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Tuesday, 23 January 2024

(10.00 am)

LADY SMITH: Good morning.

Welcome to the second day this week in which we're looking at evidence into the second chapter of this part of the case study, Phase 8, which is the abuse of children in residential accommodation for young offenders and children and young persons in need of care and protection. Of course, in this chapter we've heard about both.

Mr MacAulay, today's witness?

MR MACAULAY: Good morning, my Lady. We're starting, up until the break, with read-ins.

LADY SMITH: Yes.

'Doogster' (read)

MR MACAULAY: The first read-in is an applicant who wants to remain anonymous and has taken the pseudonym 'Doogster'.

His statement is at WIT.001.002.2020.

His year of birth was 1961.

He starts providing information in relation to his time in care. It was somewhat troubled, because both his parents were alcoholics.

Because he had an older sister -- this is paragraph 7 -- quite a number of years older. She was academic and very astute and she essentially taught

1 'Dooogster', so that when he went to school he was ahead
2 of his peers and bored.

3 What he says at paragraph 9 is:

4 'Looking back now I probably found that all very
5 frustrating, I was just so bored at primary school.
6 They would have registration in the morning and by play
7 time I'd be out the back door. I'd go off to the
8 library and study and I'd be there until 3 o'clock when
9 I would go home.'

10 He then goes on to tell us that he started
11 shoplifting when he was playing truant and he ended up
12 before Children's Panels.

13 He then goes on to tell us about the time he spent
14 at Larchgrove and he talks about Larchgrove up until
15 paragraph 36.

16 At paragraph 37 onwards he talks about his time at
17 St Ninian's.

18 At 38:

19 'It was run by the De La Salle Brothers, who wore
20 big black robes. I remember the first person I was
21 introduced to was a Brother **MJJ**. And he explained
22 that I'd be there for some time but didn't say how long.
23 He also said that if I was a good boy could I get home
24 for weekends every two weeks.'

25 Moving on to paragraph 41:

1 'I don't know if they were child abusers or
2 paedophiles but it was systemic. As it was just like
3 Larchgrove. There was brothers and civilian staff. The
4 civilian who was abusive was called McKinstry.

5 Just like in Larchgrove he visited at night in the
6 dorms and would fondle you under the covers. It was
7 just the same. The first time he fondled me was on the
8 second night. Then most nights after that and to other
9 boys as well.

10 I would pretend I was sleeping and then see him
11 going to other boys' beds. I would hear other boys
12 crying. There was always loud sobs through the night in
13 that dormitory.

14 There was bed wetting there as well many times. The
15 brothers would force boys to lie in it all day,
16 sometimes right through until bedtime again. Sometimes
17 you had to put the sheets around your neck and stand
18 outside in a gown, barefoot and in the winter. That all
19 happened to me and I saw that many times. The brothers
20 would then get other boys to come out and laugh at you.
21 I did that as well.

22 Sometimes they would pick you out to go out for
23 a hot shower and they would molest you. That could be
24 brothers or staff that did that.

25 There was a Brother **HSE** and a Brother Benedict,

1 who was called Bootsie. I think Bootsie was
2 an assistant head. There was also a Mr McKenna who
3 taught woodwork. They would all molest boys in the
4 showers. That happened at shower or wash time, so
5 always early in the morning. I'm thinking they all
6 stayed there in retrospect.

7 Brothers HSE and Benedict were bastards. They hit
8 boys with planks of wood, tied boys up with bootlaces
9 and whipped them. They took your shorts down and
10 smacked your bare bum and grabbed your genitals. You
11 would faint with the pain when they did that. It
12 happened systematically every day. It could be every
13 hour or every half hour and they always picked on the
14 most vulnerable.

15 Older boys, maybe 15 years old, could handle
16 themselves so they would then pick on the younger ones.
17 There was a lot of bullying and the Brothers would stop
18 it but that would usually only be for sexual
19 gratification. They would want sexual favours to
20 intervene and stop the older boys. That happened to me
21 and in return the brothers would want masturbation or
22 oral sex performed on them. I had to do that to them.
23 It happened to me and to other boys.

24 McKinstry and Benedict both raped me. I reported
25 that to SNR, MJJ, and he called me

1 a dirty liar.

2 McKenna tried to rape me once when I was alone in
3 the woodwork class with him. If your woodwork wasn't up
4 to his specification he would get you up in front of the
5 class, pull your shorts up from behind and stick his
6 fingers up your backside, up your anus. He positioned
7 you in such a way that you were concealed behind his
8 desk so the class couldn't see, but he actually did that
9 in the classroom.

10 We went camping at weekends sometimes and we always
11 went with the Brothers and staff. We went to Saltcoats.
12 I remember that and other places. I was abused on those
13 trips and so were others.

14 I remember once we were tied to a horse and battered
15 by staff and by the Brothers. There was a rope around
16 the horse's girth under the saddle and they belted the
17 horse and it would take off with boys tied on. That
18 happened to me. It was terrifying. The horses were
19 owned by St Ninian's.

20 I remember another time being stripped down to my
21 underpants and thrown into a bunch of nettles. There
22 was an electric fence which was used to keep livestock
23 in a field and we were made to put our hands on that by
24 Brother Benedict.

25 There was an electric box in the boot room like

1 a generator, but I didn't know that back then. The
2 Brothers would make boys hold two wires and then they
3 would turn up the voltage until it gave you an electric
4 shock.

5 The food was awful. If you vomited it up the
6 brothers and staff forced you to eat your vomit. It was
7 always the same kind of horrible sloppy food. They
8 would stick their fingers down your throat and you'd be
9 sick. Then they would force feed your own vomit back
10 into your mouth. That happened to me and to younger
11 boys. Brother Benedict was the worst. He would lift
12 boys up by their ears.

13 Sometimes you got a cold shower for wetting the bed
14 and you would get battered by staff and by Brothers.
15 They would actually batter you in the shower, punch and
16 slap you, kick you or just hit you with anything that
17 was within reach.

18 Many times I had to get medical treatment. I once
19 had a tooth knocked out and I had to go and see the
20 nurse. You just didn't tell anybody because you were
21 told that if you did, you'd get more of the same.

22 After the first time, the abuse was just systematic.
23 That was 50 years ago now and I can't remember
24 everything. The abuse happened so often.

25 I told you that Brother MJJ called me a dirty

1 liar when I told him that Brothers McKinsty and
2 Benedict had both raped me. When I was on a home visit
3 I went to the police in Glasgow and reported that abuse.
4 I went to St Andrew's Police Station and they said they
5 would look into it. The police then spoke to my father
6 who didn't believe me and battered me black and blue the
7 next time I was home. My father had to be told what
8 I'd said to the police, but after that I heard nothing
9 more about it.

10 There was never anything said about me making that
11 report to the police at St Ninian's, so I don't know if
12 the police even made any enquiry with them.

13 I also spoke to my mum but she was just the same and
14 just gave me a slap.

15 We did have confession at the chapel. There was one
16 priest there and I actually told him everything at
17 a confession. To be honest, it didn't matter. It was
18 irrelevant, as they could have you say ten Hail Marys
19 for committing a murder.'

20 Then he talks about leaving St Ninian's at 64:

21 'I was in St Ninian's for about 18 months and
22 I didn't have visits from anybody. My mum and dad were
23 too busy at off licences to care about me.'

24 It would appear that he may have left in about 1972
25 or thereabouts, when he was aged 11.

1 He then goes on to talk about Larchgrove again and
2 Kerelaw, where he was placed and another institution he
3 mentions at paragraph 93. He goes on for a number of
4 paragraphs in connection with that particular
5 establishment.

6 He's back in Larchgrove at paragraph 121, and he's
7 then in Longriggend and in St Andrew's School in
8 Shandon.

9 He then moves on to look at the impact being in care
10 had on him.

11 In paragraph 137:

12 'It's been a massive step for me to come and speak
13 to the Inquiry, but it's something I have to do.
14 I've lived with it for over 50 years so perhaps this is
15 a therapy for me, to get it out in the open and to
16 discuss it. I just hope it doesn't have an adverse
17 effect on me. It is embarrassing to talk about, because
18 you come to thinking it's your own fault.

19 I am a headstrong resilient person. I can deal with
20 this and want to deal with this on my own. I have to
21 deal with it on my own.'

22 At 140:

23 'The abuse has lived with me every day and every
24 night. It's always on my mind. I have nightmares.
25 I fight in my sleep and then I wake up.'

1 Moving on to paragraph 150:

2 'I certainly think that any employee working with
3 children should be vetted thoroughly. There also has to
4 be an assessment of the children's needs. Kids should
5 be listened to. They can't all lie. Respect the kids
6 as humans, not as a number, respect is mutual.'

7 At 152:

8 'The perpetrators should be tracked down, but most
9 of all it's about the future and prevention. That is
10 the number one priority. We should not be having this
11 very same conversation in 20 years' time.'

12 At 153:

13 'I think that an independent person should be
14 appointed to assess the staff at all care institutions.
15 My concern is about kids in care now. If things like
16 that are still happening, something has to be done now.

17 I just hope my contributions help towards some form
18 of resolution.

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

23 'Dooenster' has signed his statement on
24 29 October 2018.

25 LADY SMITH: Thank you.

1 MR MACAULAY: We'll now move on to another statement.

2 LADY SMITH: Thank you very much.

3 Ms MacLeod.

4 'Raymond' (read)

5 MS MACLEOD: My Lady.

6 This is the statement of an applicant who is
7 deceased and the pseudonym 'Raymond' will be used.

8 His statement is at WIT.001.001.5576:

9 'My name is 'Raymond'. I was born in 1962. My
10 contact details are known to the Inquiry.

11 I was six months old when I first went into the care
12 system. I can't remember anything about my life before
13 then.

14 There were seven children in our family in total,
15 six brothers and one sister. We were sent to a place
16 called Atholl House in Thornliebank in Glasgow. The
17 home was split into two units. My siblings and I were
18 separated between the two units based on our age. I was
19 the youngest.

20 We stayed at Atholl House for approximately ten
21 years.'

22 Between paragraphs 9 and 20 the witness describes
23 his experiences at Atholl House.

24 I'll move to paragraph 21:

25 'It was 1972 and I was ten years old when I left

1 Atholl House. One day we were just told that we were
2 going home and I remember thinking, home where?

3 I don't recall any social worker visits to check how
4 we were getting on at home. I can't say 100 per cent
5 whether they visited or not. I'm not sure.

6 When we were staying at my mother's house I went to
7 a primary school. I did not fit in. I just went off
8 the rails. I ran away umpteen times. I think that is
9 when the social work started to get involved. I would
10 refuse to go into the house at nighttime.

11 When I started skipping school and fighting with
12 people, I was just exhibiting pure anger. I would
13 fight, disrespect authority and anyone who came near me.
14 I was like a mini tornado. I was a wee boy, but
15 I wasn't taking any bullshit from anybody any more.
16 I had had enough of being thrown from pillar to post.
17 This was the background build up to being sent to
18 St Ninian's in Stirling.

19 The Children's Panel sent me to St Ninian's. I had
20 been taken to the Children's Panel a couple of times.
21 The reporter had asked why I wasn't being chastised
22 enough for missing school and misbehaving, they must
23 have thought that was the reason I was behaving badly.
24 She lifted my shirt up to reveal my back covered in
25 welts from where I had been beaten with the belt. The

1 panel accepted that I was being chastised enough.

2 I had a social worker who took my mother and I to
3 the Children's Hearings. I can't remember the name of
4 the social worker. I think they asked for my school
5 reports. The headmaster said that I was completely out
6 of control, a bully and a thug. I remember thinking
7 that was a bit harsh for him to describe a ten-year old
8 like that.

9 I went to a couple of Children's Hearings but
10 I didn't have any respect for them or the reporter.
11 I would tell the reporter to go take a running jump.
12 I can recall there being four people on the panel.
13 I would speak to them directly sometimes. I had no
14 respect for any of them. I would never give them
15 a straight answer. I wasn't a nice person but I was
16 only ten years old. I just didn't care. I appeared
17 before the panel a few times before they sent me to
18 St Ninian's. I was sent to St Ninian's as a review case
19 to see how I got on. I think it was in the hope that
20 the shock would kick me to my senses.

21 St Ninian's was a Catholic children's home run
22 mainly by Catholic priests called brothers. There was
23 civilian staff too, there were approximately 30 children
24 at St Ninian's. I did not know anyone when I arrived.
25 I had no siblings or friends that I recognised there

1 with me. I think I was in St Ninian's from 1972 until
2 1974.

3 I think the Children's Panel thought that putting me
4 into a routine would help. My mother had never been
5 able to get me into a routine. They thought that under
6 the circumstances being at St Ninian's might settle me
7 down.

8 My mother and I were driven by her friend's husband
9 from Glasgow to Gartmore. For some reason there was no
10 social worker involved. We arrived at this big white
11 house, it was called St Ninian's House. I remember
12 thinking, what the hell am I going into? My mother
13 dropped me off and that was it. I had to go in by
14 myself.

15 A monk called Brother MJJ met me. He must have
16 been expecting me. He was SNR figure at
17 St Ninian's. He was quite old, probably in his early
18 70s. He took me inside to meet the housemasters of the
19 different houses. I can't remember the name of the
20 house I was in. I also met the civilian staff. I was
21 taken by Peter Indigo. He was a teacher working within
22 the school. He showed me around the dormitories. I was
23 told to unpack my things into a locker and go downstairs
24 for lunch.

25 The rest of my memory is just a blur. I started to

1 settle in. Basically the first week was a bit of
2 a whirlwind but I learned the routine, it was very
3 similar to Atholl House.'

4 In paragraphs 35, 36 and 37 the witness speaks about
5 the layout and the dormitories and a little about the
6 morning and bedtime routine.

7 I'll read from paragraph 38:

8 'We would get washed in the morning before
9 breakfast. I never had a shower in the morning.
10 I would just comb my hair, wash my face and brush my
11 teeth in the wash handbasin.

12 At night I would have a shower. In the showers you
13 never had any privacy. The monks were always lurking
14 about. By lurking about, I don't mean in the
15 background. I mean they were looking at you. It was
16 a horrible feeling being watched.

17 When I was young I was a slow developer. I didn't
18 go through puberty until I was 16 or 17. I felt very
19 uncomfortable throughout the whole process of going for
20 a shower. There were a lot of other boys who went
21 through puberty much younger than me, the showers were
22 just part of the routine. You had to have a communal
23 shower whether you liked it or not.

24 There would be a monk on duty in the showers who
25 would walk around. It was not just one monk who did the

1 shower duty. All of the monks took turns to be on duty.
2 The monks who weren't on duty weren't present during the
3 shower time. Any other adult would just have left you
4 alone to wash and do what you had to do, but the monks
5 were sinister, there was no doubt about it.'

6 In paragraphs 42, 43 and 44 the witness speaks about
7 uniform and food.

8 I'll read from paragraph 45:

9 'There was a school within St Ninian's. My IQ
10 wasn't damaged. I was quite intelligent and could read
11 and write from quite a young age. I don't know where
12 I picked things up from but I did. The school staff
13 were a mix of monks and civilians. Brother MJJ SNR
14 SNR, but he had a number of other monks all running
15 around for him. The monks were present but they weren't
16 friendly or approachable. They would call you by your
17 first name. The monks had to be called "Brother". You
18 did not need to say any other name, just Brother.

19 The monks were approachable if you had a problem in
20 relation to schoolwork or school issues, they would pass
21 it on to the appropriate staff. If you had a problem in
22 any private circumstances, they would not listen. If
23 you went to them upset or saying that you didn't like it
24 at St Ninian's they would send you away and tell you to
25 just get on with it. There was no sympathy regarding

1 your circumstances. The attitude was: you do the crime,
2 you do the time.

3 There was also a social worker who would come into
4 the school daily. I'm not sure whether she was just
5 there to take children to the Children's Hearings or for
6 some other reason. I don't know whether she ever dealt
7 with anything specific. I think she was attached to the
8 school through Stirlingshire Council. She worked in
9 tandem with Brother MJJ, SNR figure for
10 the school.

11 School started at 9 am. There was a break at
12 10.30 am then we were back to lessons. Lunch was back
13 in the canteen, then there were lessons until 3 pm.

14 The children that were slow at learning were in
15 different classes. If you struggled at arithmetic you
16 would be held back to improve it. There were Latin
17 classes as well as the normal subjects.

18 If you misbehaved at school we would be told to go
19 outside or stand in the corridor of the classroom. If
20 we disrupted the class we just had to leave until we had
21 calmed down. We did not get given lines.

22 They must have been doing something right as my
23 English and arithmetic were pretty good for my age. In
24 comparison to what I had been doing at my last school,
25 where I had always been running away and playing truant,

1 I excelled. I suppose it lasted for the first four or
2 five months.

3 After I had settled in for a while, I began to wake
4 up and smell the coffee. That was when I decided to get
5 out of there and run away. I ran away with two other
6 boys. We were planning it for a week or two and headed
7 towards Glasgow. We got through a few fields in
8 Gartmore before someone must have realised that we had
9 done a bunk. We were about two miles away from
10 St Ninian's when we heard these dogs and saw
11 a policeman. We all began running and I had the sense
12 to stop. I was laughing and crying at the same time.
13 The other two boys carried on running, the police dog
14 ran by me and grabbed one of the other boys by the arm.
15 We were taken back to St Ninian's by the police. They
16 never once asked us why we had run away. I think in
17 those days they probably wouldn't have believed us
18 anyway.

19 When we were taken back to St Ninian's we were given
20 a real hammering. Brother MJJ said that we had
21 brought shame on the school and upset the other pupils,
22 we had upset the monks and everyone else. It was only
23 us three boys that weren't upset.

24 We were caned as a punishment. It was sore but it
25 was quite half hearted for corporal punishment. I think

1 Brother MJJ was getting sexual gratification from
2 it. I remember being frogmarched into his study by
3 another monk, but I was left in private for the caning.
4 I think I received 12 strokes. I had to sit right next
5 to Brother MJJ and lift my rear end over towards
6 him. He would remain seated so that he could see my
7 uncovered backside really closely. My backside was
8 always uncovered. It was sinister to say the least.
9 After that I lost all respect for the monks. I felt
10 abused.

11 The reason we ran away was because the monks had
12 started to belt us. They had started hitting us with
13 a really old-fashioned school belt. It was leather with
14 a buckle on. They would just swing it and hit us. They
15 would belt us for really stupid trivial things, just
16 hijinks or saying a swear word. It was never for
17 anything serious like breaking a window. It was never
18 a single stroke, they would keep hitting until they had
19 released their anger or had their gratification.

20 Brother HHI was particularly fond of hitting us with
21 the belt, I'm not sure whether he kept a belt in his
22 pocket, but he was always very handy with giving it to
23 us. Brother HHI had thick black NHS glasses and was
24 a heavy build. He was perhaps 51 or 52 years old. We
25 had decided that we had had enough.'

1 At paragraphs 58 and 59 the witness speaks about
2 birthdays and Christmases.

3 I'll read from paragraph 60:

4 'I was never visited by my family or a social worker
5 whilst I was at St Ninian's. I do not recall ever
6 seeing anyone from the council or any inspectors
7 visiting. I didn't care about my mother not visiting
8 because I hated her so much. None of my siblings ever
9 visited me.'

10 LADY SMITH: Just pausing there, Ms MacLeod, of course at
11 paragraph 48 this witness did mention that there was
12 a social worker who had come in the school daily and
13 then goes on to say it might have been to take children
14 to Children's Hearings or something like that, and she
15 worked in tandem with Brother MJJ.

16 Am I to take it that when we get to paragraph 60
17 he's not contradicting that, but he's saying that
18 separately if you're talking about whether I had
19 a social worker looking out for me/visiting me, that
20 didn't happen?

21 MS MACLEOD: That's how I read it, my Lady. That maybe
22 there was somebody coming in to perform some kind of
23 overall role, perhaps taking children to Children's
24 Hearings and I don't know if there were reports or
25 things to do with that, but that he didn't have anyone

1 specific coming to see him. That's how I read it.

2 LADY SMITH: Thank you.

3 MS MACLEOD: 'As time went on I was allowed to leave
4 St Ninian's to go and visit family for the weekend. On
5 a Friday night I would get a bus to Buchanan Street in
6 Glasgow. The bus was St Ninian's and was driven by one
7 of the Brothers. Buchanan Street was the drop-off
8 point. After that, I would walk to where I would get
9 a bus to go home. I would do the trip in reverse on
10 Sunday. I would get picked up by the bus from
11 St Ninian's at 6 pm from Buchanan Street. Going home
12 for weekends was a taste of freedom.

13 My sister got married when she was 16. She got her
14 own house so she became my escape route. I would go and
15 stay with her for a few days before the monks would suss
16 out where I was. I would then get hauled back to
17 St Ninian's by the police. The police never asked why
18 I had run away. They thought it was funny. It was only
19 when the police said to my sister that she could get
20 prosecuted for harbouring me that I stopped going there.
21 My sister told me I had to stop visiting her or she
22 would get into trouble.'

23 Between paragraphs 63 and 66 the witness speaks
24 about healthcare and religious instruction.

25 I'll read from paragraph 67:

1 'The monks would regularly give you what was known
2 as a Jonny egg. A Jonny egg was where the monks would
3 skelp you really hard on your head and the back of your
4 ears with their knuckles. It was incredibly painful.
5 It was the Brothers who gave us Jonny eggs.

6 I remember getting a really bad beating for smoking.
7 I had taken a wee pouch of tobacco and cigarette papers
8 with me back to St Ninian's. I had hidden it in my
9 underpants. For some reason it managed to fall out of
10 the bottom of my trousers. I got a real beating for
11 that in front of everybody. There were fists and slaps
12 and I was booted here and there. I got a lecture about
13 how bad smoking was and how I was disrespecting the
14 school.

15 I was sexually abused by one of the civilian staff
16 called Jimmy or James McKinstry, he was a security and
17 maintenance man. He was an avid Celtic supporter.
18 I was also a Celtic boy and completely football mad.
19 Jimmy would pray on that and take me to Celtic games in
20 Parkhead or Hampden, it was a dream come true for me.
21 I think Jimmy was grooming me. It was only me that he
22 would take with him.

23 My bedroom had a skylight directly above my bed.
24 I used to look up at the stars from my bed. It was
25 a full window. On the roof there was a path around the

1 edge almost like a moat. You would get out on to the
2 roof and walk around the edge. You could walk right
3 past my window.

4 Jimmy McKinstry was the night watchman. One night
5 I was lying in my bed having fallen asleep. I saw Jimmy
6 through the skylight looking straight down at me. I was
7 terrified and thought what the fuck is he doing there?
8 He then dropped his trousers and started masturbating
9 himself. I honestly thought I was dreaming. I had to
10 get up and wash my face. When I got back to bed he had
11 gone. I woke up a few of the other boys and told them
12 what had happened. They were all bleary eyed and said
13 they hadn't seen anything. I saw Jimmy the next day and
14 I asked him whether he had been on my roof the night
15 before. He denied it. I told the other boys in my dorm
16 to stay awake that night to try and spot Jimmy.
17 Of course he didn't come back that night.

