7 School up there, I ran away to England again and got
8 caught in Bristol for breaking into a working men's club
9 and I was caught in 1980 and I ended up in borstal.

10 Q. Was that the Portland Borstal?

11 A. Portland Borstal, yeah.

12 Q. Did you also end up in Barlinnie?

13 A. Yeah, I was in Barlinnie when I was 17. I had escaped
14 from a young offenders institution in England.

15 Q. Did you also end up in HMP Edinburgh, Saughton?

16 A. It's funny you should say that, when I came off the
17 plane yesterday and we were on the tram, me and my
18 friend, and there was a stop, 'Saughton' and it just
19 sent a shiver right through my spine, because they
20 nearly killed me in there. I was only 17.

21 Q. I can ask you about that now then. You were sent to
22 Saughton and you were put into a particular cell; is
23 that correct?

24 A. Yes.

25 Q. Was there somebody else in the cell?

1 A. What happened, I was an escapee and they put me down as
2 a category A, I was only 17 and had yellow patches and
3 they put me in the cell with a red light, because I was
4 an escapee and I was with another prisoner and I decided
5 to take the light out because I couldn't get to sleep,
6 so they burst in the cell and the guy said, 'It was
7 him', and I'm dragged down the stairs, five or six
8 prison officers, they really -- they nearly killed me,
9 you know, and I was 28 days' remission I lost.

10 Q. Just looking at what they did to you, can you tell me?

11 A. Yes, they broke my nose, dislocated my shoulder, cracked
12 my ribs. They nearly killed me and I was put on the
13 National Express two days later, I remember it, it was
14 called the National Express from Saughton Prison to
15 Durham to Wandsworth to Chelmsford, and where I was in
16 Chelmsford.

17 LADY SMITH: That was the bus?

18 A. Yeah, the National Express they called it and that was
19 1982 or 1983, I can't remember.

20 Q. At that time were you at HMP Chelmsford?

21 A. Yeah, I was there. And the deputy governor actually
22 said to me, 'What happened to you?' And I said, 'Look,
23 the Scottish Prison Service' and she actually got on the
24 phone while I was there in front of her and phoned the
25 prison, phoned Saughton Prison and said what happened to

1 this boy? There was a claim in there. I mean, that's
2 nearly 40 years ago. They acted -- I didn't act on it,
3 you know.

4 Q. What you're telling me is the deputy governor at
5 Chelmsford realised that something had happened?

6 A. Yeah, yeah.

7 Q. Was this a female?

8 A. A female, yeah.

9 Q. Did you tell us what had happened?

10 A. Yes, I told her what happened.

11 Q. Was it then that she got on the phone?

12 A. It was then she got on the phone to the Scottish Prison
13 Service and said, 'Look, what's happened to my boy
14 here?' I don't mind saying this as well, the Scottish
15 Prison Service then, I don't know about now, they were
16 20 years behind. They treated us like animals, you
17 know. I couldn't believe, Barlinnie, Edinburgh, you
18 know, but I was -- I don't know how to say it, it was
19 ingrained in me, you know. I had to be tough, you know.

20 I mean, I remember coming out of borstal and trying
21 to join the army at 16 and I couldn't get into the army,
22 you know.

23 Q. Was that because of your track record?

24 A. Yeah, because I'd been in trouble.

25 Q. You also tell us in paragraph 63 how you managed to

1 escape from different prisons?

2 A. Four times, and a prison bus.

3 Q. You are in HMP Wandsworth when you are spoken to by

4 a Scottish prison officer?

5 A. Yeah, 'Captain Birdseye' I used to call him.

6 Q. Did he give you some advice?

7 A. Yes, he told me -- he picked a pen up -- he showed me

8 a pen, he said, 'The pen's mightier than the sword,

9 young man', he said, 'You're going to end up in ... you

10 are going to end up knocking me off', you know, going to

11 put me in a mental hospital. He said, 'Toe the line'.

12 Q. Was Broadmoor mentioned?

13 A. Yeah.

14 Q. Did another long-term prisoner --

15 A. Yeah, yeah. He's a fairly infamous prisoner and I was

16 talking to him through the wall and he said to me,

17 'Listen, "Yes, sir, no, sir, three bags full, sir" and

18 get out of here'.

19 My life changed then. I was 22 years of age.

20 Q. What happened then?

21 A. I ended up in Camphill on the Isle of Wight -- well,

22 I ended up in a few prisons, they put me down as

23 subversive and I was here and there and I got out of

24 prison and I think the only time I ever got any trouble

25 then was when I was drunk or when I wanted money for

1 drugs.

2 Q. I'll look at the drug things in a moment.

3 At a point in time, did you stop going to prison?

4 A. Yeah, yeah, yeah.

5 Q. How many years ago is that?

6 A. 25 years ago, when I found recovery.

7 Q. What you tell us also is that about 20 years or so ago

8 you are at your son's rugby match -- so you are watching

9 your son play rugby?

10 A. Yeah.

11 Q. You told us that you had a close relationship with your

12 children?

13 A. Yeah, yeah.

14 Q. And were involved in their upbringing?

15 A. Yeah.

16 Q. You had a conversation with somebody --

17 A. A police officer.

18 Q. What was the upshot?

19 A. I was talking -- he said -- because I had a nickname and

20 he told me my nickname and said I'm glad to see you're

21 out of trouble and I mentioned my father and he said,

22 'Listen, I'll find out for you', and sure as God the

23 next minute he gave me an address and I went all the way

24 down to Plymouth and it's a funny story, but I found my

25 dad after 36 years.

1 Q. Was that quite an emotional reunion?

2 A. Wouldn't you think so. We all need -- we all need
3 parents, you know. And he turned out to be a diamond
4 and he had contacted my grandmother several times and
5 she never told me, so my life could have been different
6 in so many ways, but -- and I found out I had a sister
7 I didn't even know I had and a brother -- I've got two
8 brothers called [REDACTED] and two sisters called [REDACTED].
9 You couldn't write it.

10 And I'm so privileged to give my statement.

11 Q. I think what's sad is that your father died not long
12 after --

13 A. A year after.

14 Q. -- you met him?

15 A. Yeah.

16 LADY SMITH: But you did have that meeting?

17 A. Yeah. I had a year with him, yeah.

18 LADY SMITH: It must have felt very precious?

19 A. Yeah, yeah.

20 MR MACAULAY: Can I then look at that part of your
21 statement, 'John', where you talk about what you
22 consider the impact of being in care had on you.

23 You have already told us that when you were in the
24 schools after care you were a fighter and you were
25 violent?

1 A. Yeah.

2 Q. Do you relate that in any way to St Ninian's?

3 A. Oh, yeah. You had to fight to survive.

4 Q. Did you start taking drugs?

5 A. Yeah. I was dead against drugs. I used to be dead
6 against drugs and then I found something that took me
7 away from myself and ...

8 Q. At some point you tell us that you ran a business?

9 A. I've had several businesses.

10 Q. But how did that all end up? How did these businesses
11 end up?

12 A. Failure, any self-esteem, my self-worth, you know,
13 I had -- I couldn't -- if I had a problem I'd take
14 drugs.

15 Q. What about alcohol, did you take alcohol?

16 A. Yeah, constantly on alcohol.

17 Q. What you say in your statement is:

18 'Unfortunately I destroyed it all because of my
19 addiction to alcohol and drugs and I lost it all.'

20 A. Yeah, but I went back out and got it again and again and
21 again and again and I kept on doing it.

22 Q. You tell us about a good friend, [REDACTED], and how together
23 you used to take drugs, is that right?

24 A. Yeah, yeah 30 years ago, yeah.

25 Q. Did you then both of you decide to come off drugs and

1 try --

2 A. Yeah, 25 years ago, yeah.

3 Q. Did you try to do that?

4 A. Yeah, yeah.

5 Q. How did it go for you?

6 A. Not very well.

7 Q. What about [REDACTED], your friend?

8 A. He stayed clean and sober for 25 years.

9 Q. Are you now again going through a recovery process?

10 A. Yeah, I'm 14 months clean and sober, first time in my

11 life.

12 Q. You say at paragraph 73 that you still think about your

13 time in care a lot and remember how unhappy you were and

14 it can be the smallest thing that triggers it. Can you

15 help me with that?

16 You regularly think about your time in care?

17 A. Yeah. Like, how can I -- if I see a guy sitting in the

18 street, you know, begging, I'll give him a few quid and

19 I think I actually -- my head will say to me, 'He's so

20 lucky, you know, he's so lucky to be sitting there, he's

21 not got a care in the world', you know. I could do

22 that, you know. I would be happy there, you know, but

23 that's where my self-worth was at. But I've never done

24 it, but that's the way I feel.

25 It's crazy thinking, but I'm beginning to

1 understand. I believe that a power greater than myself
2 will restore me to sanity, because I was insane.
3 Totally insane to do what I done and the things I done
4 over the years.

5 Q. Can I read out to you, 'John', what you say at
6 paragraph 74:

7 'The week before I met the Inquiry my heart was
8 broken and I was really upset. I knew it wouldn't be
9 easy talking about things that I experienced but it was
10 important to tell people what was happening in these
11 places. I have been trying to justify what happened to
12 me in care, but I can't. I was supposed to be in there
13 for care and protection and it just didn't happen.
14 I was abused by those who were looking after me and they
15 let me down.'

16 A. Yes.

17 Q. Does that sum up your position?

18 A. Yes.

19 Q. The birth of your granddaughter had an impact on you?

20 A. Oh, yeah. 18 months ago she was born and I just stopped
21 drinking instantly and it took me five months to stop
22 taking drugs after that, smoking weed, and then she just
23 lights up my life, you know. My life is just changed
24 dramatically. I think it took -- 17 days ago my
25 daughter said to me, 'I'm not bringing her in because of

1 the smoke', I was smoking, I said, 'I'll stop'. She
2 said, 'You ain't going to stop'. 17 days ago I stopped
3 smoking. I'm like -- I just want to give others
4 a chance, other people who are struggling.

5 Q. You tell us at paragraph 84, this is what you say:

6 'My aim in coming forward is to help other people.
7 I hope that by telling the Inquiry my experiences it
8 will not only help children in the future but it will
9 help me in my recovery. I want to help children who are
10 on the edge and close to ending up in prison. I want to
11 help them to come away from the edge and to achieve
12 something in life and reach their ambitions.'

13 A. Yes, sir.

14 On 22 November last year I was a year clean and
15 sober and I was really privileged to go into the borstal
16 that I was in for a 12-step programme and tell my story,
17 and it was one of the best things I've ever done in my
18 life, you know. And if one of them guys got a hint of
19 what recovery is like, you know, I've done my job and
20 H&I, hospitals and institutions, I'm a part of it and we
21 try and go into hospitals and institutions and carry
22 a message of recovery, and that's what I hope to do.

23 Q. In a section headed 'Other information' you focus upon
24 the person who was the gardener at St Ninian's,
25 Jimmy McKinstry --

1 A. Yeah, yeah. I stand by it.
2 Q. What you say is that he was a diamond and looked after
3 the boys really well?
4 A. Yeah. I've -- I mean, when I heard that he had got
5 two years in the jail I was like absolutely
6 flabbergasted. It's only my opinion, but the guy used
7 to take me to watch Celtic on a Saturday when I was on
8 home leave. I used to meet him and we'd go and watch
9 Celtic play. I'm not a clown, I'm not an idiot. I grew
10 up in a criminal world. If I was an idiot I wouldn't
11 have got anywhere, but I was respected. So I can look
12 you in the eye and tell if you're a beast or not.
13 That's the truth. And as far as I'm concerned he
14 wasn't.

15 And when I went to borstal, when I was 15, this is
16 three years after leaving that place, he wrote to me, he
17 sent me money, he sent me the Sunday Mail in the post
18 every week. I think, well, if he was a beast why would
19 he do that? He's got no benefit out of it.

20 So, as I say, it came as quite an astounding shock
21 to me and I've been doing a little bit of research on
22 the internet and I would like -- there are a few things
23 I would like to say, but I wouldn't. I'd like to speak
24 to them privately and say, tell me what happened because
25 I don't believe it, but as I say we're all entitled to

1 our opinions.

2 Q. I want to take you now to really the last main paragraph
3 in your statement and I'll just read that to you,
4 'John':

5 'For the two weeks before I was due to give my
6 statement to the Inquiry I was waking up at 2 am or 3 am
7 crying. I could quite easily have backed out, but with
8 encouragement from my friends I knew I had to do it.'

9 A. Yeah.

10 Q. That is what you have done?

11 A. Yeah.

12 Q. 'John', is there anything you would like to say to the
13 Inquiry that might help the Inquiry, apart from what you
14 have said to us in evidence?

15 A. I just think it's a privilege, an absolute privilege,
16 and you've given me my life back. I don't want to swear
17 right, but I was a proper hard bastard, you know.
18 There's no other way to say it, you know, and when
19 I found recovery I couldn't get it because my stumbling
20 block was my story, my stumbling block was my fear and
21 I faced up to it and I believe there is a lot more
22 people out there that, you know, that are struggling and
23 it's for the guys that never got to see a grey hair on
24 their head. The guys that committed suicide and people
25 that never seen their children and -- it goes on. We

1 all know it goes on. It breaks my heart. It breaks my
2 heart constantly when I think about it.

3 It's the same when I see the guys on the street.
4 I've done it. I've been in a suit, shirt and tie and
5 went and got two coffees and sat down beside them and
6 said, 'Here you are, tell me your story', and when one
7 of them says to me, 'I'll come to a meeting with you',
8 it's fantastic, I've never had a better feeling and --
9 but I'm just privileged and I just want to say thank
10 you, you know.

11 MR MACAULAY: Thank you, 'John', for coming to the Inquiry
12 and answering my questions and making your voice be
13 heard.

14 My Lady, I haven't received any applications for
15 questions for 'John'.

16 LADY SMITH: Thank you.

17 'John', let me add my thanks. You have given us
18 valuable evidence in your written statement and you have
19 faced up to coming here today to explain parts of your
20 evidence in public, making them come alive in a way they
21 wouldn't have done otherwise.

22 In doing that, you have enabled us to develop our
23 work in a way we wouldn't have been able to do otherwise
24 and, as you know, it's really important work.

25 As you leave here today, be assured you've made

1 a valuable contribution to that work. Thank you so
2 much.

3 A. Thank you.

4 (The witness withdrew)

5 MR MACAULAY: My Lady, we can move on to a read-in. The
6 next witness is not due until after the break.

7 LADY SMITH: Let's do that.

8 'Mac' (read)

9 MR MACAULAY: My Lady, this is an applicant who wants to
10 remain anonymous and to be referred to as 'Mac' in his
11 evidence.

12 LADY SMITH: Thank you.

13 MR MACAULAY: The witness statement is WIT-1-000001214.

14 'Mac' was born in the year 1957. He begins in his
15 statement by providing some background about his family
16 and he goes on to tell us that he started what he refers
17 to as 'dogging school' from around the age of seven or
18 eight, and then he got involved in a bit of shoplifting.

19 He ended up being taken to the juvenile court in
20 Glasgow. He would have been 11, he says, at that time
21 and he was sent to Larchgrove for a couple of weeks on
22 remand.

23 He then goes on to talk about the routine at
24 Larchgrove, and I'll pick that up at paragraph 5:

25 'I was only 11 and just a wee boy when I arrived at

1 Larchgrove. I was terrified and didn't know what was
2 happening. There were lots of older boys there who were
3 as old as 16 and some were younger than me too. The
4 staff were terrible and they just slapped me about.
5 I was crying my eyes out for the first while.'

6 Then at 7:

7 'The food was horrible. The porridge in the morning
8 would stay in the plate if you turned it upside down.
9 The food tasted plastic. If you didn't want to eat
10 anything they would make you. They would tell you that
11 you would get a slap if you didn't eat what was on your
12 plate. There were showers but they were communal with
13 no cubicles or curtains. I was embarrassed because
14 I was in there with older boys. I hadn't experienced
15 anything like this before. Staff were in the shower
16 area watching us, but I don't know why. The older boys
17 would say things to wind the younger boys up and the
18 staff just stood there laughing at us.'

19 At 9:

20 'I never saw a social worker when I was there. The
21 only person who visited me was my father, who came once
22 or twice. I think my older brother may have been in
23 St Mary's Children's Home in Bishopbriggs by this time.
24 He had been put in care for the same reason I was,
25 dogging school and shoplifting.

1 All I remember about the staff at Larchgrove was
2 that they used to slap me. They would hit me with
3 an open hand and slap me on the back of my head or my
4 ear. I probably got slapped twice almost every day.
5 The staff were just bullies. I saw them doing this to
6 all the other boys too.

7 I was too frightened to tell anyone about what was
8 going on at Larchgrove. I was just a wee boy and didn't
9 know any better. I thought that was just the way it was
10 in there.

11 I knew when I went to Larchgrove that I was only
12 going to be there for two weeks and would then go back
13 to appear at the juvenile court. Even though I knew it
14 was only for two weeks it was all a big shock to me.
15 I'm sure it was the same probation officer that took me
16 back to the juvenile court and this was for them to
17 decide what was to happen to me. My dad was at the
18 court too but I didn't have a solicitor.

19 I vaguely recall being told I was being sent to
20 St Ninian's for between one and three years. I was
21 shattered and felt awful and I was greeting my eyes out.
22 I was then taken away and the probation officer took me
23 to St Ninian's in Gartmore.'

24 Moving on to paragraph 13, he describes the location
25 of St Ninian's and its size. He thought there was

1 around 90 boys altogether that were split into four
2 houses. He goes on to say:

3 'I can't remember who SNR [REDACTED] was when
4 I arrived, [REDACTED] Brother MJJ [REDACTED] at
5 some point. SNR [REDACTED] Brother HFT [REDACTED].'

6 LADY SMITH: I wonder if that is MJJ [REDACTED]?

7 MR MACAULAY: It will be, yes.

8 He goes on to describe the classrooms and
9 dormitories.

10 At 15:

11 'The general atmosphere at St Ninian's was horrible.
12 There was a constant fear of being hit for no reason.
13 Violence was the norm.'

14 He goes on to talk about the routine at
15 paragraph 19:

16 'We had showers every couple of nights. I don't
17 think we had a shower every day. The showers were
18 communal and there were always two Brothers watching us.
19 I'm not sure why they were there. I don't think there
20 was a need. They seemed to rotate it between them as to
21 who was there. The Brothers in the showers watching us
22 were Brother GZQ [REDACTED], Brother MBZ [REDACTED], Brother Benedict and
23 Brother IAT [REDACTED]. They always wore their monks robes and
24 quite often you could see them obviously masturbating
25 below their robes.'

1 He carries on talking about the regime and the
2 routine.

3 At paragraph 23 he says:

4 'At the weekend we played football against other
5 schools. One was the [he mentions the school],
6 I remember this clearly because after the match we were
7 given a meal, the food was brilliant compared to the
8 slops we were getting at St Ninian's. I always looked
9 forward to going there to play football.'

10 Then at paragraph 26:

11 'After breakfast and before our classes we had
12 cleaning chores to do. This was things like sweeping
13 out and mopping the boot room and in the main house we
14 had to polish the landings. We were given a big duster
15 thing on the end of a pole. It was called a "decky" or
16 something like that. We did this on every school day.'

17 At paragraph 31:

18 'I was treated like I was a bad boy when I was
19 St Ninian's. I was just an innocent wee boy who didn't
20 know what was going on. No one ever asked me if I had
21 any issues or problems and I was never kept up to date
22 to let me know what was happening to me when I was
23 there.'

24 At 33:

25 'The only discipline they had at St Ninian's was

1 slapping and hitting or SNR would belt you
2 over the bare backside. When I gave evidence at the
3 High Court I was cross-examined at the end. It was put
4 to me that there were 90 boys at St Ninian's, so
5 wouldn't I agree that they needed to have a bit of
6 discipline? I replied and agreed, there should be
7 discipline but the staff were heavy handed and I was
8 battered, which is more than discipline. He quickly sat
9 down and didn't ask any more questions. They were far
10 too heavy handed for wee boys like me.'