18 Whenever Jimmy asked me to go to a Celtic match
19 again I would say no. He questioned why I didn't want
20 to go any more and I told him it was because of what he
21 had done at my window. He said that I must have been
22 dreaming. He stayed away from me for a couple of weeks
23 after that.

24 I remember being in the school grounds a few weeks
25 later. Jimmy tried to hug me and feel my private parts.

1 He tried to put his hands down my trousers. I said to
2 him that if he tried to touch me again I would stab him.
3 I was glad that I said it because that's when he
4 stopped.

5 Jimmy was quite a popular guy at St Ninian's.
6 I never heard other stories about him sexually abusing
7 anyone else. We never really discussed it among
8 ourselves but there was a body language between the
9 children that made me think we all knew what was going
10 on.

11 The police contacted me in around 2010 about
12 Jimmy McKinstry. There had been allegations made
13 against him of similar abuse. A female from the sexual
14 offences unit asked me to give a statement. I gave
15 a statement to the Procurator Fiscal but they didn't
16 call me to give evidence in the end. I think there were
17 other witnesses who had better more recent memories than
18 me.

19 I stopped running away and settled down a bit when
20 I realised that I would never get out of St Ninian's if
21 I continued. I worked out that I would just be taken
22 back to the Children's Panel and kept at St Ninian's if
23 I didn't behave. I still got the odd slap and Jonny
24 egg, but my behaviour basically improved. My
25 social worker noted my improvement and wrote a good

1 report. It was put before the Children's Panel. They
2 were impressed by my attitude and decided to send me
3 back to my mother.'

4 In paragraphs 77 to 83 the witness speaks about life
5 at home with his mother before he was sent to St Mary's
6 in Kenmure.

7 In paragraphs 84 to 121 the witness speaks about his
8 time at St Mary's in Kenmure but, my Lady, that was in
9 the period that postdated the De La Salle Order's
10 involvement in that school.

11 Between paragraphs 122 and 138 the witness speaks
12 about his life after being in care.

13 The final part of his statement deals with the
14 impact he considers his time in care had on his life and
15 I will go to that section at paragraph 139:

16 'My biggest issue when I was growing up between
17 coming out of the homes and meeting my partner was
18 anger. I have struggled with anger right through my
19 life. Total and utter anger. I cannot emphasise enough
20 how much I would have stabbed somebody in the blink of
21 an eye. It wouldn't have entered my head as to the
22 consequences. I was that angry. As I grew up obviously
23 I got older and wiser but I still had a big chip on my
24 shoulder.

25 A lot of anger was directed towards my mother and

1 the way I was brought up. A lot of anger was towards
2 the establishment and the way I was treated. To get on
3 in life you have to respect authority. To this day,
4 I just can't come to terms with someone telling me what
5 to do. I'm very short fused. Throughout my working
6 life I have never been able to accept management.
7 I would just fly off the handle. I had an attitude of
8 fuck you. It caused me a lot of grief and
9 disciplinaries at work. I just felt that I couldn't
10 explain all of my background to my employers.
11 I'm an easygoing guy when you get to know me but don't
12 step on my toes. I get very, very defensive. It's
13 a lot to do with defending myself I think, sometimes
14 when I get angry I scare myself. I know I could do
15 something that could have serious consequences.
16 Hopefully I am old enough and wise enough not to
17 overstep the line.

18 I think we need to look out for signs of child
19 abuse. If it happens the signs are there. Listening is
20 one of the biggest lessons to learn. In my eyes a child
21 wouldn't make up a story as dramatic as the one I am
22 telling. I just don't think a child could make it up.
23 Not even out of vindictiveness or badness, I just don't
24 think a child could be plausible enough to do that.
25 Listening to children has to be 100 per cent the

1 priority, because if they have a story to tell, someone
2 has to be listening to them.

3 I still view social work as part of the
4 establishment. I think that children should be able to
5 speak to someone independent of social work and the
6 institution they're in. It should be someone qualified
7 that the child is comfortable to speak to. Someone who
8 might have expertise in dealing with children who have
9 suffered child abuse.

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

14 'Raymond' signed the statement on 9 January 2018.

15 LADY SMITH: Thank you.

16 MS MACLEOD: We'll move on to another read-in now.

17 LADY SMITH: Thank you.

18 'Charlie' (read)

19 MR MACAULAY: My Lady, this is another applicant. He wants
20 to remain anonymous and to take the pseudonym 'Charlie'
21 for his evidence.

22 The reference is WIT.001.001.9841.

23 'Charlie' begins by telling us he was born in 1961.
24 Can I say significant sections of this statement have
25 already been read in and that was on 17 November 2023,

1 in Chapter 1 of this case study.

2 In relation to the family background, it was
3 a troubled background, as he tells us at paragraph 5,
4 because his parents had problems with addictions to
5 alcohol and drugs.

6 He then goes on to talk about his initial time in
7 care and he comes to deal with St Joseph's at
8 paragraph 54.

9 What he says there is:

10 'I arrived at St Joseph's much more streetwise than
11 I had been previously. I had turned into quite
12 a violent person and I was not going to stand for any of
13 the abuse I had previously experienced. I had learned
14 to deal with adults. I also taught myself to fight.'

15 It would appear that he went to St Joseph's in about
16 1972, when he was aged 11 or 12:

17 'When I arrived I noticed that the boys were all
18 a lot older than me. I was under the impression that
19 I was to be there for no longer than 12 months. There
20 were some people I'd met previously in the care system.'

21 He then at 58 goes on to say:

22 'St Joseph's was split up into cottages which were
23 run by houseparents. I remember that there was also
24 a night watchman at each cottage. They were strange
25 people and used to get involved in drinking and they

1 also brought in local young girls.'

2 Then at 61:

3 'It wasn't the same religious-type establishment as
4 before. It was still run by priests and Brothers but
5 there was not the same emphasis on the Catholic Church.
6 The headmaster at the school was called Brother Alfred.
7 He was a very nice man and I had nothing but respect for
8 him.

9 Brother Ben was a bit of a nutcase. He was brutal
10 with us and he used to punch us with his closed fist.
11 He used to get very angry and someone would end up
12 getting hit. He was a very big man and we were all
13 frightened of him.

14 HPT was my housemaster and he had worked as
15 a night watchman previously. He used to run the cottage
16 with [REDACTED]. There was also a matron, but I can't
17 remember much about her. Another member of staff was
18 called Mr HPS. He used to sexually assault some of
19 the boys.

20 There was a metalwork teacher called MJK
21 he had the nickname MJK because he used to
22 throw hammers at you. On one occasion he asked me to
23 hold two metal rods. He then induced an electrical
24 current, which caused me to be thrown to the ground. It
25 was done in front of the other boys, who all found it

1 very funny.

2 I was the new boy and didn't know any better.
3 I thought that he was trying to kill me. It was very
4 humiliating. I didn't need any medical help but I was
5 very shaken.'

6 He then discusses some aspects of the routine.

7 Then at paragraph 69:

8 'HPT [REDACTED] and some of his pals held parties in
9 the cottage. He used to be a night watchman and so he
10 still had friends that were also night watchmen. They
11 used to get bottles of cider and offer them round the
12 older boys that came to the parties, I think that the
13 girls that came were local and were young. They can't
14 have been 16. A lot of the boys had sex with them,
15 although I didn't see this.

16 I can only remember one of them who had long hair
17 and a moustache. The older boys told me that the staff
18 would watch the older boys having sex with the young
19 girls.

20 Brother Ben was a teacher and was very unpredictable
21 in what he would do. He would punch you. He was a big
22 man. You didn't argue with him because he would punch
23 you once and that would be it. He was about mid-40s
24 with black hair and glasses.

25 I would go out on a bike ride with Brother Ben and

1 12 other boys. Brother Ben would round up the
2 stragglers and hit them. I saw the bruises on some of
3 the boys when we came back from the cycle run.

4 Mr HPS would sexually abuse the boys by
5 touching their privates and putting his hands down the
6 front of the boys trousers. He told the boys that he
7 was teaching self-hygiene and how to wash their private
8 areas. This didn't happen to me as I was wise to it,
9 but I saw this happen on a few occasions.

10 Mr HPS once locked me in the boot of a car
11 because he thought that I was running away. He then
12 drove the car for 30 miles with me still in the boot of
13 the car. It was very frightening.

14 MJK, who was the metalwork teacher, quite
15 deliberately gave me an electric shock to humiliate me.
16 It was given to me through a bit of equipment he had in
17 his classroom. The other boys knew about it but I was
18 a new boy and had no idea. I was badly shaken
19 afterwards.

20 When I went to Arbroath to pick berries I ran away
21 one of the nights with another boy, we were brought back
22 and I remember looking into the hut where the staff were
23 staying. They were all naked and fooling around. The
24 other boy and I thought that it was very strange.
25 I remember one of the staff, who I met later in life

1 when I was at Longriggend. I told that member what
2 I had seen. That member didn't like that and got one of
3 the prison officers to punish me.

4 I was always swearing at the staff and running away.
5 I think that one of the main reasons I left St Joseph's
6 was because I attacked Brother Ben with the leg of
7 a desk. I was charged with serious assault and was
8 terminated from the school. I went home for a short
9 spell to my parents and I was enrolled in the local high
10 school. I think that I was nearly 15.'

11 He then goes on to talk about his time in Larchgrove
12 and also in St Mary's Approved School.

13 He mentions Longriggend from paragraphs 88 to 91.

14 Then he's at Polmont, paragraph 93.

15 He's in Barlinnie and talks about that in
16 paragraph 97.

17 Then he goes on to talk about life after care.

18 Much of this has already been read in.

19 I'll take your Ladyship to the heading 'Lessons to
20 be learned', at paragraph 111:

21 'I hope that what happened to me never happens to
22 any other child that is in the care system.

23 It is a bonus to me today that people from the
24 Inquiry have spent the time to listen to me. It is
25 a big thing for me. I am in touch with Future Pathways

1 and I will spend time with their counselling service.

2 I now have more trust with adults and am happy to speak
3 about what happened to me.

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 'Charlie' has signed the statement on 27 June 2018.

9 LADY SMITH: Thank you.

10 MR MACAULAY: More to come, my Lady.

11 'Terry' (read)

12 MS MACLEOD: My Lady, the next statement is that of

13 an applicant who wishes to use the pseudonym 'Terry'.

14 His statement can be found at WIT.001.001.6293.

15 LADY SMITH: This is our second 'Terry', isn't it?

16 MS MACLEOD: I think it is, yes:

17 'My name is 'Terry'. I was born in 1964. My
18 contact details are known to the Inquiry.

19 I grew up in Clydebank with my parents and siblings.

20 I was one of those kids that thought I knew best.

21 I missed school constantly. My parents tried their best
22 but I was a thief and didn't go to school.

23 I went to the Children's Panel a couple of times and

24 I remember the Children's Reporter, a Mr Knox, saying

25 that it would be good for me to go into care. It was

1 1972 and I was eight years old.

2 It was the Children's Hearing's decision that
3 I would be put into St Ninian's Residential School,
4 Gartmore, Stirling. I was there for about three years
5 and thereafter got released and went to secondary
6 school, a mainstream normal school. That only lasted
7 a couple of weeks because again I was going through the
8 Children's Panel and sent to St Philip's in Airdrie,
9 that was a school for wayward boys. I was there for
10 a short time before being sent to Bellfield Remand
11 Centre in Dumbarton, which was again only for a few
12 weeks, before finally going to St Mary's in
13 Bishopbriggs.

14 At first, St Ninian's appeared to be a good place to
15 me. There was a swing park, large grounds, lots of
16 fresh air and they kept animals. But it didn't turn out
17 that way. St Ninian's was an old building, castle-type
18 scenario, and there were little units built as the
19 school sat next to it.

20 It was run by the De La Salle monks and
21 Brother MJJ was SNR. The staff were
22 made up of monks, priests and civilian staff, who were
23 like social workers. There were at least 47 to 49 kids
24 there, all boys from the age of 8 to 16.

25 My first experience was being taken there. It was

1 directly from the panel. I was taken there by car by
2 strange people. I don't remember who they were. A monk
3 then took me away. I can't remember his name. I was
4 then washed, showered and issued with clothes. I was
5 shown where I would sleep and how to fold my towels and
6 given pyjamas. We all had our own little locker.
7 I remember being told you put your towel over your
8 headboard at night if you volunteered to go to chapel
9 for mass in the morning.'

10 Between paragraphs 8 and 12 the witness speaks about
11 various aspects of the routine at St Ninian's.

12 I'll go to paragraph 13:

13 'I started wetting the bed at St Ninian's. I hadn't
14 done it before went there. If you wet the bed they gave
15 you jungle juice at night before bed. I don't know what
16 it was. You got a clout from the housemaster or his
17 wife, the housemistress, and told not to do it again.
18 If you wet the bed you were given a nightgown to wear
19 instead of pyjamas, probably just to embarrass you.

20 St Ninian's was run under a points system. You got
21 points for the way you made your bed or how you laid
22 things out on your bed. If you didn't do something
23 right you lost points. You had to get so many points
24 over the course of the week to go home at the weekend.
25 I was quite a good boy and didn't get up to much

1 mischief. I wasn't a bad boy. I was a thief and didn't
2 go to school.

3 There would have been a punishment for running away
4 from St Ninian's, but I never tried to run away because
5 it was in the middle of nowhere with open fields all
6 around you. The school hours were basically like
7 a normal school, but schooling was a problem for me.
8 I hated it as a kid, hence I had the time to go out and
9 steal.

10 My first experience in the classroom was not being
11 able to spell my own name. Nothing registered. The
12 first teacher I recall was either "Douglas McDougall" or
13 "Dougal McLeod", I can't remember exactly. He was
14 a bully. I remember I couldn't spell "carbon monoxide"
15 so he ragdolled me, dragged me about the classroom by
16 the ear. He taught science, maybe English and maths.
17 I'm sure at some point he taught me the first three
18 chords on the guitar. I found out later that he became
19 a headmaster at one of these schools.

20 It's funny how it affects you over the years. If
21 you committed any little misdemeanour he would smack you
22 over the back of the head with his knuckles. It was
23 a daily occurrence, he didn't just do it to me,
24 everybody got it. Nothing I learned at school sunk in.
25 Mr McKenna was nasty. He taught woodwork. If you did

1 something wrong in his class he ragdolled you. He only
2 did it to me a couple of times, but he did it to a few
3 boys, just little boys, grabbed them by the arms and
4 threw them about the room, slapping them.

5 I know there was a priest who taught music, he gave
6 guitar lessons, I don't know his name but he was okay.
7 You don't remember the good ones, only the bad ones.

8 We used to do cross-country running and football.
9 I wasn't into sport but I joined in because you had to
10 or you'd face the consequences if you didn't.'

11 In paragraphs 22, 23 and 24 the witness speaks about
12 holidays and his memories of birthdays and Christmas.
13 I'll read from paragraph 25:

14 'When there was going to be an inspection things
15 were just like you see in the movies, everybody cleaned
16 up the place before anyone came. I don't know who they
17 were or what they were there for, nobody spoke to us.
18 We just knew they were coming because we had to clean
19 up.

20 In the first three weeks at St Ninian's I didn't get
21 home so my mum and dad must have visited, but I can't
22 remember apart from the one time. I remember
23 Brother MJJ [REDACTED] told me that my mum and dad were
24 there. He had come and got me. He put his hand out,
25 I still see it. I was so relieved that it was my mum

1 and dad, because I thought he was taking me into his
2 room again.

3 I think that was it with visits due to the fact that
4 I was going home every weekend I didn't get any others.

5 I would have had a social worker during my time at
6 St Ninian's. I've had social workers throughout my time
7 in care. But I don't know who it was at the time and
8 can't remember any visits from them. I can't remember
9 the person at all.

10 If there was any healthcare I can't remember it. If
11 there were any problems they would take us to the nurse,
12 I do remember hurting myself once and I was taken to her
13 and got patched up. My foot had got stuck under the
14 roundabout at the swing park, I can't recall any dental
15 care.

16 As I said, the teacher who was called
17 Douglas McDougall or Dougal McLeod used to hit us on
18 a daily basis, throwing us about his class or hitting us
19 on the back of his head with his knuckles. My dad
20 smacked me but nothing like that.

21 I learnt to tie my laces on the third attempt,
22 because the first two times I couldn't do it I got
23 a slap in the face from my housemistress. That was
24 a shock to me. That was all new to me. Her husband our
25 housemaster, and her stayed in the gatehouse, they were

1 quite old and had been there a long time. It never goes
2 away, it never leaves you.

3 One time I was in the toilets with two other boys,
4 I can't remember their names, and we were mucking about
5 as boys doing, saying things like "Mine is bigger than
6 yours", that sort of thing, and the housemaster came in
7 and slapped, kicked and punched the three of us all the
8 way down the hall.

9 My name got called out one morning by
10 Brother MJJ . I think this was an introduction.
11 I remember one boy said, "It's your turn to see Bawjaws
12 this morning". So I went to his room and he put me on
13 his knee. I was sitting on his knee and he was bouncing
14 me up and down. I could feel him rubbing my leg and
15 I know it's not normal. I looked down and saw this and
16 I turned round to look at him and he kissed me on the
17 mouth. He put his tongue in my mouth. He molested me
18 and it wasn't nice. No molestation is nice.

19 Brother MJJ was like SNR . I can still
20 see him taking my hand. I can still see his hand.

21 There's a photograph of me as a young boy in
22 Buchanan Street Bus Station going back to St Ninian's.
23 Most kids are smiling in photographs. I wasn't smiling.
24 I've never said anything to anybody. I'm hoping I get
25 a bit of therapy out of telling you this. I've never

1 wanted to go on medication. I thought St Ninian's would
2 be good with the animals and the swing park.

3 There's a photograph of me somewhere in the system
4 when I was at a funeral. I can't remember whose funeral
5 it was. After it we went back to this house,
6 a sandstone house. It was nothing like St Ninian's.
7 I remember going up the drive, we went in and had our
8 sandwiches and juice. I can't remember going back to
9 St Ninian's that day. I don't remember going back.
10 I've read stories about what people do to children so
11 that they can do what they want with them. I don't
12 remember the rest of that day.

13 I can't remember whose funeral it was or who took
14 me. I'd never been to a funeral in my life. I remember
15 being there or maybe I remember the photograph. It was
16 a dull day but the weather couldn't have been bad as
17 I was looking for somewhere to play. All I remember is
18 the sandstone house. It's played havoc on my mind for
19 a long time.

20 I remember there was a gardener. I can't remember
21 his name. He was middle aged, he gave us sweets, Murray
22 Mints, one day he had a fox in a bag. There was a few
23 of us there. He said he was going to let us in and
24 asked us to follow him. I knew there was something
25 wrong. He put his hands on me and I wet myself. I knew

1 there was something wrong. I ran away from him.

2 I can't remember when this happened.

3 I believed in my religion, my dad believed in
4 religion. At St Ninian's if you volunteered to go to
5 chapel for mass in the morning you folded your towel
6 over your headboard. My towel went over my bed lots of
7 times when I didn't want to go. I didn't put it there
8 and it wouldn't have been the other boys that done it.
9 We wouldn't play games on each other to get others into
10 trouble.

11 Apart from the first three weekends at St Ninian's
12 when you are kept there to get used to it, there were
13 only two weekends out of all my time in care that
14 I didn't get home on the Friday.

15 Once was for smoking when I was nine or ten, I was
16 ragdolled for that. I can't remember who done it.

17 The second time I was kept back a day and didn't get
18 home until the Saturday because my friend had an older
19 brother who was leaving and he said I could get his
20 boots, but they weren't his boots, they belonged to
21 St Ninian's, so I got into trouble for that. Either
22 Brother MJO or Brother MBZ gave me a slap and kept
23 me back until the Saturday.

24 Brother MJO was an old bastard, it might have
25 been him or Brother MBZ. At the age I was they all

1 looked the same, middle aged, blackish-grey hair,
2 glasses and robes on. Whichever one it was he was in
3 charge of the boot room, everything had to be in its
4 place. One time I didn't clean the boot room to his
5 standard. I didn't really want to do it and didn't do
6 a very good job, so he battered me. I remember the
7 slapping and slapping and slapping. This happened
8 a couple of times.

9 On at least three occasions I went home at the
10 weekend with black eyes and only one of those times was
11 from fighting with another boy. One was when the
12 housemistress slapped me for not being able to tie my
13 laces. The other time was from McKenna, because I was
14 useless in his class. I just told my parents I'd been
15 fighting. I don't know what I was supposed to say.
16 Teachers hit kids around in those days, even in
17 mainstream schools

18 After I went into St Ninian's and on my first
19 weekend home I realised that I didn't have any friends.
20 Nobody would play with me because I was in care. Their
21 mums and dads didn't want their kids playing with me.

22 I left St Ninian's in 1976 roughly. I was 11 or
23 12 years old by this time. I was released home and went
24 to secondary school for a couple of weeks. I don't know
25 why I was released from St Ninian's.'

1 My Lady, between paragraphs 44 and 51 the witness
2 speaks about his time at St Philip's in Airdrie.

3 Between paragraphs 52 and 54 he speaks about his
4 time at Bellfield Detention Centre in Dumbarton.

5 Between paragraphs 55 and 75 he speaks about his
6 time at St Mary's in Bishopbriggs. Again, my Lady, that
7 relates to the period postdating the De La Salle Order's
8 involvement in that school.

9 In paragraphs 76 to 82 the witness speaks about his
10 time after care.

11 I'll move to the final section of the statement
12 dealing with impact, at paragraph 83:

13 'I felt as though I didn't deserve to be put into
14 care and there are things that happen to you as a kid
15 that you don't think you take with you, but you do. My
16 mum was dying, breaking her heart and I couldn't cuddle
17 her. It's very hard. I can't cuddle my sisters.
18 I hate being cuddled. I hate shaking hands. That's
19 what it does to you.

20 I've never had any support or help. I don't want
21 it. Nothing is going to change. You've just got to get
22 on with it. There's no one I'd approach. I have never
23 told anyone. Years ago my mum and dad heard about
24 St Ninian's, but I said it was all right. I told them
25 I was one of the lucky ones.

1 Every now and again you think about the time in
2 care, it rears its head. When I see media campaigns it
3 pops up. When I saw a programme on TV about a boy who
4 had been abused I was sitting with my sister and I said,
5 "That was me, that was me".

6 Everybody is different. I'm just trying to get
7 through life as quickly and quietly as possible. This
8 doesn't go away. It never goes away. When I saw that
9 young boy on TV I thought of speaking to the Inquiry.

10 I went to my doctor and he asked how long I have
11 been feeling like this, I told him all my life. When
12 I'm in one of my moods I just don't care. I think
13 that's what my background has done to me, I think that's
14 what it has done to me, I can't touch, I couldn't touch
15 my mum when she was dying, I don't like being touched.

16 Most of the time I'm quite approachable but I have
17 mood swings. I've wrecked two flats and lots of guitars
18 with built-up anger. Is this related to abuse or am
19 I just an idiot? I think it is related to abuse. Other
20 people make you who you are, especially when you're
21 young.

22 All of my brothers and sisters have children so
23 I was used to being around kids. I was a great uncle,
24 I am a good dad. I had problems with relationships, now
25 I don't want one, I could never change nappies. I felt

1 uncomfortable. I shouldn't feel uncomfortable.

2 I've done nothing wrong. It never goes away.

3 I will probably never have a drink again. I haven't
4 drunk since my son was about three. I'd either top
5 myself or somebody else. I've had motorbikes and fast
6 cars and sometimes hoped I'd have an accident. You
7 don't try to but you go through the scenarios.

8 These places should never exist, because people
9 can't be trusted. I don't believe in kids being taken
10 from their parents.

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

15 'Terry' signed statement on 29 May 2017.

16 LADY SMITH: Thank you.

17 'Peter' (read)

18 MR MACAULAY: My Lady, this is another applicant. He wants
19 to remain anonymous and to use the pseudonym 'Peter'
20 while his evidence is being dealt with.

21 His statement is at WIT-1-000000770.

22 'Peter' tells us that he was born in 1962. He
23 provides some family background and he tells us at
24 paragraph 3 that he believes that he spent the majority
25 of his childhood in care and that there were only

1 two years that he was not in institutions. His
2 understanding is that the reason he and his brother and
3 sisters went into care was because their mother was ill.

4 He then goes on to talk about his initial life in
5 care, that's from paragraph 5 onwards, and the places
6 that he was in. He comes to his time in St Ninian's in
7 Gartmore beginning at paragraph 12.

8 It would appear that he went there perhaps at the
9 age of ten in 1972. If I can pick that up at
10 paragraph 23:

11 'St Ninian's was run by the De La Salle Brothers and
12 I think there were probably about 60 to 80 boys there.

13 SNR [REDACTED] was Brother MJJ [REDACTED] and

14 Brother HFT [REDACTED] was SNR [REDACTED].

15 Brother MJO [REDACTED] was in charge of my house, St George's.

16 There was also a Brother GZQ [REDACTED], my religious knowledge
17 teacher who had grey hair and often looked like he had
18 a bit of a suntan, and Brother Benedict

19 There were some lay members of staff as well. The
20 music teacher, the woodwork teacher, the art teacher and
21 a night watchman whose name was Jimmy McKinstry.

22 Jimmy McKinstry was employed as a gardener and
23 groundsman, but was allowed into the dormitories at
24 night by the monks.

25 The people who ran the school were the Brothers.

1 They were also the ones who meted out the punishments.
2 There was never any tenderness or caring shown by the
3 monks. It just seemed like never-ending hell from which
4 there was no escape.

5 I used to get up at 6 am in the mornings because
6 I was an altar boy. I went to mass every morning and
7 I wanted to be a priest. Breakfast was probably about
8 7.30 am to 8 o'clock and then we'd go to school or work
9 in the gardens.

10 At night you had to go and brush your teeth and use
11 the toilet while the monks stood there watching.'

12 Then at paragraph 30:

13 'You had to eat your food. If you didn't it was
14 physically forced into you. The monks would hold your
15 nose or rub your face in your plate and you would get
16 beaten up. If you were sick you were made to eat your
17 sick.

18 In the basement was a shower area, baths and
19 toilets. I can still remember the smell of the place.
20 I think there were ten showers, so 20 boys would all
21 shower at the same time every day. One boy would be
22 waiting while another was showering. The monks would
23 always stand and watch.'

24 Then he provides some information about the general
25 routine.

1 At paragraph 43:

2 'As well as working in the kitchen, in the gardens
3 and on the farm, we had to clean the school. There were
4 no lay staff employed as cleaners. It all had to be
5 done by the boys. I remember buffering the hallways,
6 putting wax down on the wooden floor and shining them up
7 with a big heavy thing that you would swing back and
8 forth. I can still remember the smell of the wax wooden
9 floors. We also vacuumed the dormitories, cleaned the
10 toilets and other chores.'

11 Then moving on to paragraph 50:

12 'There was a group of local good doers who would
13 come to the school once a year. We would practice to
14 sing a hymn for them and play the recorder, but we were
15 warned never to speak with them or only to say "yes",
16 "please" and "thank you".

17 I seem to recall one particular boy, whose name
18 I think was [he names him] who was close to
19 Brother **MJO** was allowed to mingle with them.

20 I understand now that these people were supposed to
21 be managers, but that is nonsense. Their involvement in
22 the running of the school was that visit once a year.
23 They certainly did not exert any control over the monks,
24 quite the opposite. They were deferential to the monks,
25 as were the lay members of staff.

1 I have no idea what the purpose of these people
2 coming was, but I can say with certainty that they had
3 no involvement whatsoever in the running of the school
4 and they carried out no inspections.'

5 Then moving on to what he says about healthcare,
6 this is at paragraph 61:

7 'I went to see the nurse on many occasions with
8 various injuries incurred through the violence of the
9 monks. One time was when Brother GZQ broke my nose and
10 another time was when he punched me and smashed my
11 teeth. She used to be professional, although sometimes
12 she was clearly shocked. I was never able to tell her
13 what had actually happened because one of the Brothers
14 would always be there. She would ask in a perfunctory
15 way what had happened and would just be told I had been
16 fighting again or I had fallen.

17 A doctor was called when my nose was broken.
18 I don't know who he was. Before he arrived I was
19 cleaned up and put in a bed. The doctor then came into
20 the dormitory and examined me in front of the monks. He
21 examined me but he never really spoke to me. For weeks
22 afterwards I had black eyes and was not allowed home at
23 weekend until the bruising had cleared.

24 On the occasion my teeth were smashed by
25 Brother GZQ, I was taken to a dentist in Stirling. The

1 dentist asked how it had happened and he was told I fell
2 over. I started shouting and bawling about
3 Brother GZQ. Brother HFT, who had accompanied the
4 nurse and I to the dentist, called me a liar and the
5 dentist told me to shut up. The dentist put his fingers
6 and dental equipment into my mouth and touched a nerve
7 in my broken teeth. I bit his fingers and that was the
8 end of the dental visit.

9 The monks would turn the boys against me and
10 encourage them to fight with me. The monks would call
11 me an ugly bastard and would get the other boys to do so
12 as well. Recently a boy who was at the same school as
13 me has given a statement to my solicitor which sheds new
14 light on what was going on. I don't remember the boy,
15 but he most certainly remembers me. Constantly being
16 told I was an ugly bastard had an effect on me for many
17 years. I was in my mid-20s before I realised I was not
18 painful to look at.'

19 At 65:

20 'On a daily basis the monks would encourage the
21 other boys to hit me. On one occasion I remember well,
22 I don't know how it kicked off, a boy threw a bar of
23 soap at me while we were showering. Suddenly everybody
24 was throwing bars of soap at me. The monk who was
25 watching that just disappeared.

1 I tried running away from St Ninian's but I never
2 actually made it. It was 12 miles into Glasgow and
3 I used to run alongside the road until the police came
4 along. I remember they would try and chase me but they
5 couldn't catch me. One time they sent a dog after me
6 and I gave the dog my sock and it returned.

7 Another time, a policeman pulled up and changed into
8 a tracksuit before chasing me. I was a very good runner
9 and the officer couldn't catch me, so he offered me
10 five bob to give myself up. That was quite a lot of
11 money to me then. The police usually caught me a bit
12 nearer Glasgow when I had to cross the road. The police
13 would ask me why I kept running away but I would just
14 say I didn't like the place.

15 I don't remember anyone else trying to run away and
16 I never told the police why I was running away.

17 If anyone wet the bed they were embarrassed by the
18 monks. It happened all the time. The routine was that
19 you'd get slapped and made a fool of and then you had to
20 strip the bed and take the sheets down to the laundry in
21 the basement.

22 The monks were evil, vile bastards with explosive
23 tempers and a petty-minded manner towards children.
24 Every monk had their favourite children.

25 The monks constantly perpetuated violence against

1 children. It was a daily occurrence. By today's
2 standards they would never be considered fit to look
3 after children. I think I was particularly singled out
4 and I don't think it was as bad for everybody as it was
5 for me. I was singled out because I didn't comply.

6 It is difficult to describe the horror of an adult
7 male brutally assaulting a ten-year old child.
8 Sometimes that adult male would have his fist clenched
9 or would be holding a weapon. It could be a horsewhip,
10 other times a stick, sometimes a riding crop.

11 I'm not sure how long I had been there, but I was
12 ten at the time when Brother MJJ as a punishment
13 for having a pillow fight, ordered me to take my
14 mattress and sleep outside the dormitory. On either the
15 first or second night after that, I woke up and the
16 night watchman, Jimmy McKinstry, was doing things to me.
17 My nightshirt was rolled up around me and my body was
18 wet. At that time I thought my body had been licked,
19 looking back now I think it was probably semen.

20 There was somebody else there too, standing in the
21 background. It was dark and the monks wore black robes
22 so I'm not certain who it was. But I have always
23 believed it was Brother MJJ.

24 I didn't quite know what was going on, but it was
25 strange and I panicked a bit. I asked what was

1 happening and McKinstry just acted like things were
2 normal and started talking to me. This happened the
3 following night and then the night after that. It
4 happened to me pretty much every night. After the first
5 few times I didn't say anything. I didn't object.

6 After a while, I got back into the dormitory and it
7 stopped for a bit, perhaps a week, but then it
8 continued. I would wake up in the middle of the night
9 with McKinstry performing oral sex on me. My biggest
10 fear was that somebody else would wake up. This
11 happened regularly. Jimmy McKinstry would take every
12 opportunity to abuse me.

13 One Friday, instead of being dropped off at
14 Buchanan Street station by the school bus I was dropped
15 at Milngavie roundabout, which was nearer Drumchapel
16 where my family lived. Almost as soon as the bus pulled
17 away Jimmy McKinstry turned up in a little orange
18 Volkswagen and asked me if I wanted a lift.

19 I got into the car and he suggested we go to bed
20 together. I told him I would rather be in bed with
21 a woman and he went absolutely nuts and started to hit
22 me as he was driving. I tried to open the door and when
23 he slammed the brakes on I rolled out of the car.
24 I made my way home and then on Sunday when I got back to
25 school I went to see Brother MJJ in his room.

1 When speaking to Brother MJJ I was expected to
2 sit on his knee. It took me about two hours to tell
3 him, because he kept on asking me to repeat things.
4 I was only wanting to tell him about McKinstry beating
5 me up, but Brother MJJ knew there was more to it
6 and he kept asking me questions. Gradually I told him
7 in detail everything he wanted to know. He kept asking
8 me to repeat intimate details. When I look back on it
9 now I think he was masturbating under his cassock.

10 He asked me if I had told my mum or anybody else.
11 When I said I hadn't he told me not to and that he would
12 take care of it. The next morning when all the boys and
13 monks were assembled in the hallway, Brother MJJ
14 made an announcement that I had made a very serious
15 allegation about a popular member of staff. He told all
16 the boys that no one was to speak to me and that if
17 I spoke to anyone, they should report to him.

18 From that moment forward my life became a living
19 hell. Monks would hit me for no apparent reason and
20 they would encourage other boys to call me names and
21 provoke fights. It seemed the monks, Brother MJJ
22 and Brother MJO in particular, worked in tandem to
23 keep me ostracised, alone and vulnerable to
24 Jimmy McKinstry.

25 The abuse in the dormitory became rapidly more

1 violent. It was like McKinstry had carte blanche to do
2 whatever he liked. He did unspeakable things. I do not
3 want to go into the detail, what happened was some of
4 the worst things one can imagine an adult man doing
5 forcibly, violently to a ten-year old child.

6 As this was going on, McKinstry became more violent.
7 He would constantly threaten me that if I said anything
8 no one would believe me and that he would get me. He
9 would say that I wouldn't be allowed home. There was no
10 escaping. I was too afraid to make a noise in the
11 dormitory. The shame of the other boys knowing would be
12 unbearable.

13 With the benefit of hindsight thinking about these
14 events as a rational adult, it is clear to me that there
15 must have been collusion between the monks and
16 McKinstry. How else would McKinstry know I would be
17 dropped off alone at Milngavie roundabout? I was not
18 told about this in advance. My parents were not told so
19 I was completely alone. It is too much of a stretch of
20 imagination to think that it was a coincidence,
21 McKinstry just happened to be following the bus on that
22 occasion. He had to have been given foreknowledge by
23 the monks.

24 There was always a feeling of something malign about
25 the monks, especially Brother MJO. On reflection,

1 now as an adult, I would say Brother MJO was
2 mentally unstable. He was a strange character, who was
3 very vicious and prone to extreme outbursts of temper
4 and violence. He showed favouritism to certain boys and
5 treated others with disdain. He would, for example,
6 make hurtful remarks to them in the house room,
7 intending to cause shame and provoke other children to
8 taunt that child. I was always a target of his
9 viciousness.

10 Brother MJO used to whip me with a horsewhip.
11 He had two horsewhips, one that we would call
12 a bullwhip, which was actually a training whip that he
13 carried with him outside. I could be walking along and
14 suddenly there would be a crack on the back of my legs
15 for absolutely no reason. He also had a short riding
16 crop that he carried with him indoors.

17 There were no horses in the building. This was
18 Brother MJO weapon for hitting boys. I remember
19 one time trying to hide under a table in the house room
20 as Brother MJO was flaying at me with his riding
21 crop. I remember his face so well. It was purple. His
22 eyes were bulging and he was foaming at the mouth. When
23 I say "at the mouth", it was actually like a line of
24 Carnation Milk cream.

25 Brother MJO would also flay into me with his

1 fists and kick me when I fell to the ground. He would
2 go absolutely berserk and spit on me as he did so.
3 Other boys and staff would have seen this happening. No
4 one ever done anything to help me. Brother MJO was
5 never reprimanded.'

6 On to paragraph 90:

7 'My religious knowledge teacher, Brother GZQ, used
8 to sit me on his knee and read stories to me. I used to
9 quite like Brother GZQ and I remember him sitting me on
10 his knee while he read me a book called "The Privy
11 Builder", a story about a man who built toilets.

12 Brother GZQ also had a mean streak and an explosive
13 temper. As we would walk to the main building from the
14 school and past the sundial, Brother GZQ was always
15 standing there. He often had a smile on his face and as
16 we walked past he would stand there with his hands in
17 the pockets of his cassock. Every now and again he
18 would produce an apple and an apple was such a great
19 thing. Every now and again his hand would come out in
20 a fist and he would punch me square in the face. He did
21 that to me several times. That was how my teeth were
22 broken and although I didn't know it at the time, that
23 was also how my nose was also broken.

24 I would occasionally be dragged into the
25 SNR office within the school if I had done

1 something wrong or had run away. A couple of times
2 I was dragged in after I had tried to fight off
3 Brother MJO. When I was, all the brothers were
4 there along with Jimmy McKinstry and they would tear my
5 trousers off me. I would be held down across a desk and
6 they would take it in turns to whip my backside, with
7 what used to be called "teachers' belt", which was
8 a leather strap with a split at the end. They would all
9 have a couple of goes.

10 On several occasions I dislocated one or both of my
11 shoulders because I was struggling so much. If that
12 happened, I was taken to the nurse and with the
13 assistance of Brother HFT and Brother GZQ she
14 would relocate them. I remember the pain and I remember
15 not being able to sit down due to the welts on my flesh.

16 I was aware other boys were being abused as well,
17 but I didn't witness anything. In hindsight it is clear
18 something had been going on, but I didn't realise it at
19 the time.

20 I couldn't tell anybody about the abuse I was being
21 subjected to. I was afraid to do so and at the time it
22 felt like I would be confessing I was gay if I was to
23 say what Jimmy McKinstry was doing.'

24 In paragraph 96 he says:

25 'One weekend while I was at home, my mother noticed

1 whip marks on my legs. I told her Brother MJO had
2 hit me. I can't remember the details but my mother
3 phoned the school and Brother MJJ and
4 Brother HFT came to my house. They spoke with my
5 mother and spoke with me and persuaded my mother I was
6 a liar. They took me back to school immediately and
7 I was physically beaten by a number of the brothers.'

8 Moving on to paragraph 100:

9 'I can't speak for the other boys, nor what went on
10 at other schools run by the De La Salle, but it was
11 crystal clear to me that the monks colluded with each
12 other and with McKinstry, and perhaps others, to groom
13 children. If the children resisted, other tactics would
14 be tried, including punishments, stopping home visits,
15 encouraging bullying and sexual advances made whilst
16 asleep.'

17 He then goes on to tell us that he left St Ninian's
18 in 1974 and went back to live with his parents in
19 Glasgow.

20 Then he has quite a lengthy section dealing with his
21 life after care. He describes in that section a varied
22 and successful existence for many years until his mental
23 health deteriorated. If I can mention that at
24 paragraph 125:

25 'In 2010 I had a complete mental breakdown and made

1 an attempt to take my own life. With the help of
2 friends I got psychiatric help and was heavily sedated.
3 In 2012 I began to get my mind back but the spark was
4 gone, the fire extinguished, I couldn't focus on
5 business and so in order to try to get my head thinking
6 straight I decide today study law to exercise my brain.'

7 He tells us about that.

8 He goes on to say in relation to impact at
9 paragraph 133:

10 'I have been travelling abroad much of my life.
11 Running away, trying to get away from my past. Trying
12 to forget about what had happened and put it behind me.
13 Anything just to get away from what happened at
14 St Ninian's.'

15 At paragraph 135:

16 'I find it very difficult to talk about what
17 happened to me. Any time I do, I wander all over the
18 place and I find it very difficult to focus on one
19 thing. What Jimmy McKinstry did to me initially was
20 a depraved criminal offence, which, had
21 Brother MJJ intervened correctly, McKinstry would
22 have been arrested, removed and banned from any further
23 contact with me or other children. Had the abuse ceased
24 at that point, it might have been something which could
25 have been put in the past. However, the opposite

1 happened. Brother MJJ sided with McKinstry, he
2 ostracised me, made me a victim for every bully and
3 a target for the frustrated monks to vent their anger
4 and frustration. That a ten-year old child is abused by
5 an adult is a horrific unforgivable crime. That the
6 child is then attacked by those who are supposed to
7 protect the child, not just once, not just a single
8 adult, but repeatedly daily by a group of grown men
9 charged with the care of children. Add to that, these
10 men call themselves men of God and what you have is
11 something which can only be described as evil.'

12 He goes on to say at paragraph 138:

13 'The fear that the monks instilled in me lasted
14 until 1998, when the police came to speak to me. Prior
15 to that, I had never spoken to anyone about the events
16 of St Ninian's.

17 I can't stand bullying. Even to this day, if I see
18 someone hitting someone else I will step in. I can't
19 walk past. That has come from St Ninian's. I had to
20 fight for my life and I'm still the same. Even in
21 business there are people who will try to intimidate
22 you.'

23 142:

24 'I suffer really severe PTSD and I'm getting
25 treatment for that at the moment. I had been

1 self-medicating with alcohol and had to give that up
2 before I started the treatment. I have now given up
3 alcohol and am receiving treatment but I have yet to
4 feel any real effects.

5 I hope the treatment will stop me thinking about my
6 abuse so much. It's strange because it just hits you
7 like a wave, especially at night. Suddenly I become
8 depressed, my life feels worthless, I feel like
9 a failure. I have contemplated suicide but I love my
10 children, I love my wife and I am determined that the
11 truth about the De La Salles will come out.'.

12 He then has a lengthy section where he discusses
13 aspects of the criminal justice system and this is
14 material that may become relevant at a later stage in
15 the Inquiry.

16 What he says about hopes for the Inquiry in
17 paragraph 225 is:

18 'I want the truth to come out. That is the most
19 important thing for me.'

20 At 254, when he's talking about personal impact, he
21 says:

22 'Unlike many victims of De La Salle I went on to
23 lead a reasonably successful life, having run away from
24 Scotland to London aged 15. I took two jobs then
25 started a market stand, then a shop, a painting and

1 decorating company and a cavity wall installation
2 company. By the age of 17, I was wealthy enough to take
3 my girlfriend to the Caribbean on holiday. I have
4 travelled the world. I can communicate in four
5 languages and have founded a number of successful
6 businesses.'

7 He goes on at the end to say:

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

12 'Peter' has signed the statement on 4 August 2021.

13 LADY SMITH: Thank you.

14 It's just about time for the morning break.

15 Before I rise, we had one or two new names whose
16 identity is protected. Brother HSE may not have been
17 mentioned before, but he was one of them. HPT,
18 MJK and a teacher whose name was either
19 Douglas McDougall or Dougal McLeod.

20 The witness that's coming next should be ready at
21 11.45 am, is that right?

22 MR MACAULAY: Yes, my Lady.

23 (11.26 am)

24 (A short break)

25 (11.45 am)

1 LADY SMITH: Mr MacAulay.

2 MR MACAULAY: My Lady, the next witness does want to be
3 anonymous and he wants to take the pseudonym 'Wilbur'.

4 LADY SMITH: Thank you.

5 MR MACAULAY: As I indicated to my Lady before, he does
6 require to be warned.

7 LADY SMITH: Yes, I appreciate that. Thank you.

8 'Wilbur' (sworn)

9 LADY SMITH: You'll see, 'Wilbur', that the red folder has
10 your statement in it and it will be there for you to
11 refer to if you find that helpful. We'll also bring up
12 sections of your statement on the screen as we refer to
13 them as well. So you have both or neither, it's your
14 choice as to whether you want them or not.

15 'Wilbur', I know what we're asking you to do today
16 isn't straightforward and you would probably rather not
17 be here at all, talking in public about events that
18 happened so long ago. I'm grateful to you for having
19 come to the hearing and giving us your time and to your
20 supporter, who has come with you as well.

21 If at any time there's anything I can do to make the
22 whole process of giving evidence more comfortable or at
23 least less uncomfortable than otherwise you might find
24 it, please don't hesitate to let me know.

25 I normally sit from now until the lunch break at

1 about 1 o'clock, but if between now and then you want
2 a break, just say, whether it's a break out of the room
3 or sitting where you are to have a pause. If it works
4 for you, it will work for me, as will anything else that
5 would assist you.

6 'Wilbur', before I hand over to Mr MacAulay, you may
7 already appreciate this, but in the course of your
8 evidence there are questions that you may be asked, the
9 answers to which could incriminate you depending on
10 whether or not you choose to answer them. You don't
11 have to if it's that type of question. So please bear
12 that in mind and if you are not sure as to whether it's
13 that type of question or not, just ask, will you?