11 Then at 35 he talks about running away:

12 'The first time I ran away was when they found out
13 I'd been staying with my dad when I was at weekend
14 leave. I would still have been 11. I don't know how
15 they found out. I was called into the headmaster's
16 office and he said I wasn't getting out on weekend leave
17 because my father wasn't fit to look after me and I was
18 sent back to my woodwork class. This broke my heart.
19 On the way back I went to the toilet, crying my eyes out
20 and decided to climb out the window and run away. I was
21 still wearing the uniform green shorts and shirt.

22 I got to the main road and a lorry stopped. I put
23 on a limp and told the driver I was doing a sponsored
24 walk, so he told me to jump in. He gave me a lift back
25 to Glasgow. I was away from St Ninian's for about

1 a month. I can't really remember how I was caught, but
2 it must have been the police and I got taken back to
3 St Ninian's.

4 I ran away from St Ninian's a couple of times. Both
5 times I made it back to Glasgow. One time it was more
6 that I didn't go back rather than I ran away. When
7 I was returned I was taken to SNR [REDACTED] and I was
8 belted on my bare backside. I think I got six of the
9 best. I can't remember if it was Mr MJJ [REDACTED] or if it
10 was SNR [REDACTED]. One of the times,
11 Brother HFT [REDACTED] belted me.

12 After I had run away, I was made to wear massive red
13 shorts, held up with a bit of string tied at the waist,
14 for about six weeks. This was just to humiliate and
15 embarrass me. For a long time after I had run away
16 I didn't get weekend leave until they thought I could be
17 trusted.

18 Brother Benedict was the worst abuser for me and he
19 made my life hell. He was a dirty animal. He didn't
20 just slap like the other staff, he punched and when he
21 did, it hurt. He punched me on the side of my head or
22 around my kidneys or all over really. He was a bully
23 and he hit me and the other boys regularly.

24 One Friday, just before I was going home on weekend
25 leave, we were in the dining room and Brother Benedict

1 clapped his hands. This meant that talking had to stop.
2 Someone at my table must have spoken and I presume
3 Brother Benedict thought it was me. He picked up
4 a chair with a metal frame and hit me across the back
5 with it. I was knocked to the floor. And I remember
6 I was greeting. I was still 11, maybe 12, when this
7 happened.

8 Another time I was in the boot room, which was in
9 the basement, and we were probably carrying on.
10 Brother Benedict came running in with his fists held out
11 in front of him and hit whoever was in front of him. He
12 hit me in the face with full force. Brother Benedict
13 had a whole lot of bootlaces that were intertwined.
14 They were about a metre long. He would use this to whip
15 the boys on their bare legs below their shorts. It was
16 very sore. It didn't leave me with any injuries, but it
17 stung.

18 Brother Benedict used to take activities in one of
19 the sheds outside. I sometimes went to his group, which
20 he called "electronic activities". There were usually
21 four or five boys in the shed. One of the things he
22 would do was rig up some wires and I think a car battery
23 was involved. He would then make the boys hold the two
24 handles, one in each hand. He wound the handle of the
25 dynamo thing, then he gave you an electric shock. He

1 was laughing all the time he was doing this. You
2 couldn't let go because of the electricity and your
3 hands and body were shaking. It was sore through your
4 body. He did this to me a couple of times. He told you
5 to hold onto the handle and if he said so there wasn't
6 an option to refuse. After he had given me the electric
7 shock I felt terrible. I heard he once attached the
8 wires to a boy's testicles.

9 When we got back from the weekend leave on Sunday
10 evening we would be in the boot room in the basement,
11 where we would get changed and leave our dirty washing
12 in a big basket. Some of the boys had little accidents
13 in their pants. All our clothes had our numbers on
14 them, including our pants, so he knew who had made
15 a mess of their pants. He would tell me or someone else
16 to go up to one of the house rooms with all the soiled
17 pants hanging along the handle of a sweeping brush.
18 I was told to shout out the boys' numbers and this was
19 just to embarrass the boys who had done it.

20 Brother MBZ often hit me and the other boys on the
21 top of the head with the knuckles on his hand or with
22 a metal whistle he would be holding between his fingers.
23 Sometimes he would just slap or punch the boys.

24 Brother MBZ slept in his room which was next to my
25 dorm. Sometimes I heard voices through the night, which

1 may have come from his room so he may have had boys
2 there, but I can't be sure.

3 Brother HFT, SNR, slapped me
4 about. He would slap you for silly things, for example,
5 if you weren't standing up straight. Sometimes there
6 was no reason. He would just slap you as he walked
7 passed. Brother IAT took a group of us to Kirkoswald
8 in Ayrshire, we stayed in a building that could have
9 been a Scout hall. One day we were down on the beach
10 and he put his hands down the back of my swimming
11 trunks. I was about 12 at the time. I pushed him away
12 and ran away from him.

13 Brother GZQ was another one who liked to slap the
14 boys about around the back of the head and the ears.

15 There were two young boys at St Ninian's who
16 I believe were training to become Brothers. One was
17 Brother GYV, who was okay. The other was
18 Brother IGO, who was [REDACTED], he was quite
19 small and like hitting the boys on the top of the heads
20 with his knuckles. Some of the boys were taller than
21 him, so he had to jump up to do it.

22 Almost all of the Brothers slapped me across the
23 head and I saw them doing it to the other boys too.

24 GJN was the night watchman. If he heard
25 anyone talking through the night he would come into the

1 dorm and drag all the boys out of their beds and make
2 them stand on the landing, facing the wall with bare
3 feet. In the freezing cold for two or three hours. He
4 was often reeking of drink at the weekends. One time
5 when we were standing there he came behind me and
6 touched my bum. I just pushed him away.

7 GJN came into the dorm through the night and
8 woke up the known bed wetters to get them to go to the
9 toilet. He was so loud he usually woke up the whole
10 dorm. If GJN found that any of the younger boys
11 had wet their beds he would wake up the whole dorm and
12 drag everyone out to stand on the landing. He would
13 shout and bawl at the bed wetters and rub the wet sheets
14 in their faces. Some of these boys were as young as
15 seven. He would then make them wash their sheets in the
16 middle of the night.

17 Mr McKenna, the woodwork teacher, often threw bits
18 of wood at the boys. He touched me up once. I was in
19 his class standing at a workbench and he came behind me
20 and touched my backside. I just moved away from him and
21 that was the end of it. He didn't do it again.

22 Mr MCK was the English teacher and he sometimes
23 walked up behind me and slapped me on the back of the
24 head in the classroom. He did it to all the boys in the
25 class. He used to stand about in the classroom with his

1 hands in his pockets and it was obvious he was playing
2 with himself. He did this in full view of the whole
3 class.'

4 Then the section dealing with reporting of abuse, at
5 56:

6 'Brother Benedict hit me with a chair on the day
7 I got home leave for the weekend.'

8 I read that paragraph:

9 'When I was home my mother realised I had a sore
10 back and saw the marks where I'd been hit. She asked
11 and I told her what had happened. She wrote a letter to
12 the school and it just made matters worse and in fact
13 made my life hell. Brother Benedict must have been
14 pulled up and spoken to about it. He started calling me
15 "a grass" and "a snake" and he got the other boys to do
16 the same. The slapping and hitting by Brother Benedict
17 continued.

18 People have asked me before why I never reported any
19 of the abuse at St Ninian's, but I was just a wee boy,
20 I was scared. There was no one in St Ninian's that
21 I thought I could trust to tell, especially what had
22 happened when my mum wrote to complain about
23 Brother Benedict.

24 Some of the civilian staff were quite decent to me
25 and were okay but there's no doubt they would have seen

1 some of the stuff that was going on and they turned
2 a blind eye to it.

3 I am sure they would have seen the boys getting hit,
4 especially by Brother Benedict. On the occasions that
5 I ran away from St Ninian's, no one ever asked me why
6 I had run away.'

7 He goes on to talk about leaving St Ninian's, he
8 says that he was at St Ninian's for around two years,
9 '... and I think I was 13 when I left.'

10 Which is probably around 1971 or thereabouts. In
11 fact he goes on towards the end of that paragraph:

12 'This would have been around [REDACTED] 1971
13 and I would have been 13.'

14 He goes on to say:

15 'It felt brilliant when I was given this leaving
16 date. It was a great feeling when I left. I think it
17 was a Friday and I left with the other boys on the bus
18 who were going home for weekend leave.

19 When I left St Ninian's I went back home with my
20 mother. Things didn't go well living with her.'

21 He says he started a particular school but didn't
22 stay very long:

23 'I started shoplifting and ended back up in front of
24 the Children's Panel, at the panel it was decided to
25 send me to St John's in Edinburgh, I would have been 15

1 at the time.'

2 My Lady this would be in the post-De La Salle era,
3 and he talks about St John's in the following
4 paragraphs.

5 Then, at paragraph 70, he looks at life after care
6 and I'll read that paragraph:

7 'Throughout my adult life I have done various jobs,
8 often seasonal at holiday camps around the UK. In
9 between I did other casual jobs like roofing and
10 bricklaying, worked in a pulp mill and various driving
11 jobs. I met and married my wife in 1980 and we
12 subsequently moved [to a particular town]. I have my
13 own children and grandchildren.'

14 At the time of the statement he was off work because
15 he had medical issues.

16 At 73:

17 'Sometimes I still think back about my time in care,
18 especially St Ninian's, and how badly treated I was.
19 I think it affected my kids because I was always very
20 strict with them. I didn't want them to get into
21 trouble and go through what I did in care. I was
22 possibly too strict with them. When I see my grandson,
23 who is around the same age I was when I was in care, it
24 makes me think about my time in care and wonder how it
25 could possibly have happened.'

1 He talks about the effect of being in care in
2 relation to his relationship with his mother.

3 At 75:

4 'I think I got a decent education when I was in
5 care, although I suppose it could have been better which
6 would have meant I got better jobs. On saying that,
7 I worked for a number of years in the building trade and
8 had a lot of good laughs and I enjoyed it.'

9 At 78 he talks about being in contact with the
10 police.

11 At 79 what he says is:

12 'The police did a good job overall and I was
13 impressed at how they dealt with it all. Leading up to
14 the trial of Brother Benedict the Procurator Fiscal's
15 office kept in regular contact with me to let me know
16 what was happening. Giving evidence at the High Court
17 was harrowing. I was incredibly nervous and it was
18 harrowing. Once I was in the courtroom and saw the
19 judge I was initially anxious, but when I started
20 speaking I was fine. I had told them that I didn't want
21 to see Brother Benedict in the courtroom, so they put up
22 a screen so we didn't see each other. There was
23 supposed to be a video screen but the videolink wasn't
24 working. Having a screen was fine. I wouldn't choose
25 to give evidence again, but if have to for Brother MBZ

1 then I will.'

2 He goes on to say a 80:

3 'Brother Benedict got seven years at the trial where
4 I gave evidence. I was quite happy with that, but it
5 could have been more. Everyone kept saying it was
6 a shame because he was an old man. I don't see it like
7 that, because I was just a wee boy and he shouldn't have
8 done what he did.'

9 Then, looking to the section dealing with lessons to
10 be learned at 84:

11 'I think more care and consideration is essential
12 before the decision is made to put children into care.
13 I shouldn't have been removed from my family and put
14 into care in the first place. My family was broken up
15 and no one tried to find out what the issue was or try
16 and resolve it or at least offer any help.

17 Religious Brothers shouldn't be put in charge of
18 children. Some of them were absolute animals. The
19 vetting has to be stricter and if there is anything in
20 the person's past that rings alarm bells they shouldn't
21 be touched with a bargepole.

22 I hope that what happened to me, my brothers and all
23 the other boys never happens again to other children in
24 the future.'

25 He ends by saying:

1 If I can begin by asking you to turn to the very
2 last page of the statement. Have you signed statement?

3 A. Yes, ma'am.

4 Q. In the very last paragraph, do you say:

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

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

9 A. Yes, ma'am.

10 Q. To begin with, 'Archie', I want to look at your life
11 before you went into care and you tell us a little bit
12 about that in your statement. I think you tell us that
13 you lived with your parents and your siblings in an area
14 in Glasgow?

15 A. Yeah.

16 Q. Was it quite a happy time?

17 A. Not when my father was there. My father was an abuser
18 of me and my mother.

19 Q. Was he violent to your mother?

20 A. Yeah, yeah.

21 Q. Indeed, I think you tell us that he didn't provide money
22 for your mother?

23 A. Yeah. He was always -- when he got his wages he would
24 rather be out with his friends and his cronies spending
25 it on drink than giving it to my mother to keep us, as

1 a parent normally would do.

2 Q. Did there come a time where you started going out to try
3 and get some money?

4 A. Yeah. It started off as childish pranks, carrying on.
5 I remember I was charged once when I was very young for
6 stealing empty bottles off the back of a lorry. I was
7 charged with that and -- but my mother kept that from my
8 father.

9 LADY SMITH: Were you taking the bottles --

10 A. I was taking them to make money to give to my mother.
11 Back in those days, life was quite hard.

12 LADY SMITH: I get that. Back in those days, you could take
13 your bottle, your ginger bottle --

14 A. You would get money for them. I used to do that all the
15 time to make up a certain amount of money to give to my
16 mother.

17 LADY SMITH: Thank you.

18 MS MACLEOD: Did you end up appearing before a court?

19 A. Yes, ma'am. I don't know if it was a court, more like
20 a Children's Panel. It's quite hard to remember back
21 then, it's over 60 years ago.

22 Q. Do you know roughly how old you might have been when
23 that happened?

24 A. I think that probably started when I was maybe
25 eight/nine years of age.

1 Q. You tell us that at that time you spent around a month
2 in a residential school?

3 A. Yes.

4 Q. That then when you were at home again, a little time
5 later, that you got into trouble again?

6 A. I was getting into trouble for misbehaving and things
7 like that and doing things that -- at that age you don't
8 realise the consequences of things like that.

9 My idea then was just to make enough to give to my
10 mum for us to live on, but these things started back
11 then, especially what happened to me in St Ninian's, my
12 life just continued in that manner.

13 Q. Was it when you were around ten, I think you tell us,
14 that you were before a court or a panel again in
15 Glasgow?

16 A. Yeah, aye.

17 Q. From there, you went to St Ninian's?

18 A. I went to St Ninian's -- I can remember the dates
19 exactly. I went into St Ninian's on [REDACTED] 1964.

20 I didn't know at the time that from that day on my
21 life would be hell, you know what I mean and I didn't
22 know that on that day that would be -- the only time
23 I would ever see my mother again was for half an hour
24 the night before she died in [REDACTED] of the same year.

25 Q. Do you remember arriving at St Ninian's?

1 A. I remember being taken there by -- I don't know if they
2 were Brothers or lay teachers, but when I was taken
3 there and you got out the car and you go into the
4 building you are taken aback the size of the place.
5 I mean it was a beautiful building. I know throughout
6 my life I've always been into old buildings. That's the
7 way -- we used to play in them when we were younger,
8 that was our playgrounds, but when you went inside it,
9 it was a frightening place because it was so dark.
10 Everything was all dark wood. It was cold.

11 When you first went in you were taken in front of

12 SNR [REDACTED], who at that time was Brother MCA [REDACTED].

13 Q. We'll come to look at that in just a few moments.

14 Had anybody explained to you, 'Archie', why you were
15 going to St Ninian's?

16 A. I thought it was just for misbehaving or either that or
17 to be taken away from my father.

18 Q. Did you have any indication at that time how long you
19 were going to be in there?

20 A. No.

21 LADY SMITH: Do you think it would have helped if you had
22 been given some idea of how long it would be?

23 A. I was never told by anybody how long I was going to be
24 in there.

25 LADY SMITH: I get that.

1 A. I found out when I was in there that it's up to when the
2 Brothers are ready to let you go, that is when you get
3 released, so --

4 LADY SMITH: I realise that's how it was, 'Archie'. I just
5 wondered whether it might have helped a bit if you had
6 been told --

7 A. We weren't told how long we were going to be there. As
8 far as I was concerned, I thought it was like the
9 previous place I'd been, it was like a residential
10 school, but you soon found out that was totally
11 different once you were in there, because of the way it
12 was ran, the regime, the way the Brothers ran the place.

13 LADY SMITH: I think we're going to come to that, 'Archie'.
14 Ms MacLeod.

15 MS MACLEOD: My Lady.

16 When you arrived at St Ninian's, what was your
17 understanding of who ran the place?

18 A. Brothers, the De La Salle Brothers.

19 Q. What gave you that understanding that it was the
20 Brothers who ran the place?

21 A. It was always them that was telling you what to do. It
22 was them that was telling the teachers what to do. On
23 the length of time I was in there I never once seen
24 a teacher telling a Brother what to do.

25 Q. You are referring there to teachers who were lay staff,

1 not Brothers?

2 A. Lay staff, yeah.

3 Q. Your impression was the Brothers were in overall charge?

4 A. Yeah, because the way you look at it, all the Brothers
5 stayed in the main house that did live there, whereas
6 the teachers stayed above the workshops, wee dingy
7 rooms, so I think if it was the other way round it would
8 be the teachers that were staying in the big house and
9 not the Brothers.

10 Brother MCA was SNR school.

11 Q. Did you meet him shortly after arriving?

12 A. Yeah.

13 Q. We'll just look now at some of the Brothers you recall
14 and some of the lay staff and what their roles may have
15 been.

16 You have mentioned Brother MCA and that he was
17 SNR, was he SNR?

18 A. He was SNR and SNR would have
19 been Brother MBU.

20 Q. Brother MCA, then, when you were in St Ninian's,
21 what sort of engagement did you have with him?

22 A. The first thing you get took to meet them, you stand --
23 where SNR stayed it was a dead, dark dingy
24 part of the building, he would come out -- you would be
25 standing there and he'd come out and I think it was --

1 Miss Berry was the housekeeper of the house. She took
2 me in front of him and he would tell me what the rules
3 and what you done in there, the things not to do. And
4 things like that. Because they were very strict on the
5 regime in there.

6 Q. Can you remember on that first day what sort of things
7 he told you about the rules?

8 A. To behave yourself, to keep yourself clean, to do what
9 you're told and to -- anything you're told it's got to
10 be done, keep your room tidy. Or your dormitory tidy.
11 Keep your kit clean and tidy. Everybody had a different
12 colour of uniform.

13 It was all the same uniform, apart from small tags.
14 You'd have yellow for De La Salle, red for St George's,
15 green for St Pat's and blue for St Andrew's. That was
16 the way --

17 Q. The school was divided into four different houses?

18 A. Uh-huh.

19 Q. What about Brother MBU, you mentioned him there,
20 what was his role?

21 A. Brother MBU, he kind of was the -- he done a lot of
22 the sports with the pupils. There was a PTI instructor
23 in there at the time, but there was different football
24 teams they ran so different teachers or the Brothers
25 took charge of the football teams.

1 Brother MBU was SNR . He --

2 Brother MCA would tell Brother MBU what's to be

3 done and he would get it carried out within the school.

4 Q. We'll come on to look at Brother MBU a little later,

5 but I think you say he was a good man?

6 A. Well, I thought he was a good man. My first impression

7 of him he was a good man.

8 Q. Brother Benedict is another Brother that you talk about

9 in your statement. What was his role, 'Archie'?

10 A. He had the run of the school. He done whatever he

11 wanted. The only way I could describe that man is

12 a Jekyll and Hyde, one minute he'd be perfectly normal

13 with you, the next second he could have you down on the

14 ground, kneeling on top of you, punching you, taking

15 what you'd had just bought out of the canteen off you.

16 The man was a loose cannon as far as I was concerned.

17 Q. What was his job at the school?

18 A. The only Brother I really got along with in there was

19 Brother Anthony. He was an older Brother, I would say

20 he was in his late 80s. It was Brother Anthony that

21 kind of got me in, when I was young, into gardening,

22 like learning how to plant flowers, how to bring them

23 on. All the old man ever done was walk about humming to

24 himself. That was all he done. He was a harmless old

25 man.

1 Q. Was he a much older Brother?

2 A. Yes, I would say he was the oldest person in the school.

3 Q. You tell us about some of the lay staff, the civilian
4 staff.

5 A. The lay staff, well they had different jobs. Two of
6 them were teachers, educational teachers. The other
7 ones would be for an engineering instructor, joinery
8 work and things like that. There wasn't really much to
9 do in St Ninian's apart from attending the classes.
10 Once the classes were done, you done your housework,
11 which was buffeting the floors, making up your own
12 big -- I mean, back in them days, the bigger your bumper
13 the more floor you could shine, so we actually made ones
14 that had two handles on it and that's what you done all
15 day, just back and forward, buffing and polishing
16 floors.

17 Q. Did you have a particular job to do?

18 A. Just different jobs you got put on to. You might get
19 sent down to the kit room to help Miss Berry with making
20 up the kits, in the sewing bay you learnt how to sew and
21 things like that. But most of your time in there, apart
22 from education, cleaning and then after that it was your
23 own time, because you go wherever you want.

24 As I said, the good things I learnt in St Ninian's
25 was outdoor life, canoeing, hill climbing,

1 mountaineering, things like that, but after that, it was
2 just certain things happened to me that took the good
3 things away.

4 Q. You do tell us about some of these good things,
5 'Archie', in your statement and I think you say that you
6 got the opportunity to be involved in things that you
7 perhaps wouldn't otherwise have been involved in?

8 A. Yeah. Well, staying in Glasgow, our playground was the
9 back courts of the old tenements, old buildings. For
10 somebody like me to be taken away from that environment
11 and put into a total different environment, it was a wow
12 factor, but for me to be taken away from my family and
13 my siblings at that age and placed into -- put in
14 a place that I didn't know, it was terrifying, you know
15 what I mean. You don't know anybody. You don't know
16 any of the other pupils. You don't know any members of
17 the staff.

18 And as for seeing my own family, as I said earlier,
19 I never seen my mother again until [REDACTED], the
20 night before she died.

21 Q. We'll look at that in some detail in just a few moments.

22 Can I ask you about the other boys who were at
23 St Ninian's. How many boys were there first of all?

24 A. I'll say because of all the different dormitories that
25 were there, I would say in between 60 to 80/90 pupils at

1 the one time.

2 Q. What about the age range of the boys?

3 A. They ranged from seven years of age up to their 20s.

4 There were actually pupils who had been put in there and

5 they'd grown up in there and actually worked from the

6 school.

7 Q. That is something you tell us about in your statement

8 and I wanted to ask you about.

9 Were these former pupils of the school --

10 A. Yes.

11 Q. -- who had stayed on?

12 A. Had stayed on. They'd nowhere to go. They were like

13 orphans or whatever. They would be put up over in

14 the -- where the workshops were. There was rooms above

15 all the workshops. They were just wee, poky rooms, but

16 that's where the teachers stayed and any of the older

17 pupils, who were working -- they would go to a civilian

18 job.

19 Q. They would get a job in the school doing something?

20 A. They would get a job, an ordinary job and come back and

21 live in the school.

22 Q. I see, so they wouldn't be working in the school?

23 A. No.

24 Q. They'd be working outside?

25 A. Some do, some would be working on the farm, but most of

1 the older lads were working on outside jobs.

2 Q. The boys who were in the school with you, not people who
3 had left, but people who were in the school, you have
4 mentioned they were as young at seven. How old were the
5 older boys in there?

6 A. 20, 21. I think about 21 would be the oldest that I can
7 remember.

8 LADY SMITH: What about the oldest that was still going to
9 classes at the school?

10 A. Well, it was just like a normal day at school outside.
11 It was the same in there. You got your breakfast, done
12 your chores, had your education --

13 LADY SMITH: Can I stop you a minute, 'Archie'. It's my
14 fault for not having explained it properly. I was
15 interested in the ages. At that time, I think the
16 school leaving age might still have been 14.

17 A. Yeah.

18 LADY SMITH: Would 14 be the oldest who were actually going
19 to the classrooms?

20 A. Everybody was going to classrooms. You had your infant
21 school and all your younger ones, then like me, I would
22 have been in the middle class and then Brother MBU
23 he took the class above that.

24 LADY SMITH: That would be up to age 14, I think, wouldn't
25 it?

1 A. That would be all the different age groups in different
2 classes.

3 LADY SMITH: Thank you.

4 Ms MacLeod.

5 MS MACLEOD: My Lady.

6 Your dormitory, 'Archie', did you sleep in
7 a particular dormitory to begin with when you arrived at
8 St Ninian's?

9 A. Yes.

10 Q. How many children were in that dormitory?

11 A. Maybe 20.

12 Q. Were these boys your own age or was there an age range?

13 A. Yes, roughly about -- they tried to put the same age
14 pupils in the same dormitory. The dormitories you got
15 put into, they all went with kit number you were given
16 and the colour of kit. As I say, De La Salle was
17 yellow, and red, green and blue for -- and your numbers
18 would go up, because when you were down in the basement
19 of the school, you had all your shoe racks and your
20 racks for your kit. That's where most of your living
21 was done, your changing was done, not in your
22 dormitories.

23 Q. To begin with then, you were in a dormitory with about
24 20 boys around your own age?

25 A. Yes.

1 Q. Who was involved in the mornings at St Ninian's getting
2 the boys up and that sort of thing?

3 A. It could be the nightshift, the person on nightshift,
4 who I know now was McKinstry, because I've been reading
5 up on it. He would come in, in the morning and ring
6 a bell. You got up and you got up right away, because
7 if you didn't get up they would come in and just drag
8 you out of your bed.

9 You got out of your bed, you went down, you got
10 washed, you got your shower, got your breakfast and then
11 you would be given chores to do, like do the dishes in
12 there or brush the hall or polish it before you went to
13 your classes.

14 Q. Who was in charge of that, was that lay staff or
15 Brothers?

16 A. All different ones. The different classes for the ages
17 of the children. Mr MCK, he would have been in the
18 younger kids. My teacher -- the Brother that ran my
19 class, I can never remember his name -- something like
20 MJJ keeps coming into my head but I am not sure,
21 and then Brother MBU would run the older classes.

22 Q. What about putting boys to bed at night and supervising
23 that process?

24 A. The last thing you done was got your shower and then you
25 would be -- go up the stairs. The showers are all in

1 the basement. There are four floors in St Ninian's,
2 basement, main floor, first floor and then the kind of
3 up in the battlement part of the building, but we'd
4 never been up there. All the different dormitories were
5 all on the one floor, one level, that would be on
6 landing two ... no, three.

7 LADY SMITH: Was it the Brothers that supervised bedtime?

8 A. Brother and teachers at the same time.

9 LADY SMITH: Thank you.

10 MS MACLEOD: You have mentioned the school there. How did
11 you find the quality of the education you got at
12 St Ninian's?

13 A. Quite good, it was okay. But I was only ever in the one
14 class, so I couldn't say anything about the junior --
15 the primary or the ones older than me. The Brother that
16 educated us, he was quite good -- the education was
17 quite good.

18 Q. You have mentioned already in your evidence, 'Archie',
19 that you got home at certain points in time?

20 A. Aye.

21 Q. If we can focus first of all on the first time you got
22 home from St Ninian's. Can you tell me about that?
23 What were the circumstances of that?

24 A. I think it was Brother MBU that had came up and told
25 me that I would be getting taken home for a couple of

1 days to see my mother. I didn't know it at the time, my
2 mother was severely ill. This was all caused by the
3 beatings she was getting off my father.

4 She was 32, dead and buried. Four kids and because
5 of what that man done to her, the beatings. It had
6 caused cancer in her arm. And it spread to a tumour and
7 she died the day after. I had seen her for 20
8 minutes/half an hour. That was the last time I seen my
9 mum alive. I can always remember walking out the ward
10 and looking at my mum and she turned and tried to smile.
11 She knew. She didn't know what was going on with me.
12 She couldn't have, because I never told her. But it was
13 a waste of a life.

14 Q. I think you tell us, 'Archie', that the next time you
15 went home, that your father --

16 A. I was taken home. I think I was left for three days to
17 go up and see my mother that night and then next day my
18 father just came in, I was sitting in the -- we had
19 moved from a new house in Townhead to Possilpark in
20 Glasgow. I was sitting in the room and my father came
21 back for the funeral. He said -- no, he came back the
22 next day from hospital and said, 'That's it, your
23 mammy's away'. That was it. Nothing, no comfort, no
24 nothing, just, 'Your mammy's away'.

25 That broke my heart, and my cousins came in and

1 comforted me. I never got anything like that from my
2 father.

3 Q. Did you go back to St Ninian's later that day?

4 A. Yeah. I don't know if it was later that day or the day
5 after that I was taken back to St Ninian's. I can't
6 remember much about going back. I think -- I was in
7 a bad place. I couldn't remember much about going back.

8 Q. Did the Brothers at St Ninian's know what was happening
9 in your home life and that your mother had died?

10 A. That's what made me think Brother MBU kind of took
11 me under his wing, because he knew my mother was dying
12 and as I said at the beginning of the statement, I got
13 on very well with Brother MBU. It was only -- he
14 got me moved from the dormitory I was in. I was put
15 into -- the small St Andrew's dorm. There was only four
16 beds in it, I was the only person in it.

17 It was only about maybe three or four days after it
18 I woke up during the night being abused.

19 Q. We'll look at that in a few minutes.

20 You were in a larger dormitory in St Ninian's?

21 A. Yeah.

22 Q. After your mother had died you were moved --

23 A. Yeah.

24 Q. -- by Brother MBU to a smaller --

25 A. Smaller dormitory, because of the way I was.

1 Q. When you say 'the way I was', could you just explain to
2 me?

3 A. Crying, upset. I mean, what a normal child would do if
4 he loses his mother, you know what I mean. The worst
5 thing that ever happened to me in my life was losing my
6 mother, for no reason apart from the beatings my father
7 was giving her, caused her death.

8 Q. In your statement, in relation to Brother MBU, you
9 say that he was quite supportive?

10 A. Yeah.

11 Q. There was no agenda there, he was genuine?

12 A. Yeah.

13 Q. You have told us a few moments ago you were moved into
14 a dormitory with two beds?

15 A. There was four beds in it, but I was only -- I was the
16 only child in it.

17 Q. I see.

18 A. I think they put me there to be out the way, because of
19 the way I was, upset and crying. Just what a normal
20 child would do.

21 Q. If we can now look, 'Archie', to some of the evidence
22 you provide in your statement about the discipline
23 regime and how that was managed at St Ninian's.

24 You tell us about a member of staff called
25 Mr McKenna?

1 A. Yeah.

2 Q. What was his role in the school?

3 A. He was the joinery teacher. He learnt the kids joinery
4 work, as well as looking after the kids in the main
5 block when they were there.

6 Q. Where did you encounter him in the school?

7 A. When you were getting woodwork classes. Your day was
8 sometimes spent doing different things, like classroom,
9 ordinary education. If you wanted to learn woodwork you
10 were put into there to learn some woodwork, or ironwork
11 if you went to the engineer's class. There wasn't that
12 many classes really for the kids in there.

13 Q. Did he have a particular way of disciplining or
14 punishing children?

15 A. Oh, yeah. It was like a referee's whistle. If that was
16 your head, he would just clunk you on the head with it.

17 Q. What was the whistle made out of?

18 A. Steel. It was a metal whistle, and it can be very, very
19 painful, especially when you're getting it done two or
20 three times.

21 Q. Did he do that to you?

22 A. Oh, yeah, a couple of times in the class, yeah.

23 What you have to remember if you get hit on the shin
24 with something solid it stays there for hours. That is
25 what this was like.

1 All the teachers had their own sadistic ways of
2 hurting pupils. One would be lifting you by the ear or
3 lifting you by the side of the hair or clunking you in
4 the head or hitting you with a belt or a stick. You
5 were used to that, because it was happening daily.

6 Q. What about Brother MCA, SNR? You tell
7 us that he had a particular punishment for boys if they
8 were caught swearing?

9 A. Yeah, you would -- he would have a bar of soap and you
10 would need to put it in your mouth and stand outside his
11 door for maybe three or four hours at a time, with this
12 bar of soap in your mouth.

13 Q. Did that happen to you?

14 A. Three times that happened to me. Even thinking about
15 it, I can still taste it, you know what I mean, thinking
16 back. And you were told if you spat it out or whatever
17 he would see it on the floor, so that would make it go
18 on longer.

19 When you were doing things like that to a kid, kids
20 get -- they build up a way to do it, that they're not
21 swallowing their saliva. One of the hardest things to
22 do when there is something in your mouth is not to
23 swallow and then sometimes when you do swallow that
24 taste is in your mouth for days at a time.

25 He came out every hour to check on you.

1 Q. Did Brother MCA have an implement that he used to
2 punish children?

3 A. He always had a belt around his waist, hanging from his
4 cord on his tunic.

5 Q. What sort of thing would prompt Brother MCA to use
6 the belt?

7 A. Anything. You could be just walking along through the
8 boys and all of a sudden for no reason he would pull it
9 off and just start hitting boys with it. He didn't need
10 a reason for it. It is the same, I found like Murphy --
11 well, Benedict and MCA, they were just two sadistic
12 men. That was it. They went out of their way to hurt
13 you.

14 Q. Focusing on Brother MCA for the moment, did he hit
15 you with a belt?

16 A. A couple of times, yeah, especially after if you had
17 been arguing with him -- if you didn't you weren't going
18 to put the soap in your mouth, he just hit you until you
19 put the soap in your mouth.

20 Q. Was there a particular part of your body he would target
21 with the belt?

22 A. Always the legs or the backside.

23 LADY SMITH: Were you wearing shorts, 'Archie'?

24 A. Yes, ma'am. That was the uniform of the school,
25 a cotton shirt, a sleeveless jumper and short khaki

1 shorts and then whatever colour of socks. The socks
2 were all the same colour, but you had your tags on them
3 for different houses.

4 MS MACLEOD: Did you have injuries as a result of being hit
5 by Brother MCA with the belt.

6 A. I used to have marks, bruises.

7 They always tried to hit you in places where it
8 wouldn't show. But nine times out of ten they always
9 missed because it was always shorts you had on.

10 Q. Brother Benedict, if we can look at him now. You have
11 mentioned this already and you tell us in your
12 statement, that he had an involvement in the tuck shop,
13 is that right?

14 A. Yeah.

15 Q. What was his role there?

16 A. He ran the tuck shop. The tuck shop was situated in the
17 bottom landing. The bottom landing had all your kit
18 rooms, sewing rooms, shower rooms, canteen where we got
19 fed, the restaurant in there. Everything was on the
20 bottom.

21 He would be the man -- what the canteen tuck shop
22 was like was like an ordinary garden shed, only they put
23 a flap on it and the front came up for the counter and
24 two half doors at the side. It was just an ordinary
25 wooden shed.

1 Q. How did he conduct himself when he was running the tuck
2 shop?

3 A. Sometimes it was okay and other times, as I mentioned
4 before, I found the man to be a fruit cake, anything
5 could send him off the handle. If you were standing --
6 you got paid, you got your money. There were certain
7 ways you could make your money. Your parents could send
8 it in or during the summer time you made your own money
9 because everybody was out potato picking. That is what
10 the school was for. You did it all over Stirling and
11 Aberfoyle and you would get money for that.

12 On a Friday when you would get your money, you would
13 go to get your canteen and it was just like an ordinary
14 wee shop. You bought your stuff, but if you bought
15 something that he would want, then he would just jump --
16 run out the door, chase you, take it off you, drink it.
17 He done that with me. Threw me on the ground, knelt on
18 my chest, drank my bottle of orange, a full bottle, and
19 then threw it down on top of me and walked away.

20 That happened a couple of times with me. You --
21 once you got to know them, the longer you were in there,
22 you knew who to keep away from and who you could get on
23 with.

24 Q. Did you see Brother Benedict behave in that way to other
25 boys in the tuck shop?

1 A. Yeah. Nearly every Friday. It didn't have to be
2 a Friday. Outside the main building, across maybe
3 50 yards from the corner, we had a yard with a wire
4 fence, maybe about six feet, that's where we all played
5 football. At times some of the Brothers would come in
6 and join in, but when Murphy -- Benedict,
7 Brother Benedict, came in, he was -- I don't know if you
8 ever seen the charity game where that Prime Minister
9 running about, just kicking -- breaking -- this is what
10 this man was like. He didn't care if he hurt you,
11 pushed you out the way. It was just his way of treating
12 kids.

13 Q. Did other brothers see that?

14 A. Yes.

15 Q. Did they do anything to try and stop him?

16 A. No, no. The one that was usually always there was
17 Brother MBU, and as I said earlier in my statement
18 I found Brother MBU to be a good man, but later on
19 when I found out what the man was really like, they were
20 all the same as far as I'm concerned.

21 Q. Did Brother MBU see Brother Benedict then behaving
22 in that way with children?

23 A. At certain times the Brothers were all together, like
24 meal times or chapel on a Sunday or when they were going
25 to swimming, different Brothers. It was usually always

1 Brother MBU or Brother HED that took you
2 swimming. They had their own bus, they had a wee blue
3 bus, you would either drive into Glasgow, just at
4 Whiteinch and use their swimming, or Kirkintilloch and
5 the other place we used to go was the orphanage for
6 soldiers and sailors out at Dunblane. They had a big
7 school there and we used to -- because we used to play
8 a lot of football against them and that's where you had
9 to go for your swimming as well.

10 Q. Did other Brothers ever intervene in the way
11 Brother Benedict was treating children?

12 A. No, no, no. As I said, me being in there, I would say
13 there were six Brothers, that would be starting from
14 MCA, MBU, Brother HED, Brother Anthony and
15 my teacher, I can never ever remember my teacher's name,
16 but you had other Brothers that came from different
17 schools, maybe for the day or a couple of days, from the
18 likes of St Mary's or St John's.

19 They would come there for daily visits or they would
20 bring other kids from their schools to there for games,
21 tournaments and things like that.

22 Q. You have spoken there about Mr McKenna, Brother MCA
23 and Brother Benedict. Are you able to help me with --
24 how was the atmosphere at St Ninian's, how would you
25 describe it?

1 A. The atmosphere was always grim, especially inside the
2 building. It was just the way the atmosphere was. You
3 had to look out -- as kids you carry on, you get up to
4 mischief, but in there you had to be very careful with
5 your mischief or what you were doing, because if anybody
6 seen you and reported you, you knew what was coming.
7 You would have to go in front of Brother MCA either
8 for the soap in your mouth if it was swearing or to get
9 the belt if you had been doing any arguments or doing
10 something wrong. It was a very strict regime.

11 Q. I think you tell us, you describe in your statement,
12 'Archie', that for the first while at St Ninian's things
13 were generally okay for you.

14 A. Yeah. It was like a learning period. For me, because
15 I didn't know anybody, I didn't know what you could do,
16 where you could go. In your own time you had the run of
17 the grounds. You could go anywhere you wanted within
18 the grounds. It was a massive, massive ground. It's
19 a shame to see the state of disrepair to the grounds.

20 I go out quite a lot and I'm under a psychologist
21 just now for what's happened to me back then and I'm now
22 finding out the reason why I go back there. There's
23 a certain place in St Ninian's that was my wee comfort
24 place, it was a place I went to when I didn't feel right
25 or when I was being abused. That was my place I went

1 to.

2 Q. I'd like to come on to look at that part of your
3 statement where you tell us about Mr MCK .

4 I think you say it was about five or six months into
5 your time at St Ninian's?

6 A. No, I would say it was shorter. I'd say maybe about two
7 or three months, because I've now been able to put dates
8 together when I went in there and how long I was there.
9 I would say maybe about two months.

10 Q. What was Mr MCK 's role in the school?

11 A. He was the teacher -- the lay teacher for the primary
12 pupils, under ten. He also ran the horses and the
13 ponies. That was a thing I got into. I still do now,
14 I like horses and ponies.