14 If you've any other questions at the moment
15 I'm happy to answer them, have you?

16 A. No thank you.

17 LADY SMITH: In that case I'll hand over to Mr MacAulay and
18 he'll take it from there.

19 Questions from Mr MacAulay

20 MR MACAULAY: My Lady.

21 Good morning, 'Wilbur'.

22 A. Good morning.

23 Q. The first thing I would like you to do is to turn to the
24 final page of your statement, can you confirm for me
25 that you've signed the statement?

1 A. I have, yes.

2 Q. In the final paragraph do you say:

3 'I have no objection to my witness statement being

4 published as part of the evidence to the Inquiry.

5 I believe the facts stated in this witness statement are

6 true.'

7 A. Yes.

8 Q. 'Wilbur', because you are anonymous I don't want to ask

9 you for your date of birth. I just want to put to you

10 that you were born in 1945?

11 A. That's correct, yeah.

12 Q. At the beginning of your statement you set out some

13 information about your childhood. You describe that as

14 a very happy childhood, I think in Glasgow, is that

15 right?

16 A. That's correct, yes.

17 Q. When you left school, you did not go into the care

18 system but you went to do other sort of work, is that

19 right?

20 A. That's correct, yes.

21 Q. There came a point in time when you were attracted to

22 going into the care system. Can you tell me how that

23 came about?

24 A. I served my engineering apprenticeship with Rolls-Royce

25 in Hillington. After I completed that I was there for

1 a short period of time, but I wanted to move on so
2 I moved to London. I played with a band and the band
3 moved to London. The band did do very well in London
4 and I got a job as a toolmaker in a company in Ladbroke
5 and I was there for a year and a bit I think.

6 During that time, because of my background and
7 whatever I wasn't -- London's a very kind of lonely
8 place and I think that had some kind of influence on me,
9 so I started to think about things I could do and
10 I wondered if I had a vocation and I enquired about that
11 and I went and spoke to an order, a religious order, and
12 they recommended that I contacted a Father Ryan who ran
13 a home for boys, basically, who were homeless and what
14 have you and I was there for a year. It was during that
15 period I thought, you know, this is the kind of work
16 that I would like to maybe explore a bit more and I
17 applied for courses and eventually got a course at Selly
18 Oak College in Birmingham and --

19 Q. Was that a residential care of children and young
20 person's course?

21 A. That's right.

22 Q. Was that a one-year course?

23 A. One-year course, yeah.

24 Q. As a consequence of that did you do a number of
25 placements?

1 A. Yes. The course was obviously studying, but there was
2 also four places -- four residential places during the
3 course at that time. One was at the assessment place in
4 Oxford.

5 Q. You mention the Kidlington Assessment Centre in Oxford?

6 A. Kidlington, that's right, yeah.

7 Q. You also mention Loaningdale List D school in Biggar,
8 you spent some time there?

9 A. That was the final placement. The course actually
10 finished when I was there and when I qualified and all
11 the rest of it and I actually went back there and they
12 gave me a job temporarily, until such time as I was able
13 to find a placement. So in the meantime I had been
14 looking around and there was a magazine published at
15 that time, a social-work-type magazine, in which the
16 residential schools placed their adverts, so there were
17 adverts for St John's and St Ninian's and I applied to
18 those two and a few others --

19 I got the response back from a Brother **GSU** who
20 was **SNR** of St Ninian's, you know, just asking
21 about my career and all the rest of it so far and
22 inviting me along for an interview. So I went and had
23 an interview and was offered the post as a housemaster.

24 Q. You tell us that that was in 1970; is that right?

25 A. 1970, yeah.

1 Q. Would that be in the latter part of 1970?

2 A. Yes.

3 Q. You are a young man at that time, aged about 25?

4 A. Yes.

5 Q. As you tell us in your statement and we know,
6 St Ninian's was run by the De La Salle Brothers?

7 A. That's right.

8 Q. You mentioned a moment ago that SNR was
9 Brother GSU ?

10 A. Yes.

11 Q. Were there other brothers there at this time when you
12 went there?

13 A. Yes. There was -- primarily it was a De La Salle school
14 so as far as possible they would try to staff it with
15 De La Salle Brothers, but I think at that time there was
16 probably less Brothers coming forward. A lot of the
17 Brothers were fairly, a good ... older, there were very
18 few younger Brothers, I think like all religious orders
19 at that time and they were having to recruit lay staff.

20 But as far as the Brothers were concerned at that
21 time, that's going back now, but there was
22 Brother GSU, there was a Brother HFT, who was SNR
23 SNR, Brother GZQ, who was there as the head of
24 education for most of the time I was there. There was
25 Brother IAT, Brother MJO, Brother MBZ, so

1 I think there were about seven Brothers, either in
2 teaching posts or childcare posts, but primarily they
3 were teachers.

4 The care staff, Brothers, tended to be people who
5 didn't qualify to be teachers, I guess, so they became
6 care staff.

7 Q. You went there in the post of housemaster. Can I just
8 understand that. We have heard some evidence that there
9 were different houses in St Ninian's. Can you help me
10 with that?

11 A. Yes. The school was divided into four houses. There
12 was 20 boys in each house, so there was 80 kids
13 altogether in the school.

14 So there was St Patrick's, which was the house I was
15 housemaster of.

16 There was St Andrew's next door.

17 Then, further down the other side of the building
18 there was De La Salle House and St George's House.

19 Q. Were the houses allocated to different parts of the
20 building?

21 A. Yeah.

22 Q. Can I ask you to look at a photograph for me and I think
23 you know about the photograph. It's DLS.001.001.0151.
24 It should come up on the screen.

25 A. Yes, that's it.

1 Q. In the forefront, do we have the main building?

2 A. Yes.

3 Q. To the rear, the first building we come to, was that

4 accommodation for classrooms?

5 A. That was the school block, yeah. The gym is on the

6 right-hand side and then all the classrooms on the

7 left-hand side. Beyond that, further back, there is

8 a sports hall, which came later really. We used to have

9 an inflated sports hall, just a kind of balloon thing.

10 So that came a bit later.

11 Q. Was there a stable block?

12 A. Yes. The stable block was on the right. The area on

13 right you see with the chimney, that was the woodwork

14 room and then the bit going back was flats, of which

15 I stayed for a while.

16 Q. You didn't stay in the main building?

17 A. No, no.

18 LADY SMITH: When you say bit going back, which bit do you

19 mean?

20 A. On the right-hand side, beyond the school side there is

21 a kind of U-shaped building, so the building at this

22 side was the woodwork department, the bit extending back

23 was flats.

24 LADY SMITH: The building this side with the chimney and the

25 white front, was where you say woodwork was done?

1 A. Yes.

2 LADY SMITH: At right angles to that we can see two levels,
3 probably, on that building.

4 A. There was accommodation and there was storerooms and
5 within that courtyard there was a playground, where the
6 kids during the school break would spend their time in
7 that courtyard.

8 MR MACAULAY: Do you want to stand up, because if you look
9 behind you you'll see the photograph. If you just point
10 out to where you're pointing to.

11 A. This is the woodwork room here, those windows.

12 Q. You are pointing to the top right of the photograph?

13 A. Just there. There is a staircase goes up here and there
14 is a theatre in here.

15 Q. You are pointing to the part of the building in front of
16 the --

17 A. Yes.

18 This part here was accommodation for staff.

19 Q. That is --

20 A. Down below here was offices. That was the social work
21 office there and these were other offices.

22 This was just a storeroom for --

23 Q. That is the very top right?

24 A. Top right. There was a wood storeroom where the
25 machines for cutting the wood and all that for the kids.

1 This building here later was adapted into
2 accommodation.

3 Q. That's the far top?

4 A. This one here. These were just storerooms.

5 Q. Thank you.

6 I think you have said to us that when you went there
7 you were accommodated in that part of the building that
8 was set aside for staff?

9 A. Yes.

10 Q. Thank you, 'Wilbur', for that.

11 LADY SMITH: 'Wilbur', you pointed to a building that's
12 a single storey to the left of that U-shaped building
13 and seems to be attached to it and you said that was the
14 social work office.

15 A. The flat roof. There is a corridor that goes up and
16 then the first building is the social work office.

17 LADY SMITH: Tell me about the social work office. What
18 happened there?

19 A. That was where the files on the kids were kept. Where
20 the four unit leaders had a desk in there when they were
21 on duty. Whenever the kids were at school the care
22 staff who were on duty were always in the school
23 building to support anything that was going on in the
24 school. Basically their time was then spent in that
25 office, doing whatever work they were doing.

1 When the kids come out for break into the courtyard,
2 then the care staff from the office would be out in the
3 playground with the kids.

4 LADY SMITH: Why was it called the social work office?

5 A. Well, because it was -- where the files were kept and
6 where letters were sent out from and contacts were made
7 with the social workers and where reviews and all that
8 were arranged.

9 LADY SMITH: Thank you, that's helpful.

10 MR MACAULAY: Did you have a desk there in that office?

11 A. Yes.

12 Q. You were, as you've told us, the housemaster for
13 St Patrick's. The other three houses, when you went
14 there, I take it from what you've been saying, there
15 were housemasters allocated to those?

16 A. Yes.

17 Q. Can you remember who the housemasters were?

18 A. At different times of course, but certainly
19 Brother MJO was always the housemaster of
20 St George's.

21 The housemaster of De La Salle changed a few times,
22 but latterly it was Mr Molesdale, Eddie Molesdale.

23 Q. At any point in time previously had any other Brother
24 been a housemaster?

25 A. No.

1 Q. You only think Brother MJO had that particular role?

2 A. He was the only Brother housemaster, yeah.

3 Q. If you look at the photograph again, DLS.001.001.0151,
4 from what you were saying earlier, the houses were
5 accommodated in the main building?

6 A. Mm hmm.

7 Q. Were you telling me earlier that the spaces allocated to
8 each house you really move either from left to right or
9 right to left, from one side of the building to the
10 other, is that right?

11 A. Yes.

12 Q. Was that on the first floor or the second floor or what
13 floor?

14 A. The bottom row of windows in that picture, that's what
15 we called the basement. But in the basement there
16 was -- there is a dining room for the kids, which was on
17 the right-hand side.

18 On the left-hand side there was all sorts of rooms,
19 there was boot rooms and the main body of that was
20 various rooms, but beyond that there was a big hall,
21 which was the kind of main hall, assembly hall. They
22 had lockers there, shoe lockers and if they were going
23 out to play football or anything they changed there.

24 So everything, the hub for the young people, was
25 basically in the basement, except when they were going

1 to the units. The units were then upstairs. So my unit
2 was over in the left-hand side, St Andrew's and
3 St Patrick's were on the left-hand side.

4 LADY SMITH: When you use the word 'unit' are you talking
5 about where their dormitories were?

6 A. No, just where the kids' recreation house was, where
7 they spent their time when they weren't doing activities
8 outwith the building. They all had a house. I had
9 a house of 20 kids in that, from 7.30 am till 9 o'clock.

10 LADY SMITH: When you say "unit" you mean the house?

11 A. Yes.

12 LADY SMITH: Thank you.

13 MR MACAULAY: Do I understand from what you're saying that
14 the house had its own quarters, so to speak, for
15 recreation?

16 A. Yes.

17 Q. The 20 boys in your house would be there?

18 A. Yes.

19 Q. And the 20 boys in De La Salle would be in their
20 accommodation?

21 A. Yeah, yeah. Basically they were in their own house,
22 unless there was a special event on, they would be in
23 their own house during that period of time.

24 Q. Would each house have its own dormitory accommodation?

25 A. Yes.

1 Q. Do I take it from that, that in a particular dormitory
2 you could have a range of ages of children?

3 A. Yes.

4 All within my house -- my area of dormitories was
5 four rooms, and that was my bit for my boys. They
6 didn't mix with any other boys.

7 Q. The age range of the boys when you first got there, what
8 would you say that was?

9 A. Well, I think eight was an extreme -- I think most of
10 them were between 9 and 14.

11 Q. There could have been eight-year-olds?

12 A. Could have been, yeah.

13 Q. You tell us in your statement at some point, 'Wilbur',
14 that you were at St Ninian's until it closed in 1982?

15 A. Yes.

16 Q. In the same position?

17 A. Yes.

18 Q. How would you describe the culture at St Ninian's when
19 you were there?

20 A. I thought it was a very happy place. I thought the kids
21 were reasonably happy for the most part, very happy.
22 I thought the staff were good, very good with the kids.
23 There was no -- there was a very relaxed atmosphere.
24 I didn't have any great sense of tensions around it or
25 hidden secrets and, you know, I've said already when

1 I read the reports from the two or three witness
2 statements that I saw and I thought, my goodness, you
3 know, how can it be that all the staff who were there
4 with the backgrounds that the staff had and the kids
5 didn't seem to be able to find anyone that they could
6 talk to.

7 I just found that very, very disappointing.

8 Q. Were the boys able to talk to you?

9 A. Yes.

10 Q. Would you consider that you were very approachable?

11 A. I think I was, yeah.

12 Q. In relation to other staff, because you do discuss this
13 at paragraph 11, there were other staff such as the
14 groundsman and handyman, is that right?

15 A. Yes.

16 Q. Who was that in your time?

17 A. Well, for the bulk of the time there was: zGQM ;
18 Alec Hutchison; Eddie Molesdale, who later became the
19 housemaster in De La Salle, he was a handyman; and the
20 gardener, Jimmy McKinstry. At least four.

21 There were others that came. There was
22 a professional gardener came in at one point, but
23 I don't remember much about him.

24 Q. You tell us there was this arrangement whereby for
25 example someone like Mr McKinstry would do extra duties?

1 A. Yes.

2 Q. Can you just help me with that. What did that involve?

3 A. The teachers and the lay staff, gardeners and handymen
4 and all the rest of it, they had -- in their contact was
5 a thing called an 'extraneous duty allowance', where
6 they were asked to work from 6 o'clock until 7.30 pm and
7 a weekend on a rota basis, providing an interesting
8 hobby for the kids.

9 So at 6 o'clock the kids would all assemble in the
10 basement area and the staff who were on duty for that
11 night, including the care staff who weren't doing
12 extraneous duty, that was their job, but everyone else,
13 this was an extra to their job and they would come with
14 the offer of an activity. Some of them had kind of
15 fixed activities, like Brother MJO looked after the
16 horses and some of the kids -- he had one or two kids
17 who were good with the horses, so they generally always
18 went with him, but other kids wanted to go along as
19 well.

20 Brother MBZ, who was the bursar, he had
21 an activity which involved the garden, which had
22 a donkey and goats and sheep and all the rest of it, so
23 some of the kids went with him.

24 You would invariably have a member of staff who was
25 keen on football, so they'd take football. So that was

1 it. There was also two minibuses and staff would
2 arrange to take the kids out, they would go to
3 Kirkintilloch to the swimming pool, go for a run
4 somewhere. So there was a whole range of activities.

5 Q. If you look at someone like Mr McKinstry, who was the
6 gardener, did he also have access to the dormitories?

7 A. I hesitate on that.

8 Q. Was there such a thing as a night watchman?

9 A. Oh, yeah there was a night watchman, yes.

10 Q. Can you remember the names of the --

11 A. Yes. I don't remember the name of the night watchman
12 who was a kind of -- in my mind the permanent night
13 watchman who was a local farmer who came in. I would
14 only see him at 9 o'clock when I was doing the handover
15 to him, if I was on duty at that time of night and he
16 was there for the night.

17 The Brothers that all slept in that part of the
18 building, on the other side of the corridor from the
19 kids, all the rooms there were occupied by the brothers.
20 So the brothers were there in the building, so I think
21 that kind of took the pressure off there being
22 necessarily a lot of activity during the night.

23 But the night watchman went round and checked
24 everything was settled.

25 LADY SMITH: Did the farmer do this every night?

1 A. No.

2 LADY SMITH: He can't have done every night.

3 A. No, he couldn't have done every night.

4 LADY SMITH: How did it work?

5 A. There was various people came and went.

6 Certainly Jimmy McKinstry did a few shifts, he did

7 shifts. A chap, GJN, did shifts and there

8 probably was others. I can't really remember who they

9 were.

10 LADY SMITH: Thank you.

11 MR MACAULAY: What exactly was the role of the night

12 watchman?

13 A. Complicated, I would say. And thinking about it now,

14 because you had all sorts of issues with bed wetting and

15 trying to assist the kids to get through the night

16 without wetting the bed was always a big issue and some

17 of the night staff, they would know the bed wetters and

18 they would get them up -- waken them at some point

19 during the night and because the kid would be half

20 asleep and point them in the direction of the toilet and

21 all the rest of it.

22 That was always an issue, but it didn't necessarily

23 solve the bed wetting problem.

24 Q. Did you consider at the time that people like

25 Mr McKinstry and the local farmer, that they were

1 suitable for that sort of role?

2 A. I was never asked that, but obviously I would be very
3 suspicious. It was leaving everyone wide open to a lot
4 of issues with that kind of thing during the night.

5 Q. Could I ask you about the hierarchy at St Ninian's.
6 I think you tell us in the statement that SNR
7 was Brother MJJ ?

8 A. Yes.

9 Q. He had SNR ?

10 A. Yes.

11 Q. Who was that?

12 A. Well, initially it was Brother HFT .
13 Brother HFT retired at some point and
14 Brother HJS took over. Brother HJS had been
15 one of the teachers and he was SNR .

16 Q. Did Brother MJJ remain SNR throughout
17 your time or did that change?

18 A. It changed towards the end. There was a Brother HLY
19 in the last year or maybe two years.

20 Q. What you tell us in your statement is that the brothers
21 pretty much kept themselves to themselves?

22 A. They had their own living quarters. All of their kind
23 of social out-of-working hours they were in their own
24 group. They had a room, they had a private dining room
25 and a private rest room, sitting room, where they would

1 spend their time. If they were going out to an activity
2 they would generally go out together. They were all
3 very keen golfers, so that was their kind of main
4 release, if you like, if they had time off, they'd go to
5 play golf.

6 Q. You mention Brother MJO. He was a housemaster and
7 some of the other Brothers were teachers?

8 A. Yes.

9 Q. Were there also lay teachers?

10 A. Yes.

11 Q. Civilian teachers?

12 A. Yeah.

13 Q. Did the children all eat together then in the dining
14 room?

15 A. Yes.

16 Q. The four houses were together for that part?

17 A. Yes, there was one dining room. It was kind of
18 partitioned in the sense that it had two areas and each
19 unit had its own bit and about four or five tables to
20 each unit. The kids always sat at the same tables, so
21 they knew when they went in where they had to go.

22 Q. Were these occasions supervised?

23 A. Oh, yeah. There would be two members of staff on, as
24 I recall.

25 Q. Would Brothers be involved in that?

1 A. Yes, yes. Well, Brother MJO -- no other Brothers.
2 It was only the care staff that looked after that.
3 There were no teachers involved.

4 Q. You told us and you pointed out where your accommodation
5 was outwith the main house.

6 A. Yes.

7 Q. Once you'd finished your duties in the main house, would
8 that be then where you'd go?

9 A. Yes.

10 Q. I think that changed after a while. You got a tied
11 house, is that right?

12 A. Yes, that's right.

13 Q. Was that within the grounds?

14 A. Yes.

15 Q. Insofar as washing and bathing was concerned, can you
16 help me with that. Was there an area dedicated to where
17 showers would be?

18 A. Yes, they were in the basement, this part of the
19 basement. On that picture, the basement had an annex,
20 which was underneath -- it had obviously been modified
21 at some point to be a -- so it was a toilet block. The
22 kids all had their own hooks and their own towels and
23 their own locker in there and the shower was a communal
24 shower. Each house had a night where the kids all had
25 a shower.

1 A member of staff on duty would be a care staff, as
2 far as I --

3 Q. If your house unit was to have showers, would it be that
4 unit --

5 A. Yes.

6 Q. -- those boys that would be showering together?

7 A. Just that unit, yes.

8 Q. Would there be supervision?

9 A. Yes.

10 Q. How would that be managed?

11 A. I would be the supervisor, if it was my night for doing
12 that I would be there. The kids would all come down
13 after activities and if it was their night for a shower
14 then they'd go through to the shower, they would have
15 the shower. They were all in together. Two banks of
16 showers.

17 Q. These were open showers?

18 A. Yes.

19 Q. If you weren't on duty, how would the showering be
20 supervised?

21 A. Well, I would always be on duty, I think, when my unit
22 was being showered, yeah.

23 LADY SMITH: I think Mr MacAulay is referring back to you
24 saying if it was your night for being the supervisor,
25 which seemed to indicate that other nights other people

1 did it.

2 A. Yeah. There's only the one night they would have the
3 shower, but there would be other people supervising
4 other nights of course.

5 LADY SMITH: Sorry, I think we're still at cross-purposes.
6 Are you telling us that if it was your unit
7 showering you always supervised or were there some
8 nights that the boys showering would be supervised by
9 somebody else?

10 A. Yeah, I think --

11 LADY SMITH: There were other nights they would be
12 supervised by others?

13 A. Yes, of course, yes.

14 LADY SMITH: Mr MacAulay was wondering if you remembered who
15 else did the supervision, I think.

16 MR MACAULAY: If you weren't there, who would step in for
17 you?

18 A. Well, it would be one of my team I would have thought.
19 I'm trying to think who that would be. Joe Connolly,
20 maybe.

21 Q. Do you know if brothers would step in?

22 A. No.

23 Q. Brother MJO of course would be involved?

24 A. For his own house, yeah.

25 Q. You tell us in your statement that when you started

1 working at St Ninian's there weren't any housemothers
2 but that changed at some point?

3 A. Yes.

4 Q. What happened? How did the change come into play?

5 A. I think around about 1976 or something, I wasn't
6 involved in any discussion or asked to give an opinion
7 on it, but it happened and there were two ladies
8 appointed.

9 Q. Were they appointed to a particular unit?

10 A. No, I think they were between two units initially.

11 Q. The lady would be in your unit but also in another unit,
12 is that how it worked?

13 A. Yeah, it was to have a female presence.

14 Q. Were you conscious of managers, board managers, coming
15 to the school?

16 A. No, not at that time. I mean I knew certainly
17 latterly -- we kind of knew, particularly because of
18 Mrs Heaton Armstrong, who had a shop in Aberfoyle and
19 she was kind of around, so I was kind of aware that she
20 was a manageress on the board of managers and there were
21 other managers. We had nothing to do -- I wasn't
22 involved with the board of managers. I knew there was
23 a meeting on and that was it, but I never really saw
24 them. I couldn't tell you how many were involved, other
25 than the characters I kind of knew about.

1 Q. Are you conscious then that there would be meetings of
2 the board of managers?

3 A. Yeah.

4 Q. In the premises?

5 A. Yes.

6 Q. I think you do discuss that in paragraph 40 of your
7 statement. You say there:

8 'There was a monthly board meeting at the school,
9 which I wasn't involved in.'

10 Relatively regular then?

11 A. Yes, I think so, yeah.

12 Q. You thought that the board might have been made up with
13 individuals like Archbishop Winning and you also mention
14 a Member of Parliament for Paisley?