15 Q. Where did he live?

16 A. He stayed within the grounds of the school; I think it
17 was over in the block above the work classes.

18 Q. How did you get to know Mr MCK ?

19 A. I joined the pony trekking, the horse riding.

20 Q. When did you start to realise or when did he start doing
21 something to you that you weren't comfortable with?

22 A. At times when you were riding the horse, he would be
23 touching your leg, rubbing his hand up and down your
24 leg. As time gradually moved on, it got worse. He
25 started touching me in my private parts, taking me in

1 places where he made me touch him, with my hand or my
2 mouth. This went on for -- it went on until just before
3 I was released.

4 You tried ... when things -- as a child you don't
5 know what's happening. It's not like nowadays children
6 are educated about sex education and things like that.
7 When I was born there was none of this. So what this
8 man was doing to me, I didn't know if it was right, if
9 it was wrong, if it was a form of punishment. I know
10 now he was grooming me, leading up to other things
11 further down the line.

12 Q. This started when you were out with him, working with
13 the horses and the ponies?

14 A. Uh-huh.

15 Q. You say he made contact with your private parts?

16 A. When he's putting you on the horses he would be fixing
17 the saddle and holding your leg and you'd notice his
18 hands going up your shorts and things like that, but you
19 didn't think anything of this, because as a child you
20 don't realise what's happening.

21 Q. Did he touch you over your clothes or under your
22 clothes?

23 A. At first it used to be on top of the clothes and then
24 the legs and then it would be sliding under your
25 trousers and then it moved on to if you were out in the

1 forest with the horses. I think it was about seven
2 horses, I can still remember their names and whatnot.

3 He would take you out, but what would tend to happen
4 was he would hold you back, so that the other pupils on
5 the horses were further and further away and then he
6 would do what he was going to do to me. Either touch
7 me. It got more severe as the time went on.

8 Q. You have told me about him touching you. Did you
9 mention that he then asked you to touch him?

10 A. He made me touch him -- use my hands and then it was my
11 mouth.

12 Q. Where on his body did you have to touch him?

13 A. Down below.

14 Q. On his penis?

15 A. Yeah.

16 Q. Would his penis be erect when you were doing this?

17 A. Yes.

18 Q. Did he ejaculate?

19 A. Sometimes, yeah.

20 I mean, thinking back then, I didn't know what all
21 that was. I was a child. You don't know what
22 ejaculation is or this and that, it's very hard for
23 a child to take that kind of thing in, what's being
24 done. You don't know.

25 Q. Did Mr MCK become involved in runs --

1 A. Yes.

2 Q. -- that were organised in the school?

3 A. Yeah. He used to take you into Aberfoyle, take you on
4 the bus and then you'd get off the bus and then you
5 would run through the Queen Elizabeth Forest from
6 Aberfoyle. There was paths -- it's all different paths,
7 but they all took you back to St Ninian's.

8 During the times if you were running -- I mean we
9 were only kids and you're talking about temperatures as
10 cold as it is just now. No socks. Pair of shorts and
11 a vest. That's the way you had to go out in those days
12 and by the time you got back to the school you just ran
13 straight into the shower room, just to get your heat up.
14 You heat your body and get your clothes off.

15 Q. Was Mr MCK involved in the showering after the runs?

16 A. Most of the times in the shower it would either be
17 a Brother there, a couple of Brothers or some lay
18 teachers or a Brother and a lay teacher.

19 Their ways of getting you out the showers if they're
20 trying to get you out would be -- I don't know if anyone
21 has ever done it to you, a towel, a wet towel, roll it
22 up and you flick it and if you ever get that, it
23 takes -- it breaks the skin and they all used to do
24 that, this was their pranks at getting kids to move out
25 the shower room.

1 Q. Were you being hit by the towel on your naked body?

2 A. Yeah, a couple of times I got that. To them it was
3 a joke, but to me if you got hit with it it was sore.
4 It was really painful. This is what I said before, they
5 all had their little sadistic things to do to kids that
6 hurt them. They all had their different ways.

7 Q. Was Mr MCK involved in showering after runs?

8 A. Yeah. He was always there at the showers. Him and
9 Murphy -- I keep calling him Murphy, it's Benedict,
10 Brother Benedict. They were always there. And the
11 thing is with the showers, there was no doors on the
12 showers. There was two sets of showers in the middle of
13 the floor and all the way around the back would be the
14 sinks, the taps where you could wash.

15 Nearly every time they were always there. They
16 were -- you could feel their eyes on you. You knew what
17 they were looking at. You had about 20 or 30 kids all
18 running about the shower all naked, why are all these
19 people here watching them? You know what I mean.

20 Q. Were Mr MCK and Brother Benedict there together or was
21 it one or the other?

22 A. Yes, at different times. It just depends who was on the
23 rota that they had. It would mostly be the same eight
24 people that were in the school all the time. The
25 Brothers and the teachers.

1 Q. When Mr MCK was involved in the showering, did he
2 sometimes ask boys to stay back after the showers?

3 A. Yeah, they asked me -- twice that happened to me.

4 Q. On the occasions that Mr MCK asked you to stay back
5 after showering, what happened?

6 A. The same thing you would be getting, touching me,
7 touching him. Thinking back, I think they all had their
8 own victims, because I've checked it all up and there
9 have been true cases and this is what has happened.
10 Every one of them had a different person. That's what
11 makes me angry when I say that I thought a lot of
12 Brother MBU, because he was a good man, he looked
13 after me, but later on in life -- I bumped into him in
14 civilian life. I bumped into him in Edinburgh Road
15 outside St John's, the same person, he hadn't changed,
16 but after giving my statement to the Inquiry and then to
17 Police Scotland, that's when I was informed that
18 Brother MBU was one of the worst ones for the abuse,
19 abusing kids.

20 Q. If at the moment, and I know it can be difficult, if we
21 can just try and focus on your own memories of what
22 happened at St Ninian's at this time. Then we can look
23 a little later at things that happened to you later in
24 life and who you met --

25 A. As for the abuse, and I told you the grooming, the

1 touching, the feeling and getting me to do things, that
2 changed drastically.

3 One day another pupil come out and told me Mr MCK
4 wanted to see me. I didn't know what it was for,
5 because of what was happening with Mr MCK I was trying
6 to keep out of his way.

7 I went in and he made up some excuse that I'd fed
8 the horses and the ponies the wrong feed.

9 Q. Was that in Mr MCK 's classroom?

10 A. Yes.

11 Q. Did a boy come to you and say Mr MCK wanted to see you
12 in the classroom?

13 A. He wanted to see me for something to do with the horses
14 and the ponies. I thought it was something to do with
15 the feed, that I'd given them the wrong feed or not
16 mixed it right.

17 I went over and he told me that it was, I had fed
18 them wrong, he told me to lean over the desk. I leaned
19 over the desk and he hit me with his belt a couple of
20 times, and then all of a sudden, he was inside me. He
21 raped me in his class, as a kid I tried to scream, but
22 he had a leather cushion on his chair. He had it on his
23 desk and he forced my face into it, squeezing my head
24 into it while he abused me.

25 That happened on another seven occasions with

1 Mr MCK at different parts of the school property. But
2 the worst time, to me it was all bad, but it was for him
3 to come in and do that to me three days after I buried
4 my mother, to wake up in bed to find a man abusing you.

5 That was the hardest thing for me to take. And the
6 way I look -- I've tried to work out in my head. If my
7 mother wouldn't have died when she did, I probably would
8 have gone on for another long time in there being
9 abused, so I look at it that my mother dying saved me
10 from further abuse. And that's hard to take. I wish
11 I could turn back the time, stay with my father and
12 I'd have put up with the abuse as long as my mother
13 would have lived. Same as happened with the abuse,
14 I would have taken it and accepted it, if my mother had
15 been alive.

16 But he used me like a piece of meat, that man, and
17 I'll never forgive him for it. Same as with my father,
18 I'll never forgive my father for what he done to me and
19 my mother. I'm glad my dad is dead and I hope MCK is
20 the same, because of what they done to me.

21 I've had to put up with this for 60 years in here,
22 and for me to sit and tell my daughter and my family
23 what happened to me as a kid, it's unacceptable. And it
24 should never have happened.

25 Q. When this happened, 'Archie', for the first time, in the

1 classroom, did Mr MCK say anything to you?

2 A. He spoke to me about feeding the horses wrong, you know
3 you're going to get punished if do you things wrong, but
4 after what that man done to me there was no need for
5 that. He had been grooming me for a while and that's
6 what it led up to. I tried to scream. It's one of the
7 most painful things I've ever had in my life, somebody
8 forcing themselves inside you and not being able to do
9 nothing.

10 Then when he's finished, 'Go away, don't tell
11 anybody, because they won't believe you'. So I kept all
12 that inside me for years, 60 years I kept that inside
13 me.

14 Q. Did he say anything to you about going home or being --

15 A. 'if you want to see your mother again you won't say
16 anything to anybody', this was the first time. But
17 I think they knew something was going on with my mother.
18 I didn't, but for him to come in and rape me again three
19 days after I buried my mother, what kind of man is that?
20 It's not a man. It's an animal.

21 I was taken away from an abusive father and placed
22 into a place where it -- that six or seven months of my
23 life, it was horrific. Not being able to see my mother
24 for 10 or 15 minutes before she died, and once my mother
25 died my life turned.

1 My grandmother looked after me when I came out of
2 St Ninian's and she died and ever since then I've had no
3 life. I've had no happiness, no joy, apart from when my
4 daughter and son were born and my grand kids. That's my
5 future. Nothing else.

6 Q. Just to go back, 'Archie', to what you were telling me
7 about the first time this happened in the classroom,
8 were you injured?

9 A. Just the pain in my back. I wasn't able to walk right
10 for a couple of days.

11 Q. Were you bleeding?

12 A. No. That's the funny thing, the bleeding only came on
13 the night he done it after my mother died and I don't
14 know -- even know if it was him or if it was somebody
15 else, because all I remember is trying to wake up in my
16 bed. I have a recurring nightmare about it all the
17 time. It's like somebody -- you know somebody's there.
18 They're going to do something and you're trying to shout
19 but nothing is coming out. It's horrific. It's
20 terrifying and you're waking up and the tears are
21 running out you.

22 Especially now, since the Inquiry, Police Scotland,
23 I've been under a psychologist now coming up for three
24 years. She has helped me with a lot of things to fix
25 things in here that has been doing my head in for years.

1 Q. This is when you were in the smaller dorm?

2 A. Yeah. When I was removed, when I came back after
3 burying my mother, it would maybe be three or four days
4 after burying my mother, but as soon as I went back
5 I was moved from that dormitory, the dorm I was in.
6 Because I was upset. I think they knew that when I was
7 coming back to the car, when I was being taken back.
8 I think I was put in there to be out the way or
9 I was put in there for another reason, for them to do
10 what they done to me in there.
11 I mean it was just getting more blatant and blatant,
12 the places he was doing it.
13 I can picture every place that man raped me in that
14 school. Three times outside -- four times outside and
15 four times inside the building.
16 Q. On the occasion that happened in that dormitory, were
17 you bleeding?
18 A. The last time, yes.
19 Q. So the second time it happened when you were --
20 A. The eighth time it happened. It's when after my mother
21 died was in [REDACTED]. She died on [REDACTED]. I was
22 taken back to St Ninian's roundabout [REDACTED] and it
23 was maybe roundabout then or a day after when it
24 happened again.
25 Q. Were you bleeding after that occasion?

1 A. Yes. I woke up in the morning. There was blood on
2 my -- on the sheets. I went down for breakfast. I came
3 back up to make my bed and my bed had been changed, the
4 sheets had been changed. So somebody knew, because that
5 never happened. You had to change your own bed. You
6 changed your own laundry. So for somebody to come up
7 and do that while I was away knew what had happened and
8 what had caused that.

9 Q. Do you know who changed your bed?

10 A. I would put it down as Miss Berry, but then again -- if
11 Miss Berry knew that that kind of thing was going on --
12 I think if it had been Miss Berry I would have been took
13 down to the health centre, because she was the nurse.
14 She was the nurse. She done all the uniforms and all
15 that. She was like the housekeeper. She run
16 everything, but I don't think it was Miss Berry that
17 done it, because something would have been said about
18 that, what was the blood? I'd have been checked.

19 So I think whoever done it has waited for me going
20 back down for breakfast and then went in and changed the
21 sheets. I don't know if it was MCK or anybody else,
22 because it happened -- sometimes I think I was dreaming,
23 but it was too real. The blood on the sheets proved
24 that it was real.

25 Q. Did Mr MCK assault you in this way again inside the

1 building?

2 A. Once in the shower, once in his classroom and once in
3 the dormitory. The rest, it was once in the orchard,
4 two in the pony field and one coming back from the horse
5 riding from Aberfoyle. Eight times that man raped me.

6 I mean I've been reading on it, that the words
7 'child abuse' is child abuse, any abuse is abuse, but if
8 you mention the word 'rape' and it makes it worse, more
9 horrific because it's an horrific thing to have happened
10 to you, especially as a child. Nobody told me it was
11 right, it was wrong. I know now it was wrong and I knew
12 not long after as I got older it was wrong, but I had
13 buried that in here.

14 58 years that was buried inside me before I opened
15 up and spoke to somebody about what happened to me. It
16 should never have happened. It made me -- it ruined my
17 life from what happened to me in there. I gave up on
18 life after my mother and grandmother died. Sleeping in
19 closes, old vans, hitting alcohol. I was only
20 15/16 years of age. I had nothing in life to look
21 forward to. They took it away from me.

22 Q. While you were in St Ninian's and this was happening to
23 you, did you ever consider telling one of the Brothers
24 or staff about what was going on?

25 A. You hear it in all cases, you're told not to do it

1 because nobody will believe you. I'm in a strange
2 place, I don't really know many people. It took my
3 childhood away from me, it took my innocence away from
4 me.

5 Q. You have told us that when Mr MCK raped you in the
6 classroom that he told you not to tell anybody?

7 A. Yeah.

8 Q. Did he say that sort of thing to you again on other
9 occasions?

10 A. Nearly every time it happened, 'Remember, don't say
11 anything to anybody, they'll not believe you'. As it
12 got nearer the end, that's when he started saying,
13 'You'll not get to see your mother again'. So that
14 makes me know that they knew something was wrong with my
15 mother, for him to threaten me with that I'll not see my
16 mother again.

17 Q. Did you ever see Mr MCK behave in a way that concerned
18 you with other boys?

19 A. I only found out in later life, when I found out
20 I wasn't the only one he was doing it to. I had never
21 mentioned it because it's -- how can a man tell somebody
22 that they were abused as a child? One of the hardest
23 things for me to do was to tell my son and my daughter
24 what happened to me. I don't feel much of a man having
25 to tell my kids that.

1 My son, I spoke to my son about it and my son
2 couldn't believe it.

3 My daughter, I thought my daughter had read a bit of
4 my statement. I even had to ask my daughter if she was
5 sure she wanted to come through here with me to hear me
6 giving my evidence, and I'm glad she did, because I love
7 my daughter so much. My grandkids, I never had that
8 life when I was young, apart from abuse, beatings off my
9 father, watching my mother screaming, begging for mercy
10 from my father.

11 My father -- I'll say my father murdered my mother.
12 Not in that act, but with the beatings and whatnot,
13 causing my mother's death and he got away with it. That
14 hurts.

15 I only found out two months ago when I went to ask
16 my older cousin has anybody any pictures of my mother
17 and when I spoke to my cousin she says:

18 'The reason why your mother's not in the photos is
19 because she was taking them and as for your mother
20 leaving your father, she didn't want anybody to know,
21 because she loved him.'

22 How my mother could love that man, I do not know.
23 I'm glad that man's dead and that's a bad thing to say
24 about your father. I hope he rots in hell for what he
25 done to me and my mother. He's ruined our family, he's

1 still ruining it now, because me and my siblings, we all
2 love one another but we don't know how to show it. We
3 don't see one another. We don't hear from one another.
4 If it wasn't for my daughter and my grandkids I don't
5 think I'd be here, this has got that bad with me in my
6 life.

7 They say if it wasn't for bad luck I'd have no luck
8 at all. That's just my life. My life's been ruined,
9 from one institution to another, because of what
10 happened to me in that place. And somebody's got to
11 answer for it.

12 Q. Did any social worker or probation officer come to see
13 you when you were at St Ninian's?

14 A. No. From when I left my parents that day, I never see
15 anybody, apart from Brothers or lay teachers that were
16 in there.

17 Q. In relation to when you left St Ninian's, how long after
18 your mother's death did you leave St Ninian's?

19 A. I think it was maybe about a month. It wasn't long
20 after it. That's why I say my mother dying saved me
21 from long-term abuse in that place, but I would rather
22 my mother would have lived.

23 Q. Were you given any information about why you were
24 leaving St Ninian's at that time?

25 A. No. I just got told, you have to see Brother MBU or

1 Brother MCA and I was driven home. I was taken to
2 my father's address. They stayed in Possilpark.
3 I couldn't live with my father, my mother's dying wish
4 was for my granny to take me when she died and that was
5 the day after I seen her.

6 I stayed with my grandmother for a long time.
7 I loved my grandmother. She died as well. Her son took
8 money out of her purse, my granny chased him down the
9 road and took a massive heart attack. Once my
10 grandmother died, my life was done. I gave up. Nothing
11 to look forward to.

12 Q. You tell us that you spent some time in St Mary's
13 School?

14 A. Yeah.

15 Q. You thought you were maybe 12 or 13 or so?

16 A. Maybe about a year, a year-and-a-half after I left
17 St Ninian's.

18 Q. Was St Mary's run by civilian staff?

19 A. Yes.

20 Q. I think you say that the staff at St Mary's were good?

21 A. Yeah, I can even remember the headmaster --

22 Q. In your statement you mention a Donald Forbes?

23 A. Donald Forbes, because I used to clean out his car. He
24 had a big old Humber Sceptre and I used to --
25 I've always been keen on cars throughout my life.

1 Q. I think you say the boys there were a little older?

2 A. Yes, they were older boys. They were ranging maybe from
3 15 upwards, 14/15 upwards.

4 Q. Generally that was a positive experience for you in
5 St Mary's?

6 A. Yeah. It was a totally different place from
7 St Ninian's. I was older. You had more freedom and you
8 could stand up for yourself more, because you were
9 older.

10 Whereas in St Ninian's I was very small for my age
11 when I was in St Ninian's. I was very petite in build.
12 As I gradually grow older and went into St Mary's you
13 learnt different things, it's like life. You learn ...
14 where you go you learn different things.

15 I learnt a lot of things in St Mary's, like
16 engineering, baking, things like that. But once I came
17 out of there, my life just went downhill.

18 Q. You tell us a bit about that, about your life after
19 care. You tell us that you had some labouring work and
20 then you spent some time in Glenochil --

21 A. Yeah.

22 Q. -- and Polmont?

23 A. My full life has been from one institution to another.
24 I'm not proud of some of the things I've done, but then
25 again I'm not proud of some of the things that was done

1 to me. I don't know if my life would have been any
2 different after I left St Ninian's if the abuse wouldn't
3 have happened. But I'm now knowing and have been told
4 things by my psychologist and people I'm seeing, the
5 root of my problems stemmed from my abuse from my father
6 and then from the abuse that happened to me in
7 St Ninian's.

8 I've never really worried about it for so long,
9 because once it's buried in here you forget it. You
10 like to forget it. You don't want to raise it. One of
11 the hardest things I've ever done is to come forward to
12 the Inquiry to give my statement, because I didn't
13 deserve what happened to me.

14 Through all the evidence that is going to be said
15 against the De La Salle Brothers, it's going to prove to
16 the world what these people were like, sadistic, evil
17 men. Who got away with it for years. I mean Murphy,
18 shock treatment to kids. Breaking kids' fingers, him
19 and MCA making up stories that another boy done it,
20 promising the boy will get out, 'You can go home if you
21 say you done this to ...' So Benedict didn't get the
22 blame for breaking a boy's fingers. This is the kind of
23 people these men were.