15 A. Yes, mm hmm.

16 Q. Did the managers ever speak to you?

17 A. No.

18 Q. What you do say also at the end of paragraph 40 is:

19 'The board managers didn't have any contact with the
20 children when they were there.'

21 A. That's true, yeah, so far as -- as far as I'm aware,
22 there was no -- neither the staff nor the kids had
23 anything to do with the board of managers.

24 Q. You also say that social workers would attend
25 St Ninian's?

1 A. Yeah.

2 Q. Did you deal with social workers?

3 A. Yes.

4 Q. In what sort of situation would that be?

5 A. This would be in preparation, usually for

6 a Children's Panel pending. There would be a review in

7 order to prepare a report for the Children's Panel and

8 we'd be in contact with the social worker and the

9 social worker may bring the parents up if that was

10 possible for the meeting. That sometimes happened.

11 Q. Did you say earlier that the office you refer to as the

12 social worker office was where you would keep records

13 for the children?

14 A. Yes.

15 Q. Did you yourself make a record of something on a regular

16 basis?

17 A. Yes.

18 Q. Were you conscious of the other housemasters doing the

19 same --

20 A. Yes.

21 Q. -- keeping records?

22 What sort of information would you record?

23 A. Events. Certainly anything that was serious, trouble,

24 fights, assaults, abscondings, contact with the parents,

25 visits by the parents, visits by the social worker,

1 feedback from the social worker, anything that was
2 coming in relation to the home, how things were at home
3 would be recorded.

4 Q. You mention absconsions there. Children did run away?

5 A. Yes.

6 Q. Have you any sense as to how regularly that happened?

7 A. I think it was quite irregular, it wasn't very common.

8 Q. Did you ever enquire of a child as to why he had run
9 away?

10 A. Yes.

11 Q. What sort of responses did you get?

12 A. Various.

13 Q. Can you give me some examples?

14 A. If they'd been bullied. Wanted to get away. Wanted to
15 get home. Fed up being away from home. Stuff like
16 that. You know, sometimes they went on their own and
17 that was kind of worrying, but more often than not it
18 was two or three would go together and they'd talk about
19 it and, 'Let's head off'.

20 Q. You mentioned bullying. Were you conscious of there
21 being bullying?

22 A. I think it was inevitable there was going to be bullying
23 around. You would see it not so much within the unit,
24 but for example after lunchtime the kids all went out to
25 the courtyard, not the courtyard up in the school block,

1 but there is a big playing area outside and the kids
2 were all out there and the staff were out there. You
3 would see fights going on and you were trying to make
4 that as pleasant as possible, until that session was
5 over, but it tended to be a bit fraught with vendettas
6 and what have you. Kids were kids. That was the way it
7 was.

8 I've dealt with it by rather than all being there
9 and all trying to fight together, but I used to organise
10 a chase, where they chased me through the woods. We
11 would set a way off, it took about 20 minutes and the
12 funny thing was that during all that time I never lost
13 any of them. They're all running behind me. But we got
14 through the session and they enjoyed it. I think the
15 point was there needed to be things to be doing. If
16 they were just left to their own entertainment it tended
17 to be a bit fraught, you know.

18 Q. Can I ask you then about discipline, 'Wilbur'. How was
19 discipline managed during your time?

20 A. I think -- I mean the main event, which was communal
21 across the school, was the marks system. The kids
22 earned points for good behaviour, for being kind to each
23 other, for doing jobs, for not getting into fights, not
24 getting into arguments, being seen to be doing something
25 sensible.

1 All of those were tallied up and they had
2 an influence on the tuck shop, an influence on
3 activities, an influence on privileges and in the most
4 extreme cases it could affect their leave, weekend
5 leave. If they've -- for example, if they were
6 absconding there was an automatic debate as to whether
7 or not they would be allowed weekend leave.

8 Q. Was there physical punishment?

9 A. No.

10 Q. Insofar as the classrooms were concerned, did you ever
11 become aware of there being any physical punishment in
12 the classrooms?

13 A. No. I think I said in my thing earlier on, when I went
14 there first of all there was -- obviously the belt was
15 still around, the tawse, you know, was still around,
16 around about that time and there was a teacher
17 **MCK**, who used the belt and when he left the
18 belt was stopped. That was it. I never heard of any
19 incident, of anyone using the belt thereafter.

20 Q. How were the children who ran away dealt with on their
21 return?

22 A. Interviewed. Tried to get some kind of reason as to why
23 they're running away and how could it be resolved.

24 Q. Were they punished in any other way?

25 A. Other than the thought of losing leave, I think that was

1 about it. But mostly trying to talk it through and
2 trying to support them and trying to get other kids to
3 support them and find out were they being bullied or why
4 were they running away.

5 Q. As you said, you weren't there in an era when the belt
6 was being used.

7 A. Yes.

8 Q. In external schools as well?

9 A. Yes.

10 Q. Are you saying that at a point in time when Mr MCK
11 left there was no corporal or physical punishment that
12 you were aware of?

13 A. Yes, that's right, yes.

14 Q. Would there be outbursts from the children, because
15 I think we know that some of the children would be from
16 troubled backgrounds?

17 A. Mm hmm.

18 Q. Were there times when there were outbursts?

19 A. Yes, oh yeah.

20 Q. How were these managed?

21 A. I can give an example. As time went on -- a lot of the
22 kids were just kids and they just did kid things, you
23 know, but as the years went on you started to see
24 youngsters coming in who had something different, a kind
25 of maladjustment, if you like. And I remember an

1 instance when we were assembled in the basement and the
2 kids were being divided up for the various activities
3 and Brother MBZ was taking his group down to the
4 donkey and the sheep and the goats and all the rest of
5 it.

6 He was trying to align his kids, and because he was
7 dealing with that he had a crook, he put on this image
8 of a crook and he was trying to get his kids to line up
9 and there was a guy, [REDACTED], who was quite
10 a heavysset powerful fella and Brother MBZ was trying
11 to get them into line, you know, and he just turned on
12 Brother MBZ and attacked him, physically attacked him
13 and of course there was enough people there. So
14 [REDACTED] duly had to be restrained.

15 And I think that was the first time and that was
16 later, a good number of years into my time there, and
17 I think after that you started to become more and more
18 aware of the kind of potential that the kids had, not to
19 be just wee boys but to be actually --

20 Q. Were there some children there who required to be
21 restrained?

22 A. Yes.

23 Q. Would you be involved in that process?

24 A. Well, at that time -- I mean later on, restraint became
25 a big, big issue within the residential schools across

1 the whole sector, but at that time it was a new thing
2 and nobody was quite sure how -- so it was a question of
3 keeping the boys safe, keeping them under control,
4 keeping Brother MBZ safe and getting them out of the
5 situation and calming them down, you know.

6 Q. At that time there wouldn't have been training in
7 restraint?

8 A. No, it was a new concept.

9 Q. Was there any formal complaints system at St Ninian's in
10 your time?

11 A. Not in the sense that you would see nowadays. You would
12 complain to a member of staff. The boys would complain.
13 Adults complaining, well, it just didn't happen. We
14 talked issues through and if someone wasn't happy they
15 would say and we'd talk it through and come to
16 an understanding.

17 The kids hopefully would complain to the member of
18 staff that they felt they could complain to and they
19 did, 'So and so is getting on to me and blah, blah,
20 blah', but there was nothing of great significance that
21 you would worry about.

22 Q. In your training, did you have any training in child
23 protection?

24 A. Not in the sense that you would have it now. I think,
25 but obviously there would have been a whole lot of

1 issues for kids and keeping kids safe and looking for
2 signs of abuse and what have you, but it's a long time
3 ago, yeah.

4 Q. Did St Ninian's provide any form of child protection --
5 A. No --

6 Q. -- training?
7 A. -- not that I can remember.

8 Q. Were you conscious St Ninian's being subject to
9 inspections, external inspections?
10 A. To be honest, no. I'm sure that must have happened.
11 I don't remember anyone ever coming round. Normally
12 inspections would have been -- I don't know, I'm only
13 guessing, primarily to do with the school and the
14 curriculum, but there would have been inspections and
15 I'm not quite sure -- that would be the Scottish Office
16 I presume, but I don't ever remember being asked or
17 interviewed or --

18 Q. Can I take it then that if there were any inspections,
19 you weren't spoken to by inspectors?
20 A. No, not that I can remember. Brother MJJ would
21 have dealt with all of that.

22 Q. You tell us at paragraph 63 that you were called to give
23 evidence in the criminal case against Mr McKinstry,
24 Mr McKenna and Brother Benedict, is that right?
25 A. Yes.

1 Q. What was your function in giving evidence in that trial?

2 A. I was called as a witness, I think I was a witness in
3 the defence of Mr McKenna.

4 Q. Because Mr McKenna was somebody you knew from --

5 A. He was the woodwork teacher.

6 Q. Were you essentially giving evidence about the routine
7 at the school?

8 A. Yes. That's what it turned out to be. Nobody asked me
9 about Mr McKenna. The three people were sitting
10 together and there was -- there was nothing individual
11 about any of them, it was the whole thing.

12 Q. One of the individuals, as you tell us in the statement,
13 was Brother Benedict. Did your paths cross for a period
14 of time when you went to St Ninian's? Was
15 Brother Benedict there when you went there?

16 A. Yes.

17 Q. I think the three individuals, they were all convicted
18 of something or another, is that right?

19 A. Yes, that's right.

20 Q. Were you surprised at that?

21 A. I was surprised that Mr McKenna, yeah.
22 Jimmy McKinstry I knew he was guilty, because he had
23 confessed to it.

24 And Brother Benedict, he broke a kid's arm in some
25 kind of fracas in the school, very early on in my time,

1 and he was moved to St Joseph's, Tranent, which was
2 a kind of intermediate senior boys' school.

3 Q. I'll come to that in a moment.

4 The reason I asked you whether you were surprised,
5 because I think some of the convictions may have crossed
6 over into the period you were at the school. What
7 you're saying to me, 'Wilbur', you were not conscious in
8 any way of any sort of abuse at the school?

9 A. No, this all came to light after, long after the school
10 closed.

11 Q. Just focusing on Brother Benedict for a moment. He was
12 there for a period during your time and I think he left
13 late in 1970 and went to St Joseph's?

14 A. Yes.

15 Q. What you say in your statement, at paragraph 64, is that
16 he used to take an activity, he was an electronics man
17 and used to repair televisions. Do you know what he did
18 in that activity with regard to his interest in
19 electronics?

20 A. I was never in the session when the kids were there, but
21 he had a room and banks and banks of old televisions and
22 I think they dismantled them and took them to bits and
23 tried to put them back together again and whatever.
24 That was it.

25 Q. Was there any talk of him administering electric shocks

1 to children?

2 A. No, not at the time.

3 Q. You knew nothing about that?

4 A. At the time I knew nothing about it.

5 Q. What you do say in paragraph 64 is:

6 'He got into a fracas with some kid and the kid's

7 arm was broken.'

8 Do you know any more than that?

9 A. No.

10 Q. What you then go on to say, towards the top of the next

11 page, is:

12 'After that, he was shipped off to Tranent where the

13 boys were older.'

14 Am I to understand from that that the reason he was

15 moved from St Ninian's to Tranent was because of the

16 fracas he had where a child's arm was broken?

17 A. That was my assumption.

18 Q. Was that discussed?

19 A. No.

20 Q. At the time, was there some discussion about the fact

21 that a Brother had broken a child's arm?

22 A. Just among my colleagues, not at any official level.

23 Q. Did you make any enquiry as to how it had come about?

24 A. The Brothers were the Brothers. I mean, they obviously

25 looked after what was going on to do with the Brothers.

1 There was no discourse with lay staff about what should
2 happen and what shouldn't happen.

3 Q. One of the persons that was convicted also was
4 Jimmy McKinstry. You make some mention of him at
5 paragraph 65, what you say is:

6 'Jimmy McKinstry was the groundsman and lived on
7 campus when I worked at St Ninian's. I did have some
8 concerns about him.'

9 Can you just elaborate on that? What concerns did
10 you have?

11 A. It was mainly during activity time. It wasn't so much
12 a problem, and in some ways it took a lot of pressure
13 off, but he had this -- he offered an activity which was
14 basically taking a big group of kids for a walk and
15 there was no kind of structure to it. They weren't
16 actually going to do anything. It was a kind of ramble,
17 but it basically involved Jimmy McKinstry with a group
18 of boys, very often a group you had to restrict because
19 so many of them wanted to go, he was such a popular guy,
20 and they would go off and they would do their walking
21 and all the rest and they would come back.

22 Jimmy McKinstry kind of played this image, he smoked
23 a pipe and he always had a Daily Record under his arm
24 and he laughed and joked with the kids. Some people say
25 the kids liked him because he brought them wee treats

1 and all that and brought them back stuff from holidays
2 and things like that.

3 Q. You say that he seemed to be giving them sweets and wee
4 treats?

5 A. Yes.

6 Q. I want to get some sense as to why you had these
7 concerns. Nothing you have said so far, it might be
8 said, would give rise to any concerns. What concerned
9 you?

10 A. Later on, I think I mentioned it somewhere, the kids had
11 information and I couldn't understand how they would
12 have that information. For example, when I -- my
13 quarters, before I was in the tied house, which
14 I pointed out to you, the kid was able to say that
15 Mr GXC and Mr McKenna sleep up there, and I thought:
16 now how would he know that?

17 I think that's Jimmy McKinstry and also later on,
18 when I read through the thing again, the business about
19 me being the feeler and he talks about the -- the boy
20 talks about, 'The art teacher, Mr [REDACTED], was fine', but
21 I wasn't an art teacher, but I took hobbies and crafts
22 and all that, 'But [REDACTED] Mr GXC, the drummer,
23 he's the guy who is the feeler', and I thought: how does
24 he know I play the drums?

25 Q. Did you play the drums?

1 A. Yeah, not to him. Not to the school. Nothing to do
2 with the school. But somebody's told him that, he had
3 that information.

4 Q. You also say I think that some of the other staff had
5 concerns about him too?

6 A. The staff would say to me, you know, this and that.
7 I think Jimmy McKinstry was really just a big boy, you
8 know, and I think he was a kind -- the groundsman, the
9 poor groundsman, so I think he was actually jealous of
10 people and going around saying to the kids, so and so
11 and so and so and it's just the way I feel, they were
12 getting their character.

13 Q. He was somebody who was in the dormitories at night?

14 A. Yes.

15 Q. On his own?

16 A. Yes.

17 Q. Was that ever raised as a possible concern?

18 A. With Brother MJJ [REDACTED], I don't know. It was
19 Brother MJJ [REDACTED] and the Brothers who employed the
20 staff. I have no idea where Jimmy McKinstry came from.
21 I don't know whether he responded to an advert, I doubt
22 it.

23 Q. What sort of age would he be when you were there?

24 A. 40s.

25 Q. Was he a local man?

1 A. No.

2 Q. You do tell us about an occasion when Brother MJJ ,
3 after chapel, excused all the staff but kept the other
4 brothers and the boys behind?

5 A. Yes.

6 Q. Can you tell me what that was about?

7 A. Again, you know, it's all speculation on my part, you
8 know. I've got no hard and fast evidence. I can only
9 go by what the vibes were among the staff who were there
10 and later on listening to the conversations of the boys
11 and all the rest of it.

12 But there was an evening service on and at the end
13 of the service, which had never happened before,
14 Brother MJJ dismissed all the staff and sent them
15 out to the hall to wait, so we waited and the meeting
16 went on for a fairly longer -- you couldn't hear what
17 was going on or anything.

18 Q. The meeting is involving Brothers and the boys?

19 A. Yes.

20 Q. But not the housemasters?

21 A. No staff, no.

22 Q. No civilian staff?

23 A. No civilian staff. No other Brothers as far as I know.
24 No one. No Brothers. No other Brothers, other than
25 Brother MJJ and the kids.

1 LADY SMITH: Was everybody still in the chapel?

2 A. No.

3 LADY SMITH: Where did it take place?

4 A. Just in the hall. The kids and Brother MJJ were
5 in the chapel and the rest of us were in the hall, which
6 is just an annex off from the chapel.

7 LADY SMITH: The children had been kept back, with
8 Brother MJJ, and they were talking about
9 something --

10 A. Yes.

11 LADY SMITH: -- which I think Mr MacAulay is going to ask
12 you about.

13 MR MACAULAY: Boys being boys, surely there must have been
14 some discussion afterwards about what was being talked
15 about?

16 A. Yes.

17 Q. What was being said?

18 A. Well, my impression was a complaint had been made
19 against a member of staff.

20 Q. Do you know what member of staff that was?

21 A. I think it was Jimmy McKinstry.

22 Brother MJJ was seeking to establish whether
23 this was justified or nothing and although that was
24 never said, no one -- Brother MJJ never said to me
25 that was about Jimmy McKinstry. He didn't say it to

1 anyone, so you never knew who the complaint was against.

2 Q. Did you find out from any of the boys what it was about?

3 A. Well, I think I gathered from the boys it was about

4 Jimmy McKinstry.

5 Q. Do you know what the complaint was about?

6 A. Not at the time, but I guessed further on, I think, the

7 speculation was after the school closed I think I found

8 out what the complaint was about.

9 Q. When did you find that out?

10 A. It must have been a couple of years after.

11 Q. About 1984?

12 A. Maybe, yeah. I can't really remember.

13 Q. How did you find out?

14 A. Well what happened was and I think this was in the

15 media, I think it was in general circulation, that

16 a previous pupil of St Ninian's had engaged private

17 investigators to seek to find the person who had raped

18 him at St Ninian's and this went on for -- I'm not very

19 sure where that information was coming from, whether it

20 was in the press or what. But, anyway this

21 investigation went on and they actually found it was

22 Jimmy McKinstry and Jimmy McKinstry was then, I take it

23 the police were involved at that stage. And

24 Jimmy McKinstry was then living up at the Lake of

25 Menteith, he had a cottage up there, and he had

1 befriended a lady, a neighbour and at some point along
2 the way, maybe after a drink, he confided in her that
3 this was true and she went to the police and she said
4 this guy's just admitted to this.

5 So Jimmy McKinstry was duly arrested and the court
6 case went on and he was found -- and I think that's what
7 the complaint was being investigated at the time.

8 Q. But --

9 A. And the impression was that the boy who had made the
10 complaint, because Jimmy McKinstry was so popular with
11 the boys, the boy was then having a hard time, 'Why are
12 you saying that? Why are you saying that?'

13 Q. Did Jimmy McKinstry carry on at St Ninian's in the same
14 way as before?

15 A. Yes, yes.

16 Q. In particular did he carry on doing his night watchman?

17 A. As far as I know, yeah. I don't know the dates of those
18 things, but I'm not aware of any sanction or anything
19 being said to staff that he shouldn't be doing this.
20 Just nothing was mentioned.

21 Q. In the discussions that the boys had had after the
22 meeting, was there any suggestion of a sexual content
23 being involved in the meeting?

24 A. No.

25 Q. The other person you mention, 'Wilbur', in your

1 statement is Charlie McKenna. You have already told us
2 he was the woodwork instructor.

3 He had also had some involvement in the St George's
4 unit; is that right?

5 A. Aye.

6 Q. You say you knew him pretty well?

7 A. Very well, yes.

8 Charlie McKenna had been there for the duration and
9 in the basement there was a staff dining room, which I
10 ate when I was in -- before I was married and
11 Charlie McKenna was always there, so I spent time every
12 day with Charlie McKenna. He was the woodwork
13 instructor, but he also had the woodwork room and I had
14 access to that when I was working on partitioning off my
15 unit. Charlie was very helpful to me.

16 It's very, very hard to know really because
17 I thought -- Charlie always seemed like the kindly uncle
18 kind of guy. He was always playing around with the
19 kids, except when he was in control. When he was in his
20 woodwork room he was very, very strict, you know, and he
21 did all these kind of ... if a kid would come and ask
22 for a bit of wood and he would give them a big chunk of
23 wood, you know, and a kid would ask for a screw and he
24 would have a big screw about their own size, you know,
25 and try to teach the kids things like that, but -- and

1 in the unit when he was on he was very strict as well.

2 But when he was off duty, he was a single man,
3 although his sister worked at the school as well. Eddie
4 and Annie Molesdale, Annie Molesdale was Charlie's
5 sister and Eddie Molesdale was the handyman who became
6 the team leader in De La Salle unit later on, the
7 housemaster.

8 Q. What you tell us about Charlie McKenna is that he would
9 have boys go to him and sit on his knee?

10 A. Yes.

11 Q. Where did this happen?

12 A. In the units that he went into, except -- when he was
13 off duty he was very laid back. I mean most people off
14 duty would go away and do their own thing, but Charlie
15 kind of hung around. Maybe one day a week he would go
16 off and visit somebody, but every other night he was
17 there around the school.

18 Q. You saw boys sitting on his knee?

19 A. Yeah.

20 Q. Did you have any concerns about that at the time?

21 A. No, no.

22 Q. You have told us about the court case. Were you
23 surprised that there were allegations of abuse being
24 made against him at that --

25 A. I was, yeah.

1 Q. You mentioned Brother MJO, who you have already told
2 us was the housemaster of the St George's unit. He was
3 an older brother, is that right?

4 A. Yes.

5 Q. You reckon he was in his 60s?

6 A. He actually retired during my time there. There was
7 a presentation and all that, a kind of staff do, so he
8 must have been in his 60s.

9 Q. One thing you say in your statement is:
10 'I don't think I ever actually had a conversation
11 with him.'

12 A. That's right.

13 Q. Which looks to be a surprising statement. Can you
14 explain that?

15 A. It's -- maybe it's partly my fault, as well, but he was
16 just a bit kind of -- when I went there first of all
17 St George's bedroom and my unit's bedroom, St Patrick
18 was on the same floor, so on the second level, the whole
19 corridor was all bedrooms and there was no divide other
20 than there was a corridor.

21 When I went there and I was looking after my boys,
22 getting them up in the morning, but Brother MJO
23 would come along, clapping his hands and all that to get
24 the whole floor up and I thought, well, that's not
25 necessary. I can get my own boys up, sort of thing and

1 I wouldn't actually do it in that style. That went on
2 for a while and eventually I had to say to him,
3 'Brother MJO, if you just look after your unit and
4 I'll look after this unit', 'oh', and I think there was
5 a wee bit of the intrusion of lay staff into what had
6 been his thing for such a long time.

7 So I don't know if that maybe set off a tone right
8 at the beginning, but he was very much black and white.
9 When I say I never actually had a discussion with him,
10 I don't think I ever really saw anyone having
11 a discussion with him, it was all kind of --

12 Q. What you say in your statement:

13 'He kind of grunted rather than spoke ...'

14 A. Grunted, aye, (noise made). You go and ask him
15 something, (noise made).

16 Q. You also say you got the impression that the kids were
17 a bit afraid of him?

18 A. Weren't?

19 Q. The kids were a bit afraid of him?

20 A. Oh, aye.

21 Q. Is that the impression you got?

22 A. That was the impression I got. Because you couldn't --
23 there was no humour with him. You couldn't have a laugh
24 with him or anything or a joke or playing around. It
25 was all kind of (noise made). It was just the way he

1 was, you know.