24 I used to say, not every Brother was like that, but
25 the more you read, they're all like that. And it's

1 a bad thing to say, especially when you had a high
2 regard of some of them that you trusted them, they were
3 taking care of you and you found out later on in life to
4 be informed that they were one of the worst abusers. So
5 what would have happened to me if I wouldn't have got
6 out of there when I did?

7 Q. Are you referring to things you have read or heard in
8 later life?

9 A. Brother Benedict, he got sentenced to nine years last
10 year. He's got another 28 indictments to go on to him.
11 Mine is going to be one of him, the abuse that he done
12 to me. The man should never be allowed out of prison
13 for what he done to kids and yet they done
14 an investigation at St Ninian's, 17 employees, Brothers,
15 teachers were questioned, some mistakes were made.
16 Three of them were charged, Murphy, McKenna and
17 McKinstry. 30 or 40 years abusing kids, two years, two
18 years each and then they appeal against it and get
19 a year off.

20 It's an insult to me or the victims like myself.
21 The Inquiry is doing their job. Police Scotland are
22 doing their job. Why are the judges giving them
23 sentences like this?

24 If I want anything out of it -- I don't want
25 revenge. I want closure on what happened to me. To

1 prove that it ruined my life what happened to me.

2 Having to tell your kids that you were raped as a child,
3 how does it make me feel?

4 Q. In relation to the Inquiry, 'Archie', you set out in
5 your statement some hopes that you have for the Inquiry.

6 In paragraph 162 you say that you hope through the
7 Inquiry other people will come forward --

8 A. Yeah.

9 Q. -- and talk about what happened?

10 A. Because I'm not the only one, I know I'm not the only
11 one.

12 Q. You say that you hope that in you speaking to the
13 Inquiry it might help other people come forward?

14 A. Yeah. I just feel -- I feel privileged that I'm still
15 here to give this statement. There's a lot of kids like
16 myself, they're not here. It's buried with them.
17 There's so much child abuse happened in this country
18 over the years. This Inquiry is the only thing that can
19 do something about it. Lady Smith is the only person
20 that can make recommendations that these people answer,
21 because they're going to get away with it if they don't.
22 Not just for me, but for the people that are dead, the
23 victims who are not here to speak up for themselves.

24 MS MACLEOD: Thank you very much for that, 'Archie'.

25 I don't have anything else I would like to ask you

1 today, but is there anything else you would like to say
2 before we conclude your evidence?

3 A. I'm just glad that the Inquiry -- I know it's taken
4 a long time to get to my part of this Inquiry, regarding
5 the De La Salle Brothers, but the Brothers were hell.
6 People have got to realise. They're not any Christian
7 brotherhood. They're animals that treat kids like
8 animals. They should be banned. That's what I would
9 like to see and that's why I would ask Lady Smith, as
10 a victim, to take these people that she makes
11 recommendations that these people answer.

12 No points of law, they didn't run it, the teachers
13 ran it. I'm a living witness. De La Salle Brothers ran
14 it. They told the teachers what to do. Not the
15 teachers telling the Brothers what to do. So it's just
16 a get-out clause. They can defend themselves in court
17 and get Legal Aid for it. I can't get Legal Aid to take
18 action against that man. The law is wrong in a lot of
19 ways and I'm hoping that this Inquiry and things like
20 this, because this is the biggest scandal to hit
21 Scotland, it comes out about these De La Salle Brothers
22 and what they done over the centuries is ridiculous and
23 somebody's got -- I'm not a vengeful person, but I would
24 like to get something done for what happened to me.

25 MS MACLEOD: Thank you, 'Archie', for those thoughts.

1 My Lady, I don't have any applications for
2 questions.

3 LADY SMITH: Thank you.

4 'Archie', could I add my thanks, my thanks for your
5 written statement, which contains valuable evidence, my
6 thanks to you for coming here today and for being
7 patient in waiting for that day to arrive.

8 I think you do understand that it's not that we've
9 been doing no work since we received your statement,
10 we've been scheduling hard with other cases that are
11 being dealt with in this Inquiry but that doesn't make
12 yours or your evidence any less important.

13 I'm really grateful to you for what you've
14 contributed. I think when you leave here just now
15 you're going to be exhausted and I hope the rest of
16 Friday is more peaceful and restful for you than this
17 first part has been.

18 A. I've just been in a place for a long time, in my head.
19 I mean I've not slept for the last three days because of
20 coming here.

21 LADY SMITH: I can understand that.

22 A. It's just -- I'm hoping now that eventually -- I know
23 it's not this Inquiry, but in future court dates
24 I've got, I'm trying to get a civil action against
25 De La Salle Brothers for what they done to me. Their

1 out of it is they didn't run it, the teachers ran it and
2 it's a point of law that's going on in the courts just
3 now.

4 As I said, I'm a living witness. The Brothers ran
5 it, not the lay teachers. They beat them up, not the
6 teachers. Do you know what I mean?

7 LADY SMITH: I understand what you're saying, 'Archie'.

8 Go and rest and thank you again for everything
9 you've helped us with.

10 A. Thank you.

11 (The witness withdrew).

12 LADY SMITH: It's almost 1 o'clock, so we'll take the lunch
13 break now and we have another witness in person I think
14 for 2 o'clock, is that right?

15 MS MACLEOD: That is right, my Lady.

16 LADY SMITH: Thank you.

17 (12.59 pm)

18 (The luncheon adjournment)

19 (2.00 pm)

20 LADY SMITH: Good afternoon.

21 Mr MacAulay.

22 MR MACAULAY: Good afternoon, my Lady.

23 The next witness is also an applicant. He wants to
24 remain anonymous and to use the pseudonym 'Paul' in
25 giving evidence.

1 LADY SMITH: Thank you.

2 'Paul' (sworn)

3 LADY SMITH: 'Paul', the red folder that's on the desk has
4 your statement in it. You'll be taken to that in
5 a moment. You might find it helpful to refer to when
6 you're giving your evidence, but you don't have to use
7 it. You'll see we'll also bring it up on the screen and
8 you'll get it there in a larger font, which some people
9 find helpful.

10 Otherwise, 'Paul', if there's anything I can do to
11 ease the passage of what's a difficult task of giving
12 evidence in public about your childhood and about
13 distressing things in your childhood, please let me
14 know.

15 I do stop at about 3 o'clock for a short break
16 anyway in the afternoon. But if you want a break before
17 then, that's no problem. You just say. Even if it's
18 just pausing, sitting where you are, to give you
19 a breather or leaving the room. It's not a problem at
20 all.

21 A. Okay, my Lady.

22 LADY SMITH: Anything else, if there's any questions or if
23 you don't understand why we're asking you something,
24 just speak up or if we're not making sense it's our
25 fault not yours.

1 A. Okay.

2 LADY SMITH: If you're ready I'll hand over to Mr MacAulay.

3 Mr MacAulay.

4 Questions from Mr MacAulay

5 MR MACAULAY: My Lady.

6 Good afternoon, 'Paul'.

7 A. Good afternoon, sir.

8 Q. I am happy for you to call me Colin if you prefer.

9 The first thing I want to ask you to do is look at

10 the final page of your statement, which is in the red

11 folder. If can you do that for me.

12 'Paul', can I ask you to confirm that you've signed

13 this statement?

14 A. Aye, Colin.

15 Q. Do you say in the final paragraph, just above that:

16 'I have no objection to my witness statement being

17 published as part of the evidence to the Inquiry.

18 I believe the facts stated in this witness statement are

19 true.'

20 A. That's true, Colin.

21 Q. 'Paul', because you are anonymous I don't want your date

22 of birth, but to put your evidence into context I want

23 to put to you the year of your birth. Can you confirm

24 that you were born in 1957?

25 A. Yes.

1 Q. You begin in your statement talking about your life
2 before care and in particular about your family life.
3 I understand from that, that within your family you had
4 three brothers and one sister, is that right?
5 A. Yes.
6 Q. The way you tell it in the statement, up until
7 a particular point in time, life was relatively normal
8 for you?
9 A. Yes.
10 Q. Indeed, you seem to have been rather successful at
11 school, because in your primary school you won a prize?
12 A. It wasn't a prize I wanted to win, I was looking for
13 a kind of record token or something, you know, and
14 I ended up with a 'Ben Hur' book, which ended up in the
15 display cabinet unread.
16 That was for arts and crafts.
17 Q. As you said a moment ago, life was relatively normal for
18 you and similarly when you went to secondary, was life
19 fine for you?
20 A. Life wasn't bad at secondary school. I was engaged in
21 the kind of normal curriculum, you know, French and
22 Latin. I wasn't bad at it, you know, it's pretty basic,
23 done the maths, English, art, woodcraft. Aye, life was
24 pretty good at secondary school, I thought, you know.
25 Q. I was going to ask you about a particular incident that

1 really changed your life, and it was when you are coming
2 back from school one day and you came across a number of
3 other boys, is that right.

4 A. Aye, Colin.

5 Q. We don't need the names of the other boys, but can you
6 just tell me what happened?

7 A. I came home from school and I met three other guys and
8 one of them had -- he said, 'Look at what I've got', it
9 was a starting pistol. Well, I thought it was a gun at
10 the time, you know, it was a gun to me as a wee boy. He
11 fired it up in the close and there was a loud bang and
12 we all bust out laughing and ran away as the neighbours
13 came out.

14 Q. Were these boys older than you?

15 A. They were older.

16 Q. You were ten I think at this time?

17 A. I was 13, Colin. One of the boys was 15 and the two
18 others were 16, and so we ran away and I says, 'Where
19 are you going to?' I ditched my haversack in the
20 hedges, they says, 'We're going up to Hogganfield Loch
21 and we're going to steal a boat, have a laugh, lark
22 about and that', and I thought that sounded good.

23 So I went with them and on the way to
24 Hogganfield Loch we crossed across Lethamhill Golf
25 Course and there was two men teeing off and one of

1 the -- the 16-year-olds asked them if they wanted to buy
2 any golf balls.

3 Q. Did he have golf balls with him?

4 A. He had some golf balls with him. This person said, 'No,
5 I'm not interested, you know, just get out the way until
6 I play my drive here' and he pulled the gun out, grabbed
7 the guy by the head and shot him in the face.

8 The guy went down and he was shouting and screaming,
9 you know, and he ran away. We all ran away.

10 Q. What was your reaction --

11 A. Shock, just totally -- just unbelievable.

12 Q. Was this totally unexpected?

13 A. Totally random, totally random and he hadn't discussed
14 it with any of us, what he was going to do.

15 He went to run away when the guy went down and then
16 he grabbed the guy's golf clubs and the golf clubs
17 were -- a set of golf clubs to me they looked as if they
18 were bigger than him. He wasn't a particularly tall
19 person. Maybe about five feet eight and he ran away
20 with these golf clubs and the other two ran away and
21 I just stood there and within a matter of minutes people
22 came to assist us -- to assist the guy who was down,
23 other golfers.

24 Then they phoned the police and the police came and
25 that, you know.

1 Q. Could you see that the golfer who had been shot was
2 injured?

3 A. He was definitely injured, yeah. He was holding his
4 face. I saw photographs of that when I was at the
5 court, you know.

6 Q. How bad did it look?

7 A. It was all charred, it was scorched.

8 Q. This was caused by what was described as a starting
9 pistol; is that right?

10 A. A starting pistol, Colin.

11 Q. To you it looked like a real gun?

12 A. It definitely did.

13 Q. You got caught because you were there by the police, is
14 that right?

15 A. I was caught.

16 Q. What happened to you then?

17 A. I was taken in a police car down to Springburn Police
18 Station and I was interviewed and they asked me --
19 I never knew at that point, but two of the 16-year-olds
20 were already in custody. They had been caught climbing
21 over the golf course wall and the 15-year-old, at that
22 point in time, had been unidentified, well I identified
23 him.

24 Q. How did that come about?

25 A. I just told them who he was.

1 Q. Did you have to go somewhere to do that?

2 A. I had to go to his house. I never knew where his house
3 was, but I knew his name, you know.

4 Q. Were the police able to identify his house and take you
5 there?

6 A. They took me there to his house.

7 Q. Were his family there when you went into the house?

8 A. It was a very dark house, I remember, in the north of
9 Glasgow, very dark and I just knew and there was
10 alcohol. You could smell the alcohol, but -- he was
11 caught in his house.

12 Q. Did you identify him for the police?

13 A. Aye.

14 Q. Did that come back to haunt you later on?

15 A. Oh, it definitely did.

16 Q. I'll come on to that.
17 Were you then charged?

18 A. The four of us were charged.

19 Q. What was the charge at that time?

20 A. Serious assault and robbery.

21 Q. That's to cover the shooting with the gun and the taking
22 of the golf clubs?

23 A. Golf clubs, yeah.

24 Q. Were you sent to Larchgrove Assessment Centre because of
25 that?

1 A. Yes. We went to court the next day, the Glasgow Sheriff
2 Court. And then took from there up to Larchgrove for
3 further enquiries, for a seven-day period, back down to
4 court and then back to Larchgrove for 110-day -- as they
5 called it back then, the lie-in, '110-day lie-in', you
6 know.

7 Q. When you got to Larchgrove, on this occasion, on your
8 arrival there, what happened to you?

9 A. You went into what they called the reception area, put
10 jungle juice on your hair, in case you had nits or
11 anything like that. Give you pyjamas and stuff, you
12 know, and you got a cup of tea and a couple of pieces
13 and egg or something like that, then they took us back.

14 Q. When you were being prepared for the jungle juice, was
15 your clothing removed?

16 A. No, they'd given me a pair of corduroy trousers to wear.

17 Q. At some point were you naked or not?

18 A. I must have been naked to put on the Larchgrove
19 clothing.

20 Q. Who was SNR [REDACTED] then of Larchgrove on this occasion?

21 A. I think SNR [REDACTED] as he was known was a guy
22 called LQT [REDACTED] and zLTB [REDACTED], or zLTB [REDACTED], Mr zLTB [REDACTED].
23 They called him 'Mister'.

24 Q. You went to Larchgrove and I think the other three,
25 because of their ages, went to Longriggend, is that

1 right?

2 A. They all went to Longriggend, yeah.

3 Q. Can I just look at one or two aspects of the routine at

4 Larchgrove.

5 You say there wasn't much in the way of schooling?

6 A. No, I never remembered any school there.

7 Q. Were you being offered cigarettes?

8 A. Yes.

9 Q. Had you been smoking before this?

10 A. No.

11 Q. Did you start smoking?

12 A. Aye.

13 Q. Do I take it from what you say in your statement that

14 there really wasn't any education as such?

15 A. Not that I recall. I think there was an arithmetic

16 class. That was it.

17 Q. If you did something wrong, how were you dealt with?

18 A. If there's something wrong. There used to be a guy,

19 Mr. HFV his name was, he would go round and he had about

20 a dozen elastic bands and he used to ping you with them

21 on the legs or the back of the ear, the neck. He

22 would -- he would whack you. It was a whack, it wasn't

23 a ping. He was pretty sure with his elastic bands on

24 altogether. He walked about all day in the gymnasium

25 and he would hit you with these elastic bands, just

1 random.

2 Q. Was that painful?

3 A. Aye, it was sore, aye.

4 Q. If you required to be disciplined by SNR

5 SNR, how did that happen?

6 A. Well, I was involved in a fight with another inmate, you

7 know, and he'd called me a grass and I thought I'm not

8 taking this any more and I had a go back at him and

9 I was manhandled and put in a cell and then I went down

10 to see zLTB and I was assaulted in his office.

11 Q. What happened?

12 A. I was slapped in the face, a couple of times, punched

13 side of the head, kicked, gave me my character, told me

14 what I was, you know.

15 Q. Who did this to you?

16 A. That was Mr zLTB and SNR.

17 Q. Did you ever receive the belt?

18 A. Aye, I got the belt twice.

19 Q. Who gave you belt?

20 A. zLTB.

21 Q. How were you belted? Was it on the hands?

22 A. It was on the hands.

23 Q. I think you tell us that when you were at Larchgrove

24 your head was shaved?

25 A. Yes, it was.

1 Q. Was that --

2 A. No, no, it wasn't, Colin. My head was shaved -- yeah,
3 my head was shaved in Larchgrove prior to going to
4 court. I thought that was in Longriggend, but it was
5 Larchgrove, aye.

6 It was to make you look like as if you were guilty.

7 Q. You have just talked about the fight you had and did
8 that hark back to the fact you had identified one of the
9 individuals and you became known as a grass?

10 A. Yes.

11 Q. Did that teasing of you ease off after you had stood up
12 for yourself with this individual?

13 A. I had stood up -- by the time I got to St Joseph's
14 School it was a different sort of story, 'Oh, he's in
15 for shooting a guy, must be a (indistinguishable) block,
16 you know. It kind of eased off a bit.

17 You see, the person who I reported or informed on,
18 his brother was already in Larchgrove, so it just
19 magnified it, you know, his younger brother had been in
20 Larchgrove at the same time as me.

21 Q. Can I ask you about the sleeping arrangements at
22 Larchgrove, was it a dormitory-type system?

23 A. It was a dormitory.

24 Q. In your dormitory, how many would there be?

25 A. At least 20.

1 Q. Was that a mix of ages?

2 A. Mixed ages.

3 Q. Were you --

4 A. There were some people in Larchgrove with beards. They

5 probably -- I don't know their age, they might have been

6 16 or 15, but they looked like full-grown men with their

7 beards on. And then there was small kids, you know.

8 Younger kids who might have been in for care and

9 protection, as it was known as 'CAP' back then, do you

10 know.

11 Q. Did you see how the older boys might have treated the

12 younger boys?

13 A. Yes.

14 Q. What did you see?

15 A. Some younger boys were treated -- sexual misconduct in

16 the television rooms when the lights were out and people

17 were watching the television, used to hear kids crying

18 because the older boys were touching them up.

19 Q. Did you see that?

20 A. We all knew it was going on.

21 Q. You tell us about an incident at Larchgrove when you wet

22 the bed.

23 A. Yes.

24 Q. Can you tell me about that?

25 A. I woke up and my bed was wet and I walked down the

1 corridor. I don't know what time it was, maybe
2 1 o'clock in the morning or something like that. Could
3 have been earlier even, because you went to your bed
4 pretty early.

5 And I went down and I took my sheets down and
6 I said, 'I've wet the bed, sir', to two night watchman
7 and they said, 'That's okay, just go into this room'.
8 So I went into the wee room and he said, 'I'll get you
9 fresh clothing', so I took my clothes off and then next
10 minute they come with the clothing, new pyjamas and
11 sheets, but then the two of them stood one in front of
12 me, one behind me and they were trying to hug me and
13 cuddle me and stuff like that.

14 I know I've put in my statement that I told them to
15 F off, you know, but when I think back I probably was
16 just shouting, 'Leave me alone, leave me alone, what you
17 doing here?' Because I wasn't really a -- I didn't
18 swear much as such, but I was angry with them and they
19 let go and they stopped trying to fondle me.

20 I went back to the dormitory and a couple of the big
21 boys said, 'What happened down there, HFG, we heard
22 you shouting?' And I told them, 'Don't go near them
23 ...' 'Pair of beasts' was the words.

24 Q. Had they said anything to you after they had left you
25 alone?

1 A. They never said anything, just, 'Back to your
2 dormitory'.

3 Q. What you say in your statement, at paragraph 31, is that
4 you did tell your mum and dad --

5 A. Yes.

6 Q. -- about the sexual abuse and a couple of days after
7 that you were taken to a meeting. Can you tell me about
8 what happened?

9 A. I was took down to the front office and I met this guy
10 zLTB, and I don't know who else was with him. It
11 might have been LQT, just ... they asked me, 'What
12 have you told your parents about what happened down
13 here?', I said, 'I just told them what happened, about
14 the night watchman trying to touch me when I didn't have
15 any clothes on', and he slapped me, told me I was
16 telling a lot of lies, making it up, nothing happened,
17 a couple of slaps about and then took back, back up to
18 the gymnasium.

19 Nothing happened after it.

20 Q. You summarise your time at Larchgrove at paragraph 33 by
21 saying:

22 'There was a lot of violence at Larchgrove. Abuse
23 was rife ...'

24 Can I just understand that and why you say that.

25 A. There was abuse from -- there was abuse from the staff.

1 The staff were quite heavy handed. They wouldn't
2 hesitate -- they would just slap you randomly if they
3 felt like slapping you, kicking you and telling you to
4 get in line and all that, or pulling you out the line
5 and frogmarching you back up to the gymnasium for being
6 out of line, you know.

7 So it was physical abuse from the staff.

8 Q. Then when you came to leave Larchgrove, I think by then
9 because of the overcrowding you were in a camp bed in
10 the corridor?

11 A. Yes.

12 Q. Was your impression that Larchgrove was overcrowded?

13 A. Yeah, it was overcrowded, Colin.

14 Q. Were there camp beds in the corridor to accommodate?

15 A. There was a lot of camp beds in the corridor. There
16 were about four or five in each -- I don't know about
17 each wing, but in the wing that we were in, say it was
18 maybe called B wing, there was about five camp beds out
19 in the corridor.

20 Q. Did you then go to a place called Cardross Park?

21 A. Yes.

22 Q. Was this before you went back to court?

23 A. I had been convicted at the court.

24 Q. Before you went to Cardross?

25 A. Yes.

1 Q. I do want to ask you about that.

2 From what you say in your statement, you pled

3 guilty?

4 A. Yes.

5 Q. Did you plead guilty to the assault and robbery?

6 A. I think the actual charge -- although it was assault and

7 robbery, but it was acting in concert with so and so and

8 two others, you did do this. Just pled guilty.

9 Q. Were you advised to plead guilty?

10 A. Can't remember.

11 Q. It didn't go to trial?

12 A. No. Well, it did go to trial, yeah. And then we pled

13 guilty, but it was a one-day event, you know.

14 LADY SMITH: It was the day of the trial that you pled

15 guilty? Was it the first day of trial, 'Paul', that you

16 pled guilty?

17 A. My Lady, maybe we were in, in the morning, by the

18 afternoon we had been sentenced. Well, I had been

19 sentenced to the Approved School, an indefinite period

20 and the other three guys, one went to a senior Approved

21 School and the two others went to borstal. So they

22 would have been removed subject to reports, I would have

23 imagined.

24 LADY SMITH: Do you understand now what 'acting in concert'

25 meant?

1 A. Acting along with others.

2 LADY SMITH: It's what we call an art and part basis.

3 A group of people and each of them plays a different

4 part in achieving the commission of a crime.

5 A. Right.

6 LADY SMITH: The classic is something like there are two

7 people, one goes into a bank -- in the days that we were

8 able to go into banks -- with a gun, holds up the teller

9 and demands the cash, there's somebody else out in a car

10 waiting to drive him away with the bag of cash. They

11 are guilty art in part or acting in concert with each

12 other.

13 A. I can understand that, my Lady.

14 MR MACAULAY: From what you've said to us, though, 'Paul',

15 what happened at the golf course from your perspective

16 was totally unexpected.

17 A. Yes.

18 Q. Can I then look at Cardross.

19 Do I take it from what you've said that you were

20 being held at Cardross pending going to the Approved

21 School?

22 A. Yes. They called it back then waiting on a vacancy to

23 arise.

24 Q. Can you remember who the main members of staff were at

25 that time in Cardross?

1 A. The only two members of staff I can remember being on
2 duty there all the time were Mr HGR and Mr HGQ .
3 Q. In your statement you again give us some detail about
4 the routine at Cardross. At paragraph 47 you say:
5 'The discipline at Cardross was that you would get
6 a slap from Mr HGQ or Mr HGR . I saw a few other
7 boys being slapped and kicked.'?
8 A. Yes.
9 Q. Were you slapped?
10 A. Aye.
11 Q. Were you kicked?
12 A. Kicked, yeah.
13 Q. For what reason?
14 A. The first night I arrived there it was pretty relaxed.
15 It's a big mansion house, you know. Television room.
16 And I thought, 'Och, I'm out of here, I've been locked
17 up for too long'. I lifted a chair and I threw it at
18 the window and it just got bounced back again into the
19 room because the window was made of perspex, or
20 something like that, so it didn't smash or anything. It
21 just bounced me back into the kind of common room.
22 The next second the door opened, so maybe it was
23 alarmed and it was the two teachers that I mentioned
24 there, two staff, 'Who hit the window? Who's
25 interfering with the window and all that?' I never put

1 my hand up, but there were a few boys sitting about and
2 they were all pointing the elbows, so I was singled out.

3 I remember standing and **HGQ** said to me -- am
4 I allowed to use their names? He said, 'What did you do
5 to the window, were you trying to escape?' And I said,
6 'Yes, sir.'

7 'What you try to run away for?'

8 I said:

9 'Because I've been missing my parents, I've been
10 locked up for 14 weeks.'

11 And he slapped me in the face. He backhanded me in
12 the face and I turned round and the door was open and
13 I cut my face on the side of the door. As I spun round
14 I hit my face off the door and I could feel the blood
15 and he grabbed me by the ears and the hair, lifted me up
16 practically and frogmarched me right down the corridor
17 and threw me in what they called 'the Cooler', big
18 cupboard. Opened the cupboard, threw me in and then
19 they come back about ten minutes later with a pair of
20 pyjamas, told me to put the pyjamas on, brought
21 a mattress -- don't know where they get the mattress
22 from -- a wee single mattress. They called it the
23 Cooler because it was warm during the day, but it was
24 freezing cold at nighttime, you know.

25 It was just a wee window, about eight feet above my

1 head. So you couldn't see out the window or nothing,
2 just like a wee cell. They threw me in there and they
3 said, 'Right, that's you. We'll be in to see you in the
4 morning'. Give me a couple of kicks, you know.

5 So that was it, I spent the night in there. Then
6 the next day they came round with a slice of toast, cup
7 of tea, then they said, 'Okay, follow me', took me round
8 to a big drawing room and there was no furniture in it,
9 so I was in the drawing room and all you had to do to
10 occupy your time was to look out the window and see all
11 these big fancy cars coming up and down the drive, you
12 know, maybe social workers or whoever.

13 You spent the day in there, but the rest of the
14 pupils they were taken away to school. It wasn't
15 a school. It was like a summer house or something like
16 that that was converted into a classroom. So I was
17 told, I was never in it. So I just spent my day with
18 pyjama trousers and a vest, no pyjama jacket, just spent
19 the day, the whole day, in that big room.

20 Q. Did you go back to the Cooler after that?

21 A. Back to the Cooler that night, so you were two days in
22 it.

23 Q. I do understand that when you're in the Cooler the door
24 is locked?

25 A. Yes.

1 Q. After the second day, what then happened?

2 A. I was back in the drawing room the next day and then you
3 get your dinner in the drawing room. They come in with
4 a plastic plate with your dinner on it. Then roundabout
5 4 o'clock I was given back my clothing and then I was
6 allowed back into the TV room.

7 Q. You told us about hitting your head against the door --

8 A. Aye.

9 Q. -- and it bleeding?

10 A. Yes.

11 Q. Did you get treatment for that?

12 A. No.

13 Q. Did that leave you with a mark?

14 A. Yeah, a slight scar on my face. There are certain times
15 when I turn round and the sunlight hits it and you can
16 always see the mark.

17 Q. You are pointing to just below your left eye?

18 A. Aye.

19 Q. You tell us you were in Cardross for about three weeks;
20 is that correct?

21 A. That's correct.

22 Q. Was it then that you went on to St Joseph's?

23 A. My father come down to visit me and he told me not to
24 say to any staff or anyone, but he had spoken with
25 a social worker that week and the social worker had told

1 him that I was moving to St Joseph's in Tranent.

2 I said, 'Oh, aye, thanks very much da for sharing
3 that with me'. So I never told the staff and the next
4 day when I woke up and that, they told me I was moving.
5 The next day.

6 So me and a guy from Anniesland in Glasgow, I'll not
7 mention his name obviously, but him and I were both
8 taken away in a big Princess car and en route to
9 St Joseph's -- the social worker was there, Ms Nichol
10 her name was, en route they stopped off to buy road tax
11 for it. It was a brand new motor, like a big
12 Rolls-Royce, you know, and we thought we were the bees
13 knees, waving out to people as we came through Edinburgh
14 at the traffic lights, you know, hello, we thought --
15 but we knew we were going to St Joseph's and so we had
16 spoke to the other boys prior to going, you know. That
17 morning, we're going to Joe's. Oh, you are lucky, we're
18 glad you're not going to St Mary's or St Andrew's. All
19 boys' talk.

20 Q. According to records that we have seen, you were
21 admitted to St Joseph's on [REDACTED] 1971 and you would
22 be 13 at that time?

23 A. 13.

24 Q. Let's look at what the position was when you arrived.
25 You say in your statement you were met by Brother [REDACTED] MDC ?

1 A. Yes.

2 Q. What position did he hold at that time?

3 A. He was SNR [REDACTED], SNR [REDACTED].

4 Q. Did you have a discussion with him when you met him?

5 A. Just told us to keep our noses clean and that we would
6 get on fine. Everything would be dandy, a pep talk.

7 Q. Did he give you information about his own background?

8 A. Well, he told me he was -- he's a Welsh guy. We knew
9 that with his accent. We just knew he was Welsh. He
10 had been a commando, you know, he had fought for us
11 during the war, all that stuff.

12 Q. At that time, were you also introduced to
13 Brother Benedict?

14 A. Yes.

15 Q. Was it Brother Benedict who showed you where your
16 dormitory was?

17 A. Showed us where the dormitory was, yeah.

18 Q. What you tell us is that your dormitory was called
19 Killiecrankie, and that was the wet-bed dormitory?

20 A. Yes. They called it pish-your-bed dorm.

21 Q. I think we understand that the set-up at St Joseph's was
22 that there was a house system, who was your housemaster?

23 A. Brother Benedict.

24 Q. We also know there were cottages associated with
25 St Joseph's. Can you tell me a little bit about those.

1 Were you ever in the cottages?

2 A. I was in them to visit, just over for a visit to see
3 what they looked like and this is what you could aspire
4 to if you toed the line and behave yourself, you could
5 end up in either Ogiliv House or Savio House. That
6 were the names attached to each cottage. I thought
7 these looked good. Fitted carpets.

8 Q. You were being accommodated in the main building?

9 A. In the main building.

10 Q. You had your dormitory there, the Killiecrankie
11 dormitory?

12 A. Yes.

13 Q. Did you ever actually get into the cottages?

14 A. No.

15 Q. Can I ask you a little bit about the routine. Let's
16 look at the mornings first of all. When you got up,
17 were you woken up by anybody?

18 A. The lights would come on, you know. The night watchman
19 would come round and put the lights on, so you knew it
20 was time to get up and then, 'Right, up, rise and shine,
21 all that. Up you get'.

22 If you weren't up, you were woken up, you know.
23 Come on, time to get up. Nine times out of ten you were
24 awake anyway.

25 Q. Looking to the evening time when you are going to bed,

1 how was that managed?

2 A. Well, you would get a carton of milk and a piece and
3 jam, usually a piece and jam it would be, and you would
4 all be marched up the stairs.

5 Q. Who would march you up?

6 A. Whoever was on duty, you know, it was just a single
7 file, follow the person in the line up the stair and
8 then stand at your beds and so the Killiecrankie dorm,
9 there was quite a long dormitory, I think there was
10 about -- I would say between five to maybe seven beds on
11 either side, you know. You were just took up and you
12 went to the dormitory and jumped into bed, you know, and
13 read a book if you had a book or a comic or chatted to
14 the guy next to you, you know.

15 Q. Would any of the Brothers be involved in that process?

16 A. They would just make sure you were in your bed. It was
17 usually just the one person and there was about -- there
18 might have been about -- I would say there were about
19 eight dorms in the main building, eight dormitories.

20 Q. As far as having showers was concerned, can you tell us
21 where was the shower area?

22 A. The shower area was downstairs, adjacent to what they
23 called the play room.

24 Q. How often would you have a shower?

25 A. We'd have a shower maybe twice a week I would reckon.

1 Q. How was it managed, how was it supervised?

2 A. You would get into the shower, it was ablutions. There
3 was a row of sinks and so you had your toothpaste and
4 your toothbrush, you had swimming trunks, everyone had
5 a pair of swimming trunks, so you would just take your
6 stuff off collectively, put it on a hook, put your
7 swimming trunks on. Then you'd go in and get a shower.

8 Q. Would any adult be there to supervise or not?

9 A. Aye, Brother Benedict was usually on the showers.

10 HLU, he was boilerman during the night,
11 nightshift worker. He was a night caretaker, a night
12 watchman. HLU or Brother Benedict would be in the
13 showers. HLU was known as a 'willy watcher', that
14 was his nickname, you know.

15 Q. So far as Brothers were concerned, we have talked about
16 Brother MDC and Brother Benedict. Can you remember the
17 names of other Brothers you may have been involved with?

18 A. There was Brother zMBZ, he was a kind of science
19 teacher. Brother MJF, I think he was SNR
20 SNR, Brother HED. He used to give out small
21 white tablets. We thought -- they were saccharin, you
22 know, but I later found out in years it was bromide he
23 was giving out, so you could put it in your cup of tea
24 to -- so you didn't become aroused during the nighttime,
25 you know.

1 Q. That's your understanding from later on?

2 A. That's my understanding that it was bromide, saccharin,
3 sweeteners.

4 Q. Civilian staff, can you help me with some of the names
5 there that you can remember?

6 A. There was Mr MJK, who was the metalwork teacher, he
7 was known as the 'MJK'. There was
8 Mr GVX, he was the woodwork teacher, his name was
9 'GVX', 'GVX'.
10 Mr MJN, he was an art teacher and he had a
11 nickname, he was called 'MJN'. Mr Loftus, there was
12 Horse McKinnon, MJL, MJL, GVW, he was
13 an English teacher, GVW, Mrs Reynolds, she was
14 the remedial teacher.

15 Q. You have got a good recollection --

16 A. There were quite a few teachers, you know.

17 Q. Did you get home at weekends normally?

18 A. Aye, I got home at the weekends, yeah, but there were
19 a few occasions that I didn't get home, you know.

20 Q. Was there a marking system that had an impact upon
21 whether or not you would get home that weekend. How did
22 that operate?

23 A. You used to -- you had to get 30 marks to get a weekend
24 leave, 30 marks, that's what they were called. It
25 wasn't points. You needed to -- if you got two 30 marks

1 that would qualify you for two weekends, you could get
2 two in a row consecutively, but you could gain extra
3 marks. For example, there was a teacher there called
4 Mr Clayton and we used to go and wash his motor for him,
5 up in Tranent, we'd wash his car, do the wee odd jobs
6 out in his garden. He always give you a cigarette, you
7 know.

8 Two of us used do that, but he would give
9 a recommendation that you got an extra five marks. But
10 if there were occasions if you were cheeky or perceived
11 to be cheeky to any staff they could take your marks off
12 you.

13 Q. Would that impact upon whether or not you get out at the
14 weekend?

15 A. Aye. It was used as a punishment, you know.

16 Q. I think you tell us in paragraph 73 that you did get
17 home on a number of occasions and that it was
18 Brother Benedict who would drive the bus?

19 A. Aye, he drove the bus.

20 Q. That was to the bus station in Glasgow?

21 A. Aye, Buchanan Street.

22 Q. What you say at 73 is, you put it in this way:

23 'He used to call us all his slaves or slum dwellers.

24 I was slave [REDACTED], because that was my house number. He
25 would sometimes try to get on your good side, he would

1 call you "my babe".'

2 You say that was grooming. Can I just understand
3 your thinking there?

4 A. He used to try to get you to sit on his knee, whatever
5 mood he was in you were his babe, 'My good babe', that
6 is the way he spoke. He was kind of -- I recently
7 thought about this, he might have took a vow of silence
8 or something. He was quite limited in his speech.
9 I can't remember him saying anything that was
10 intelligent. You were known right away as his slave.

11 I used to think: what kind of planet is he on? Is
12 he on LSD or something? My slave. In those days
13 I thought about slave as being the Egyptians, building
14 the pyramids and all that. I didn't realise what I know
15 nowadays it was all about control. He was the master
16 and you were a slave. That is how he saw us.

17 Slum dwellers, that's because we came from
18 Easterhouse in Glasgow from the peripheral estates, the
19 schemes, you were poor, you were a slum dweller, 'Your
20 ma didn't want you, oh, poor babe, your mum didn't want
21 you, she didn't want you and you have to come here to
22 live, but I'll look after you', and you were -- and
23 I had a nickname, and it was called 'HFG', because of
24 back then, you know, and he used to call me, 'My poor
25 [REDACTED], my little [REDACTED], my little [REDACTED]'. That is the

1 way he spoke. Very quiet and stilted, unusual guy.
2 Weird. He's a weirdo.

3 But he was very condescending and he was in charge
4 of the sweet shop, we had a wee sweet shop that we ran
5 and it was his sweet shop. So you would go on
6 a Wednesday when you got your 32-and-a-half pence.
7 I was in when it became decimalised on the day. It went
8 from six and a tanner to 32.5 pence. I was up to the
9 window to get it, they sold toffee and it would just be
10 rubbish that would be left. You maybe wanted a whopper
11 bar or a penny quiz bar and, 'No, no, you take this'.

12 He would give you what he wanted to give you. You
13 queued up at the side of this wee shop and there was
14 a boy in particular who had mental health difficulties
15 and he had had enough of Benedict and he took what we
16 call a rear up, and he grabbed the midden, a bin, a wee
17 metal bin about that size, you see them round your
18 backyard.

19 Q. A small metal bin.

20 A. He ran down the play hall and threw it right through his
21 window. I always remember Benedict sitting behind the
22 glass, it wasn't actual glass, and this boy ran down and
23 threw the bin right through the window. Threw all the
24 sweets out the road and we are all, 'Get them'.

25 We never saw him again, but we heard that he went to

1 Rossie Farm on the MacDonald wing and that was always
2 used, 'Any more of your cheek and you'll be going to
3 MacDonald wing'. Our perception was the MacDonald wing,
4 you didn't want to go there.

5 Q. It was a sort of threat?

6 A. Oh, definitely, a threat. It was to keep the boys in
7 line, you know.

8 Q. You do tell us in your statement about one weekend when
9 you are going back to Glasgow for weekend leave,
10 Brother Benedict who was driving the bus had spotted
11 an old TV at the side of the road and he stopped the
12 bus?

13 A. Aye.

14 Q. You tell us also that he was particularly interested in
15 matters electrical; is that correct?

16 A. Yes.

17 Q. What happened after the bus had been stopped?

18 A. He spotted this old -- it was on the M8 motorway, that
19 must have just been built back then. It was probably
20 still a dual carriageway. He pulled into the side road,
21 saw an old television set and he beckoned me off the
22 coach to go down and sort it out. I got off the coach
23 anyway and he pointed to the telly and said, 'Give me
24 a lift up with it'. I had the back end of the TV set,
25 an old wooden thing, black and white probably, and we

1 got on the coach with it, just going two steps up and
2 got it on to that step, it was pretty level. I was
3 behind it and he shut the doors and then he has jumped
4 in his wee driver's seat and zoomed off.

5 He zoomed away, so I thought, very good, kidding on,
6 right. So I walked for about 100 yards, 200 yards and
7 got to the top of this wee hill on the motorway, looked
8 down the bottom and he was away, he had bombed it away.
9 I could see the boys on the bus at the back, 'You've
10 left him behind'. I thought he's not going to reverse
11 back on motorway surely, so I just started walking
12 across fields and all that, probably think it was around
13 maybe Bathgate or somewhere, the beginning of the
14 motorway.

15 I just started walking home. I got to a kind of
16 farm house, a wee village it was, and I had my
17 32.5 pence on me so I was able to get a bus fare.

18 Q. Did you get the bus to Glasgow?

19 A. Aye. I never got home until about 10 o'clock that
20 night. I had been reported missing by my parents and
21 the cops had been to the door and where's the boy?
22 I don't know. Then I turned up.