2 Q. He was the way he was, but he was also in charge of this
3 group of children?

4 A. Yes, mm hmm.

5 Q. You talk about Brother MJJ, who you describe as
6 a kind sort of very compassionate man with regard to the
7 children?

8 A. Yes.

9 Q. That is how he came across to you?

10 A. Yes.

11 Q. You also mention I think Brother MBZ and he was the
12 bursar and dealt with salaries and so on?

13 A. Yes, mm hmm.

14 Q. You never saw him or heard of him disciplining or
15 abusing a child?

16 A. Other than the time he was attacked.

17 Q. Just on the attack that you described, I think you said
18 he was trying to get boys in order?

19 A. Mm hmm.

20 Q. And he had -- you describe a crook?

21 A. Mm hmm.

22 Q. A large stick?

23 A. Yeah.

24 Q. Was he using the stick in any way?

25 A. No, no.

1 Q. What triggered the attack?

2 A. Just being told -- I mean the stick probably was
3 a feature and the kid thinking I'm being told to do
4 something, 'Right, get into line, into line, into line',
5 you know, (noise made), just that.

6 LADY SMITH: When the boy attacked, as you put it, the
7 brother, what did he do? What did Brother MBZ do?

8 A. He was shocked.

9 LADY SMITH: What did he do?

10 A. He didn't do anything. He just tried to defend and then
11 staff intervened, I think. Got control of the boy, so
12 he was no longer a danger to him.

13 LADY SMITH: Thank you.

14 MR MACAULAY: You also mention brothers HJS and
15 Brother GZQ and again you never saw any of them do
16 anything that you would consider improper or abusive?

17 A. No.

18 Q. Mr GZI you talk about in paragraph 76, and he was
19 a care worker?

20 A. Yes.

21 Q. Was he a care worker who was attached to St Ninian's?

22 A. Yes.

23 Q. Was he there before you?

24 A. Yes.

25 Q. Again you didn't see anything untoward in connection

1 with his involvement with children?

2 A. He seemed to be very, very good with the kids. He
3 played the guitar and he was always having the kids
4 singing songs and all the rest of it. He would arrange
5 for a concert up in the village hall and the village
6 people would come in and he would be up there with his
7 choir, singing 'Ye Canny Shove Yer Granny Aff a Bus' and
8 all this kind of stuff, very popular with the kids and
9 all the rest of it, but suddenly he was moved to
10 Tranent.

11 It was only later that I thought I wonder why,
12 because he and I, we weren't great friends but he had
13 a car and I didn't have a car and his parents lived in
14 Bearsden and he would run me up and down if we were off
15 at the same time going home.

16 Q. But he had been moved to Tranent at that point in time?

17 A. Yeah.

18 Q. Was that quite suddenly?

19 A. It seemed suddenly to me, because there was no farewell
20 or anything. He just went.

21 Q. If you turn to paragraph 83 of the statement, you
22 mention a Gregor Dougal, who was a teacher --

23 A. Yes.

24 Q. -- and then he was made head of education, is that
25 correct?

1 A. Yes.

2 Q. How did you get on with him?

3 A. Very well.

4 Q. Again you are telling us that so far as discipline was
5 concerned, he would only verbally discipline children?

6 A. Yes.

7 Q. I think you do know that he was involved in a court case
8 recently?

9 A. Yes.

10 Q. Did you give evidence in that trial?

11 A. Yes.

12 No, I didn't. I was called. I wasn't used.

13 Q. You didn't give evidence?

14 A. No.

15 Q. I think you're aware that although the allegations in
16 the main might have related to another establishment,
17 there was also some allegation or allegations in
18 connection with St Ninian's?

19 A. Yes.

20 Q. He was convicted recently?

21 A. Yeah.

22 Q. Can I then turn to that part of your statement,
23 'Wilbur', where certain allegations that have been made
24 against you have been set out.

25 Before I start looking at this, at the very front of

1 your folder, if you could look at the very front of the
2 red folder, you'll find what we call a key which sets
3 out the names of the individuals and then their
4 pseudonym. I just want to use the pseudonym. When I
5 give you the pseudonym and you'll see the name of the
6 individual. Do you follow that?

7 A. Okay, yes.

8 Q. It's to preserve anonymity.

9 The first person I want to ask about is the person
10 whose pseudonym is 'Brian', and you'll see who that is
11 from the key. The bit in 'Brian's' statement that has
12 been put to you, and I'll just read that out:

13 'There was only one time that I ran away and I would
14 have been about eight years old. I had taken enough of
15 the sexual abuse and wanted away from the home. I went
16 through the field and got as far as the main road.

17 Mr GXC and Mr McKenna came looking for me and caught
18 me.'

19 Do you have any recollection of this event?

20 A. No.

21 Q. Did you ever chase after/run after boys who might have
22 been running away?

23 A. I have done, yeah.

24 Q. You have done?

25 A. Mm hmm.

1 Q. But not this particular boy?

2 A. No.

3 Q. You are clear about that?

4 A. I'm clear, yeah.

5 Q. He goes on to say:

6 'The main punishment for me running away was my

7 privilege of getting home at weekends were stopped for

8 six weeks.'

9 That would be a punishment of course, wouldn't it?

10 A. Yeah.

11 Q. He goes on to say:

12 'The day I ran away from the home and I was brought

13 back I was sent to the dining room to sit with other

14 kids.'

15 Something happened in the dining room. Did that

16 happen?

17 A. No.

18 Q. It's the sort of thing -- if an incident had happened in

19 the dining room, it's something you would have

20 remembered?

21 A. It's one of the ones I have wrestled with and tried to

22 work out. Because the other two allegations are kind of

23 allegations of something that was ongoing and I just --

24 they were absolute nonsense.

25 Q. Do you recognise the name associated with 'Brian'?

1 A. Yes.

2 Q. Was he in your unit?

3 A. Yes -- no. No, he wasn't.

4 Q. I think that is what you said at 89.

5 A. If I said it, that's right.

6 Q. The next allegation I want to put to you, 'Wilbur', is
7 associated with 'Kenny', do you recognise the name?

8 A. Yes.

9 Q. I think you confirm he was in your unit?

10 A. He was in my unit, the other two weren't in my unit.

11 Q. What he says here:

12 'We had a man called GXC ...'

13 LADY SMITH: I will be telling everybody before we rise
14 today that that identity is protected by my General
15 Restriction Order and the person must not be identified
16 outside this room. It may be obvious who it is, but
17 he's only to be identified here for these purposes.

18 MR MACAULAY: I'll read that:

19 'We had a man ... who was a civilian member of
20 staff, who would usually supervise our group. He was
21 all right at times, but he could be a bit crabbit. He
22 would hit you on the back of your legs if he thought you
23 were misbehaving.'

24 Does that accord with any part of your recollection?

25 A. I don't remember ever hitting anyone's leg, the back of

1 anyone's leg in my unit, 20 boys.

2 Q. He goes on to essentially repeat:

3 'When we did activities after school he would hit
4 you on the back of the legs with something if he thought
5 you were being bad. We would be wearing shorts so we'd
6 always have marks on the back of our legs from it.'

7 Again, did that happen?

8 A. I think that's -- the point it raises the relevance of
9 when those statements were made I wanted to challenge.
10 Because the statement is made in the first instance
11 where you get a slap on the leg in the unit and then
12 away further on it looked to me like he's been
13 questioned again and asked to enlarge on that and he now
14 claims he's been hit with something, a stick or
15 something and they all have marks on the back of their
16 legs which is absolute nonsense.

17 Q. You completely dispute that?

18 A. Of course, absolutely.

19 Q. The final one I want to put to you then is associated
20 with the pseudonym 'Bruce'.

21 A. Yes.

22 Q. Do you recognise the name?

23 A. Yes, vaguely. He wasn't in my unit.

24 Q. You say he wasn't in your unit.

25 What he says is:

1 'There were civilian teachers at St Ninian's. The
2 music teacher and the art teacher were good guys. There
3 was another who played the drums, he was okay. I stayed
4 away from him because he was a feeler.'

5 First of all, I think you tell us that you were the
6 only staff member with a particular name at St Ninian's
7 at the time, is that right?

8 A. That's right.

9 Q. You mentioned something about this earlier on. I think
10 you did say you did play the drums, but you didn't play
11 the drums at St Ninian's?

12 A. That's right.

13 Q. The question is: how would somebody know?

14 A. Mm hmm.

15 Q. Is that the point?

16 A. Yes, mm hmm.

17 Q. He goes on to say:

18 'The feeler rubbed his hand up your leg and felt
19 your bum. He did that to me more than once.

20 Brother MJO and Brother HMW did that too.'

21 You go on to say that this particular individual was
22 not in your unit. Did this happen?

23 A. No.

24 LADY SMITH: 'Wilbur', on this matter of the drums, did
25 I pick you up correctly that you were concerned that

1 Mr McKinstry was saying to boys that you played the
2 drums and you couldn't think how he knew that?
3 A. Yes, my Lady, that's right.
4 LADY SMITH: Thank you.
5 MR MACAULAY: You go on to say, 'Wilbur', in the next
6 paragraph:
7 'I never inappropriately touched any of those kids.
8 It's frustrating that he can say that and there is no
9 way I can challenge it.'
10 Of course, you are challenging it today?
11 A. Yeah, mm hmm.
12 Q. You go on to say that you've never had an allegation
13 made against you until these allegations?
14 A. Mm hmm.
15 Q. Is that correct?
16 A. That's right.
17 Q. It may be of course that these events did happen and you
18 are being confused with somebody else and that's
19 a possibility?
20 A. Yeah.
21 LADY SMITH: 'Wilbur', one small detail. In paragraph 95,
22 the end of line 2 to 3 you said, 'You know what happens
23 in this organisation'.
24 What organisation?
25 A. I think that that's an unfortunate use of words.

1 I didn't mean that. I meant generally in the sector,
2 where young people -- let me just see.

3 LADY SMITH: Then you go on:
4 'Then he goes back to his pals and they all vouch
5 for him.'

6 A. That's right.

7 LADY SMITH: That of course is dependent on the individual
8 who is making the allegation having any continuing
9 contact with people who were in the Approved School with
10 him?

11 A. Mm hmm. But I don't know.

12 LADY SMITH: And being there at the same time?
13 A. Mm hmm.

14 LADY SMITH: Thank you.

15 MR MACAULAY: I think the message you are -- you can tell
16 me, what is the message, because you go on to say:
17 'He goes back to his pals and they all vouch for
18 him. That's what happened to Greg Dougal.'

19 What is your message there, 'Wilbur'? What are you
20 saying to us?

21 A. I think -- I mean as far as I know with Greg Dougal's
22 case and not so much to do with St Ninian's, but the
23 other school that he worked in, the boys -- a lot of
24 these boys were together through a whole system, through
25 the legal system and in prisons and what have you and

1 young offenders' institutions and they talk to each
2 other.

3 Q. Are you seeking to convey a message that they have been
4 making things up, is that what you are saying?

5 A. I'm saying that they can get people to vouch for them,
6 whether it's true or not, because of the power they have
7 over other people.

8 Q. I think we know though that Mr Dougal, he was convicted?

9 A. Well, yeah, he was convicted.

10 Q. So the jury clearly accepted the evidence?

11 A. I disagree. He was convicted, but it wasn't right.

12 LADY SMITH: The point Mr MacAulay was making was the jury,
13 I think it was a jury case, wasn't it?

14 A. Yes.

15 LADY SMITH: They clearly accepted the evidence?

16 A. The majority did, but I don't think it was clear at all
17 to be honest. I'm sorry, but that's just my opinion.

18 LADY SMITH: Well, I think the system in this country,
19 'Wilbur', is we accept jury verdicts --

20 A. I know.

21 LADY SMITH: -- and if there's a problem with them an appeal
22 can sort that out, if for example they were misdirected.
23 Otherwise that's what a majority of people are
24 satisfied of beyond reasonable doubt, that high standard
25 of beyond reasonable doubt.

1 MR MACAULAY: You have told us, 'Wilbur', that you stayed at
2 St Ninian's until it closed in 1982?

3 A. Yes.

4 Q. Then you moved on. I needn't ask you where you went to,
5 but you continued your career in the care system?

6 A. Yes.

7 Q. Because of your contribution to being in the care
8 system, [REDACTED]?

9 A. Yes.

10 MR MACAULAY: Is there anything further, 'Wilbur', that you
11 would like to say? I have finished my questions now.
12 Is there anything further you would like to say to help
13 the Inquiry?

14 A. I think that the Inquiry has been very, very fair and
15 I appreciate the difficulties and all the rest of it and
16 the sense of people's rights have been very much
17 considered, which I think is very, very good.

18 I would say my career at St Ninian's was a very
19 happy experience and I enjoyed it. I loved the kids,
20 I was very fond of the kids. A lot of the kids were
21 very fond of me. I saw things that opened my eyes about
22 how these kids live and how they survive. I remember
23 taking a boy, [REDACTED], home, home he went to a farm
24 out in Strathaven to his father, a greyhound and that
25 was it. A derelict farm and nothing, no heat, no

1 nothing, and you think, oh God, and I've been in endless
2 homes like that, looking and in some ways, you know,
3 their life at St Ninian's, although they should have
4 been at home and I think the reason the school was the
5 first school to close was because there was
6 a realisation that the kids like eight-year-old and
7 nine-year-old shouldn't be in places like that, but at
8 that point in time they had to be. There was such
9 poverty. There is still poverty now, but at that time
10 there was such poverty around for these kids and some of
11 the homes I visited and the people lying on the floor
12 drunk and it was a haven for them.

13 I in my unit had four brothers, the [REDACTED],
14 [REDACTED], [REDACTED], [REDACTED] and [REDACTED], and they were four boys
15 from [REDACTED], their father was a coal man and all
16 the rest of it. And I remember going to meet them at
17 Buchanan Street Bus Station when they were coming back
18 from leave, and [REDACTED] and [REDACTED] both had [REDACTED],
19 a [REDACTED], and [REDACTED] coming running
20 up and giving me a big hug. He was so delighted to be
21 back.

22 Those are the kind of memories I have.

23 Yet when you read all the stuff that's come out now
24 and you think was I so naive and gullible not to sense
25 or see any of this? Was there nobody at the school that

1 these kids could talk to and obviously there wasn't, or
2 they talked to the wrong person.

3 Jimmy McKinstry, they thought Jimmy McKinstry was
4 a wonderful guy and that is it. The trouble is
5 always -- that kids always look to other kids. The
6 biggest influence on the kids in the school is other
7 kids. They always look to other kids for approval. If
8 you say to do something or do this, and they kind of
9 look to see if it's all right to do and this is why you
10 end up with somebody Jimmy McKinstry, who is just a big
11 pal, never challenging them and they think he's a great
12 guy.

13 Then when you read through the files you think, the
14 people who they think they can trust let them down and
15 the people who they can trust they don't see it.

16 I don't know what you do about it.

17 MR MACAULAY: Very well.

18 'Wilbur', thank you very much indeed for that and
19 for coming here to answer my questions. Thank you.

20 My Lady, I can confirm that no applications for
21 questions to be put to 'Wilbur' have been submitted.

22 LADY SMITH: Thank you.

23 'Wilbur', could I add my thanks. I'm really
24 grateful to you for coming here today and talking so
25 openly about the events that we have taken you back to

1 decades ago. It's of enormous assistance to the work
2 that we're doing here.

3 I'm now able to let you go and I hope the rest of
4 today is less stressful than the first half has been.

5 Thank you very much.

6 A. Thank you very much, my Lady.

7 (The witness withdrew)

8 LADY SMITH: I'll now take the lunch break and I'll sit
9 again at about 2.05 pm or 2.10 pm, and we'll resume some
10 more read-ins then, I believe?

11 MR MACAULAY: It's an afternoon of read-ins, my Lady.

12 LADY SMITH: Thank you very much.

13 (1.08 pm)

14 (The luncheon adjournment)

15 (2.10 pm)

16 LADY SMITH: Ms MacLeod.

17 MS MACLEOD: Good afternoon, my Lady.

18 The plan is to begin with a read-in of an applicant
19 who wishes to remain anonymous and to use the pseudonym
20 'Alec'. His statement can be found at WIT.001.002.3489.

21 I should point out my Lady that 'Alec' has
22 previously provided oral evidence to the Inquiry in
23 connection with St Ninian's, Falkland on Day 132, which
24 was 11 June 2019.

25 LADY SMITH: Thank you.

1 'Alec' (read)

2 MS MACLEOD: 'My name is 'Alec'. I was born in 1966.

3 I moved to Glasgow with my mum, brother and sisters
4 when I was about two years old. Eight of us lived in
5 a council house. It was a one-bedroom tenement flat.
6 I was put into care in Edinburgh when I was four years
7 old.

8 My mother's partner didn't like my name because it
9 was the same name as my real dad. My mother's partner
10 had alcohol and gambling issues and there was violence
11 towards my brother and me. I was running away from the
12 house and getting picked up by the police in Glasgow.

13 I knew I was being taken into care. My
14 social worker from Glasgow City Council, Jean McDonald,
15 and the nuns in the assessment centre told me what was
16 happening. I spoke to Jean McDonald about the
17 household, the alcoholism and the violence.

18 I was very close to my brother. Knowing that I was
19 going to be taken away was quite sad, but I understood
20 why I was getting taken away. I blamed myself for being
21 taken into care. I thought it was because of my unruly
22 behaviour.

23 I'm not certain about the order of my staying in the
24 various institutions, because there were so many. My
25 recollection may not accord with the official records.'

1 In paragraphs 9 to 66 of the statement 'Alec' speaks
2 about his time from the age of 4 to 11 at
3 Ladymary School in Colinton in Edinburgh.

4 Between paragraphs 67 and 68 he speaks about life at
5 home after being in Ladymary School.

6 At paragraph 69 to 82 he speaks about his time at
7 Ballikinrain School in Balfron.

8 At paragraphs 83 to 87 'Alec' speaks about his time
9 in Larchgrove Assessment Centre.

10 Between paragraphs 88 and 132 'Alec' speaks about
11 the time he spent at St Ninian's in Falkland, in
12 relation to which 'Alec' has already provided evidence
13 to the Inquiry, as I mentioned, in June 2019.

14 I will turn to paragraph 133 of the statement.

15 LADY SMITH: Thank you.

16 MS MACLEOD: This is where 'Alec' starts to discuss his
17 experiences and recollections of his time at St Joseph's
18 school in Tranent:

19 'St Joseph's School was a List D school run by the
20 De La Salle Order. St Joseph's had been a 17th century
21 workhouse. There were outhouses and a beautiful walled
22 garden. There was a 1970's prefabricated unit stuck in
23 the grounds. The units were for the boys. St Joseph's
24 was all boys. I was in St Joseph's for about
25 a year-and-a-half, I stayed there until just before

1 I was 14 years old.

2 There were about five brothers in St Joseph's.
3 Brother MGX was SNR. There was
4 Brother MBU and Brother Murphy, who liked to call
5 himself Brother Ben. The Brothers were mainly in the
6 main house, not the units. The Brothers wore a black
7 suit and a black shirt. Sometimes they wore grey or
8 blue or a cassock.

9 It was mostly civilian staff at St Joseph's,
10 civilian staff lived in St Joseph's. It was full of
11 social workers. They had their own offices within the
12 main school. Staff families lived there too.

13 MHB, a housemaster at St Joseph's, [REDACTED]
14 [REDACTED] house was connected to
15 the unit but you couldn't go into it.

16 Each unit was a self-contained house with its own
17 kitchen, dining hall and laundry room. There were
18 dormitories and single rooms. There were 15 children in
19 each unit and four or five staff looking after them.

20 Mrs McDonald and Harry took me to St Joseph's in
21 an old Saab motor car.'

22 Mrs McDonald and Harry were social workers that the
23 witness had.

24 LADY SMITH: I think we have heard about them before from
25 another witness.

1 MS MACLEOD: I think we possibly have, my Lady.

2 LADY SMITH: Again, it may have been in a read-in.

3 Anyway, the usual system, they get taken to the
4 List D school by social work?

5 MS MACLEOD: These were social workers external to the
6 school:

7 'St Joseph's was near to Edinburgh and I mentioned
8 that Margaret Mitchell lived in Edinburgh.'

9 Margaret Mitchell, my Lady, was a lay social worker
10 at the Ladymary School who the applicant describes in
11 very positive terms as being kind to him and having had
12 an impact on his life in a positive way:

13 'Before I got to St Joseph's Mrs McDonald said she
14 had some sad news that Margaret Mitchell had died.
15 I was very upset. Margaret Mitchell was like a mum.
16 I think that Mrs McDonald was lying when she said that
17 Margaret Mitchell had died. When I arrived at
18 St Joseph's MHB was the first person I met.
19 Mr MHB told me that he was just off the phone to
20 Margaret Mitchell and that she was very happy I was at
21 St Joseph's.

22 MHB always said that he would take me and
23 make me into a better man. He was an ex-police
24 sergeant, a big, powerful man. MHB was
25 a housemaster. I was in his house, Belmuldes House. It

1 was one of four units in St Joseph's. There was
2 Belmuldes, Ogilvie, St Andrew's and another. When
3 I first arrived I was malnourished. In the first week
4 you had to go through a programme. You had to listen to
5 MHB and be told what was going to be happening
6 and how things should be done. Getting up in the
7 morning was quite a hassle because of the type of boys
8 that were in St Joseph's.

9 The staff would come in and tell to us get up. Then
10 we'd go for breakfast and there would be arguments and
11 shouting. Eventually people would come down at sporadic
12 times and eat breakfast.

13 Mrs [REDACTED] looked after the kitchen and cooked
14 everything. If she was off, another member of staff
15 would do the cooking. The boys had to get involved in
16 the cooking on chore day. We had three meals a day. We
17 were clean. We used the showers.

18 There was an educational block, I didn't enjoy that.
19 It was more relaxed until a civilian teacher came in and
20 said to go up to the classroom. I didn't want to go up
21 to the classroom. I wanted to do what I wanted to do.

22 There was so much to do at St Joseph's and loads of
23 time to do it in. We played five-aside football. There
24 were work parties, I worked in the garden and the
25 workshops, made canoes. There was a gymnasium and

1 sports hall. We watched TV and horror movies on VHS
2 videos. We could smoke. It was very relaxed. We could
3 wander in and out of the units as we pleased. We got
4 pocket money, in the form of a school cheque not cash.

5 In the summer, the Brothers would take us away for
6 six weeks, berry picking at Montrose. We would be in
7 billet camps. We would pick berries for pocket money.
8 The farmers would give us cash. The Brothers took the
9 money off us and gave us some as a subsidy. The
10 Brothers saved up the money for us. After the berry
11 picking you'd maybe get £100 and go on home leave. The
12 kids at St Joseph's abused solvents and drank. The
13 Brothers had to keep up a close relationship with the
14 farmer. There were a lot of activities at the berry
15 camps. I went to two berry camps.