23 Q. Did you tell your parents and/or the police what had
24 happened?

25 A. Aye, aye.

1 Q. What happened next then?

2 A. Well, I says to my da, I'm not going back there on
3 a Sunday night, I'm not going back to school. I'm just
4 not going back. Aye, you'll need to get back. My dad
5 phoned Brother MJF and he says, 'I'll come through
6 and collect your boy, [REDACTED]', that was my dad's name,
7 'I'll come through and collect him'. He come through
8 and he said, 'But tell him I'll come on the Monday', in
9 order that I got my full weekend, you know, the two
10 days.

11 Q. Is that what happened?

12 A. Aye, he came and got me on the Monday night and took me
13 back.

14 Q. Did you ever get any explanation as to why
15 Brother Benedict upped and left you?

16 A. He just thought it was a laugh.

17 Q. Did Brother MJF discuss it with you at all?

18 A. He asked me what happened and I told him. He said it's
19 a wee laugh, he says, 'I'll speak to him'. You know,
20 lip service.

21 Q. Can I talk to you about visits and inspections. You
22 tell us at paragraph 78 that you did get a visit from
23 your father after two or three weeks at St Joseph's?

24 A. Mm hmm.

25 Q. Did you tell him not to come back?

1 A. I did.

2 Q. Why did you tell him that?

3 A. My da was a postman, he was up early in the morning.

4 Where we lived you couldn't get a bus at that time in

5 the morning. He started at 5 am, so he was up at

6 4 o'clock, he would walk into work and I just thought it

7 was too much for him, too expensive to come from Glasgow

8 to East Lothian. The amount of time it would entail to

9 get there. It's not like nowadays, you know.

10 Travelling must have took about four hours.

11 Q. In relation to other visitors, were you conscious of

12 anyone coming to inspect St Joseph's?

13 A. The managers would come.

14 Q. Apart from the managers, what about anyone in another

15 official capacity, were you conscious of that?

16 A. No.

17 Q. You do talk about the managers later on in your

18 statement, and I will come to that.

19 As far as healthcare is concerned, you tell us about

20 an incident when you cut your bottom, I think you jumped

21 off a counter and hit a cupboard door, is that correct?

22 A. That's correct.

23 Q. Did that mean you ended up in sick bay?

24 A. Yes.

25 Q. Did Brother Benedict visit you in the sick bay?

1 A. Yes.

2 Q. How did that go?

3 A. I was in the art class and I had been hanging a painting
4 up on the wall and I jumped off it, stood up on the
5 counter to put the photo up and I jumped down but
6 I never knew the door underneath had been opened, and
7 I jumped down that bit caught my kind of spine area, you
8 know. It made a cut on it.

9 So I got took down to see the matron, put a wee
10 bandage on it. Took me up to the sick bay to rest.
11 I was only in the sick bay for a matter of, maybe
12 an hour, a cup of tea and stuff like that, you know, and
13 then Brother Benedict come in and sat next to me while
14 I was on the bed in the sick room, and I thought this is
15 going to be a laugh, because he didn't talk about
16 nothing. He was -- just sitting there bored and then he
17 started, 'Oh my poor babe', you know, 'My poor babe',
18 mad, you know.

19 It wasn't just me that he would do that to, you
20 know. That was just -- you are a slum dweller one
21 minute, you are a poor babe, my little boy, I'll look
22 after you. It was just passive aggressive behaviour.
23 Control freak.

24 Q. Did he have a nickname?

25 A. Bootsie.

1 Q. Did you --
2 A. He wore these big boots, you know, big hobnailed boots,
3 you know, and he would boot you and I was asked at one
4 point, what did he work as in the school? He was in
5 charge of the stilts and the stilts were -- you know
6 what a pair of stilts is? You stood up on them, two
7 bits of wood with pieces on them, elevate you. Well, he
8 had about six pairs of stilts in this wee outbuilding in
9 the schoolyard and he would stand in his shed and he
10 would give you a pair of stilts. So you stood in
11 a queue to get a pair of stilts and you could lark about
12 on them and then he would say, 'Time up', after two
13 minutes and give them to somebody else.

14 He used to entice you into his shed, 'Oh, come in',
15 so you go into the wee shed and he had a cassock, wore
16 a big cassock and he would put it over you, dead quick
17 at doing it and all of a sudden you're blindfolded.

18 Q. You are underneath his cassock?

19 A. Underneath his cassock and he would rub his buttocks
20 against you, you know. Horrible smells. Reminds me of
21 mothballs. I've never ever liked mothballs in my life
22 and I can smell them and he's rubbing himself against
23 you.

24 Q. Do I take it --

25 A. And elbowing you at the same time. You are under

1 a cassock. Like a pantomime in a theatre, you know.

2 Q. Do I take it from what you've described that you are
3 under the cassock at the back?

4 A. Yes.

5 Q. That happened to you, did it?

6 A. That happened to me, yes.

7 Q. Once or more than once?

8 A. It happened to me once. I never went back.

9 Q. Did you see that happening to other boys?

10 A. He was convicted of that. He was known as -- he was
11 known to do it.

12 Q. I want to ask you about this incident that involved
13 Brother MDC and you talk about it at paragraph 82.
14 It's almost like an invitation to run away, if you like,
15 because what you tell us is -- you tell us what
16 happened.

17 A. Brother MDC at the marks meeting, the MDC
18 Brothers, and he would say:

19 'If anyone wants to abscond, if anyone wants to
20 shoot from here, if you're dissatisfied with the food,
21 or whatever, you know, schooling, come and see me, and
22 I'll give you the money to abscond.'

23 They called it 'shooting', do you want to shoot from
24 here today? It meant abscond.

25 He says:

1 'So anybody who wants to shoot from here, come and
2 see me, I'll give you the bus fare to help you when you
3 get caught.'

4 Me and a couple of other guys, there were four of us
5 all in, we took him up on his offer and went up to his
6 office, Brother MDC, gave us 12.5 pence each, half
7 a crown each, on you go.

8 We had our own clothing on by that time, you know,
9 and we left the school, went down to the bottom of the
10 road, headed down towards Prestonpans, Port Seton, jump
11 on the bus to Edinburgh and there was Brother MJF and
12 Brother Benedict, two or three others.

13 Q. To meet the bus?

14 A. We came off the bus, 'Right, guys, in you get'. Put us
15 in the bus and took us back to the school and we all get
16 the belt over the arse.

17 Q. Can I ask you about that and the belting, how was that
18 done?

19 A. At the desk. You were held down over a desk.

20 Q. Who held you down?

21 A. The other brothers, Brother Benedict, Brother zMBZ.

22 Q. What happened then?

23 A. They took your -- you were told to take your trousers
24 down, but we wouldn't do that, you know. They would
25 pull your trousers down, one of the staff, the Brothers,

1 it was always the Brothers. It wasn't civilian staff or
2 teachers. Take your trousers down and give you six of
3 the belt. Minimum six of the belt.

4 Q. What about your underpants, were they taken down?

5 A. They were taken down and all, aye.

6 Q. It was on your bare bottom that you were being belted?

7 A. Bare bottom, no protection.

8 Q. Would that belting cause injury?

9 A. It would bring your skin up, welts and your arse would
10 be red raw basically, you know. If they missed, they
11 hit you on the leg.

12 Q. Did that happen to you? Did that happen to the others?

13 A. It happened to the others as well.

14 Q. From what you've said, this was a sort of a set-up, was
15 this to try and teach you a lesson so you wouldn't run
16 away again, was that the thinking behind it?

17 A. I think so.

18 Q. Did you run away again?

19 A. No, I never ran away again. But it wasn't because of
20 that. I just thought -- if I ran away you never get out
21 of here. You'll end up going to the MacDonald wing.

22 Q. As we know from what you've said, when you went to
23 St Joseph's you went into the Killiecrankie dormitory,
24 which was the bed wetting dormitory?

25 A. Yes.

1 Q. Did you wet the bed when you were there?

2 A. Once or twice I wet the bed, yeah.

3 Q. How was that managed then?

4 A. Well, you would get up in the morning and you would tell

5 the Brother or whoever was on duty, 'I've wet the bed

6 during the night', and you would take your -- they

7 called it the walk of shame, you know, you would go down

8 and everybody would all be lined up waiting to go down

9 for breakfast and you would be walking down, maybe two

10 or three of us walking down, 'Here's the midnight

11 swimmers', you know, 'The piss-the-beds', and you walk

12 by with your sheets wrapped up. Shut up. It's quite

13 embarrassing, quite humiliating, you know.

14 Q. You say it was called the walk of shame?

15 A. Mm hmm and sometimes they would give -- there weren't

16 pyjamas you got, it was a nightshirt, we used to call it

17 Wee Willie Winkie nightshirt and you would be wearing

18 that, you know, it was embarrassing in front of your

19 peers, you know.

20 MR MACAULAY: My Lady, I'm moving on to something different.

21 That might be a good point to stop.

22 LADY SMITH: You remember, 'Paul', I said I normally take

23 a break about this point in the afternoon. Would that

24 work for you if we stopped now for five minutes?

25 A. Absolutely, my Lady.

1 LADY SMITH: We'll get back to your evidence after that.

2 (2.59 pm)

3 (A short break)

4 (3.10 pm)

5 LADY SMITH: 'Paul', is it all right if we carry on now?

6 A. Yes.

7 LADY SMITH: Thank you.

8 Mr MacAulay.

9 MR MACAULAY: 'Paul', we have already looked at one aspect
10 of discipline, that was the marks system and how that
11 could impact upon weekend leave.

12 Were there any other forms of discipline? You have
13 told us about the belting, which you mentioned for
14 absconding.

15 A. I think it was mostly withdrawn marks from you was the
16 kind of main punishment, that and belt, you know, and
17 the odd kick. The odd -- there was one occasion when
18 there was me and two other guys decided, we'd come
19 across tobacco and we made rollups and we went down to
20 the chapel to get a light off what you call the sacristy
21 lamp, there was one on either side of the altar, wee red
22 lamps, wee red glasses with candles in them.

23 So we went into the chapel and stood up on the
24 velvet chair and got a light off the sacristy light. So
25 we had a wee smoke in the chapel, behind the altar, and

1 then as we were leaving the chapel, I was first to walk
2 out the door, blam, right, punched right in the face,
3 aye, and it knocked me off my balance.

4 I went like, ah, you ...

5 It was Brother Benedict and the other two guys that
6 were with me came bombing out the chapel, they were all
7 shouting, 'It's Bootsie, it's Bootsie'. I knew that by
8 this time, you know, because he'd already lamped me on
9 the side of the head. So they ran away. They managed
10 to get by him up to the dormitories out of the way.
11 This was about 8 o'clock at night, maybe a bit later.

12 He grabbed me, he folded me up, he was a big strong
13 man, about six feet-odd and he folded me up like a paste
14 table and he ran me right down the staircase and at the
15 foot of the staircase, just at the foot of it on the
16 right-hand side was a door where they used to keep
17 buffers and polish rags and tins of polish and stuff
18 like that, flung me in, just bodily threw me in it,
19 pulled the door shut, snibbed it. Pitch black.

20 Now, we knew there were cockroaches and all that in
21 that cupboard, you know, with the heat, but I suppose at
22 nighttime it -- at night -- I spend a night in it and it
23 was freezing. I wasn't really worried about the
24 cockroaches. I was worried more about how am I going to
25 get out of here. Will he let me out of here?

1 I spent the night in it and then the next morning
2 I was shouting and kicking the door and all that and one
3 of the -- the gardening teacher, Mr MJM, opened the
4 door and said, 'Good God, man, what you doing in there?'

5 I said:

6 'I got threw in it last night, Brother Benedict
7 ...'.

8 I didn't call him Bootsie --

9 Q. Did you have any sign of injury at this time?

10 A. I had a big bruise of me where -- it was called a rabbit
11 punch back then, he would give you a rabbit punch.

12 Q. What did Mr MJM tell you to do?

13 A. Well, he reported it to -- I don't know who, but one of
14 the teachers, Horse McKinnon and he sent me up to my
15 dorm to get clothing, adequate clothing, because I had
16 my jammies on, 'Go and get changed, HFG'.

17 Then I remember meeting with Brother MJF and it
18 was all explained to him what -- how he had came across
19 me and I told him my side of events, and, 'I'll speak to
20 him, I'll have a word with him. This will never happen
21 again'. I thought, that was me, I had kind of given up
22 smoking, you know.

23 But physical, aye, you would get hit and you would
24 get frogmarched with your sidelocks, if you had any, get
25 you up and frogmarch you to the school, classrooms.

1 Q. How usual was it to see other boys with marks of injury?

2 A. Aye, it was pretty -- I would say -- I would say maybe
3 once or twice a week you would see somebody else copping
4 it, getting struck, you know.

5 There were a few boys I saw in there who would run
6 away and they would run up the coal bing and the staff
7 would run after them and they would stop, but then you
8 would see them getting pulled back in the afternoon, you
9 know.

10 I remember once during the night in the
11 Killiecrankie there were two boys in the opposite beds
12 to me, one got up out of his bed and he struck this
13 other pupil with a snake belt. I watched him coming out
14 his bed, walking round to the other boy's bed and he was
15 just lying like that, pretending to be asleep, or he
16 might have been asleep, and this boy struck him right in
17 the eye with a snake belt.

18 Q. These are elasticated belts that have a snake
19 connection?

20 A. A metal snake at the end of it that you clasp.

21 LADY SMITH: The buckle involves twisting two curved snakes
22 together, metal ones, not real ones?

23 A. That's correct, my Lady. Metal. He struck this boy in
24 the eye, argh, a big scream, you know, so pandemonium.

25 A couple of the Brothers came running up, you know,

1 'What happened to you?', and they found out pretty swift
2 who had done it and they took him away. We could hear
3 him screaming. He was screaming anyway all the way down
4 to whenever they took him.

5 Q. Did you see had he came back?

6 A. Mm hmm. He was black and blue. He said they give him
7 a tanking, 'What a doing I got last night'. That was
8 the way -- that's the way we would talk to each other,
9 you know.

10 Q. Did this boy have a reason to do what he did?

11 A. No, not that I could see. It's just pure random.
12 I don't know if they'd been having an argument, see the
13 boy he had done it to, now, he was in for care and
14 protection and boys who were in for care and protection
15 were pretty vulnerable, you know.

16 There was a pecking order. Somebody who was in for
17 robbing a bank or stealing or house breaking, there was
18 boys who were at the lowest end of the care and
19 protection were vulnerable, because they never had any
20 protection. They didn't have protection from their
21 families. They had nobody to talk to and a lot of the
22 other inmates wouldn't speak to them or recognise their
23 kind of, I don't know, their status, so the boy that he
24 had done it to was in for care and protection, or CAP.

25 He was known as a member of staff, because he had

1 been in St Joseph's for such a long, long time.

2 LADY SMITH: 'Paul', don't go too close to the microphone.

3 We can't hear you properly if that happens and nor can
4 the stenographers.

5 A. He would do odd jobs for the Brother and that. He was
6 known as an edger, that he would edge in, he's edging in
7 with him, suiting up to him. So he was the boy who had
8 been assaulted.

9 MR MACAULAY: You are describing someone who had been there
10 a long time and might have been on better terms with
11 some of the Brothers than other boys?

12 A. Yes.

13 Q. I want to ask you about Brother Benedict and in
14 particular his attraction to matters electrical.

15 Did you have some experience of that?

16 A. Yes.

17 Q. The first time that you had some experience of that, can
18 you tell me about that?

19 A. The very first night when I got there -- the very first
20 night I was in there, I was in the art class and the
21 teacher was -- I heard the other boys calling him
22 'MJN', 'MJN', can I get a crayon or a pastel or
23 whatever? An art brush?'

24 I happened to be drawing with charcoal on paper, you
25 just draw whatever you want, so I was drawing things,

1 and I says, 'Can I get a different colour to use,
2 MJN ?'.

3 He turned round and he says, this guy looked like
4 Bamber Gascoigne, do you remember Bamber Gascoigne, the
5 actor with the big glasses up there on the high
6 forehead. He said:

7 'What did you call me?'.
8

9 And I says 'MJN' that's what I thought his name
10 was, Mr MJN. He says:

11 'MJN ? I'll MJN you.'

12 Knocked me out almost.

13 Q. He punched you?

14 A. I know I'm a wee guy, and he kicked me and he grabbed me
15 and he threw me into the corridor and I didn't know what
16 to do when I was out in the corridor holding my eye and
17 that.

18 I went down into the play room and Brother Benedict
19 was there and I thought I better tell him. I told him,
20 the teacher's just hit me:

21 'Oh, no, don't worry about him. Tomorrow night
22 you're coming to my club.'

23 Right. So his club the following night, it was the
24 electric club and it was a series of outbuildings and he
25 had the electricity workshop. So there was about 15 of
us in, in the workshop, so he had train sets and they

1 were all established on a series of tables and that, you
2 know, wee villages and tunnels. The full works, big
3 train kit, about four or five trains on them.

4 So he says -- old record players, you know,
5 Dansettes and everything, wee black and white tellies,
6 old couches, a couple of couches. So I thought, this
7 looks quite good, you know. So the boys were all just
8 sitting about and then it became quiet and he came
9 walking across and he put this apparatus down in front
10 of me. It was shaped like an H, so a bar like that and
11 two pieces of metal coming down, it was on a wee stand,
12 it had cables wrapped round it. If you ever saw a bit
13 and brace, Colin, that is what it looks like, so it was
14 this wee handle, a bit on brace, the part that you turn.

15 He says, hold these, right -- he never actually says
16 hold these, he motioned for me to hold them. Thrust
17 they out towards me. Two wee bits of tin. Held on to
18 them. Next minute he cranks the machine.

19 Now I've had shocks from Tam Shepherd's Joke Shop in
20 Glasgow, where it's a joke buzzer. You used to get them
21 in American comics and you have it in your hand and you
22 go, 'Oh, a tingle'.

23 This was an electric shock and he didn't let it go
24 until he felt like it. He's looking at me when he's
25 doing it and he was getting pleasure out of it. He was

1 in glee. I don't know if I used an expletive at the
2 time ...

3 So that was it, that was your initiation.

4 Q. Eventually did he stop and you let go?

5 A. So he stopped it and you couldn't let go until he
6 stopped, aye.

7 Q. Was it painful?

8 A. Aye, aye. So we are in a couple of nights after that
9 and I ended up fighting with two guys from Possilpark,
10 well, I knew they were twins. I was fighting with one
11 of them, so the other one jumped in and the three of us
12 ended up scrabbling now on the train table, where the
13 trains were.

14 We landed on a train set and that and it broke --
15 everybody ran out because they all knew what he was
16 capable of, rearing up. Everybody ran out the door.
17 I get dragged back in.

18 Q. Who by?

19 A. Brother Benedict. He was the only teacher who was on.
20 It was his workshop. So he dragged me back in and the
21 boy I was fighting with, he couldn't get out because he
22 was too far away so he's blocking the door by that time.
23 He's got the door shut. There was only me and the other
24 boy and him.

25 He got the generator out. Pointing at it. So

1 I held on.

2 Q. Before that, did he do anything to you before he went on
3 to the generator?

4 A. He was punching and kicking, overpowered us, you know.
5 A couple of kicks. That's why he's known as Bootsie.
6 His boots were always flying. Then he put us on the
7 generator, held on to the generator and he just kept
8 going and going and going and going.

9 It was getting sorer and sorer and I was trembling
10 and then he stopped. My hands were all seared,
11 blisters, my hands were red raw. The blisters covered
12 up.

13 Then he put the other boy on it and he done the same
14 to him, so it was either accept his punishment or you
15 were getting what we would call a right good doing, you
16 know, and --

17 Q. Did he do the same to the other boy?

18 A. Aye.

19 Q. Did he have marks of injury such as blisters?

20 A. Aye, oh aye. And you know something, what happened was
21 he left after administering that cruel unusual
22 punishment, he fled, his big cassock on, right out that
23 door. You never saw him.

24 So we just kind of got ourselves, 'F-ing sore that,
25 wasn't it?' When we got out we went back to the main

1 building and steeped our hands in the sink, in the
2 ablutions, cold water on them, you know.

3 That night, I was up in the Killiecrankie dorm and
4 it was dark and I went to the window and I thought it
5 looked pretty eerie, his electricity shop was all lit
6 up. It was the only place roundabout that peripheral
7 that was lit up and his door was lying wide open and
8 I think he realised that he had overstepped the mark,
9 and so did Lord Uist --

10 LADY SMITH: He was the trial judge, wasn't he?

11 A. Yes, he was. I thought it's like something out a horror
12 movie, you're looking out that dark window and the
13 electricity shop all lit up. I thought he's realised
14 he's overstepped the mark here. I knew that he was
15 dangerous, that he was incapable of stopping when he put
16 his mind into meting out the punishment. I just knew.
17 I thought, 'Need to keep back from this guy for the rest
18 of the time I'm in here'.

19 MR MACAULAY: Did you require to get any treatment for the
20 injuries to your hands?

21 A. We got -- it was just like a bandage. The matron --
22 first aid, she was called the matron, this woman, just
23 got bandages on it the next day, you know.

24 Q. Did you tell her what had happened?

25 A. We never told her in so many words. We just said that

1 we had got the shock, you know.

2 LADY SMITH: When you said that, would she know that you
3 were talking about Brother Benedict?

4 A. He was quite friendly with her, my Lady. He was quite
5 friendly with her.

6 LADY SMITH: Was he the only one who had the electronic
7 club?

8 A. Yes.

9 LADY SMITH: So he'd be the only person who was giving this
10 electricity treatment out?

11 A. Yes, as far as I know. It was his workshop. He was in
12 charge of it, you know, and that was it.

13 MR MACAULAY: Was there somebody there who made disparaging
14 remarks about your mother?

15 A. Aye. The metalwork teacher. He was a wee bit kind of
16 fierce, aye. So he -- when I think back now what he
17 looked like, I would describe him, he was a wee
18 minotaur, you know, a mythical creature, who is pure
19 bald and well built, like a wee blacksmith would be. He
20 had a furnace, he had a blacksmith shop, metalwork shop.

21 So when you went into that -- he used to -- the only
22 thing I remember trying to make in it was a set square,
23 you know shaped like an L, a wee set square and filing
24 it and that. Didn't have a clue really what I was
25 doing, you know, and they are probably simple enough to

1 make but I didn't -- wasn't good at metalwork or
2 joinery.

3 So he -- aye, you've made a mess of it and he would
4 throw the file down or a hammer, if he was holding
5 a hammer, but it was a file. Banged the file down on
6 the desk, 'You've made a mess of it. That's the second
7 load of metal you've wasted. Metal is unforgiving'.

8 So he used to back you in towards his furnace. He
9 had a big furnace and the wee boys are going oh, no,
10 another time in hell, back out of hell again. This big
11 furnace blasting away. He would take a bit of metal out
12 of his wee tray of water, red-hot metal and he would
13 back you in towards his furnace and tell you:

14 'Your granny's a cow, boy, your mummy's a cow, boy,
15 your ma is away with a soldier or a darkie.'

16 It's all stuff like that.

17 On one occasion we went with the school to Aberlemno
18 Farm -- Turin Home Farm in Aberlemno, Forfar, by Angus
19 that was the address of it. Picking berries and you
20 went up there for six weeks at a time, with a two-week
21 break, so when you're picking your berries they used to
22 encourage you to pick more berries for the farmer and
23 then you were paid 1.5 pence each pound of berries.

24 A half pence went to the school, a half pence went
25 to a charity or something and you got a half pence for

1 each pound. So they would encourage you to pick
2 100 pounds a day in weight. You were known as
3 a 'tonne-up kid' and they would have a ceremony. There
4 used to be about three table tennis tables together and
5 Mr GW, 'GW' they called him, he would sit up
6 on these three -- like a stage, he would sit up in his
7 bit ceremonial robe on:

8 'Right, Mr HFG, Mr and Mr ...
9 that's you a tonne-up kid.'

10 And he would give you a certificate.

11 I was out picking berries one day and MJK was on
12 duty and some guys says somebody's -- this is a piece of
13 terminology that they used, my Lady, back then and it
14 was called 'niggering' I'd never heard that in my life,
15 'niggering':

16 'Sir, I've been niggered.'

17 And he's like:

18 'Who said the N word?'

19 Followed by an expletive, a B word:

20 'Who has been F-ing ...'

21 So I got pulled out and I had nothing to do with it,
22 but he just grabbed me out, right, down the hill, you
23 had short trousers on, you know. He had a cane. He had
24 a big stick and he used to wear a big round hat, a big
25 canvas hat that he would wear, flying up. He hits me

1 a couple of times round the legs.

2 Q. With the cane?

3 A. 'You've nicked his berries.'

4 'I've only got my own berries ...'

5 Q. Can I move you on to look at sexual abuse and what you
6 experienced on that front.

7 I think you tell us that one night you woke up and
8 somebody was interfering with you. Can you tell me
9 about that?

10 A. Yes. I woke up during night.

11 The first time I ever woke up I felt something lying
12 on top of me. A heavy weight. I thought what's going
13 on here? I looked and it was Ben, Bootsie. I said:
14 'What are you doing?'

15 He said:
16 'I'm only trying to get you up to go to the toilet.'
17 'I don't need the toilet.'

18 Q. Was he somehow on top of you at this point?

19 A. Mm hmm.

20 And then I would say about maybe three occasions he
21 would interfere, he would try to fondle you underneath
22 the sheets, you know.

23 Q. Would he make contact with your private parts?

24 A. Aye. And you would say:
25 'What you doing?'

1 'Oh, no, no, you need to go to the toilet.'

2 That's a bed check, you know:

3 'You need to go to the toilet.'

4 'Okay, I don't need to go to the toilet.'

5 That would be you woke. You would just be thinking,
6 dwelling on that for the rest of the night, wondering is
7 he going to come back in again?

8 Q. Was there one night when something more than that
9 happened?

10 A. In my bed?

11 Q. Yes.

12 A. I can't remember.

13 There was an occasion when I was going to visit the
14 managers and you wore your best blouse for a meeting
15 with the managers, which was maybe twice a year I think
16 I saw the managers.

17 So you've got your best blouse on, your Stayflex
18 white shirt and that, so I went down, down to see the
19 managers and I was sitting in this classroom with
20 Benedict, out in the corridor here to my right-hand side
21 the corridor was lit by a ceiling bulb and then off that
22 corridor to the left there was a room where the managers
23 met.

24 I was sitting in this kind of classroom and all
25 I remember was really a circle of light roundabout us

1 from the outdoor corridor and he was sitting, Benedict,
2 he was sitting and I said, 'Are you all right?' I was
3 trying to initiate some conversation with him with
4 regards to what happens at these meetings, you know? Is
5 there anything you can advise me to say? I knew you
6 were going there to talk about maybe how you were
7 getting on and that, you know, and if you were due for
8 release.

9 I was trying to get some hints from him, but the
10 dialogue, hard of hearing, he wasn't answering back, he
11 was just mumbling away. Then all of a sudden he stood
12 up and I noticed a puddle below him -- when he stood up
13 there was a puddle on the linoleum and he whipped out
14 a hanky and he started rubbing the floor, but whatever
15 he was wiping, I thought he had wet himself, whatever he
16 was wiping it became worse though on the ground. You
17 could see it -- in the light outside.

18 I thought -- I realised -- well, back then I thought
19 he's been masturbating, you know. But then he took me
20 in to see the management, the managers.

21 Q. Just on that, you are confirming what you said before
22 that on occasions some managers would come and speak to
23 boys?

24 A. Yes.

25 Q. But when you went to speak to the managers, was

1 Brother MDC and Brother Benedict also present?

2 A. Brother Benedict, as the housemaster, would have been
3 there.

4 Q. What about Brother MDC, as SNR ?

5 A. I'm not sure if he had been there on the occasions
6 I went to the managers.

7 Q. Did you ever in fact report any abuse to managers?

8 A. No.

9 Q. Can I just go back to what you said about
10 Brother Benedict in the bedroom. You did mention one
11 night when you were in bed and you couldn't move because
12 there was something on top of you. That happened to be
13 Brother Benedict.

14 Did you form any impression at that time what he was
15 doing?

16 A. Well, you know, we used to -- we just thought it's
17 Benedict. This is what he does at nighttime, you know.
18 I can remember waking up and seeing him in the
19 dormitory, just his silhouette at the window, maybe dawn
20 would be breaking, you know, kind of daylight and seeing
21 him standing at the end -- these dormitories were lit by
22 small nightlights, so it did look quite eerie, but to
23 see him, the big coat and the cassock, you know, and
24 then he would say, 'Don't you need to go to the toilet,
25 my babe?' All that carry on.

1 Q. Did you see him approach any other beds?

2 A. Oh, aye.

3 Q. Was it the same sort --

4 A. Aye, fumbling about during the night and -- not the
5 night watchman ... he would double up as a night
6 watchman, this person who was a boilerman, maintenance
7 man, during the day.

8 Q. Do you remember his name?

9 A. HLU [REDACTED].

10 Q. Would you see him in the dormitories?

11 A. Yes, in our dormitory. You could only see in your own
12 dormitory.

13 Q. What was he doing in the dormitory?

14 A. He was just going round beds and having a wee pat here
15 and there.

16 Q. Did he do that to you?

17 A. No.

18 Q. You have mentioned the stilts already and
19 Brother Benedict had these stilts. When boys were on
20 the stilts, did he do anything?

21 A. No, no, you would just be playing with the stilts,
22 larking about, you know.

23 Q. You come to tell us how you came to leave St Joseph's.
24 What you say is that you had a weekend leave and you
25 were told not to come back?

1 A. Mm hmm.

2 Q. Who told you that?

3 A. Benedict.

4 Q. Is that what happened? You didn't go back after your
5 weekend leave?

6 A. I never went back.

7 Q. Once you had left care, did you, as you put it, drift
8 into a life of crime?

9 A. Yes.

10 Q. Were you also drinking and abusing solvents?

11 A. Yes. I didn't enjoy alcohol, but I would drink it and
12 so would my mates. It was like bravado, so you'd have
13 a drink. You'd drink wine back then in the days, it was
14 Old England and Lanliq and Four Crown, but you were just
15 slug, glugging it down so you could be one of the boys.

16 Q. You ended up, I think, in places like Longriggend and
17 also I think you tell us in Glenochil, is that right?

18 A. Yes.

19 See when I went back to school, Colin, back to
20 secondary school, so I was going back to secondary
21 school to become part of third year, I would think third
22 year.

23 All my mates had all moved on through different
24 ranks, you know, and all that, classes and I didn't
25 really fit in at school, because I had become even more

1 defiant and I believe that's what the control and all
2 that breeds is defiance. You became anti-establishment
3 and anti-authoritarian.

4 When I was at school I knew, 'I don't fit in here,
5 what's the point in being here? I not interested in
6 French or Latin or history', you know. I didn't want to
7 be a joiner or a metalworker. I just wanted a job as
8 a labourer, with the corporation. But I don't even
9 think I did want to have a job, I just thought, 'I'm out
10 of here'.

11 I left school without qualifications, never went
12 back and I left about three months earlier than I should
13 have. So I didn't sit any big tests, nothing like that.

14 So I didn't fit in. We used to just hang around the
15 Monkland Canal, before it became the M8 motorway, we
16 were stealing scrap and that and earning money off of
17 it. Not big money, small beer, you know, and buying
18 alcohol with it, just drifted into that kind of
19 lifestyle, delinquency.

20 Q. There came a turning point for you, indeed you've given
21 us a date, it's in paragraph 112, your father died after
22 you got out of Glenochil and you got involved with the
23 Calton Unemployment Workers Centre and you were told
24 about a job as a community development worker, and you
25 got the job and started there on 8 January 1981.

1 What you say is:

2 'I turned a corner in my life and never looked
3 back.'

4 A. Aye. That's right.

5 Well, I always knew my ma and da were not thieves or
6 crooked. They were hard workers. My older brother had
7 a good work ethic, and I was sitting on a bus and
8 I thought, 'I'm working in here in this Glenochil wood
9 assembly', in the young offenders I'd ended up in there
10 and that was it.

11 I've been working in here for 1.30 a week, making
12 wall units and bedroom suites and all that for Cavendish
13 Woodhouse, Morris of Glasgow Cross and you are getting
14 paid 1.30 a week, five days, 1.30 a week, standing
15 a bench, working power tools. So I was sitting on the
16 bus and I thought I got out of there and I was earning
17 1.30 a week, which was regarded as a good wage in there,
18 1.30. That is what the rate was.

19 I thought surely I could get a job for 30 quid
20 a week, 15 quid a week, it's got to be better than that
21 and I thought my ma and da weren't thieves. How have
22 I turned out the way I have?

23 I was fortunate that at that time I had started
24 going about the said club that you mentioned and there
25 were good mentors in it and I was saying to the panel,

1 one of the mentors at the time was a big open heart
2 surgeon, and they were all in the canteen one night and
3 my mates said to him, 'What's your opinion of
4 cannabis?'.
5

6 His name was Dunkey, 'What is your opinion of
7 cannabis, Dunkey? That will do you more harm.' He was
8 smoking tobacco and it wasn't in a highfalutin medical
9 or qualified opinion, 'You shouldn't smoke cannabis'.
10 It was just, 'That will do you more harm.'

11 So I started turning to people like, you know, and
12 I thought how come you are a youth worker in here to
13 this other person and he says. 'I went to college. It's
14 a great job seeing guys like you beginning to listen and
15 that and develop.' And I thought, he's right, I'd love
16 to do that.

17 Q. That's what turned the corner in your life?

18 A. And going to the Church of Scotland leaders. They
19 called it the Calton Trinity College Mission Society and
20 they used to say that you were going on a mission.
21 Mission impossible we used to think. Never work, the
22 Bible, my arse, all that stuff.

23 He said that there was a good wee job advertised in
24 the Herald, which I never read. The Herald back then,
25 Daily Record. He says that community work assistant for
the GEAR, the Glasgow East Area Renewal Project, a big

1 urban funded initiative and I thought I'll never get
2 a job on that, you know.

3 I met another friend of mine and he says, 'I've been
4 to Jordanhill and I'm a community worker now', turned
5 a corner, 'I've got good news and bad news.'

6 So this was us. We'd met the night before the
7 interview in the pub and asked 'What's the good news?',
8 and he said, 'The good news, I'm on your interview
9 panel.' And I said, 'Brilliant. Am I allowed to
10 declare that I know you or I say your name?', 'Aye,
11 I told the other two people that I know you.' I said,
12 'What's the bad news?' He said, 'They've not got a say
13 in it.' That's the story of my life.

14 Q. The story also involves meeting your wife and getting
15 married in 1989 and having --

16 A. 1989.

17 Q. -- two children?

18 A. Yes.

19 Q. You were a community development worker for 16 years.
20 You have worked with vulnerable adults. You have worked
21 with the [REDACTED] for Mental Health. You
22 were there 14 years and after you took voluntary
23 redundancy from there in 2015 you started working in
24 a care home for the elderly and you have also been
25 involved in foster care; is that a reasonable summary of

1 what you've done?

2 A. Aye.

3 Q. You did report the abuse to the police and I think you
4 gave evidence at the Brother Benedict trial, is that
5 correct?

6 A. Yes, that's correct.

7 Q. Can I take you towards the end of your statement, 'Paul'
8 and under the heading 'Impact' and I'll just read these
9 couple of paragraphs out to you:

10 'I don't want to delve too deep into my own past.
11 I have a lot of distractions to occupy my time. I play
12 the guitar, go hill walking and a read a lot. I do get
13 anxious thinking about it but I feel good about having
14 come forward to the Inquiry.

15 My life could have been very different if I had gone
16 to school that day instead of playing truant and bumping
17 into the other boys. I think about that a lot. If
18 I had gone home just a little bit later I could and
19 would have gone to university.'

20 That was a turning point as well in your life and
21 that's what --

22 A. Definitely.

23 Q. That's what got you into care?

24 A. I also went to Glasgow University and I became
25 qualified.

1 Q. Your hope for the Inquiry:

2 'I hope that things get better for any looked-after
3 children in care now. I hope that the people
4 responsible for them discharge their duty of care to
5 ensure that those children have the same opportunities
6 as any other child.'

7 That is your hope?

8 A. Yes, that's it.

9 Q. 'Paul', thank you for coming to the Inquiry.

10 A. Thank you, Colin.

11 Q. And answering my questions in the way that you have
12 done. I'm very grateful to you for that.

13 If there is anything else you would like to say to
14 help the Inquiry this would be your opportunity to do
15 so?

16 A. I don't know if it will help the Inquiry but just --
17 well, my wife and I have been foster carers now --
18 registered with the Local Authority for about 26 years
19 now and children who have come into our house, we agreed
20 with my own two kids, they were like: this would be
21 great to do. They were maybe around about the ages of
22 eight and ten at the time: aye, we'll give it a go.

23 Children who came to our house from different
24 backgrounds, you know, have been afforded with the same
25 opportunities that our kids have had. My lassie is

1 a doctor, training now to become a consultant. My boy's
2 in social work for the last 14 years almost, you know,
3 and kids came in and they weren't -- long-term foster,
4 they would go to taekwondo and stuff like that. One was
5 even into chess, you know, and we said that you can be
6 what you want to be if you put your mind into it if you
7 want to do something.

8 The person we look after at the moment, bright as
9 a button, from Nigeria, has been with us ten years come
10 [REDACTED] on her birthday, going to university next year in
11 Edinburgh to study law. I'm like that (indicating).

12 LADY SMITH: Brilliant.

13 MR MACAULAY: Thank you very much for that and for coming to
14 assist the Inquiry.

15 LADY SMITH: 'Paul', could I add my thanks and an apology
16 for it taking the time it has done between you giving us
17 your valuable statement with all the detail that we have
18 there and you coming here today to give oral evidence
19 and I hope you appreciate that's because of the
20 scheduling of the different parts of our case studies
21 and the different case studies, because we have already
22 had a large number of hearings dealing with other types
23 of care and other institutions.

24 But that doesn't mean that your evidence is any less
25 important. It's very important. I'm really grateful to

1 you for the value it's added to my learning and the
2 learning of the team here at the Inquiry.

3 Thank you for everything and safe journey home after
4 today?

5 A. Thank you, my Lady and everyone.

6 Have a nice weekend.

7 (The witness withdrew)

8 LADY SMITH: Just before I rise this afternoon, I've got
9 four names here that may be names that were mentioned
10 for the first time today there is a Mr **HGQ**,
11 Mr **HGR**, Mr **MJK** and Mr **HLU** and they're
12 not to be identified outside this room.

13 That takes me to a reminder that next week is going
14 to be a little different, I think, Mr MacAulay,
15 isn't it?

16 MR MACAULAY: Monday, as presently advised, there is to be
17 two oral witnesses.

18 LADY SMITH: I will be sitting in the usual way on Monday,
19 starting at 10 o'clock, as normal. And then every day
20 next week with the usual 10 o'clock starts and a mixture
21 of oral evidence and read-in evidence, but it's all on
22 the website if you want the detail, she said
23 confidently. I'm pretty sure. It's usually there by
24 this time on a Friday afternoon but any questions just
25 get in touch.

1 (3.54 pm)

2 (The Inquiry adjourned until 10.00 am

3 on Monday, 22nd January 2024)

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I N D E X

1		
2		PAGE
3	'John' (sworn)	1
4	Questions from Mr MacAulay	2
5	'Mac' (read)	43
6	'Archie' (sworn)	59
7	Questions from Ms MacLeod	60
8	'Paul' (sworn)	111
9	Questions from Mr MacAulay	112
10		
11		
12		
13		
14		
15		
16		
17		
18		
19		
20		
21		
22		
23		
24		
25		