16 On my 13th birthday a party was organised by
17 Jean McDonald because I was a teenager and was a big
18 thing, Jean McDonald and MHB made a big thing
19 about it and surprised me by bringing my mum through.
20 My mum brought me a birthday card and I gave her chunks
21 of the birthday cake to take home to my brother and my
22 sisters. It was emotional. I hadn't seen my mum since
23 the Children's Panel.

24 MHB was my housemaster and social worker.
25 St Joseph's had social workers on the staff as well as

1 social workers who came in from the outside.
2 Mrs McDonald would come and see me. I had about three
3 visits from Mrs McDonald in the time I was there. It
4 was never about, "You're looking good" or, "You're
5 looking skinny", it was always because something had
6 happened. I had absconded, I had to tell Mrs McDonald
7 what had happened.

8 I got an unruly child order at St Joseph's as well
9 as the care and protection order. The unruly order is
10 a section 43. The social workers had complete power
11 over me, not my mum.

12 I absconded a lot from St Joseph's. The older boys
13 knew that I knew how to drive. I bragged about it. The
14 older boys would tell me to steal a car to take them to
15 Glasgow. I was being used. Every time I absconded
16 a crime would be committed. We would be caught by the
17 police in Tranent, Prestonpans or Edinburgh. We would
18 be taken back to the school and punished severely by one
19 of Brother MBU, MGX, MGZ or Ben with the
20 belt. Three or four of the Brothers would act together
21 in pulling your pants down and giving you the belt. The
22 more times you ran away the more times you were belted.
23 Two Brothers would be in the office witnessing the
24 punishment. I was punished by each of the Brothers.

25 You had to drop your pants right down to your bare

1 buttocks. You would be hit at least ten times with
2 a proper leather strap. The strap had a big thick
3 tassel on the end. Brother MBU hit us loads of
4 times. Brother MGX was really kind to me. He spoke
5 to me and gave me tobacco. I didn't feel
6 Brother MGX was grooming me. Years later I thought
7 maybe he felt sorry for me. I was quite a vulnerable
8 looking kid with all my absconding, I was missing out on
9 meals.

10 If you did anything bad at St Joseph's the Brothers
11 would lock you in a room. They would do you in. If you
12 went to the office and took the punishment,
13 Brother MGX would sometimes say, "Well done, there's
14 some tobacco for you". If I had had the strap a few
15 days before and the bruises were not healed up I would
16 refuse the strap. I was held down by the Brothers.
17 I was slapped, punched and pulled. The Brothers wanted
18 to get my trousers down. The main thing for the
19 brothers was for them to slap your naked bottom.

20 While you were in the office with the Brothers
21 MHB and Mr LVH would be standing outside.
22 When you came out MHB and Mr LVH would say
23 that if you did anything wrong you'd be going back in
24 there. I was punished in the office lots of times.
25 Sometimes just the Brothers would take me up. Sometimes

1 members of staff would.

2 Everything was good with the civilian staff at
3 St Joseph's. There was a bit of violence from
4 MHB . I called his wife a fucking cow. I said it
5 in a screaming horrible way. I didn't know MHB
6 was behind me. MHB was a big guy. I was
7 a skinny wee boy. MHB dragged me into the linen
8 room and gave me a doing. MHB gave me this
9 beating that I'd never had in my life up until then.
10 I'd been beaten in another home and kicked and slapped
11 about.

12 MHB punched me, kicked me, strangled me,
13 slapped me about and pulled my hair. He really gave me
14 five minutes' worth. I knew why he did it. It wasn't
15 just because I called his wife a cow. It was a build-up
16 of how I was treating the whole situation and my whole
17 disrespect for the order. I had burst lips and bruised
18 eyes. I was fucked up. I got inside medical treatment
19 from .

20 In St Joseph's most of the kids got beaten by the
21 Brothers because of their behaviour. There was a lot of
22 bad behaviour with the staff. Staff getting attacked.
23 There was a lot of physical violence from the staff.
24 I was only assaulted by MHB and Mr MHC .
25 I would see other kids being hit by the staff across the

1 yard. The kids would threaten to stab the staff if they
2 hit the kid again.

3 [MJK], the metalwork teacher, would throw
4 a ball hammer in the metalwork department.

5 [MHD], a woodwork teacher, tried it on with
6 me. That touchy-feely thing. We were in the workshop.

7 [MHD] rubbed up against me, he put his hand on
8 my buttock. I was wise to it by then and was having
9 none of it. I told him to get to fuck. I didn't have
10 much time for woodwork. I was doing other things so
11 that kept me away from that side of things.

12 There was a lot of sexual innuendo going on with
13 [MHD] and the boys. Mr [MHD] did a lot of
14 grabbing the boys' balls and rubbing the boys' genitals.
15 He felt boys' bums. Mr [MHD] would grab his own
16 groin and shake it. He was later done for sexual abuse.
17 Not for me though.

18 Brother Murphy was known as Brother Ben. His name
19 is Michael Murphy. He was in his mid-30s and stocky.
20 At first I didn't think Brother Ben was into the sex
21 side of things. I thought he was more physical.
22 Brother Ben used to hit me on the side of the head with
23 his knuckles. It was really sore. Brother Ben would do
24 that three or four times a day. Sometimes Brother Ben
25 would boot you with the steel toe-capped shoes, he would

1 kick you in the shins and on the ankle bone.
2 Brother Benedict was known as Bootsie because of that.
3 I saw Brother Ben hit other boys, he grabbed them and
4 punched them. He was an aggressive man, I would say
5 passive aggressive. Brother Ben was into physical
6 violence and sexual violence. He was a nutjob.

7 I was sexually abused by Brother Ben, at the weekend
8 kids would get home leave. I was in Belmuldes House.
9 Brother Ben usually worked in Ogilvie, it was at the
10 other side of St Joseph's main school. One weekend
11 I didn't get home leave and I was in the Ogilvie unit.
12 In the bedroom Brother Ben raped me digitally. He used
13 his finger and Nivea cream. He urinated on me. I had
14 been complaining I was ill. Brother Ben said to come
15 upstairs and he would see if he could help me out.
16 I knew what had happened. I had been abused before.
17 There was no one in Ogilvie except a civilian woman
18 downstairs and a boy.

19 Brother Ben had a workshop out the back. He was
20 good at electronics and gadgetry. Back then it was
21 amazing. Brother Ben had sound booths and railway
22 tracks. The second time he abused me was in the
23 workshop. It was physical and sexual torture. Then in
24 the workshop he electrocuted me. He had a machine with
25 copper piping for handles. It was like an old telephone

1 transformer-type of thing. Brother Ben asked the big
2 boys and a few others from Fife to tell me to hold the
3 handles. I would hold the handles and he would wind
4 this machine up. I would get three electric currents,
5 sometimes you couldn't remember what had happened to
6 you, you were just on the floor. It was bad and I lost
7 consciousness. I don't know what happened during that
8 loss of consciousness.

9 I got electrocuted nearly every time I stepped out
10 of line. Brother Ben would get the big boys in.
11 Brother Ben would tell the big boys to tell me that
12 I'd better hold the handles or they would knock me out
13 and beat me. The big boys would be scared as well.

14 I knew back then there was only so far you could
15 push someone before they gave you a kick or a punch.
16 The staff weren't properly trained. With Brother Ben it
17 was weird. It was torture. I wondered if this is how
18 a religious order works. I told Brother Ben that one
19 day when the school was quiet when I saw him crossing
20 the yard I was going to stab him. I was at that age,
21 about 13 years old.

22 One day I got my own back on Brother Ben. He asked
23 me to wash the coach as a punishment. It was a big
24 coach with big wheels and I was a small kid. I had
25 a bucket of dirty water from the wheels and under the

1 sill. I deliberately got the water really black.
2 I watched Brother Ben coming round and as he came round
3 I threw all this black water over him. He went silent.
4 Two days later Brother Ben gave me a right good beating
5 for that. Brother Ben punched me on the face, the back
6 of the head and pulled my hair. I'm sure other kids
7 were sexually abused. There were a lot of young guys
8 aged 14 or 15 hanging around Brother Ben at the
9 workshop. They were his little helpers. Other boys
10 talked about Brother Ben. From what I overheard there
11 was sexual activity going on in the workshop. It
12 sounded like it was consensual between the boys to one
13 another. There was a lot of homosexuality going on in
14 St Joseph's.

15 There was a band called the UK Subs, they were
16 a punk band. The band wore black armbands. I pretended
17 to be a fan and bought an armband. I put a swastika
18 badge on it and wore it to Mr MHC class, he
19 taught a bit of everything, Mr MHC was Polish.
20 I didn't realise at the time what a swastika meant to
21 him. It was only when I was older and I thought how
22 could I have done that? Mr MHC asked me politely
23 to take the armband off. I escalated things by doing
24 a Nazi salute. Mr MHC went Raj. He went crazy.
25 Mr MHC ripped the armband off and dragged me out of

1 the classroom and down the corridor to the social work
2 corridor, I would say I deserved that.

3 I was hit by other residents at St Joseph's. There
4 was a lot of bullying. There were Glaswegians in
5 St Joseph's who practically ran the school. I thought
6 the point of me going to St Joseph's was to get away
7 from the bullies. The staff witnessed the bullying and
8 sometimes promoted it.

9 The Brothers made a boxing ring outside and there
10 was one in the school as well. We would wrap dish
11 towels around our hands and just go for it. We had to
12 keep the towels on. There were no breaks. The winner
13 would get half-ounce pouches of tobacco and sweeties.
14 The staff just let the boys run at themselves. The boys
15 themselves knew when there was a winner. The boys would
16 say, "Look you're down, you've had enough". I liked
17 fighting. It gave me a buzz to stick up for myself.

18 I knew it was being supervised rather than being
19 bullied when there were no staff around, I was always up
20 for a fight. I got power back in front of the staff,
21 I showed the lads who had been bullying me how it really
22 goes. I'd ask to fight boys who had bullied me.
23 I would seriously hurt these guys. That was a problem
24 later on when I did get severely bullied, I knew
25 I shouldn't have played the big guy in front of the

1 staff. When the staff weren't looking, I would suffer.

2 Some big lads came in from the same area of Glasgow

3 that I came from. I had a couple of months of peace

4 when these lads were in with me. The lads said that

5 Glaswegians stuck together and I thought, yes, I'll play

6 into this. I got a break from a lot of stuff.

7 I told MHB [REDACTED] about Brother Ben sexually and

8 physically abusing me each time he attacked me. I told

9 MHB [REDACTED] about the sexual abuse in Ogilvie House and

10 the workshop. I told him about the physical abuse and

11 the electrocution. I was feeling scared. [REDACTED]

12 knew about Brother Ben. I don't know if MHB [REDACTED]

13 looked into it. MHB [REDACTED] said to me he would look into it

14 and speak to my social worker. MHB [REDACTED] told Harry.

15 MHB [REDACTED] told me later he had spoken to

16 Brother MGX [REDACTED] and Brother MBU [REDACTED] about what I had

17 told him about the sexual and physical abuse. MHB [REDACTED]

18 said a lot of things to me that were untrue. He would

19 say he had done things for me or make promises, but they

20 fell through.

21 I had absconded and was brought back. I was caught

22 in Pilton in Edinburgh. When I came back MHB [REDACTED] said

23 to me that he'd had a meeting with Mrs McDonald about

24 what I had said about sexual and physical abuse by

25 Brother Ben. MHB [REDACTED] said they were still looking

1 into it. I had no sense of what was happening about the
2 abuse or Brother Ben. [REDACTED]

3 [REDACTED]
4 [REDACTED] Nothing
5 ever came out of my reporting of the sexual and physical
6 abuse that I was told.

7 Harry came to see me after I came back from being on
8 the run. Harry took me to Prestonpans in his old Saab
9 motor car, we sat down and had an ice cream. I told
10 Harry about what had happened with Brother Ben, I told
11 him about the electrocution and the sexual abuse in
12 Ogilvie House. I told Harry about the sexual abuse by
13 MHD in the workshop, as well as the physical
14 assaults. Harry took note of it. I don't know if Harry
15 did anything, I was all over the place, I was full of
16 glue.

17 Harry said to leave it with him. Harry said that we
18 were all unruly, that I should concentrate on staying at
19 St Joseph's and not running away. It always seemed like
20 the Social Work Department were advocating for their own
21 staff.

22 I told Mrs McDonald about Brother Ben sexually and
23 physically abusing me. Mrs McDonald said she would tell
24 MHB. I was bouncing between the three of them.
25 MHB, Harry and Mrs McDonald. Those three were

1 definitely told about the incidents of sexual and
2 physical abuse. I felt no one believed me. I asked
3 other boys if anyone had been abused by staff and it
4 always came back to Brother Ben being 'a stoat the ba',
5 a paedophile.

6 I was moved from St Joseph's because of my
7 absconding, I wanted to be nearer to my mum's, St Mary's
8 Kenmure was a stone's throw from my mum's house.'

9 In paragraphs 175 to 234 the witness speaks about
10 his time at St Mary's, Kenmure and that relates to the
11 period after which the De La Salle Order were involved
12 in that school.

13 In relation to that school the witness speaks of
14 experiences in the open unit, the closed block and the
15 cottages, all at St Mary's, Kenmure.

16 In paragraphs 235 to 242 the witness speaks about
17 his life after care and much of that was dealt with and
18 led when the witness gave oral evidence in 2019.

19 From paragraph 243 the witness speaks about the
20 impact he considers his time in care has had on his
21 life. Again, much of that was dealt with when the
22 witness gave evidence.

23 I'll just read a couple of paragraphs from that
24 section, starting at 265:

25 'I could have been someone different. I could have

1 been anyone at the end of the day. I speak a couple of
2 languages, not fluently, but I know enough to get me by.
3 I am talented in a lot of things. That's through being
4 self-taught. I play the guitar and the harp. I could
5 have done a lot better in life. I could have made a lot
6 more realistic decisions. I could have done so much
7 more ... If I had money I would give it away. Money
8 weighs me down.

9 I get a lot of nightmares. The next day I am
10 subdued and quiet, I can't talk, I end up leaving the
11 house and going for a walk. I try to clear the air but
12 I just can't get it together. Being in care has
13 impacted on my mental health and on me as a person.
14 It's impacted on family, friends and relationships. It
15 took me into a full-blown drug addiction.

16 I have issues with people who think they're in
17 an authoritarian role. People who think they can run
18 over you, but you find out that they are not any better
19 than you are. I hate ordinary citizens who are social
20 policers, people who tell you you shouldn't do this and
21 that. I don't have issues with the police or judges.

22 I don't want blood money. I wouldn't feel
23 comfortable if I was to get compensation from the State.
24 I should have some redress, but I don't know how I feel
25 about compensation right now.

1 Compensation has been mentioned to me in the court
2 cases in the past. Other complainers offered me the
3 name of their lawyer. I said to get it away from me.
4 I was concentrating on going my way. If I was to get
5 compensation what would I do with it. I'd probably give
6 it to charity or to my children.

7 I reported to the police in Kilmarnock in
8 January 2013. Abuse was in the news at that time.
9 I spent a week with the police. I spoke to an officer
10 called Rebecca. I told the police about everybody who
11 had abused me.

12 I went through three court cases in the High Court.
13 The cases were done back to front.

14 In relation to Brother Ben's trial there were ten
15 other complainers. Brother Ben was found unanimously
16 guilty of my charges. I think there were four or five
17 charges relating to me.

18 I used to have all of my records from the
19 institutions I was in. Unfortunately I don't have the
20 records now, because they were destroyed.

21 My records say when I first went into St Joseph's
22 that Brother MBU assessed me. Brother MBU said
23 this is a young boy who looks like a Biafran.
24 I couldn't face going on to read the records after that,
25 so I put them away. At some point I will want to get

1 a hold of my records again so that I can have a look at
2 them. I'll be able to do that myself. I know how to do
3 it.

4 Anyone who works in the care setting should be
5 properly trained and vetted. Children must be protected
6 from sexual and physical abusers, whether at school, at
7 football clubs or in residential schools. Children must
8 be nourished, loved and cared for. Children should be
9 given the chance to grow up and make something nice of
10 themselves. Children shouldn't grow up without a voice.

11 People should face responsibility for what they've
12 done and what they've contributed to people's lives,
13 whether that is a positive or negative contribution.
14 People should face how they have messed other people up.

15 I can't understand why, when Glasgow Social Work
16 Department and charities employed people to work in
17 List D schools, the people weren't trained. A lot of
18 violence was inflicted by the staff on unruly kids
19 because the kids would wind them up and the staff would
20 snap.

21 I always put my hands up to things I'd done. When
22 I spoke to the police or was at court, I was honest.
23 I want the abusers to be honest. I thought they would
24 be when the police went to speak to them. I thought
25 I wouldn't have to go to the High Court.

1 I have no objection to my witness statement being
2 published as part of the evidence to the Inquiry. I do
3 not wish my name to be published in any document.
4 I believe the facts stated in this witness statement are
5 true.'

6 'Alec' signed the statement on 18 January 2018.

7 LADY SMITH: Thank you.

8 Mr MacAulay.

9 'Thomas' (read)

10 MR MACAULAY: My Lady, this is also a statement that has
11 been provided by an applicant. He wants to remain
12 anonymous and to be referred to as 'Thomas' when his
13 statement is being read.

14 The reference for the statement is WIT-1-000001174.

15 He tells us that he was born in 1962 and some parts
16 of the statement were already looked at in the SPS
17 chapter on 5 December 2023 and part of the section
18 headed 'Life before going into care' was looked at, but
19 in short truancy and getting into trouble meant that he
20 ended up before the children's hearings and being sent
21 to St Ninian's. According to the records, that was
22 23 August 1971.

23 At paragraph 13:

24 'It was St Ninian's that I went to and I went
25 straight there as well in a black chauffeur-driven car.

1 I had to say cheerio to my mum at the panel. I was only
2 ten. I was absolutely terrified.'

3 Then he goes on to discuss aspects of St Ninian's.

4 At 16:

5 'The staff at St Ninian's were De La Salle monks and
6 civilian staff. The Brothers I remember are
7 Brother MJO, Brother HJS, Brother MBZ and
8 Brother MJJ, who was SNR. They all
9 wore these big robe sort of things.

10 The civilian staff I remember are the mad night
11 watchman, GJN, Greg Dougal, who taught guitar and
12 Jimmy McKinstry. I'm not sure what Jimmy's job was. He
13 just went about throwing these caramels about all the
14 time and we would all fight for them like scavengers

15 There was also a matron woman, who dealt with all
16 the boys' aches and pains and patching them all up.
17 There was also [REDACTED] that worked there.

18 I know the mad Brother, Brother Benedict, who was on
19 trial recently in Edinburgh was at St Ninian's when
20 I was there. They had him locked away and tucked away
21 in a little cottage up a lane. By that time he wasn't
22 working in the place but he was there and we would see
23 him at a distance pottering about. He was a notorious
24 character and we all heard stories about him when we
25 were there. He was like the "bogeyman" who went about

1 electrocuting people and all kinds of things.'

2 At paragraph 21 he says:

3 'The age range was about 8 or 9 up to 15. So you
4 had wee innocent guys meeting up with guys who were
5 almost hardened criminals and were into all sorts of
6 crime. The dorms were all mixed age groups, so you
7 could be with boys of any age.'

8 He then discusses the first day at paragraph 22:

9 'I was taken straight to St Ninian's from the
10 Children's Panel. McLeod, my social worker, was with me
11 and I remember I was absolutely terrified sitting in
12 that car. I remember saying to myself as we drove up
13 the driveway and got to the house that I was off, just
14 as soon as the car door opened. That's actually a theme
15 for everywhere I went. I was always off whenever I got
16 an opportunity. All that did was get me into more
17 trouble, but that's how I was.

18 There were two monks, Brother MJO and
19 Brother HJS, standing waiting on the car with big
20 long dresses on. To me back then it looked like they
21 were wearing women's frocks, big long black women's
22 dresses with two white things sticking out at the neck.
23 All the monks wore those big robe things.

24 As soon as the car stopped and the door opened
25 I jumped out and sprinted away up the drive. McLeod and

1 the two monks chased me and when they caught me one of
2 the monks, Brother MJO, had his glasses broken in the
3 struggle. I think I kicked them off his face but
4 I didn't mean to. I was just scared and wanting to get
5 away from the place. In any case, he took a really bad
6 attitude towards me because of that and I got a really
7 hard time from him the whole time I was in St Ninian's.'

8 Moving on to aspect of the routine, at paragraph 28:

9 'One of the monks would wake us up in the morning.
10 I think they rang a bell. I can't remember the time,
11 maybe 6 am or 7 am. We would get washed, brush our
12 teeth and get ready for breakfast.'

13 At paragraph 31 he says:

14 'When I was first there I was really scared at
15 nights in the dorm. I was terrified and crying under my
16 covers. Other boys were the same. You'd hear that
17 a lot. It wasn't just me. People would try and put
18 a brave face on it, but we were just scared wee boys,
19 but there was also a lot of real toerags in the dorms,
20 so it was a bad mix.'

21 He carries on making references to the routine.

22 If I can go on to paragraph 52:

23 'I used to wet the bed because of the fear I had in
24 that place. If you wet the bed you had to wear this
25 gown, which was to humiliate you really because you had

1 to wear it instead of pyjamas as they were wet.
2 GJN was the night watchman and he was one to
3 watch. He would come into the dorm at night and feel
4 about the beds while you were lying sleeping. It was to
5 see if the bed was wet. And if it was wet, he would
6 drag you out of your bed, shout and bawl at you and
7 whack you with his walking stick he always had with him.
8 He would take your pyjamas off and put you into this
9 grown thing and then have you standing or kneeling
10 against the wall with your nose up against it. This was
11 in the middle of the night and it was pitch black. He
12 sometimes had you do that with books in your hands. You
13 had your hands out at the sides holding on to these
14 books. Every now and then he would walk by and give you
15 a whack with his walking stick. Sometimes you could be
16 there for as long as a couple of hours before he
17 eventually chased you back to your bed.

18 He did that to me a lot of times and I saw him to do
19 that to other boys as well.

20 There was a lot of violence, fighting and bullying
21 at St Ninian's. The staff did nothing about it. In
22 fact, they encouraged it sometimes. If there was
23 a fight between two boys and no one else was bothered
24 sometimes they would just let the boys fight. I saw
25 loads of fights in there but I don't ever remember

1 seeing any staff doing anything to stop them, it was
2 a mental place for a wee ten-year old boy to be stuck
3 in.

4 Boys from different areas would stick together, so
5 eventually two or three of us from the Govan area would
6 click together. That gave us some protection and helped
7 us in a way to get through it.

8 To start with I ran away from St Ninian's every
9 chance I got, because I was scared and I hated the
10 place. I was caught and punished for that but that's
11 how I was, off any chance I got. I once sneaked inside
12 a delivery lorry, but I was caught in that before it
13 left the grounds. I was just trying to get home to my
14 wee aunty. That was my intention anyway.'

15 Paragraph 63:

16 'I don't think I was ever visited by my
17 social worker, McLeod, after the day he took me up
18 there. I can't remember him having any dealings with me
19 after I went to St Ninian's, but he was quite an old guy
20 so he may have retired.

21 I think I was told the rules of the place when
22 I first went in during my first class by the teacher.
23 The discipline for misbehaving was the belt. You'd be
24 sent to see the headmaster for anything like that and he
25 would decide what the punishment would be. Usually the

1 belt over the bare bum. I had that a couple of times
2 anyway and that's what happened to anyone who had been
3 fighting or misbehaving. The person that caught you
4 would tell the headmaster and you would go in front of
5 him. Six of the best is what they used to call it.

6 I mentioned Brother MJO taking a bad attitude
7 towards me at St Ninian's. I'd say he was middle aged
8 back then, but he probably looked older than he really
9 was. He had greyish hair and wore old-fashioned
10 glasses. He dealt with the horses at St Ninian's and he
11 always had a horse's whip with him. I don't know how
12 many times I got laid into by him with that whip, but
13 I'm sure it was because of that incident on my first day
14 when I ran off and his glasses were broken.

15 Whenever he saw me he would weigh into me with that
16 whip. He whacked me on the head, on the legs and on my
17 backside. It was a proper riding whip and it hurt. It
18 was painful. He wasn't a nice man at all. He wouldn't
19 do it in front of people, but if he ever saw me on my
20 own getting boots or changing something in around the
21 locker room area he would give me a whack with that
22 stick.

23 When I say weigh in, I mean a proper beating,
24 setting about you with punches and kicks all over the
25 body. It's just the expression I know.

1 That was regular from day one, sometimes three or
2 four times a week and it happened the whole time I was
3 in St Ninian's. Sometimes he would just put the boot in
4 and kick or punch me. He was just a bully. I knew he
5 didn't like me because of that first day. He basically
6 hated my guts because of it, but there were loads of
7 boys tried to keep away from him. He would weigh into
8 all the boys, he hit a wee boy and another boy, mates of
9 mine, he hit them loads of times. It was just standard
10 because he was a bully.

11 Brother MJO also whacked me across the head with
12 a metal bucket once, that cut my head and I have still
13 got the scar to this day. I was on my knees cleaning
14 the floor. I maybe wasn't doing it right or maybe
15 I'd been cheeky, but he had a vendetta for me, as
16 I said, ever since that first day. I think I should
17 have gone to hospital really as it was a bad cut, but
18 I was sent to the matron and she patched it up for me.
19 I didn't see a doctor or get any other treatment for
20 that.

21 ██████████ I mentioned also both weighed
22 into me once at St Ninian's. I was waiting to play
23 snooker and I was getting bullied by this boy. When it
24 came to my turn to play I hit the boy with the cue and
25 that ██████████ dragged me out of the room and

1 proper weighed into me. They were both kicking and
2 punching me. There were some Brothers who would
3 interfere with the boys, sit them on their laps and
4 interfere with them. That happened to me as well. SNR
5 SNR, Brother MJJ, and Brother MBZ both
6 did that. With Brother MBZ I would be in his class
7 and he would hold me back for something after everyone
8 else had gone. It would just be him and me and he would
9 put me on his lap and mess about with me. He put his
10 hand down my trousers and interfered with me while I was
11 sitting on his lap. He was touching my genitals and
12 rubbing up against his private parts. He did that about
13 four or five times to me and I'm sure he did it with
14 other boys, as you would see other boys getting held
15 back in his class. It was something we all talked about
16 as well. We questioned what he was doing.

17 After I'd been at St Ninian's for a couple of months
18 I ran away again. I remember it had been snowing and
19 I had short trousers on. I ran for miles and didn't
20 know where I was. I was just running in circles.
21 I ended up with borderline hypothermia. I remember
22 I was freezing and my legs were blue. Eventually
23 a family found me. Then the police came and took me
24 back to St Ninian's.

25 On that occasion, Brother MJJ gave me six

1 skelps over my bare arse with a leather belt for running
2 away. That was in his SNR office and I saw him
3 on my own. It was the same kind as leather belt as you
4 got in school, with the two prong things. He was
5 whacking my bare arse with that while I was still
6 freezing from having been outside all the time. Then he
7 told me to go but come back the next day. That is when
8 he started with the sitting on the lap thing as well.

9 He had me sit on his lap and he started interfering
10 with me. He had his hands inside my pants and he was
11 fondling me just the same as Brother MBZ did. He was
12 saying stuff to me, but I can't remember what he said.
13 It lasted about 10 or 15 minutes and I just remember
14 being scared. That was my feeling at St Ninian's all
15 the time, just being scared.

16 GJN, the night watchman, would also tamper
17 with the boys in their sleep. He did it to me a few
18 times, feeling me up under the covers, pretending to
19 check to see if the bed was wet. GJN had a baldy
20 head and he always had his walking stick with him.
21 I only ever saw him work nights, but he didn't stay at
22 St Ninian's or have a room, not that I remember. The
23 only person I remember working nights was
24 Jimmy McKinstry.

25 GJN would come into the dorm balancing the

1 stick on his nose and as we all started to giggle he
2 would start weighing into us with his stick. I don't
3 think he needed the stick. I think it was just a prop.
4 He used it all the time to hit boys. If you were
5 giggling, laughing or talking in your bed at night he
6 would whack you with it. He would hit you anywhere
7 while you were lying in your bed. He didn't bother,
8 legs, head, body and it would give you a fair bruise.

9 Eventually, as I got used to St Ninian's and got to
10 know some of the boys, the fear started to go and
11 I started hitting back with all the bullies and abusers.
12 I settled in and started stopping those things going on.

13 I do think that other Brothers and probably some
14 staff members at St Ninian's would have known about the
15 sexual abuse that was going on there. I think they knew
16 what was going on and did nothing about it. Why else
17 would they be destroying records? They knew it would
18 all come back and bite them.

19 I told my family I hated it at St Ninian's and
20 that's why I was running away. A couple of times my
21 brothers threatened to go there, but it never happened.
22 I even threatened Brother MJO with getting the Govan
23 Team to come and sort him out but that never really
24 changed things either.

25 The police were more involved when I was on home

1 leave and didn't return, but I didn't ever tell them
2 about the abuse or anything like that. I didn't see the
3 point. They wouldn't have believed me and they saw all
4 of us as a nuisance. The police wanted to get rid of
5 you.'

6 He then goes on to talk about leaving St Ninian's
7 and the records suggest that was [REDACTED] 1972, when he
8 was aged 11. Indeed he confirms it was not long after
9 his 11th birthday that he left.

10 He then talks about life at home and at paragraph 92
11 through to 107 he talks about his time at Larchgrove.

12 At paragraphs 108 to 146 he talks about his time at
13 St Mary's Approved School in the post-De La Salle era.

14 He then is back at home after having left St Mary's.

15 In paragraphs 153 through to 188 he talks about his
16 experience, particularly in Perth Prison and in Polmont.

17 At 189 he begins talking about his life after care,
18 and he says there:

19 'I was 17-and-a-half when I came out of Polmont and
20 it wasn't long before I was back to square one with the
21 drink and drugs. Things then got really bad with the
22 addictions. I was on amphetamines and then I got
23 introduced to heroin.'

24 At 198 he says:

25 'I was about 36 then and I got myself off the drugs

1 during my time in that nick. When I got out that nick
2 I did a secondary rehab course in Bournemouth and I came
3 off it completely. I was 40 about then.'

4 He then goes on to talk about the impact that having
5 been in the system had on him. If I can go to the
6 section headed 'Lessons to be learned', he says at
7 paragraph 232:

8 'Celibate monks should not be allowed near the
9 rehabilitation game. I don't know who came up with the
10 idea of having places like St Ninian's. It had to be
11 the worst idea in the world. There was people from all
12 the roughest parts of Glasgow and some other areas of
13 Scotland, all put together in this big house to get
14 rehabilitated by so-called celibate monks. It was just
15 a mad house, with cliques of gangs fighting and bullying
16 all the time.

17 I went in there a totally innocent little boy who
18 had been dogging school, and I came out knowing how to
19 commit all sorts of crimes. I could hotwire cars,
20 disable alarms, I knew all sorts of stuff. I came out
21 a proper criminal. I would never have known any of that
22 had I not gone there. Once you're in you can't help but
23 mix with certain characters and they were nearly all
24 nutcases. Some of them went on to be murderers and some
25 of Scotland's most notorious criminals.

1 A lot of the people that were responsible for me and
2 other boys when I was in all these places resorted to
3 violence. I was weighed into and set about in all the
4 places I ended up in, which isn't the way to deal with
5 anything. They should have been trying to talk to us.
6 A person did that and I listened to him and to anyone
7 that did try that. If I could sense they had my best
8 interests at heart then I would listen to them. The
9 staff should have been sitting boys down and having
10 a wee chat and that hardly ever happened with me.

11 They have to make sure they keep records of
12 everything. I'm sure that's the way it is now, as
13 everything is computerised.

14 Make sure people who work in these so-called care
15 communities are properly scrutinised and then watch them
16 as well, as it's easy to make up false references and
17 get people to back you up. You need to watch them, as
18 it even happens now in the nurseries with wee kids and
19 the old folks' homes. People get into them and abuse
20 people. That needs to be managed. There were people in
21 those jobs when I was in care that should never have
22 been in them.'

23 Then hopes for the Inquiry, he addresses that in the
24 next section. Again he mentions the scrutiny.

25 Then, 238:

1 'Having someone you can trust and talk to would have
2 been something. I think I would probably have spoken to
3 someone like that.

4 I felt so bad about a lot of the stuff that went on
5 when I was a wee boy. It's strange, because part of me
6 felt like it was me who caused it. I don't know if that
7 makes sense. It's quite difficult to explain.

8 I really don't know what the answer is, apart from
9 getting people like that and castrating them or putting
10 them down. That might be the answer.

11 I do blame the system for all that happened to me.
12 I believe it was State-sponsored abuse as I think they
13 knew about everything that was going on. Who would put
14 these young boys in these environments? They knew
15 about that Brother Benedict, as they were hiding him
16 away. They still do that. They still hide these
17 priests away.

18 My story isn't unique. I know loads of boys that
19 have the exact same story from all the same places I was
20 in. The way we were all treated was standard and that
21 was the same for the generations before me as well. My
22 older brother went through the exact same.

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

1 true.'

2 'Thomas' has signed this statement on
3 15 September 2022.

4 LADY SMITH: Thank you very much, Mr MacAulay.

5 It's now just after 3 o'clock. We'll have the
6 afternoon break now and maybe one more after or two.
7 See how the time goes.

8 Thank you.

9 (3.03 pm)

10 (A short break)

11 (3.12 pm)

12 LADY SMITH: Ms MacLeod.

13 'Paul' (read)

14 MS MACLEOD: My Lady, the next statement to be read in is
15 that of an applicant who wishes to remain anonymous and
16 he will use the pseudonym 'Paul'.

17 His statement is WIT-1-000000883:

18 'My name is 'Paul'. I was born in 1970. I was born
19 in Haddington and moved to Tranent when I was four years
20 old and that is where I was brought up. Life wasn't
21 very great for me as my father was a control freak and
22 as a child we were not allowed out to play with other
23 children.'

24 Following an incident in a French lesson at school
25 involving the French teacher the applicant describes

1 that he appeared before a Children's Panel and that the
2 decision was made to send him into care.

3 In paragraph 10 he says:

4 'On checking my records recently I found that there
5 was no mention of the incident with the French teacher,
6 but the records stated that I was put into care because
7 I was playing truant, which was not the case.

8 I was home for about four or five weeks. I was
9 expelled from school. I appeared before the
10 Children's Panel and ended up being sent to St Joseph's
11 List D school. I think that I must have been 13 or 14.
12 I stayed at St Joseph's until I was 15-and-a-half.

13 I think the social worker took me to St Joseph's.
14 I was scared as I didn't know what to expect. I wasn't
15 used to mixing with other children, because my father
16 was so strict. I only really met the children who would
17 be described as the wrong sort, it was hard to form
18 bonds with my classmates in school.

19 When I first arrived there were three different
20 cottages, Ogilvie, Sinclair and Ben Elder. I think that
21 I started off in Ogilvie and then moved to Sinclair,
22 which was for the older boys. I was introduced to the
23 housemother, who was also the cook, and she was called
24 Mrs Woods. The social worker was called Bill Gray, but
25 he moved to another house and was replaced by Mr Napier.

1 They were all quite decent people.

2 I wasn't in Ogilvie house for too long before
3 I moved to Sinclair. I was glad to get away from Ogilvie
4 House because Brother Ben, who one of the monks, was
5 physically abusing me and he had easy access to me at
6 Ogilvie House.

7 Brother Ben was the superior of Ogilvie and Benilder
8 House and I think that LVH [REDACTED] knew what was
9 happening to me and took me into Sinclair House to get
10 me away from Brother Ben.'

11 In paragraphs 16 to 27 the witness speaks about
12 mornings and bed times, chores, meal times, washing and
13 bathing, schooling, religion and trips.

14 I will go to paragraph 28:

15 'You could have as many visitors as you wanted. My
16 mother never came and visited. My mother did not want
17 me to go home at the weekends, as after maybe two
18 weekends at home it was made clear to me that I was not
19 welcome so I didn't bother going back. I did try to
20 phone my mother, but she didn't want to know. I didn't
21 get on with my siblings. I think that there was the odd
22 visit from a social worker, but they were few and far
23 between.

24 I was told initially that I was being sent there for
25 three months and that my care would be reviewed. When

1 I returned to the Children's Panel I was told that my
2 mother was not prepared to take me back and that I would
3 have to stay at St Joseph's and in the care system. It
4 had a massive effect on me.

5 I know that my gran wanted to take me in, but she
6 was living in a one-bedroom sheltered house in
7 Musselburgh and there was no room for me and it just
8 wasn't practical. I felt deserted by everyone.

9 I think that all in all I attended three Children's
10 Panels. The first was when I was put into care, the
11 second was the three-month review and the third one was
12 just before they kicked me out of St Joseph's. I think
13 that my mother only attended the first Children's Panel.

14 I ran away a lot. In the first two months I must
15 have run away five or six times. It was either or both
16 LVI [REDACTED] and/or HKN [REDACTED] that came to
17 pick me up. You would be taken back to St Joseph's and
18 they would batter you relentlessly in the boiler room.

19 I was often picked up by the police and I did tell
20 them about what was happening. They just said that they
21 had heard it all before and they were still going to
22 return me to St Joseph's. It was because of the abuse
23 that I was running away in the first place.

24 The abuse by Brother Ben started about two or three
25 weeks after I arrived at St Joseph's. He had a shed and

1 on a Wednesday night he would invite the boys to his
2 shed. The shed was full of electrical equipment and he
3 used to give all the boys electric shocks and make our
4 hair stand up. The first time it happened to me he
5 called me a "greedy wee bastard" and told me that this
6 was my punishment. He told me that I ate too quickly
7 and that's why he called me greedy. He said that he
8 would knock it out of me. My problem was that I had
9 difficulty breathing through my nose, so when I was
10 eating I had to hold my breath and hence the reason
11 I ate quickly.

12 He would send the other boys back to their houses
13 and he would tell me to stay back. He had a screen in
14 the shed and he took me behind the screen and gave me
15 the electric shocks as a punishment for being greedy.
16 He did this for three weeks on at least seven occasions,
17 but he had to drag me there as I was trying my best to
18 get away from him. It was very painful and unpleasant.

19 I told Brother MBU and LVH about what
20 was happening and they told me that Brother Ben was just
21 showing us experiments and that there was no harm in it.
22 I knew that it was a punishment, Brother MBU would
23 give me cigarettes to keep me quiet. Fortunately
24 Mr LVH arranged for me to be moved to
25 Sinclair House and it meant that I wouldn't run into

1 Brother Ben again.

2 I was in Sinclair House for about two or three weeks
3 when I ran into Brother Ben again. I was asked by
4 a member of staff, who didn't know the history between
5 Brother Ben and me, to go to the shack where Brother Ben
6 had his workshops and to help him repair a gramophone
7 that was broken. When I got there he shut and locked
8 the door. He just set about me, punching and kicking me
9 and gave me a real doing. I assumed it was because
10 I had reported it and had been moved to Sinclair House.
11 I think he chose the moment when [LVH] was not
12 there and it was a member of staff that was covering for
13 him. I think it was quite deliberate, so that he could
14 kick the hell out of me.

15 There was one night when Brother Ben drove a bus at
16 me and tried to knock me down. There was a bus kept at
17 St Joseph's and it was driven by the staff to collect
18 boys from different places. One night Brother Ben was
19 going to go and pick up some boys. I was in the grounds
20 at St Joseph's and he tried to knock me down. I went on
21 to the grass to avoid him and he followed me on to the
22 grass. He drove on to the grass after me, but I managed
23 to get away. He was trying to run me down. There was
24 no point telling anyone as they wouldn't believe me and
25 no action would be taken.

1 Brother Ben was just a bully, especially to the
2 younger boys. I was aware that other boys had been
3 bullied by Brother Ben. He was always shouting at you
4 or pushing you out of the way if he passed you in the
5 corridor. I learnt in later life that Brother Ben's
6 real name was Michael Murphy. I think I read this in
7 the newspaper. I would describe Brother Ben, when I had
8 dealings with him, as being in his 40s or 50s.

9 Whilst I was at St Joseph's I was also bullied and
10 abused by two other staff members, they were LVI
11 LVI and HKN, LVI was
12 the son of my social worker, LVH. LVI
13 LVI and HKN were sort of janitors
14 and worked in the boiler room. At the weekend they
15 would also cover for the care staff when they were short
16 of qualified staff to work in the cottages.

17 If you ran away it would be LVI or
18 HKN who came to collect you from wherever you
19 had been caught. Both of them would drag you into the
20 boiler room and batter you. I have a theory that LVI
21 LVI was jealous of the time his father spent
22 with me and the way they looked after me. I think that
23 this enraged him and that was a factor in the beatings
24 he gave me. HKN was a small guy with
25 an attitude. Both he and LVI would be in their

1 late 20s or early 30s. LVI lived a few houses
2 away from my parents' house, he was also married to
3 There was no reason for him to beat me up.
4 I think that HKN just followed his lead.
5 I think that they thought they were the "he men" of
6 St Joseph's.

7 If you passed HKN or LVI they
8 would give you a dig in the ribs. I don't know how they
9 were allowed to abuse the boys they did. They would
10 swagger about the campus in shorts and T-shirts as if
11 they owned the place. I would describe them as a couple
12 of tickets who should never have been allowed to behave
13 in the way they did.

14 The SNR monks at St Joseph's were Brother MJG
15 and Brother MBU. I did try to report the abuse to
16 them. They would listen to what I had to say and then
17 make out that I was mistaken. They would offer me packs
18 of cigarettes, which I always accepted. I realise now
19 this was an offering in exchange for me keeping my mouth
20 shut and not speaking about the abuse to anyone else.

21 The more that I was running away the more kickings
22 I was getting from LVI and
23 HKN My mother didn't want me and I had
24 nowhere to go and I didn't want to stay at St Joseph's.

25 It was LVH who met me one day when

1 I was returned after having run away. I could see that
2 he was upset and that he had my bags, which had been
3 packed with my stuff. He was apologising but told me
4 that I could no longer stay at St Joseph's. He asked to
5 phone my mother and tell her what was happening, but
6 didn't get a reply on the phone.

7 I was 15-and-a-half years old and I took my bags and
8 went to my mother's house. She answered the door to me
9 but told me to fuck off as she was not going to let me
10 in. I had nowhere to go.

11 This is just another mistake in my records. I read
12 them recently and they state that I left St Joseph's
13 when I turned 16, but that is not the case. I was only
14 15-and-a-half when I was shown the door at St Joseph's
15 and told not to come back.'

16 In paragraphs 50 and 51 the witness speaks about his
17 life after being at St Joseph's.

18 In paragraphs 52 to 56 he speaks about time he spent
19 in Glenochil Young Offenders Institution.

20 In paragraph 57 he speaks about life after
21 Glenochil.

22 I will go to paragraph 58, where he speaks about
23 impact.

24 Apologies, 57 and 58 he speaks about life at
25 Glenochil.

1 It is 59 where he speaks about impact and I'll just
2 read a few of the paragraphs in that section:

3 'I feel that with my own children I love them
4 unconditionally. I am not strict with them. I would
5 consider myself to be a good father. I am probably the
6 opposite of what my parents were to me. I was always
7 able to find some work to support my family.

8 What happened to me in care never leaves me. My
9 memories are triggered by unrelated events and I tend to
10 dwell on what happened to me. I could be watching
11 television and it all comes back to me, what happened at
12 St Joseph's.

13 My wife has told me about times that I have been
14 sobbing in my sleep.

15 When the police contacted me recently it was then
16 that I decided to contact the Scottish Child Abuse
17 Inquiry and tell them about what happened to me at
18 St Joseph's List D school.

19 I applied to the Social Work Department to see my
20 records. I wanted to know why after three months in
21 care at St Joseph's I was made to remain in the care
22 system and couldn't go home. It took about a year and
23 a half. At first they said they had no records.
24 I pressed them again and they told me they had partial
25 records. I then got help from Future Pathways and

1 I managed to get all my records that they held on me.

2 It was when I was reading these reports that I found
3 out that my mother didn't want me and that is why
4 I remained in the care system. I also found out that
5 the reason I went before the Children's Panel in the
6 first case was because I was supposed to be playing
7 truant from school, which was not true. It was because
8 of the incident with the teacher when I was in school
9 drunk.

10 Nobody in care deserves to be treated the way I was.
11 It doesn't matter whether it is one slap or a full-on
12 assault, children in care should not be subjected to
13 physical abuse by adults who are meant to be caring for
14 them. No person in authority should mistreat children
15 in their care.

16 I hope that the abuse suffered by children in care
17 stops. There should be better checks done on people
18 working in the care of children. If abuse is happening,
19 children need to be listed to.

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

24 'Paul' signed the statement on 6 January 2022.

25 LADY SMITH: Thank you.

1 MS MACLEOD: My Lady, that completes the evidence for today.

2 LADY SMITH: Thank you very much.

3 MS MACLEOD: We have three oral witnesses scheduled for
4 tomorrow.

5 The first is planned to come in by videolink at
6 10 o'clock.

7 LADY SMITH: 10 o'clock tomorrow morning.

8 Until 10 o'clock tomorrow morning then, thank you to
9 all of you who have made it again, despite the storms
10 and I hope you all get safely away before the next one
11 sweeps in.

12 For those of you who can get here tomorrow, I look
13 forward to seeing you then.

14 Thank you.

15 (3.28 pm)

16 (The Inquiry adjourned until 10.00 am on
17 Wednesday, 24 January 2024)

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